

# ON THE LIGHTER Side

June/July, 1989

Vol. VI, No. 3

## CONVENTION ISSUE

Every year the Convention gets better! We have a lot of ground to cover, so sit down, prop up your feet and enjoy the review!

The 1989 Convention was held in Cleveland, Ohio June 9-11. The following members and guests attended the convention: Jerry Agan & Pam Rutledge, Bob Beyers, Peter Cavanagh, Hal Chidsey, Warren Gerber, John Grawe, Corky & Yvonne Horner, John & Audrey Krones, Wallace & Beverly Laird, Lou Long, Larry & Judy Marshall & Judy's sister, Dale Kelleher, Vernon & 'Mom' McNear, Bud Michalski, Tracy Musack, Tom & Joan Prylinski, Richard & Mina Rotman and their 4 'young adults' Michael, Marc, Marni & Mitchell, Paul Rowan, Judith Sanders, Ray & Connie Smizer, Loyd Stinecipher, Leo & Dot Turini and their friends, Dick and Mariane Darling and Tom Zimmer.

A BIG THANK YOU to ALL the Rotmans for doing such a lovely job on the convention! Not only did Richard & Mina do a lot - all the Rotman Kids helped too!

The following paragraphs will cover the more important parts of the convention. After you read everything, if you have questions, please let me know.

On Sat. morning, the business meeting was held, with much discussion and the following decisions being made:

1. IMPORTANT - next year's convention will be held in LAS VEGAS, NEVADA on the weekend of June 10-12, 1990.

2. Zippo has now come out with their new lighter guide and sent us sufficient copies for everyone in the club. If you would like a copy send a stamped, self addressed envelope (25¢) and I will send you one. (Envelope should be at least 5-1/2" x 4-1/2")

3. There were some good suggestions made about various parts of our club (a) in the

future I will send out a separate billing to everyone at the beginning of each year to remind you of dues; (b) I will also try to mention events, important news, things to remember, etc. more than once so members won't forget anything. These suggestions, of course, were in response to my most recent "soapbox" letter - I will also try to restrain myself with these type letters!

4. It was brought up that members would like to have more than 5 issues per year - or to go back to the original 12 issues. Your Editor will give this matter some thought and see what she can do! thought and see

5. The increase in dues was discussed - for 3 years your Editor has been losing money. At the end of 1989 if the club account still has money, we will reconsider the annual fee.

6. Another point brought out by our President, Richard Rotman, was that maybe we need to identify our club better. For instance, On The Lighter Side is an expression, as well as used by other organizations and doesn't really identify us as lighter collectors. We also are an international club, which needs to be identified. So after discussion, it was decide we will change the membership applications to read not only the name of the club, but also "International Cigarette Lighter Collectors" or something to that effect. Also, when we run out of letterhead and order more, I will change the format on that also. Please note Membership Rosters enclosed, where I have changed format.

7. IMPORTANT - The membership has been talking for some time about 'the club' writing a book about American made lighters and U.S. lighter companies. At the meeting, your Editor presented a 'draft' of a proposed book to be written and published by the members of OTLS. Copies were given to all members attending the convention. The draft only suggests possible chapters and possible information to cover - for instance the chapter on ELGIN

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AMERICAN has nothing in it yet, since your Editor didn't have any information on this company. Each person who took a copy is going to add his or her expertise, information, photos, etc. For any member interested in contributing information to this book, if you will send \$3 (to cover xerox & postage) I will send what I have to you to add your input. As each person sends information in, we will begin 'merging' everything together and hope to publish something by the middle of 1990.

Regarding next year's convention, to be held in Las Vegas - there have been complaints in the past from members living in the western half of the U.S. because it was difficult for them to attend conventions so far away. So now we are having a convention further west - I certainly hope this will enable some of you who have never attended a convention to come to the 1990 convention. For those of us who now have attended several conventions, we have found they are a wonderful experience, as well as an opportunity to acquire lighters at reasonable prices and trade off duplicates.

Another point that was brought up in favor of 'moving to the west' is about the same group has attended the last 3 conventions and we may be 'traded out' By having additional members coming, we all get to see new trading material (or for sale items), which will benefit everyone!

