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# ON THE LIGHTER SIDE



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## Editor's Notes

Greg Ryman

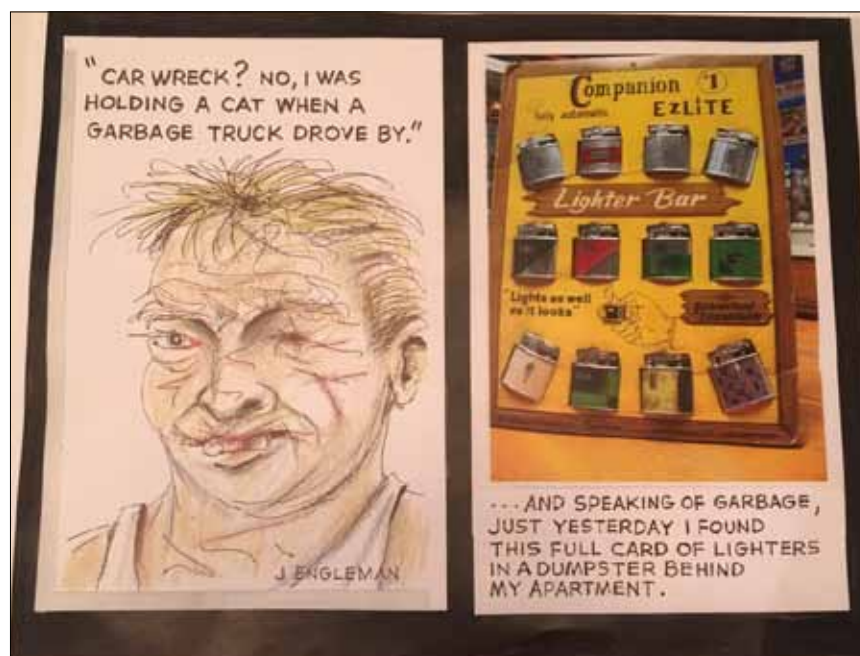
Every now and then I call former members to poll why they dropped out of our club. About 90% of them never return my telephone call or email. I did get one response worth mentioning, I think. This former member told me that he was tired of reading and seeing pictures from the same members over and over again. Couldn't argue with that but when I questioned HIM about never contributing his reply was short, "I didn't want too." Let that sink in. As editor I am beyond grateful for current members who do contribute. This core of caring members keeps these newsletters going and I think, pretty darn interesting. This newsletter can only continue if we get submissions. Sadly, we get few. Before I was editor, I was guilty of hardly ever helping my predecessor and his predecessor with articles or pictures. I certainly have learned my lesson.

Personally, I'm glad to have 2019 behind us as a club. The convention cost our club's finances way more than any previous one as we try to break even or make a few dollars. The board has historically felt that our club funds should benefit the majority of members not just the 20%+ that show up for our annual conventions. Our former chairman, John Elster, lobbied for reducing the email newsletters cost because we were flush is the best example of using our bank account to benefit the majority of members. Hopefully we will have many of you rejoin for 2020

and will try hard to have a successful 2020 convention.

My thanks to this month's contributors: Bob Adams for his article on a particular Ronson, Ramzi Badar for the cover and his accompanying article on the Desarmeax lighter's, Eldon Baldwin for his directions on KW Automatics, John Engleman for his caricature, George Gynes for his Nautical Themed lighter's article with pictures, Alice Hodges for her article and pictures on the Hayward lighter, Tom O'Key for his pictures of "some" of his Elgin American lighters, and Charles Rusick for agreeing to be the Spotlight this month with pictures (a first). Only problem had with Charlie was that he demanded I include a picture of himself. Such nerve! On a very positive note Charlie has an encyclopedic knowledge of MIOJ, which just happens to be my favorite lighters.

We are now closing in on years end. On behalf of the Board we wish you all a wonderful Holiday Season and hope that if you didn't find that special lighter in 2019 you will in 2020. The dues statement is included with this newsletter and we sure hope ALL of you will rejoin for 2020!



