

# *Blowlamp News*

No 17

November

1996

At last a year, fraught with a variety of problems, is coming to a close and, hopefully, a brighter one is in the offing. So, without dwelling in the past, and with no more pre-amble, let's get on with B/N 17.

### **Stourpaine 96**

I feel the organisers let us down badly this year. We were told a couple of weeks or so before the show that we should be back in our original site at the top of the hill and it was not until we arrived a few days before the bank holiday week end that we were allocated the site alongside the ploughing. The map was inaccurate and we weren't even shown on it, so many people had difficulty finding us. Indeed, I think a number of friends, who would normally have come, never did find us. Similarly not many visitors came our way. We have an aerial photograph which shows just how few people were looking around the collections, while on the other side of the hedge there were thousands in the market traders' section. Maybe one day the organisers will take note that many collectors put a lot of work into their presentations and are not just in for a free few days. We were well represented with Keith Hawkins, John Byrne and, as a late arrival, Toon van Ool with his impressive array of soldering torches. Sheila and Dick unfortunately were non-starters but, as always, Taff was there dazzling us all with his brasso. We may be rationed with our numbers next year and it could be that John Byrne's suggestion of a collective marquee will be the best solution. I still believe that to get together 1000 lamps would be a colossal task and perhaps John now has some idea of the weight of a large number of lamps. He brought an enormous number of most interesting lamps but his van springs were complaining all the way there, and probably all the way back!

### **General meeting**

A number of people have said they'd be prepared to attend such a meeting next Spring at Bloxham. This is pretty central to many people and has good road connections. I've met Sheila Cleaver again and talked it over with her. She didn't make it to Stourpaine this year having had an unpleasant operation on her shoulder which necessitated wearing a metal brace to keep her arm out sideways for a long period of time. I must say her blowlamps looked a bit dull from her inability to polish them but perhaps the effort to do that will help her to recover the full use of her arm. I must say it didn't prevent her giving me a very nice lunch when I called on her recently! Many thanks Sheila and Dick. While I was there she showed me the village hall which she was sure we could rent reasonably for the time we needed it (morning and afternoon till about teatime) and that with help she could do us a lunch and some tea. She has a level field very nearby with good access where those with caravans could park free on the Friday and if necessary the Saturday night and so make a week-end of the journey. A number of members have offered to help with the catering and of course those staying on the Friday night would be first in the queue to help the next morning!

The idea would be to get there about 10 o'clock, bring a selection of lamps to display and chat about and a number to sell or swap. Apart from meeting others for the first time, and perhaps seeing lamps you've not seen before, there would be the opportunity of a pre-season get together. The suggested time is the end of March and beginning of April before the shows really get under way.

Depending on how many come and what food and drink we come up with I think we'd be able to keep the price down to about £7-00 -£8-00 per head so let's have some positive replies with suggestions of convenient dates around that time. We had such an enjoyable experience when we went to Belgium in February that I'm sure we could do something similar for ourselves. If it works we might even be able to hold such a meeting nearer to Dover and invite our French, Belgian and Dutch friends over. It's up to you.

Another idea which was been talked about at Stourpaine is the possibility of a few regional meetings. Perhaps only in the nature of a get together for an evening in a convenient pub for a meal and exchange of lamps and information. I have in mind contacting the people within striking distance of Bristol to start the ball rolling perhaps in the New Year. Look at your membership lists and see if you've got half a dozen or so within reasonable distance and see if you can get something started. Provided you stay pretty well off the strong drink it's surprising how far you could go for an evening on a Friday or Saturday for such an event. Keep me in the picture if you are able to work something out and if I can help in any way I'll certainly try.

## **Badges**

I have finally found the best deal for pin badges which will allow the choice of two out of three colours, and the option of half the order in stud fastening and half in safety pin. My problem is that I need to order 250 badges and pay a tooling charge of £75-00. This means that with the badges costing 75 p each I need to pay something over £300-00 for the order. This is at the price prevailing at the time of the enquiry and I was warned that a price rise was pending.

I've spoken to a number of members to get their ideas of what they would be prepared to pay for such a badge, the design of which would be that shown on the cover of Blowlamp Newsletters. Opinions naturally varied according to how interested they were in having a badge. One member said he would probably have a badge but would probably not wear it, at least when he went to bootsales. His idea was that if a vendor saw the badge he would lose his bargaining power since he would expose the fact that he was a collector. Some people have already said they would like more than one badge but I feel that if the price is pitched too high they would probably buy only one. We have currently only about 80 members who renewed their subscriptions this year, so if they all bought one badge each I should have an initial return of £200-00 if I charged £2-50 each or £240-00 if the price were to be £3-00. Though one member said he thought they should be charged at £5-00!

