

BLOWLAMP NEWS

BN 107

JUNE

2019

The Newsletter of the Blowlamp Society - Editor Graham Stubbs - blowlampsociety@gmail.com

www.blowlampsociety.com

METHS / SPIRIT BLOWLAMPS



**Lampe Docimastique made by
Sulpice Christophe Breuzin in Paris**

From the collection of Blowlamp Society member Charles Smith

IN THIS ISSUE:

**MORE METHS BLOWLAMPS
AUSTRALIAN NEKO 2 BLOWLAMP**

EOLIPYLES: PART NINE

MORE METHS BLOWLAMPS

By Michel Duval

In this issue, Michel Duval discusses more spirit / meths lamps, in these categories:

- Mouthblow lamps of conventional design, not from the UK
- Lamps intended for use by dentists
- Lamps with glass fuel tanks
- Lamps for educational purposes
- Miscellaneous other meths lamps

Key to the 10 lamps of conventional mouth-blow design in the photos opposite:

1 **AXIOM** (USA)

"AXIOM ALCOHOL TORCH IRVING MFG. & TOOL CO NEW YORK" is stamped on the tank.

2 **KEMPTHORNE** (Australia)

"MADE BY KEMPTHORNE PTY. LTD MELB –" is stamped underneath the tank. "1943 - 720" is stamped on the tank.

Kempthorne Lighting Company, Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, AUSTRALIA (1933)

During World War II, Kempthorne was called upon to manufacture for the Australian army. Among the items they produced were : oil lamps, torches, waterproof cigarette lighters, charger clips, etc.

3 **KAJIJI** (India)

"KAJIJI BROS. 1941" is marked on a soldered plate.

Kajiji Brothers Limited was a company established in 1940s. Its registered address is India.

4 **HERMAN PIETSCH** (USA)

"HERMAN PIETSCH" is marked on a soldered plate.

5 **CAVANAGH** (USA)

"CAVANAGH BROS. & CO. N.Y. USA" is stamped underneath the tank.

6 **MANHATTAN** (USA)

"MANHATTAN N°3 HARLEM MFG CO NEW YORK" is stamped on the tank. Only 3 ½ inches tall.

7 **SPARTAN** (the) (USA) (1 doc)

"THE SPARTAN ALCOHOL TORCH Manufactured by THE CARLETON COMPANY Boston, MASS. USA PAT APPL'D FOR" is stamped on the tank.

8 **SOLDERALL** (USA)

"SOLDERALL ALCOHOL BLOW-TORCH Manufactured by L.S. BRACH MFG. CORP Newark, N.J. Pat. N° 1398676" is stamped on the tank.

9 **VICTOR** (USA)

"VICTOR ALCOHOL TORCH PATENTED" is stamped underneath the tank.

10 **ROBERTS** (USA)

"ROBERTS ALCOHOL TORCH PATENTED" is stamped underneath the tank.

11 **GAFFNEY "ACME"** (USA)

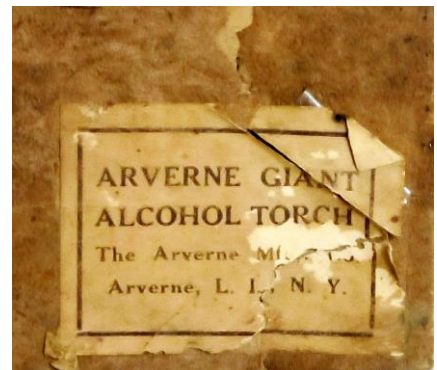
Jas. E.Gaffney was located in New York. Gaffney also manufactured a two-cylinder lamp.

12 **TAYLOR PATENT**

Henry & William Taylor of Philadelphia, patented this lamp in 1895. Marking on the bottom.

13 **ARVERNE "GIANT"** (USA)

Arverne is known from an example that was found with its original box. The lamp is unmarked. Sold by The Arverne Mfg. Co., Long Island, NY.



Label from box containing the **ARVERNE "GIANT"** lamp; #13 at left.

Key to the seven dental lamps in the upper photo opposite:

1 WM VOGEL (USA)

"WM VOGEL & BROS TINWARE BROOKLYN, N.Y." is stamped underneath the tank. I have no information about this make. This lamp seems to be a dentist lamp.

2 BENEDICT & BURNHAM (USA)

"BENEDICT & BURNHAM MFG. CO." is stamped on the height wick adjustment knob. The company was originally a button manufacturer.