Contributed by John Engleman

## SO- WHAT IS IT?

By Bob Adams



Let's start with what I know from close examination of the piece—it is a lead alloy cast dog with the top plate and mechanics of a Ronson Princess model- soldered into the dog's body--it is hollow—it has a flint tube longer than the Princess model- it has a brass insert soldered into the dog's belly for the filler screw- has a lot of original paint- the ivory color anyway. It has a bit earlier snuffer with the loose gears—the rest of the mechanics are normal Princess parts—the packing material extends down into the legs- so a larger reservoir than a Princess. Previous owner(s) used the piece- obvious wear to the thumb piece plunger and spring—and I rebuilt it with all the original parts replacing only the wick and adding more packing cotton. It now works like it did when it was originally produced. And to me- a really nice piece and the only example of this type of construction I have ever seen—and I have seen many thousands of Ronson/Art Metal Works pieces over the years.

Now for a bit of educated guess work—the crazing of the ivory color paint looks the same as almost all of the pieces I have seen over the years making me think that color is original. Where the black is and is chipped I can see the ivory color underneath- so some of the black seems original- and there are quite a few spots touched up on top of the original finish- as well as numerous bald spots. Everything about the parts and construction of this piece is extremely well done- so I'm guessing it

to be factory work – and maybe the only one that exists—I can't remember seeing anything with this type of construction so it would be a whole new class of lighter if there are more of them anywhere- the flint tube is about one quarter of an inch longer than would be found on a Princess pocket model- but the top is the normal solder process- the bottom has been spotfaced and soldered to the cast body in the normal manner—the filler hole is a brass insert sitting in a spotfaced cavity and soldered into place and then finished as normally would be done- all very nice work!

Now for the “WAG” part (wild a\*\* guess) – could be a prototype—or an executive piece- could be an “end of day” type of piece made by someone in the factory though I doubt anyone would have access to all of the processes needed to hand make a piece of this quality. And I have not found anyone who has seen this particular dog on anything else made by Ronson/Art metal Works. So my best guess- a piece made for the design crew that found it's way out of the factory—a great piece—most likely the only one- and a treasure to me!

If anyone knows anything about this piece or something with similar construction- I would love to hear about it!

Bob Adams  
ronsonrepair.com



# What in the World is That?!

By: Ramzi Bader

I have been collecting lighters for about 8 years and as all of us who started really late in this hobby, I found myself scrambling to find information about any lighters of any kind. I bought my first lighter from a swap meet, so Ebay was not the first place I looked for lighters. At that time, It was difficult to find the necessary information or at least a source which would provide that information. So I started researching any and every lighter I could find and of course I was soon surfing Ebay regularly . Day after day and long night after the other I felt more and more comfortable with my knowledge and was able to start distinguishing between the various manufacturers, models, finishes, mechanisms etc.

So one night, about 7 years ago, I was doing some research and ran across a very interesting picture and my first thought was “WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THAT” ?! A very strange looking lighter that I had not seen before nor even knew that it existed . The lighter was not for sale, it was just a random picture on the internet. I was instantly in love and had to have one...good luck. It took me 5 years to find one for sale and I made sure that I bought it (FIGURE 1).



The lighter is called Desarmieux, and the way you pronounce it is DESARMO . A very unique French lighter in shape and mechanism with a distinct Art Deco shape. Desarmieux is also known to some collectors for their pocket models usually known as D.O. which are push button lighters much like a Thorens etc. (FIGURE 2).



It is very interesting that Desarmieux made the table model using a completely different mechanism than the pocket version. As a matter of fact the table model is probably one of the most unique mechanisms that you will find. I always find it entertaining to hand one over to a friend and ask them to make it spark. 9 times out of 10 they are not sure where to press, pull or otherwise.

