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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



We're excited to hold the OTLS 2025 Convention will be in Ohio from June 26-29, 2025! Mark your calendars now.

I will be attending with my dad, which has become a bit of a tradition for us. I hope more family and friends of yours can join and make the most of the trip. While it's not flashy like Vegas, it will be a good time with good company. I always learn something new. It will also be an honor to be the Convention Chairwoman — thank you to Judith for helping pass along all the knowledge and know how.

The November newsletter issue is typically when we ask for membership dues. So, this serves as a friendly reminder to pay your membership dues. You can find the renewal payment information in the notice enclosed with this edition. January 10th is the deadline in order to receive the January 2025 edition of the newsletter.

Also, thank you to Peter Malouf, Bruce A. Huberman, Ed Urlik, and Ed Pinedo for their contributions to this issue.

Tina Pinedo

ON THE COVER

From the collection of Ed Pinedo.
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British, Swiss, French and Austrian, Oh My!

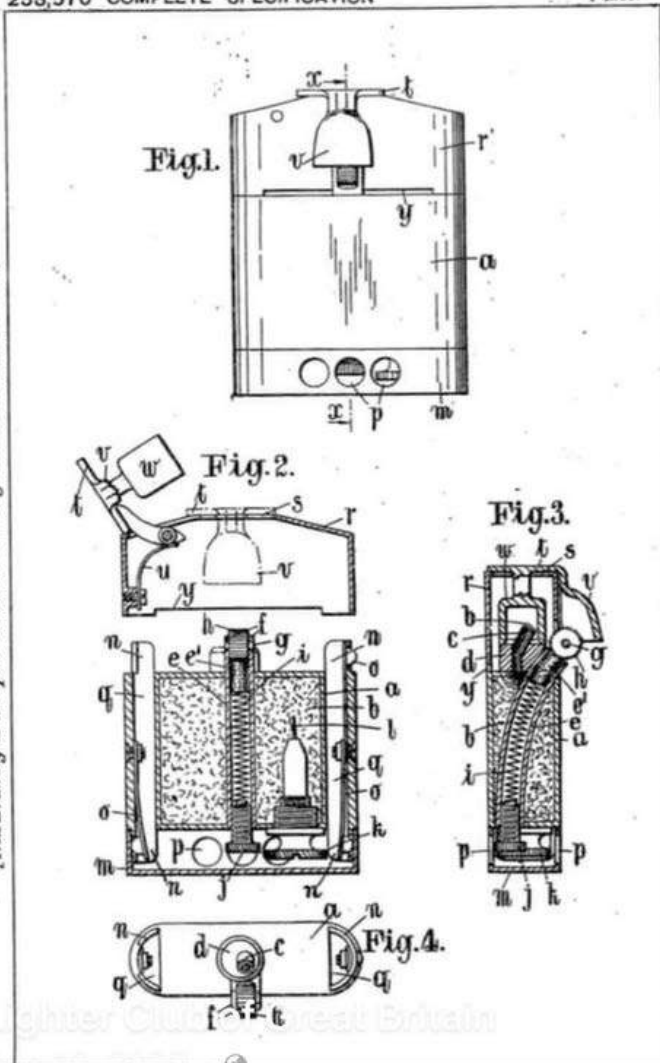


By Peter Malouf

British

Rare 1920's red-lacquered Beney storm lighter, retailed by Hermes. Patented by Robert Ernest Beney in 1926. It features a separate opening wind guard and lid, with a centrally located striking mechanism.

253,570 COMPLETE SPECIFICATION 1 SHEET



[This Drawing is a reproduction of the Original on a reduced scale.]



British, Swiss, French and Austrian, Oh My!



By Peter Malouf

Swiss

Lacquer "overload" The Swiss-made Thorens circular double-claw semi-automatic was first introduced in 1933 with Swiss patent 167577. The lacquered version is rare on the market.



French

In 1921, Ferdinand Bisson patented this automatic striker that lights up by pulling the pin from the housing. Bisson also licensed a similar model called the Chic, which operated the same but decorated with ornate enamels with perfumed fuel.



British, Swiss, French and Austrian, Oh My!



By Peter Malouf

Austria

These are exceptionally engineered, unique, and quite clever semi-automatic pocket lighters, designed by Julius Franz Meister in Austria in 1953. There are two versions of the name for this lighter, both of which are very rare: the "Perplex" and the "Primex." However, they are technically the same in terms of design, materials, and dimensions, with the Primex being considerably rarer than the Perplex. They were crafted from solid chromed steel and features engine-turned lattice decorations. They include a removable fuel chamber and have a total of three pushbuttons: two on the front and one on the rear. The lighter is activated by a thumb push at the top, which ignites the wheel and creates a flame. After ignition, the first pushbutton raises the wind guard for use, the second ejects the fuel chamber, and the third is for changing the flint, allowing access to the flint wheel actuator by opening the back of the lighter. Truly ingenious.