These prices would leave me up to £100-00 down with 170 unsold and possibly unsellable badges. The current rate of new members joining is about 10-15 per year so it could take several years to get back the minimum cost. This, only if everyone bought a badge but so far only about 25 members have said they'd want one. I am not wanting to make a profit though the figures show that after 5-6 years I **might** just do that. I might also make a considerable loss. Several suggestions have been made. Multiple purchases could be made with a considerable reduction- for example for family memberships or friends. I would like to keep the badge exclusive to members, though it has been considered that we could have, say, a blue centre for members and a green centre for family, friends of members or badge collectors. Non members would be expected to pay a higher price and this would subsidise the members' price. Now what other ideas and suggestions have you? If sufficient members would say they'd definitely order a badge, or two badges, and say what price they'd be prepared to pay then I can go ahead and make the order and chance what happens. Too few replies or insufficient orders and I'm very much afraid the idea is a dead duck. Let's hear from you. It would be a very exclusive club membership badge with the absolute certainty of it being a limited edition, and possibly a collector's piece in the future.

## **Insurance**

No feed back here so I hope you're all well covered or have taken heed of Keith's advice.

## **Members article**

None this time unfortunately, but don't give up hope. There must be someone out there with a story to tell. If you're afraid of your spelling don't worry -I'm not -and we can always put the "spell-check" on and get some Americanisms into B/N. Incidentally I'm told there has been some contact from some American collectors though so far I've not been given any addresses. I hope this doesn't mean that the information is not being shared, for whatever reason, for that wouldn't be in the spirit of Blowlamp News! Let's all know about these people. Similarly there are others I've only heard about, particularly in Germany, who have not been given the opportunity of getting in touch with **all** our members. To enable people to corner the market with swaps, or what ever, is certainly not why I started these newsletters, and the publication of names and addresses to facilitate complete exchange of lamps and information between members is their prime function.

## **B/N 16 recap:-**

### **B/N 16 Pump and locking device.**

Several people wrote in to say, correctly, it was a Tilley pump with a screw down locking device. This was taken from a Tilley Fridge tester which is a rather less elegant looking cousin of the Bladon B40 but working on the same principle of methylated spirit flame discoloration by CFC.

I have a photocopy of the instructions if anyone would like them and these state that the lamp can also be used as a blowlamp.

I was once told about a Danish fridge tester but the fellow who owned it has never shown it to me. Anyone have any ideas? I don't know of any other apparatus like that made in Denmark.

### B/N 16 What is it?

As I said it is a flame gun but not, as several people have suggested, a "Sheen". I bought it from our local tip, merely because it looked interesting, I didn't know what make it was and it was **cheap!** It had no markings but when I was visiting a Somerset junk dealer recently I saw its twin, together with the maker's name and logo.

It was made by Berings of Camberley, a firm which no longer exists but our good friend and ace photographer, Tom Bartlett, has said he will try to find out something about them. Apparently he knew the firm some years ago when they made industrial heating apparatus.

Since these work on the same principle as paraffin

blowlamps, and there are a number of different makes

and patterns, perhaps some of you can send in some information. I already have a photograph of another make which I shall prepare for the December newsletter.

While on the subject of alternatives, I have had a reminder from David Ayers of Hull that he asked me a question several newsletters ago about hurricane lamps and that I'd done nothing about it. Not strictly true but not far off. The point is where do you start? I know little about hurricane lamps.

Should one include "Tilley" type lamps in this category? At the Stourpaine autojumble this year I did see one stall with a large number of rusted tinsplate lamps, many without their glasses, and what struck me was that there was such a large number of different makes. What impressed me particularly was one made by MEVA. Remember the question asked in B/N ? ( Oh for an index!!).

So we still have to look for our Czech blowlamp to match the cookers and now the hurricane lamp.

Anyone else any comment to make on hurricane lamps?

Incidentally Peter Wardale wrote to say he has an air release screw( or whatever we are finally going to agree is its description) marked "Hipolito". It could of course have come from a cooker!

A number of members include collections of cookers with their blowlamps and at Stourpaine this year I met Leslie Hames. He is a specialist cooker collector who goes into very great detail about the structure of his cookers and the measurement of threads etc. on the removeable pieces. I see him every year and we talk of similarities between blowlamps and cookers. This year he said he'd like to join us and I'm hopeful he may be able to answer any questions that may be sent in on cookers. So ask away.

### B/N 16 Handles.

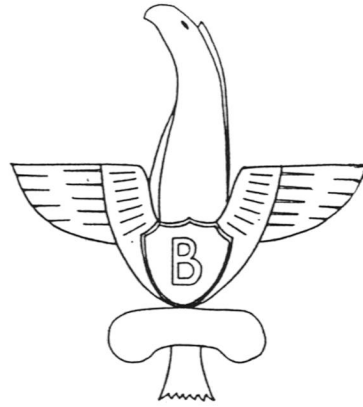
a) **Hexagonal black bakelite** with an oval depression in one side. Many half pint paraffin lamps, which are otherwise unmarked, have used these handles but particularly Veritas, which I have seen embossed, and Phoemax, which so far I have not, use them. Some bear the initials RM embossed in the oval. This, I am told, refers to Robins and Malin but I have never been able to confirm this.

