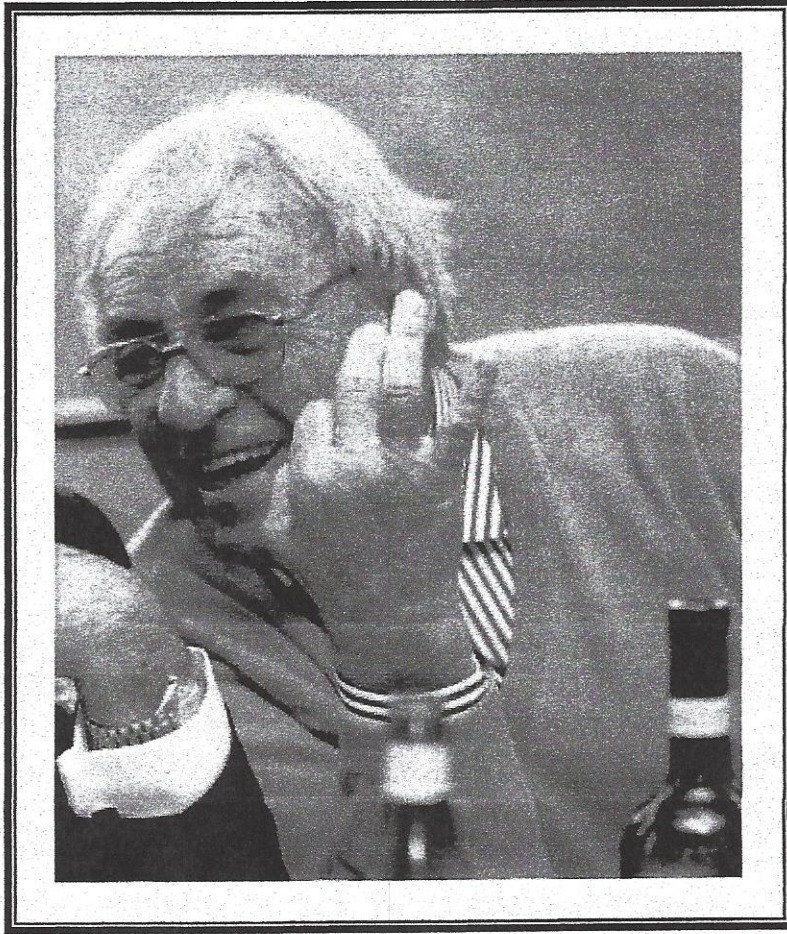


Giuseppe Pietro Lupini



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With the passage of time and the changes in membership of our shooting fraternity, it is understandable that fellow enthusiasts of the period when Zappi began his involvement, would no longer be around.

It is unthinkable that the time, effort, initiative and material contribution Zappi generously gave over time, should just remain forgotten in to-day's fast moving world.

Zappi was a prime mover in the formation of the Transvaal Muzzleloaders in 1969 in Johannesburg. He was an inspirational and passionate leader and served as Chairman for some years. With his artistic flair, he designed the TML badge, still in use today.

After the Inglesby Range, south of Johannesburg, suddenly had to be abandoned in August 1971 after two years use because of housing developments, it was Zappi who solved the problem. He made contact with General JC Steyn (Head of SA Prison Command) and TML now had the use of the excellent Leeukop Prison Range and Clubhouse as its' home.

In 1975, Zappi captained an unofficial five man TML based SA team to the 4th World Short Range Muzzle Loading Championship held in Codogno, Italy. This was South Africa's first ever appearance at a World Championship and Zappi astounded all by winning the Gold for the Whitworth Original Rifle event.

He followed this up in 1977 by participating in the 6th World Muzzle Loading Championship in Zurich, Switzerland and gaining Silver in the Whitworth Original Rifle event. Postal Shoots, local and between South Africa and Great Britain took place occasionally and Zappi featured.

Concurrent with these events was the drive to order and formalize the structure of shooting matters. Due to shooters' separate needs, The Historical Firearms Association of South Africa (1952) had, in 1976, formed a shooting competition based section, the HSFU, represented by the original Cape based members and Zappi, Jacques Witelson and Steve Berkemeyer, the latter three representing the Transvaal Club members. But from pressure in the Transvaal it was strongly felt that a completely independent national body was imperative. In 1977 Zappi and Jacques Witelson with Steve Berkemeyer's support, went to a meeting in Cape Town and there with Zappi's passion and Jacques quiet, measured insistence, the initiative was wrested from Barry Berkowitz and his Cape based block, and the Black Powder Shooting Union came into existence.

At this time, Zappi approached the Minister of Sport for South Africa, to push for official recognition and the awarding of Springbok Colours. This he achieved and because of our limited national standing, we were happily embraced by the South African Practical Pistol Association (SAPSA) as an affiliated body, again due to Zappi's intervention, thus giving us national standing for the awarding of Colours.

Thus in 1980, in Quantico, USA, at the 8th World Muzzle Loading Short Range Championships the 6 Man South African Team, of which Zappi was a member, were South Africa's first shooters to achieve Springbok Colours.

In the period when the public and TML were summarily excluded from the use of Leeukop Range and battled to find a new base, Zappi was again to lead the way with the generous provision of walls required for the new Club House at the Zwartkop Range.

With the ascendancy of shot gun shooting, Zappi devoted more of his time and energy to this discipline. He was a guiding hand in the fortunes of the group which later became known as TML Shotgun Club, now meeting at Centurion. Here he again provided leadership and the generous provision of necessary machinery.

Another aspect of Zappi's character, was that he was a passionate collector and student of antique firearms, related accoutrements and books. His prime interest was Sir Joseph Whitworth's firearms of which he had some fine examples. His enormous enthusiasm for collecting and the interest and inspiration it created amongst us, is regrettably something missing today in shooters primarily focused on scores.

It is quite possible that by now Zap will have already assembled a lively group with Sir Joseph, Messrs Gibbs, Metford and others, hotly debating the respective merits of their engineering exploits.

Down here, he is sadly missed.