



**Volume 18 • Number 2 • May 2019**

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Welcome to *Nib Noise*. I hope you'll enjoy reading this month's issue.

*PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS NEWSLETTER!*

The robot that sends it out can't read. If you have comments or questions, send email to:

[richard@richardspens.com](mailto:richard@richardspens.com)

To subscribe or unsubscribe, please visit the Free Email Newsletter page on my site:

<http://www.richardspens.com/?info=nibnoise>

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## **Thank You!**

Last month's issue of *Nib Noise* was the first ever that wasn't boring old plain text. Since I sent it out, I've received several email messages remarking on the new format. To all who have written, thank you! One person asked if I couldn't make the text bigger to assist those with vision issues. To that person, I offer my apologies, but for now, at least, you will need to use the accessibility features built into your computer or device.

I appreciate the feedback, all of it. Keep it coming.

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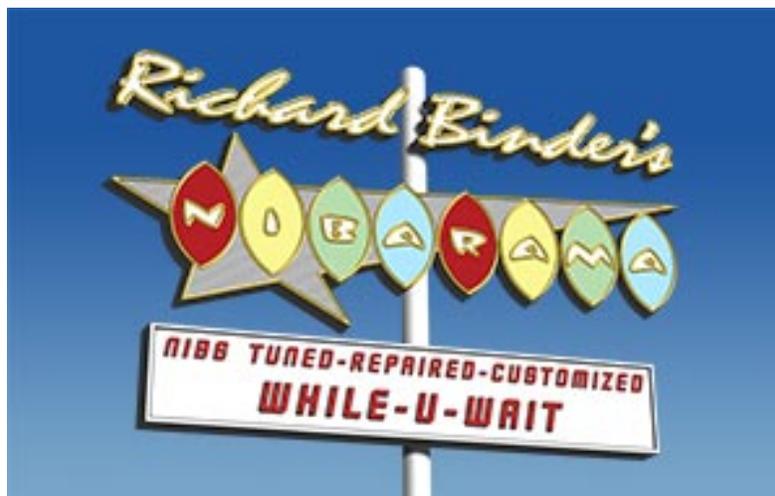
## **At the Chicago Pen Show**



# 2019 Chicago Pen Show

The Chicago show happens this weekend, starting on Thursday, May 2 and running through Sunday, May 5, and we are there! If you are in the area, it's not too late to plan a day sharing pens and pen information with others like yourself. Come on out to the Chicago Marriott Northwest in Hoffman Estates.

I'll be working on nibs, adjusting, repairing, and customizing. Look for my banner on the wall in the foyer:



Don't forget to read our "Table Talk" FAQ to learn how we operate at a show. (If we saw you in 2003, it's not the same as it was then!)

<http://www.richardspens.com/?info=shows>

For more information, visit the show's website:

<http://www.chicagopenshow.com/>

We hope to see you this weekend!

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## **Nib Workshop Reminder**



As I announced last month, I will be giving my hands-on nib smoothing seminar this weekend. It happens Sunday morning, beginning promptly at 8:30 a.m.

We will have space for 16 hands-on participants. You must register in advance. Registration for this workshop will open at 9:00 a.m. Eastern time on Friday, April 19, 2019, on this Web page:

<http://www.richardspens.com/?page=workshop>

Your prepaid \$20.00 materials fee will cover the cost of the tools, supplies, and pens you will use. You'll also need to bring a good-quality loupe. I recommend a 10× unlighted loupe for this task. (If you bring a lighted loupe, I'll just tell you to leave it switched off.)

If you won't be a registered participant you are still welcome to audit the workshop. We'll have extra copies of the handout for you, and we'll take questions from auditors just as from paid participants. If you decide after the workshop that you'd like to try working with your own pens, Mike and Linda at Indy-Pen-Dance will have complete kits of the workshop materials for sale at their table.

For those of you who can't make it this weekend but will be at the St. Louis show next month, I will be giving the same workshop there.

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## **Meet Me in St. Louis**

It's a 1944 MGM musical starring Judy Garland. But that was 75 years ago. This year, it's a pen show! The Second Annual St. Louis Pen Show will be happening from June 21 to June 23. And we will be there. Last year's inaugural show was spectacular, and we're expecting another wonderful show with a chance to meet many of our Midwest friends who just can't make it farther east. A squad of highly qualified repairers will be in evidence in the persons of Mike Kennedy, Joel Hamilton, Sherrell Tyree, and others. I will be working on nibs, and nib worker Linda Kennedy, my former student and now a pro in her own right, will also be there.

Find out more about the show — and make your reservations today! For more information, visit the show's site:

<http://www.stlpenshow.com/>

The list of exhibitors who have registered is amazing! We look forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones. We hope to see you there!

