



On The LIGHTER Side

March 15, 2010

Vol. XXVII, No. 2

And Now A Letter From Your Editor Richard Weinstein

Las Vegas, here we come! We have finalized all the arrangements and our convention will be held at the Tuscany Hotel, June 10th through the 13th.

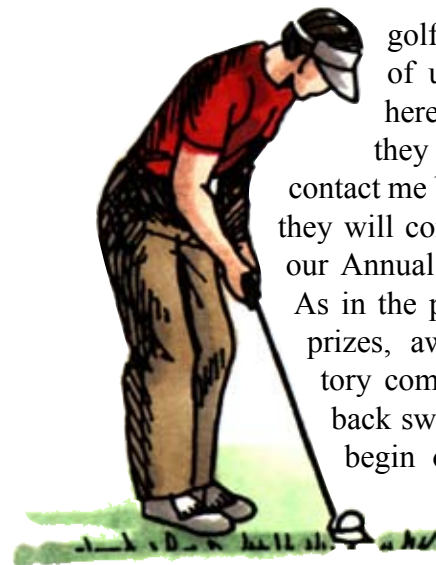


Just off the strip, the hotel has given us some great rates and comps, so please try to make it. All the information you need is in this issue and a great thanks to Judith for working diligently to get us such a great deal. We hope to see as many of you as possible.

On a more serious note, some of you may have heard that two of our members have had a major issue regarding an eBay transaction that went sour. One has quit the club and accused the OTLS board of corruption. It is hard for us to hear these accusations, as none of the board members are paid for their work. They receive no compensation in any way, and they offer their help because they want to. We all pay our dues, we all pay full convention fees and in most cases, continue to help the club by donations and purchases during the OTLS auctions. Usually we hear about corruption in politicians, in that they receive all types of compensations that are quite questionable. Although we hate hearing about these issues, it is not the intent of OTLS to police eBay transactions. We are just a club that strives to promote lighter collecting by bringing people together who have a common interest. Whether you are a collector, dealer or both, whether you are a member of OTLS, or any of the other lighter collector clubs, proper conduct is of the utmost importance. Whether you are selling, trading or buying, honesty is key. Most of us have had a transaction that, after the fact, we find that the seller may not have been

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Vegas Convention Golf Tournament Reminder



All able-bodied golfers as well as those of us in the club, are hereby notified that they are required to contact me by May 1st, 2010 if they will commit to playing in our Annual Golf Tournament. As in the past, expect crappy prizes, awards and derogatory comments during your back swing. The game will begin on Thursday, June 10, 2010 at the crack of dawn so we will not miss a second of Judith's stirring speech at the opening ceremonies and lighting of the eternal flame.

With a view to lining my own pockets I expect the cost to be approximately \$120.00 inclusive of cart and the heretofore mentioned crappy giveaways. For those of you who would otherwise participate but do not want to lug your clubs, the course will provide clubs at no charge. But I need to know well in advance and whether you are a southpaw or a righty.

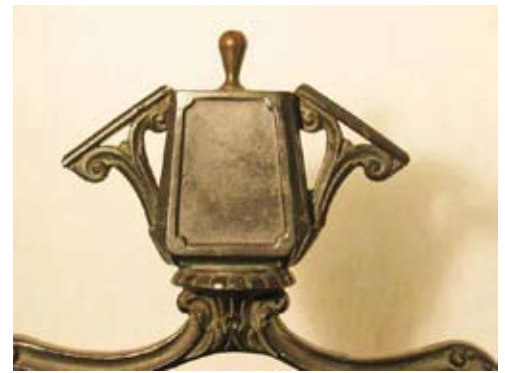
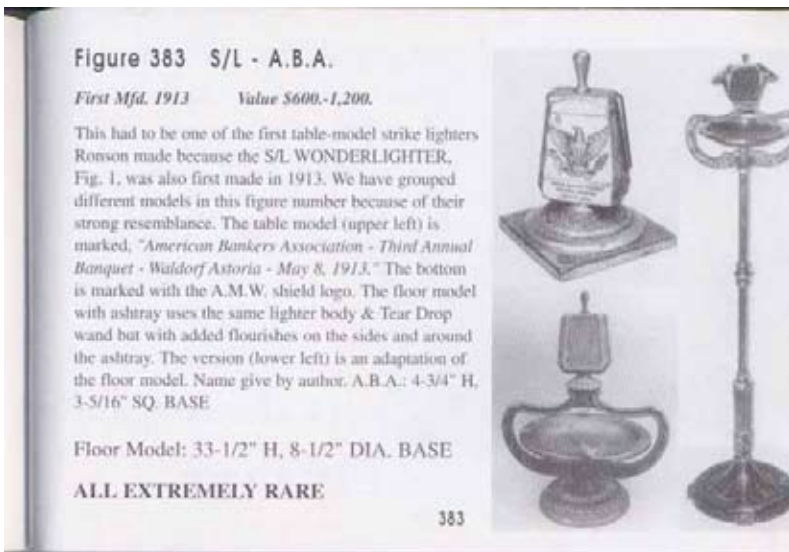
We will be playing at The Revere Golf Course. You can check it out on-line at: www.reveregolf.com/Las-Vegas-Golf-Course-Information1.html

