

Leather Tobacco Pouches & Cases

By Paul Lefkovitz

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Leather tobacco pouches and cases are a fascinating and appealing sub-category of tobacciana. They do not take up a great deal of space, are generally quite affordable (\$10-\$50) and were produced in a variety of attractive versions. Leather just seems to go hand-in-hand with the organic nature of tobacco. Yet, leather tobacco containers are not all that often encountered. Pouches and cases of potential interest to antique advertising collectors would appear to fall into four categories:

1. Leather Plug Tobacco Pouches: These small pouches typically advertise a specific brand of plug tobacco. They permitted the user to insert one or two plugs into the pouch for later use. Plug tobacco pouches were typically commercially manufactured and were distributed to customers as premiums.

2. Commercially Manufactured Leather Cigar Pouches/Cases: Leather cigar containers were manufactured in a myriad of styles over the years. They typically were intended to hold 2-4 cigars. While the majority of them were devoid of any type of advertising, a few can be found promoting a tobacco retailer or, more rarely, a cigar brand.

3. Hand-Crafted Cigar Pouches/Cases: Hand-crafted cigar containers were also made in a variety of styles. Unlike the commercially manufactured types, a number of these can be found with advertising-like embellishments related to brands, significant events (such as World's Fairs) or points of interest (such as popular tourist destinations).

4. Cigarette Pouches/Cases: Occasionally, one can find commercially manufactured pouches or cases designed for cigarettes with brand advertising. However, these do not surface very often.

The images that follow present representative examples of leather tobacco pouches and cases.

