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ON THE LIGHTER SIDE



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

And Now A Word From the Board



As we cross the unofficial end of summer and enter the school year, we enter what I've always felt was a hot season for buying and selling. Collectors and sellers are free of their summer distractions, and activity starts to ramp up into the holiday season. In the meantime, the board is already working on the 2025 convention. Speaking of conventions, we have some remaining stock of convention lighters from this year and last year. If you'd like to purchase one (or another one), send a message to admin@otls.com. The price is \$40 USA shipping included.

Rob Giarretta

Rob Giarretta

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Bruce Huberman

ON THE COVER

See article next page

Searching for Identity (of a logo)

Articles

Contributed by Rob Giarretta

Back in 2021, I was contacted by a friend who had found a Zippo he thought I would be interested in. It was a 1938-39 in sterling silver. That by itself would be plenty to make a place for it in my collection, but this one also had an oddly dressed golfer in blue factory engraved on the front. Sterling and gold Zippo lighters were only available by special order at that time, so they are extremely rare, and even more so with factory engraving. We agreed on a price, and it made its way to New Jersey. I felt like I had seen this golfer logo before, but after several attempts over the next few weeks, I finally gave up. Anyone who collects lighters has probably done a few searches trying to identify a logo, and I'm sure many are familiar with the frustration of coming up empty, especially when it seems familiar.



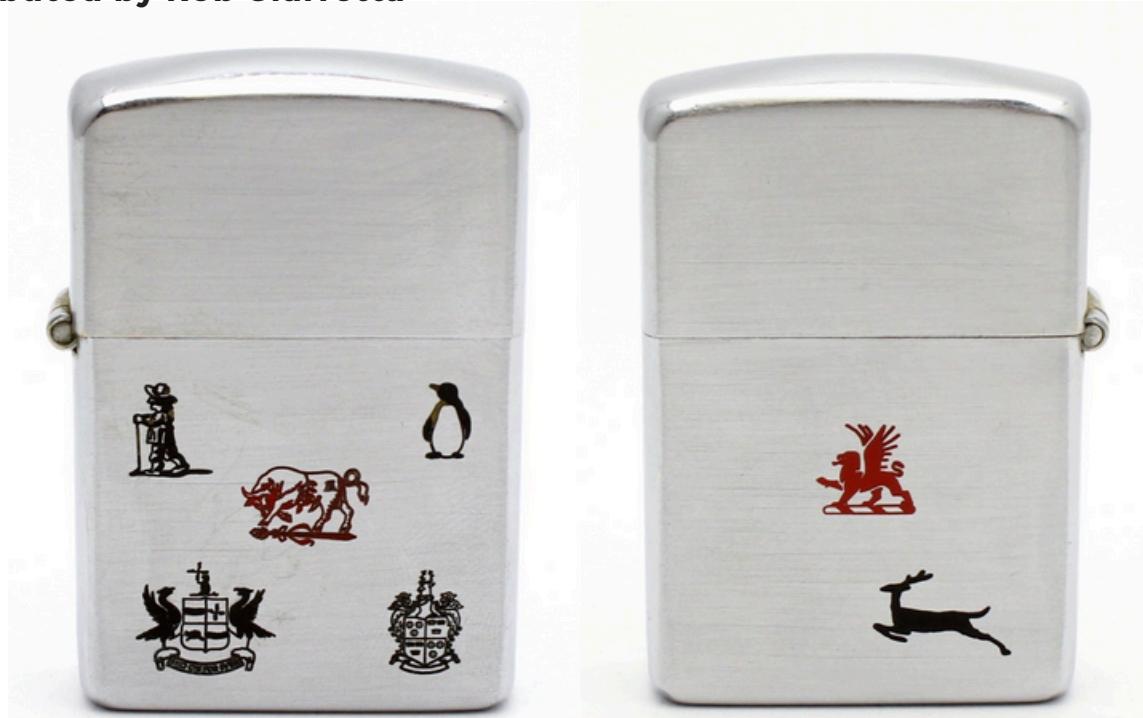
The only place I had seen this golfer was on a couple of Zippo employee personal lighters. It was common for employees in the engraving or art departments to pull logos from advertising orders to put on their own personal lighters. It turns out that I had one with this golfer on it in my collection. This one was from a group of lighters belonging to a very early Zippo employee, Bill Hutton. However, this didn't get me any closer to identifying the logo.

