

ON THE LIGHTER Side

March 15, 1989

Vol. VI, No. 2

ETC, Etc, etc.

IMPORTANT!! The 1989 Convention will be in Cleveland, Ohio the second weekend in June. This is just a reminder so you can start making plans. A separate Convention Letter will come to you in April with all the details.

So far I have only had a response from about 10 people indicating an interest in a 1989 Convention Lighter. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ORDERING A SPECIAL CONVENTION LIGHTER PLEASE LET ME KNOW ASAP!! The minimum order with Zippo is 50 - I CANNOT order lighters with only about 10 members showing an interest. ALL I NEED IS A POSTCARD FROM YOU!

GREAT NEWS! Ira and Susan Pilosof are EXPECTING their first baby! (A future OTLS Member!)

There are still of few of you who haven't paid your 1989 dues. Please advise if you want to drop out, otherwise please send dues.

If any of you have tried to reach me in the past 4 weeks I have been out of town and my *** answering machine isn't working!

John Kronos called this morning to say: this weekend several dealers at a Dallas Flea Market told him that David Letterman is having a lighter collector on his show some time in March. I am trying to get in touch with Letterman, but in any event you might watch your TV guide for see if this happens.

Thanks to Peter and Greg for the great articles for this month's paper!

More later....



ANOTHER POINT OF VIEW.....

IN SEARCH OF A RELIABLE
OLD LIGHTER
(Or in Praise of the Polo)

by Greg Smith

My brother casually mentioned one day that he would like to own

an old cigarette lighter for everyday use. He was sick of boring disposables, unreliable piezo electrics and smelly matches.

His birthday was around the corner and I thought here was the perfect opportunity to translate my knowledge of lighters into a gift. My collection of 300 lighters provided the ideal test bed and all I had to do was find a pocket lighter that would light reliably, stay fueled for at least a week, and look old and interesting! (I think my brother was looking for something to show off at the local hotel.)

Now an old Zippo probably would have answered all those requirements, but, that was too easy - I was looking for a challenge. So I selected seven pocket lighters, in good condition, for testing - a Thorens Standard Original - a Ronson Whirlwind Imperial - a KW 600 - a Beney model 40 - a Beattie Jet - and two Polo lighters. The Polos had lift up wick covers and are reasonably common in Australia.

The testing procedure simply involved fueling the lighters and testing them daily over a 2 week period. The results surprised me - the Thorens lit only every second or third try, similarly with the Ronson, the KW ran out of fuel every 3 or 4 days, and the Beney and Beattie while performing fairly well did not match up to the Polos. Yes, both Polos lit most consistently and lasted the full 2 weeks without needing refueling. I picked the best of the 2 for my brother and 3 months later he is proudly showing off his interesting old lighter at the local hotel and still using it every day.

Now I won't pretend that my little test was scientifically significant, nor would I wish to degrade any of the other fine brands tested, but I have changed my mind about something. I used to think that Polos were fairly common because a lot were sold. Now I suspect that it is because they were a very good lighter that kept working and simply didn't get thrown away.

Moral - if you are looking for an old lighter for everyday use, consider a POLO.

COLLECTORS' CORNER

ALAS POOR ORLIK I KNOW
NOT HIM WELL!

by Peter Cavanagh

Are there any members of the club, like me, who read things and don't quite take it all in?

For instance, in Stefano Bisconcini's book on lighters he writes on page 232 about the British company of Orlik manufacturing lighters not only in the U.K., but also in the U.S.A.

Okay, that's fine....but there on the same page is an illustration (570) of the Stormproof model, one of which I have had in my collection for some time.

Now, I wonder why I didn't tie these facts in with what was printed on my Stormproof lighter...MADE IN AUSTRIA...

I certainly noticed it but at that time didn't make the connection with what the author had written in his book. But on having picked up another Orlik at my favorite Flea Market in Melbourne recently thought it was high time I photographed and listed them.