Here are the Perplex (left) and the Primex (right) 6300 lighters designed by IMCO:



The Hunt for the Next Great Piece

Articles

By Bruce A. Huberman DMD



Once having the passion and amassing a relatively large Ronson lighter collection which is well documented in several books, I decided to sell my Ronson lighter collection to a fellow club member, Ed Urlik around 1999.

This transaction helped Ed assemble the largest and most decorated Ronson collection in the world.

continued next page

The Hunt for the Next Great Piece



By Bruce A. Huberman DMD

With the advent of ebay and other selling services, I lost some of my interest in collecting as the dynamics had changed. The pickers were now able to place their precious finds onto these platforms rather than selling directly on a personal basis to collectors. In many ways it took the fun and thrill out of collecting for me.

Items that I found and thought were very rare or “one of a kind” popped up on internet sites and diminished the value of these items.

With a relatively new practice in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and starting a family, lighter collecting took a “back seat” with me and came to a screeching halt. I got married in 1993 and we had our daughter in 1998 and son in 2001. Due to the rigors of private practice and family obligations, my disposable income was no longer the best choice to use towards collecting.

As the years continued, the trips to Brimfield and other antique flea markets slowed down. At that time, we also collected Fireking kitchenware, depression glass, English pottery and antique, French furniture for our apartment we purchased in NYC.

My son Morgan started a career in squash and became one of the top players in the country. He just finished his career as captain of the squash team at Cornell University. My daughter played soccer since she was eight years old which was also a big commitment. Travel to these tournaments was our weekend itinerary so there was little time for anything else. Her career in soccer ended in high school and she graduated from the University of Texas in Austin without kicking another soccer ball.

Now that both kids are out of college, my wife of 31 years and I are “empty nesters”.

My lighter obsession has resurfaced so I decided to start collecting again from “scratch”. The only lighter that I had saved was a Ronson “Ten-A-Case” which belonged to my grandfather.

The best part of getting back into collecting was resurfacing friendships with my previous colleagues and mentors as well as rejoining OTLS.

There are so many wonderful people who mentored and helped me back in the day. I was close with Urban Cumming’s and his wife Chris. I was also given the opportunity to write the preface to the second edition of Urban’s book, “Wick Lighters 1913-2000 Ronson the World’s Greatest Lighter”. I was very sad to hear of his recent passing.

The Hunt for the Next Great Piece



By Bruce A. Huberman DMD

My good friend, Richard Weinstein who lived in New York back when I was actively collecting has moved to North Carolina, however we are “back at it” just like old times. Ed Urlik is now a mentor to me which has brought my endeavor full circle. Ed’s knowledge of the Art Metal Works Company and Ronson are vast and deep. Ira Pilosof has also been helpful in rekindling this passion for me. I have great times visiting Ira at the Chelsea Flea Market on 25th St in NYC and hanging out. Chris Cummings who was a stalwart in helping Urban with his Ronson books has also been great to reconnect with. Judith Sanders, an original founder of OTLS and who has been around this wonderful world of lighter collecting since I started, has been very welcoming to me.

When I started collecting again, I didn’t know what my focus would be. This time, I have decided to collect rare Ronson table lighters with representative pieces limited in breadth to a couple from each category. Due to space, I want to limit these larger table lighters , such as Rondelights, Strikers, Touch-Tips, New Yorkers and other table lighters such as Lite a Lamps or lighters such as a Grandee. I mainly want to focus on pocket lighters and feel I have done very well so far by finding some outstanding pieces for my new collection.

There seems to be a bit of a “lull” in the amount of collectors out there, and I hope that interest in collecting vintage lighters flourishes as we go forward.

I want everyone to know that I am free to discuss this wonderful passion of collecting lighters with our great community.

My email is bhubeoms@gmail.com and my cell number is 908-265-3259.

It has been a pleasure for me to write about collecting once again. I began this article with a picture of some of my recent finds.

Happy Hunting! Thank you for welcoming me back.

Sincerely,

Bruce A. Huberman DMD

Ronson "Cigarette Case & Tabourette Set" Combinations



By Ed Urlik

Ronson offered many different types and styles of sets throughout the late 1920's and through the 1930's. These sets typically consisted of a pocket lighter such as the "Standard" or "Princess" which was paired with a matching "Vest-Style" cigarette case. Other pocket lighters such as the "Jr." and "Jr. Sport" have also been seen and other matching items such as a cigarette holder, compacts, Perfu-Mists, and leather cigarette pouches are known to have been paired with all pocket lighters mentioned on very rare occasions. This article will focus on a rarely, if ever seen set that Ronson produced which there is little information on... The "Cigarette Case & Tabourette Set". These sets were produced around 1927.

The Tabourette was a table lighter typically offered by itself in silver plate, gold plate and chrome plate with an elliptical-shaped monogram shield and leather panels in various colors or engine-turned designs.