3 BUFFALO (USA)

"BUFFALO DENTAL MFG. CO. BUFFALO, N.Y." is marked in the glass, underneath the tank. Buffalo dental sold a wide range of products for dentists.

4 KAPLAN (USA)

"KAPLAN DENTAL SPECIALTY CO CHICAGO, ILL. U.S.A." is stamped on the top of the tank. Kaplan also sold a "squeeze-bulb" type of lamp.

5 DIXON (USA)

"DIXON" is marked in the glass, underneath the tank. William Dixon, of New York, was a supplier of fine tools, with departments specializing dental, optical, jewelers and arts & crafts requirements.

6 CLEV-DENT (USA)

"CLEV-DENT" is stamped on the top of the tank. We can read all information on the nice box.

7 P.D. (Switzerland)

"PRODUITS DENTAIRE SA VEVEY SUISSE" is marked on the bakelite tank. Founded in 1940 by William Gehrig, PRODUITS DENTAIRE SA still exists today in Vevey in Switzerland. The company is still family-owned by the third generation, Nicolas and Yann Gehrig.

Key to the four glass lamps in the lower photo opposite. Makers' names are embossed on the glass.

1. Collin (France)

Collin, at 6, rue de l'Ecole-de-Médecine PARIS (1887) was a manufacturer of medical equipment among which is this glass blow pipe. It was used for heating cauterizing irons..

2 and 3. ETB and LB (France)

These two blow pipes are very similar to the Collin example

4. VOCO

The VOCO is quite different but had to have the same function. I don't know its country of origin.





Three lamps for children or students :



GILBERT, PORTER & SKILCRAFT

Alfred C. Gilbert, Porter Chemical Co. (centre) and Skilcraft Playthings Co. were American toy manufacturers that produced chemistry sets for children and students. Some of these educational science kits were equipped with very small alcohol burners with a glass fuel reservoir. They were used as heating lamps or blow lamps and they measure between 2 and 2 ¾ inches from the base to the top of the wick.

More examples of meths lamps

HAMPTON

Hampton is best know for its soldering paste and sodering liquid but they also produced soldering kits with a small meths lamp. I don't know the country of origin.



ASH (UK)

Claudius Ash & Sons Co. was founded in 1852 and is still in business (in Stevenage). Sold dental instruments and equipment.

EAGLE (USA)

Included in the 1930 catalog of Belknap Hardware & Mfg. Co. of Louisville, Kentucky. Copper plated steel body



WB MARVIN (USA) (below)
W.B.Marvin Mfg. Co. was located in Urbana, Ohio.



GARRATT & FOWLER (UK)
See BN70 & BN71 (Dec. 2009 /
March 2010) for more about
Garratt & Fowler)



NIPHAN (right, below)
"NIPHAN" is stamped on
the filler cap. Tank measures
4 1/2" X 3" X 1 1/2". Maker and
country unknown.

SUPER JET (USA) c1952 (below)
Birk Mfg. Co. of Niantic, CT, manufactured the
"Super Jet" lamps, which used solid pellets as fuel.



BUSH (USA) (below)
See BN 72 (June 2010) for more about
the Bush patent 3-way lamp

FLETCHER (USA) (below)
Lamps marked Fletcher are found in the catalogs of
American dealers in laboratory supplies.



THE NEKO 2 BLOWLAMP

By Arthur McNamara and Mal Mutimer

The NEKO 2 blowlamp shown in *Blowlamp News* No 77 (September 2011) (Figure 1) is of interest to Australian collectors, even though it is an ordinary one-pint Anglo-Swedish styled blowlamp. Why? Because there have been some reports that it is an Australian made blowlamp. However very little is known about it, for example, who manufactured it, where and when it was manufactured and was it an Australian company.



Fig 1: NEKO 2 blowlamp with cartouche



Fig 2: NEKO 2 blowlamp with inverted triangle

Adding to the mystery of the NEKO 2 is that the lamp shown in Figure 1 has a brass cartouche or badge soldered to the side of the tank with the inscription: Brandt Bros Limited Lamp Makers 236 Pitt Street Sydney. All NEKO 2 blowlamps had the 'Inverted Triangle' stamped on the side of the tank as shown in Figure 2.