It was only then I realized that Bisconcini hadn't even mentioned Austria as a country that had manufactured Orlik lighters, but on thinking about it Austria would most likely be the original country of manufacture.

Let us look at my eight Orliks of which two of the early models are marked as being Austrian. (See photos at the end of this article)

The first is sheathed in silver, on the base there is printed - HALL MARKED SILVER ORLIK 1911. The only other lettering, on the larger of the two cogwheels that operate the flint, is the letter "H".

The second lighter is almost identical. It's covered in silver but there is no printing or brand name on the base, the only imprint being the word STERLING shown minutely under the outer hinge. The larger cogwheel has the figure

5 on it. Both lighters measure 2-1/4 x 1-1/4" (58 x 33 cm).

If you are able to turn to p. 49 of Bisconcini's book, the Austrian Miscellanea section, you will find 3 lighters illustrated that have the same mechanisms as mine.

It's also interesting to note the name used for them, RK, which the author says are "perhaps the initials of Richard Kohn, Austria". I am bold enough to also say "perhaps" and surmise that...Orlik is derived from the initials RK, the founder Richard Kohn and that the Austrian RK and Orlik lighters belong together. But, that is pure speculation.

Although, if Kaschie lighters (page 163) can be derived from the initials of it's founder, Karl Schieder, KW lighters (page 166) from it's founder Karl Wieder and Rowenta (page 175) from it's founder Robert Weintraud, maybe it's a good guess that Richard Kohn founded Orlik. But it can only remain speculation and a puzzle until convincing evidence is forthcoming.

To add to the puzzle, three more lighters are illustrated in the book (on pages 184, 186 & 187) that seem to have this same mechanism. Even though it's the German section, the author writes of one of them, the Original Emperor, (illustration 442) which is marked "RL PatIA Staat", (RL could be the initials of Russbacher Ludwig, Austria).

Now onto lighter number three which is virtually the same as that illustrated in "Lighters" as number 570 except, that pictured has a vee-shaped cutaways on the separate lid. The base, which is a reserve fuel tank, slides out to refuel and reflint. Printed on the base of my lighter is ORLIK STORMPROOF TANK No. 67 AUSTRIA PAT. 124670. It measures 2-1/2 x 1-1/2" (63 x 40 cm) not 63 x 42 cm as indicated in the book.

Number four would be a later adaptation of the other Stormproof inasmuch that it has the same name and patent number but follows the more accepted design of later lighters that dispensed with the reserve fuel tank. It is shorter than it's predecessor, 2-1/4 x 1-5/8" (55 x 40 cm) and has ORLIK STORMPROOF and

(continued on page 3)

MADE IN AUSTRIA printed on the lid and Pat. 124670 on the base.

The fifth lighter, mechanically is the most interesting. The action of lifting the wick cover arm activates the flint wheel. Although ORLIK 1930 is printed on the base, it could be a 1928 design, with the patent number being No. 1329/28. Sometimes the last two numerals will indicate when a patent is taken out. It also has MADE IN AUSTRIA and Rd No 734 695 printed on the base which has a large fuel screw at one and an indented smaller flint screw in the center. It measures 2 x 1-5/8" (50 x 43 cm).

The next two are the most common of the Orlik designs seen in Australia, those imported from Britain which are marked MADE IN LONDON. These are lighters six, which has a nice art deco advert and my latest acquisition (number seven). Both lighters have slip-cases (outer coverings that slip off to reach the fuel padding, etc.) Printed on the base is ORLIK SPORT MADE IN LONDON Rd No. 808094. Each measures 2-1/4 x 1-11/16" (57 x 43 cm).

On finding my most recent Orlik, it seemed to be like the one I already had, until I compared them at home and found a couple of minor differences (apart from the finish of them). They were the placement of the flint wheel and the size of the wick arm stem.

