



On The LIGHTER Side

July 15, 2014

Vol. XXXI, No. 4

And Now A Word From Your Editor

Richard Weinstein

Here we are, almost 6 weeks since the convention, and this issue will contain some of the highlights. We have many photos for you to see and of course, great articles to read.



Please read the Chairman's and President's message. There is important information there that affects all of us. Being a club means we all share in keeping it going.

Remember, that your newsletter has a classified section so use it! Send us your ads so other members can see what you are looking for or looking to sell.

FYI, there are only 10 Convention lighters left for sale so if you have not made your purchase, we suggest ordering soon. When they are sold out, there will be none available.

Since there is much content in this issue, let's get right to it.

Until September,

Rich

Chairman's Message:

Although I no longer smoke, I am tempted to draw on a cigarette in the warm afterglow of the last convention as I am drained.

As a seasoned attendee, my expectations for obtaining lighters for my collection are modest but my fun expectations are high. In both departments

my expectations were exceeded. I have made it a personal goal to do more trading with members rather than simply exchanging money. My top acquisitions were all accomplished via trades. I am now the proud owner of a spectacular aluminum pistol lighter courtesy of Bob Rogers. Two exquisite Lancel pocket lighters did the trick. From Richie Weinstein, I am adding the Ronson golfer striker whose body and head replicate a golf ball with the "head" topped by a Tam O'Shanter. As he is an avowed collector of Ronson Perfu-mist atomizers, my trade bait was a sterling silver glass-fired enameled specimen. Vince Brascia tempted me with a Sterling silver Eterna watch lighter and an interesting Scripto. In turn, he pulled a MIB Zippo with celebrity connections and one or two other lighter whose details escape me. These are the types of lighters one can find and obtain at our convention without dipping into one's pocket.

On the other hand, I sold several lighters to 3 of our first-time attendees. I believe both sides were satisfied with the results. Included in my overall sales were several MIB Zippos, a rare Ronson elephant striker (the wand sits on the back of the elephant), an Evans nude holding the fitment above her head in a basket, an engraved his and hers boxed set of engraved Zippo type lighters, a number of colorful flat advertisers, a military Zippo and the list goes on. Happily, I bought lighters that I hope to resell and I sold lighters at a profit. All my goals were met.

I know I saw other watch lighters, nude table strikers that moved from Judith's table elsewhere, and a Baker's dozen of Sterling silver Italian enameled Zippo type lighters that were seen on Maya Rubin's table but only for a short time. I believe she did not take home a white Zippo refrigerator advertiser that she had also brought. There were wonderful For

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Chairman's Message:

(Continued from Page 1)

Show Only displays and you can see them in glorious color on our Facebook and website.

On the fun side, I can announce the results of the golf tournament. Don "Juan" Berger took home the carved wooden golfer for first place. Richie "did not cuss as much" Weinstein had no complaints for 2nd place. Tom "not the singer" Jones literally limped into 3rd place. I was a disgruntled 4th but regaled in tossing a sleeve of Lady golf balls to Ms. Ron Eyerkuss.



I am pleased to announce that we honored both Art Brooks and Rob Giaretta by presenting the Founders Award to them jointly. One of them is a computer geek and the other a nerd. I'll leave it to you to decide which is which. There was symmetry in acknowledging their massive contributions to our deepening entrée into cyberspace. Art, in particular wielded a hefty sledgehammer in building our presence on Facebook and Rob continues to maintain our website while growing its capabilities. We applaud them for their efforts to update our membership rosters, financial records, and the other data elements to which we will turn in our efforts to attract the younger generation. Sadly, this is an area that sorely needed tending but I'm glad to report that we are nearly home-free.

We are quite optimistic that definitive visual changes will be taking place to our internet look and we will be adding useful features.

I would like to give a special thank you to Greg Ryman for his contributions to the convention this year as well as his contributions over time, both monetarily and in sweat. His efforts are both seen and unseen. Greg is one of the very earliest members and he has been a rock in handling any request given to him. Aside from dispensing back issues, he has made calls to

members on our behalf and done chauffeuring, clerical duties, and convention booze runs on our behalf. All these tasks have assisted us immensely. It was so gratifying to see him at our convention once again. We hope his appearances will become steady. For those of you who were not aware, Greg is a member of Cursors Anonymous and we are most appreciative that he did not fall off the wagon during the convention. I only wish I could say the same of myself (especially on the golf course).

