



SEPTEMBER 15, 2016 Vol. XXXV, No. 5

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

I am going to dispense with the usual editorial and replace it with this little story, the purpose will be evident:

Here is a little story regarding the photo on the cover page of this issue of the OTLS Newsletter. One of our members, John Elster, happened into an antique store while on a trip through California. He noticed there were some lighters in one of the showcases and asked about them. The owner seeing his great interest in lighters decided to show him a lighter not on display. (See cover photo) Many times antique dealers have something that they consider a great piece which turns out to be something fairly common to the advanced collector but this time, he brings out this fabulous Dunhill Table Lighter in sterling silver. It is a butane model with similarities to the Dunhill Longboy and Dunhill Wheatsheaf, but elongated and twisted into a very unusual shape. The owner of the piece was not really interested in selling it but thought that John would enjoy seeing it. Well, although John knew that the dealer was not ready to sell, and was not particularly interested in this piece for himself, he took some photos and sent it to Ira Pilosof. Now Ira knows I am a Dunhill nut so now he sends me photos of this piece.



Of course, I now had to have it and I asked Ira to see if John could make him an offer. The offer did not entice the owner to sell so we let it go at the time. Now if you know Ira, he doesn't let things go so easily so he calls the owner to discuss the piece but still no movement. A few weeks go by and Ira calls again with a slightly enhanced offer. Ira with his gift of gab, finally wears the owner down and makes the deal.

The reason for all this should now be evident. Clubs do serve a purpose other than provide information on lighters. It creates a comradery amongst collectors rather than anonymity. Without this club, I would have never known of this piece and would be sitting in some antique shop forever until the owner decided to put it in the showcase to sell.

Members should take advantage of the classified page to let other collectors know their special interests. You never know when someone will come across that special piece and might remember that you might be interested and get you the information as to its whereabouts.

A Message From Your President

Art Brooks

Here we are already in September and we still have people joining the club. It is late, but better late than never. Just a short update on our



OTLS Facebook page shows we have close to 959 likes or followers. We are starting to see new members who are joining as a result of their exposure to the club thru Facebook. We will start running some

advertisements in November directed at a target audience and hope to generate new memberships as a result. Please continue to post photos and other item of interest to the page.

As I stated last month, OTLS now has a YouTube channel. If you go to the new OTLS channel you can view the videos of Tom O'Keys lecture. The videos were broken down into short 4 to 6 minute segments to make it easier to load and watch. There are 8 segments. The channel is located at <https://goo.gl/eaxgda>. You can copy and paste this address into your internet browser and it will take you to the site or you can do an OTLS search from YouTube and find it. If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact me at caymus99@sbcglobal.net.

Chairman's Message:

Guy Nishida

It is with unmeasurable sadness that I advise you of the passing of one of our staunchest and long-standing members. Bob Rogers was a fervent collector, dealer and lighter advocate. He summoned his last remaining strength to make a final appearance at our past convention because of his love for his OTLS family but finally succumbed in his battle with cancer. He will be sorely missed by the worldwide lighter community.

With kudos due Ira Pilosof for his investigation into a site for the 2017 convention and thanks to Judith Sanders for her negotiations with the candidate hotels, we are pleased to announce that we have contracted with the Renaissance Hotel in Newark, New Jersey to host our next convention from June 8 – 10, 2017.

Considerable effort was made to locate a venue that would be conducive to our European counterparts. In addition, we committed early to give them ample time to schedule the trip. A personalized announcement was forwarded to their membership. With encouraging feedback from the President of LCGB, Rob Wilkinson, we are excited that this convention will have strong international participation. Given this fact, we urge our USA members to make plans to attend. LCGB will be advertising our show in their publications and any upcoming European lighter shows as well.

Judith will provide more details as the date approaches. However, you may wish to visit the hotel site for a visual taste of what can be expected.

<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/ewrnr-renaissance-newark-airport-hotel/?scid=bb1a189a-fec3-4d19-a255-54ba596febe2>

This hotel is highly rated and was chosen because of its amenities and close proximity to NYC / Manhattan and well as to the Newark airport. We hope that many of you will consider attending because you can combine the show with a vacation in the city that never sleeps. Start creating your itinerary now!

I want to remind all our members of a valuable benefit of your membership. You can easily access many years of our past newsletters by visiting our club website, LOGGING IN and clicking on the "Members Area". This will open a drop-down menu where you can click on "Newsletters". You can review newsletters from 2008 to the present. Time permitting, we will be adding prior years until copies of all issues in our possession are uploaded to the website.