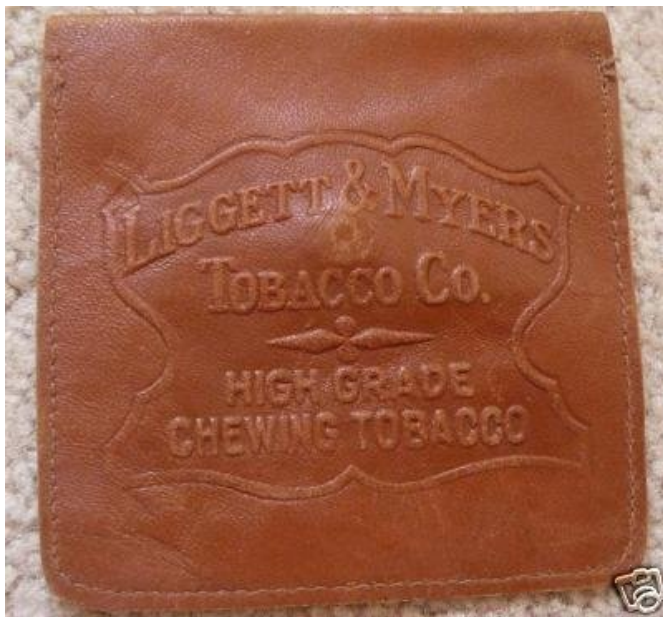
Leather Plug Tobacco Pouches



Piper Heidsieck Cut Plug Pouch



American Navy Plug Tobacco Pouch



Liggett & Myers Plug Tobacco Pouch



Ogburn, Hill & Co Plug Tobacco Pouch



Old Kentucky Plug Tobacco Pouch



Star Plug Tobacco Pouch

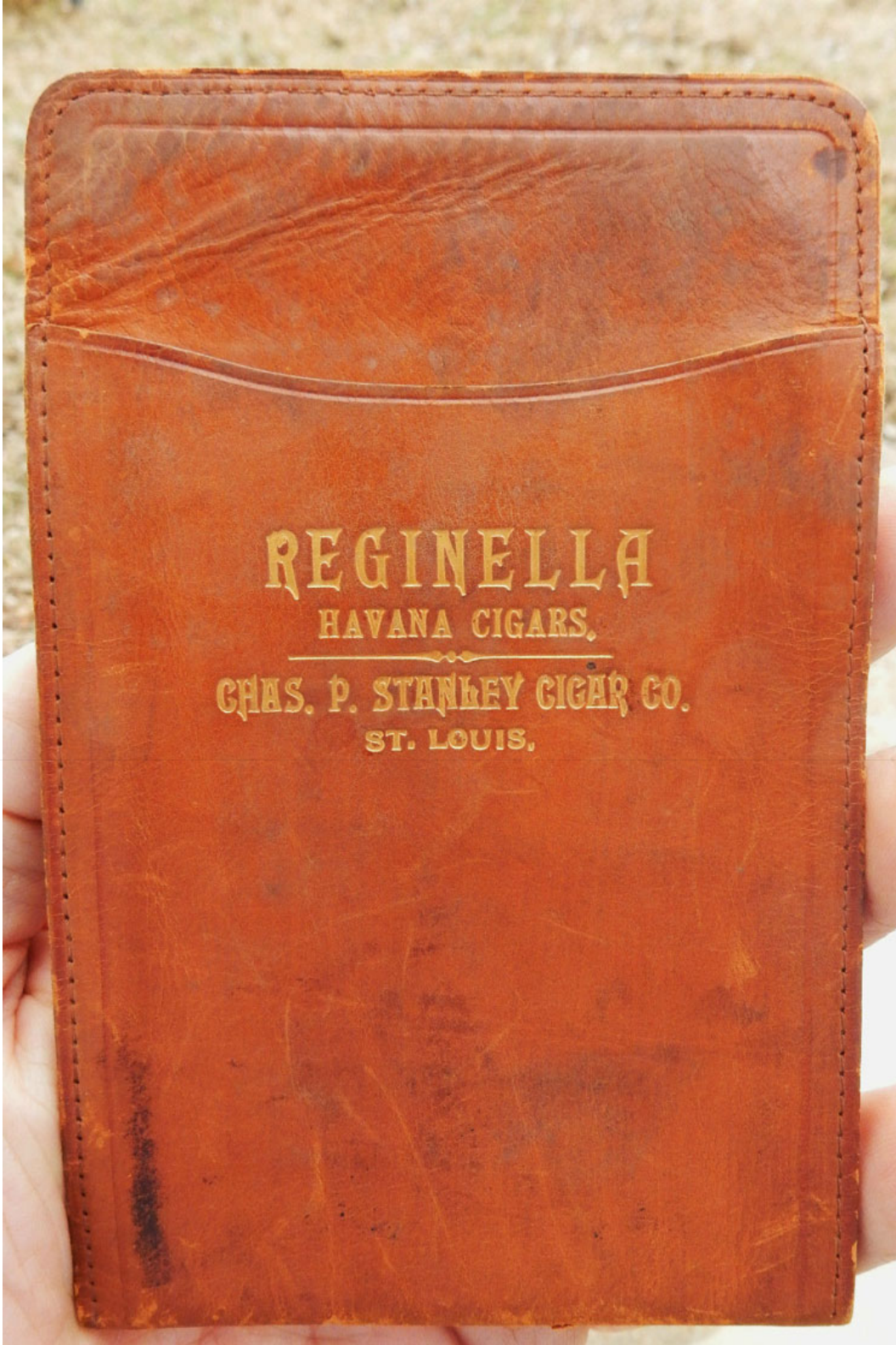
Commercially Manufactured Leather Cigar Pouches/Cases



