



On The Lighter Side

July 15, 2011

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Now a word from your Editor

By Rich Weinstein

It is almost a month since the 2011 OTLS Convention. That means, only 11 months till the 2012 OTLS Convention in Las Vegas! The Preston Hotel was a great choice, located only 15 minutes from downtown Nashville and many attending had come by car so there was no lack of transportation to and from local restaurants. Some of us attended the Grand Ole Opry and were entertained by around 10 different acts including Crystal Gayle who sounded exactly the same as she did over 30 years ago. It was quite a surprise to find them breaking for commercials both live and taped during the show because these concerts are radiocasted.

I appreciate all those who had sent in donations for the Saturday night auction even though they were unable to attend. These donations help keep dues down as the convention fees do not fully cover the cost of the shows.

A special thanks again to Judith for arranging for the hotel and all the numerous tasks that go along with it.

This issue will be dedicated to reviewing the Nashville Convention. We still need members to send in articles on their favorite lighter or lighters. Sharing your interests and knowledge keeps the newsletters fresh and interesting.

Please also make sure to read Judith's message inside this newsletter. We will need additional assistance with club operations and all members are invited to help participate in running OTLS. Please contact Judith directly for information on how you can help take over some of her responsibilities.

Please read the letter enclosed from Takashi & Kiyoko Fujii. It sums up beautifully the purpose of the club which sometimes we all forget.

GUEST EDITORIAL

By Judith Sanders

There will no doubt be many rumors floating around after our convention business meeting this year. So to make sure you have the true story, please let me tell you exactly what I said.

I am going to retire! Now I will not leave everyone hanging, but rather have asked the Board of OTLS to begin making plans to cover all areas that I currently help with. I will give everyone plenty of time to get this done.

There is nothing wrong with me – I am not going to quit collecting lighters – I still want to be a member – BUT want to be a follower and not a leader for a change.

Our club definitely can survive without me helping with the work. And I will keep coming to the conventions!

MASTIN AWARD EXPANDED

You may recall that last year, the Board announced we would expand the Ralf Mastin Awards to also include a written article in the newsletter.

The Judges reviewed all issues from last July through this May. The Board of OTLS is pleased to announce the winner of the 2010-2011 written article is Art Brooks, for his article entitled "Has Anyone Seen this Lighter Before". This article appeared in the January 2011 newsletter.

Congratulations to Art Brooks and we will be sending him the \$100 prize for this Award shortly.

THE BOARD SAYS THANKS!

The Board of OTLS would like to say THANK YOU to some of the people who helped at the Convention.

First a huge Thank You to Nancy Lloyd for once again serving as Convention Chairman.

And Thanks to all those who volunteered for all the jobs Nancy had created during the convention.

Thanks to those who helped Nancy with the Registration.

THANKS to George Gordon for the lovely T-shirts – once again George did a great job!

Thanks to Guy & Rich for the cute playing cards. If you haven't seen the cards yet you are in for a treat!

And also thanks to Guy for coordinating the golf tournament again and for providing such great prizes for the golfers.

Thanks to Zippo Manufacturing for sending so many items for the auction, and for always supporting us. Thanks to Roseart who always send a "one of a kind" lighter for our auction. Thanks to all the members who either mailed contributions to the auction, or donated items at the convention. Since this supports OTLS, this is a generous action on your part.

Thanks to Linda Meabon for representing Zippo at the show. And a big thanks to Gil Houston, the area Zippo District Sales Rep, for visiting our show.

Last but not least THANKS to our World Famous Head Auctioneer, Rich Weinstein and all of the World Famous Auctioneers! And thanks to the "Vanna" girls & guys who helped show off the items. And a big thanks to Ira Pilosof & Rob Giarretta for keeping track of the money in the auction.

And a personal thank you to Angie Beehler from Judith & she knows why!

And thanks to all of you who attended the convention because without you we wouldn't have conventions!

If we have forgotten anyone please know you are appreciated even if we didn't mention you!

OTLS 25th Annual Convention Nashville, TN

By Guy Nishida

To paraphrase Minnie Pearl, the famous Country/Western comedienne: "Howwwdeeee!" "I'm jes so glad that I got to Nashville for the OTLS convention!"

Although Nashvillians may want to separate us from our tourist money, they can't be nicer and more friendly in doing so. Our stay at the Hotel Preston was interrupted only by the sincere offers of assistance and hospitality. The rooms were spacious so there were no worries about stubbing your toe on any furniture. They were well-appointed and clean. Live entertainment at the Pink Slip Lounge livened the evenings.

Most of the members enjoyed one or more days/nights touring downtown Nashville while sauntering in and staggering out of the nouveau honky-tonk saloons lining the streets. Continuous live music punctuated each step of any walking tour. Elvis is alive and well on any number of street corners in Nashville albeit in a stiff pose and sporting an enameled finish. Famous eateries and music haunts were relished by all.

