

JANUARY 15, 2018 Vol. XXXVII, No. 1



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

Happy New Year to all members of OTLS. We are starting the new year with a great edition of the OTLS Newsletter thanks to many of our members who have provided some fine articles to enhance your lighter knowledge. We have many new members who have joined to learn more about lighter collecting and I hope our seasoned members will come forward with new articles which will help these new members find in depth information difficult to find in other places. I would like to see some articles from our Zippo contingency as many of our members are Zippo collectors and might entice new members to take a new look at Zippo as a great collectible. Our OTLS President, John Elster has written a great article in this issue about art in Lighter Collecting. Reading his article might give you a different prospective on Zippo as well as other lighter manufacturers like Dunhill who have provided a different type of canvas for fine art

work.

Just look at the cover page. These lighter photos have been provided by Eldon Baldwin. This was just a tease which you will find out going through the newsletter. How many of you knew there were so many different models of lighters with the same or similar mechanism.

There is lots to be learned about lighter collecting that you cannot find in books. It is the job of OTLS to bring this type of information to our membership. This will keep the club alive. Please take the initiative and write something for our upcoming newsletters.

Enjoy this issue.



A Message From Your President

John Elster

Happy New Year to All.

I hope that your year has started out nicely and that you have already been able to make an addition or two to your collection. "Keep some powered dry" for our annual convention which is only about 4.5 months away. Las Vegas is always a great location for our show and I hope that you won't miss it. As a reminder, the Match Safe Collecting Club will be holding their annual show at the same location at the same time — Tuscany Hotel & Casino May 31- June 3. So dig around in your collection to see if you have any Match Safes that you would like to sell or trade. This is also a good time of year to be on the lookout for lighters to buy and resell at the convention. Hit those antique malls and flea markets and find some good items to sell / trade with your fellow collectors this June.

On a completely different note, I was recently thinking about a question that was asked to David Lawrence a well known, long time coin dealer. A new collector asked him "What is the best investment that I can make as I start my coin collection?" His answer surprised the new collector when he answered, "Books". Lawrence went on to explain that the collector needed to learn all that he could about his new hobby before jumping in and buying lots of coins. The same holds true with any collect-

ible. If you are a serious lighter collector, or want to be one, then you need to learn all that you can. Knowledge is king!. We are fortunate to have some extremely knowledgeable collectors in our club that have written books over the years (and some non-members as well) . Some of these books are out of print, but can often be found on eBay or other secondhand websites. I hesitate to list every book on lighters for fear of overlooking one - But here are my top three favorites:

* Urban Cummings "Ronson, The World's Greatest Lighter"

David Poore's "Zippo, The Great American Lighter"

Ira Pilosof's "The Handbook of Vintage Lighters" (still available from Ira)

For high end collectors I recommend:

Stefano Bisconcini - Accendini (1984) - this original edition is long out of print, but can be found on the secondary market (usually in the \$350-650 range)

Davide Blei and Luciano Bottoni - "The Dunhill Petrol Lighter: A Unique Story" (A beautiful book with 100's of photos of rare Dunhill Lighters)

Happy Hunting - See you in Las Vegas in June!

Chairman's Message:

Art Brooks

Christmas and New Year celebrations are barely a memory at this point. Valentine Day is just around the corner and before you know it May will be here and it will



be time for the 2018 Convention on Las Vegas.

Our membership goes January thru December with actual due date of January 1. If you have not already paid please go to the OTLS web site at www.otls.com and pay \$35 for email subscription or \$57 for the mailed version using PayPal. If you use PayPal make the payment to payments@otls.com and be sure to mark the payment as to "Friends and Family".

Now for my next rant I have presented the photo below of one of my favorite Made in Occupied Japan Lighters. It is the famous Leader Radio lighter. There are two variations of this lighter. The small lighter has a two week perpetual calendar on the left. You adjust the month by turning the small knob under the dial. The day is adjusted by turning the larger knob on the left. The large knob on the right ignites the

lighter. The larger Leader is a lighter and cigarette dispenser.



The small lighter is much more rare than the larger cigarette lighter dispenser. The last two photos are compliments of OTLS member Charles Rusick.

If you haven't done so yet, go check out the OTLS Facebook page, Instagram page and our YouTube channel. Better yet, post some photos on the page. If you have any questions or comments please feel to contact me at caymus99@sbcglobal.net.



