

## MORE VINTAGE BLOWTORCHES

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### An Identification & Rarity Guide

By Ronald Carr, Charles Smith, and Graham Stubbs

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#### *Foreword*

This volume is a supplement and companion to *Vintage Blowtorches, an Identification and Rarity Guide* that was published in 2007. Together, the present book and the original volume represent the first comprehensive illustrated listing of American and Canadian blowtorches and related tools.

In the three years since the publication of *Vintage Blowtorches* much additional information has surfaced from readers of the original volume, as well as from fresh access to old journals, and many makers and brands have been newly identified. Additionally, illustrations and photographs have been made available of product variations not covered in the original book. Finally, this new volume is an opportunity to show photographs of newly reported rare torches, which were previously known only from catalog or journal illustrations, and to amend appropriately the rarity ratings.

The enthusiastic response to the first publication suggests that the time has come to collect as much fresh material as possible into this new volume, and to make it available to collectors who have come to rely on the availability of an encyclopedic source of data about vintage blowtorches and related products. Reviews by readers suggest that one of the most valuable features of the original volume is its index, and a new index is provided in a similar format.

As additional information is received, the authors continue to expect that some of it will appear in *The Torch*, the newsletter of the Blow Torch Collectors Association (BTCA). If or when it seems to be appropriate, the authors look forward to the publication in book form of such material.

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### Introduction and Scope

The emphasis in this new volume is on newly identified makes, models, and variations of blowtorches and related products.

Several of the more prolific manufacturers made design changes to their products while retaining model number identities. Lenk Mfg. made many such changes without recording the details in catalog illustrations, and in the particular case of Lenk, we provide a photographic study of as many such variations as have been identified in collections. Clayton & Lambert, Otto Bernz, and Turner Brass Works all manufactured some models over a long period of time, and design changes are apparent in catalogs and trade literature. What is known of these variations is provided here, supplemented by photographs.

While the primary focus here is on liquid-fueled blowtorches, this book includes closely related heating devices such as plumber's furnaces and firepots, soldering iron heaters, self-heated soldering irons and branders, pyrography burners, and cauterizing devices. The common element is that they used liquid fuels such as gasoline, kerosene, or alcohol.

Most of the major torch manufacturers in the US not only produced a wide variety of torches under their name, but also manufactured torches for other companies or distributors. We identify the latter category of torches as brand labeled, and you will encounter that term throughout this book. Fresh examples are Spiegel and True Value, neither of which company manufactured blowtorches, yet each carried models under its own brand labeled name.

The organization of this book is similar to the 2007 volume, an alphabetical listing of manufacturers and brand names, together with a cross-referenced index. In a few instances, torches are listed by the inventor's name, e.g. Butler, Clark, or Purdy; in each such case torches were made by several unknown makers to the distinctive design shown in the respective patent.

In this volume a short section headed "Unknown" illustrates torches selected by the authors as being of particular interest and which appear to be factory made, but with no maker or inventor identified to date. In other instances, a maker or inventor was identified by patent markings and referral to the extensive study compiled by BTCA members.

Wherever possible, line illustrations from trade literature continue to form the basis for the illustrated listings, which constitutes the greater part of this book. In the absence of such material, photographs of actual torches have been used more extensively in this volume.

This is not a book about blowtorch collecting. BTCA member Dick Sarpolus' book *Collecting Blowtorches*, containing many wonderful color photographs of collectible torches, provides an excellent introduction to collecting, and it includes chapters on such topics as how blowtorches operate, the cleaning, restoring and repairing of torches, how to find them, and their value.

A word about what is not included in this book. Devices employing a variety of more recently adopted fuels such as propane, butane, and acetylene are not included, and neither are those using natural or house gas or solid fuels such as charcoal or solidified alcohol.

See page three for contact information about various organizations for collectors of blowtorches.

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### Additional Reading

*Vintage Blowtorches*, an Identification and Rarity Guide by Ronald Carr, Charles Smith, and Graham Stubbs, and published by the Blow Torch Collectors Association BTCA (2007).

The Club des Amateurs d'Outils Anciens à Flamme (see address below) has published six books about soldering lamps and irons, focusing mostly on European countries:

No. 1 France (2001), No. 2 Sweden (2001), No. 3 Germany (2001), No. 4 Austria, Belgium, Spain, Italy, and Switzerland (2001), No. 5 France (2004), No. 6 Worldwide (2004).