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Searching for Identity (of a logo)

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Fast forward to a couple of months ago. While trying to identify a table medal, I was scrolling through the archives of the Medallic Art Company. Medallic Art made commemorative and award medals from 1903-2016. When they went bankrupt in 2016, their archive was purchased by the American Numismatic Society, who created an online archive of all the medal specimens on their website. As I was scrolling through hundreds of medals, I caught a glimpse of a familiar little golfer on a silver medal from 1954. The description said only "The Links" NYC.



Links Medal
The Links
New York, NY
Hand Cut Dies
1 3/4-inch; no dieshells recorded
1954-061; 1954-061OBV-MED01S1.JPG

It didn't take long to figure it out from there. The Links is an extremely exclusive private club on the upper east side of Manhattan. Hardly any information regarding members is available, aside from some details including a member list from a 1955 copy of a membership handbook that made its way into the public. The 1955 membership ranges from President Eisenhower, several governors, senators, ambassadors, top military brass, the CEO, president, or owner of almost every large company at the time, and several other socialites with surnames like Rockefeller, Mellon, and Frick. While the interior of the club is said to be lavish, with a world-class art

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Searching for Identity (of a logo)

articles

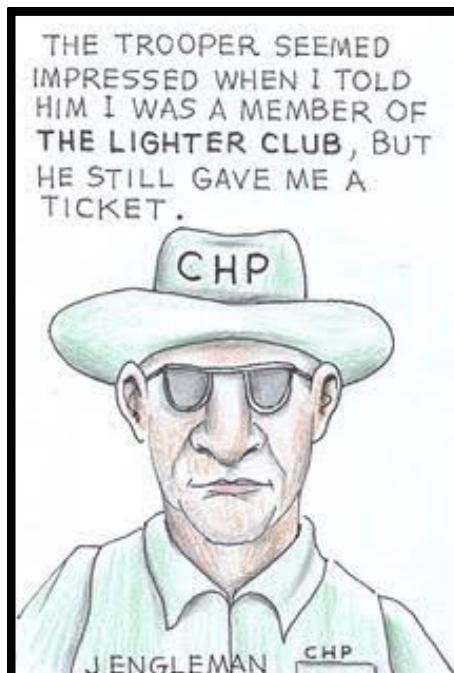
Contributed by Rob Giarretta

collection among other adornments, the exterior is understated. There is no sign, or verbiage indicating that there is anything noteworthy inside. There is no grand entranceway. The entrance is a few steps down from street level. I guess the idea is, if you don't know what's inside, you're not supposed to know.

Now back to the Zippo. The level of privacy and secrecy around the club helps make sense of the logo on the lighter. Any member (or member of a different club at the same level) who sees the lighter will immediately recognize the logo. There is no need for the name. Unfortunately, the provenance of this particular lighter has been lost to time. But it is interesting to think about who it may have been ordered by or given to. It's also interesting to think about the fact that the owner chose Zippo, a relatively young company not known for providing accessories to the upper crust of society. Perhaps it was a gift from Mr. Blaisdell to a club member, hoping it would help spread the word of his fledgling company. Regardless of whether I ever add to this lighter's story, I'm extremely happy to have it in my collection. In the meantime, I recommend that anyone interested spend a little time learning about The Links, and definitely scrolling through the Medalllic Art specimen archive. Maybe you'll solve a logo mystery from your own collection!

Caricature

Contributed by John Engleman



Touch-Tip "Golf" Athletic Figure Combinations

Articles

Contributed by Ed Urlik

Ronson offered many athletic figures in both realistic detail and modern interpretation. These figures were combined with Touch-Tip, Striker, Bogey and Rondelight Lighters and also offered as Stand-Alone Trophies. Finished in Polished Chromium Plate or "Oxidized Silver", these athletic figures combined with their lighters make rarely seen, very collectible table lighters.

At least eight different lighters and one trophy with athletic golfing figures are known to have been offered by Ronson. This article focuses on Touch-Tips combined with golfing figures. We'll discuss the other golf-figure and athletic lighter combinations a different time.



Two highly detailed and realistic golfers combined with Touch-Tip "Octettes" on a gunmetal finished base were offered by Ronson. These golfers consist of a "Male" golfer that is in "mid-swing" and a "Lady" golfer that is "Teeing Off". Both figures are highly detailed and wearing appropriate clothing consistent with 1930's golf attire such as a tie and sleeveless pullover sweater, or a skirt and lace up shoes and socks.