The courses were designed by Billy Casper. At this time, I believe we will be playing the Lexington course. A bit more scenic and tougher fairways (but easier greens). Please call me at 310 215-1951 or email: btrade@ca.rr.com, Guy Nishida.

In my own back yard by Jay Meddaugh

This is one of those stories of unexpected surprises. I needed to get a rug cleaned and wanted to find a professional cleaner with a good reputation, so I looked up the name and address of a local carpet store located on a main road about two miles from the house. Off I went looking for the store to get a recommendation. I must have driven over the portion of the road where I expected to find the store three or four times, but with no luck. I decided to drive to an antique store about ½ mile away that I stop in often (without ever finding any lighter) to ask for directions. As I walked to the counter I passed the pictured RONSON lighter, did a double take and then prepared myself for sticker shock. And shocked I was! \$30. Being the lighter collector that I am, I went to the counter with the lighter tightly in my possession and asked if it was possible to get a discount. Yes, 10%. (I did have to pay the 5% MA state tax.). On the return trip, I found the entrance to the carpet store had been blocked by a large semi-trailer, presumably unloading goods. As an aside, I did get a recommendation which turned out poorly, so I guess I was 1 for 2 that day.

The lighter is figure 383 S/L – A.B.A. in Urban’s book. This lighter is an indication of some of Ronson’s manufacturing methods. Note the table lighter in the lower left of 383 is similar but not exactly like the one pictured here. The top of the one pictured here is the same as the floor model. Looking closely at the lighter it appears as if the top is one casting, the flourishes another and the base a third. The ashtray was most likely stamped from a sheet of metal. What probably occurred was that the table model and the floor model were put together with the castings that were being produced at the time and/or with pieces that remained from a previous casting run, resulting in multiple configurations. The lighter pictured has the AMW Newark NJ trademark and Made in USA molded in the base.



A Note to Collectors

In February Zippo completed the purchase of the brands of Ronson Consumer Products Corporation, Woodbridge, NJ, and Ronson Corporation of Canada Ltd.; and certain related assets of Ronson Corporation.

Collectors of Ronson lighters and other items need not fear as most products will continue to be marketed by Zippo. A few items from the line will be eliminated and those items will be announced at a later date. The Ronson product line will continue to be sold under the Ronson name with the packaging style and graphics remaining the same. Only a slight change in packaging text will be noticed as Ronson's address will be eliminated and Zippo's will be added.

As many OTLS members know, Ronson was founded as The Art Metal Works in 1886 by Louis V. Aronson and manufactured various items including book ends, clocks, desk sets, vases, appliances, miniatures, and other novelty items. The brand has been marketing lighters since 1913. With such a storied history the Ronson brand will be honored with its own section and display in the Zippo/Case Museum. Zippo is pleased to add the Ronson name to our family of brands which also includes Case and Zippo Fashion Italia.

For a current view of Ronson products log on to www.ronson.com.