My Latest Flame - The Burning Heart

by George Gynes

Just in time for the upcoming St. Valentine's Day. The Heart; recognized around the World as the symbol of LOVE. The favorite topic of Poets, Romantic Movie Makers and Lovers, did not go unnoticed by the early Lighter-Makers. So, I thought it was the right time to present a few of the ones from my collection.

The two larger ones are unmarked, but are likely German or Austrian in origin. They both feature typical Landmark graphics, as often found on Austrian lighters. One of a Cathedral in Vienna, while the other the Hohensalzburg Castle found in Salzburg, Austria.



The second row, features a KW (Karl Wieden) Heart Lighter, circa 1935, Next is a Ronson Heart from 1937. Notice the Watch Fab on its snuffer top. That would make for an interesting Neckless piece. Ring Ronson actually made two slightly different models of the Heart, this one and another with a slightly smaller insert. Unfortunately, my other one is not with me here, so I could not include a picture.



My Latest Flame - Riches from the Habsburg Empire - The Maria Theresa Thaler (MTT)
continued



The final one of the second was produced by Dr Heinrick Kellermann of Germany. It is featured in the new book "Le Briquet Automatique" by Oliver Baillet and he indicates a date of 1936-1937.



The bottom row features a couple of Red Bakelite lighters. The first one is the popular Sweet-heart Lighter from the early 1950's. They were made in Japan and marketed in the Variety Stores here in the USA. Last but certainly not the least is a Muller & Grunstein product from 1938.

I'm sure that these are but a small fraction of the lighters featuring the Heart. If you have any other ones, I would love to hear from you.

Happy lighter hunting to all. George

Welcome New And Returning Members

John Grawe
Jim Hopkins

Clarence Lindsly
Tom O'Key

Peter Rossi
Joseph Stefanick

Bruce Teer

2 Lighters With Ties To History

By Guy Nishida

An interesting collecting category is one that is comprised of lighters commemorating significant historical events like the Olympics, Political campaigns/wins, space flight, other transportation milestones, military related and the like. Two such examples are highlighted below.

Evans Lighter New York to Istanbul



The Evans case lighter in the accompanying photograph recognizes what they embossed on the lighter as an “Epic Non-Stop Flight 5011 Miles”. The flight is officially recorded as 5,011.8 miles over 49 hours. It commemorates the record-breaking non-stop flight of co-pilots Russell Boardman and John Polando in a single-engine plane capable of carrying one pilot and 5-passengers which they renamed the “Cape Cod”. The lighter is also embossed “Welcome Home Hyannis, Mass. Aug. 26, 1931” signifying that the lighter was a souvenir for those attending their return home celebration. Hyannis Airport was where Boardman and Polando trained in preparation for the flight. It is presumed this was a special order lighter and not intended for general public sales. Given the fact that North Attleboro, Mass. was home to Evans, their choice as the lighter source is not surprising.



This flight departed Floyd Bennett Field in New York City July 28, 1931 and touched down in Istanbul, Turkey on July 30, 1931 which was decided to be safer than landing in Moscow, their original destination. Their primary goal was to surpass 5000 miles non-stop. In accomplishing this feat, they flew over the British Isles, Paris and circled the Alps as well. Boardman and Polando did not fly the plane round-trip as the passenger ship SS Exochorda transported the plane back, likely with the pilots on board. Coincidentally, the SS Exochorda was built in 1931.

Boardman met Polando at a “Wall of Death” motorcycle event in Revere, Massachusetts. Both had considerable pilot experience. Boardman was a stunt pilot who did work on Howard Hughes film “Hell’s Angels”. Polando was a former member of the United States Army Air Corps. Ironically, both pilots ultimately perished in two unrelated aircraft accidents - - Boardman in 1933 and Polando in 1985. To honor these two aviation pioneers, the former Barnstable Municipal Airport in Hyannis was renamed Boardman-Polando Field in 1981.

1932 10th Olympiad Lighter and Jiff-E-Lite



I’m certain many of you have seen the octagonal-shaped Bakelite souvenir lighter made for the 1932 Olympics held in Los Angeles, California. The opening ceremony for these Summer Olympics was July 30 and the closing ceremony was August 14. It is presumed that these souvenir lighters were sold during the events. The image on one side is that of a discus thrower while the reverse depicts the 5 interlocking rings symbolizing the 5 Olympic continents. Printed within the rings is the motto in Latin: Citius, Altius, and Fortius. (Faster, Higher, Stronger). Along the top border is written “10th Olympiad” and along the bottom border “California 1932”.

