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ON THE LIGHTER SIDE



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***FOUNDED IN 1983 - THE LONGEST RUNNING
LIGHTER COLLECTING COMMUNITY IN THE WORLD!***

And Now A Word From Your Editor

Richard Weinstein

It sure looks like the winter is over at least where I am in North Carolina and hopefully soon where you all are. That means flea markets and antique shows should be opening up all around. Not that I don't constantly look at eBay for my collection, but there is no thrill any more searching eBay. The real thrill is just walking around in messy grounds still wet from the pounding the winter has caused and you come up on a table of stuff and there it is. A piece for your collection that you don't have. You nervously ask the price and the seller says 5 bucks. You put your hand in your pocket and whip out that 5er, turn away and smile! That thrill you just don't find on eBay. Sure, there are thousands of lighters to look at any time you want on eBay but you are also up against the hundreds of collectors looking at the same thing. At the flea market, it's just you and the seller. I like those odds! So, next time you decide to spend hours and hours flipping through pages of lighters on eBay, try using your feet and hunt out the markets in your

area. You may be surprised that there are still lighters out there to find.



Now, if you want to improve your chances of finding something at the OTLS Convention, why not send in a few of your wants to otls@vintagelighters.com and we will post it in the May Newsletter. You never know. Someone attending might just have that something you need!

The members who have sent in articles would love to know that you have enjoyed them. This will spur them on to write more. Let them know you appreciate the time and knowledge they have shared with you.

Hope you enjoy this issue!

A Message From Your President

Art Brooks

Well, here we are at March already. The months are zip-ping by and before you know it June will be here and the Convention. I personally plan to attend and hope to see a number of you there. I am going to dispense with my usual Facebook tirade and just say if you haven't visited you should, it is going strong.



the lighter working like new. I also like the Martin Marietta Scripto! new in the box with instructions. The one in the photo on the right below the Thorens simply says Japan. It has a very interesting mechanism. It operates like a squeeze lighter.



It has been awhile since I have found any lighters I liked at a flea market. They are usually overpriced and or not so good shape. Having said that, just last month I scored big time. My favorite piece is the Thorens Storm. It wasn't working, so I posted a few photos on Facebook and before you know it people started sending me messages on how to fix it. Within an hour of my post, I had

Chairman's Message:

Guy Nishida

Unfathomable as it may seem, OTLS's 30th annual convention is drawing near. That is 3 x 10 years! 30 YEARS!!! What Judith Sanders nurtured from infancy onward for so many years has endured beyond the lifetime of many enterprises. It has survived because of you, our devoted and loyal members. It has survived because you understand that the club needed your articles, your photos, your ideas and suggestions, and yes, your financial support. Thank you for your continuing contributions. Judith is organizing this year's convention and will be in attendance. Please spend time to thank her and talk with her about the history of the club and this hobby. I'm sure you will find it both enlightening and entertaining.

We have been receiving unsolicited words of praise regarding the color newsletter and the content. We are glad that you recognize the improving quality but please reach out to the members who are sending articles and extend a hearty thank you. It is a welcome gesture that will keep their creative juices flowing. It is only thru their efforts that we have content to publish. No need to remind you but all submissions are welcome. Please consider contributing your written expertise, photos, or curious lighter observations and information.

While on the subject of newsletter articles, a matter arose recently which was a topic of a Board discussion. This is an example of issues your Board confronts. A non-member proposed that in exchange for sending us articles, we waive the dues. Although we continually struggle to obtain fresh material and would have gratefully accepted the input, the Board agreed that this would set a negative precedent and would be unfair to members who submit articles to share without compensation solely for the benefit of members. Reluctantly, we were forced to decline the offer.

In our last issue, we mourned the passing of one of our pioneer collectors - - Leo Turini. Beyond the ever-present smile, one memory stands out in my mind that I want to share. I'm certain Dot Turini had an equal hand in this event as well. One year when these Founder's Award recipients couldn't attend, I asked them if they could send some surprise auction items. A box arrived at the convention (or perhaps it was sent to me) and when it was opened, we found a cache of Dixie cups inside individually filled with popcorn. Buried inside each cup was a lighter!

