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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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“There’s a bright golden haze on the meadow,

There's a bright golden haze on the meadow.
The corn is as high as a elephant's eye,
And it looks like it's climbing clear up to the sky..."

August is here, in all its hot, hot glory (except for the prospect of a little rain and wind from Hurricane Isaias). And yes, in the original 1943 production of *Oklahoma!* Alfred Drake, in the role of CurlyMcLain, did sing, "As high as a elephant's eye." The cornfield above is just seeing the rising sun, and it seems appropriate, with corn and the light so golden, to decorate with a trio of Mandarin Duofolds. From the top, we have a Duofold Jr., a standard Duofold, and a Duofold Special. The Duofold Special was the same diameter as the Duofold Jr., it was just stretched a bit for more comfort in a slightly larger hand. It even used the same cap as the Duofold Jr.

Here in New Hampshire, the corn is just coming in, and we can look forward to that wonderful corn chowder that grows only here in New England. There are things we can all do outside without risking infection, and just being in the fresh air for a little while can go far toward alleviating the symptoms of cabin fever.

For the evenings indoors, there are always your pens. I've never known a pen collector whose pens didn't need cleaning or tuning or just a quick rubdown to restore the new luster, and in support of my observation, the Pen Doctor is back for the second month in a row. Check out his prescriptions, and then find a pen that needs one or more of them.

Our Next Pen Show — and How to Have a Club Meeting Without Meeting

The Washington DC Fountain Pen Supershow, the Dallas Pen Show, the Triangle Pen Show, the San Francisco Pen Show, and the Commonwealth Pen Show have all been cancelled for this year. It's almost too much to hope that COVID-19 will let go in time for the Ohio Pen Show in November, but hoping is better than giving in to despair. If you want to get together with some other pen collectors like yourself, the best way to do it is virtually,

courtesy of Zoom or FaceTime. With a free Zoom account, you can have up to 100 users, but your meeting can be only 40 minutes long. (Close it down after 40 minutes, wait five minutes, and then restart.) FaceTime is for Apple users only, and it allows only 32 users in a chat, but it doesn't limit your time. Barbara and I won't be attending any more pen shows this year, and probably not in early 2021, either. Keep an eye on our site for details of when we'll be returning to the circuit.

BROAD STROKES



The Pen Doctor dropped in at the Nashua Pen Spa for the second month in a row, and he's left some useful new late-summer prescriptions to help ratchet down that cabin fever we're all feeling.



By Don Fluckinger

January 2003

There still remains the opportunity to collect less prestigious older pens, many of which are good and reliable and inexpensive. Don's taking us on a journey through a little of that territory. Is it a horror show, or is it "business as usual"?

The Joy of "Junk" (Part 2 of 2)

"One pen collector's nightmare is another's adventure: Taking 3 no-name pens on a 5,000-mile trip and doing real work with them."



From the *Glossopedia*

With more than 1,500 entries comprising (with subentries) more than 1,650 individual terms, more than 975 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.

JIS (Japanese Industrial Standards) A set of standards for industrial activities in Japan, promulgated in 1946 to supersede inadequate older standards, and enacted into law in 1949. Beginning in 1949, the JIS symbol has been applied to Japanese products to indicate certification, although some manufacturers did not begin marking their products until the early 1950s. Because certification is not free of cost, some manufacturers have never marked products not intended for export. ¶ The left-hand of the symbols below was the official mark until October 1, 2005, at which time the right-hand symbol replaced it. Manufacturers were given a three-year grace period for the changeover; thus, use of the older symbol was permitted until September 30, 2008. The current standard for fountain pens and nibs, JIS S 6025:2002, superseded JIS S 6616:1994 on January 20, 2002.



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 more than 125 years 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 past prescriptions here.

Q: **The piston in my Pelikan is tight, and I'm afraid I'll break something if I keep using it. Can I lubricate it? How?**

R: If the pen has a plastic piston seal (not a cork), you can lubricate it. You must first find some 100% silicone grease. In the U.S.A., this grease is sold for use by divers (to lubricate scuba gear) and by restaurateurs (to lubricate food processing equipment). Some online pen dealers also carry it. *Do not use any silicone grease that contains even the tiniest amount of petroleum distillates!*

To lubricate the piston, empty the pen completely and flush it with water until the ejecta are clear. Draw the piston back up, as if filling the pen, and remove the nib unit. Twist the corner of a paper towel into a point (often called a "twizzle"), insert it into the open end of the pen barrel, and use it to absorb any remaining droplets of water from the inside of the barrel. Put a tiny amount of grease on the end of a wooden toothpick or match. Insert the toothpick or match into the open end of the barrel, and apply the grease around the inside of the barrel as close to the piston as you can get it. Now run the piston down and back up a few times. It should move very easily after the first stroke. Reinstall the nib, fill the pen, and write!



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