On to a very important subject: ZIPPO!! We can't say enough kind words to Zippo this year! As most of you know, Zippo has already done a lot for us in the past, but this year outdid themselves! First of all, before the convention even started, Bill Galey helped me to design this year's convention lighter (see description in Collectors' Corner), which everyone at the convention liked! Then we were fortunate that Arthur Davidson, District Manager of Zippo, happens to live in the Cleveland area. Art set up a table

during our Sat. 'display time' to answer questions, help with information and to sell some GREAT lighters! Art had the following items for sale: (1) the Elvis Presley sets; (2) the replica of the original Zippo windproof lighter, introduced in 1932 (with outside hinge) (see photo in Collectors' Corner); and (3) brand new NOT ON THE MARKET YET 'Presidential Series' - this set is truly beautiful (see photos in Collectors' Corner).

In addition to setting up during the displays, Art also was a guest at the auction and dinner, held Sat. evening. For the auction (more about that later) Art contributed some excellent items to the club to be auctioned off - including 4 Zippos which will NEVER appear on the market (see photo in Collectors' Corner). These lighters were prototypes of designs Zippo created and then decided not to use.

AND IF ALL THE ABOVE WASN'T ENOUGH - Howard Fesenmyer, Executive Vice President of Marketing, sent some lighters to give each person attending the convention. Each of these lighters were different and were various trade marks and logos. Maybe he got this idea from the OTLS Group storming the back room last year when Bill Jones dug out the 'old' Zippos??!!!

The award for NOVELTY OF THE YEAR has to go to the Rotman Clan! I believe the idea originated with Mitchell - but anyway...Richard has a GIANT Scripto Vu-Lighter (see photo in Collectors' Corner). So the Rotman Young Adults set up this Scripto in the OTLS Hospitality Suite - - with a flickering light in the "flame" and in the bottom, they put water with LIVE GOLD FISH!! EVERYONE liked this display!!!

The award for MOST THOUGHTFUL and CREATIVE HAND MADE LIGHTER has to go to Tom Prylinski. (See photo in Collectors' Corner) He took one of the Japanese lighters that look like a GIANT ZIPPO (6-1/2" high) - engraved diagonal lines in two corners, to look like the 1933 Zippo, put a picture of the Zippo Factory on the front with polyurethane to protect it and gave it to your Editor as a momento of our 1988 tour of

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Zippo! This is an addition to my collection I will treasure!

One story that has to be shared was the funniest/strangest happening at the convention! Our new member, Wally Laird was there for his first convention. Wally is so new he hadn't even gotten a copy of a Membership Roster yet. I had brought a copy for him - handed it to him - and he got the funniest look on his face and started talking to himself! When I asked him what was wrong, he said "Did you notice there is another Laird in the club?" I told him that I had noticed that and why? And he said "THAT IS MY TWIN BROTHER AND HE DIDN'T TELL ME HE BELONGS TO THIS CLUB - IN FACT HE DIDN'T EVEN TELL ME ABOUT OTLS!" Well, Fred I think you are in TROUBLE now!! Wally, of course, knew his twin collected lighters because they started collecting at the same time, but he definitely didn't know Fredric belonged to OTLS. So now we have twins in OTLS - THIS SHOULD BE INTERESTING!

We had some extra expenses this year, which weren't covered in the registration fee - so Sat. before and after the dinner we had an auction. The Auctioneer for this event was a WORLD FAMOUS PERSONALITY! The Famous CROCODILE (PETER) CAVANAGH! If you weren't there, you missed a real experience! Items were donated by various OTLS Members and by Zippo. THANKS to Jerry Agan, Peter Cavanagh, Paul Rowan, Tom Prylinski, John Kronos, Leo Turini and Zippo! (Did I miss anyone?) We raised enough money to pay for all the extra convention expenses, as well as some extra for OTLS. This money will be saved to use when we publish our book. The HIGHLIGHT of the auction (other than the Auctioneer!) was the last item auctioned. Tom Prylinski donated an old Zippo display case with 3 Zippos in it. The display case was most unusual and a real collector's item (it was the oval shaped case, with a 'flame' on top) - and after a long and fierce

battle - went to our President Richard Rotman. THANKS Tom for this wonderful contribution!

Our Club Historian, Jay Meddaugh, was unable to come to the convention this year. However, he called your Editor before the convention and said he is still working on a list of items which will be available to OTLS Members. Since a paper is not due to come out until Sept., if Jay gets the list finished sooner, your Editor will send it out anyway.

IMPORTANT!! We have a video again this year of the convention - and I believe the videos also improve each year as we learn more about 'taking movies'. If you have a VCR you really will enjoy the video! To order, send \$10 to Jay Meddaugh. PLEASE SEND YOUR MONEY DIRECT TO JAY!