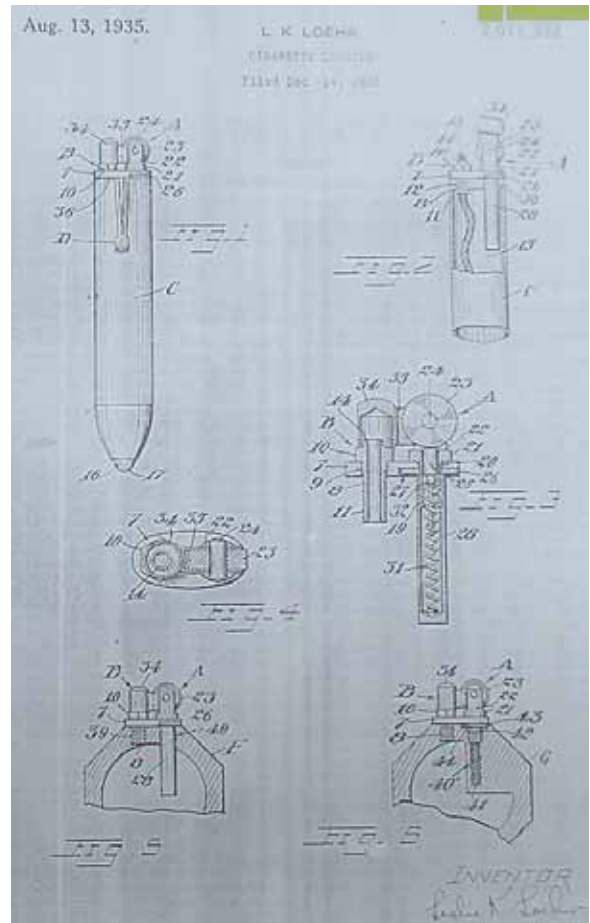
2 Lighters With Ties To History

The lighter is unmarked and my specimen was found in a plain red box with tissue packing. It fits neatly and may well be the original box but it is somewhat odd that there is no label or stamping signifying it was a souvenir of the Olympics. It has a distinctive flint wheel assembly with a knurled turn nut below the flint wheel that locks the snuffer cap/flint tube in place. This design is first seen in a patent application filed on December 14, 1931 and approved August 13, 1935. The patent number 2,011,322 was issued to L.K. Loehr of Los Angeles, CA. (Leslie K. Loehr). Sketches on the original application show a flat pencil-shaped lighter design as well as an octagonal-shaped design, identical to the Olympic lighter. It is noteworthy that George Blaisdell cross-referenced Mr. Loehr's patent number in his October 12, 1948 application for his improvement to his Zippo flint tube which was approved as patent 2,517,191 on August 1, 1950.



Leslie Loehr was an inventor who also patented an automatic starting mechanism for internal combustion engines which was patented June 6, 1933. And, unless by coincidence there were multiple inventors with the same name, Leslie was also responsible for several additional patents, most notably in regard to torsion springs and venetian blinds.

In the accompanying photos you can see the Olympic lighter as well as the flat pencil-shaped lighter. This lighter is usually seen with a crackled finish. But along with the painted version I have included a plain finished example. It has the remnants of the well-worn plating. On the reverse side to the pocket clip can be seen the stamped words "Jiff-E-Lite Pats Pend."



I have no idea what connections Mr. Loehr had to those organizing the Olympics but the fact that they were held in Los Angeles where Mr. Loehr's patent application was filed may indicate he had the needed strong connections within the city to secure rights to produce an authorized souvenir lighter. In any event, he obviously did not require much time to put his souvenir lighters into production for the Olympics. Whether he produced either version earlier than the Olympics is not known. I have seen no Olympic souvenir pencil-shaped lighters nor any octagonal-shaped lighter without the Olympic emblem. However, it would not surprise me to find that examples exist.

Are we Really Art Collectors?

by John Elster

Do you think that we might actually be art collectors instead of lighter collectors? Okay, if you specialize in early cap lighters, pocket strikers, or novelty table lighters maybe the art collector title doesn't apply. But if you collect Zippo Lighters, Flat advertising lighters, Enameled lighters, etc - I would argue that it definitely does. I might even call it 'pocket artwork'. Zippo has made substantially the same lighter for 80+ years. The only difference is the artwork. Flat advertising lighters from the 1950's-70's are all substantially the same. The only difference is the artwork. With the Zippo & the Japanese Flat Advertising Lighters, the artist were hired to create a visually interesting graphic to capture the attention of the owner of the lighter - usually to sell them a product. After all, if a company could get you to carry the art for their advertising campaign in your pocket and get you to pull that art out 10-20 times a day to see it (when you lit your cigarette), then you would be very likely to buy their product.