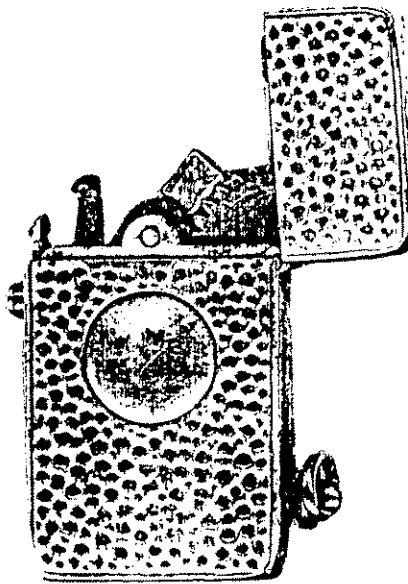
Lighter number eight is an interesting model, the only one I've seen. It's a slimmer longer model than the Orlik Sport and although it has the same registration number, it's a different design with both the flint and fuel screws in the base which has the imprint ORLIK MATCH-LESS LONDON MADE Reg No. 808094. The measurements are 2-1/2 x 1-5/8" (63 x 40 cm)

So, there's a run-down on the eight Orlik lighters in my collection. If you have any other Austrian or English Orliks or indeed the "elusive" U.S.A. model (if such an item exists) Jay Meddaugh, the Club Historian, I'm sure would like to receive the

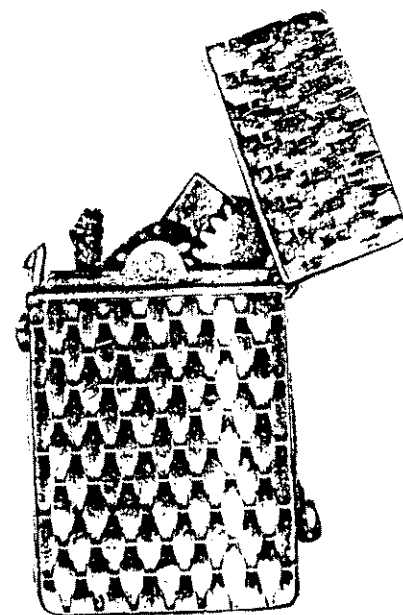
details. It would also be interesting to know if Orlik ever produced a table model.

One purpose of the club is to increase our knowledge on all aspects of lighters and any information is either printed by Judith Sanders in our newsletter and/or passed on to Jay to be used later in the compilation of a book to be issued by the club.

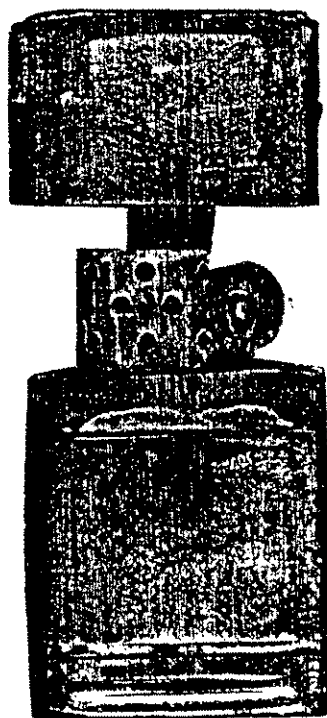
It is a project in which we can all help.



(1)



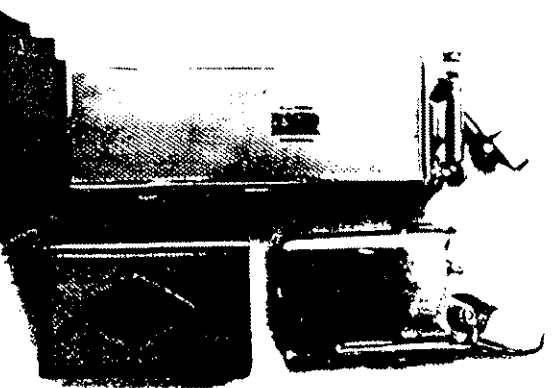
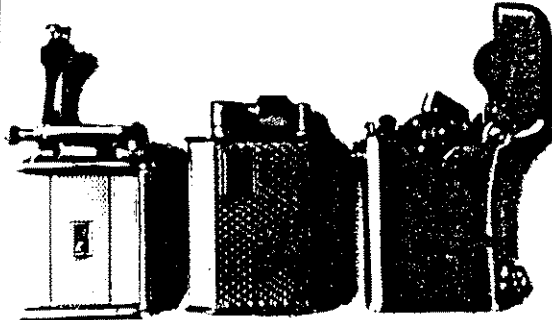
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(3)

