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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 *Nib Noise* out refuses to learn to read. If you have comments or questions, send email to:

richard@richardspens.com

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Don't send email directly to me; the list is handled by a remote server.**



It's November. Halloween is over, and the dreariness of leafless trees on the horizon and piles of leaves on the ground is settling in. We learn, once again, that nothing lasts forever, except maybe the famous Wearever pens and pencils produced from 1896 to 1986 by David Kahn, Inc. Shown above is a Wearever Deluxe 100, fitted not with the brand's typical untipped steel nib of the interwar period, but rather featuring a "Reinforced Nib," patented by Norman E. Weigel in 1935. This nib, an attempt to use less gold while still providing a real gold nib instead of steel, was very successful. It started with a tipped 14K nib that was too small for the pen, and wrapped that nib in a stainless steel frame that supported it and provided the requisite strength. The assembled nib presented a remarkably stylish appearance, too:



Get Thee to a Pen Show!

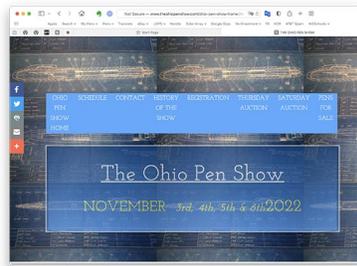
The Ohio Pen Show is happening *THIS WEEKEND!* Festivities crank up on Thursday, November 3, and close down Sunday afternoon, November 6.

Barbara and I will not be in attendance, as we have both acquired cases of COVID-19. We are not feeling particularly ill, but we are unwilling to risk spreading COVID to others. For obvious reasons, I have cancelled my nib smoothing workshop.

Mike and Linda Kennedy will be there, along with other workers, to repair and restore your pens and perfect your nibs, and if you'd like to try to learn some of the techniques I can't be there to teach, Mike and Linda will have for sale the kits that I use in my workshop, and you can download a copy of the handout notes.

Come on out to the Crowne Plaza Columbus North- Worthington, at 6500 Doubletree Avenue, in Columbus,, Ohio.

For more information, visit the [Ohio Pen Show's site](#).



FROM THE CRYPT

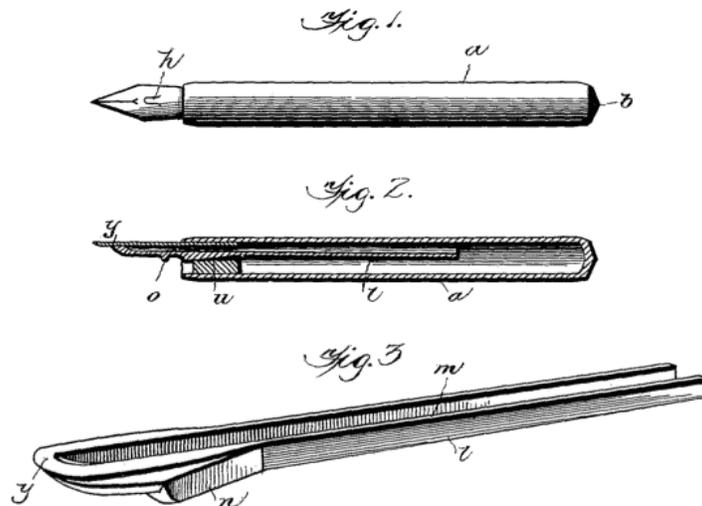
A decade ago, I wrote a series of seven quickie articles that I posted somewhere. The Internet being a graveyard, I've exhumed them, and I'll be running them here. Here's the third:

How Smart Was Jay Rider, Really?

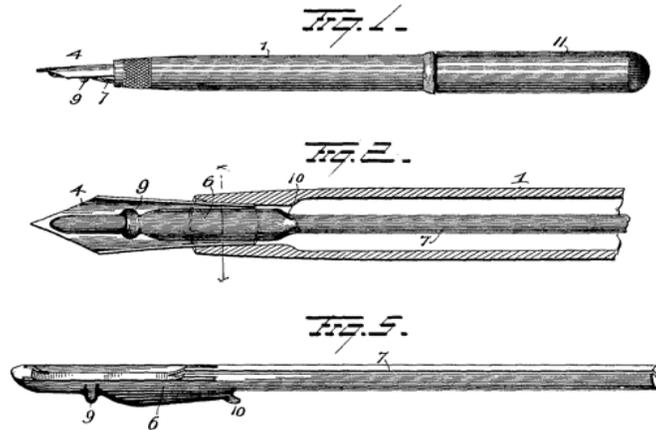
I've long admired the Rider "Perfection" pen, produced by the J. G. Rider Pen Company of Rockford, Illinois.



Based on U.S. Patent N° 737,920, awarded to Jay G. Rider on September 22, 1903, the pen was an eyedropper filler without a separate section. Instead, it had a special feed that was notched on the bottom so that you could use your fingernail or the pen's clip to pull the feed out, leaving the nib in place, to fill the pen. Here's the relevant patent drawing.



Well, my admiration is a little dimmed these days, I have to say. While I was doing some research this week on the Laughlin Manufacturing Company, I discovered a patent taken out by Joseph F. Betzler and assigned by him to James W. Laughlin. U.S. Patent N° 686,920, dated November 19, 1901, is in essence identical to Rider's later patent.