Ronson always paired these figures next to a removable, Model No. 2102 Touch-Tip "Octette" for all Touch-Tip athletic figure combinations. The "Octette" included was usually enameled in black. The Model No. 2102 "Octette" refers to a metal stamped housing-body with chrome monogram shield that was enameled in black, maroon, white and in rare examples, green.

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Touch-Tip "Golf" Athletic Figure Combinations

Articles

Contributed by Ed Urlik

"Touch-Tip and Golfer" Ronson Catalog No. 16068. Circa 1935. Ex. Catherine Stollman Collection.



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Touch-Tip "Golf" Athletic Figure Combinations

Articles

Contributed by Ed Urlik

"Touch-Tip and Lady Golfer" Ronson Catalog No. 16270. Circa 1936. Ex. Bob Rogers Collection.



All Lighters Collection of Ed Urlik.

Summer is for travel - which means luggage!

articles

Contributed by John Elster

Check out these figural baggage cart table lighters. The one on the right was made by Baier in Germany around 1950. Baier is best known for their aluminum jeep lighters. This one features a similar push button mechanism and has room for cigarettes and a built in ashtray. It is very well made.

The one on the left is unusual. It advertises Dodwell and has a butane mechanism. My guess is that it was made in the late 1960's to early 70's. The handle on one side spins a solid drum - which has no purpose. The lighter is housed in the original box and comes with some basic instructions - but no makers mark.

Safe travels and I hope your luggage does not get lost!

John Elster



The Iconic Thorens Lighter (Part 1)

The Thorens Standard



Contributed by Ramzi Bader

Almost every lighter collector has heard of, or owned more than one Thorens lighter. This Iconic piece of Tobacciana history has an interesting background. Hermann Thorens, who founded the Thorens Company, was born in the mid 1800's, and by the late 1800's he was now working in the music box industry which was booming in Sainte- Croix, a small industrial town in Switzerland. Hermann had an entrepreneurial spirit and soon went on his own to establish the Thorens Company. He started by trading in many items and making music boxes, something he was very familiar with. By the turn of the century, the music box industry was dying and Hermann Thorens had a large factory and a large staff but no real product to build. As luck would have it, The flint was invented in 1903, and many inventors jumped on this as a way to make lighters and generate fire at will, and Hermann Thorens was one of these people. He invented and patented the famous Thorens lighter that we are all familiar with. Although the Thorens company went on to make many different lighters with various shapes, mechanisms and finishes, we will focus on the Iconic Thorens "Standard", which is the one most collectors are familiar with (Fig 1).



Fig 1

The Thorens Standard is the first lighter made by Thorens, and it was a push button mechanism like many of its contemporaries . It had a single claw firing mechanism that was deceptively simple, but extremely reliable. The Standard model had 5 variations which I will discuss below:

The Iconic Thorens Lighter (Part 1)

The Thorens Standard



Contributed by Ramzi Bader

Type 1 had the following features (Fig 2):

- Flat bottom
- No safety screw
- One piece hinge and lid
- All riveted construction
- Filler screw on the back



Fig 2

Type 2 had the following features (Fig 3):

- Flat bottom
- No safety screw
- Hinge and lid separated
- Rivets replaced with screws
- Filler cap on the back



Fig 3

Drawbacks:

1. Lighter can trigger accidentally causing potential fire.
2. Hard to fix, as all parts are hard riveted together. So any main repair like a broken main spring would require the grinding and removal of rivets etc.

Drawback:

1. Lighter can trigger accidentally causing potential fire.

The Iconic Thorens Lighter (Part 1)

The Thorens Standard



Contributed by Ramzi Bader

Type 3 had the following features (Fig 4):

- Bottom is now coined (or inset)
- All other features are the same as Type 2



Fig 4

Type 4 had the following features (Fig 5):

- Coined bottom
- Safety screw is now added to prevent accidental firing
- Hinge and lid are separate
- Screw construction
- Filler cap on the back



Fig 5

Type 5 had the following features (Fig 6):

- Base is now overlapped
- Safety screw
- Hinge and lid are separate
- Screw construction
- Filler cap on the bottom.



