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ON THE LIGHTER SIDE



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**FOUNDED IN 1984 - THE LONGEST RUNNING
LIGHTER COLLECTING COMMUNITY IN THE WORLD!**



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

As some of you may have heard, OTLS ended 2024 with a few issues that resulted in a reshaping of the board. The main issue centered around how inquiries received by the club regarding the potential sale of collections are handled. These inquiries are typically from past members, or family members who have inherited a collection from a past member. It had come to light that some of the advice being given did not include all options the club is able to make available to someone disposing of a collection, and the options given lacked equity and fairness to the members interested in purchasing partial or entire collections.

The board met in the middle of December to discuss the issue and as a result, the board was reduced to two members due to two resignations and one expulsion. We decided on a course of action we believe will correct the issue, while also providing even better options for those looking to bring a collection to market. In the March 2025 newsletter, we will be asking all members to let us know what SPECIFIC things they are looking to add to their collections. This way, we can compile a list to provide as a resource to those selling lighters to help get pieces directly into new collections. We will also have a list of members that are interested in buying individual pieces, groups, or collections for resale as a secondary resource.

Our first priority as a lighter collectors' club should be helping our members build their collections, as well as helping our members or their families divest of collections when the time comes. Internally, the board will be adding transparency and redundancy at all of our points of contact, so any messages coming or going can be viewed by multiple board members. There will be more improvement which will be announced when the details are worked out, but the board remains committed to providing a community where lighter collectors can safely interact with other collectors and sellers. Thank you for being a member, and we hope all have had a good start to the new year.

OTLS Board

Welcome New Member

Alex Nelson

ON THE COVER

Lancel Jet Pipe lighter
French made Ca. 1931

Beattie and the Jets



By: Ramzi Bader

For Elton John fans, please pardon the play on words for the title of this article.

Beattie lighters and their close cousins have been in the shadows of lighter collecting for a long time. I would venture to say that most collectors have at least one Beattie lighter. The dual fire apparatus is quite interesting. It can either be used as a normal cigarette lighter or if tilted just right, a serious jet will come out from a small orifice, to be used to light a pipe. For as long as I can remember, Beattie lighters were just there, everyone knew about them but somehow they were not exciting. However, recently there has been a resurgence of interest in these lighters. The prices have firmed up and the demand is there even at these elevated prices. At this point, I figured I would discuss these lighters and the multitude of other jets that are available.

Beattie lighters came in a few versions, they all work the same, but there are slight construction differences (Figure 1 & 2), the leathered one is an earlier version with a screw on the bottom. The plated one has 2 patents on the bottom. There is a version with one patent number (not pictured) that chronologically fits between the 2 pictured ones. Of course, there is the sterling silver version that is highly coveted and commands quite a premium these days.



Figure 1



Figure 2

continued next page

Beattie and the Jets

Article

By: Ramzi Bader

Figure 3 shows the general construction of the Beattie lighter. This construction uses a bent tube whose tip has a very small orifice. Upon seeing the flame from the normal lit wick, the fuel in the bent tube super heats and sends a jet of burning fuel out. This mechanism is used by most (not all) jet lighters.



Figure 3

Beattie being the most famous name in jet lighters is not alone in this domain. There are few Japanese version that look extremely similar to the Beattie, but the body has square edges compared to the Beattie's rounded edges (Figure 4 & 5). These lighters look identical to each other but were marketed under different names like Rogers (model Sateliter), Lord Chesterfield, and Mastercraft (model Fire Flash).



Figure 4

continued next page

Beattie and the Jets

Articles

By: Ramzi Bader



Figure 5

There is yet another jet lighter made in Austria by Champ (Model Jet-Stream), lesser known than the Beattie and perhaps a little harder to find. It uses the same general shape and construction (Figure 6).



Figure 6

Digging deeper into the pile, you find a very rare and obscure American lighter made by Ansbro & Mason (Figure 7 & 8). A very special and rare lighter indeed. Not only does it have the generally known jet mechanism, but it has several interesting additional features.

