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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

During this last year, we have seen some renewed interest in lighter collecting as shown by our increasing new membership. For those of us including me, that thought we were going to be the last of the lighter collectors, apparently we were wrong. We continue to attract new members and hope this trend continues. I am sure our presence on Facebook has helped and we have Art Brooks and John Elster to thank.

Now for a change of the guard. It has been over 10 years since I took the reigns as Editor from Judith. I was prompted to do this by Urban Cummings who asked if I would do it for a short while until we found someone else to take over the job. Well, it

took 10 years to find someone but our board member, Greg Ryman has graciously offered to take the position and I thank him for doing this. Please help Greg out by submitted articles for publication. We have a large membership who can provide excellent information about their specialties and I ask again that we take some time to think about it. There is 2 months between newsletters and this should give sufficient time to come up with something of interest. November will be my last newsletter as editor and I do hope that you will help Greg continue to make our newsletter a great source of information.



A Message From Your President

John Elster

As Summer vacation slowly fades in the rearview mirror, we can now focus our attention on the Fall. In the mideast, Fall means outdoor antique shows & flea markets - a great place to hunt for lighters. I have several on my calendar already! Over Labor Day weekend I attended a show that I have been frequenting for over 35 years in a small town called Hillsville, Virginia. The VFW has sponsored this town-wide market for 51 years. It originally started as a gun show - then gun & coins and now it is a huge market with everything from fine antiques to the latest "As Seen On TV" products. This little town busts at the seams when nearly 500,000 people come to shop over the 4 day Labor Day weekend. Over the years I have had some memorable finds at this market. A PETIE miniature Spy Camera lighter that was in Near Mint condition, a 1960's Kennicott Copper Zippo that was Mint (only cost me \$8 - 25 years ago), a hoard of 1960's Zippo Gifts sets from a Zinc mining company, and some of my favorite flat advertising lighters. My wife and I even bought my gold wedding band here nearly 30 years ago.

I hope that you have had a good Summer and that the Fall brings you good lighter discoveries.

Chairman's Message

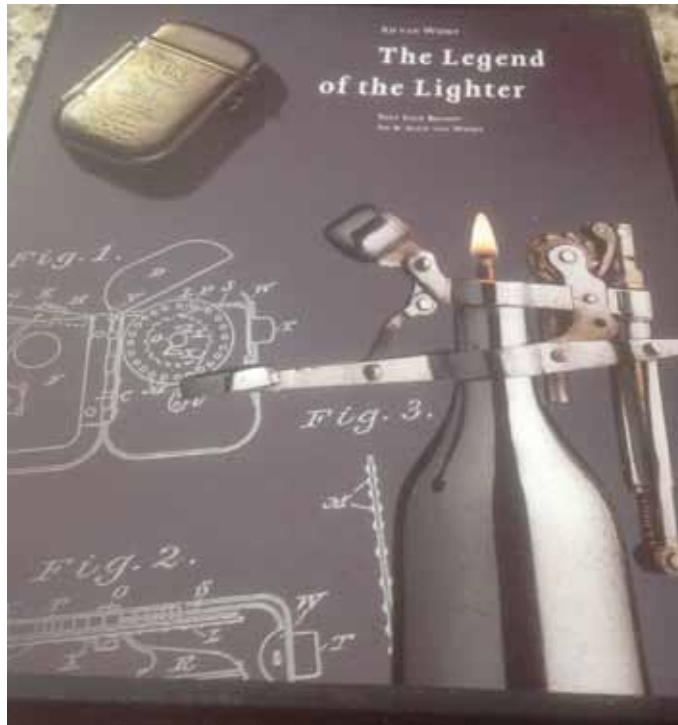
Art Brooks

This Chairman's message is to inform the members of an interesting story that occurred between two OTLS members, Jerry Bryant and myself. At the

