

ON THE LIGHTER Side

April 15, 1988

Vol. V, No. 4

ETC., Etc., etc.

The following members have not paid their 1988 dues: Allen, Beckman, Beyers, Block, Bocciarelli, Brown, Calkins, Cavanagh, Chidsey, Christensen, Colbert, Collins, Fink, Fisher, Gutz, Hodgson, Keating, Keith, Koplowitz, Kramer, Lamperski, Long, Martini, Mordue, Rademacher, Ruffles, Shafer, Templeton. IF THERE ARE ANY MISTAKES IN THIS LIST, YOUR EDITOR APOLOGIZES IN ADVANCE!

Sanders and Prylinski both say: If you haven't made FIRM reservations for convention, please do so SOON! For those of you coming to convention please bring LOTS of lighters to show and to sell and trade! Also any literature or material relating to lighters for Jay's file.

More later...

Judith

IN THE SPOTLIGHT....

'WHAT EVEN HAPPENED TO... COLLECTIONS/COLLECTORS?'

by Warren Gerber

In the department of WHAT EVEN HAPPENED TO - the collection of the late Sam WELLS, written here after several requests by 1986 OTLS Veep Jim Gartner and upon command by Boss Judith Sanders, your reporter admits he doesn't know but agrees with Gartner that Wells was a Most Unforgettable Character.

My first contact with Wells was in early 1963 after Associated Press distributed a short item on his collection. I tracked down his address through a Princeton, NJ phone book. In his first letter, he revealed he was a gentle, gracious man, later sending a copy of a newspaper's feature story

and two much-cherished large photos. As an ad agency PR writer, I arranged to have photo copies made for him which took a little time. Wells wrote, chiding me for not returning the "treasured photos" immediately. Later, he thanked me. He also gave me OTLS member Charles Stapert's address, who gave me Gartner's address.

Quoting the newspaper feature sidebar story: "Lighters (approximately 1000) may be the big thing in Sam Wells' life today, but he once had a career involving much more in the way of illumination. For some 15 years, he was a vaudeville trouper, traveling the circuit as 'Hack Back, the boy with the talking ukelele'. He tap danced, strummed and sang all at once - in a captivating fashion he is still more than ready to demonstrate at the drop of a hat.

"He's got a well-thumbed scrapbook bearing witness to appearances with Bessie Smith, Peg Leg Bates, 'Butter Beans and Susie' and other headliners of the good old days.

"Even after he retired from the boards in 1929 to join his wife in Princeton, the Georgia native continued to entertain, mostly at Princeton University student parties. He proudly claims to have been the last entertainer to dance on the tables at Nassau Inn, a form of local diversion which came to an end some 20 years ago. He still performs occasionally at impromptu entertainments for guests of his employers, Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Peyton of Princeton."

The feature story itself is an odyssey of interesting lighters and incidents experienced when he obtained them. Evidently, it all started in 1958 when Wells' wife brought home a small lighter in the form of a Campbell soup can...his favorite was a shiny metal knight complete with battle gear who performs to the strains of "The Anniversary Waltz"...pianos...

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SPOTLIGHT continued...

cigars...Civil War cannon...pistols
...camera...golf club bag...humming
bird at feeder...World War I shell
...pewter candlestick...antique
cars...animals...WWI foxhole
lighters...in cut crystal from
Czechoslovakia...sterling silver
lighters from the Netherlands, ad
inf.

In one acquisition incident reported, Wells said he was searching through his pockets for a light on a New York City street corner when a bum rushed up, proferring a lighter and looking for a handout. Intrigued with the lighter, Wells talked the man into parting with it for a 50¢ contribution. The down-and-outer told Wells he had made it by hand, from a brass nut, English coins and other odd pieces while he was a World War II prisoner of war.

At that time, Wells lived at 263-1/2 John St., Princeton, NJ. Local OTLS Members re-check?