A slight correction to last issue's article on building lighters. There were 5,000 Johnson Wax Tower lighters made, not the 1500 pieces mentioned in the article. While it is true the administration building was constructed in 1939, ground for the tower was not broken until 1947 and it was not dedicated until 1950. The lighter was first given out in 1948 in anticipation of the building's completion. I wrote an article back in 1993 after having contacted the Johnson Wax Company historian and that is what the records show. For those of you interested in more detail, you may wish to view the original article in our archives on the club website.

Also, for those of you collecting MIOJ lighters or the Dunhill Rollalite look-alikes mentioned by George Gynes in his article, please be on the lookout for the lighter shown elsewhere in this newsletter. It is a Dunhill look-alike marked Made In Occupied Japan. I purchased this many years ago from one of my favorite dealers and fellow club member Bob Rogers. You may know him by his Ebay handle Wickdways. I've never seen another.

Shout out to John Engleman for submitting his colorful display of lighters in the last issue. Here's hoping he sends pictures of his gas/oil related tobacciana including cans and lighters. Maybe he can be coaxed to attend this year's coming convention and to bring a display of them. Come on John, you're not that far from Las Vegas.

Please give serious thought to attending this year's convention. I guarantee you will will enjoy the lighters and the glitz of Las Vegas. Time is running out and deadlines approach. Firm-up your plans and send in your registrations NOW!

RONSONOTES

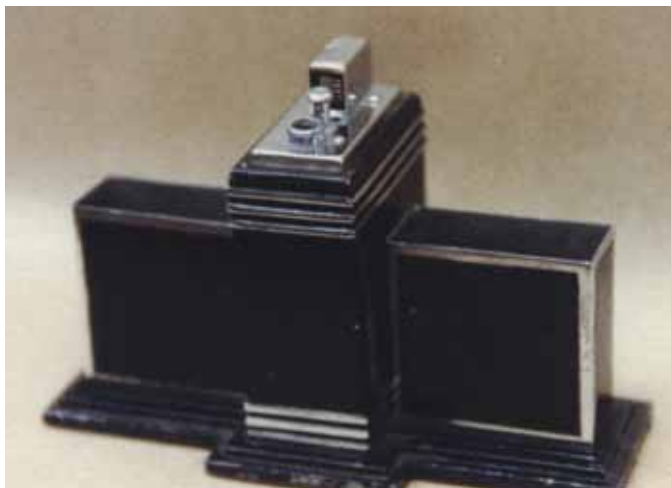
By Urban Cummings

Three “N-I-B Touch Tips” + 1 Beauty

Here is my latest version of “Show & Tell” All these pictures herein were taken on our second visit to Ronson’s Woodbridge, NJ facility in 1990. Like past “N-I-B’s”, these lighters were found stored in plywood boxes. We were given permission to photograph them. There is no way now-a-days to know if they made more than one of them unless you write and tell me they did. All the lighters in the Ronson Book were produced in quantity. Some like the C & Q A’s-in huge quantities.

All these pictures speak for themselves. Let me know if you have seen any of them. I’ll send you a lighter of my choice for your trouble.

Keep on hunting.



Engraved lighters: To buy or not to buy? The love of history

By Chris Probett



Most of us that collect lighters (or other collectables) generally do not want items engraved with someone else's initials or dedications, and believe that this devalues the item. A case in point would be Ronson combination lighter/cigarette cases that are severely devalued with initials engraved, even though they have a place specifically meant for engraving. However if you are collecting a very specific and focused area of collectable lighters, and a common looking engraved lighter comes up for auction, it may be worth a second look.