I'd also like to acknowledge the invaluable services of Tom Jones who has faithfully processed all the club lighter purchases year after year. I can't give an exact date because it has been so long. It might have been even before Tom started on Viagra. He says he takes it to improve his memory and everyone agrees there would be no other reason. However, the results have been far from satisfactory. The next time you have occasion to contact Tom or you are placing a club lighter order, please give him a big thank you (even if he won't remember).

I heard that someone won over a \$1000 on a slot machine. It is unclear if they went home with those winnings but it is certain they didn't spend any at my table.

The auction was very well received and Linda Meabon dug up some terrific donations including a 1960's era unused decal of a Zippo roughly 12 x 18 inches with a shimmering chrome-like effect. Another highlight was a set of the original spindles surrounding the former repair shop that were cut-down from 32 posts to create 64 free-standing pedestals. They are affixed with custom holders for both an explanatory booklet and a 1941 replica commemorative Zippo. (Only Linda could have brainstormed that idea). Had you attended, you could have unsuccessfully attempted to outbid me. (So sorry Greg ... not really)

We would also like to express our gratitude to Vicki of ZEN (Zippo Enthusiast Network) for her valuable contributions to our auction, including a spectacular Zippo designed by David Yellowhorse, a well-regarded Navajo artist. It is a sobering reminder of how much the lighter clubs support each other. If you are a Zippo collector, I urge you to consider her club and to browse her site with a view to purchase her uniquely designed Zippo lighters.

If you missed this year, I hope I have primed you for next year. Stay tuned for date and location.

Guy Nishida

A Message From Your President

Art Brooks

The convention is discussed in other articles in this edition of the Newsletter so about the only thing I have to add is that we, my wife and I had a great time and consider it a huge success. I was able to pick up several art deco girl striker lighters. Photos have been posted on Facebook. Thanks again Judith.

Rob Giaretta and I were honored to be presented the Founders Award. I am personally humbled to be recognized by this award especially considering all those great folks who have preceded us and their contributions to OTLS (our club).

With that in mind, it is “Our Club”. It is what we as members make it. We could use more support from members writing articles for the Newsletter - Even something as simple as a photograph with a short paragraph as to why you like it.

Our Facebook page continues to grow at a respectable pace. My last report on May 3 showed we had 314 followers or people who have liked our page. As of July 11 that number has grown to 361. Of the 361 there are no more than 20 people who are actual OTLS Club Members. The challenge going forward is, how do we convert the Facebook followers into club members? There are a very large number of lighter collectors out there who are not members of any clubs.

The most viewed post was a photo from the convention stating “Linda selling Zippo’s like crazy”. This post alone reached 766 people. This is where friends of friends come into play. You can view additional photos from the convention by visiting our Facebook page.

If you are a Facebook member, in the search bar on your page, search for OTLS Cigarette Lighter Collector Club, when it comes up hit the link and it will take you to our page. Once there be sure to hit the “Like” button just below the cover photo at the top of the page on the right. Also pick a photo you like and hit the “share” button just below and it will allow you to post the photo on your page or timeline or one of your Facebook friends page. This sharing is what increases our exposure. If you are not on Facebook you can Google OTLS Cigarette Lighter

Collector Club and look for the result that says Facebook, click the link and you can visit and view our page along with posts and photos. I you have any comments, questions or suggestions on what we can do to improve the page, feel free to contact me at caymus99@sbcglobal.net.

2014 Convention Highlights

by Judith Sanders

Thursday morning was the “official” golf tournament, headed up by Guy Nishida. You can read about that in another section of this issue.