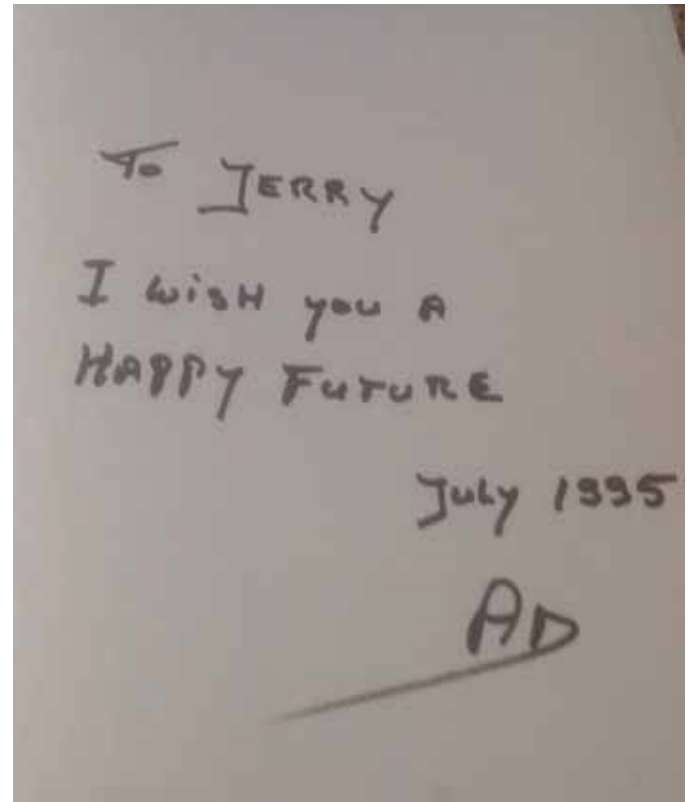
convention dinner this year I sat at a table with this years Founders Award recipient Jerry Bryant and his wife Billie. During the auction he bid on and won Ad Van Weert special limited edition book "The Legend of The Lighter" printed in 1995. Jerry asked if I would walk the book around and get the members to autograph it which I did. I am pretty sure everyone at the dinner signed it. I do have the regular edition but I had never seen the special limited edition before. The more I walked around with it, the more I decided I also needed one for my library. When I returned home I began to look on the Internet and I finally found a copy for sale. The lady I purchased it from in Kansas, said the book was in good shape, still had



the lighter with it and was autographed by the author. I think, but not sure, Ad autographed a large number of the books if not all. I don't know for sure. The book arrived and I looked at the authors autograph.



As I looked thru the book I found an inscription written inside to the person who originally purchased the book. My first thought was I can't believe this.



I then called Jerry and asked if he ever had another copy of the book he purchased at the auction. He said no that was the only one he had ever owned and proceeded to inform me the one he purchased in Vegas with all the autographs had been left at the hotel. He also informed me he had called the hotel to see if anyone turned it in to lost and found and they informed him no. Soooooo, that book is missing and if anyone accidentally packed it with their stuff please let us know. At this point I mentioned that I had purchased a copy and read the inscription to him. What a coincidence I thought. He then informed me that back in 1995 he had purchased a copy from Ad but it never arrived! At this point I was convinced this was the original book he purchased in 1995 and never received. No one knows how it ended up with the person I purchased it from. What I can say is the book has now been delivered to the rightful owner 23 years later!



It was a Military Lighter Kind of Day

Vietnam Zippo & WW1 Trench Lighter & WW2 Dunhill Rope Lighter Finds

By: John Elster

Over Labor Day weekend I made the 1 hour drive to Hillsville, Va. for their 51st annual Labor Day Flea Market (see the President's message). Over the years I have always been able to find something of interest at this market. This year my trip had a decidedly military theme to it. One of my first finds of the morning was a Vietnam Zippo from the 1st Infantry Division Stationed in Lai Khe Vietnam. On the back was a iconic Vietnamese rendition of SNOOPY. I know what you might be thinking (because I was too) - "there are so many fakes out there, I am sure this one will be a fake too". Upon close inspection it looked to be legitimate. When I inquired about the lighter, the dealer seemed a little choked up. It turned out that he was in Vietnam with this division! When I asked



if this was the lighter that he carried - he said; "No, it was my buddy's". That explained to me why he was a little choked up.