As an Aerospace engineer, my collection of period fuel lighters focuses on aerospace aircraft, rockets and related items, and has grown large to the point that finding anything new to add to the collection has become very difficult. However, I recently almost passed over an airplane lighter that looked like a common lighter (and was also engraved to boot), but fortunately it turned out to be a unique and an unexpected find! At first glance it looks very similar to the common Demley airplane lighter made in the USA but instead of the radial engine, it has a plain chrome ring and is marked IGANIC, made in London England. The lighter sold cheaply and, in my opinion, it was due to being heavily engraved on the front, which likely turned away perspective buyers.

The dedication engraved reads "James Weir G.C.M.G from GA Mower Xmas 1936". I like the date as most believe these were from the 1940s and 50s.

But here is the best part, with research I discovered the initials mean that James Weir was a Knight Grand Cross in The Order of St. Michael and St. George which is awarded to men and women of high office, or who render extraordinary or important non-military service in a foreign country. Only members of the royal family can give the award and during 1936 it was given by the Prince of Wales. As there can be only 125 persons awarded this highest level of Knight in any one year, I think this adds to the history and value of the piece. He was also an Air Commodore and flew one of the first airplanes during WW1 which gives the link to why an engraved airplane. Happy that I gave it a longer look!



Sunbeam Cigarette Lighters

By Guy Nishida

The Sunbeam Corporation, known worldwide for the iconic Mixmaster mixer, also made electric table cigarette lighters in smoking's heady early days. The name "Sunbeam" was the brand name adopted as a result of a contest run circa 1921. While its products were labeled "Sunbeam", the legal name of the entity was the Chicago Flexible Shaft Company.

In 1893 the two lifelong friends and founders of Sunbeam, John K. Stewart and Thomas J. Clark began manufacturing and selling a commercial horse clipping machine in Chicago. They also produced sheep shearing equipment. Stewart was an inventor who had been granted 82 patents over his lifetime. To bolster revenues, particularly during the off-season, they began producing small household appliances which became popular quickly. They incorporated their enterprise in 1897 as the Chicago Flexible Shaft Company. In fact, the two electric lighters shown are both marked "Sunbeam" along with the company name. It wasn't until 1946 that the Sunbeam Corporation came into existence as the legal name.

Stewart and Clark also founded the Sterk Mfg. Co. around 1893 which utilized their flexible shafts in the production of speedometers and automobile horns. In 1905 Stewart and Clark purchased Sterk Mfg. and created Stewart and Clark Mfg. Co. Astonishingly, in 1909, Stewart collected \$311,000 in royalties on the patents based on \$5.00 per speedometer. Clark died in 1907 while demonstrating one of their speedometers in a Packard during the Glidden Tour. The Glidden Tour was sponsored by AAA, which at that time had only been in existence 2 years and was based in Chicago along with Stewart and Clark's company.

What little is known of Thomas Clark thru Wikipedia is copied herein: "Clark is probably only known today for his Clark Foot Warmers. These small automobile heaters contained coal. The coal embers would emit heat providing some relief in a time when automobiles did not have such options. The production of the coal needed for these heaters violated city smoke regulations and forced Stewart and Clark to build a new plant in Aberdeen, Illinois, about 25 miles west of Chicago"

As for the lighters, the design patent for the boxed example was filed 9/17/29 and received its Design #83,231 on 2/3/31. The inventor listed is M.W. McArdle. I don't have sufficient information to confirm when this lighter was first produced but the box states "40 YEARS MAKING QUALITY PRODUCTS". If we use the 1893 date as their starting point, we can assume that this lighter was produced no later than 1933 but likely earlier given the design date. The look itself seems more suited to the late 1920's or early 1930's. The lighter base/ashtray is cast iron. The plastic-cased lighter has a push button which activates the filament coils generating the necessary heat. The dimensions are approximate. Ashtray is 5.25 inches long by 4 inches wide. The lighter is 4 inches long and it has a fabric cord reinforced by external steel wire.