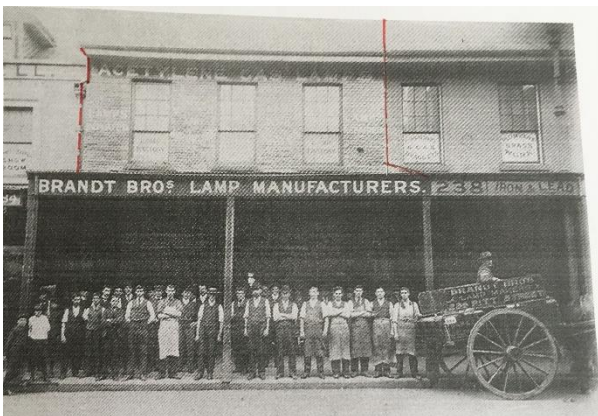


Fig 3: Brandt Bros' Pitt Street headquarters

Brandt Bros of Sydney had a trading history dating back to the late 1880s – first building its reputation as a lamp maker and then growing their business as retailers of a wide range of lamps and similar goods, both locally made and imported. By the early 1900s they had set up at 236 Pitt Street Sydney, and expanded their product range to include lamps, blowlamps, cookers and many other kerosene appliances. By 1920 they had built a new four storey building on this site, called the Lamp House, and had become the local agents for Primus products.

A wide range of blowlamps were sold by Brandt Bros, including not only Primus but Corona, Radius and NEKO 2. These blowlamps were

supplied by the local agent/importer who had set up business in the capital cities of Australia. In early 1924 a fire caused extensive damage to the rear of the building at 236 Pitt Street, destroying the workshop and the stores area. At the time Brandt Bros imported and sold large quantities of lamp carbide which would have added to the intensity of the fire.

To each lamp and blowlamp that Brandt Bros sold they proudly attached their cartouche to show their pride in the goods that they sold, and to advertise their status as Lamp Makers.

Figure 4a shown on the NEKO 2 (Fig. 1). After the 1924 fire Brandt Bros changed the wording on their cartouche by deleting the words “Lamp Makers”, thus indicating their move away from manufacturing and more towards importing; Figure 4b from a Primus 615.



Fig 4a: Brandt Bros cartouche – early version



Fig 4b: Brandt Bros cartouche – later version

During the 1920s there were several other large retailers who also sold blowlamps in Sydney. One of these was Nock & Kirby Ltd who had set up business about the same time as Brandt Bros and by 1920 operated a large Hardware Emporium selling a wide range of products including blowlamps and other kerosene products. Whilst Nock & Kirby were well known retailers of Optimus, their product range also covered other Swedish and British blowlamps. Many of the Optimus blowlamps they sold were imprinted “Supplied by Nock & Kirby Ltd”, see Figure 5.



Fig 5: Optimus imprinted tank

On the 11 March 1921 Nock & Kirby placed an advertisement in the Sydney evening newspaper the *Sun* for a sale which included “NEKO Blow Lamp reduced for 45/- to 33/6. In small print below, they added “Swedish (1 pint)”. Here we see the NEKO 2 being advertised as Swedish. This evidence weakens the case for the claim that the NEKO 2 was an Australian made blowlamp. It would not have carried a Brandt Bros cartouche as it was being sold by Nock & Kirby.

Which Swedish manufacturer made the NEKO 2 blowlamps? Whilst Brandt Bros were Primus agents, Nock & Kirby had a working relationship with Optimus. Was it Oriflamme or the British Optimus group? Is NEKO an acronym? Was Optimus or Primus the undisclosed manufacturer?

We appear to have raised more questions than we have answered. It would seem clear thought that the NEKO 2 was not manufactured by Brandt Bros and in all likelihood the NEKO 2 is not the product of an Australian Manufacturer.

Who then did make the NEKO 2?

Figure 1 & Figure 4a are published by kind permission of Michel Duval.

EOLIPYLES PART NINE**Wakeman and Wolf Z-M, plus Unlisted Breuzin**

By Charles Smith

NOTE: This is the ninth and final article about three-piece Eolipyles having a known manufacturer or known retailer. In the next issue of BN, I hope to present a number of attractive Eolipyles with unusual cutout patterns whose "origins" are unknown. For earlier "background" information about Eolipyles, please refer to the last few Society Newsletters.

**WAKEMAN, NEW YORK, NY
Two Sets, Nine Tiny Circles**

As with the Hymes, Knapp, Morgan and Herrick, and Reitz Torches, this is only the fifth three-piece Eolipyle known to have been manufactured or marketed in the United States. This Wakeman Eolipyle (Fig. 1) is both the largest and certainly one of the earliest and most rare Eolipyles in my collection. It is 22.5 cm in total height and 12 cm in diameter. Although "large" it is quite light, weighing only 14.4 ounces. The stand, its base, the "feet", and the handle, which is braded to the back of the stand, are, I believe, made of thin sheet tin. The fuel container, its screw on/screw off filler cap and combination pressure-release mechanism, and the curved burner tube are made of copper despite the "brassy" appearance in the photos.