1. The jet comes out of the side not the front, as the others.
2. It has a push button mechanism to light, a personal favorite of mine.
3. It has a locking lever to help prevent accidental trigger in one's pocket.

Beattie and the Jets

Articles

By: Ramzi Bader



Figure 7



Figure 8

Ansbro & Mason are rarely seen, but they are great lighters to have. They are well made, and the combination of pushbutton, lock, and side flame, elevates these lighters above the rest, and their rarity justifies their cost.

Now let us jump across the pond and see what other European jet lighter are there. The British chime in with the Comoy's of London (marked Japan), a famous maker of pipes, with an interesting looking lighter (Figure 9 & 10). Again same idea of a Beattie, but much rarer . I have seen a few of these sell over the years, but they always demand a premium.



Figure 9



Figure 10

continued next page

Beattie and the Jets

Articles

By: Ramzi Bader

The other British Entry is a very rare model, not marked (Figure 11 & 12). These lighters are extremely rare and missing from most collections. However, they function exactly the same as a Beattie.



Figure 11



Figure 12

The French come in with some models of their own, starting with the Lanceflam (Figure 13 & 14). These have very interesting features as follows:

1. Aluminum body construction.
2. Small silhouette and compact construction.
3. Flame comes out the side of the body.
4. Push button lighting mechanism, however, the trigger is on the back (much like the Belgian Conty lighter).



Figure 13



Figure 14

Beattie and the Jets

Articles

By: Ramzi Bader

Then there is the French Lancel jet pipe lighter. Lancel is a well known name in the lighter business, and they made their own version of a jet pipe lighter (Figure 15 & 16).

This lighter has the following features:

1. It has a push button lighting mechanism.
2. The jet comes out of the side of the lighter.
3. However, the most interesting feature is how to trigger the jet flame. As it turns out, the button in the center of the body, when pressed, pushes an internal bellows and shoots air right next to the wick flame and causes it to throw out a jet, so you must continue to pump to maintain the jet.



Figure 15



Figure 16

I will admit, the Lancel mechanism is a little cumbersome to use when lighting a pipe, but that is what makes this lighter so special and so very rare.

A side note, Lancel made 2 other pipe lighters but neither was a jet lighter, but this would be a subject for another article.

The last entry into this parade of jet lighters comes from Japan, a little known lighter that has a very non assuming look (Figure 17) . A quick look on Ebay and you would pass it thinking it is a Zippo or possibly a Zippo copy. It is only after you look under the hood, that you will see that this is indeed a very special jet lighter. The name is Kron, and it has the following features (Figure 18):

continued next page

Beattie and the Jets

Articles

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Figure 17



Figure 18

1. Fully enclosed.
2. Flame comes from the side.
3. Heart shaped wind screen (a very unique feature)
4. Its most unique feature is the jet does not come out from the end of the tube like the others, but rather the tube is a continuous semicircle with a tiny hole along the side, and it does work well as you can see in the picture above.

The above is a sampling of the jet lighters out there. I am sure there are others with different names and potentially interesting features. I also did not attempt to point as to who was the original jet designer, as it is obvious that some of these were copies. The principal goal is to show you the plethora and variety out there.

If you have questions or comments or you know of any other types of jet lighters you want to share, please email me at: ramzi@etp-inc.com, and happy hunting.

Let Me Give You One Good Punch — The Iconic Zippo Lighter Punchboard



by John Elster

Last summer I was fortunate to find an item that I had always wanted - a punchboard with Zippo Lighters as the Prize. First a little history on punchboards from a website called punchboard.com

"The Punchboard or Salesboard was patented in 1905 by C. A. Brewer and C. G. Scannell of Chicago. Even though the equivalent of punchboards had been around for many years, they had never been available in such a neat and portable form. The invention of board stuffing machines and ticket folding and plaiting machines in the late 1910s was probably the key factor which allowed the punchboard industry to flourish. Patent number 780,086 very plainly shows all of the elements of a Punchboard. Once the boards became cheap to manufacture, they literally flooded the country. Noted gambling author John Scarne estimates that 30 million punchboards were sold in the years between 1910 to 1915. He also estimates that 50 million punchboards were sold in 1939 alone, during the peak of their popularity.