The late Philippe Touillet published two books in France: Catalog No. 1, *American Blowlamps Since 1856* (1998), and Catalog No. 2, *A Background to British Blow Lamps* (1999).

BTCA member Dick Sarpolus authored *Collectible Blowtorches* published by Schiffer in 2001.

Members of the Blow Torch Collectors Association have assembled a list of more than eight hundred blowtorch-related US patents. Contact BTCA for availability of the listing.

### Newsletters Published by Collectors' Organizations

*The Torch* is published three times a year by the Blow Torch Collectors Association (BTCA), 6908 April Wind Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89131.

*Blowlamp News* is published quarterly in the UK by the Blowlamp Society, 47 Lockington Crescent, Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 1DA, ENGLAND.

*La Nouvelle Gazette* serves collectors in France, Belgium, and other countries. It is published by the Club des Amateurs d'Outils Anciens à Flamme, Attn: M Honoré Schenck, 22 rue de la Rondelière, 37270 Larcay, FRANCE.

### Acknowledgements

The authors must acknowledge the generosity of the many BTCA members who have continued to share information and photographs of torches from their collections. In many cases, readers of *Vintage Blowtorches* identified makers, models, and variations not included in the original volume. The authors are grateful also for the continuing participation of overseas members of BTCA and of members of the European collectors' groups.

His two co-authors, Ronald Carr and Graham Stubbs, particularly wish to acknowledge the contributions of their colleague Charles Smith who used his research experience and access to library archives to surface from old trade journals information about many of the oldest manufacturers and their products. Finally, the authors must express their gratitude to Janet Carr who tirelessly reviewed the many drafts of this book and of its predecessor.

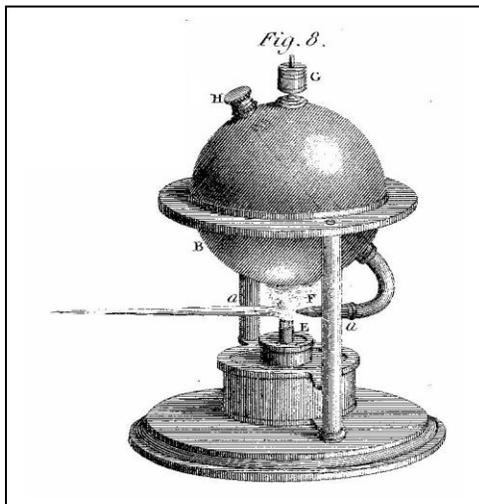
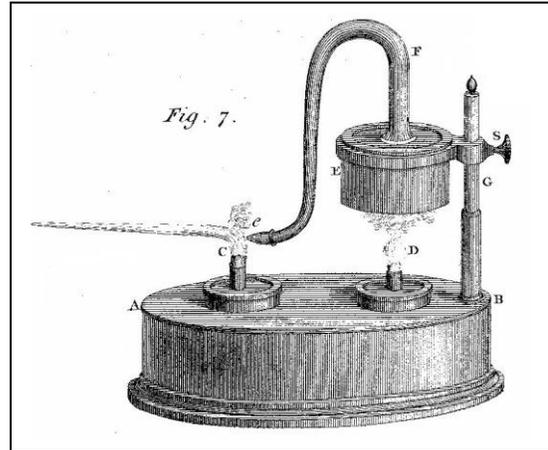
## MORE VINTAGE BLOWTORCHES

### More History of Blowtorches

*Vintage Blowtorches* provided a short history of blowtorches from the earliest times. Here we present more historical information, with illustrations published in the early 1800s, followed by a tabular summary from the *Thomas Register of Manufacturers*.

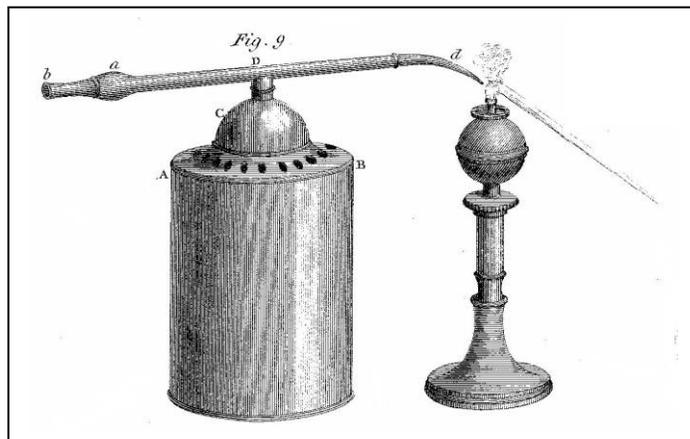
These three illustrations are taken from *Brewster's Edinburgh Encyclopaedia*, the American version published in Philadelphia in 1832.

