



**Volume 20 • Number 9 • December 2021**

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

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This month is (or should be) a season of peace, joy, and good will to our fellow people, whoever or wherever they may be. On this December 1, we are in the first week of Advent, the Church season leading up to the Feast of Christmas, and the third day of Chanukah, a celebration of the rededication of the

Jerusalem Temple in 165 BCE. The writer whose desk we see in the photo above is sitting down to write Christmas post cards. The cards are a 1930s design reminiscent of Dickensian times, and the pen is a **Sheaffer/Zorn Connaisseur**. If that brand name strikes you as a little odd, it's probably because you don't yet know the fascinating story of Sheaffer's No Nonsense and Connaisseur models and how the names of Dan Reppert and Ron Zorn are inextricably intertwined with them.



There are other pens that a devoted fountain pen collector might use to write Christmas cards. Pretty much any Parker Big Red would fall into that class, but there are a couple of pens that fit perhaps a bit better than most others. Those are the first and last (and only) members of Sheaffer's annual "Holiday Originals" collection, the Holly Pen (1995) and the Snow Pen (1996). Sadly, Sheaffer didn't make any more pens in this series.



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## BROAD STROKES

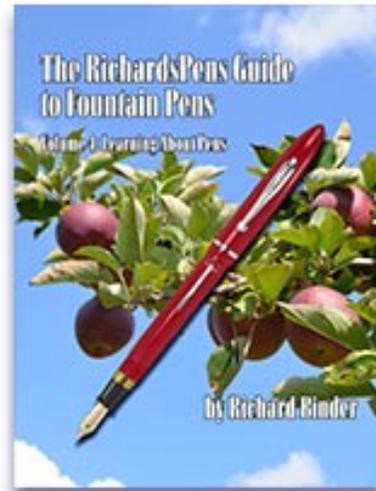
Last month another pen came my way that really needed to end up as an installment in my occasional series of Adventures in Pen Restoration. It was really my own fault. I had sold a pen that I hadn't made fully ready, and doggone if it didn't come back and bite me. But it's an interesting and unusual case, and I hope you'll enjoy seeing it — and maybe having a chuckle at my expense.



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## **My Books**

If you're seeking a gift for someone who's just begun to dabble in fountain pen collecting, think about *The RichardsPens Guide to Fountain pens, Volume 4: Learning About Pens*. Just right for a novice collector looking for lots of basic information in one place, it's available as an ebook for Amazon's Kindle and Kindle apps, Barnes & Noble's NOOK and NOOK apps, and Apple's Books on macOS, iOS, and iPodOS.



There's a complete listing of my books on my site, with direct links to the web pages where you can buy them for your own library.

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*By Don Fluckinger  
December 2004*

## **Modern Vintage Style**

*After several years of vintage militancy, I've warmed a little to modern pens again. Here are the best that caught my eye in this year's FPH catalog.*

Years ago, when Don first got into pen collecting, when the Fountain Pen Hospital catalog came, it was sort of a holiday in his house (and mine). Shown here are a Waterman Charleston and a Conklin Mark Twain Crescent-Filler. Since 2004, when Don wrote this month's Extra Fine, these two models have been discontinued, but there are still modern pens to be had out there—including Conklin Crescent-Fillers—that emulate their noble forebears.





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## From the *Glossopedia*

With more than 1,575 entries comprising (with subentries) nearly 1,750 individual terms, more than 1,000 illustrations, more than 200 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](#).



If you find low-level pens like the Parkette (Zephyr or otherwise) interesting, you might enjoy reading my full-length article on the Parkette.

If you would like to suggest an entry for the *Glossopedia*, I invite you to send an email to me at [richard@richardspens.com](mailto: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 131 years (note how this number keeps growing as new entries are added) to see the whole *Glossopedia* here, one entry at a time (if I don't slip up and repeat an entry or three), you can easily jump the gun by purchasing your own copy in ebook form. When I release the next edition, your ebook vendor will notify you (or make the update silently).

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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 past prescriptions here.

**Q:**

**I have a Waterman Charleston, which leaks between the section and the metal converter/cartridge holder. To me, it's a very odd leak. (It even took me a while to figure out why my hands were getting dirty!)**





A leak of the sort you describe can come from either of two causes:

First, damage to the plastic cartridge nipple in the section. This, the less likely of the two causes, requires replacement of the section; it means contacting Waterman Service and hoping they still have parts. If they do, they'll sell you a complete new section assembly, including the nib, and it won't be cheap. If they don't, you'll probably need to haunt eBay looking for a pen that you can cannibalize.

Second, wearing out of (or damage to) the converter's mouth where it fits over the nipple. This is a problem common to all cartridge/converter pens; it happens as the converter is removed and installed repeatedly. Look for splits, roughened edges, and so on. It's easy to fix, with a new converter.



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