

ON THE LIGHTER Side

September 15, 1989

Vol. VI, No. 4

ETC., Etc., etc.

IMPORTANT NEWS FLASH!! Lynn Baker (OTLS Member) loves computers and has VOLUNTEERED to do the mailing labels each month! This is a big job in itself and I know we ALL appreciate his efforts. The labels on this month's paper are his first effort. Overseas members will note your "country" is written in - Lynn is working to get that included in his program. Your Editor cannot say enough kind words for any help any of you can give!

ALSO - Please note I have used a different 'printing' process (as opposed to xerox). I would appreciate some of you letting me know if you think this looks better?? This method seems to do better with pictures.

We have some great ads this month, including a Mail Auction on page 4. Please note deadline on 'Auction' and bid promptly.

More later... *Judith*

IN THE SPOTLIGHT...

SAMUEL GUINN IS NOT THE ONLY ONE FROM TENNESSEE

Bud Michalski and his wife, Edna Jean also live in Johnson City, Tenn. Bud and Edna have been married since 1957 and are the parents of 4 daughters - Jeanny, Elizabeth ('Liz'), Tracey & Sarah.

In the interview with Bud, he said he really started collecting lighters when he was a junior in high school. At that time, his cousin sent him a silver lighter 'case' from France. Bud related that by the time he had located an insert for the case, he had developed an interest in lighters.

Later, Bud went into the insurance business. As he was calling on clients, on the East side of Chicago, he started

hearing comments from some clients about their broken lighters. So he began offering to fix their lighters free in exchange for another lighter.

Bud has continued this custom throughout the years. If you will note Bud's ad in the classified ads, he is still continuing to 'fix one in exchange for another.' Bud said not only does this help add to this collection, since he is now retired it gives him something to do.

Another project Bud is presently spending time with, is building some new display shelves. His original display area is in the center of some wall unit shelves w/lights in their living room. But since his collection is now around 2400 lighters, these shelves are full. Bud has started re-doing his garage to create a display room. He told this writer, he has built shelves all around the walls of the garage. Then he painted the walls flat black and is lining the cabinets w/black felt. He went on to say this black really shows up the lighters!

Bud likes to look for lighters in antique stores. Recently he said he bought several pocket lighters from one antique dealer, paying \$1.00 each. When he got home he found that 1 of the lighters is one of the first Evans lighters made -- and is in mint condition -- and for \$1.00! At this point, Bud told your Editor, he is 'specializing' in Evans, Zippos and the pump type, which were originally made in Johnson City* where he lives.

Bud concluded the interview with the following message:

"Cleveland Conventioneers - I would like to thank each and every one of you for making this convention a real thrill for me."

(*Editor's Note: For you newer members, there was an article by John Grawe in the 11/15/88 newsletter on Samuel Guinn (who founded The S. E. Guinn Mfg. Co. in Johnson City) and his 'pump' type lighters. See page 5 for a picture of these 'pump' type lighters, from John's article)

COLLECTORS' CORNER

OTLS Member, Christine Sanders has found an interesting article in a London newspaper, THE INDEPENDENT, which appeared January 28, 1989. With the kind permission of the writer, John Windsor, please see the article below. (THANKS TO CHRISTINE AND JOHN WINDSOR!)

MATCHLESS ENTHUSIASM

John Windsor finds cigarette lighters in novel disguises

What is thought to be the first single-owner collection of cigarette lighters to come to auction will be at Christie's, South Kensington, on 9 February. There are 450 of them, the result of 10 years' collecting by Barrie Rawlings, a furniture designer from Sibsey, near Boston in Lincolnshire. They are expected to fetch £2,000.

These pocket and table fire-bringers occupy a grey area of collecting. Many lighters are cheap novelties with no trace of a maker's name, date or patent number, making them near impossible to catalogue. In this country there is no vintage cigarette lighter dealer or society (refutations to FINDS please) and purists might argue that lighters are not collectable.