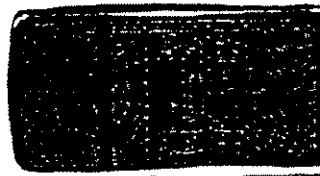
On Sunday morning everyone went to a great Flea Market - just try to picture almost 50 people asking a bunch of dealers for lighters! By the time we got through the place, everyone knew we had been there! And, everyone found at least 1 lighter - in some cases more - my idea of a successful trip!

So many things happened at this year's convention, I didn't want to leave anything out - hope I didn't miss anything important? Please put on your calendars the date for next year's convention and TRY YOUR BEST TO BE THERE!

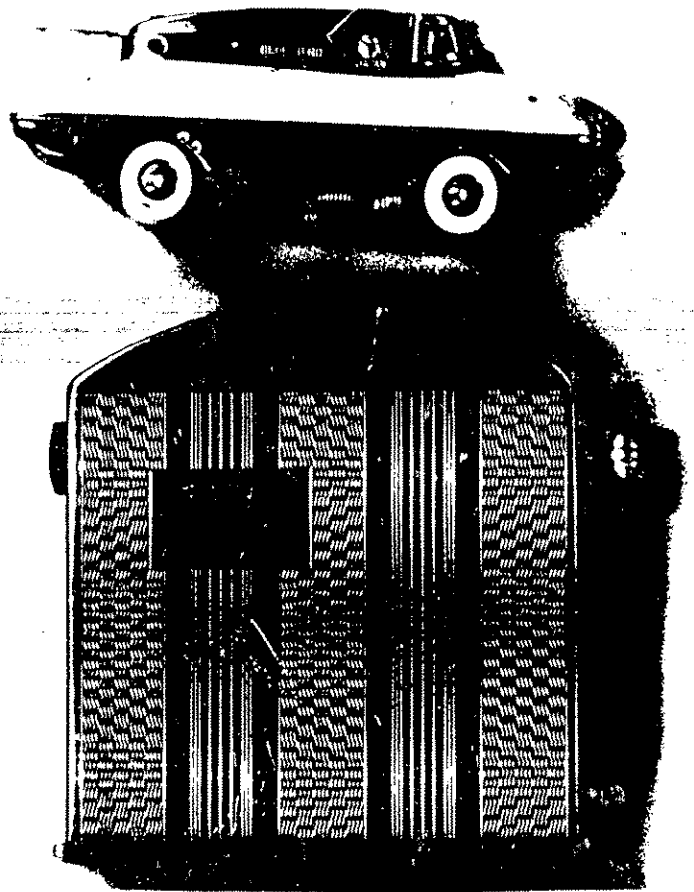
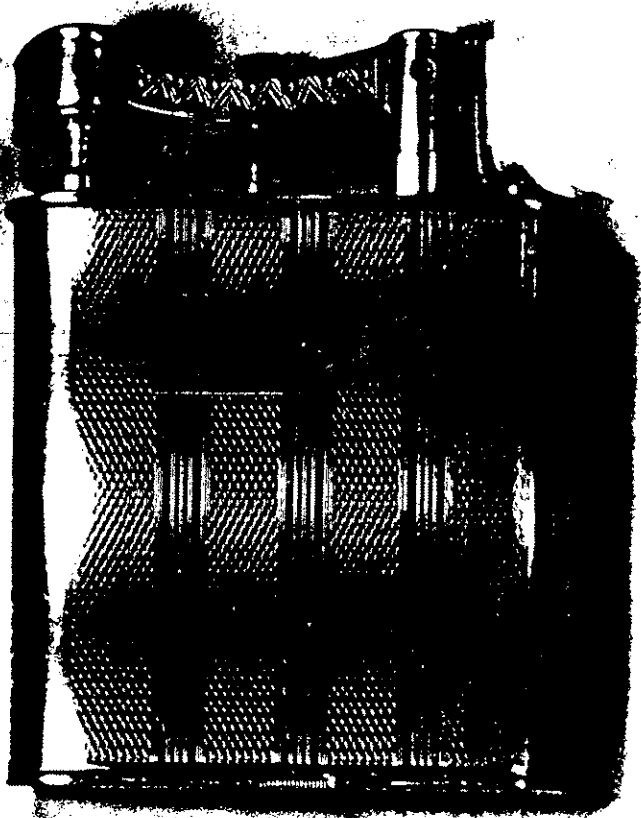
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#### COLLECTORS' CORNER

Following are pictures of various lighters, signs, etc. from the convention. We don't have too many pictures of members this year - but should have some coming in from around the country soon.



