

Editors' CHOICE

Montegrappa

MONTTEGRAPPA (montegrappa.com) the first Italian pen manufacturer, has been producing quality writing instruments with an Italian flair since 1912. Among the many soldiers who used Montegrappa pens (then known as Elmo) to write letters home during World War I were renowned American writers Ernest Hemingway and John Dos Passos.

Montegrappa offers shoppers regular as well as limited superior quality writing instruments collections. Among those presented recently, it is worth mentioning as it represents Montegrappa's craftsmanship and style to the utmost, the limited edition named Pirates. A successful follow-up to the Chaos edition, the Pirates pen collection is brimming with intricate details; the barrel and cap bear the grinning skulls and bones known as "the Jolly Roger," with the

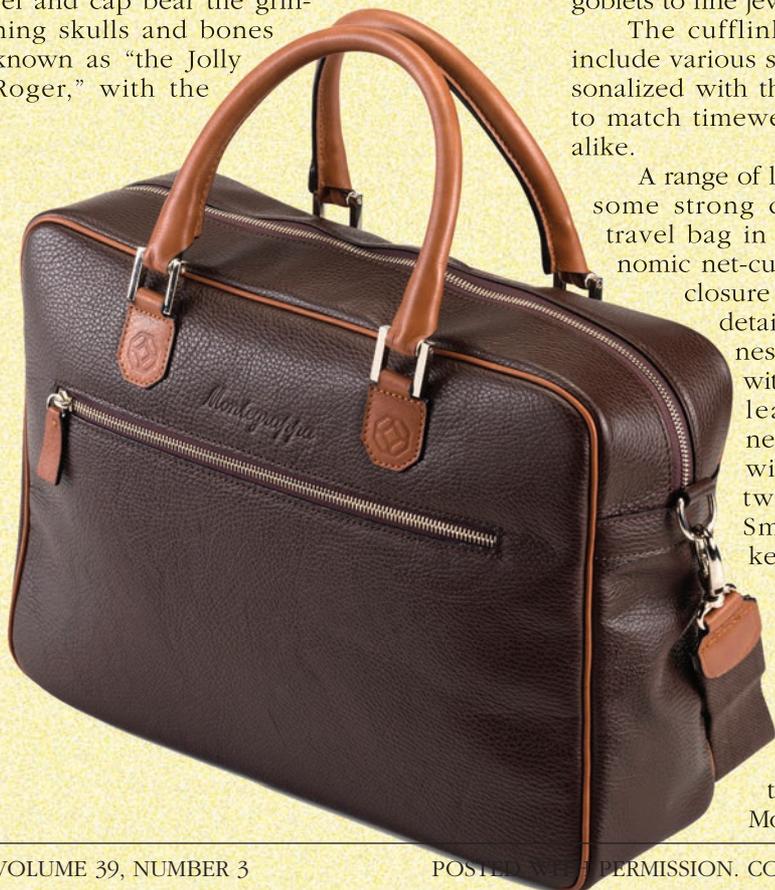
crossed bones, the corsair's hat, and a sword serving as the pen's pocket clip. Festooned with the ropes and chains essential to seafarers, the Pirates pens also feature ships in full sail and a representation of the mermaid Syrena, whose fate was interwoven with the notorious pirate, Blackbeard. Offered as piston-fed fountain and rollerball pens, the Pirates writing instrument is made in Charcoal Black celluloid with precious metal overlays. This impressive masterpiece has been produced in both sterling silver with yellow gold details, and solid 18k yellow gold.

Montegrappa also offers an extensive line of quartz, automatic, and chrono timepieces. The octagon, the eight-sided geometric figure, has characterized numerous Montegrappa collections for decades. Applied to the dial cases of the new NeroUno Slim watches, it adds an artistic flair reminiscent of the decorative arts that enhanced metal creations over the centuries, from swords to goblets to fine jewelry.

The cufflink choices by Montegrappa include various styles and finishes, often personalized with the brand's octagonal pattern to match timewear and writing instruments alike.

A range of leather goods provides guests some strong choices, including the soft travel bag in calf leather with two ergonomic net-cut handles, shoulder belt, and closure with metal zip, piping, and details in contrast color. The business briefcase is also a favorite with a rigid construction in calf leather with an ergonomic net-cut handle, metal closure with key, net-cut details, and two internal compartments. Smaller accessories such as key holders, money clips, and tie bars cater to those seeking to touch on the most minor of details.

A few wonderfully elegant and sophisticated fragrances such as Il Signore, NeroUno, and Parola complete the comprehensive selection of Montegrappa lifestyle ranges. ●



Clockwise from upper left: Montegrappa Pirates fountain pens; Montegrappa NeroUno Slim watch; Montegrappa business briefcase; Montegrappa NeroUno fragrance