Laughlin never made pens to Betzler's patent, and now I wonder whether Rider might have seen it at some point, varying his design just enough that it would pass muster at the patent office.

BROAD STROKES

I've had Weavever pens on my mind for some time now, and I've finally gotten around to doing something about it. First, you might have noticed the short piece about the Deluxe 100 at the top of this newsletter, and second, I've written a profile of one of my favorite Weavevers. If you've followed me for very long, you know I'm a historian with a focus on World War II, and from the crucible of World War II came a new fountain pen that changed the way most pens were made. It was called the **Weavever Zenith**.



The Nib Noise Archive

For those who love delving into history, the *Nib Noise Archive* is on line.

PEN WORLD and Me

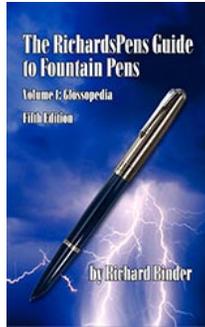
Part I of my new series for *PEN WORLD* Magazine was published last month, and Part II is slated for December. This is a two-parter, stepping back 25 years in time from my obsession with World War II to look at the trench pens of the Great War.



If you don't already subscribe to *PEN WORLD*, I recommend it as good reading and an excellent way to keep abreast with what's going on in the (pun intended) pen world. Print editions are available by subscription or on newsstands, and digital editions are available by subscription. Back issues are available.

My Books

Recently, I published the *Fifth Edition* of my *Glossopedia*. The new edition is available from Apple, Amazon, and Barnes & Noble. If you had an earlier edition, the update is free, and there are instructions for updating on my [Books page](#).



I invite you to visit my website's **Books page**. It has a complete listing of all my books, with direct links to the vendors' pages where you can buy them for your own library.



As an Amazon, Apple, and Barnes & Noble Associate, I earn a commission when you purchase one of my books by following a link from my Books page.

Flea markets aren't what they were in 2004, but if you're persistent you can still find some pretty nice pens there. Take, for instance, this unbranded combo found for \$2.00 at Todd's Farm in Rowley, MA, this past summer. It's of second-tier quality, and all it needed was a new sac and some polishing. So, with that in mind, here are Don Fluckinger's tips for finding pens at fleas.



By Don Fluckinger

October 2004: Finding Pens at Flea Markets

Here's my lucky seven tips for cruising flea markets. I've had a great year; even the "ones that got away" stories are better than the typical flea-market season's keepers.



Button-filling Striped Lady Duofold just needed a sac, found at Todd's Farm in Rowley, MA

From the Glossopedia

With more than 1,600 entries comprising (with subentries) more than 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.

Inlaid Nib

Sheaffer's name for its unique, and uniquely timeless, nib that is mounted flush with (inlaid into) the surface of the gripping section. Introduced in 1959 on the PFM (U.S. Patent No [D188,265](#) for the nib and No [D188,266](#) for the nib and barrel assembly), the Inlaid Nib is produced by inserting a finished nib into a mold cavity and injection molding the plastic shell around it to create an inseparable assembly. Variations of the Inlaid Nib have appeared on many Sheaffer models, including the Imperial, Triumph, and Triumph Imperial; the Targa and Slim Targa; the Intrigue; the Legacy series; and the Valor. Except for short-lived versions used some some Japanese pens during the

1960s, other similar-appearing nib designs are inset, not inlaid. See also [dolphin nib](#), [hooded nib](#), [Imperial](#) (definition 1), [inset nib](#), [nib](#), [open nib](#), [PFM](#), ["TRIUMPH" point](#).



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 133 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).

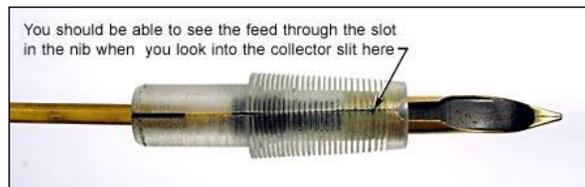
To help you find reference articles on my site that have been edited recently, there is a handy heading right at the top of the reference index, listing the five most recently added or edited reference pages. For edited pages, there are brief descriptions of what was changed.

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: My "51" has terrible flow. I've tried different inks, I've tried spreading the nib tines, I've torn the pen down and cleaned it. Nothing works. I haven't tried voodoo yet, is that the next step?

Rx: When Parker introduced the "51", assemblers were instructed to align the top of the nib with the broad air passage running along one side of the collector. In the 1950s, the company published a service bulletin saying that aligning the nib and feed with the collector didn't matter. That service bulletin was wrong. Alignment does matter.



It's easy to align the nib the way Parker did at first because the notch in the back end of the nib is the same width as the air passage in the collector. But I've found by experimentation that this top-side alignment is not the one to worry about. (Collectors were machined to very tight tolerances, but the exact alignment of the slots in the collector relative to each other was not considered that critical.) What's important is that the slot in the bottom of the nib be aligned with the full-length slit in the collector, opposite the broad air passage, as shown in the photo above.



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