Figure 1 shows the burner tube exiting near the top of the fuel chamber, then gently curving around the outside of the fuel tank before entering the upper part of the stand just above the top of the large, loop-shaped handle. The tip of the burner tube terminates about 2 cm below the bottom of the fuel container near the front part of the tank (Fig. 2). Note that the large fuel container gives the Eolipyle an increased capacity resulting in a more extended time of operation. The fuel chamber is also packed with cotton largely preventing the spilling of liquid alcohol and reducing the likelihood of a fire.

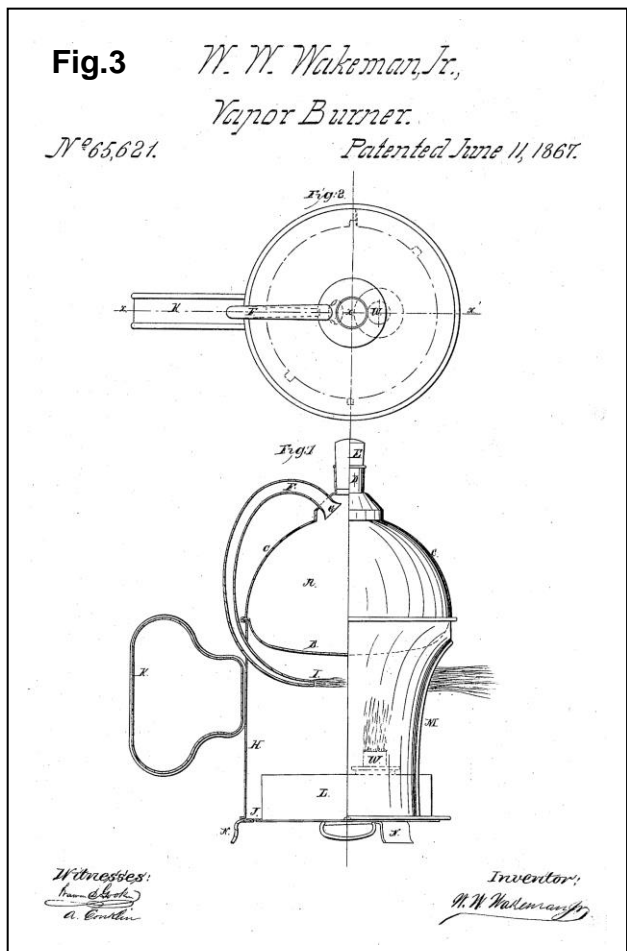
Fig.1



Fig.2



Be aware that this Wakeman Eolipyle is missing its lower alcohol lamp (Fig. 2). The drawing accompanying the patent description (Fig. 3) shows the lamp to have a relatively flat, undoubtedly low circular body with a threaded wick tube which could be removed for filling the lamp. The lamp must have had some sort of slot cut in its back, or perhaps a “loop”, a piece which would have fitted over and accommodated the upraised “hook” soldered to the back of the stand (Fig. 4). With the lamp attached to the hook, it would not have come loose from the stand when the Eolipyle was tilted in a forward direction.



The filler cap contains a pressure-release mechanism which externally consists of a short copper rod with an attached cone-shaped “plug” and overlying iron spring (Fig. 5). A transverse “bar” with a small centrally-placed hole is soldered to the inside, or bottom side, of the cap, assuring that the rod and external plug rises and falls vertically when pressure in the fuel tank is increased or decreased.



The cutout pattern is made up of three inclined lines with 3 small circles in each line, resulting in a diamond-shaped pattern (Fig. 1). Each of the small circles is 3 mm in diameter and the overall diamond-shaped pattern of 9 circles is about 2 cm in length. There are also oval-shaped stampings on each side of the stand. Inside each oval are the words “W.W.WAKEMAN JR” and “PATENTED” and “JUNE 11th 1867” (Fig. 6).



WOLF Z-M Marking

The front “lip” around the base of the alcohol lamp on some Carl Bauer Eolipyles is marked with an imprint, in this instance having a doubled imprint, of “WOLF Z-M” (Figs. 7-8). The meaning of this mark is unknown, but might represent the selling agent or retailer of this Eolipyle. Although the Eolipyle is otherwise unmarked, catalog records identify the circle-hearts cutout pattern as having been marketed by Carl Bauer, a large tool retailing company located in Munich (see Bauer in BN 101). Whether Bauer was a manufacturer or solely a retailer is unknown.



