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

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richard@richardspens.com

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“Summertime, and the livin’ is easy.” Although we’re not free to socialize

the way we'd like, we can still dream about summer, and about that warm white sand Caribbean beach that nobody else knows about, right? The pen in this month's header photo just seems to belong with that beach. It's a blue Pilot pocket-pen demonstrator made in the spring of 1979. And you thought colored demonstrators were so twenty-first century, didn't you? This pen, which is somewhat unusual for a pocket pen because it has a plastic cap, also fits right in with my current fascination with pocket pens. For the past couple of months, I've been carrying the blue Platinum BelAge pocket pen shown below, and I can't remember any other pen since my sterling-capped double-jewel Blue Cedar Parker "51" that has been as pleasurable to write with.



Remember the Targa 1019 "Vintage" at the head of last month's *Nib Noise*? Well, I've had a Paul Harvey "R-r-r-rest of the Story" moment about that pen. (Remember Paul Harvey?) The friend to whom I traded the pen told me the rest of the story. It's short, and very, very sweet. It seems he didn't sell or trade the pen to Gary Ellison, he *gave* it to him. Why? Because my friend, whom I have always considered an amazing person, decided that given the pen's rarity and Gary's position in the pen world, that was the right thing to do.

Pen Shows and COVID-19

Don Fluckinger's *Extra Fine Points* piece this month was originally written in 2002, and you might not recognize any of the names he drops unless you've been in the hobby as long as Don and I have, but what he says should

still serve as a reminder of, and motivation to attend, pen shows when we're released from our social-distancing regime.

Just to reinforce what you already know but might not want to believe, lifting the quarantine too soon would be disastrous. It happened in 1918, when World War I ended. People swarmed the streets and restaurants and bars to celebrate, and the second wave of influenza that followed killed more Americans than had been killed in the war. And it's happened again, in 2020. The Japanese island of Hokkaido (one of the four main islands) lifted the lockdown on March 13, when it looked as though the curve was declining. Bad mistake. Read the whole story.

Our Next Pen Show

As I said above, we don't know with any certainty when our next show will be, but we're staking our hopes on the Commonwealth Pen Show, which is scheduled for September 13. We'll know in plenty of time if it's not going to happen, but I prefer to think we'll be in better shape by then.

BROAD STROKES

If you're a regular visitor to my website, you might (or might not) have spent time in the section titled "Stories, *etc.*" For those who haven't yet fallen into that trap, I present "Eddie's Lesson," the first fiction piece I ever wrote about fountain pens. I was playing with blank verse when I wrote that story, and — as you will see — I couldn't resist the opportunity to try it out with a real story. I hope you'll enjoy "Eddie's Lesson."

For something a little meatier, I've just finished a new repair article. If you work on Parker 75s and occasionally run into one with a totally clogged nib or a sprung nib, then this is for you. It describes how to make and use a tool designed for removing the nib from its feed.



By Don Fluckinger
August 2002

After the (Washington) D.C. Pen SuperShow, I was inspired to write about my experiences. But who wants to read another travel diary, or a long hip-hop-style “give a shout out to my friend Jimmy Tom from Can-a-daaah” laundry list of my peeps?

So, in everyone’s best interest, I’ll write about D.C. in that time-tested, entertaining, David Letterman “Top Ten List” format. Here we go!

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.

Engraved

Decorated by the removal of material in an attractive design, generally by the use of a sharp scribe 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.



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.

And if you don't think you can wait 122 years and eleven months to see the whole *Glossopedia* here, one entry at a time, you can easily jump the gun by purchasing your own copy in ebook form for Amazon's Kindle and Kindle app, Apple's Books app, or Barnes & Noble's NOOK and NOOK app. I just released the Fourth Edition this past month.

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 collect Israeli locally made pens. Some of them were made from low quality plastics, and I find many distortions, where the pen is not straight (it looks as like long radius bow). In other cases the pen and the cap have shrunk differently and it is almost impossible to screw the cap onto the body.

Could something be done to rectify this problem?

Rx: Yes and no. It's possible to repair some of these pens, but it's risky and not always guaranteed of success — especially if the pen is as seriously banana shaped as the one shown here. This is a task best left to experts. If you want to try it, however, I recommend starting on pens you really do not care about; you are almost certain to ruin several.



Disassemble the pen completely, removing all of the internal parts. Insert into the barrel a closely-fitting rod of a material that won't soften with heat and also won't absorb heat. Heat the entire barrel just enough that it barely begins to soften but not enough that it sags. Gently roll the barrel, using the rod inside it as a mandrel, on a smooth flat surface that will not absorb heat. Be careful of the threads as you do this! The barrel will cool rapidly; you may have to repeat the operation several times to get the part really straight. Repeat the heating and rolling process with the cap. When you're satisfied with the results, reassemble the pen.



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