Later I found a couple of advertising Zippos and a special Dunhill (that is a story for another newsletter). Then the military theme picked up again. I saw a WWI brass trench lighter with a cathedral decoration. I do not see many trench lighters around here and the price was fair - so I added it to my stash. A couple of hours went by and in the far edge of the field was a lady with a small cigar box of

lighters. I almost missed it as I was walking quickly. Luckily I stopped to inquire even though the price tags on the lighters were quite steep. I made a small pile of (2) ASR, (3) Lord Oxford Aluminum & (3) WW2 Dunhill



Sterling Rope Lighters - all MIB (Mint in the Box). I was happily surprised when she quoted the price for the group — and they came



home with me.

So I ended the day ended with lighters from three different wars. WW1 Trench, WW2 Sterling Dunhill Rope Lighters & a Genuine Vietnam Zippo. It was a good day! I can't wait until next Labor Day.



FOR YOUR ATTENTION

At The LCGB Swopmeet on 14th October at Beales Hotel Hatfield, we shall be selling part of the David Golden collection of fine quality lighters some of which feature in the Golden Age lighter book.

Also there will be another collection being sold which belonged to a recently deceased member John McLean including many Zippos, a quantity of unusual mechanism lighters and significant quantity of reasonably priced lighters including pocket and table lighters.

We do hope to see as many of you at the show which opens at 10:00 am Sunday 4th October.
The LCGB Committee



HATFIELD VINTAGE LIGHTER SHOW

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14th 2018

Beales Hotel Hatfield

www.bealeshotels.co.uk/hatfield

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Show Opens 10.00 am



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ENQUIRIES:
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My Latest Flame - The "Art of the ART" – Aluminum Lighters, the Trench Art of the Second World War

by George Gynes

Starting in 1945, as the Second World War was coming to an end, the need for aluminum for the Aircraft Industry was starting to wane. Soon, there was a glut of this great, easy to work with metal on the market. Soldiers and Sailors had already made some great lighters from Aluminum and they became a popular medium. This did not go un-noticed by the small cottage industries that grew up around the War-Fighters. One of the most popular style soon became the Lift Arm Lighter, that was fashioned out of a solid block of Aluminum. While the lighter companies made large numbers of plain pieces of Aluminum lighters, the independent shops decorated them with engraved art of sceneries, buildings and

other landmarks.

One of my favorite sub-collection is the Art decorated Aluminum Lighter. I have over a hundred of these great creations and wanted to share with all of you a few pictures of them. All the ones presented are unmarked.

The first group of seven, followed by the individual picture of each, are a great illustration how far reaching the popularity of this medium was: Italy, Egypt, (North) Africa, India and Bahrein. The second group of four, once again followed by the individual pictures, shows how similar some of the subjects were. This provides the evidence that these lighters have been made by Merchants as opposed to individual Servicemen.



It is noteworthy to mention that on most of these lighters, the Art is positioned in the "Portrait" format. This is true for around 90% of the pieces. I included the last three lighters because the Art is presented on the "Landscape" positioning. Two of the Landscape pieces are from Tripoli (Libya), while the other is

from Casablanca (Morocco) - please see picture of the back.

In addition to these pocket lighters, I also have a collection of Art decorated Aluminum table model lighters. They are quite unique, and I will submit them for an upcoming Newsletter.

Happy lighter hunting to all, George



Frankart's Harold Lloyd Electric Lighter

by *Guy Nishida*

There are celebrity lighters - - lighters that were owned by celebrities and there are lighters that take the form of celebrities. Two well-known examples are the full-figure AMW Charlie Chaplin striker and the bust of Winston Churchill striker. However, an equally compelling but less recognized specimen is the Harold Lloyd plug-in table lighter especially since there is no mention of his name noted on the lighter. But a comparison against many still photos with Lloyd sporting his trademark spectacles will clearly confirm that this image is indeed that of Harold Lloyd, one of the silent film era's comedic triumvirate consisting of Lloyd, Chaplin and Buster Keaton. Lloyd was the 4th person to have his hands and feet embedded in concrete at Grauman's Chinese Theater in Hollywood. Coupled with the bust being adorned with Shriner headwear and Lloyd's prominence in the fraternal organization, there is no doubt that this is Lloyd.