Fig.7



Fig.8

The following three Breuzin Eolipyles were acquired after I introduced my articles documenting these lamps beginning with BN 99, dated June, 2017. These three are included here in the interest of completeness.

SULPICE C. BREUZIN, PARIS, FRANCE Star, 14 Tulips

This small lamp is made entirely of brass except for the iron “loop” handles (Fig. 9). The stand measures 88 mm in height by 65 mm in outside diameter. As you can see from figure 9, it is missing its fuel tank and burner tube. The brass cup shown in figure 9 was used to fill the upper fuel container with alcohol prior to its operation.

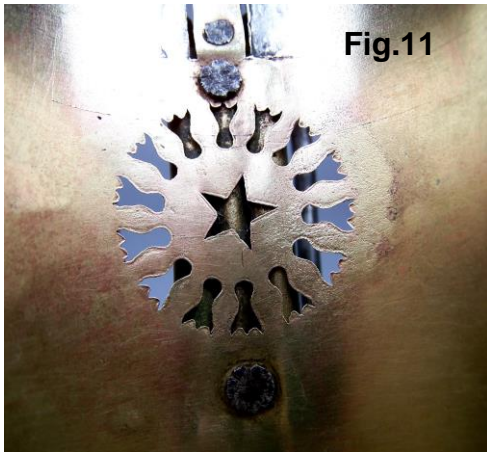


Fig.9

This Eolipyle is unusual in a number of aspects. First, the stand is made of thin brass. All of my other “known” Eolipyles are made of either iron or copper. This would seem to be an indication of early construction.

Second, the lower alcohol lamp has almost vertical sides with its top being at almost right angles to its sides (Fig. 9). The top on other Breuzin Eolipyles is rounded. I regard this as another indication of a very early Breuzin feature.

Third, the unique star, tulips cutout is placed in the rear of the stand under the bracket for the "loop" handles (Fig. 10). This is certainly unusual! It consists of a central 5-point star surrounded by 14 "tulips" (Fig. 11). The central star is 10 mm in diameter and the entire cutout about 30 mm in diameter.



Fourth, on the front of the stand to the right of the front opening is an imprint consisting of the marking "B" and "inventeur" (meaning inventor) (Fig. 12). This imprint is identical to the one found on several early (and rare) Sulpice Christophe Breuzin Lampe Docimastique (Figs. 13-14), early lamps which predate all of our currently known three-piece Eolipyles

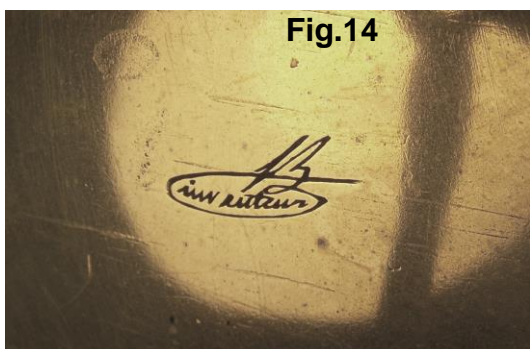


Fig2

Circle-Club-Circle, No Loop Handle

This little Sulpice C. Breuzin Eolipyle (Fig. 15) has the same cutout pattern, same markings, same size, and has the same iron stand and copper fuel chamber and copper alcohol lamp as that previously shown in my article titled “Eolipyles Part 2” published in BN 100 dated September, 2017. (Note that the Circle-Club-Circle Eolipyle shown in BN 100 is erroneously credited to Alfred Breuzin rather than his father Sulpice Breuzin). This one differs and is highly unusual because:

- (1) It does not have the loop handles seen on the previous torch, but rather a soldered trapezoidal “holder”, hollow internally, which must have held the upper end of a possible sheet-metal handle (Fig. 16). Michel Duval suggests that this might not be for a handle at all, but rather a fixture for hanging the Eolipyle on a hook. We simply don't know.

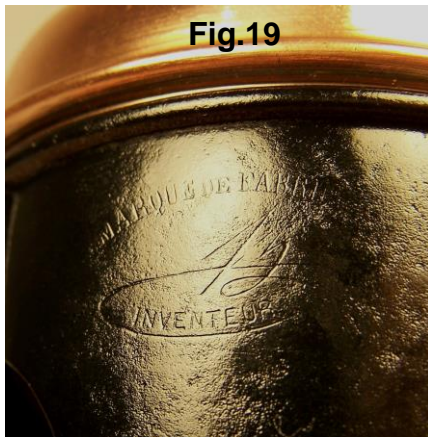


- (2) The stand appears to be unmarked as to its size. The previous Eolipyle is marked “1” above the front opening.
- (3) The top of the “handle” support has a “clip” which fits over the rim of the fuel chamber (Figs. 15-16). This holds the back of the chamber in place.
- (4) The wick holder on the lower alcohol lamp is not threaded and rests, tightly, on top of the lamp (Fig. 17). The example with the loop handles has a threaded cover.