The Desarmieux / D.O. designs were patented in France by Louis-Marcel Desarmieux in 1932. The brand seems to have been short lived and hence the rarity and desirability. The pocket model comes in plated versions or leather covered etc. The only table model I have seen are all plated and usually with some engine turning that cuts through the plating and exposes the brass below, thus giving it an attractive two tone look that certainly highlights the Deco design (FIGURE1). Although recently I purchased a table version with no engine turning at all, go figure ! These lighters are so obscure that I have had conversations with lighter experts that never owned, heard of or seen one before ?!

Ever since I bought my Desarmieux table lighter I had been happy as a lark thinking I was done, only to find another one two years ago for sale but this one looked twice as tall as the one I had, so of course I bought that one and sure enough it was the taller model (FIGURE 3).



# *What in the World is That?!*

*Continued*

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Great, done right ? Nope, a few months ago I ran into another model that seemed 3 times as tall as the original one. I bought that one too (FIGURE 4).



It basically took 7 years to find all three and they were purchased from 3 different countries on 3 different platforms. The moral of the story is to be patient and methodical.

The mechanism for all three table models is the same, you have to manually lift the snuffer cap and then pull back on a lever on the opposite side that has some resistance against a loaded spring (FIGURE 5).

Quickly releasing that lever spins the flint wheel and causes a healthy spark that showers the wick and lights it (FIGURE 6).



Generally a very strong and reliable spark mechanism. Not too many lighters out there have this type of horizontal lever activated flint wheel drive. If you can connect the dots, you will see that this mechanism is similar to the very rare American Bettini, but this is a topic for another time and another article.

All in all the Desarmaux is a unique and beautiful Art Deco lighter that comes from a deep lineage of other special French lighters that continue to fascinate me as I use, fix and restore them.

For questions or comments, please contact me at [lettherebelighters@gmail.com](mailto:lettherebelighters@gmail.com) , and Happy Hunting.

# Hayward, Since 1851

By Alice Hodges

So many lighters, so little available information. When I first saw this gold-plated lighter, I thought: "Gee, that's really a nice-looking lighter. How come I never saw one of these before?"



This attractive little lighter is 2 1/8 inches tall and 1 1/8 inches wide, and has never been used. The well-made gold-plated case is decorated in a nice pinstripe pattern. The front of the lighter sports a small gold-plated replica of an abrasive wheel with a simulated ruby in the center. The name "Behr-Manning Norton" is molded into the wheel. Behr-Manning Norton is a leading manufacturer of industrial and hobby abrasive wheels. In 1931 Behr-Manning merged with Norton. In the 1950's they ran an ad campaign that said their abrasive wheels gave the manufacturing process a "Touch Of Gold".

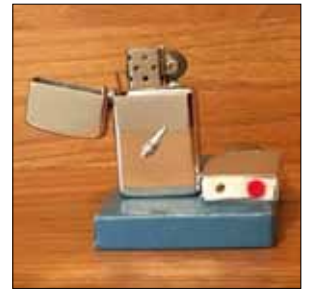
The bottom of the case is marked "Hayward" in script, "Since 1851" and "Made In USA". The insert is of lesser quality than the case, has no markings and the pressure screw is red plastic. I suspect that the Hayward Company only made the cases, and purchased the inserts as they needed them from a supply company.



I eventually found another of these lighters, this time with the original box and the original guarantee. It is the same size, and has the same markings on the bottom of the case, as the gold-plated one. This one is chrome-plated, is an advertiser for AC Spark Plugs and has an insert like the gold-plated one, except that the pressure screw is metal. The tiny spark plug attached to the front of the lighter is very nicely made, and even has the top portion enameled



in white. The finish on this lighter has bubbled in a few spots on the back, I assume from age and being in storage, as this lighter, like the gold-plated one, has never been used. The address on the guarantee is Attleboro, Massachusetts.



Because of this, and because the pressure screw is metal, I am guessing this lighter was probably made before the merger with A&Z Chain Company (see history below).