On the subject of our website, also please know that there is a tab for "Ebay Sellers". In this tab you will find an updated version of a flyer that we urge you to print and insert into your packages of lighters you have sold thru Ebay. The flyer gives the recipient information about our club and is free but highly targeted advertising for us. I am very optimistic that if all our members tout the club, we can increase membership, knowledge and the collectability of our flame-makers.

Incidentally, we currently have a special lighter for sale on the site in the "Members Area". A limited edition (1 of 4) sterling silver OTLS convention lighter using the 1941 Zippo body style. You will also find other club limited editions lighters. While it is still posted, you might enjoy viewing a 2015 OTLS convention lighter personally signed by George Duke, Chairman of Zippo Mfg. Co. which sold earlier.

We continue to receive multiple emails after every newsletter is published from members requesting assistance because they have misplaced or forgotten their password for admittance to the member area of the club website. We understand that there are legitimate reasons for this to happen. But to repeat, we have one web administrator who has a full-time job and a personal life. Please take responsibility for jotting down your user name and password and maintain it in a readily accessible place.

Guy Nishida

Wrist Lighters: Part 2 of 3

By Art Brooks

NOTE: I originally wrote this series of Articles which appeared in the May, August and November 2013 issue of Blaze Magazine published by the LCGB.

As stated in Part 1 of 3 some of my favorite types of lighters are the wrist lighters. Again, I have many patents for wrist lighters that I have never seen. This in itself may lead to another article. I am lead to believe most were never produced. I have only seen five! Probably the most common is the Comet New Light covered in Part 1. We then have the commonly referred to RAF or Dunhill airplane lighter and the Ristex. There are two others I have only seen in photos. One can be found on a great website established by Christian Wenger <http://www.vintagelighterbook.com>. It is the Bracelet Lighter made in France. I suggest you visit this site to see a vast number of great lighters. The other is a photo published on the LCGB website. No name or markings on the photos. I wish to express my thanks to Christain for his support in writing this article.

The RAF??? Dunhill ??? Wrist Lighter

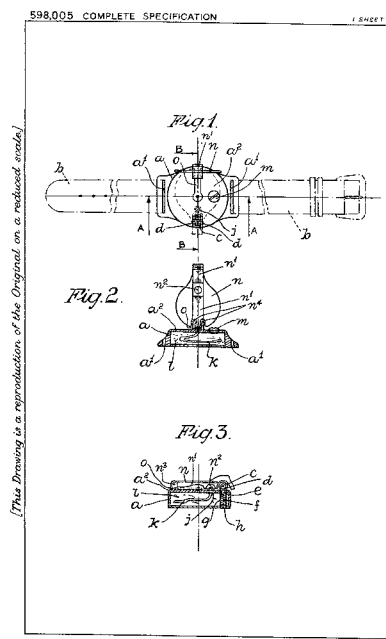
In the 1940's "Mechanix Illustrated" was very popular magazine in the US. In late 1947 they ran a feature photo of a wrist Lighter in the section called "Science in Pictures". The caption reads "Wrist Lighter is the latest novelty for the smoker. Strapped on the wrist, and outwardly resembling a watch, it lights when the cover is flicked back, as demonstrated above. It is being marketed by Samuel Jones, Ltd. London." A close examination of this ad reveals it is Arthur Smith's Prov. Patent wrist lighter.



Wrist Lighter is the latest novelty for the smoker. Strapped on the wrist, and outwardly resembling a watch, it lights when the cover is flicked back, as demonstrated above. It is being marketed by Samuel Jones, Ltd. London.

On August 11, 1945 Arthur Smith, British Nationality, of Raymondville, Blackbridge Road, Wych-Hill Way, Working Surrey, submitted signed a request for a Provisional Specification Application for "Improvements in or relating to Cigarette Lighters". The Application was accepted on August 28, 1945 and assigned Provisional Patent number 22063/45.

Some 11 months later, Mr. Smith signed the Completed Specification on July 19, 1946. This Completed Specification very closely resembles the initial application from 1945. The Completed Specification was accepted February 9, 1948 and patent number 598,005 was granted.



The patent states "This invention relates to cigarette lighters of the kind which includes a fuel container, wick, flint wheel...generally carried loose in the pocket...of the smoker thus liable to be misplaced."

"The primary object...is to provide a new or improved article of this nature...to be worn on the person...compact, ornamental and if desired, be combined with a timepiece and/or mirror." Have never seen one with a timepiece or mirror.

"The fuel container has a filler orifice either on the top, bottom or side, sealed by a removal screw threaded plug." The drawing shows the plug on the top of the lighter. There are cases of the plug on the top and on the side.