At right, (labeled Fig. 7) is a self-contained torch invented by Swiss Professor Pictet, of Geneva. Two lamp wicks draw on the same source of oil that is contained in an oval reservoir. Above the first flame is a boiler partially filled with alcohol, which emits a jet towards the second flame. Positioning of the jet in relation to the flame is by vertical movement of the boiler secured to a pillar, and by rotation of the eccentric mount for the second wick.



The second self-contained torch (labeled Fig. 8 at left) uses one lamp, and a globe-shaped alcohol boiler. This torch has a pressure relief valve at the top. This torch also provides for lateral adjustment of position of the jet in relation to the flame by use of an eccentric wick holder.

The third of these devices (labeled Fig. 9 below) overcomes one of the shortcomings of mouth-blown blowpipes, the intermittent nature of the flow of air from the jet toward the flame.



The blowpipe is connected via a hole in its side, to the top of a canister, upon which it sits. The canister is open at the bottom and is suspended inside a larger container, which is partially filled with water. When air is blown into the blowpipe, the greater part enters the first canister, displacing some of the water into the annular space between the two cylinders. A valve in the blowpipe mouthpiece prevents air from exiting that end, and the pressure of the displaced water maintains a constant flow of air from the jet toward the flame.

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### Blowtorch Companies in the *Thomas Register* 1905-6, 1918, 1924-5, and 1942

The *Thomas Register of American Manufacturers* was a multi-volume directory of product information covering distributors, manufacturers, and service companies, with a large number of product categories. It was first published by Harvey Mark Thomas in 1888 as *Hardware and Kindred Trades*. The Thomas Company stopped publishing its print products in 2006. One of the categories in early volumes was “torches”, broken down into blowtorch, gasoline, alcohol, etc.