Punchboard sales declined significantly after WWII, and the boards were outlawed in many states. Many manufacturers attempted to disguise the gambling nature of the boards by stating that prizes were "for trade only" and not redeemable for cash. Cigarette, cigar, and beer companies used punchboards as an advertising medium, featuring packages of cigarettes or bottles of beer as prizes on their punchboards instead of cash. While some of these boards were operated as advertising gimmicks, most were still played for cash. **A few products found success with punchboard advertising, including Zippo lighters. Between 1934 and 1940 Zippo reportedly sold more than 300,000 lighters through the use of punchboard advertising.**

Like most aspects of illegal gambling, punchboards attracted their share of mob figures and shady characters over the years. Probably the most famous punchboard salesman of all time is Jack Ruby, more commonly known as the man who killed Lee Harvey Oswald."

A savvy merchant is always looking for ways to make extra money and most customers are a sucker for a chance to win a prize. The punchboard was a great way to get the customer to spend his or her pocket change. Here is how the Zippo Punchboard works. The customer would pay \$.02 for each 'punch'. The merchant would hand the customer a small metal punch key which he would use to punch in one of the 1500 holes on the board. Each hole contains a small rolled paper with a number printed on it. If the number was 100, 200, 300, 400 or 500 then the customer won a brand new ZIPPO lighter - the last sale on the board (in other words when there was only one hole left punch) - also received a ZIPPO lighter. As a consolation prize, if you number matched one of the other 20 winning numbers printed on the punchboard or if you made the last punch in a particular section, you won 20 cigarettes (i.e. a pack) - (35 of these prizes were awarded). All other numbers were losers.

Let Me Give You One Good Punch — The Iconic Zippo Lighter Punchboard

Articles

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How does the math work?

Income for the merchant: 1500 punches at \$.02 per punch = \$30.00 Total Earned in Punches

Expense for the merchant: 6 Zippo lighters (perhaps \$12) & 35 packs of cigarettes (perhaps \$7),
Purchase of the punchboard (perhaps \$1) -

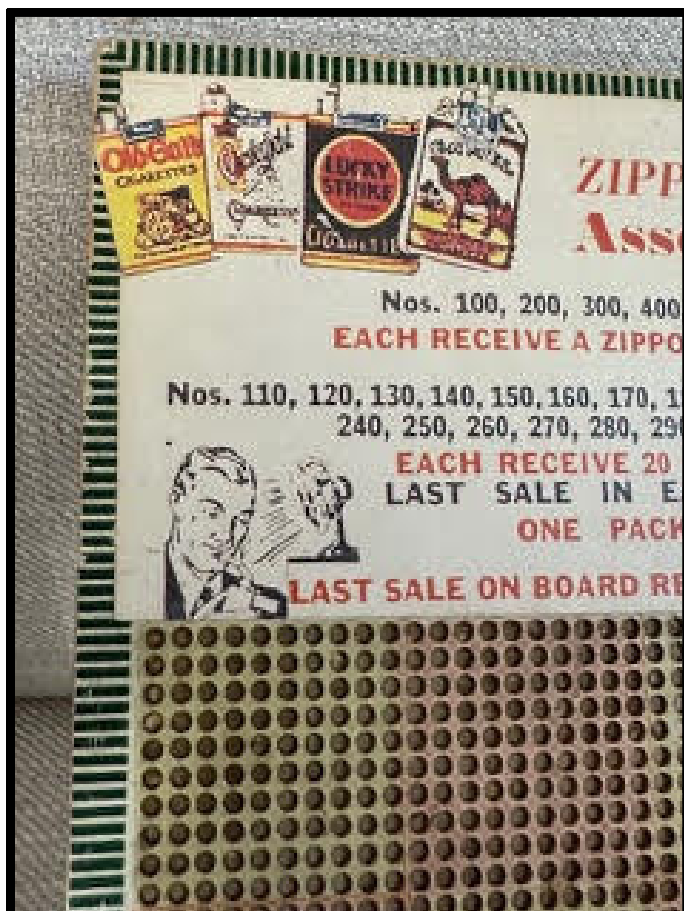
Outcome: The merchant takes in \$30 and only pays out \$20 - so they make a \$10 profit - not bad in 1935!