And what even happened to the collections of the late Fred Waring, drummer Gene Krupa and Tucumcari, N.M., Holiday Inn-Keeper John L. Stanfield?

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COLLECTORS' CORNER

We have a new source for additional information - for some of you an old friend and for others a new friend. Your Editor has been in contact with Benjamin Rapaport and received some good information.

First, a little about Ben Rapaport. Ben has a quarterly newsletter (Jun, Sep, Dec. & Mar) priced at \$1.00* per issue. This newsletter is called ANTIQUARIAN TOBACCIANA, specializing in Rare Domestic and Foreign Literature; Printed Ephemerera; Antique Meerscham and Porcelain Pipes; Tampers and Tobacco Jars and Boxes.

Ben has many interesting and unusual books in the area of tobacciana for sale. He tells me he does not have Bisconcini in stock at the moment, but if we can get together an order he feels he can get the book for us. He went on to say that his policy would be to order the book and alert patrons when the book comes in rather than take money in advance. But he did indicate it would be advantageous to order more than one. The price would be in the vicinity of \$110 per book. If any OTLS members are interested please advise your Editor. You can just sent a postcard indicating your interest and if we can get more than one order, I will ask Ben to order what we need.

In a telephone conversation with Ben, he said there have been other books printed on lighters, other than Bisconcini's book. Now he has sent me a list of some books, which he said are out of print already. He doesn't have any of the following list for sale but feels some persistent members might want to pursue these and therefore has included all bibliographic details.

These books are:

1. Historisches Museum Olten
Sammlung Feuer und licht (Mar 1968) (Olten,Switzerland). Lots of black & white pix.
2. Bryant and May Ltd., P.O. Box 23, Fairfield Road, London E3 2QE, England.
The Bryant and May Museum of Fire-Making Appliances. Catalogue of Exhibits (1926), and Supplement (1928)
A super-illustrated 2-volume history of everything anyone even wanted to know about lighting!
3. W. T. O'Dea
Making Fire. A Science Museum Illustrated Booklet. (1964) - published by the Science Museum London (May still be available from the British Information Services, 845 Third Ave., NY, NY 10022)

(continued on page 3)

For Sale or Trade

Sp. it of St. Louis lighter. Sold brass on stand. MINT CONDITION. \$50 or trade for old tobacco tins or old fountain pens. Will also buy same. Write me. Bill Kern

BACK ISSUES OF OTLS NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE FOR 70¢ EACH. 1984 - 10 issues; 1985 - 12 issues; 1986 - 12 issues; 1987 - 12 issues. PLEASE STATE WHICH ISSUES YOU WANT WHEN ORDERING. (Your Friendly Editor)

Have Dunhill Sylph, Tall Boy, Koopman's Magic Pocket Lamp, Roman Lamp (photo 559 in Bisconcini's book) - want to trade or sell. Also have EXTREMELY RARE Black Bar (Ronson) - scratcher or striker type NOT touch tip. John Cuevas. ALSO WILLING TO BUY ENTIRE COLLECTIONS.

Two 12" rulers, made in France, lighter is built right in the ruler, metric & regular 12", with a 12" flint spring. Mint condition. \$24.00 ea. Also have 4 beautiful Wedgewood table lighters. Mint Condition. \$42.00 each. Sid Chase

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

1. Ted C. Ballard
Rt. 2, Box 526
Waller, TX 77484
2. Stanley Bateman
237 Chambers St.
Phillipsburg, NJ 08865
3. Leona McCandless
32 Washington Blvd., #204
Mundelein, IL 60060
4. Edward Weiner
8617 Windsor Mill Rd.
Baltimore, MD 21207

For Sale or Trade

Available:
Advertising/souvenir pocket type. List wants by subject. Will trade against 1910-30's round brass European inscribed types (liquid fuel or tinder wick). Warren Gerber.