A release catch connected to the cover or snuffer may be arranged to automatically open against spring resistance and rotate the wheel that sparks and lights the wick. The cover could also be raised by thumb pressure and the wheel actuated by hand. The drawing shows the latter method, not the automatic method. There are 2 hinge configurations. One hinge is like the drawing (close to edge of case and exposed). The second hinge is closer to the center of the case and is encapsulated.



The fuel container (case) and snuffers can be found in many shapes. Some snuffers resemble the Concorde airplane or the SST. Others are just plain oval and some have strange cross shapes. The snuffer shape resembling an airplane may be where some folks drew an RAF connection. I will discuss the RAF connection later. The cases have been found oval shaped, hexagon shaped and round.



“The fuel container comprises a shallow casing with opposed slots or equivalent anchorage for a wrist-strap or bracelet whereby the lighter may be worn on the wrist.” The drawing shows the case has built in slots for the band. There are two configurations; one like the drawing and one is like a traditional watchband attachment, which has pins to attach the band. This is the most common.



Wrist Lighters: Part 2 of 3 continued

There are several markings on the snuffers and cases. Some have no markings at all. The number 112 on the case, 304 on the underside of the snuffer, 524 underside of snuffer, 235 underside of snuffer and 288 on the case of the same watch. I cannot find any reference or meaning to these numbers. Perhaps some of our members could shed some light onto the meaning of these numbers. Manufacturing marks????



I have seen this lighter referred to many times on Ebay and in books as manufactured by Dunhill for RAF pilots and in limited quantities. I have seen numbers from as low as 30 to 50 being manufactured. I have even heard it was made for miners. To start with, I can find no proof or evidence this lighter was ever manufactured by Dunhill. One reference says the watch was produced in early (months) 1945 for the RAF. Mr. Smith did not apply for the Prov. Pat. until August 1945. It is not logical the RAF ordered a small quantity of cigarette lighters for pilots or other personnel. I don't think it was an acceptable proposition for military pilots to be smoking in the cockpit of a flying airplane for safety reasons. Although I am sure some may have done it. Given the number of these I have seen on Ebay, and the sheer number of configurations, I do not believe the lighter was produced in such limited or small quantities.

It is said that the patent was found in the archives of Dunhill. That may or may not be true. Even if a copy was found, it does not mean Dunhill had the rights to the patent or the rights to manufacture it. I am sure Dunhill have many patents that were not theirs for patent and marketing research of their own. Dunhill is not mentioned in the patent anywhere. If Dunhill had the rights to this patent, it is not logical that they would have contracted Samuel Jones, Ltd. London to do the marketing for them. I am confident Dunhill would have marketed it on their own. It is also not the high quality of other Dunhill lighters. Again, there is no connection that I can find between Dunhill, RAF and Arthur Smith's patent 598,005. All the lighters I have ever seen only have the Prov. Pat. Number 22063/45 and none have the final patent number. None of the lighters have any marks to indicate a Dunhill or RAF connection.

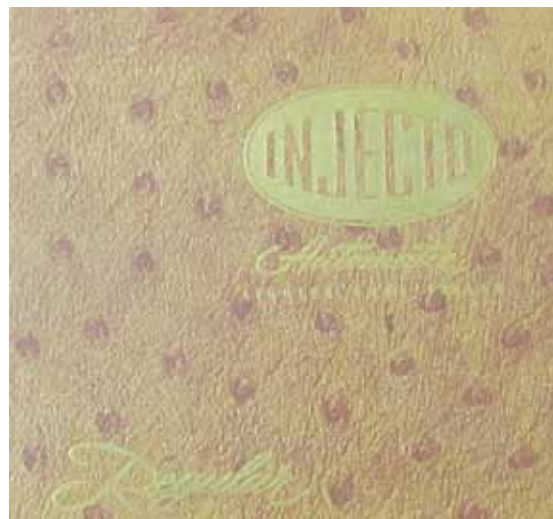
Somewhere along the way person or persons unknown created the connection between Smith's patent, Dunhill and the RAF. This may or may not have been for personal gain in selling these wonderful lighters. I believe the connection and story has grown thru the years and is fiction. I would challenge anyone to show solid proof if such a connection does exist. Please send your comments or questions to caymus99@sbcglobal.net