For Sale or Trade

The following: 1) Polo Pocket, similar to #581 (all numbers referred to in this ad are from the "Lighters" book); 2) McMurdo Pocket version of 601; 3) Thorens Standard Original with lateral screw cap; (4) World Globe Table Lighter "Made in Germany" - no brand name - Petrol; 5) Mosda-Penod Series - Table Lighter - #599; 6) Table Lighter marked "Made in Germany - #441 - chrome plated; 6) Polo - table version of #581; 7) Standard - Made in Austria - pocket version of #66; 8) Colibri "Ideal" - pocket lighter - Petrol. Greg Smith (See "reduced" photos below)



For Sale or Trade

FOLLOWING ARE 2 ADS RECEIVED FROM NON-MEMBERS. IF ANY OTLS MEMBER BUYS THESE LIGHTERS PLEASE ADVISE YOUR EDITOR! ALSO WHEN CONTACTING THESE PEOPLE PLEASE INDICATE YOU ARE A MEMBER OF OTLS SO THEY WILL KNOW WHERE YOU GOT THEIR NAMES - THANK YOU!

Has a collection of at least 60 Zippo lighters - all with logos. Also a few other lighters. Willing to sell individually or as a whole lot. Ralph W. Fink, 19 Williamsburg, Hershey, PA 17033 (Editor's Note: This man was in the military, although he didn't say if there were any military lighters) (Thanks to Eddie Dektor for this ad!)

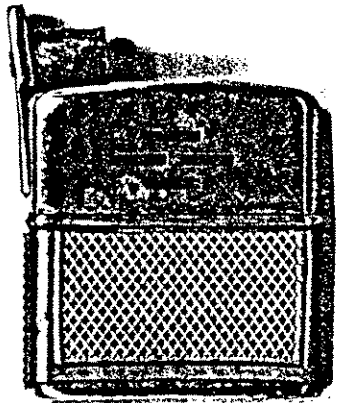
Approx. 70 lighters - mostly Zippos from late '40's to '73; also Barlow, "Made in Austria", etc. Hope Nettrour, 116 Wood Crest Dr., Sewickley, PA 15143; 412/741-6809 (Editor's Note: I do have xerox photos, showing logo & year - if anyone is interested send \$1.00 + stamped envelope)

TINY TRIVIA

You can find many of the tiny screws needed to fix lighters at jewelers and watchmakers! This is especially a good place for the tiny gold screws.

For Sale or Trade

CHAMP-O-MATIC (Austria) Pat. Pend. U.S. Pat. Pend. Silver metal w/mesh like around the bottom half. Smaller than most pocket lighters - 1-5/8" high x 1-1/2" wide. Looks EXACTLY like #74 (Clix) in "Book". See photo of actual lighter below. \$25 (postage paid) Judith Sanders



ADDRESS CORRECTIONS:

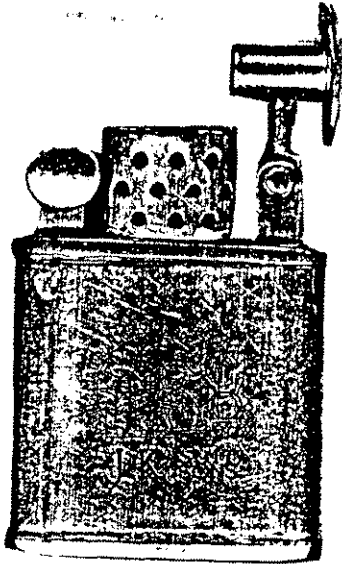
Charles Stapert
RR 7, Box 94, Bartron Rd.
Tunkhannock, PA 18657