Attack of the Giant Cigarette Lighter! by Alice Hodges

Pocket lighters—small, discreet, many of them tiny works of art. So why create a Godzilla-sized version? Table lighter, advertising gimmick, novelty item, salesman's sample, display item—take your pick.

Dunhill made table-sized versions of their lift-arm pocket lighter and Ronson made the Jumbo and the Jumbo Junior, big-daddy versions of their automatic pocket lighter.

Myon also made a table lighter in the image of their pocket lighters. A Myon 401 Geant is pictured here with two of its pocket-sized siblings, an Autolux with a sterling wrap and a Model 601 (Photo #1). Stability on the table model is provided by the large front and rear fueling screws, which stick out on either side at the ends of the bottom of the lighter. These prevent accidental tip-over, and allow for easy filling.

I am familiar with the Japanese novelty giants made in the classic Zippo image. But I had not seen a maker-marked biggie from Shields before. Marked "Shields" and "Japan" on the bottom (Photo #2), it measures 6 & 5/8" L x 4 & 1/2" H x 1 & 1/4" W at the widest point (the front). It weighs a whopping one and a half pounds, and is a regular working lighter. The weight (it's front-heavy and top-heavy) and the shape make it unstable as a stand-upright table lighter, so it's basically a pocket lighter on steroids. The individual I bought it from thought it might have been a salesman's sample or a display item. As a salesman's sample, it would have been a show-stopper, especially when it was fired up! As a display item, I picture it surrounded by a flock of little pocket lighters, rather like a hen with chicks. Or maybe it sat in a cup on top of a lighted display. The darn thing is so shiny that I couldn't get a good photo of it alone, so you'll have to look at the group photo to see it from the side.

To give some idea of scale, I have photographed the Shields with the Myon 401 Geant table lighter and the Japanese novelty giant (Photo #3). The Japanese novelty giant weighs one pound and measures 4 & 1/2" L x 6 & 3/8" H x 1 & 1/2" W. The Myon weighs 3/4 of a pound and measures 3 & 3/8" L x 3 & 3/4" H x 1" W.

If anyone else has any other working giant versions of pocket lighters, it would be interesting to see photos in the Newsletter. Feel free to call your Newsletter submission: "Return of the Giant Cigarette Lighter!" or "Son of the Giant Cigarette Lighter!"



Marconi Disc Discharger Lighter 1912



By Ira Pilosof

Here is an historical and very special lighter produced in limited addition for Guglielmo Marconi in 1912. Marconi was born in Bologna, Italy in 1874 and became known as the **“Father of Radio”**.

In 1897 Marconi was granted the patent for the first wireless telegraphy system. This same year he founded the **“Wireless Telegraphy and Signal Co. Ltd.”** In London. Bear in mind he was only 23 years old at the time. In 1899 wireless telegraphy was adopted by the British Royal and Merchant Navies and in 1909 it was credited with saving 4000 lives when the USS Republic collided with the SS Florida off the shores of Nantucket.

Ten years later in 1897 Marconi invented the **“disc discharger”** which was directly responsible for 712 lives saved in the famous sinking of the Titanic in April of 1912. Two months later on June 22nd of 1912 the **“Third Telegraphic Conference”** was held in London. This was an important conference attended by delegates from over 40 countries. Its significance had been particularly underscored by the Titanic disaster and the 712 people saved.

This newspaper article appeared in the London Times and talks about this sterling silver lighter modeled after Marconi’s invention and given to 200 male guests:

“A SILVER SCENT BOTTLE FOR THE LADIES AND A SILVER CIGARETTE LIGHTER FOR THE GENTLEMEN”

The Times of London reported the Conference events. The edition of 12th June 1912 informed readers that Mr. and the Hon. Mrs. Marconi entertained a group of more than forty prominent persons at Claridges for dinner.