So it comes as a surprise to find that there is a definitive textbook LIGHTERS, 340 pages long, weighing nearly 5lb, in English-Italian dual text by Stefano Bisconcini, published by San Gottardo of Milan in 1983. Bisconcini has focused mainly on lighters that look like lighters (rather than motor cars, golf balls or animals) and which have a company history. His researches cover Europe, the US, Africa, China and South America (he is a little thin on Asia).

The Rawlings collection has plenty of company-branded lighters

(although those too difficult defeated Rawlings' own attempt at a book). Christie's sale catalogue will be fine-combed by Ian McOmish, archivist and curator of the London museum of Dunhill, the lighter manufacturer which once launched a new design every year and whose collection is still lacking some examples following wartime bombing.

But even the novelty items will appeal as ephemera to collectors of other things. There are two lighters in gilt and alloy representing an E-type Jaguar and a 1909 Opel (estimate £50-£80), a couple of dozen advertising lighters for Guinness Extra Stout, Ovaltine and Nugget Book Polish (£50-£80) and, the most expensive lot, two golf-ball and two golf club lighters in brass and chrome at £60-£120. A fanatical E-type owner, advertising executive or golfer, with a display cabinet full of ephemera, could decide that one of these pieces is just what his collection needs and drive up the bidding. A cigarette lighter becomes motoring memorabilia.

Likewise, a lighter in the form of a Chiparus or Preiss dancing girl is not really a lighter at all, but a piece of art deco. There is one lot of 14 art deco table lighters in the Rawlings collection, one in the form of a nymph, estimated at £80-£150. Of the three other lighters collectors who are known to him, one specialises in art deco, one in advertising and the other in animals.

Lighters have so many novel disguises that at first, Rawlings had difficulty in spotting them. "I would ask a shopkeeper 'Is that a lighter?' and he might reply 'I don't know'. It was like detective work. Eventually I got so expert it seemed that lighters were jumping out at me."

Much of his collection was picked up in markets, antique fairs and boot sales for 10p or 20p a lighter. But in a smarter antique market, a Dunhill "tinder Pistol" lighter would cost around £150. If it is silver or gold or jeweled, the price goes up. Christie's has never sold novelty lighters before, but in jewelry sales

(Continued on Page 3)

COLLECTORS' CORNER continued..

a silver Dunhill lighter fetches £ 50-£60, gold £ 200.

McOmish and Richard Dunhill, grandson of Alfred, the company's founder, bought back for £4,000 from the estate of the flamboyant socialite, Lady Docker, the fourcolor, gold cigarette-case and lighter, both in the form of a yacht, which Dunhill had made for her in the Fifties. Both contain tiny effigies of the Duke of Edinburgh and Uffa Fox.

Like Rawlings, McOmish has found that people take pleasure in donating to the collection. He has learned not to be too quick to ask elderly ladies how much they want for their vintage Dunhills. As likely as not, the lighter was their late husband's prized possession, used every day. They simply want to bring it back home. Talk of money offends them.

Alfred Dunhill's inspiration for the first successful pocket lighter was the open motor car. Between 1899 and 1907 he had sold motoring accessories - leather coats, goggles, foot muffs - including a tobacco pipe with a windshield which he invented himself. But striking a lighter with the old tinder pistols - spring-loaded striker, smouldering wick, no petrol - was still a problem in a car.

In 1919, two engineers, Frederick Wise and Willey Greenwood, had used a mustard tin to fashion a revolutionary petrol loaded lighter with a flint barrel set horizontally instead of vertically and an ignition wheel which could be flicked using only one hand. The result was the highly successful Dunhill Unique lighter, launched commercially in 1924. The mustard tin prototype is in the Dunhill museum.

The gas lighter, which needs a special valve instead of a wick, was patented by the

French bicycle-type valve manufacturer, Henri Pingot, in 1935 and developed during the German occupation of France by the lighter manufacturer, Marcel Quercia. Although the Germans demanded gas lighters "for the Fatherland" and supplied raw materials, Quercia managed to deliver not a single one. He launched the first gas lighter, the Gentry, in Paris in 1947.

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(Editor's Note: You will note the money amounts are all in British lbs. - I believe at this time the British lb. is worth 64¢ American. The photo below accompanied this article, and was by Glynn Griffiths. It would be interesting to hear if any of our British members attended this auction?)