Fig 6

I have also added a table that summarizes all these differences below (Fig 7). As you would imagine, with all other things being equal, Type 1 is the rarest, and Type 5 is more common. That however, changes drastically when you start introducing precious metals and other adornments and features into the lighter construction.

The Iconic Thorens Lighter (Part 1)

The Thorens Standard



Contributed by Ramzi Bader

Type	Approx. Date	Locking Screw	Riveted hinge	Hinge with screw	Base	Filler	Lid & hinge cover
1	1919	no	yes	no	flat	Back with ring	combined
2	Post 1923	no	no	yes	flat	Back with ring	separate
3	-	no	no	yes	inset	Back with ring	separate
4	1926	yes	no	yes	inset	Back with ring	separate
5	-	yes	no	yes	overlap	Base fuel screw	separate

Fig 7

All of the above discussion is only part of Chapter 2 in the new Thorens lighter book “Les Briquets Thorens, The magnificent Lighters from Sainte-Croix”. Thorens made a large variety of models and finishes, The book with a total of 33 chapters, gives you an in depth analysis of the entire Thorens product line over the history of the company until it ceased operations in 1964 . Please see the end of this article to see how to get a copy of the book.

One last point, if you frequent Ebay as most of us do, you will see that there are now a plethora of offerings of the standard Thorens model as well as other lighters that have nothing to do with the Thorens designs, yet they are marked Thorens. As tempting as this is, buying a modern replica has nothing to do with the hobby of collecting vintage and antique lighters. You can tell a modern lighter in many different ways:

- 1 They are usually Pristine and listed as condition “New”
- 2 They also generally ship from China
- 3 You can buy multiple pieces of the same kind by specifying the qty when you buy
- 4 They do not say “Swiss made” or “made in Switzerland”, because they are not
- 5 The patterns and decorations used are not common patterns found on traditional classic Thorens

The Iconic Thorens Lighter (Part 1)

The Thorens Standard



Contributed by Ramzi Bader

I am enclosing a few examples of the bottoms of the modern replicas (Fig 8) as well as some pictures of the authentic vintage ones (Fig 9). All in all, you can buy an antique Thorens for about what you pay for these new replicas, this is a matter of choice, but the preceding information are the facts.



Fig 8



Fig 9

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via email at : ramzi@etp-inc.com

If you would like to order a copy of the Thorens book, please email me at : ramzi@etp-inc.com

P.S: The Thorens book is a large coffee table hard back in full color, with over 200 high quality thick glossy pages, with over 400 pictures and illustrations. It also comes with a "Price and Rarity Guide".

In Memoriam



It was with great sadness that we learned of Larry Marshall's passing on August 19th. Both Judith and I received a call from his son Eric, to let us know the sad news. Apparently Larry had been sick for a while so this wasn't a complete shock to his family.

Larry, much like Judith Sanders and Johnny Cuevas, was a pioneer in the collecting of vintage cigarette lighters. He alone formed his club "Pocket Lighter Preservation Guild", often referred to as PLPG. Pocket lighters were Larry's preference although many of us appreciated table lighters as well. Keep in mind, at this time there was no internet so finding and communicating with other passionate collectors was difficult. Larry had told me that he formed PLPG in 1982, and with Ron Eyerkuss they released their first newsletter in 1989.

Larry ended his club in 2007 after a 25 year run. At that time Ron and Peggy Sheils (RIP), started their version of PLPG, which they called "Pocket Lighter and Pyro Gadgets".

Larry will always be remembered for his love of collecting, and his desire to bring others with a similar passion together, by forming PLPG.

Our hearts and thoughts go out to his three children; Eric, Natalie and James, to his eight grandchildren, and to his partner Deborah Bowman.

Rest in peace, my friend.

Ira Pilossof



Classified Ads



FREE

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

Rob523@aol.com

1933 All Original with lots of wear.
\$15K OBO. Contact Richard at:
lightermann1@yahoo.com



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 Zippo's 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

Wanted Multi Color Enameled Ronson Atomizers, either table or pocket models. Also catalogues for Dupont Lighters.
Contact Rich Weinstein at repairs@lighterrepairs.com

OTLS Convention Lighters for sale. Lot of 39 lighters. 1st thru 35 convention, 2 none-convention years, a second finish from 1998 convention and an OTLS Original 1932 Replication Zippo. Sell as one lot. Kenneth Burkblurb@att.net

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@tvc.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.

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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3264 Butterfield Avenue
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