This is the 'prototype' which was sold at the auction. It is silver with the 'pattern' in orange.



These 3 lighters were bought by your Editor at the Convention - just to show you what good lighters you can find!

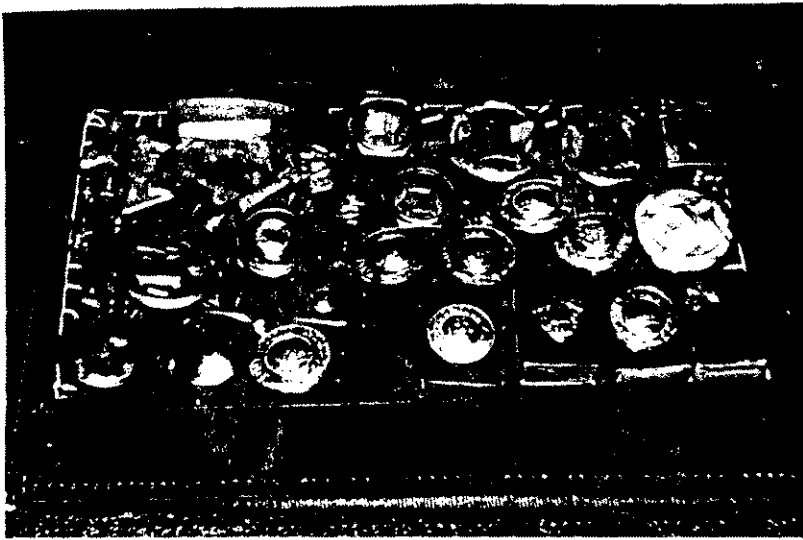
- (1) Occupied Japan Table Model (silver colored metal)
- (2) (Japan) Sarome 'Blue Bird' vintage approx. 1965 - gray & cream enamel (petrol)
- (3) Kaschie (Made in Germany - table lighter. Approx. year made 1934 - this lighter has a separate fuel reservoir in the bottom of the lighter.



Peter Cavanagh in his favorite Flea Market Hat!



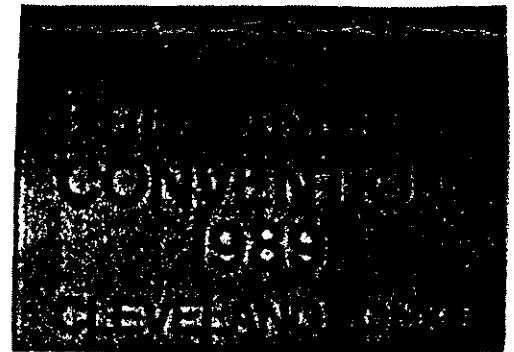
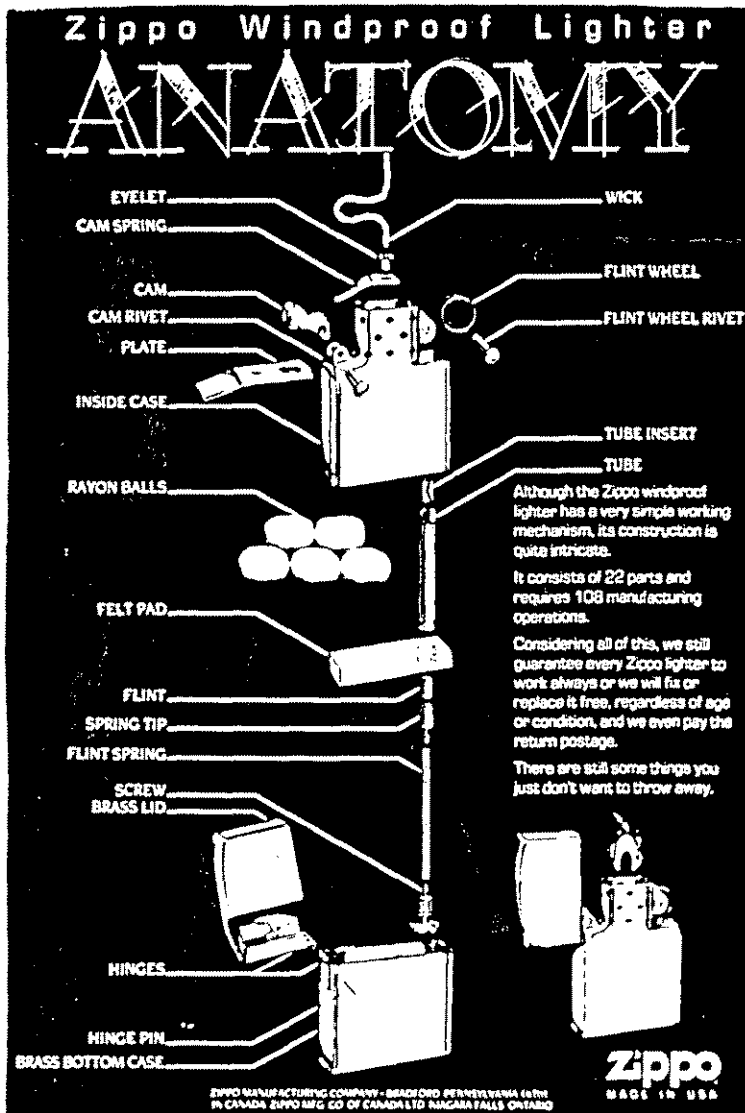
Picture of the GIANT Scripto (with the cold fish!)