INJECTO Lighter Fuel Filler

By Ron Eyerluss

I was browsing Ebay the other day and came across an interesting item I just had to buy. It was called the INJECTO Fuel Filler which was mint in the box and only \$20. I personally have not seen this item before and I just couldn't help myself because I was intrigued by the whole concept. It advertises that the lighter fluid squirts up into the lighter when filling and I just had a hard time believing that this process was really a good way to fill your lighter. The instructions indicated that you should make sure that the lighter fuel chamber was packed level with cotton and flush to the inside of the hole. It then indicated that you should place the injector head in the hole and press the lighter down. The next step was to release the lighter and allow the injector head to rise. You then continue this pumping action until the lighter is filled, normally 10 to 12 injections to fill an ordinary pocket lighter and 12 to 15 for a table lighter. The instructions indicated that you cannot over fill a lighter with an INJECTO with NO MESS. These words are straight from the instructions, "Refueling a lighter with an INJECTO is safe, clean and

economical. The possibility of waste due to overfilling of a lighter and the waste due to evaporation of the reserve fuel in the INJECTO container is practically eliminated. Fuel is safe and always ready for use when stored in the INJECTO." It takes about 6 ounces of fuel to fill the INJECTO. The INJECTO is approximately 5 inches high and 2 1/2 inches in diameter. The INJECTO was made by the GEY PRODUCTS CORPORATION in Boston Massachusetts. My problem now is that I haven't actually tried using the INJECTO. Since it is mint and came in the original box with instructions, I just can't make myself use it. The other issue is that the INJECTO head that needs to be inserted into the fill hole of the lighter is bigger than most standard pocket lighters, so it doesn't fit. It would be fine for a Zippo style insert but lighters like the Ronson and Evans wouldn't work. I would appreciate hearing back from anyone who may have had some experience with the INJECTO but based on my first impression of the filler and my analysis afterwards tells me this wasn't something you wanted to use to fill your lighters.



My Latest Flame

By George Gynes

Hi-Ho Silver – Number 3

Previously I wrote a couple of articles about two categories of Silver lighters; Silver cases made to accommodate a Zippo insert and the Silver Sleeved lighters. In this article I will cover the third category; the lighters made of solid Silver that are made for or by the Lighter Companies and carry their name.

Solid Silver lighters have been made by virtually all the major lighter makers around the world. They date back to the earliest days of lighter making. Some companies “Outsourced” the manufacture of their precious metal lighters, while other manufactured their own. Many of the Silver lighters were given as gifts and consequently monogrammed – some with beautiful stylized initials.

I included pictures of 10 pieces from my collection. The first one is a RB & Company. (R. Blackinton and Company). RB made precious metal lighters under its own name and also made them for other lighter makers.



The next two lighters are also RB made, one for Ronson, the Gem model and the other for Evans, a Spitfire model.



The next lighter is a Dunhill Rollboy B&C. (Bach & Cooper) (Dunhill later changed to Wise and Greenwood make this model)



These B&C Rollboys have a hidden fill and fuel access. The back panel slides off to allow servicing. When it is removed, a small valve is opened up so fuel can be added.



The next lighter is an early English made HW (Hahway) "Automatic".



Next is a Canadian made Supper.



The following 3 lighters are US made; a Douglass, an ASR (American Safety Razor) and a Harvey Avedon. Last, but certainly not the least, is a small striker lighter by Salz Brothers, an early "Esbelite".

Happy lighter hunting to all, George



Diecasters, New York—Follow-Up

By Alice Hodges, with thanks to Bob Gamboni for sharing this beautiful lighter

After my article about Diecasters, New York non-airplane lighters appeared in the July Newsletter, Bob Gamboni sent me some photos of an absolutely gorgeous lighter from his collection that incorporates the ball lighter from the article. This lighter is a favorite from his collection, and it's easy to see why. In fact, this lighter not only qualifies for this follow-up, it also would be right at home in the "Eye Candy" section of the Newsletter.



The beautiful sailfish figure is metal, and is mounted on a Bakelite base along with the ball lighter. In addition to the photos showing the whole lighter, Bob has taken photos showing the markings on the base, as well as the Diecasters, New York logo that appears on the bottom of the ball lighter. Bob thinks this lighter was made some time in the 1950's, and he thinks that it's not necessarily one of a kind because it is so beautifully made and all the components are so well matched. He has had it for about 15 years, and bought it in Illinois, which is a long way from Miami, Florida, where it was likely produced, going by the markings on the base.



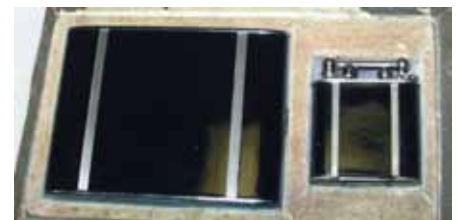
Bob says this is the only lighter like this he has ever seen, and he has assiduously searched for another with no luck.

Are there any more out there among our members? If so, Bob and I would be most interested in seeing some photos!



Eye Candy

Submitted by John Engleman



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NO CHIVAS OR SEAGRAMS PLEASE. SCRIPTO AND
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COMMEMORATION OF AN EVENT THAT CAN BE DATED.
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NEXT ISSUE November 2016.
SEND ADS BY October 20, 2016.



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