According to the third edition of the "Encyclopedia of American Silver Manufacturers", the Walter E. Hayward Co., Inc. was listed as being located in Attleboro, Massachusetts. The original company was established in 1851 in Mechanicsville, and went through a number of partnership combinations, always keeping the name "Hayward" for the company, and moving operations at some point to Attleboro. The company made mostly small gold and silver and plated items for ladies and gentlemen, and later added religious items. No mention is made of lighters or tobacco-related items. In 1975, the company merged with A&Z Chain Company, and they sold jewelry items directly to department stores and independent jewelers. After the merger, operations were moved to East Providence, Rhode Island. In 1977, Allison Reed, a costume jewelry company, bought A&Z Hayward.

And there, I'm afraid, the trail ends. I emailed Allison Reed, requesting any information they might have in their archives that related to lighters made under the Hayward name, but never received a reply. I assume that they simply no longer have the information I requested. Or possibly they thought I was nuts for asking.

Other than those few facts, I know nothing about these lighters. An internet search turned up only one other Hayward lighter, a chrome-plated model with a sailboat logo on the front. Don't misunderstand the significance of this. This is one of those instances where "scarce" does not equate to "valuable". But that does not mean that this type of lighter doesn't have a place in your collection. They have well-made

Continued on page 11



# *My Latest Flame: The “Love Boat(s)” – Nautical Theme Lighters*

*By George Gynes*

It never ceases to amaze me, just how many sub-collections of lighter themes there are. I have a special fondness for this one; the figural boats and other nautical pieces. In the past, I have had various sailboats that I raced in the Central California Area. So, with that said, here are a few pieces from my collection.



The first piece is a large and detailed depiction of a Sloop Sailboat. It stands nearly 9 inches tall and was made in Japan. The next great piece is a striker lighter made by Parker of England. It is known as the “Gondola” and it dates back to 1937.



The next two pieces depicts a ships helm. The copper on the left has an attached Masonic Plaque with a date of 1925. The other one is a striker without any markings, however, the shape of the wand makes me believe that it was made in Great Brittan during the 1950s.



The next two chrome plated lighters are both Butane filled. One was made in Japan, while the other one is the Ronson Futura, a well known futuristic looking lighter from the 1960's

The next three pieces were all made in Japan. The one on the left is marked “Occupied Japan”; the center one is signed Shields and the one on the right was made by TK of Japan.



The two small ships were both made to promote a Cruise Ship Line. The one on the left was made by Sarome and was likely purchased on board the Queen of Esquimalt. She operated as a



British Columbian Ferry on major routes between Vancouver and Vancouver Island. The other one was made by Sankei of Japan and was an advertisement for the SS Volendam, an Ocean Liner operated by Holland America Line. (WoW! Wouldn't it be fun to book a passage on board all of the cruise ships of the world and acquire their promotional lighters! What an excellent COLLECTION that would be,)

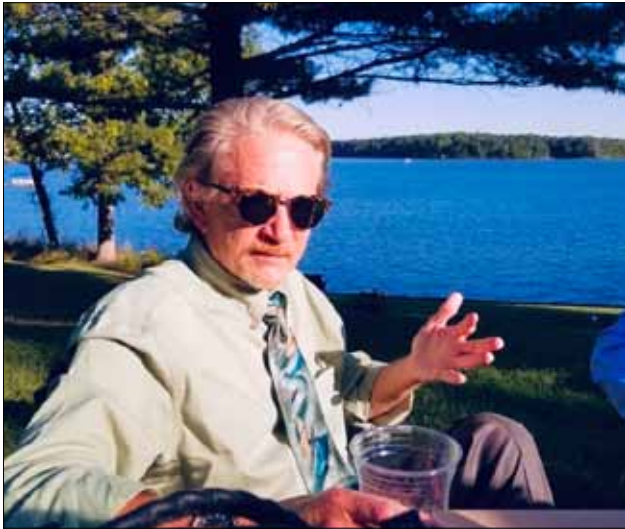
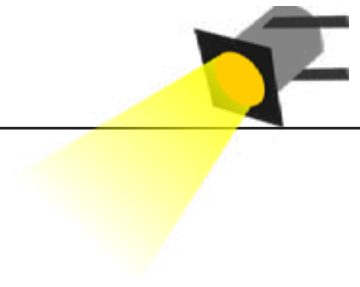


