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

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The robot that sends it out refuses to learn to read. If you have comments or questions, send email to:

richard@richardspens.com

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As March rolls in, I'm reminded of the time 79 years ago when America

extended a hand to countries around the world to forestall the triumph of hatred and tyranny. The Lend-Lease program, initiated in March 1941 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, provided much-needed arms and matériel to the free countries of Europe and Asia that were under threat of destruction by the forces of the Axis. We live in a much different world today, but we are still able to use and appreciate the pens of those years, such as this Lend-Lease Morrison Patriot, produce to honor the bond between American and Great Britain.

Charm City, Farewell!

As I write, we are in Baltimore, attending the Baltimore-Washington International Pen Show. This is one of the up-and-comingest shows in America, growing each year and drawing ever-increasing number of vendors and visitors. If you haven't been able to make it here this year, there's always 2021, and it might just not be too early to start planning for next year's show.

And One Week Later...

Our second show this year, only one week from now, will be the Long Island Pen Show. We have a few days to recover, and then we'll be off to Hempstead, Long Island. This show is a great place to reel in lots of New York-area vintage. Not too big and not too small, the show draws a good crowd of dealers and attendees, and it's getting better every year. In addition to a wide selection of pens for sale, a squad of highly qualified repairers and nib workers will be in evidence, some of whom are at Baltimore with us this weekend. Come on out to Hempstead on Saturday and Sunday, March 7 and 8, and visit the campus of Hofstra University. The show will be in the Multipurpose Room in the student center.

I'll be doing my thing with nibs, and Barbara will be making sure I keep my nose to the grindstone.. ***Please read our Table Talk FAQ.*** It's designed to make your time with us as enjoyable as possible and to treat everyone as

fairly as possible.

If you plan to come and haven't ever been to a show before, you might want to read my article on [Your First Pen Show](#).

For more information, visit the show's website.

We look forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones at both of these great shows. We hope to see you there!

BROAD STROKES

Objects made as souvenirs have probably been around since people began traveling for pleasure. Many, perhaps most, of these objects are tchochkes, made in China or some other faraway place that you have no plans ever to visit. It wasn't always this way. Back in the day, you could buy a good old American-made fountain pen in your favorite souvenir shop.



Check out the world of Souvenir Pens!

Japanese Pocket Pens Redux!

My year-long series of articles in PEN WORLD Magazine about Japanese pocket pens has finished. As soon as we get home from Long Island (think about two weeks from now), I will be publishing my ebook about these fascinating writing instruments. The book is more than twice as long as the series of articles, containing much more information and a significant number of added pens, as well as some updates and revisions of the articles' content. Check for it on my website's [Richard's Books](#) page, or watch for the

announcement on my RichardsPens Facebook Page.



By Don Fluckinger

Only one of my pens was used by Mia Hamm. And ironically, it wasn't my first-year Sheaffer Crest — a pen befitting an Olympic gold medalist — or one of my ornately patterned, sterling-capped "51"s. It wasn't the Vac with flexy nib, lovely transparency, and gold-filled triple cap bands.



The day the soccer star signed her autograph for me, those Cadillac pens were back at home. Hamm used the Ford Pinto of my collection, a workaday *c.* 1952 green plastic Sheaffer Admiral Snorkel.

From 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.

torpedo shaped A term describing a pen that is cylindrical in shape (not tapered or barrel-shaped) with one or both ends roundly streamlined. The classic torpedo shape is exemplified by Sheaffer's pens of the 1929-1941 period, as illustrated here by a *c.* 1934 Oversize Lifetime Balance in Marine Green Pearl. See also cigar shaped, Flat-Top.



If you would like to suggest an entry for the Glossopedia, I invite you to send an email to me at richard@richardspens.com with your proposed entry. If you don't have a definition for your entry, I'll do my best to find one.

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.

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: I recently put a new sac in a Sheaffer triumph-nib 1000 lever filler. The pen fills and functions well, but the lever is loose when in the closed position; it pivots about 1/8" and rattles when the pen is shaken. The pressure bar appears to be in good shape and tight to the barrel, though I have not taken it out of the pen yet. There is a bulge in the barrel where the lever ring is. My first question is what can be done about the lever, and second, can I eliminate the bulge?

Rx: The simplest thing to check is whether the pressure bar is really tight. This entails removing the pressure bar because Sheaffer pressure bars are compound bars but are made in one piece. (See the photo below.) The center "tongue," which runs from the front to the back, is the pressure bar, and the side tails are the spring. The tongue is the critical part, but it isn't the barrel that it needs to be tight against; rather it's the lever itself. You may need to try a couple of different bends, but the best results usually happen when the bar is straight and aligned properly.



But there is, as you may have surmised, more to it. The lever itself can be a problem if its short end, where it bears against the pressure bar, is worn. A

badly worn lever will have a pronounced rounding-off where it rubs the pressure bar. (See image below.) If it is worn, it may not bear fully on the bar, and this can cause a rattle.



I've saved the worst for last. That barrel bulge you noticed can be, and probably is, the root of your problem. When the barrel is bulged in this way, the lever is not seated as far into the barrel as it should be, and it doesn't bear on the pressure bar. It's possible to remove the bulge, but it's risky. You need to remove the lever and then apply carefully controlled heat to the barrel. The idea is to soften it just enough that you can gradually reshape it back into its original perfectly cylindrical shape; but it is not easy. Soften it too much, and you end up with a worse problem; soften it not enough, and nothing happens. Even with just the right amount of heat, you can still mess it up; among other pitfalls is the possibility that the groove into which the lever clip ring fits will simply collapse and leave a groove around the outside surface of the pen. If you do manage to get the bulge out, you should make a new clip ring using spring wire 0.005" smaller in diameter than the original to reduce the probability of a bulge in the future.



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