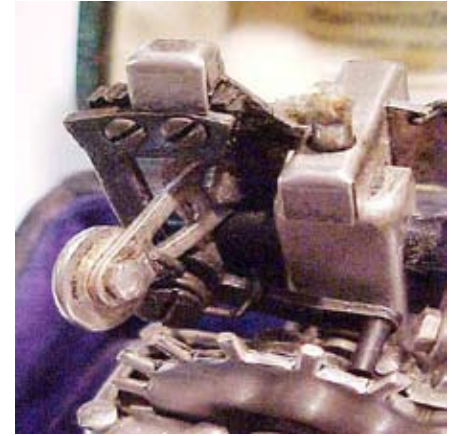
Souvenir Of The International Radiotelegraphic Conference LONDON 1912 FROM MARCONI’S WIRELESS TELEGRAPH COMPANY Ltd. A silver cigarette lighter hallmarked London 1912 on a marble base formed as a model of Marconi’s Disc Discharger The First Means Of Producing Musical Notes In The Transmission Of Wireless Telegrams. These were given away to the 200 male delegates who attended the conference along with a silver scent bottle for the female guests.

“The memento for the men was a suitably inscribed 3.75 inch silver Disc Discharger lighter on a marble base made by Alfred Foster, assayed in London and housed in a leather case stamped ‘Souvenir of the International Radiotelegraphic Conference’. Assuming an equal number of male and female guests, there must have been approximately 200 lighters presented to the men and a similar number of silver scent bottles for the ladies that were dispersed across the globe when the delegates returned to their respective countries.”

The lighter operates by turning the black Bakelite knob clockwise. This is a ratchet mechanism which when wound up strikes a stationery flint. This lighter is included in the Marconi collection in the [Museum of History of Science](#) in London. When the Marconi family donated it they responded with **“This is a very exciting acquisition for the museum, which already houses a unique collection of early scientific instruments.”**

Ira Pilosof

Photos of the Marconi lighter



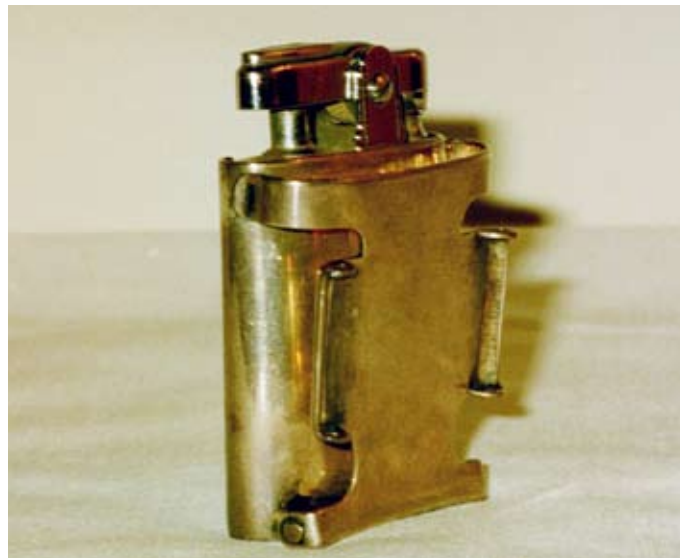
The Strange Case of the Mystery Mount by Alice Hodges

I bought this Ronson Gem and the mount it's in together, and I have been puzzling over the combination ever since. The lighter is just a plain old Gem, nothing special about it. The mount is heavy for it's size, and is possibly made of nickel. (It's the right color for nickel, does not appear to be plated and is non-magnetic.) It has no markings at all. The mount has a backplate with two arms at the top that hold the lighter cup firmly, and two "ears" that stick out on the reverse side. The cup that holds the lighter can be pivoted away from the backplate up to a 90-degree angle. As you can see from the photos, the Gem fits into the cup of the mount perfectly, clicking in and sitting tightly without being jammed in. The wear marks on the lighter are consistent with it having been taken in and out of the mount.

At first I thought the mount was perhaps meant to be worn on a belt, rather like having your lighter in a holster. The two "ears" on the backplate of the mount have tiny holes that I assume once held pins of some sort, and then the belt could be threaded through those to hold the mount. But then I realized that the cup for the lighter would pivot down and away from the wearer, which makes no practical sense for a belt-worn item. Putting it on the belt so it hangs upside down makes even less sense. So perhaps the mount was meant to lie flat in some missing housing (car ashtray? cigarette box?), holding the lighter firmly in the cup until needed, and then the cup could be pivoted up, presenting the upright lighter to the user. To make things even more difficult to understand, it is not easy to release the cup from the backplate—it snaps in tightly and it requires a firm pull to release it.

