



Fountain Pens for the Million

The History Of

Conway Stewart

1905-2005

Stephen Hull

The Pixie, the Universal and the Duro-Point

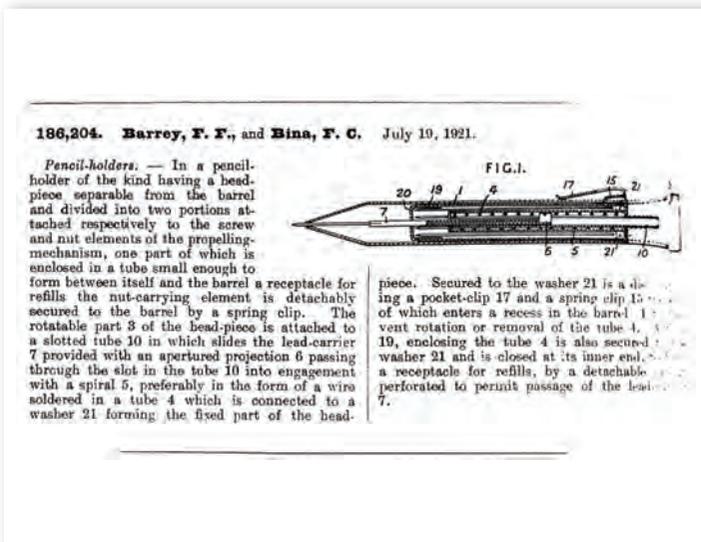
Conway Stewart again exhibited at the 1922 BIF where the full range of pens, now ranging in price from 10/6 to 5 guineas ('presentation' models with solid gold overlays) and (again!) consisting of 200 models, was on display. For the first time the new Pixie and Universal fountain pens and Duro-Point pencils were exhibited.

The Pixie and Universal (retailing at 7/6 and 5/- respectively), both in chased black (and probably red/black mottled) vulcanite, were less expensive versions of the lever-filling Speedy Phil, while the Duro-Point was an all-new 'magazine' pencil, "perfectly balanced, with fine leads - always sharp, and a rigid point". The Pixie, with inlaid cap tops in various colours "to make these pens specially adaptable for office use where different coloured inks are used" was relatively short-lived, whereas the Universal, "the best value ever offered", continued in production in various guises for many years.

The Duro-Point pencil was the first of a long line of pencils sold by Conway Stewart. It was also the first of their products to be available in a wide range of coloured plastics and retailed, with detachable, unmarked nickel-plated pocket clip, at 2/6. The propel/push-repel mechanism was patented by two Germans, Frederick Bina and Francis Barrey, who made the mechanisms and assembled the complete pencils at their factory in Islington, north London from barrels and other parts supplied by Conway Stewart. Bina and Barrey would continue to supply pencils to Conway Stewart (but not exclusively) for the next 45 years, during which time they registered at least 20 UK patents relating to pencil mechanisms [see Appendices I and IX].



▲ Stand at the 1922 British Industries' Fair, where Conway Stewart's first pencil, the Duro-Point, and the Universal and Pixie pens (note straight lever) were launched



▲ Patent abridgement (1921) of Barrey and Bina's first pencil mechanism that was incorporated into the first of Conway Stewart's pencils, the Duro-Point

THREE LEADERS!!!
IN SELF-FILLING PENS.

The **Conway Stewart**
LEVER FILLER

AT PRICES TO SUIT ALL POCKETS.

<p>All British Made.</p> <p>“Speedy Phil” 10/6</p> <p>“Pixie” - 7/6</p> <p>“Universal” 5/-</p>	<p>Attractive Showcards supplied for window display.</p> <p>Every Pen fitted with 14ct. gold nib and guaranteed.</p>
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The Latest Magazine Pencil.
DURO-POINT
THE UTILITY PENCIL.

<p>Supplied in Assorted Colours, with Clips:</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">2/6</p>	<p>SPECIAL FEATURES</p> <p>Fine leads—always sharp. Rigid Point. Popular Price. Artistic in appearance. Perfectly balanced.</p>
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Write for Sample Box (½ doz.) to Sole Makers

Conway Stewart & Co., LTD.,
31/2, SHOE LANE, LONDON, E.C.4.

▲ Trade Advert of April 1922, the first to feature the Pixie, Universal and Duro-Point, alongside the No 200 Speedy Phil

Chapter 5: 1939-1948

War and Post-War: Restrictions and Rationing



The Pen of Pens

Fortress Shoe Lane

Limitation of Supplies Orders from the Board of Trade

Purchase Tax

The Blitz

A Brave and Vigilant Fire Watcher

Further Restrictions

Export and Overseas Distributors

Improved Supply?

The Fountain Pen Manufacturers' Association

Approved Model Range

Pencils and Other Products

Munitions' Production

Anticipated Post-War Trade

Marking Time!