CLASSIFIED ADS

!!! MAIL AUCTION !!!

Bids will be accepted for 3 weeks after arrival of this newsletter. Bids accepted by post card only. Bid by lot number only, not by individual lighters. T/L means Table Lighter & P/L means Pocket Lighter. Only winning bidders will be notified. Bids must be at least 1¢ higher than minimum bid listed for each lot. Be sure to include your return address. Please include an appropriate amount for postage in your bid.

LOT #1-1 Ronson Lotus T/L. Beautiful black & gold body. Mechanically sound. NICE! Minimum bid \$6.00

LOT #2-6 Zippo look-alikes, no emblems or insignia.

- 1 MY-LITE, Korea, mint
- 1 SMC, Japan, mint
- 1 Champ, Austria, some finish rubbed off
- 1 Japan, mint
- 1 CHAMP-EPTE, Austric, finish not very good
- 1 Neff Co., heavier metal with shine surface. Min. Bid \$6.00

LOT #3-1 Ronson T/L, butane, W. Germany, Black w/silver trim. 1-3/4" diameter, 3" tall, modern design, mechanically sound - NICE! Min. Bid \$6.00

LOT #4-2 P/Ls with side roller flint activating device.

- 1 Dunhill Rollalite, 1/2" x 1" x 2-1/2"
- 1 Viscount, Japan, 1/2" x 1" x 2-1/2". Both are sturdy, very nice. Min. bid \$5.00

LOT #5-1 Ronson Crown T/L. Mechanically sound, but finish shows wear, a very nice lighter for display. Min. Bid. \$6.00

LOT #6-2 gold tone lighters wrapped with leather.

- 1 Buxton, Japan
- 1 Japan, this lighter is unique in that it is only 1-1/4" tall, but base is 3" long. Both flint lighters & mechanically sound. Min. Bid \$4.00

LOT #7-9 lighters-Bentley & Bentley type.

- 4 Bentleys, 2 need new fuel tanks
- 1 Rosen-Nesor, advertising a Pittsburg restaurant
- 1 O.S.C. Japan, advertising Minute Maid juices
- 1 Modern, Japan, advertising electronic equipment
- 1 Harika, Japan, advertising United Furniture Corp.
- 1 Blue Ribbon, Japan, advertising The Money Shop in Ohio, brand new

The 4 Bentleys are butane & the other 5 are flint. Min. Bid \$10.00

LOT #8-1 Ronson Crown T/L. Mechanically sound, but finish shows much wear. Min. Bid \$5.00

LOT #9-5 Ronson P/Ls, all flint.

- 1 Ronson Essex, a beautiful lighter done in gold tone
 - 1 Ronson Adonis in silver tone
 - 1 Ronson w/windproof pull-up device
 - 1 Ronson Standard in silver tone w/initials "L K R"
 - 1 Ronson Princess in silver tone w/initials "T W"
- Min. Bid \$8.00

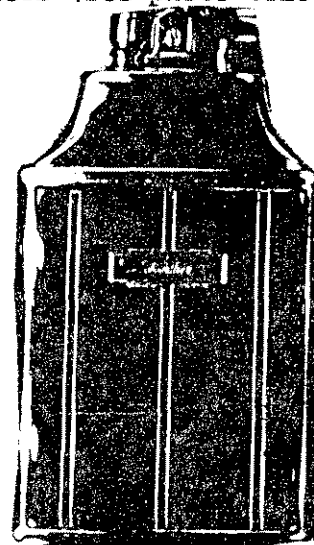
LOT #10-Grab bag of odds & ends, 24 different P/Ls, more than half in great shape, a few are real "gods". Several are very tiny, a few have parts missing. Samples in this Lot include: Colibri (West Germany)-Maruman Halley Piezo-Ronson Standard-Scripto Vu-lighter (no logo)-Ronson Varaflame Comet-Colibri by Kreisler (W. Germany)-Korea butane w/Bud Light logo-Colibri, black finish, nice ladies lighter (Japan) - several throwaways w/various logos. Several others are repairable or could supply parts. Take a chance on these. If you are not satisfied with this lot, I'll buy them back. Min. Bid \$16.00