As with paintings or sculpture, some is well executed and valuable (think Art Deco enameled Dunhill) and some is bad and (not very valuable). Some pieces are one of a kind and super rare and others are mass produced and not so rare.

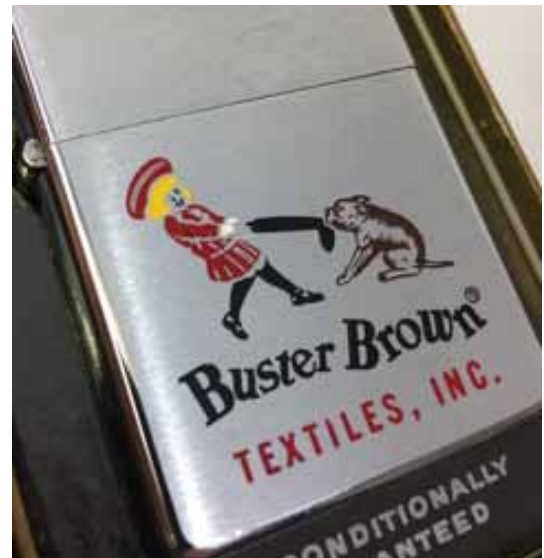
Here are some Zippo, Flat advertisers & Thorens that I would argue would fall into the 'pretty darn nice art' category.

Zippo:

The horse shows nice detail and movement

The Whip Topping has nice detail & a 3 dimensional design

Buster Brown shows a lot of movement and tells a story with the picture

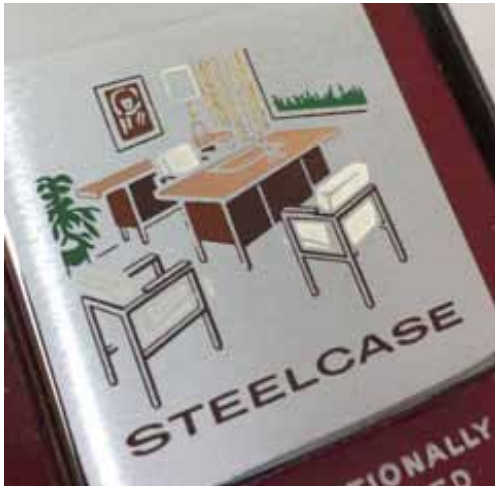


The Seneca Battery has a great 3 dimensional design (although the decision to use the orange lettering with the red & black battery case may not have been choice)



Are we Really Art Collectors?

Steelcase - Amazing 3 dimensional design - My favorite of these examples of artwork.



These Thorens are like sculpture
The lady holding the vessel is like a miniature sculpture that you would find in a NYC museum - beautiful!

The Thorens Distinction is a sleek example of 1930's modern art.



The Flat advertising lighters are some of my favorites:

Notice how detailed these lighters are. Considering their small size and the fact that they were cheaply produced makes them all the more amazing.

Each of these shows a great use of color and an interesting 3 dimensional design.



Whether you agree with me or not that you may actually be an art collector -

I hope that you will take another look at your collection and see it from a different point of view.

My Favorite Couples!

By Judith Sanders

I think most of you know I love figural lighters, especially what I call “People” lighters. One of my friends in the club recently sent me two lighters I had never seen before. See Fig. 1, the cute Imco Couple.

Over the years I have owned several of the wooden Imco figures, although Guy Nishida is way ahead of me, and got a few of mine! But please look at the shows on this couple. I have never seen these shows on a “figure” before. Very cute! (and no Guy you can’t have this set!)



On to Fig. 2, when I first got this cute guy I didn’t realize he had a girlfriend! One day I was at another antique show and there was his girlfriend. They are both “Striker” lighters which I really like. And note they both still have their original paint. And if you look close, they both have feathers on their caps. I believe these are both Austrian, and probably from the 1920’s.



Fig 3 has the cute “Swiss Alps” couple (at least that is what I call them). They are also strikers. And most of you know there are a lot of these figural strikers that have the same tree trunk on the base. Does anyone know why so many of the Austrian Strikers have a tree trunk?



So if any of you run into another matching “couple”, please let me know.

Henckles Airplane Smoker’s Companion

by Chris Probett

Henckles of Germany are well known to this day for their high quality knives and flatware. During the early 1920s they also manufactured a number of novelty smoking and barware items in the shape of airplanes and Zeppelins which were popular themes at that time. The main fuselage or body of these aircraft were basically the same with different attachments. They were mostly manufactured with silver plate over brass, although there is also a solid silver version. All versions of the Henckles airplanes are very collectable and demand high prices due to their quality and scarcity.