Well once again, I must end this article with the knowledge that these examples are only a small fraction of the Nautical Theme lighters. I limited this article to Figural Nautical lighters. I personally have hundreds of Zippo lighters with US Naval Ships graphics. Additionally, there are many pocket lighters with advertising for Cruise Ships. Certainly, all of them would make a great Sub-Category for lighter collecting.

Happy lighter hunting to all, George

# Spotlight – Meet the Members: Charles Rusick

by Greg Ryman



Charles Rusick has been a member of OTLS off and on for about 12 years. I say about as he dropped out for a while but Art Brooks convinced him a few years ago to rejoin and he did. He has been retired for a little over a year. In his working life he was first a retail real estate manager and then migrated to real estate management for medical related companies. At one time he was responsible for close to a billion dollars-worth of properties. That was a real big responsibility. He has been retired for a little over a year. His career had nothing to do with his lighter collecting hobby.

First thing you all need to know is that Charlie (his preferred nickname) has a fantastic sense of humor. I think that's why he and I hit it off last year when I called him and asked him to contribute some pictures of his collection as I heard he has some fantastic lighters (he does). He graciously obliged and you can view some of his collection in previous (2019) newsletters. He now finds most of his pieces on eBay, he's very discriminating and is an active seller on eBay as well (IbuyMIOJ).

Charlie has been collecting cigarette lighters for almost 30 years. At his peak he had about 5000 lighters in his collection. He admits that his collection grew too large and he has gradually reduced his collection to around 300+ displayed in 9 cabinets throughout in his home. He remains happy with his more manageable sized collection. He started getting serious collecting lighters after he saw the MIOJ Bird Cage. His favorite is an MIOJ Red Rose with Green Leaves on a bakelite base. He also prizes a MIOJ Radio Lite Victory table lighter, baby blue in color



which he's never seen elsewhere. Oh, and he has almost all of the boxes that go with his lighters. And I won't get into his MIOJ Sarcophagus and Henry lighter. Geez! His best deal was on the small Leader Radio (not the dispenser one) that he purchased for \$75.00 in mint condition!

In the past Charlie has collected tin toys, car hood ornaments, antique lamps, old art and old furniture. He still uses the bases of some of his lamps to mount hood ornaments and continues to buy and refurbish old furniture along with being very picky in his cigarette lighter buying. When I pushed him to verbally share some of his more special lighters I think I started drooling. He, like a lot of us, has a smattering of Ronson, Zippo, and Dunhill but his prime area is MIOJ. I am personally fascinated with MIOJ and thought, since I'm older and have



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## *Elgin American Lighters*

*from the Collection of Tom O'Key*



## *Spotlight – Charles Rusick*

*Continued from page 8*



been collecting longer I knew lots but Charlie oh boy, he has an encyclopedic memory of MIOJ and I now realize I know nothing. He will be writing an article for OTLS in the future on MIOJ and I don't want to say any more about his knowledge as I will let his forthcoming article speak.

Charlie has made some good friends and valuable contacts as a member of OTLS. He was great pals with the late Bob Rogers and they traded stories along with lighters. Asked what he would change about the club, well he was blunt. He firmly believes that print is dying and the club needs to be more interactive on the Internet. He says he posted lots of lighters on our Facebook page and finally found them on our Community Forum when he thought was posting on our page. News to me about the Community Forum section. He suggested that we use a "Stop Light" on our pages that would show 20 second videos of how the lighters work, think Tom O'Key and his video presentations. Fun and great interview!