Thursday evening was the beginning of the convention with our annual “Get Acquainted Party and Registration. We were very pleased this year to have several new members, and also some members who had not been to a convention in a while. After the registration and a few drinks, we had a small auction. Zippo had sent some fun items for this smaller auction, and although the bidding started off slow, it picked up with a few lively battles over some items! We always appreciate all the items Zippo donates to our auctions. Friday morning bright & early everyone converged on the Display Room. Some members couldn’t decide if they wanted to unpack or run around the room looking at what was being unpacked somewhere else! Then the sales & trading began! I love hearing “you want HOW MUCH for that lighter” - everyone always seems to think the room is full of sales prices - wrong! But it is all in good fun.

I definitely want to mention our new members in attendance because we are always pleased to have someone new at the convention, but especially a new member. Ramzi Bader, who only joined a couple of months ago, had some great pictures on his phone to show us. Carla Casler, her son Nathan Casler and his wife Christina Twal were especially glad to meet all of us. Carla is the daughter of our beloved Lou Long, and Nathan his grandson. So Nathan has a good start to his lighter collection. Lisa Christian is from Texas and this was her first time to meet some of the members. She was a big help taking photos, watching my table when I had to be gone. Thanks Lisa for all your help!

And although not new members, we were very pleased to have Greg Ryman, Bob & Nick Rogers

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2014 Convention Highlights

(Continued from Page 3)

and Maya Rubin with us after a long absence. And of course everyone else that came to the convention!

Friday afternoon was the beginning of the sale of a small collection, and a lot of great door prizes.

Saturday morning it all started again.... And I got my first lighter as a gift from Greg Ryman - it is a Clearfloat with a Genie inside (you all know I love people lighters). Thanks Greg!

You probably remember that Zippo was opening a new store in Las Vegas. So Linda Meabon had passed out info about our show to a few people. So on Sat. we got some visitors from around town. Also brand new member Jay Church stopped in to meet everyone and buy some lighters. Jay had some great photos on his cell phone, including some from Takashi Fujii's shop in Japan - Jay was in Takashi's shop just 2 weeks ago! That was fun - talk about a small world.

Saturday evening was our dinner and auction. Everyone said they liked the food this year. Usually every year most people like the food but for some reason this year several people actually mentioned how good it was - that was good!

After dinner Guy Nishida presented the Founders' Award. See article about the Founders Award later in the newsletter. Then we moved on to our annual auction. There were some great items in the auction this year, all which were contributed by various members. We especially want to thank Hiroshi Kohara, John Cinelli, Ed Pinedo, and Zippo Manufacturing for the items donated to our Sat. auction, along with all our convention Sponsors who made contributions to this convention. And, of course, thanks to all the members in the room who made the effort to donate something to our auction!

One of the highly contested auction was for an old Zippo sign Linda had found in a closet at Zippo, which sold for over \$100. Also Vickie at ZEN donated a "David Yellowhorse Zippo", which sold for \$150; the Zippo Repair Clinic Zippo (see May newsletter) with original spindles sold for \$150, the Sterling Convention Lighter sold for \$230, and that is just a few of the high dollar items sold Sat. night.

For a number of years, on Sunday night the ones of us who are still at the hotel go to dinner together. This year we had Ramzi Bader, Vince & Kara Brascia, Al Grosskopf and me. Rob Giarretta stopped by for a minute but was off to a show. We always have fun at the Sunday night dinner talking about the show!

SOME SPECIAL THANKS!

THANKS to Rich Weinstein, Guy Nishida & Greg Ryman for their help to Judith. THANKS to Bob Beyers for allowing us to ship boxes to him once again! THANKS to Greg Ryman for buying supplies for the OTLS Suite. THANKS to all of our Sponsors who once again helped make this a great convention. And last but far from least THANKS to everyone who attended! We can't have the conventions without all of you!

CONVENTION PHOTOS



Purusing the auction table



So, when is the card game?



Happy hour / meet & greet

MORE CONVENTION PHOTOS



Our new member Ramzi with Urban



Dani and Maya catching up



The Gynes's setting up



Maya and her beautiful lighters!



Some of Bob Rogers great show pieces



The Brascia's



Bob Beyers Military Zippo's



Al Grosskopf's fine looking table



Amelia Cornelius minding the store!



Our Chairman and Judith having a moment!



The 3 Amigos deciding if it's really Ronson?