As you can see looking down on the top, it is an electric lighter where one places the cigarette next to the heating element. Pressing the black button (it is on the backside) completes the electric connection heating the coils and you can then light your cigarette from the heat which emanates. Examples of these Deco period lighters abound in the shape of microphones, animals and nude women along with those made in Bakelite and decorative porcelain.

The lighter stands approximately 6 inches tall and weighs 2.8 pounds. Like many of the figural decorative/utilitarian household items of the period, the base material is spelter or similar grey-colored alloy. It is cold-painted in black and red with gold-tone highlights. On the front base it is marked: Crescent Temple Trenton, N.J. On the top of the fez along the rim it reads: "53rd Imperial Council Session. Atlantic City, New Jersey. 1927". Molded into the backside base are the words "Mfg by Frankart". Lloyd became a Freemason in 1925 the same year as the September release of *The Freshman*, his greatest commercial success. For you trivia buffs, there was a major lawsuit concerning this movie as Adam Sandler made a 1998 version called *The Waterboy* where Adam becomes the football team's waterboy just as Harold was for his school in *The Freshman*. The Lloyd estate lost the lawsuit.



Quoting from Wikipedia: “In 1925, at the height of his movie career, Lloyd entered into Freemasonry at the Alexander Hamilton Lodge No. 535 of Hollywood, advancing quickly through both the York Rite and Scottish Rite, and then joined Al Malaikah Shrine in Los Angeles. He took the degrees of the Royal Arch with his father. In 1926, he became a 32° Scottish Rite Mason in the Valley of Los Angeles, California. He was vested with the Rank and Decoration of Knight Commander Court of Honor (KCCH) and eventually with the Inspector General Honorary, 33rd degree.”

“Lloyd remained involved in a number of other interests, including civic and charity work. Inspired by having overcome his own serious injuries and burns, he was very active as a Freemason and Shriner with the Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children. He was a Past Potentate of Al-Malaikah Shrine in Los Angeles, and was eventually selected as Imperial Potentate of the Shriners of North America for the year 1949–50.[14] At the installation ceremony for this position on July 25, 1949, 90,000 people were present at Soldier Field, including then sitting U.S. President Harry S Truman, also a 33° Scottish Rite Mason.[15] In recognition of his services to the nation and Freemasonry, Bro. Lloyd was invested with the Rank and Decoration of Knight Commander Court of Honour in 1955 and coroneted an Inspector General Honorary, 33°, in 1965.”

Lloyd did much of his own stunt work and was severely injured during a particular film and lost a thumb and finger to an explosive device which may explain his involvement in the (now named) Shriner’s Hospital for Children. Because of his acclaim it should come as no surprise that the Shriners would fete their high-profile member with the issuance of a lighter presumably motivated by publicity and marketing considerations.

Frankart was a well-known maker of lamps, statues, figures, bookends and other household decorative items. The name was taken from the sculptor Arthur von Frankenberg who was the chief designer. The company incorporated in 1922 and its heyday was the Art Deco period of the late 1920’s to early 1930’s. Frankart was most assuredly a fierce competitor to Ronson né Art Metal Works and to some extent Nuart as their bookends and statuary figures are often confused for one another by the casual collector.

From www.decollector.com: “The apparent success of Frankart, Inc. is reflected in the changes in the product line offered by the company. The early catalog from the 1920’s offered less than 30 items, including four lamps, five candlesticks, and five ash-trays; other items included bookends, incense burners, flower holders, ink wells, and centerpieces. By the 1930-31 season, the Frankart line had dramatically expanded. The handbook for that season offered over 45 lamps, 18 ashtrays, 13 bookends, as well as a broad variety of items that included smoker’s stands and smoker’s sets, an aquarium, clocks, wall plaques, flower vases, and cigarette holders. The Frankart product offering continued to grow in the subsequent seasons with new models for lamps, bookends, ashtrays and other items.”