And then there is the possibility that the two items were never meant to be together at all, and my mystery is just a case of an accidental pairing.

If anyone has any theories, or has seen one of these outfits before and knows the answer to my mystery, please let me know.



CLASSIFIED ADS

IMPORTANT YOU CAN PAY YOUR DUES WITH PAYPAL - SEND TO OTLSINFO@GMAIL.COM

WANTED:

Looking for unusual mechanism pocket lighters and rare Ronson pocket, table and striker lighters. Some of the examples I am looking for are as follows: Ronson - Lite A Lamp, Fatman, Date A Lite, Grenadier, Piercig, Beverly, Sphinx, Lion S/L, Tipperary Pup, Cigar Store Indian, Aristocrat TT and Regent Jr T/L. General - Johnson Wax Tower, St Louis To the Front trench, Bruma, Lincoln p/l, Douglass w/windscreen, and Marathon Super Liter. Call Dave Markey at (989)835-8707 or email at wristwatched@gmail.com.

Wanted: lighters with a liquor bottle encased in lucite. unusual Occupied Japan. figural trench, briar pipes, match safes and matchbook holders. Also interested in buying collections of lighters and pipes. call Guy at 310-215-1951 or email: btrade@ca.rr.com

I am interested in buying Canadian Pat Pending Zippos. Also I have acquired a collection of Barcrofts and will have to sell some of them. Hen Gilinov (818)335-8267 or email hengilinov@gmail.com

Wanted: Any Valentine lighters you might have. Call Nancy Lloyd (336)724-0821 or email nlloyd@triad.rr.com

Wanted: Enameled Regens lighters in Art Deco patterns. Seeking excellent or mint condition lighters. I am particularly interested in those with Green enamel or green table model bases. Email John Cornelius at jclighters@sbcglobal.net

Wanted: Reprints of catalogue pages for unusual lighters for reprinting in future newsletters. Members sending in these pages will get credit in the newsletter. Please email these to info@vintagelighters.com. Pages not in English are welcome.

FOR SALE OR TRADE

For Sale: I want to sell some of my lighter collection of table lighters and pocket lighters. Please call John Krenzela at 724-228-3278

COPIES FOR SALE: 1954 Lighter. Repair Manual, Ronson Catalogs 1914-1992, AMW

Catalogs 1924-27 Computer Database 1,091 known Ronson Lighters - Email for list/prices. Lynn Baker WhiteRiverWoodturning@yahoo.com (See New Member list and Welcome back Lynn & Pearl Baker)

I have a couple of the Barrett Smythe lighters - if interested, please call or email. Judith Sanders (903)763-2795 or OTLS@suddenlink.net

For Sale - Set of 5 Barbie Dolls dressed as the 1998 4 seasons Zippo lighters and the lighter of the year Joan in a lucite display box. The clothes were made by the wife of the South African Zippo Distributer's wife and were auctioned off at the 1997 Swap meet in Bradford. (She was the blonde that modeled Joan's dress that was sold that year) \$350 Also have a wall hung boxed set of 50 different General Motors advertising Zippos Some old, some newer models, some used and some new condition. Would like to get \$2000, but will listen to offers. Ken Short 740-947-2671. I wish to all a Merry Christmas and have a great New Year

Wands for most Ronson Touch-Tip & Table Striker Lighters. Also wands for Austrian Striker Lighters. New & Exact Dimensions - Professionally made by a Machine Shop. Color matched to your lighter to please the most discriminating collector. Special discounted price for OTLS Members @ 30.00 + 3.00 shipping. George Gynes (OTLS Member) e-mail <gamma2002@gmail.com>

Back issues of the OTLS newsletter are available. Issues from 1984 thru 2000 are \$2.00 each plus postage. Articles from 2001 to the present are \$3.00 each. All proceeds go to the club general fund. Most are brand new and not copies and there are some fantastic articles/pictures. Contact Greg Ryman at GregRyman872@msn.com or (903) 593-4413