Company Name	City	Blowtorch	Gasoline	Kerosene	Alcohol	1905-6	1918	1924-5	1942	Company Name	City	Blowtorch	Gasoline	Kerosene	Alcohol	1905-6	1918	1924-5	1942
Acorn Brass Works	Chicago IL	√	√			√				Gleason, E.P. Mfg.	New York NY	√	√			√	√	√	√
Aeroil Burner Co.	Chicago IL	√						√		Globe Brass Wks.	Detroit MI	√	√			√			
Akron Mfg. Co.	Akron OH		√			√				Globe Gas Light	Boston MA	√	√	√			√	√	√
Allen, L.B.	Chicago IL	√	G					√		Glogau Mfg.	Chicago IL			√		√	√	√	√
American Gas Furnace Co.	Elizabeth NJ			√				√		Hauck Mfg.	Brooklyn NY	√		√			√	√	√
American Oxygen Services	Harrison NJ	√							√	Holland Instrument Co.	Philadelphia PA								√
American Stove (Quick Meal)	St. Louis MO	√				√		√		Holland, Wm.	Chicago IL	√	√		√	√			
Anthony Co.	Long Island City NY	√					√	√	√	Hollands Mfg. Co.	Erie PA			√		√			
Ashton Mfg.	Newark NJ	√	√	√			√			Houchin, Thos. W.	Jersey City NJ	√			√				√
Atkins, E.C.	Indianapolis IN	√						√		Houchin, Thos. W.	New York NY			√		√	√		
Baker & Sons	Kendallville IN		√				√	√		Huffman Mfg.	Dayton OH	√	√						√
Baum & Bender	Jersey City NJ		√		√		√	√		Hull Mfg.	Baltimore MD	√	√					√	
Beach Russ Co.	New York NY	√				√	√	√		Hull, M.L. Co.	Cleveland OH	√	√			√			
Berger Mfg.	Canton OH		√			√				Hunt Lasher Co.	Lynn MA	√			√				√
Bernz, Otto	Newark NJ	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	Hydrocarbon Burner Co.	New York NY	√	√			√			
Besly, Charles	Chicago IL	√					√			Imperial Brass Mfg.	Chicago IL	√							√
Best Light Co.	Canton OH	√					√	√		Johnson Gas Appliance Co.	Cedar Rapids IA	√							√
Best Street Light Co.	Canton OH	√	√			√				Johnson, Wm.	Newark NJ	√	√	√		√			
Boekel & Co.	Phila PA	√	√			√				Johnston Mfg.	Minneapolis MN	√	O						√
Bolte	Chicago IL	√	√				√			Justrite Mfg.	Chicago IL	√							√
Brach, L.S. Mfg.	Newark NJ	√			√			√	√	Kaker & Sons	Kendallville IN		√			√			
Bridgeport Brass	Bridgeport CT	√	√			√				Ker-O-Kil <sup>2</sup>	Redwood City CA	√							√
Buckeye Oxygen	Canton OH	√						√		Klein, Mathias	Chicago IL	√		√					√
Carleton Co.	Boston MA	√	√				√			Knapp Mfg.	New York NY	√	√		√	√	√		
Chausse Mfg.	Detroit MI	√	√	√			√	√		Krenz, Oscar	San Francisco CA	√				√	√	√	
Clayton & Lambert	Detroit MI	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	Kress, H.H.	Philadelphia PA	√							√
Continental Co.	Springfield OH		√					√		Lenk Mfg.	Newton Lower Falls MA	√			√				√
Curfman, F.L. <sup>1</sup>	Maryville MO		√					√		Ligotz, Stephan <sup>1</sup>	New York NY	√							√
Dangler Stove & Mfg. Co.	Cleveland OH		√			√				Lovett, A.E.	New York NY		√			√	√		
Decker Mfg.	Newark NJ	√	√				√	√		Macleod Co.	Cincinnati OH	√				√	√	√	
Detroit Torch	Detroit MI	√	√				√	√	√	Mahr Mfg.	Minneapolis MN	√	O						√
Diener, G.W.	Chicago IL	√	√	√			√	√	√	Maple City Stamping Co.	Peoria IL		√						√
Dixon, Wm.	Newark NJ									McGill Mfg.	Valparaiso IN	√	√						√
Downey, Wm. & Co.	Springfield OH	√						√		Mitchell Vance Co.	New York NY				√	√			
Eagle Mfg. Co.	Wellsburg WV	√			√			√		Modern Metal Products	Cambridge MA	√			√				√
Eagle Torch & Regulator	New York NY							√		Naab Mfg.	Cleveland OH	√	G			√			
Emmelman Torch Co.	Indianapolis IN	√	√				√			National Cement & Rubber Co.	Toledo OH		√			√			
Everhot Mfg.	Maywood IL	√	√	√			√	√		National Electric Mfg.	Plantsville CT	√			√				√
Flame Sterilizer & Brush Co.	Lebanon TN	√						√		National Safety Device Co.	Chicago IL	√	√						√
Gaertner Scientific Corp.	Chicago IL	√						√		North American Mfg.	Cleveland OH	√	G						√
Garrison Brass & Mach.	New York NY	√	√				√			Osborn & Co.	Newark NJ				√	√			
Garrison Heiland Co.	New York NY	√						√		Otto, Wm. Metal Goods	Jersey City NJ	√	√			√	√		
Gefroerer & Sons	Phila PA	√	√			√	√	√	√	Peerblow Mfg.	Leetsdale PA			√	√		√	√	
Gem Mfg.	Pittsburg PA	√				√													