I have many 50's, 60's advertising lighters and misc. duplicates. Will trade for 20's, 30's, 40's pocket lighters. I like lighters that show use, but still work. Contact Mike Holm.

Wanted to Buy or Trade

Wanted: Lighters with pictures of pinup girls. Must be in excellent cond. Robert Stowe

Looking for old junk lighters for parts - also Zippo with the hinge on the outside. Tom Zimmer

Wanted to buy - new or mint condition lighters with corporate logo engraved. Prefer Zippo. Write & describe. Fred Laird

Wanted: 'Transfo Lighter' Pyrium Flint Lighter - patented 1948 in France - W. D'Alton, Inventor - as pictured LIGHTERS ASCENDINI #239. John Grawe.

Want any lighter with Erie, Pa. on it. Also want any table or pocket lighter for parts. I will buy them all if price is right. Please no junk. I'm looking for a project to fix them not junk them. Tom Prylinski

Looking for Ronson touch tip lighters & art deco airplane lighters. Marc Klarman

Wanted: Tank, cannon, armored car lighters. Must be in very good condition. Contact Jack Albertson.

Wanted to Buy or Trade

Would like to swap an original Calibri, in fair cond. & working, for a Ronson Banjo. Charles Arrundale
Wanted: Ronson Banjo and pre-1958 Zippos - all must be in good condition - for cash or swap for Australian made lighters or rare tobacco tins of Western Australian origin. Rex Hodgson

Wanted: Cigar Counter Lighters run on batteries or electricity. Lighters made by NASSAU or IMPERATOR - flint must be on top or rasp wheel. WAR ERA lighters. BOOK SHAPED lighters. Will buy or trade. Would like to see pictures from members even if not selling. Jim Lohr

Looking for Catalogues, old ads or leaflets (or facsimile) of pre-1939 period. Please send detail with price to Jacques P. Cole. For research on Lighter Book.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Printed Once A Month
For Lighter Collectors

Tom Prylinski	President
Tom Zimmers	V.Pres.
Judith Sanders	Sec/Treas Editor
Jay Meddaugh	Historian

Ads in this paper are free for members. There is a \$1 charge for non-members. Please send ads in printed form. For information, write or call:

Judith Sanders
Rt. 3, 136 Circle Dr.
Quitman, Tx. 75783
214/763-2795

COLLECTORS' CORNER continued

4. S. T. Dupont
Art et Creation du Feu...
an exhibition of lighters
through the ages (July 1979)
Paris, France
5. Vom Feuerschlagen zum
Elektronikfeuerzeug. Ein
Beitrag zur Geschichte der
Technik
An exhibition catalog
(March 1981).
Universitaetsstadt
Tuebingen, Staedtische
Sammlungen Theodor-Haering-
Haus, Meckarhalde 31,
Tuebingen, Federal Republic
of West Germany
6. Rita Bucheit
Geschichte der Feuerzeuge
(1985)
verlag Christian
Brandstaetter,
Wickenburggasse 26, A-1080,
Vienna, Austria.
A mini Bisconcini in soft-
back with color fotos and
many black & white. Ben
found out about this one
just as last copies were
leaving the publisher and
thinks he got the last one,
but suggested we try anyway.
He said in the back of this
one is a super bibliography
which led him to the
others.

If any member finds that any of the above books are available please advise your Editor. I could say that I would write each of these, but doubt if I would have time between now and the convention so if one of you would take on this project it would be much appreciated. In fact it occurs to me that if several of you wrote to these addresses these publishers might find sufficient interest to reprint some or all?

Now, the address to write to Ben is as follows:

Benjamin Rapaport
Antiquarian Tobacciana
11505 Turnbridge Lane
Reston, Virginia 22094

Since Ben has been in the "book" business for a long time, I feel he will be a good future source for all of us.

*The \$1.00 amount for quarterly newsletter will be deducted from any purchase on offered lists.

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Allen Wolf has sent a photo of his newest TREASURE! See photo below.