The second lighter shaped like a barrel, again combined with an ashtray, was awarded a design patent #92,086 on 4/24/34 based on an application filed 1/27/34. The ingenious aspect of this product is that pressing a rod on one end of the barrel will dispense a lit cigarette. The heating element is housed inside the barrel and is not visible when in use. The heating element does slide forward as part of an inner mechanism that pushes the cigarette out of the barrel and retracts to its original position as the rod is released. The user is not exposed to the heating coils at all. A cigarette will be partially ejected, sufficient for one to grab from the barrel with the lit end revealed last. This is similar to some of the first car lighter/dispensers including the Ronson Robot-Liter of 1966. The moving parts are steel and the casing is enameled tin. The cigarettes are loaded by twisting one end of the barrel (opposite the rod) and pulling off the circular end. The ashtray is heavy black glass. One of the specification on the barrel lists the output at 45 watts and that a "pat. appl for" narrowing the manufacture date of this lighter as early 1934. Without the depressible rod, the barrel is 4 inches long. The ashtray and barrel dispenser/lighter stand 3 and ¼ inches high. Incidentally, I'm certain the cord is not original.



The listed inventor is Ivar Jeppsson. Ivar was a Swedish immigrant who was Flexible Shaft's chief designer and the force behind the ubiquitous Mix-master which was patented in 1928 & 1929 and introduced in 1930. Jeppsson was hired by Chicago Flexible Shaft in 1925 as a 23 year old. He left a remarkable legacy to the Sunbeam brand. He was involved in their irons, coffeemakers, toasters, fans, waffle makers, clocks and scissors and retired in 1963 as Vice-President of Research and Development. You can read about his life and contributions in more depth by visiting: http://www.toaster.org/mr_sunbeam.html although you will find the spelling of his name as Ivar Jepson. Another of Jeppsson's claim to fame is his work on the Shavemaster razor,

the first oscillating blade. This design was based on the work of John Bruecker, an inventor who had already been involved in the development of electric shavers who brought his concepts to the Chicago Flexible Shaft Co.

As might be expected, Mr. McArdle and Mr. Jeppsson collaborated on at least one known item - - a combined slicer and shredder. They filed the design application on 6/5/33 and the design #90,534 was awarded 8/22/33. An interesting sideline is that Jeppsson is named on the patent application as a subject of the King of Sweden. Naturally, the design was assigned to the Chicago Flexible Shaft Company.

Here Be Dragons

By Alice Hodges

While searching through my lighters, I found two that brought to mind the warning on an early 16th century map, indicating unknown territory: “Here Be Dragons”. Most of the dragon lighters I have seen are Japanese pocket lighters, so I thought these two were a bit out of the ordinary.

The first is an Evans table lighter, which is 6 inches high and 2 ¾ inches wide across the base. The carved body of the lighter shows a pair of dragons among the clouds. I believe that traditionally, such dragons are shown pursuing the pearl of wisdom, but I have looked carefully at this lighter, and I do not see a pearl. So perhaps these dragons are wise enough! The lighter body is carved from some material that looks like ivory and which has yellowed like ivory, but that I doubt is truly ivory. It is more deeply carved at the top of the lighter body, and the carving gradually becomes shallower towards the bottom of the lighter. The detail on the carving is very good, and it’s a very attractive lighter. It has a good weight, and feels substantial in the hand. I’m guessing it was made in the late 1940’s or sometime in the 1950’s.

The second lighter is a Myon 401 Geant table lighter. It is a semi-automatic, six-sided lighter, and is 4 inches high, 3 ½ inches long and 1 inch thick. I think it was made within the same time frame as the Evans lighter. It has a silver sleeve, which is probably coin silver and not sterling. It depicts a dragon

among the clouds, and this time the pearl of wisdom is shown. The design is the same on both sides, and the ends of the lighter have a design of clouds. Myon 401 Geant lighters are really hefty in weight, and substantial is definitely the word to describe this lighter.

It would really be different to have an entire collection composed of nothing but dragon-themed lighters.



Recent Ebay Sales

By Art Brooks

We have seen some interesting Ebay sales recently. I thought the membership might find some of these interesting. Prices do not include shipping.