Ramzi and Art making a deal!

MORE CONVENTION PHOTOS



George's Great Ronsos



A group hug



Carla, Nathan and Christina



A fine looking table at the Saturday dinner



Everyone deciding what to bid on



A great big smile from our new member Lisa



Linda Meabon discussing one of the Zippo contributions



Ron Eyerkuss having fun auctioneering!



Judith, Greg and Ramzi



What do you think Tom is measuring?



Smoke break for Linda & Peggy!



Rob and Ron checking auction results.

Show and Tell ... Bob Gamboni

It's always a bit of a thrill to see a desirable lighter in a book, in a club newsletter, on eBay, etc. that I have not seen before. We've all had this experience. It's especially wonderful when you find a nice lighter you've not seen before that you can actually add to your own collection. The lighters discussed below fall into this category for me. But first, I would like to show and tell about two lighters in my collection pertinent to prior articles I wrote for this newsletter.

The first is a gold filled grater made in Germany. This is a very well made and refined lighter. It works the same way as the Halley described in my article on 'Graters'. It is marked 'DRGM' on the side of one of the arms that pull the file forward. Also, the ring on the fuel screw is marked 'Germany' and 'Gold Filled', both difficult to read without magnification. I like the nicely engraved initials on the side of the lighter. I think gold filled graters are rare. Second, is my favorite Evans glass-enameled lighter, a Roller Bearing. It has a lovely blue enameled floral design as you can see. What makes this lighter so special is that it is made of gold plated brass. Thus, the 'ears' are sturdy and 100% intact unlike Roller Bearing models with ears made of pot metal which are often somewhat deteriorated when found. This is a beautiful and rare Evans, the only example of this type I and other collectors I know are aware of.

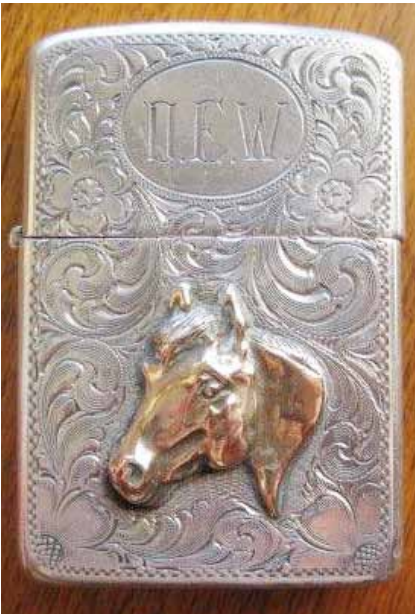


Since retiring about ten years ago, I have been spending a few months each winter in Florida where I devote a lot of time cruising the flea markets and antique shows, of which there are many, looking for lighters. Invariably, I end up with some great lighter finds. My best find last winter was a Central American silver and gold lighter with a motorcycle racer on the front. A motorcycle racer on this type of lighter is very unusual and may have been custom made for a motorcyclist whose initials, DVK, are on the back of the lighter. You can see the maker's marks in my photo of the bottom of the lighter. It was made in Guatemala probably in the late 1940s, and is workshop signed (Joyeria, San Antonio). The case is .900 coin silver and the gold adornment is likely 10-14K. Central and South American Zippo-type lighters usually have traditional cultural designs on them, as on the other two lighters shown here. The lighter with the engraved designs front and back is Peruvian, marked 'Industria Peruana', while the other is Guatemalan or Mexican, I believe, but unmarked. Also, as noted in the recent article by George Gynes, sterling Zippo lighters have been modified in the after-market by artists to have a look like the lighters mentioned above. I've included here photos of one in my collection adorned by a horse. I don't know who the artist was, but the engraving is some of the best I've seen.



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Show and Tell ... Bob Gamboni
(Continued from Page 7)



Before I end this article, I feel compelled to include a few additional Zippos. First is a 1973 Busch Gardens (BG) Zippo I acquired in FL from a retired VP of Merchandise for BG. He told me this 'Friendly Eagle' Zippo was a prototype that never received the 'go-ahead' for production from BG. Last, the 1947 and the 1936 Zippos can speak for themselves. I just want to say that I don't think the brass-finished Zippo was ever plated.