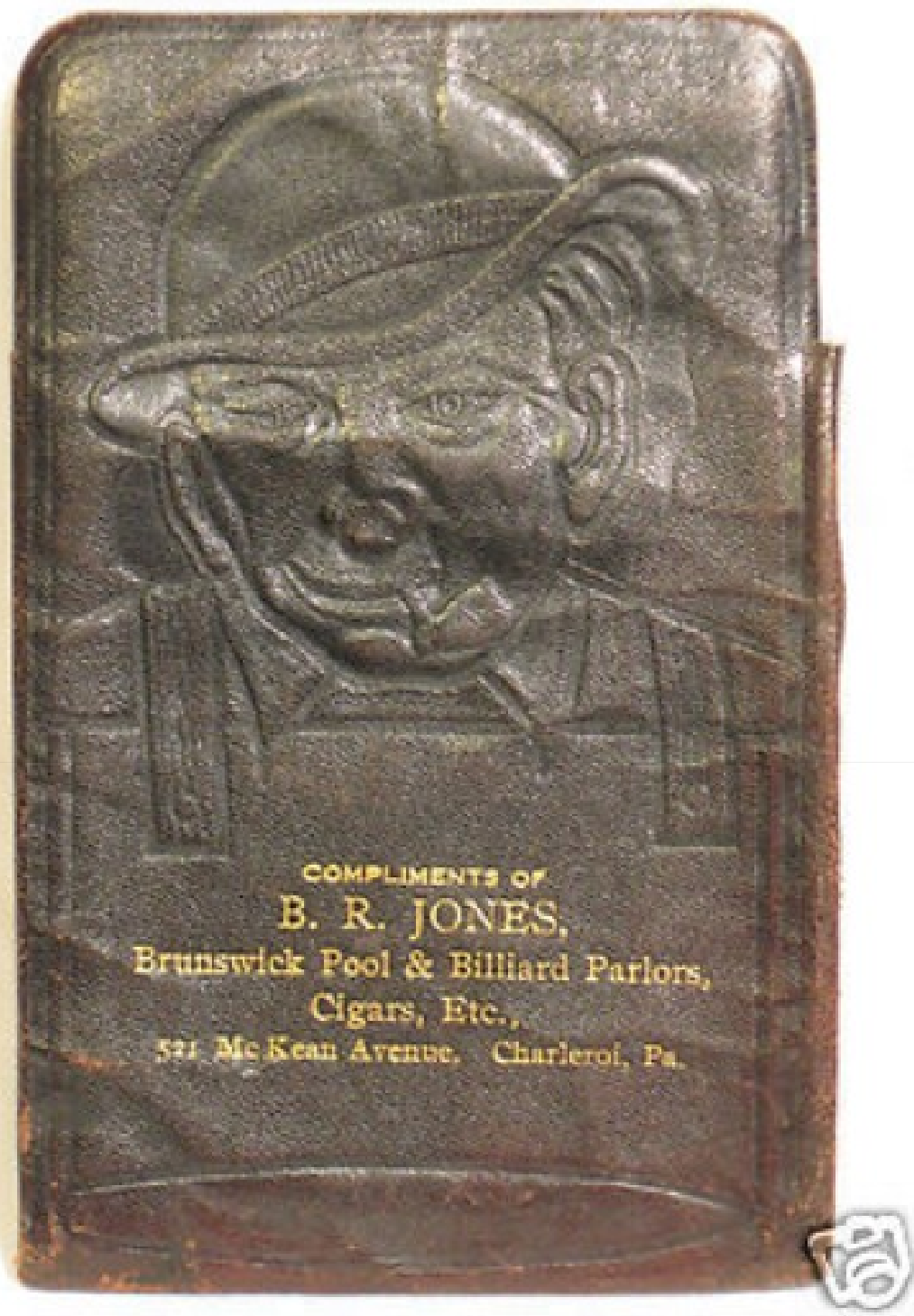
W.S. Conrad's El Morito Cigar Case



Jose Vila Cigar Case



Reginella Cigar Case



Cigar Case Advertising Billiard Parlor/Cigar Store

Hand-Crafted Cigar Pouches/Cases



Hand-Crafted Cigar Case-World's Fair 1904



Another example of Hand Crafted Cigar Case from 1904 St. Louis World's Fair



A Souvenir Cigar Case from New Orleans: 1917

Cigarette Pouches/Cases



LeRoy Cigarette Case



Balkan Cigarette Case