Tom Zimmer
1626 Westwood Dr.
Erie, PA. 16505

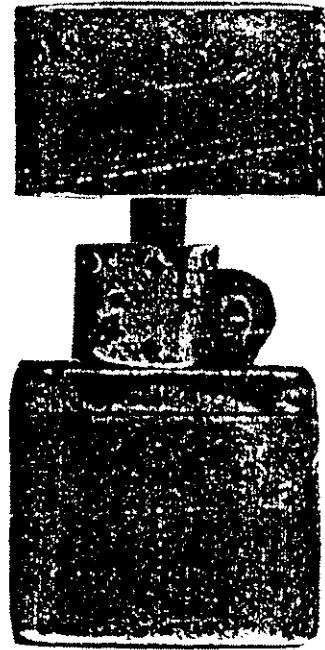
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

1. Tracy Musack
6530 Annie Oakley #322
Henderson, NV 89104
702/435-1670
2. Norman R. White
516 Effa St.
Weirton, W.VA. 26062
304/723-2991
3. Kent Adams
901 Olive St.
Menlo Park, CA 94025

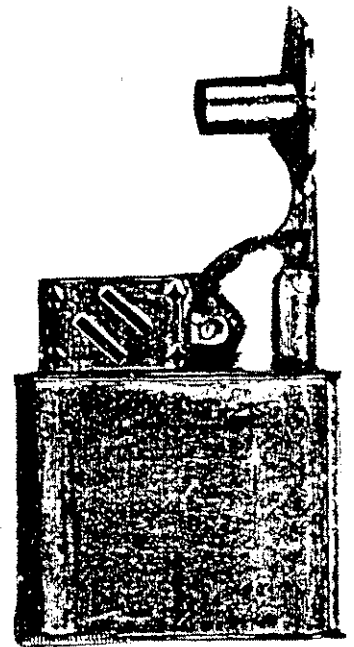
SHOWN ON THIS PAGE ARE MORE OF THE LIGHTERS REFERRED TO IN PETER'S ARTICLE.



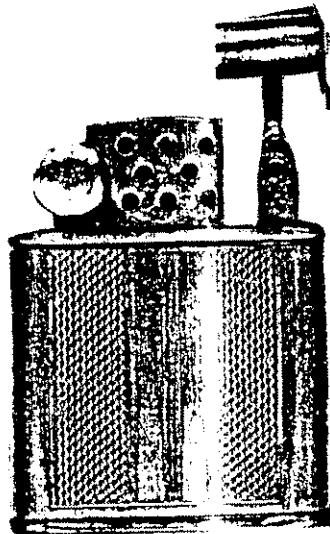
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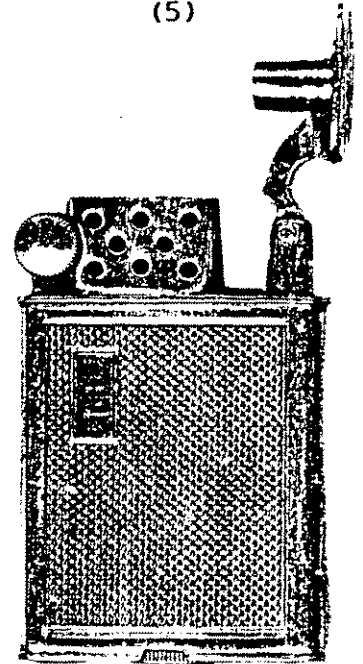
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(7)



(8)



(EDITOR'S COMMENT: FOR YOU WHO DO NOT HAVE A COPY OF BISCONCINI'S BOOK - SHOWN HERE IS A PICTURE OF ONE OF THE LIGHTERS HE REFERS TO ON PAGE 49 (OR "RK" LIGHTERS. THIS PICTURE WAS SENT TO OTLS BY A NON-MEMBER ASKING FOR INFORMATION.)