① To fill: Pull off outer casing, fill in fuel through the filling hollow (13a) provided in the bottom plate (13) of the lighter body till complete saturation of the cotton. Press spout of the capsule or of the fuel canister on the cotton which will absorb the fluid. Use best lighter fluid only which does not soot.


② To ignite: Pressing on action lever (2) will cause ignition. When lifting thumb, snuffer cap (3) will close automatically.

③ To replace flint: Pull off outer casing, unscrew bottom screw (11) - do not loose the spare flint lodged in the groove (13b) of the bottom plate - remove the flint spring (12) fitted with a guide bolt, SHAKE OUT REMNANTS AND DUST OF THE OLD FLINT and put spare flint into flint tube (1a), re-insert bottom plate (13) and flint spring (12) and replace bottom screw (11) giving it a few turns only for the first. Before tightening fully, use lighter several times to work off rough edges of the new flint - only now put spare flint into the groove (13b) provided in the bottom plate - then tighten bottom screw (11) completely.

NEVER PUT INTO THE GROOVE TWO SPARE FLINTS AT A TIME.

For replacing spark wheel and the action spring remove the bearing bolt (6) only, but not both the joint screws (4) and the screw bolt (5).

④ Care: Clean spark wheel regularly with attached brush. Trim charred end of the wick, pull up wick slowly with tweezers or a pair of pliers or, if so necessary, cut off the sooty end of the wick and make the wick extend about 2 mm out of the chimney.


Use fluid and flints of best quality so that your  lighter always will be ready to serve you.

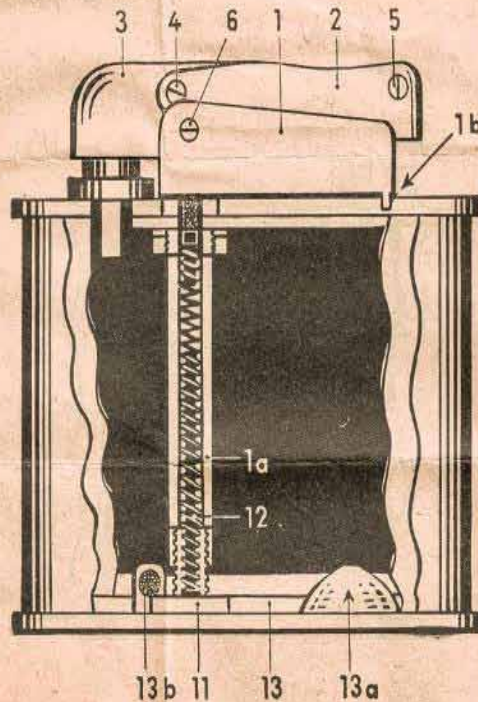


*Automatic*



**Directions for use of the**

**fully-automatic  Lighter**  
are given aside.



Attention: Your lighter is a precious requisite for daily use - unsuitable „tinking“ may spoil the mechanism so that it would not work reliably any longer. Should, therefore, the lighter tend to misfire or fail anyhow else it ought to be examined by a specialist (your dealer) and repaired by him in case of need.



## ***2020 OTLS Convention Announcement***

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We are pleased to announce that the 2020 convention will be held at the Golden Nugget Hotel and Casino. The dates are Thursday June 11th (hospitality get-together) thru Friday 12th. We have shortened the convention by one day to reduce expenses but also to make the Friday exhibit day more compact and maintain a bit more sustained frenzy. A banquet dinner (befitting a first-class hotel) will follow the exhibit tear-down day. We leave it to members to arrange among themselves if they desire to room hop (to buy/sell/trade lighters) on Thursday evening as was a more regular practice years ago. Furthermore, those who plan on staying for the normal 3 days (or longer) and who wish to avail themselves of the tourist attractions will now have an entire uninterrupted day. The registration fee will be increased to \$145.00 + \$85 per additional banquet attendee but these increased costs will be more than offset if you book one of the less lavish room choices the hotel offers which are less than the Tuscany's weekend rates. Obviously if you do not stay the 3rd day your room expense/overall costs will be reduced further. Additional tables will be \$40 each. Please note that last year's convention costs well exceeded the revenue. We wanted to provide an upgraded venue while keeping costs in-line with estimated income yet hold our members total costs within their expected range. We continue to rely on your support and auction donations to meet this goal.