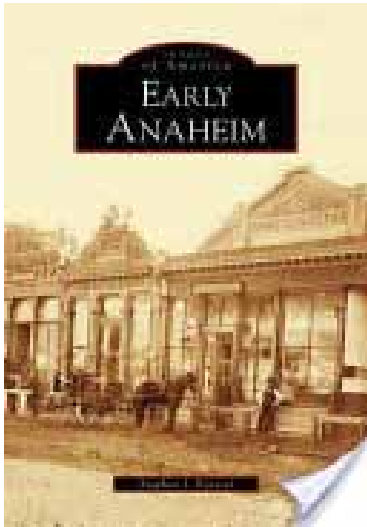
“Frankart, Inc. also expanded its color choices over time. In the earlier handbook only three colors were offered - - Verde, French and Japanese Bronze. With the 1930-31 handbook, Gunmetal, and “a polished grey” were added to the color line, and Verde appears to have been renamed “Roman Green”, that was described as a “light Tiffany green”. Jap was a very dark brown, almost black ... with green in crevices”, while French was “Brown, with green in the crevices.”

Those familiar with Ronson products will note the similarity in the product lines, their attempts at imitating bronze and patina coloration and capitalizing on the cache of catchwords and brand names. Copying profitable ideas of competitors are tactics which continue to this day among business rivals.

At its height, Frankart had its headquarters on Fifth Avenue in New York with many international distributors. It appears that Frankart can pinpoint its demise to a lawsuit among its partners. The creative force, Frankenberg wanted more control and aimed to oust partners Henry Underberg and George Murad while they fought to remain. Frankenberg lost the battle and Henry and George continued without their designer. By 1932, Frankenberg is no longer listed as a designer. Unfortunately, as a result of the partnership breakdown the company had lost its magic personnel formula and its eventual decline was imminent.

On the Trail of a Very Old Lighter Company...

by Tom O'Key



Early Anaheim

Stephen J. Faessel

Arcadia Publishing, 2006 - History - 128 pages

On Friday afternoon I received a thoughtful message from a fellow lighter collector friend; who kindly tipped me off about something he felt I might like. It was a nice thought and my appreciation cannot be overstated. After hearing about the news of what was up, the story took a bit of a twist from what was being imagined.

Like everyone else who collects lighters, news of items we like comes with some level of excitement and this was the case with the item being discussed. It's probable that a lot of lighter collectors would have an interest in a paper document related to a lighter company; especially one dating into the mid 1800's. I know I was!

Long story-short, the "Anaheim Lighter Company" is the catch name that headed up the ad for the pending auction item, and the description was thin for information. It became a lucky google search to uncover the details about this early company.

The Anaheim Lighter Company was organized in the mid nineteenth century when Anaheim was a vintner's colony. In the later part of the 1860's, the company was located in Alamitos Bay and then moved after a flood, to Bolsa Chiquita. Further investigation pretty much stopped cold, shortly after reading the rest of the attached article.



The vintners needed a simpler way to transfer their products to steamships, because the mule trip to the Port of Wilmington was costly. The colonists investigated a number of sites along the coast and selected a location at Alamitos Bay to set up the Anaheim Lighter Company, which would transfer cargo to the ships via small cable-pulled barges. After the flood of 1867, the lighter company relocated farther south at a new port called Bolsa Chiquita. The location became known as Anaheim Landing, pictured here in 1899. Now known as Anaheim Bay, it was used as a vacation spot for many years, and today rests inside the U.S. Naval Weapons Station.

So, as it turns out, it was a false alarm! The excitement slipped away and things became one of those educational moments.

The Anaheim Lighter Company was a cargo moving barge operation that loaded the Colonist's wine onto waiting stream ships, offshore. Not exactly the kind of lighter we imagined... and not the item

for me, either, but, I was thankful for learning new bits about old Anaheim; Home of Disneyland and a place I lived for forty years, and there being, the connection to my assumed interest. Absolutely, spot on! Thank you very much, John!

Who'd a guessed that a barge could be a lighter? Then, again, I've seen a few boats, and admittedly, I do have lighters from the Anaheim...

Just a little different.