If you have any comments, questions or suggestions, feel free to contact me at caymus99@sbcglobal.net.

OTLS past member
Warren Gerber
1932 Zippo \$12,000



18K Gold Zippo \$3900.



Dunhill 1938 Lighter Book \$788.



Ronson 1937 Female Bartender \$433.



Ronson 1930s Bellboy with Dodo Striker \$1628.



Evans 1930 Sterling Enameled \$200.



Occupied Japan Record Player \$160.



The Sharing Corner

Submitted by Guy Nishida



Rare and unusual USALITE Lighter and Flashlight Combo!

Submitted by Al Grosskopf



5 Beauties

Submitted by John Cornelius



This is what you missed if you did not attend last year's Golfing Tournament. Don't take a chance on missing this years!

Trench Type Creations by OTLS Member Tom Prylinski



All of Tom's creations are signed Pyro to distinguish them from the originals

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WANTS FOR MOST RONSON TOUCH-TIP & TABLE STRIKER LIGHTERS. ALSO WANTS FOR AUSTRIAN STRIKER LIGHTERS. NEW & EXACT DIMENSIONS - PROFESSIONALLY MADE BY A MACHINE SHOP. COLOR MATCHED TO YOUR LIGHTER TO PLEASE THE MOST DISCRIMINATING COLLECTOR. SPECIAL DISCOUNTED PRICE FOR OTLS MEMBERS @ 30.00 + 3.00 SHIPPING. GEORGE GYNES (OTLS MEMBER) E-MAIL GAMMA2002@GMAIL.COM

WANTED BY JACK MARSHALL- I AM LOOKING FOR USS NAVY SHIPS' LIGHTERS; PARTICULARLY AIRCRAFT CARRIER ZIPPOS AND/OR DESTROYER NAVY ZIPPOS. AT ONE TIME, EVERY SHIP IN THE NAVY HAD IT'S OWN ZIPPO, SO THERE ARE A LOT OF THEM OUT THERE. I ALSO AM INTERESTED IN USED ZIPPOS BECAUSE OF THE HISTORY BEHIND THEM. I WILL BE BRINGING SOME OF MY SHIPS' LIGHTERS FOR SHOW AND TELL, AND I WILL ALSO BRING LIGHTERS TO SELL OR TRADE. JACKMARSHALL1075@YAHOO.COM

New Lighter Book submitted by Ben Rappoport

Media of Cigarette Lighter
Published: 01-28-2016
Format: EPUB eBook (?)
Edition: 1st
Extent: 160
ISBN: 9781501307379
Imprint: Bloomsbury
Academic
Series: Object Lessons
List price: \$14.99



WANTED: BAIER TRAILER (ASHTRAY) FOR JEEP. (909) 593-4413 OR GREGRYMAN872@MSN.COM

WANTED: RONSON AND EVANS ENAMELED ATOMIZERS IN EXCELLENT TO MINT CONDITION. CONTACT RICH WEINSTEIN @ INFO@VINTAGELIGHTERS.COM WITH PHOTOS AND PRICE.

REPAIRS FOR ZIPPO CAM SPRING AND TRENCH ART REPAIRS CONTACT TOM PRYLINSKI PYROTJP@TWC.COM

FOR SALE: MY WHOLE LIGHTER COLLECTION IS FOR SALE! RONSONS, DUNHILLS, ZIPPOS-YOU NAME IT. HOW ABOUT A RONSON WALKING CANE. FIGURE 297? OR CHARLIE CHAPLIN S/L FIG. 386? TELL ME WHAT YOU WANT AND IF I STILL HAVE ONE, WE WILL NEGOTIATE A PRICE. CALL OR TEXT ME AT 650-388-6504 OR EMAIL AT FURRY- FEET@MINDSPRING.COM. LET'S MAKE A DEAL. URBAN CUMMINGS.

**NEXT ISSUE May, 2016.
SEND ADS BY Apr. 20, 2016.**



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