The Bottle Lamp Lighter

By Art Brooks

The latest addition to my bottle lighter collection is the Bottle Lamp Lighter recently acquired. It is a very nice piece and I have never seen one quite like it before. Below is the description as written by the previous owner.

“This is an early and rare writers or travelers pocket lamp combined with a lighter.

Probably dating circa 1920, this has some distinctive feature.

The lighter is contained in the bottom of what appears to be a champagne bottle styled metal shape. The top has two removable caps. The first exposes a lamp wick that looks like it served as a long use lamp when engaged that way. When this cap is removed, a cork is found that seals a small glass bottle hidden inside the upper portion of the lamp.

It appears that the lighter could be used by itself and refueled by uncorking the bottle and pouring some lighter fluid into the lighter. Additionally, if the cork was removed and the cap that has the wick is put back on, it would become a lantern type of lamp, remaining lit for a longer duration.

Once the use was finished, the cork could be replaced and the top cap would seal the lamp for future readiness. Construction is from brass that has nickel plating and the caps appear to be brass plated. There is a brass plate that may have once been marked in some way but nothing remains indicating the origin or maker.

Measuring Approx. 3-3/4” tall, I would have to rate it in very good vintage condition. General surface wear, commensurate with age.”

As stated in the owners description, it has no markings. I would like to know if anyone out there has seen this Bottle Lamp Lighter before and has any other information they can share about it. If so please contact me at caymus99@sbcglobal.net



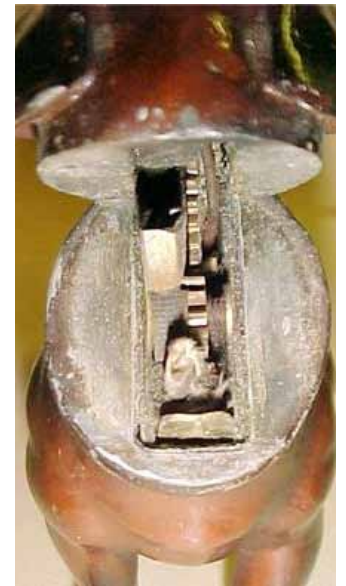
The Tale of Two Dachshund Lighters; Ronson Striker and an H.W.

by George Gynes

Now here is a pair to draw to! These two eye-catching lighters look identical, but you are not seeing double. Yes, one of them is the coveted Dachshund Dog Striker that was created by the Ronson Company. It is often referred to as the “Doxie” and is figure 151 in Urban Cummings informative book: “Ronson the World’s Greatest Lighter”. However, the other one is the “mystery” lighter. It is identical in size and shape to the Ronson Doxie. But that is where the similarity ends. When the tail is pushed down, the head pops back automatically and sparks fly to ignite the wick. The mechanism looks identical to the H.W. Emperor model. H.W. was a German Company, founded by G.F. Hofmann and N. Wild in 1912. They were one of the first companies to perfect the “Automatic”, top loaded flint, system. (The system later made popular by the Thorens Lighters.) Now that poses a bit of a dilemma. Ronson was well known to vigorously protect its patents. However, the Ronson Doxie Striker was first produced in 1940. By then, none of the lighter makers that produced the “Automatic” style lighters, were making them. So once again, I will state that the two lighters are identical in size and their visual detail, except that the H.W. Doggie has glass eyes. It also has a mark on its belly that I could not identify. I got a good picture of it and it looks like a Rabbit inside a triangle, with the words “patent” below it. If anyone can recognize the logo, I would appreciate the information. These two great pieces are large lighters, nearly 10 inches long from the nose to the tip of the tail. The Ronson is a bit heavier, weighing around 2 pounds. The German lighter is one pound

Incidentally, this is not the first Ronson lighter that had an uncanny resemblance to a previous piece: I have a “Tipperary Pup” (Figure 152) in Urban’s book) that is marked on the bottom of the foot: “Copyright 1914 – H. Elliott” (Just as the one noted in the book). It would certainly be a worthwhile and interesting read, to find to correspondence that may have taken place between the lighter makers of that time!