This is the first time we will be downtown so those unfamiliar will have an opportunity to explore this area of Vegas. Of course you can still take public transportation to the strip. However, GN has a much more complete array of table games and slots and has many more restaurants, amenities and entertainment choices. It is visually lavish and spacious and you will immediately notice a difference. Parking is free to hotel guests.

It is critical that the Board knows as soon as possible who is committing to attend. With an early count, we can more closely estimate our budget and possibly provide more bang for your buck. With that in mind, as an inducement to early commitment we will be raffling off a pair of tickets to a major production show. For example: Cirque du Soleil, Penn & Teller, and Blue Man Group are all possible choices. The tickets will be valid for one year. For those of you who have attended in the past, you know your odds of winning are extremely good (Board members are not eligible). All you need to do is send in your registration fee payment before March 31, 2020 thru Paypal (Payments@otls.com) or by check. Checks made payable to: OTLS or On The Lighter Side and must be sent to:

On The Lighter Side  
C/O Rob Giarretta  
96A Jefferson Ave.  
Dunellen, NJ 08812

More details regarding the convention will be forthcoming but we urge to to set the dates aside and make your plans now. Should you have any questions in the meantime, feel free to contact me.

Guy Nishida

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## ***Hayward, Since 1851***

***By Alice Hodges - continued from page 6***

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cases, are attractive and budget-friendly. That's quite a lot to have going for you if you are a vintage lighter. There must be hundreds, if not thousands, of lighters out there like these produced by the Hayward Company. Jewelry companies would have wanted to sell popular items, and lighters, in their heyday, were very popular indeed. They weren't just practical fire-making devices, they were also fashion accessories. And advertising lighters make up a large section of the vintage lighters that are out there.

The choices you have in lighter collecting are truly staggering. It's easy to see how a collection of 100 lighters becomes a collection of 1,000 lighters and keeps mysteriously increasing until you suddenly realize you have no free space on any flat surface in your home. The hard part is knowing when to stop. When (and if) I ever acquire that knowledge, I'll let you know.



# CLASSIFIED ADS

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ZIPPO INSERT REPAIRS. CAMS, CAM SPRINGS, FLINT TUBE REPLACEMENT AND FLINT WHEEL REPLACEMENT. EACH REPAIR/REPLACEMENT COST IS \$5.00 FOR EACH ITEM. RETURN POSTAGE REQUIRED ALSO. SEND TO: THOMAS PRYLINSKI @ 2123 E. 42ND ST., ERIE, PA 16510.

FOR SALE: COMPLETE LIGHTER COLLECTION OF LATE LOYD STINECIPHER. LOYD WAS A LONGTIME COLLECTOR AND MEMBER OF OTLS. HIS WIFE PAT IS LOOKING TO SELL THE COLLECTION IN ITS ENTIRETY TO ONE BUYER. SHE IS WORKING ON A LIST AND SHE HAS SOME PHOTOS THAT SHE CAN SEND TO THOSE INTERESTED. THE COLLECTION IS LOCATED IN NE TEXAS. LOYD COLLECTED A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF LIGHTERS INCLUDING RONSON AND ZIPPO. SERIOUS INQUIRIES ONLY: PATSTINECIPHER@GMAIL.COM. PRICE: NEGOTABLE

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I HAVE A LOT OF LIGHTER BOOKS. IF INTERESTED EMAIL ME FOR A LIST. JUDITH SANDERS AT JUDITHLQ@COMCAST.NET

**NEXT ISSUE January 2020.**  
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