Changes to Approved Model Range

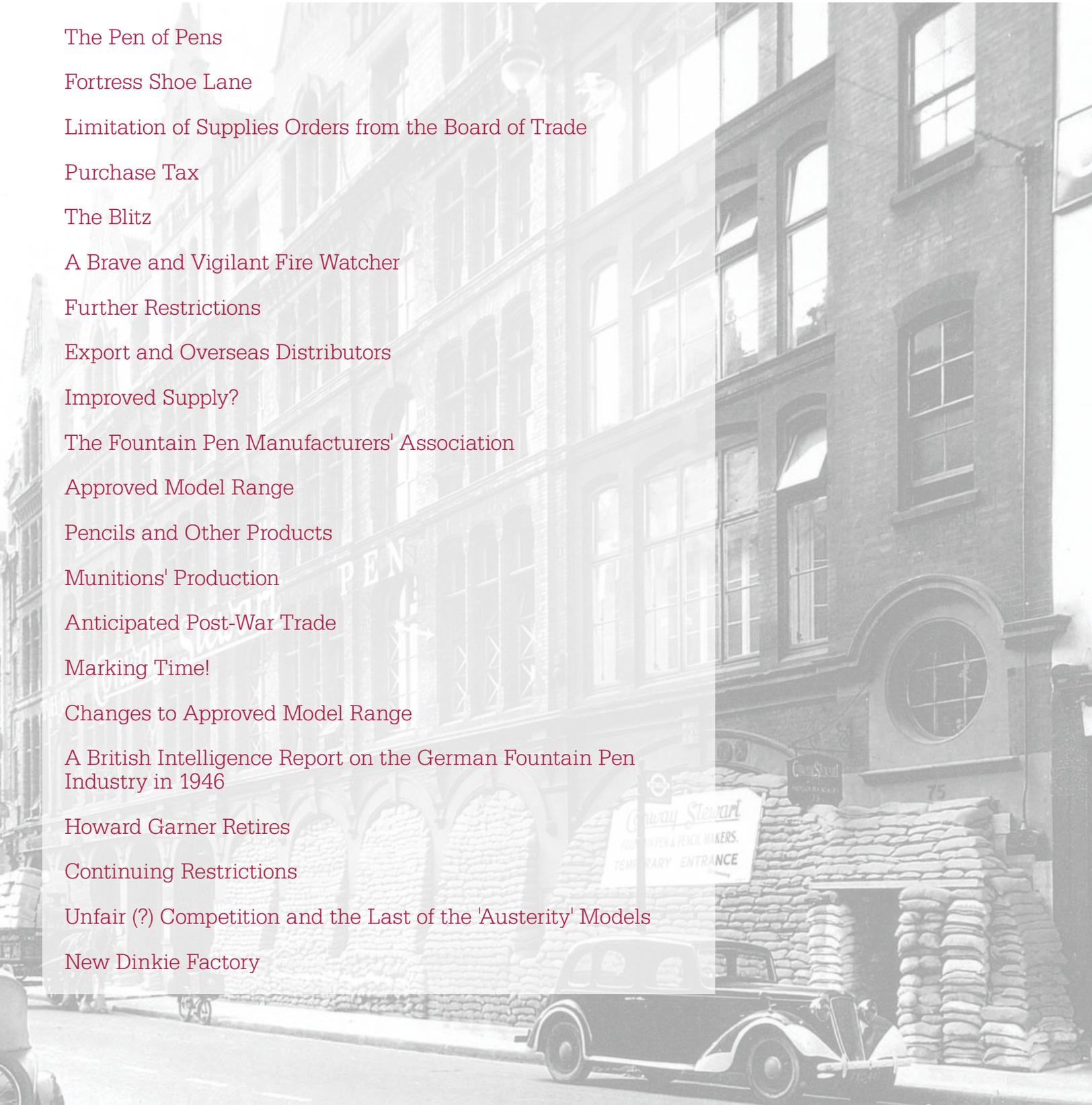
A British Intelligence Report on the German Fountain Pen Industry in 1946

Howard Garner Retires

Continuing Restrictions

Unfair (?) Competition and the Last of the 'Austerity' Models

New Dinkie Factory



Chapter 7: 1955-1962

Golden Jubilee



A Celebration Lunch

The 22 Floral

Export

Canada – ‘Senior’ Dominion

Le Tigre

John Fry

The Numbers Book

Colour Numbers

Repairs

Another Speedy Phil and the First of the Herringbones

The First Conway Ballpens

Death of Stanley Jarvis

'Points Off'

Some More Herringbone Models

The First Injection-Moulded Models

The AGM of April 1962

Last of the Marbled Pens

1905-1955

FIFTY YEARS OF
PEN PROGRESS

The New Range



▲ The Conway Stewart pens, 1949-c1958; from left - 24; 18 pencil; 24; 27; 37 pencil; 27; 28; 28; 58; 33 pencil

▶ No 30 Set (24 Pen and 18 Pencil)