Some of the WWI lighters from Warren Gerber's collection. Please get a magnifying glass and have a good look at these - they are some great examples of this type lighter.

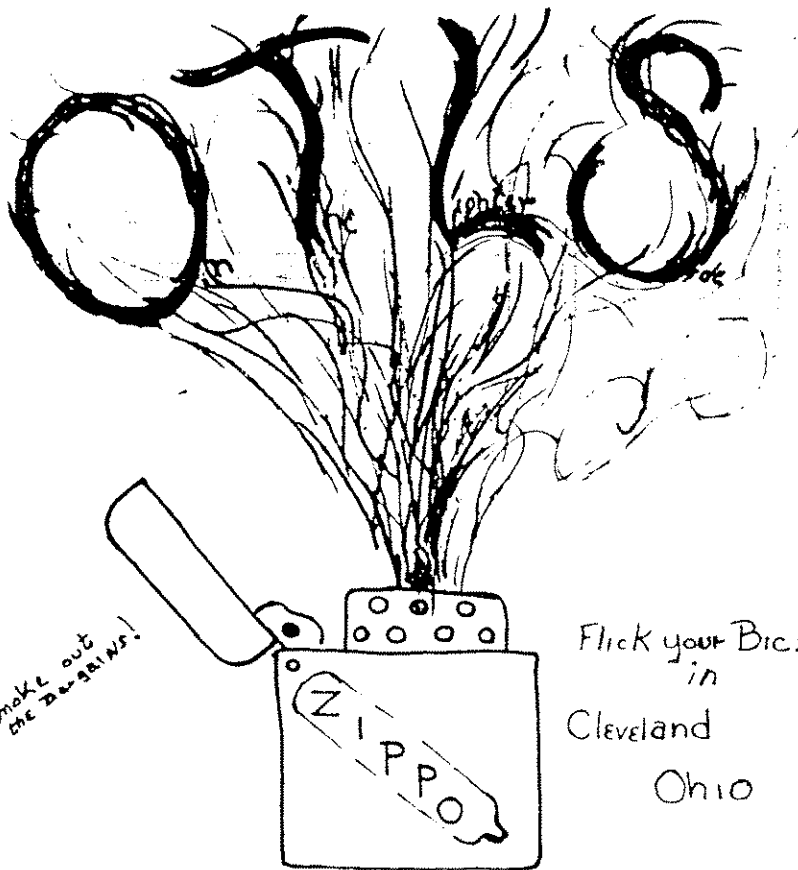


This is an OLD fuel dispenser from Richard's collection. You could put a penny in and get enough fuel for your lighter.



This particular sign was done by Tom Prylinski on a computer. Everyone at the convention signed this and we presented it to Richard Rotman

"Reduced" xerox of Zippo Anatomy Chart presented to OTLS at Convention - may be helpful in fixing your own Zippos.



