

The history of the ballpoint pen



The history of the pen

- The first pens used by people were stones and sharpened sticks. A man wrote on clay boards with them. Later people began to use feathers for writing, but thanks for people inventions now we can write with the pen.



The first ink pen with the reservoir for ink appeared in 1884. It wasn't very convenient because the ink dried for a long time and the pen tore paper



The journalist from Hungary Laszlo Biro decided to improve the pen so that it was suitable for writing with very thick ink and wrote gently on a piece of paper.



Bíró fitted the pen with a tiny ball in its tip that was free to turn in a socket. As the pen moved along the paper, the ball rotated, picking up ink from the ink cartridge and leaving it on the paper. Bíró filed a British patent on 15 June 1938. Unfortunately this invention didn't become very popular with manufacturers.



- It became very popular by chance. One summer day while vacation at the sea shore the Biro brothers met an interesting gentleman Augustine Justo, who happened to be the president of Argentina. After the brothers showed him their model of a ballpoint pen, the President Justo urged them to set up a factory in Argentina. When World War 2 broke out in Europe a few years later, the Biro fled to Argentina stopping in Paris along the way to patent their pen.



In 1943 the producing of ballpoint pens began in Argentina. They were in a great demand among American pilots who made them famous all over the world.



In spite of Biro's invention, the world remembered the name of another person, George Parker, who used to be an agent selling pens.

"Writes dry with wet ink!"

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IN THE HAND OF LAURITZ MELCHIOR

Famous tenor of the Metropolitan Opera Company

"51...the world's
most wanted pen

WITH people of note Parker "51" is the preferred writing instrument. And only recently, American pen dealers, by a margin of 3.37 to 1 named Parker the most-wanted pen. More-wanted than all other leading makes combined. No wonder we receive approximately 10 new requests for every "51" we can produce.

However, today more 51's than ever before are being shipped. So see your dealer soon.

Created painstakingly—the "51" cannot be hurriedly turned out. The precision-fit cap slips on—locks securely without twisting. The point starts writing instantly, smoothly. For the tip is a ball of micro-polished Osmiridium.

All this—and magic, too! Only the "51" is designed to write satisfactorily with Parker "51" Ink that *dries as you write!*

Three colors, \$12.50; \$15.00. Pencils, \$5.00; \$7.50. Sets, \$17.50 to \$80.00. The Parker Pen Company, Janesville, Wis. and Toronto, Canada.

Parker "51"

- His customers complained about the pens he sold so much that he invented his own pen.



- Parker's pen became really famous because it was being used while the German Instrument of Surrender was being signed on May 8, 1945.



- The Soviet Government asked Parker to organize the producing of ballpoint pens in the USSR but he didn't want to collaborate with Stalin. It took Soviet scientists 4 years to design their own ballpoint pen. It appeared in 1949.



Thus, we can see that every small invention has its own history and connected with important events in the history of the mankind.

However, we seldom think about it when we use these inventions in our every-day life