Some members attended the local flea markets while others took in Andrew Jackson's home at the Hermitage or booked a show at the Grand Ole Opry. This author was beguiled by Crystal Gayle singing "Don't It Make Your Brown Eyes Blue" while wondering how she manages to keep her ankle length hair jet black.

Others traveled to the treacherous Old Hickory Golf Club to do battle. Dana emerged victorious while Guy, Tom and Richie finished in that order for the 6th Annual Golf Tournament.

Relaxing poker games were enjoyed by men and women alike (thanks, Kara). The highlight was George Gordon's 4 of a kind (5's) demolishing Ron Eyerkuss's pitiful but colorful full house. His pride and pocketbook were both mortally wounded.

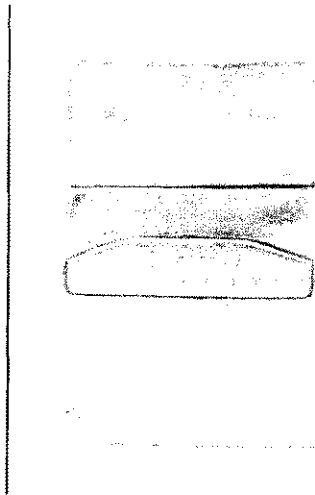
Oh yes, we also had a lighter show.

George Gordon brought a breath-taking array of gold pocket lighters, many incorporating a watch. Only Cartier, Dunhill, Asprey and their like need apply for inclusion. Thank you George for the time, trouble, and considerable risk.

The Mastin Award for best novelty lighter was

won by Rob Giaretta whose entry was a one-of-a-kind table Zippo. It was essentially a 1933 model permanently inserted into a flared base fluid-filled and flinted under the base through the screw holes. Authenticated by Linda Meabon as having been made in the Zippo factory, it was truly a prototype ahead of its time.

The outside hinge was actually mounted on the inside. You can see more of this lighter on Rob's website: vintagezippos.com



The Founder's Award was shared by Robin and Dana Baumgartner in recognition of their long service, assistance and generosity to the club.



A special award was bestowed on Takashi and Kiyoko Fujii for their kind support to the club over many years, especially considering the long distance they travel each year. A well-deserved thank you is given to Roseart for the exceptional table model engraved for this occasion as well as an additional piece donated for the auction commemorating our 25th annual convention. Incidentally, Tom Jones is filling orders for the convention lighter but we expect them to be all sold very quickly as he only had a handful left. Hooray!

As usual, there was much buying and selling at the

show. Personally, I noticed a refreshing resurgence in trading lighters, even if sometimes part trade and part cash. There were even a couple of Accutron watches that exchanged hands thru trades with lighters. It is gratifying to see transactions of this sort which were so much a fun and engaging part of earlier years. The refrain, "Your money's no good." could be rejuvenated so that we can return to the friendly bantering and swapping.

The fare at the Saturday dinner was tasty and bountiful. Our stable of auctioneers was augmented this year by one of our newest members, Ms Vickie Adele, founder of the Zippo Enthusiast's Network (ZEN). She generously donated 2 brilliant examples of Zippos adorned with her designs. Both lighters elicited fierce bidding.

As always, a great but exhausting time was had by all. Please save your vacation time now and we'll see you in Las Vegas this time next year.

Breaking News:

I have just received written confirmation that Richard Ball of England, a worldwide bon vivant, will definitely attend the 2012 convention. I know he cannot stand the public embarrassment of a messy retraction so he is now locked in.

Guy Nishida

Roseart Lighter and Knife Show

When: September 16 – 17, 2011

Where: Bradford, PA

If interested contact Kelly at roseartlightersusa@verizon.net or 814-362-3030. We are currently putting together the reservation form with details and prices.

We specialize in one of a kind pocket and table lighters and can personalize with your company logo or most any camera ready artwork. No minimum quantities required.

Let us design something special for you.

A Beautiful Letter from Takashi & Kiyoko Fujii

Hello Judith

I always thank for your kindness.

I remember my first OTLS show was 1998 in Las Vegas.

At that time, I just wanted to buy rare lighters to improve my business.

But now days, we go to the lighter show to meet my friends and have some business.

It is my pleasure that I can meet my friends who live in different places.

I know having lighter show every year is not easy.

I always thank you and Guy, Richard, George, Ira, Jeff and other members

I hope OTLS Lighter show is held forever by member's cooperation.

The lighter which you gave me is our treasure.

Thank you very much.

I am looking forward to the next show!

