

# BLOWLAMP NEWS

No 14

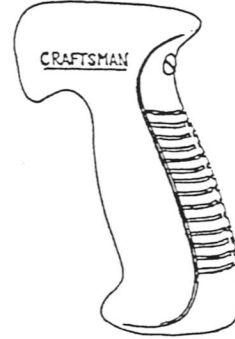
December 1995

The usual pre-Christmas rush, together with considerable household disturbances from alterations and redecoration leaves me, perhaps not unusually, short of time. So B/N 14 may not turn out to be a very long one. In any case, feed-back has been slow to arrive and there has not been a lot of time for you to respond to B/N 13's questions.

So, answers as follows, at least so far as I am able to give them.

## B/N 13 Handles.

a) This is a solid black plastic handle labelled "Craftsman" and appears on a 2 pint American petrol brazing lamp which is otherwise devoid of markings. It is fairly modern, with a plastic control knob and is probably of the same vintage as the Sievert lamps which sport the "pistol grip" handles, that is circa late 1950 -60. This handle is fixed with a single screw into the tank. "Craftsman" is the Trade name of the Sears- Roebuck Company - the large American D.I.Y. and Hardware Stores chain and thus the lamp was in all probability not manufactured by them. We may be able to update on some of this information later when certain letters are answered from the U.S.A.



b) A steel strip handle which was probably not cane-wound in its original state as one would have expected since there is a groove pressed into the long part of the handle which gives extra grip to a rather thin strip of steel. This handle is on a small 1/4 pint "Primus" petrol lamp with the serial No 802. Its control knob is a miniature version of "K"(4) in the Primus survey book.. The twin holes at top and bottom of the handle appear to be original but I've not seen this feature on any other lamps.

c) Is an early handle from a small "half pint" French Express petrol lamp, possibly from about mid 1920s onwards. Its safety device (which is B/N 13 **what is it?**) is of the pierced diaphragm type which confirms its early date. I'll do an "exploded" view of some of these safety valves in later issues. From what I have seen of French lamps they do not seem to have used cane winding to the same extent as in early English and Swedish lamps, maybe we'll have some comment on this observation from Philippe in due course.

## B/N 13 Filler caps.

a) I only put this in because I've not seen another like it and it came to me as the non-standard filler on a battered Sievert "Rapid". No one has so far volunteered any information on it. It has a female thread and contains what seems to be a spring loaded safety valve. I've not yet been able to dismantle it. Someone tell me what it is!

b) The cowl filler of the Sievert which so far I've only seen on some old Sievert Type "A" lamps with the thin pear-shaped wooden handle. Whatever the real function for this cowl, they are apparently quite sought after specimens of fillers.

## B/N Pump lock.

This is from a half-pint petrol Hahnel kindly loaned by Sean Hogan. The small lug locks under the rim of the screw cap but only on clockwise rotation similarly it is released in the same direction. If it is twisted the opposite way the knob is unscrewed so whether this is a design feature or just that the knob needs further tightening I don't know. Neither did I try it forcibly, it wasn't mine!

## B/N 13 logo.

This is the shield of Clayton & Lambert, one of the prolific American manufacturers. Sometimes seen as an engraved mark or as a transfer. A number of American lamps bear a date which sometimes causes people to mis-date the lamps.

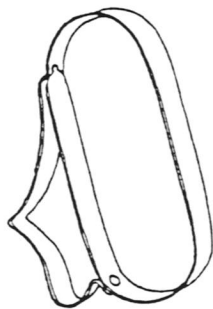


The date refers to when the original patent was granted and in theory should help to give more information about the makers and about their products. Unfortunately Keith Hawkins has had experience of the U.S.A. patents office. He wasn't very impressed and apparently gained very little from a long wait there.

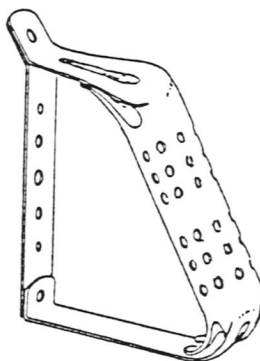
We'll hope for more success from other sources later.

**B/N 14 Handles.**

a)

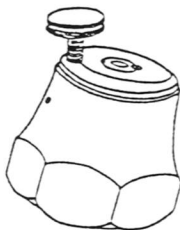


b)



**B/N 14 Fillers.**

a)



b)



**B/N 14 Logo (part of)**



Now for some really interesting news. I've had a letter from a couple of Belgian collectors who are apparently part of a French group who collect lamps, including blowlamps, and who held a reunion last year in Reims. We have been invited to a second such meeting, this time hosted by the Belgian group on Saturday February 17th at a place called Herseau (Moeskroen), not far from the French border. The meeting is to start at 10 a.m and will probably finish about 4 or 5 o'clock. The aim is to meet to discuss collections and possibly to sell or exchange lamps. There is an opportunity to stay over night when hotel accommodation would cost roughly £20-00. We should be welcomed with coffee in the morning and lunch could be provided, but I have to check what appears to be a rather expensive misprint about that. I only received the letter a day or so ago so I'm trying to find out about party bookings on convenient ferries in case a number of you would be interested. They would like to know by February 1st who might be coming and who would want accommodation. If anyone is interested please let me know and I'll put you in the picture about ferries etc. when I have some more information. You could always let me know when you return your subscription forms and cheques! I did telephone one of the writers last night. He speaks excellent English and says they are able to converse in French, Dutch and German, so someone should be able to understand us! I'm planning to go, so it would be quite a good outing if we could arrange convenient transport, either by car sharing, or by coach if sufficient numbers come. Let's hear from you, then I will make some more positive enquiries.

Information is as short as time so B/N 14 is back to its old two pages. I have been promised some articles for next year, so, while you're digesting your turkey and Christmas pud, think what you can contribute. Don't be put off, bear in mind I can make spelling mistakes as well as anyone!

I do hope you all have an enjoyable Christmas and that the New Year will bring you success with your collecting. I look forward to meeting again next year and if we can get a party up for Belgium that too would be quite something.

All the best.

P.S. I'll answer letters when I've recovered from Christmas - as one of my New Year resolutions!

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