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## A Tray, a Tray, My Kingdom for a Tray

Because my pen collection is getting a little overweight, I will put a real honest-to-goodness tray in the June *Nib Noise*, which I will publish at 10 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on Saturday, June 1. *Nib Noise* will contain descriptions; this tray will not be on my website, Facebook, or anywhere else until you have had your chance to look and buy. Payment by PayPal to my email address **richard@richardspens.com** only, please. We cannot accept checks or credit cards.

Please note, this will *not* be a monthly tray. It's a one-time deal, although there may be more one-time deals like it in the future.

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## The Glossopedia

With more than 1,600 definitions and descriptions, more than 950 illustrations, and more than 2,150 cross-references, the RichardsPens Glossopedia is the most comprehensive resource of its kind anywhere. Each month, *Nib Noise* includes a randomly chosen Glossopedia entry.

**engraved.** Decorated by the removal of material in an attractive design, generally by the use of a sharp scriber or similar tool. In reference to writing instruments, usually used to indicate the application of a person's name or initials, or a personalized dedication. The indicia of the Sheaffer's Tuckaway shown here is engraved with the owner's name, Zenobia. See also autograph (definition 1), chased, crosshatched, etched, guilloché, hand engraved, indicia, roll engraving.



To immerse yourself in the Glossopedia, follow this link:

<http://www.richardspens.com/?gloss=>

If you would like to suggest an entry for the Glossopedia, you are most welcome to do so. Send an email to me at this address:

[richard@richardspens.com](mailto:richard@richardspens.com)

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## **Broad Strokes**

When you're famous, it's easy to think everyone knows all about you. That isn't always so, however, and this month I'm proving it with a profile of the incomparable Parker 75. In its time, the 75 was the "World's Most Wanted Pen," and with good reason. But I'm betting that you will find at least one thing you never knew about this wonderful pen in my profile.



<http://www.richardspens.com/?prof=75>



To help you find reference articles on my site that have been edited recently, there is a handy heading right at the top of the reference index, listing the five most recently added or edited reference pages.

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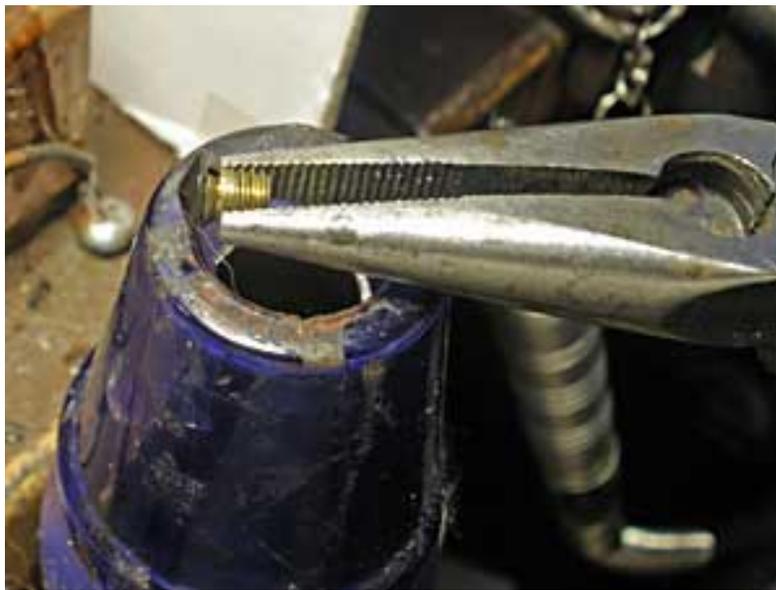
## **The Pen Doctor**

The Pen Doctor is a regular visitor to the Nashua Pen Spa, and every so often he puts a few prescriptions up in our site's reference section. Each month (except when I forget), I'll be reprinting one of his prescriptions here.

**Q: Help! This is the second “51” I’ve had where the cap jewel was almost impossible to get out, and when it did come out the jewel was stuck in the brass bushing and they came out together. The first time, I broke the jewel off**

**its shank trying to get it out of the bushing. Is there a good way to do this?**

**Rx:** All you need is serrated-nose pliers and a heat gun. Grasp the bushing endwise in the pliers as shown in the photo below. Turn on the heat gun and position the pliers with the bushing and jewel as shown. With the bushing placed this way, the pliers won't eat the threads on the bushing; and because the celluloid jewel is not in the hot air blast, it's not likely to burst into flame.



Every few seconds, remove from the heat and gently try to unscrew the jewel from the bushing. When it's warm enough, it will come out. (Leave it over the heat too long, and you could still have to put out a fire, so lean toward caution.) Use a brass-bristle brush to brush the shellac off the shank threads, and you're golden.

This technique works exactly the same for the jewels in most Vacumatics. (A few lower-end Vacs have a jewel with a wider shank and no brass bushing.)



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