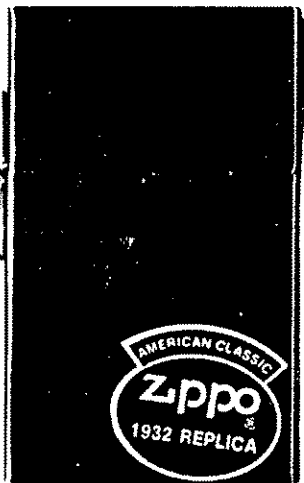
1989

3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention

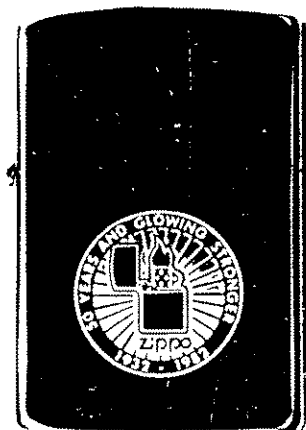
"Reduced" picture of one of the posters used at the convention - on the door of the OTLS SUITE. This poster was created by one of Tom Prylinski's friends for us.



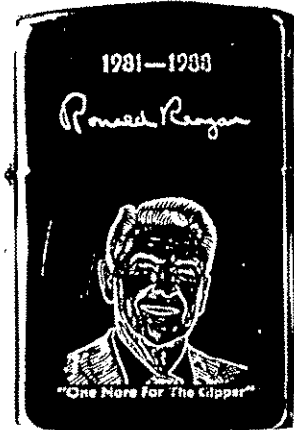
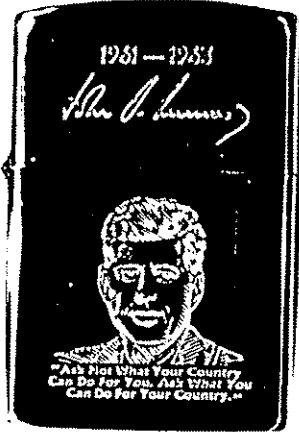
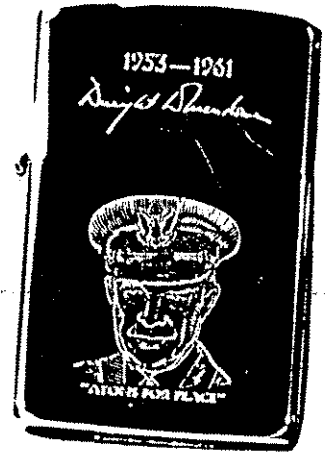
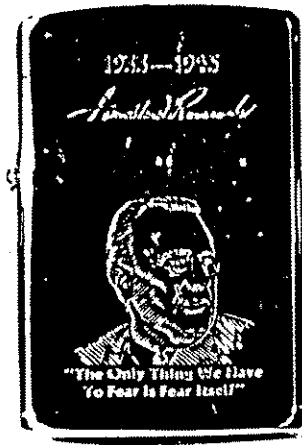
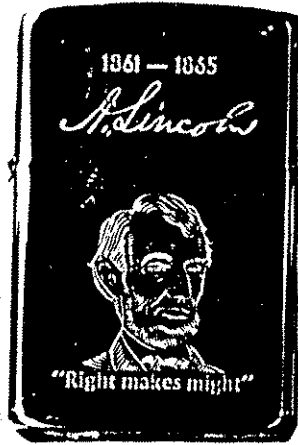
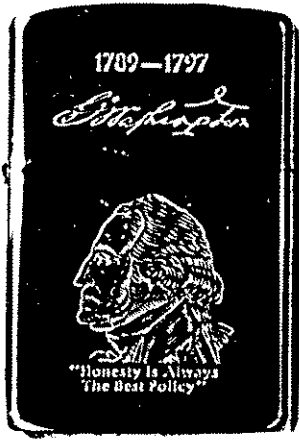
This is a "reduced" xerox of the actual lighter Tom Prylinski gave your Editor.