The minor differences that can take a Zippo design from common to super rare.

by Rob Giarretta

One of the criticisms of Zippo collecting most often heard from collectors of other lighters is that they all look the same. Considering they've remained virtually unchanged for over 85 years, there's some truth to that. For me, that makes finding the rare variations of common Zippos such a fun challenge. Here are a few examples from my collection.

1. The 1976 Bicentennial on Brushed Chrome.



These were only offered to the public in high polish chrome, so finding one in brushed chrome is very rare.

2. 1965 Brushed Brass Chase Brass Advertising.



Brushed brass was not a standard finish until 1982, so lighters before that had to be special ordered, and were typically only done for brass companies.

3. 1982 Woodgrain Ultralite.



1980's Ultralite Zippos are commonly seen, which might make it easy to overlook the unusual non-production woodgrain finish on this one.

Stay tuned for more examples next issue.

SPOTLIGHT (Meet the Members)

By Greg Ryman

Chuck Riley is a relatively new member of about 2 ½ years. Our founder (Judith Sanders) suggested I call him, as she was so impressed with he and his wife, Stephanie, in Newark last year.

So bombing out for various reasons with more seasoned members to interview I gave him a call and he readily agreed to be interviewed.

Chuck spent nearly 30 years working in the retail guitar business with the last 10 being in a vintage guitar store. His job entailed lots of traveling to various guitar shows all over the US. He was given a Zippo ruler from a coworker while on the way to a guitar show and he was impressed with the precision of the etching and paint graphics. Admittedly, he is drawn to all things metal and precision made so his migration to Zippo lighters was a natural fit for him.

On the same trip he and his coworker stopped at the Zippo/Case Museum in Bradford, PA and Chuck was hooked. His collection consists almost exclusively Zippo pocket lighters but like all collectors he and Stephanie have a good assortment of Barcrofts and Roseart table lighters.

Chuck has approximately 200+ Zippos in his collection. They're displayed in cases all over his home. His favorite Zippo is a WWII Black Crackle 3 Barrel given to him at Christmas by another coworker. His dream lighter find is an "Ernie Pyle" Zippo given to members of the USS Cabot after Ernie was killed.

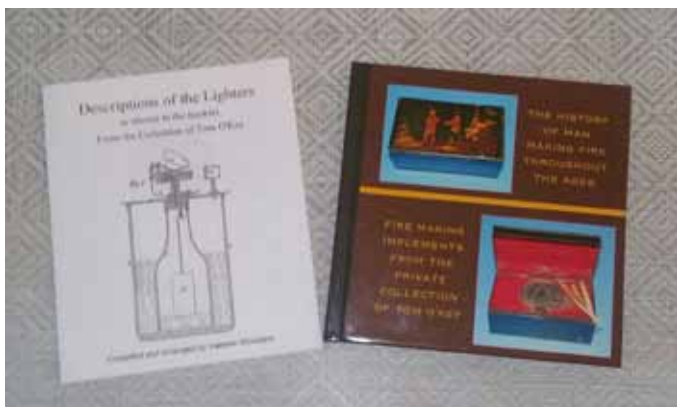
He says they are out there but priced from \$1500 to \$2500 (now I have to find my Ernie Pyle). Way too much for most of us but you never know he may find one way less expensive one day.

Chuck has been a Zippo collector since 2010. When the vintage guitar industry started going sideways the owner of his store closed it in early 2016 and Chuck had to find another way to make a living.

With the encouragement of Stephanie (she must be really special) he started a web site as advertised in the Ad section of this newsletter. His designs are exceptional and he has a growing fan base. He's not getting rich but his entrepreneurial skills are exceptional along with his self-motivation and creativity.

I've been collecting lighters since before Chuck was born and was amazed at his knowledge of Zippo lighters and Zippo fakes. He says he encountered quite a few forgeries in the guitar industry and he uses that same attention to detail when buying Zippo lighters. Chuck is a very active collector and all of you Zippo centric collectors if you haven't already need to make his acquaintance and more importantly visit his web site. (www.rileys66.com)

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Stephen Tilbury



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SEND ADS BY October 20, 2018.**



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