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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 refuses to learn to read. If you have comments or questions, send email to:

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

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



It's November. Here we are in the middle of autumn, and stores are already shifting out Thanksgiving decorations and busily stocking their shelves with Christmas stuff. I saw a Lowe's ad on TV at our hotel this morning, selling fake Christmas trees. I really wish they'd have more respect for the next upcoming holiday instead of going after the one that won't be here for two months, but what it is, is what it is. For now, in this month of Thanksgiving, I'm thankful for my family. As for you, my loyal readers, I may never meet you, but I think of you as family, and I thank you for being an important part of my life.

### **It's Showtime!**

Our "next" pen show is now. It's the 25th Annual Ohio Pen Show at the Crowne Plaza Dublin Hotel in Dublin, Ohio, and Barbara and I are there. Will we see you this weekend?

The Ohio Pen Show is one of the greatest shows on the circuit. It's famous all over the world for the quality and quantity of vintage pens that you'll see. Meet your fellow collectors in a warm and friendly atmosphere. There are extra events for weekend pass holders, including two, count 'em TWO, auctions, one on Thursday the 31st and the big one on Saturday the 2nd. Oh, and did I mention the wine and cheese party on Thursday and the pizza party on Friday? How about the dessert party on Saturday, just before the auction?

With Weekenders' events cranking up on Thursday (30 trading tables) and running all day Friday (160 tables), and two full public days on the weekend, this year's show will be the ideal way to make up your holiday wish list nice and early. As always, there will be exciting new products and all those vintage pens I mentioned, as well as that fabulous auction action. The Ohio show offers a grand time, and it's really not to be missed.

In case you haven't already made your reservation, Terry and his minions will be happy to sell you a Weekend Pass when you walk in the door on Friday, so you needn't miss out on the variety of evening events. There will also be also three-day general admission passes and three-day early admission passes available.

For much more information, visit the show's Web site:

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

If this will be your first-ever pen show, be sure to read my pen show virgin's guide:

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

Also, please read our "Table Talk" FAQ to learn how we operate at shows:

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

I will be working on nibs to improve or customize your writing experience, and Barbara will be juggling people to make sure I don't have time to go on a buying spree.

We can accept your MasterCard, VISA, American Express, or Discover card — but some of the vintage dealers are hobbyists who can handle only cash, so be sure to

bring some (cash, that is) or note the location of the ATM in the hotel lobby.

If you have pens that need repairs other than nib work, you can hand them to any of the several repairers who will be working at the show. We recommend Mike and Linda Kennedy of Indy-Pen-Dance, Martin Ferguson of Martin's Pens 51, or Ron Zorn of Main Street Pens.

We look forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones. We'll be there all day. Will we see *you* at our table? (If you won't have any pens for me to work on, please do feel free to stop by anyway and at least say hello!)

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### **Reminder: I'll Be Running a Nib Smoothing Workshop Sunday Morning at the Ohio Show.**



Able seconded by Linda Kennedy of Indy-Pen-Dance (eighth-year protégée) and Brian Gray of the Edison Pen Company (fourth-year protégé), I will be giving my hands-on nib smoothing workshop at the Ohio show. It happens Sunday morning, beginning promptly at 8:30, and I've extended the length to two hours so that I can include more teaching and guidance time. Attendance for hands-on guidance is limited to 16 registered participants, and it's already been filled, but 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 to use with the handout you pick up at the workshop.

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### **Nest Year**

After this weekend, we'll get to stay at home until late February, when we begin our annual show circuit anew with the Baltimore-Washington International Pen Show. But that's far enough away that I don't need to bother you about it yet.

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### **Broad Strokes**

In keeping with my November theme of being thankful for family, I was recently reminded of a short story I wrote some time ago, called "Pen Pals." It's a story about family, not about fountain pens, but pens — which are the most personal accessory we can own — are an essential part of it. If you haven't read it before, I hope you will enjoy it. If you have read it before, check out the new pictures.

<http://www.richardspens.com/?writ=penpals>

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### **The Glossopedia**

With more than 1,475 entries comprising (with subentries) more than 1,625 individual terms, more than 950 illustrations, more than 190 patent citations linked to their respective patent documents at various archives, and extensive cross-references, the RichardsPens Glossopedia is the most comprehensive resource of its kind anywhere. Each month, *Nib Noise* includes a randomly chosen Glossopedia entry.

**Zephyr**      A lever-filling bottom-line pen model (properly the Parkette Zephyr) produced by Parker beginning in about 1940. See the illustration below. See also Parkette.



You can have your very own e-book copy of the Glossopedia. Just follow this link:

<http://www.richardspens.com/?bks=richard+glosso>

On that same page, you will find quite a few other books that I've written.

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)

During September and October, several reference pages received updates. 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. For edited pages, there are brief descriptions of what was changed.

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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 on my site. Each month (except when I forget), I'll be reprinting one of his prescriptions here.

**Q: As a brand-new pen aficionado with very little prior experience, I wonder, if you could tell me, whether a small ultra-sound cleaning unit is safe to use, when restoring older (Pelikan) pens. Which parts should definitely not be cleaned in this manner?**

**Rx:** Smaller, lower-powered ultrasonic cleaners such as the small imported unit I use, pictured here and sold by Micro-Mark, are very good for cleaning pens. Cleaners of the type you should use sell in the USA for prices in the range from about \$75.00 to \$150.00. Don't cheap out by buying a really, really low-priced unit; many of those bargain-basement cleaners don't actually run at ultrasonic frequencies. (A good cleaner runs at 40 KHz or higher.) Also, most have their controls in a hinged lid. The wires connecting the controls to the electronics pass through that hinge, and as the lid is opened and closed, they will eventually weaken and break.



I've experienced damage to parts with serious cracks; the cavitation from the cleaner is energetic enough to extend the cracks. Celluloid parts with surface crazing (actually a reticulation of tiny cracks) can blister if your cleaner is too powerful. Note that ultrasonic cleaning inputs energy into the cleaning fluid (water works for virtually everything!) and can eventually warm it. *Do not allow hard rubber parts to sit in warm water; they can discolor very quickly!*



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