Zippo 1932 Replica

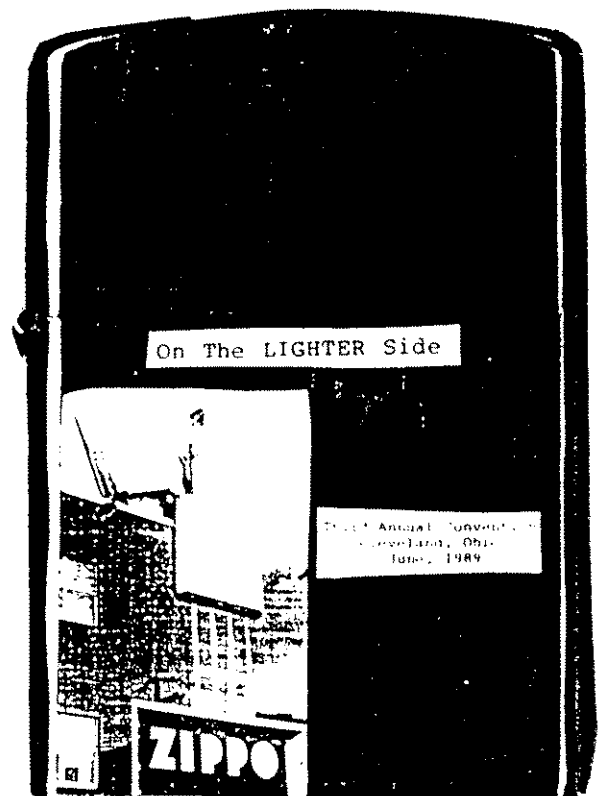


This is one of the lighters contained in the box given to OTLS by Howard Fesenmyer. This is the one your Editor picked and this design, I understand, was created by our good friend, Bill Jones of Zippo



THE PRESIDENTIAL SERIES  
(ZIPPO)

The 1989 Convention lighter doesn't xerox too well, so I used Tom P.'s idea of 'created' a reasonable facsimile. The lighter this year is 2-colored, with picture of Zippo on the left and lettering as shown in picture.



For Sale or Trade

ATTENTION: 1989 Convention Lighters for sale (see photo in Collectors' Corner) \$11 (postage paid) (add \$2 for overseas) ORDER NOW WHILE SUPPLY LASTS! Judith Sanders  
As a fund raising project, Chap. 1983, Military Order of the Purple Heart, is selling Zippo lighters with official logo of the organization on lower front panel. MOPH is an organization open to anyone awarded Purple Heart Medal. \$10 each (including postage). Ralph Fink

White ceramic 'jug' w/blue letters - "Henry McKenna Hand Made Whiskey. Japan insert. 5" high. \$15 (postage paid) Judith Sanders

To Trade: Coca Cola Musical pocket (Vavalle/Downey tune) mint, for 3 illustrated WWI trench art. Warren Gerber

Will trade for Banjo. Always willing to buy entire, quality collections. John Cuevas

## ADDITIONS &amp; CHANGES

## WELCOME BACK

Hal Chidsey  
(See Membership Roster)

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Alex Abercrombie  
209 Winslow Ave.  
Norwood, MA 02062

Larry Marshall  
(See Membership Roster)

Lawrence Spalding  
(See Membership Roster)

Chris Clark & Urban Cummings  
(See Membership Roster)

## CHANGES:

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF ADDRESS FOR TRACY MUSACK

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.

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"; 5) Mosda-Penod Series table lighter - #599; 6) Table lighter marked "Made in Germany (#441); 7) Polo table version of #581; 8) Made in Austria pocket version of #66; 9) Colibri "Ideal". Greg Smith

Wanted to Buy or Trade  
New Collector & Appreciator would like to buy some representative Zippos of earlier eras. Not the best or worst of shapes, but good examples of all Zippo styles (seems to be a good place to start?!) Michael Kolb

Want Zippo with Mickey Mouse Emblem. Phil Alexander

Wanted: Zippos with the Ford-Ferguson System Logo. Dean Karstetter

Want "Spirit of St. Louis" plane, any airplane, Dunhill Bell, motor cycle & sidecar, motor scooter, Austin Healey car, Wild West Wagon w/4 bullocks. Colin Day

Wanted to Buy or Trade

Interested in locating an extra "Kool" penguin lighter. Judith Sanders

Any "true" novelty cigarette lighters & unique mechanism lighters. Greg Ryman

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

Wanted: Imco Pocket Lighter, Model 2200. Also interested in other old Imcos. Greg Smith

Pocket or Table Watch lighters wanted. Bob Stowe

Wanted: Cigar Counter lighters run on batteries or electricity. Lighters made by NASSAU or IMPERATOR - flint must be on top of 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

WANTED BY THE EDITOR  
OF OTLS - NEW ADS FOR  
CLASSIFIED AD SECTION  
- TO BE RECEIVED NO  
LATER THAN AUGUST 30!!

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE  
International Cigarette  
Lighter Collectors

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John Grawe	V.Pres.
Judith Sanders	Sec/Treas
	Editor
Jay Meddaugh	Historian

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