Happy lighter hunting to all. George



A Presidential Mystery

by John Cornelius

Seeing all the friends at the convention is great fun. While at check in, Liam Oakley came by. Since our room would not be ready for a couple of hours, we all decide to go to the bar. Of course, the conversation quickly proceeded to the question “What did you bring?” To which Liam said that he brought an interesting one in particular for me.



I was quite pleased to see a Lektrolite in a package that I have not before seen and immediately began pulling items out for closer look. One of the items was an envelope that had gentleman’s name... apparently this had been a gift. I sat this aside and involved myself with the unusual fuel canister, lighter, and the brochures.

Liam is getting a bit fidgety and tells me to look in the envelope, as this is where the real interest lies.



I stared for a while trying to make sense of the gift card. Liam, thinks me a bit daft, as he believes this to be the President of the US during WWII. And tells me this.

Well of course this is not the case as it says Theo, not Franklin. Theodore was also a President...but was definitely not married to Eleanor. And, Lektrolite’s 1933 patented appears on the lighter. President “Teddy” died in 1919.

So perhaps not Presidential, but a mystery just the same. Who were these people?

Now for a bit of conjecture, ‘cause I don’t have hard facts beyond what is pictured. My candidates for Eleanor and Theo are Theodore Roosevelt III (called Theodore Jr.) and Eleanor Butler Alexander who were married in 1910.



Theo served as Asst. Secretary of the Navy, Governor of Puerto Rico, Governor-General of the Philippines and Veteran of WWI and WWII, where he was the only General to actually land on the beach and lead his troops on D-Day. He died of a heart attack on duty in 1945.

Almost all Internet searches for Charles Kettaneh led to the Kettaneh Group, founded in Lebanon in 1922 by four brothers. One being named Charles. In the initial years the company was focused upon bring US companies to the Middle East and became the sole distributor of many US brands within the region. The company remains in business today chaired by Nabil, the son of Charles Kettaneh.

Not so far fetched to believe that a prominent businessman involved in the import of US products may have somehow known the Roosevelt’s.

A nice story that maintains a presidential connection that makes my lighter better than the average Lektrolite. But, I thought it very COOL to begin with.

EVEN MORE CONVENTION PHOTOS



We even had music this year by John C.



A most beautiful array of Italian Enamel from Maya.



Only at a lighter show can you find such an array!



Good Night Everyone, till next year!

In Memory of a Friend

IN MEMORY OF WES HART

Please join us in keeping Elaine Hart in our thoughts after the loss of her husband, Wes Hart. Wes and Elaine have been members of the lighter community for many years. Tom Prylinski sent a message saying "He will be deeply missed to all who knew him and his family". And I know you all agree with these thoughts.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE: Helios Lighter (Made in Bradford PA). The rare color of blue. I think these lighters are bakelite but if not, please correct me. Excellent cond. \$100 (postage paid). As with all my personal sales, if you aren't happy with the lighter, you can return it for a full refund. Judith Sanders otls@suddenlink.net or call 903.763.2795

For Sale: 1988 OTLS Convention - Lighter (from the 2nd Conv.). Only 44 of these were presented by Zippo that year. This lighter belongs to a long time member of OTLS & I am selling it for him. Best offer over his "reserve". Judith Sanders email otls@suddenlink.net or call 903.763.2795

WANTED - Lucite bottles with a liquor bottle encased within. Scriptos with a date on the insert or an event that can be dated. Deco period and interesting mechanism lighters. Turn-of-the-century pieces. Lighters with unusual features. Flat advertisers in excellent to MIB condition. Must have graphics. Better grade smoking pipes, no burnouts or cracks. Willing to buy or trade from extensive inventory. If I don't have it, I can probably get it. Call Guy 310 804-4899 or email photos: btrade@ca.rr.com

**NEXT ISSUE September 2014.
SEND ADS BY August 20, 2014.**



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Judith Sanders

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Art Brooks	Director of Social Media
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**OTLS
3450 ASHEVILLE HIGHWAY
HENDERSONVILLE, NC 28791
WWW.OTLS.COM**