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Company Name	City	Blowtorch	Gasoline	Kerosene	Alcohol	1905-6	1918	1924-5	1942	Company Name	City	Blowtorch	Gasoline	Kerosene	Alcohol	1905-6	1918	1924-5	1942	
Philips & Harmon	Northville MI		√			√				Surface Combustion Corp.		√								√
Precision Scientific Co.	Chicago IL	√							√	Torit	St. Paul MN	√	O							√
Prentiss Wabers	Wisconsin Rapids WI	√								Tuckor Duck & Rubber	Ft. Smith AR	√	√					√	√	
Quadria Mfg.	Chicago IL	√						√		Turner Brass Wks.	Sycamore IL	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	
Quadrige Mfg.	Chicago IL	√	√				√			Union Heater Supply	Detroit MI	√	√			√				
Raffel Mfg.	Chicago IL	√							√	Unique Mfg. Co.	Chicago IL	√	√	√						√
Reliable Gas Products	Cleveland OH	√							√	US Chaplet & Supply	New York NY	√					√	√		
Reserve Foundry & Mfg.	Cleveland OH	√	√			√				Vogel & Bros.	Brooklyn NY		O			√				
Ridgely Trimmer Co.	Springfield OH	√					√	√	√	Volcano Torch	Erie PA	√	√	√			√			
Ringen Stove Co.	St. Louis MO	√					√		√	Wall Mfg.	Pittsburg PA	√		√			√	√	√	
Roberts Electric	Philadelphia PA	√	√	√		√	√			Wall, P. Mfg. Co.	Allegheny PA					G				
Rueckert, C. & Co.	Chicago IL	√		√				√		Walworth Mfg.	Boston MA	√					√	√		
Schaefer & Beyer	Newark NJ	√	√						√	Warner, Norman	New York NY		√				√	√		
Schneider & Trenkamp (Amer. Stove)	Cleveland OH	√	√			√	√			Wellington Mfg. Co.	New York NY	√	√		√	√				
Selas Co.	Philadelphia PA	√							√	White Mfg.	Chicago IL	√	√			√				
Smith of New York	New York NY	√	√				√	√		White Mfg. Co.	Elkhart IN		√							√
Springfield Finished Casting Co.	Springfield OH	√	√					√		Wiler, Wm.	Philadelphia PA				√	√				
Standard Lighting Co. (Amer. Stove)	Cleveland OH		√			√														
Sun Vapor & Gas Street Light	Canton OH	√	√			√	√	√												

**Notes:**

1. BTCA member **Mark Pedersen** provided the compilations for 1918, 1925-6, and 1942.
2. "O" stands for oil. "G" stands for natural gas.
3. The columns heading Blowtorch, Gasolene, Kerosene, and Alcohol indicate what the registers said about the products of the company (but not necessarily for every year).

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### Listing of Manufacturers and Branded Suppliers

As with the 2007 first edition of *Vintage Blowtorches*, this listing of US and Canadian manufacturers and brand labeled suppliers is organized alphabetically, by manufacturer and/or brand name. In some instances the listed company may only have been a distributor. This compilation contains the names of more than sixty newly identified makers and or brand names.

For each manufacturer or brand labeled supplier, every newly identified model, known to the authors, of blowtorches, furnaces, and the like is listed, with illustrations wherever possible. Where feasible, the illustrations are arranged in numerical order by model number. For the larger manufacturers, newly discovered details of the company's history are provided. The book identifies more than 700 blowtorches, self-heated soldering irons, branders, etc. Approximately 90 furnaces, firepots, soldering heaters etc. are also listed and most are illustrated.

A cross-referenced index, encompassing **both** the 2007 first edition of *Vintage Blowtorches* and the present volume, lists alphabetically the manufacturers and brand labeled suppliers. Products of each supplier are listed first by trade name, if used, and then by model number. Trade names are also included in the index, and cross-referenced to suppliers. Integrated into the index is a guide to the rarity of individual models, with a five-point scale from the most common examples to the rarest.

One of the goals of this volume is to illustrate variations of torches to which makers continued to apply an existing model number. However, when a collector's torch doesn't exactly match an illustration in the listing, it is worth examining other products made by the same company before or after the date on the illustration to see how design details may have evolved.

The images obtained from the original old documents vary considerably in quality. In a few cases illustrations may be difficult to read, but are provided as better than no information at all. The dates included in the captions and illustrations indicate when the catalog or periodical was published. In many cases the actual manufacture date may have occurred prior to the date shown.

Readers are encouraged to submit to the authors c/o the publisher new information, questions, corrections, and suggestions for improvements.

### List of Abbreviations

The following abbreviations are used throughout the book, and refer to old trade journals:

<b>AA</b>	<i>American Artisan Hardware Record</i>
<b>AM</b>	<i>American Manufacturer</i>
<b>GH</b>	<i>Good Hardware</i>
<b>HDM</b>	<i>Hardware Dealers' Magazine</i>
<b>MWPSF</b>	<i>Metal Worker, Plumber and Steam Fitter</i>
<b>PTJ</b>	<i>Plumber's Trade Journal</i>
<b>SMW</b>	<i>Sheet Metal Worker</i>
<b>TMW</b>	<i>The Metal Worker</i>

These additional abbreviations are also used throughout:

<b>BTCA</b>	Blow Torch Collectors Association
<b>SHSI</b>	Self-Heated Soldering Iron