Do you have lighters in your collection that are damaged or inoperable? A Ronson touch tip that doesn't light the first time every time or needs a new wick? Ronson striker models that need a new flint fitted or wand rebuilt? I repair vintage lighters and have a collection of stock parts and can custom make missing pieces for rare lighters. While I specialize in Ronson touch tips, I also repair many art deco collectible lighters as well as the most common table and pocket models so they can be

used on daily basis. For more information and review of my services please visit www.ronsonrepair.com/otls or email me with questions at rpadams357@hotmail.com. Please include a description of the lighter, make, model and problem, and a small picture if possible. Thanks, Bob Adams

FOR SALE: HUGE (13" tall) Fram Oil Filter Electric Lighter. It is in the shape of an oil filter and is orange and black. Since I have tried to sell this before, I will now take ANY reasonable offer, plus postage. I do not have room for such a big lighter! Judith Sanders (903)763-2795 or otls@suddenlink.net (Digital photo available upon request.)

-Direct From Author - Signed copies of "Handbook Of Vintage Lighters" & "The Golden Age Of Cigarette Lighters". 20% off for OTLS members. Email Ira Pilosof at <vintageltr@aol.com> or call 201-797-6595

I can repair Zippo Cam Springs. Also repair Trench Art lighters. Email pyrotjp@velocity.net or write to Tom Prylinski

FOR SALE: Red Kamel Figural Cigar lighter Camel Cigarettes c1916 Email Ira at vintageltr@aol.com or call

FOR SALE 137 PIECE ZIPPO TABLE LIGHTER COLLECTION, 134 PIECE ZIPPO RULE COLLECTION. PLEASE CONTACT JOE SPEIRS, jspeirs@fidnet.com or call 580-284-4019.

I HAVE A FEW THOUSAND PLAIN , SOME DECROTIVE , ZIPPO AND RONSON LOOK ALIKE LIGHTERS FOR SALE ALLL NICE AND CLEAN AND READY FOR USE. ASKING \$ 1.00 EACH PLUS POPSTAGE IF INTERESTED CALL OR EMAI ME. THANKS TOM PRYLINKSI. EMAIL pyrotjp@velocity.net

Remember to send your special convention ads to otls@vintagelighters.com by May 1st so they can be included in the May issue.

Include items you are looking for and items you will be bringing to sell.

No, Not the Regens Too

By John Cornelius

We all know that the Japanese blatantly copied many lighters from around the world. However, until a few months ago I believed that the Regens were immune to such. Not because there was any enforced legal barrier, but rather due to the fact that Regens lighters were so cheap. Most sold for less than \$2.00.



Since, I have happened upon these two Japanese made Regens clones. They are marked "PKS" inside a diamond and Japan on bottom of the fuel tank, which differs from the Regens tank in that it is one piece construction and has a fuel screw.

In dimensions, the lighter is very slightly slimmer and taller than the Regens, as is the fuel tank.



The table model is also marked Japan on base and the lighter is attached by the fuel screw. Unlike the Regens models that have the fuel tank glued to the base, this lighter may be removed from the base for use as a pocket lighter. A bit of an interesting feature. All very thinly plated chrome over brass construction.

Letter from you Editor - Continued from Page 1

completely truthful and this only creates suspicion on future transactions, either with the same person or another. Of course, errors can be made, and it's usually from a lack of knowledge rather than an intent to defraud. If you are at an OTLS convention and you are suspicious of a transaction, please bring it to the attention of one of our board members. We will attempt to intercede, as we cannot tolerate fraud at an OTLS convention. Outside of our conventions, we have no authority or jurisdiction. When we have a new member attend one of our shows, we need to make them feel that they can buy with confidence. This will make them come back for the next show.

On a brighter note, please remember that the Mastin Award will again be given for the most unusual lighter at the show so bring your wierd lighters!

Please show your support for this club by attending the Las Vegas convention this year. We would love to see you all

**NEXT ISSUE May 2010.
SEND ADS BY April 20, 2010.**



On The LIGHTER Side
International Lighter Collectors

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