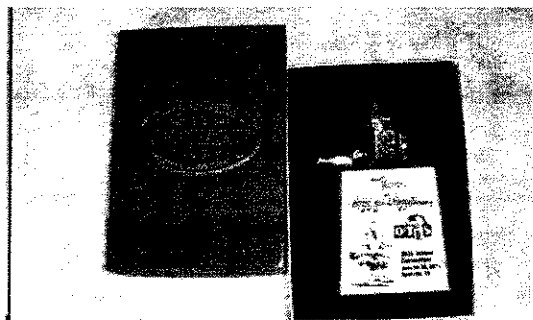
Best Regards
Takashi and Kiyoko Fujii

Lighters from the Convention



Great Japanese figurine lighter from the 1960's

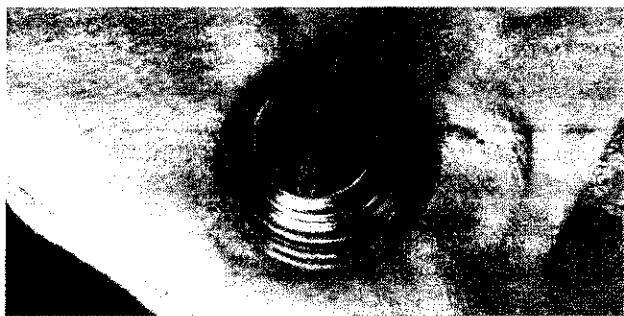
Tiny Ronson (gold colored)
Crown for a Dollhouse.
This isn't a real lighter,
but made to look like one.
(photo taken next to a dime
so you can tell actual size)



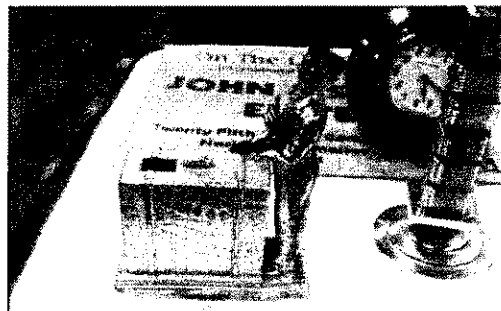
"One of One" from Roseart especially for our convention.
What a beautiful lighter.



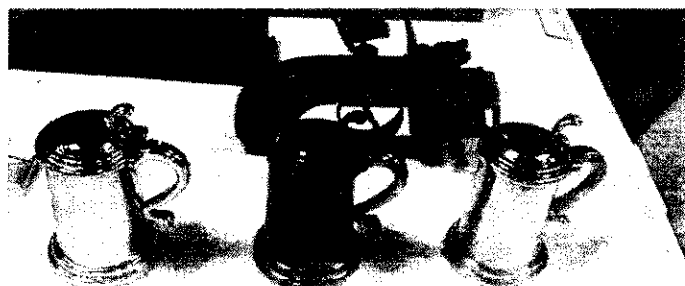
Cute figural lighter Judith got from Guy.
Have any of you ever seen this rope lighter before?



Interesting wall hanging striker
no markings to identify the manufacturer



John Elster's Philip Morris and Johnson's Wax Tower



.Triplets!

IN MEMORY OF TWO SPECIAL WOMEN

When I came home from the convention, it found two very sad messages.

First, Don Wiesenberg left a message that Barbara had passed away. Barbara has had cancer for quite a while. Don & Barbara have been members of OTLS for many years. And I have shared a lot of laughs and good times with both of them. Please keep Don in your thoughts right now, and if you get a chance email him.

Also another very long time member, Connie Smizer, passed away rather suddenly. I have talked to some of the family members and they said it was unexpected. You might recall that Ray & Connie were in Washington DC at the convention. Shortly after that convention Ray passed away. Ray & Connie have 4 grown children and they plan to keep the collection for now.

Not only were Ray & Connie members for a long time, several of us have been to their home in CT on a few occasions. We all had such good times there. Please keep the Smizer family in your prayers.



NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD...

Congratulations to Hen & Monique Gilinov on the birth of their new baby boy, Lior Samuel Gilinov, born on June 12th. John Heyde had more surgery but is home now & working on healing. Ira had an accident & had to have emergency surgery on his eye. But fortunately his eye will be fine and he made it to the convention! Judith will be on vacation from July 22 until Aug. 15 so if you need anything email Rich. (I'm sure Rich will be thrilled to see this note!)

Happy Birthday to Lou Long and George Gordon, both who had birthdays during the convention.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS! AND WELCOME BACK!

1. Ira Landsman
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Nashville TN 37205
landsman113@gmail.com
(615)473-7656
General
2. Bill Ledbetter
P O Box 15357
Phoenix AZ 85060
General

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SEND ADS BY August 31, 2011.



On The LIGHTER Side
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John Cornelius	Vice Pres.
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Judith Sanders	Secretary
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Karen Politi	Social Sec
Tom Jones	Conv. Lighter Chrm
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