I recently acquired an “Airplane Smoker’s Companion” with a lighter insert which I believe to be extremely rare (figure 1). I have searched the internet for another example to no avail. However there are many examples with a match box and match striker lid in lieu of a lighter. One recently sold for \$6,000 and there is another currently listed for \$10,450.



https://www.1stdibs.com/furniture/more-furniture-collectibles/collectibles-curiosities/aviation-objects/1920s-henckels-aeroplane-smokers-companion/id-f_1374952/.

The bar version with the wings as flasks can demand even higher prices, one complete example selling for \$17,000.

<http://www.christies.com/lotfinder/Lot/ja-henckels-zwilling-a-nickeled-brass-traveling-airplane-5455000-details.aspx>

The lighter version I have has the center body for cigars, the wings are for cigarettes, the propeller is a cigar cutter and the lighter is removable. There were also originally 4 ashtrays behind the lighter but unfortunately only one remains. I would really like to hear from other OTLS members if they have ever seen this lighter variation or have another. Note: Beware of cheap knockoff cocktail shakers as there are many.

In the SPOTLIGHT Meet the Members

by Greg Ryman

John Engleman

John Engleman has been a member of OTLS since 2002 and has been collecting cigarette lighters since 1995.

He has been retired for 10 years. In his working life he first was a Jr. High School art teacher. The negative changes in his students caused him to cut short his teaching career. He then, because of his love of poker playing, became first a poker dealer and then graduated to becoming a floor man at an Indian Casino for over two decades. Knowing first hand how casinos work he gave up his playing days.

His interest in cigarette lighters began when he saw a Ronson Crown. He remembered it from his childhood when visiting family friends and bought it. He estimates he has around 1000 lighters in his collection. They are displayed in on bookshelves, cabinets and on tables. He mentioned that they're not worth having unless they can be seen. Ronson's are his main passion, but followed closely by Evans. Of course he has other brands too numerous to mention.

Like most collectors he also collects other items. He estimates he has around 300 pocketknives and he collects gasoline advertising with a special interest in Phillips 66 (his dad was employed by Phillips). He also estimates he has approximately 20 cigarette dispensers but has no room to display them.

There was no hesitation when asked about his most prized lighter – Ronson Aristocrat Touch Tip. When asked what he most wants to add to his collection he said a Ronson Lite-A-Lamp and even knew the exact page number (259) of it in the Urban Cummings book on Ronson's. Additionally, he is seeking a Ronson Bartender.

When asked where he buys his lighters he mentioned four specific OTLS members and antique stores and flea markets. I heard from a very reliable source that John is quite an accomplished artist. Ever so humble he downplayed his artistic ability and said he's just "good."

From Christies Auction April 2002

by Art Brooks

A silver table-lighter in the form of a rhinoceros marked Fabergé with Imperial warrant and with workmaster's mark of Julius Rappoport, St. Petersburg, 1899-1904, with scratched inventory number 9330

Realistically cast and chased, standing on four feet, with removable hollow horn fitted with the taper, marked under neckfolds and on feet

6 1/8in. (15.6cm.) long

23oz. (728gr.) gross weight

According to the auction this lighter sold for \$107,550.



Eye Candy

by Eldon Baldwin



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CLASSIFIED ADS

ONE COMPLETE SET OF OTLS CONVENTION LIGHTERS FROM 1987 TO 2017. 31 CONSECUTIVE YEARS. IN THE EARLY YEARS, LESS THAN A DOZEN TO A FEW DOZEN WERE MADE. IN OUR LATEST YEARS, ONLY 50 – 60 HAVE BEEN PRODUCED. FROM THAT STANDPOINT, THERE CAN ONLY BE PERHAPS 10 FULL SETS MAXIMUM IN EXISTENCE. IN REALITY, I DOUBT IF THERE ARE EVEN HALF THAT MANY FULL SETS. TO SEE THE LIGHTERS YEAR BY YEAR, GO TO THE OTLS WEBSITE AND UNDER THE “CONVENTION” TAB, YOU WILL SEE A DROP-DOWN MENU INCLUDING ONE FOR THE CONVENTION LIGHTER ARCHIVE. OPEN TO CASH, TRADE OR ANY COMBINATION THEREOF AND I WON’T BREAK-UP THE SET. THANKS. GUY NISHIDA 310 804-4899 OR BTRADE@CA.RR.COM

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4th

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