THE FOREGOING MAIL AUCTION IS SUBMITTED BY OTLS MEMBER:

RALPH W. FINK
19 Williamsburg
Hershey, PA 17033

For Sale or Trade

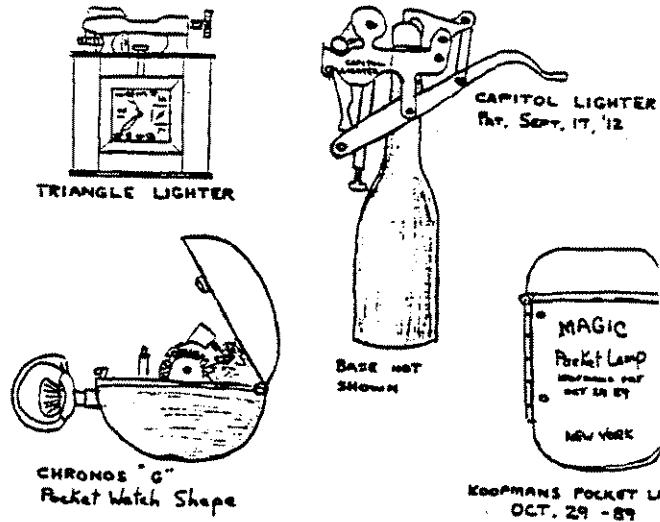
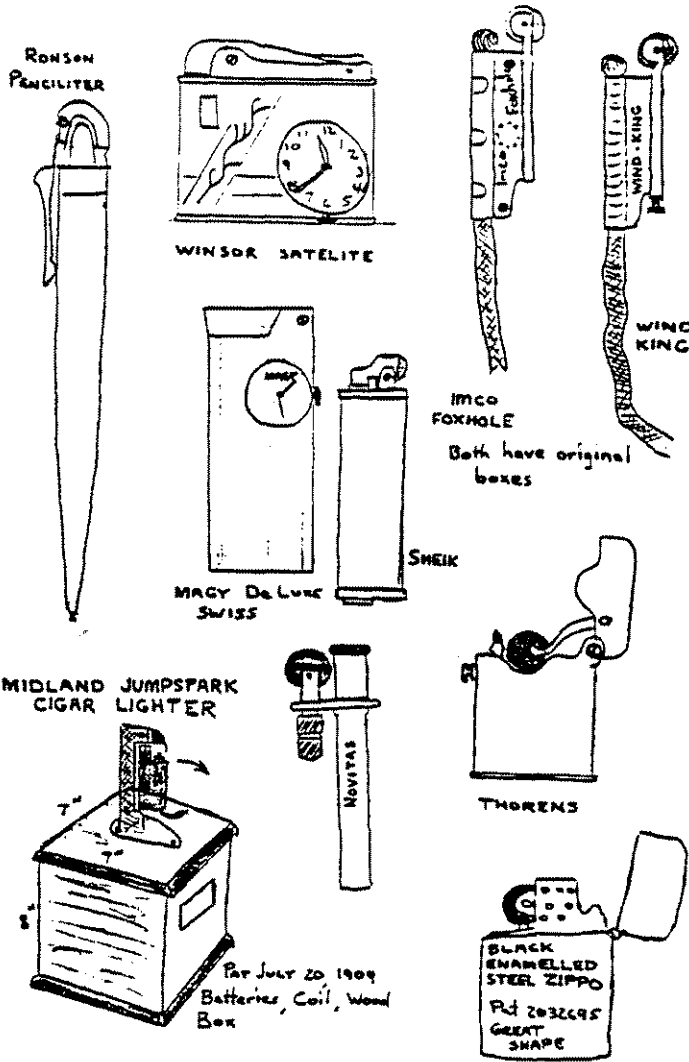
Ronson Mastercase. This is for a non-member who has sent this Ronson to OTLS to sell. Even though the Mastercase is somewhat easy to find, this one is black & silver not the usual brown. I will accept the highest offer - no less than \$10 please. Judith Sanders (See photo below)