Let Me Give You One Good Punch — The Iconic Zippo Lighter Punchboard

Articles

by John Elster



Let Me Give You One Good Punch — The Iconic Zippo Lighter Punchboard

Articles

by John Elster



Caricature

Contributed by John Engleman



Happy
New Year!

The history of the Meddaugh Family



Contributed by Judith Sanders

Many years so Bob & Sophie Meddaugh joined OTLS. They were a delightful couple and came to several conventions. We were all sad when when they passed away.

A few years later, their son, Jay Meddaugh, joined our group. Jay was a very active members for a long time. His wife, Toni, recently told me Jay had passed away at the end of September. She and Jay were married for 61 years!

At one time my parents, and my son, were members also. So we have had other families that were members.

Please keep Toni in your thoughts and Prayers as she goes through this difficult time. We will all miss Jay.



Classified Ads



FREE

Remember there are still a few of the 2024 Convention Lighters for sale! Please order from Rob Giarretta.
Rob523@aol.com

OTLS Convention Lighters for sale. Lot of 40 lighters, 1st thru 36th conventions, plus 2 non-convention years, a second finish from 1998 convention and an OTLS Original 1932 Replica Zippo. Selling as one lot. Contact Kenneth Burk at klburk@att.net

Interested in buying Mint in the Box Flat Advertising Lighters (that I do not currently have). Please send photos and prices to John Elster at Jresce@aol.com

I am in need of two OTLS convention lighters.
Club Zippos for the 17th and the 22 conventions.
These are for the years 2003 and 2008.
Thank you in advance.
Please call me at 609-805-8386
email: smstolar3@gmail.com
If you live anywhere near Philadelphia
I can meet you for the exchange.
I will also buy you a nice lunch in addition to your payment.
Thank you, Steve Stolar

Zippo insert repairs, cams and cam springs, flint tube replacement, and flint wheel replacement. Each repair replacement is \$ 5.00 per item. Return postage also required.
Tom Prylinski 2123 e. 42nd. St. Erie, PA 16510. Email Pyrotip@twc.com.

Looking for European Pocket Lighters. Also looking for pocket lighters with pictures of cartoon characters. Please call or email Judith Sanders 505/433-5303 or JudithLQ@comcast.net

WANTED: Nudie lighters/naughty lighters, adult lighters, joke lighters, the naughtier the better! Contact Bill at (323) 829-9191.

700 Zippo Lighter collection for sale. Years range from late 1950's to 2000's. Some sets included. I am not interested in cherry picking but very interested in someone buying them in bulk for re sale and they'll be priced accordingly. Contact Kenneth Burk at klburk@att.net.

The Thorens Lighter Book is Here

This book is a Hard Cover, full size Coffee Table book with over 200 high gloss color pages containing over 400 pictures and illustrations, weighing a hefty 3.8lb . This is a must have for all lighter collectors, Art Deco lovers and all those who appreciate history.

Priced at \$175 per copy plus \$15 s/h in the USA.S/H costs to other countries will be quoted upon request. To order your copy please email ramzi@etp-inc.com or call/text (909)407-0248

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SEND ADS BY: Feb 20, 2025
OTLSNEWS101@GMAIL.COM



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