- (5) Most unusual, is the lack of a burner tube both inside and beneath the fuel chamber (Fig. 17). I can only guess that this is a manufacturing mistake, that the two halves of the tank were soldered together before the burner was installed. Then, some incompetent worker failed to reject the tank. Or, as Michel Duval has suggested, it may never have been an Eolipyle at all but rather a pipe cleaner, as is shown on the upper part of this 1882 Breuzin invoice (Fig. 18). Perhaps someone replaced the curved tube on top of the upper container with a pressure-release cap. Of course, I don't know.


- (6) The right front part of the stand and the top of the fuel chamber (Figs. 19-20) contain the imprint "MARQUE DE FABRIQUE" meaning trademark. This is underlain by the "B" marking of Sulpice Breuzin, with the lower part occupied by the word "INVENTEUR" meaning inventor. This is the same imprint as found on the example with "loop" handles. Current information suggests that this Eolipyle predates that of the example with "loop" handles.



ALFRED BREUZIN, PARIS, FRANCE
Circle-Pointed Club-Circle

This early Alfred Breuzin Eolipyle has a cutout consisting of a central circle with four clubs at 90-degree angles, with intervening circles between the clubs (Fig. 21). This cutout is similar to the Circle-Club-Circle pattern described above and the slightly different version shown in BN 100, but here the bottom of the club is sharply angled and pointed and the top flared out and blunt.



The opening in the front of the stand is also unlike other Breuzin Eolipyles, actually unlike anything else in my collection. The base and top of the opening are quite wide (Fig. 22), with the top center being very sharply pointed and cutout almost like a horizontal brace (). All of my other Eolipyles have a gently curved opening on its top, almost like a half circle.

The Eolipyle has a thick copper stand and has a copper lower alcohol lamp and copper fuel chamber (Fig. 23). The wick holder and wick cap are both made from brass, as is the burner tube and filler cap-pressure release mechanism. The handles are iron and attached to the back of the stand by a copper “sleeve” held in place by two copper brads. The lamp is 18 cm in height and about 10 cm in internal diameter.



The stand is stamped with a “6” above and just to the right of the front opening (Fig. 24). Just to the right of the size designation is the Alfred Breuzin marking “DÉPOSÉ” (= Registered) underlain by three small 6-point stars arranged in a semicircle, that being underlain by the initials “A.B” (= Alfred Breuzin) and a horizontal “fish”. This same “A.B” marking is also stamped into the top of the fuel chamber. This identical marking is seen on the type I call “Latticework” (see BN 99, pages 4-6) and the type I call “Five-Point Star” Cutout (see BN 100, pages 6-8). From this, I would think these three types of cutout (Latticework, Five-Point Star, and Circle, Pointed Club, Circle) might fit within the same period of time, around the late 1870’s -1888.

My appreciation is expressed to Graham Stubbs and Michel Duval for their critique of this article and help with getting it into a publishable format.

WANTED

Charles Smith is interested in purchasing old three-piece Eolipyles similar to those shown in the article this issue. Please send a photo(s) and a note about its condition with your asking price to Charles at ccsmith2@charter.net. Thank you!

INDEX to ISSUES 1- 100 (August 1992 – September 2017)

A cross-referenced index to *BLOWLAMP NEWS* is available from Keith Hawkins on request, with a contribution to cover the costs of printing and postage. (Also at www.blowlampsociety.com)

BLOWLAMP NEWS is published in March, June, September and December.

EDITORIAL CONTACTS:

Keith Hawkins, 28A Rectory Close, Carlton, Bedford, MK43 7JY Tel. 01234 721 131
Graham Stubbs, 17715 St. Andrews Drive, Poway, CA 92064, USA gstubbs222@aol.com

Thanks go to Michel Duval, Arthur McNamara, Mal Mutimer and Charles Smith for contributions to this issue.

**COPYRIGHT June 2019: No part of *BLOWLAMP NEWS* may be reproduced
without the prior consent of THE BLOWLAMP SOCIETY**