Ronson produced a very small amount of boxed Tabourette "Sets" that were most likely never offered for wide-spread sale. I believe they were intended to be factory samples or special orders. The sets shown below are the only "sets" of their kind known today. These sets consist of a gold-plated Tabourette that was richly enameled in rare, "eye-popping" two-tone colors or a modernistic design. Included in each set was a cedar-lined, cigarette box meant to be placed on a table or mantle along with its companion Tabourette lighter. This cigarette box is approximately two inches in height and is not known to have been offered elsewhere by Ronson.

There are only five "Cigarette Case & Tabourette Sets" known today. Each of these sets are in "mint", unused and unhandled condition in their original maroon faux-leather presentation display boxes. Each also have their outer, original factory-labeled heavy cardstock boxes which were then wrapped in a striped kraft paper with factory labels affixed to them. All five of these sets came from the same Ronson employee and are most likely from the Ronson Archives due to their special nature. Each of these lighters and cigarette boxes were also individually wrapped in tissue paper; I was the first to ever unwrap them.

Ronson "Cigarette Case & Tabourette Set" Combinations

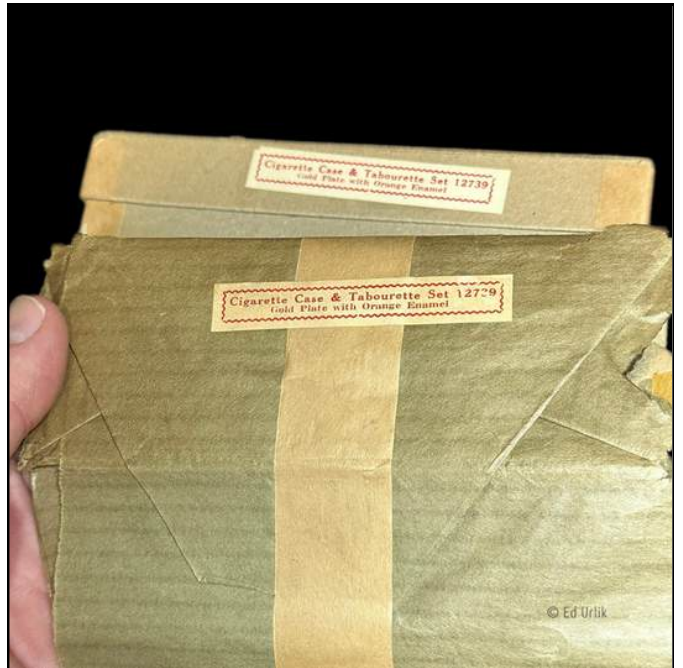


By Ed Urlik

Now let's take a look at these fantastic, extremely rare sets!



Gold Plate with Black Enameled "Modernistic" Design Set



Example of the Heavy Cardstock Outer Box, Striped Kraft Outer Wrap and Factory Labels



Gold Plate with Orange & Black Stripe Enameled Set – Ronson Catalog No. 12739



Gold Plate with Red & Black Stripe Enameled Set

Ronson "Cigarette Case & Tabourette Set" Combinations



By Ed Urlik



Gold Plate with Black & Red Stripe Enameled Set

Gold Plate with Light Blue & Black Stripe Enameled Set

If you have a "Cigarette Case & Tabourette Set" in your collection, please contact me so I can update this article.

All Lighters Collection of Ed Urlik.

Zippo Employee Artists

Articles

By Ed Pinedo

My favorite types of Zippo lighters to collect are those with graphics and designs applied by Zippo employee artists while practicing their art. Both sides are typically used to practice on. These lighters are unique and many of the elements are familiar with designs that have gone into production.

1. 1940-41 Zippo with an attached emblem, Reddy Kilowatt, Mercury and more one side, and a multitude of designs, letters and colors on the other.



2. 1951-52 Zippo with a dog in a doghouse on one side and a town & country pheasant on the other.



Zippo Employee Artists

Articles

By Ed Pinedo

3. 1948-49 Zippo with an assortment of dogs. Several of the designs can be found on production models



4. 1953 Zippo with dancing babies in top hats on one side, pouring bottle with eagle on the other.



Zippo Employee Artists



By Ed Pinedo

5. 1952-53 colorful Zippo covered with signatures of Zippo employees. Most likely it was a gift to Isabel Fuoco, a fellow employee



Zippo Employee Artists

Articles

By Ed Pinedo

The Zippo lighter has longstanding ties with showbiz, being the most popular cigarette lighter prop used in over 1,000 movies and stage performances. They were used by movie studios, Hollywood celebrities and television personalities as gifts to the cast, crew and friends.



Here is a 1938 Zippo with the letters "OZ" in an unusual art-deco design in metallique with Judy Garland's signature on the reverse. She is considered to be one of the greatest female stars in the history of American cinema. In 1938, at the age of 16, she was cast in the lead role of Dorothy Gale in *The Wizard of Oz*.

Classified Ads



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 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

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.Burkklburk@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 Pyrotjip@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.

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

NEXT ISSUE: Jan 15, 2025
SEND ADS BY: Dec 20, 2024
OTLSNEWS101@GMAIL.COM



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