Brass table lighter - "Augusta" Pat. D.B.P. agen. - "applic. pend. round the world" - Made in West Germany (approx. 1955) See 'reduced' photo below - actual size 2-1/2" high x 3" wide. \$30 (postage paid). Judith Sanders



Jim Lohr
Phone: 715/424-4634



WILL TRADE FOR:

- Mercury fulminate lighters
- wick and tinder (two-way lighters)
- World War I lighters
- cigar lighters
- unusual pieces
- original Colibri
- Ronson Banjo
- Bruma lighter
- Tresor lighter
- *Would really like to find Austrian hunting lighter pictured on page 27 of the Lighter Book.

Inquiries may call evenings or write. Pictures, xerox copies, sketches or reference to the Lighter Book very welcome.

Pictured below copy of Guinn's Design Patent, as shown in April 8, 1930 OFFICIAL GAZETTE, along with photo of other 'pump' type lighters.

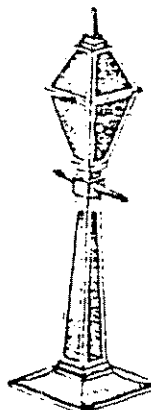
80,889. CIGAR LIGHTER. SAMUEL E. GUINN, Johnson City, Tenn. Filed Apr. 12, 1929. Serial No. 80,888. Term of patent 3 1/4 years.

'REMINDERINGS'

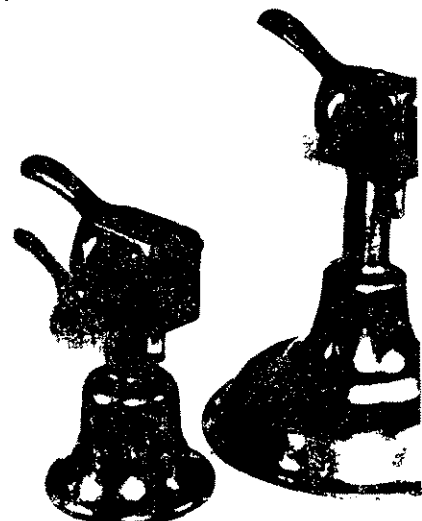
Your Editor still has some 1989 Convention Lighters (Zippo) for sale - \$11. Since these were paid for in advance I certainly would like to sell them!

1990 Convention - Las Vegas - June 8-10, 1990.

Next newsletter will be 12/15/89 - send any new ads by 12/5/89.



The ornamental design for a cigar lighter, as shown.



For Sale or Trade

Fire truck red Kalimar DX:35 MM, fully automatic. Takes beautiful pictures of lighters. I'm letting it go for \$35.00. Sid Chase

For Sale: 2 lighted, revolving Zippo display cases. 1 holds 30 lighters & the other 32 (one doesn't revolve & only 1 key for both) \$30 plus postage & handling for both or best offer. Send \$1 for Poloroid pic. & more complete info. Fred Waterman

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

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

ADDITIONS & CHANGES

WELCOME BACK

Richard Brown
4839 W. 23rd Place
Cicero, IL 60650

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Warren L. Boyd
Rt. 2, Box 2374
Thayer, MD 65791

Justin Rickles
418 Robin Hill
Naperville, IL 60540

Kevin Kelley (Personal)
9400 Norwalk Blvd.
Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670-2928

Lowell Tyson
1724 Walnut St.
Fostoria, OH 44830

Guy Nishida
8430 Truxton Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90045

For Sale or Trade

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

Looking for info on Ronson - style names, model names, any Ronson info would be greatly appreciate. If you hae any Ronsons for sale please send description and price. Lynn Baker.

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

Looking for Zippo lighters - Ships, Navy & Advertising types. Trevor Orr

Wanted - Any early model Zippo - must have exterior hinge & be in good condition. For cash or trade for Australian made lighters or rare Western Australian tobacco & cigarette tins. Rex Hodgson

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

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE
International Cigarette
Lighter Collectors

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

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