They were a Birmingham firm which were possibly in some way related to Samuel Heath as their Trademark transfer bears the word "Heathware" Anyone anything further to say on this?

Phoemax and Veritas lamps are so similar that I wonder if they were made to order by the same firm. Phoemax were made in Ludlow in Shropshire and I discovered that Veritas were made in Ludlow up till 1960 when the factory closed. Whether other factories also made them I do not know but the name Veritas-Falks has survived and some butane lamps made by Veritas can be seen with these same bakelite handles. I believe that Falks have also used the "V in the inverted shamrock" logo featured earlier ( see index !?)

b) **Red painted wooden** handle found on the flat blowlamps by P Wall of Pittsburgh Phillippe has kindly sent me a small photocopy of a Wall Dreadnaught but so far I've not been able to enlarge it without too much distortion. I'll try to have it drawn in time for the next newsletter. Mrs Rymer has asked a question about this lamp which was the subject of the filler cap in B/N 15 but I have little information about this firm. The picture from Phillippe however is of a petrol lamp whereas the filler cap is from a paraffin lamp. Anyone any views?

Incidentally on some photocopies I've received recently from Peter Wardale with lists of spares which he sent for the purpose of starting to make a list of agreed names the filler caps are referred to as "oil inlet screw caps" ( Sievert) and those sent in by Willy Mouton as "tank lids" ( Primus) !!



**Their logo**

**B/N 16 Filler caps**

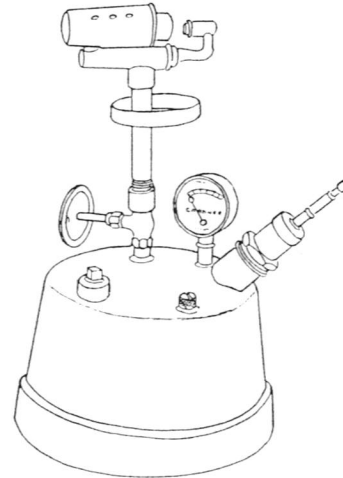
a) Is from a Sievert Saturnus 1 pint paraffin lamp. It has a male thread which is uncommon except in Sievert lamps. Does anyone have other lamps with this type of filler cap thread?  
The air release screw is captive.

b) This is from a Phoemax half pint paraffin lamp and as mentioned elsewhere can also be seen on Veritas and other anonymous lamps of the same size. The air release screw is sometimes of the traditional thumbscrew type.

**Now on to B/N 17 questions**

**What is it ?**

A lamp owned by John Wheeler about which I promised to ask a question some time ago. It has no markings except the name Gardner on the pressure gauge while the disc control handle bears the name Lincoln engraved on its face. The tank is of cast iron, and though the handle of the pump is missing it would probably be "T" shaped and wooden.



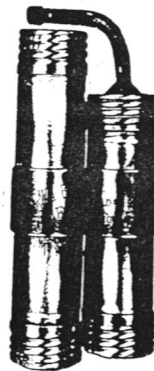
**B/N 17 Automatic spirit lamps**

Most people know the Valtock 2000 and Major but what about these.

a)

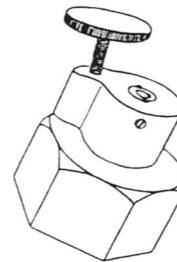


b)

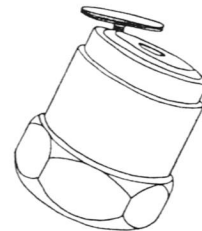


**B/N 17 Filler caps**

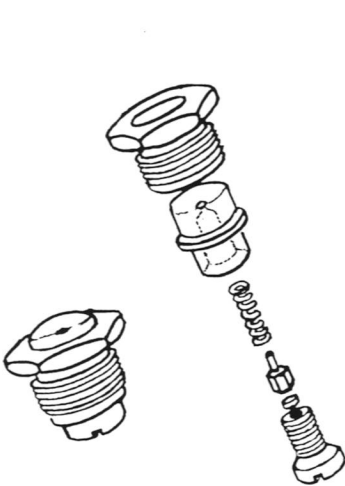
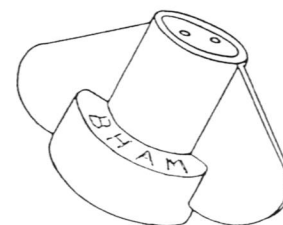
a)



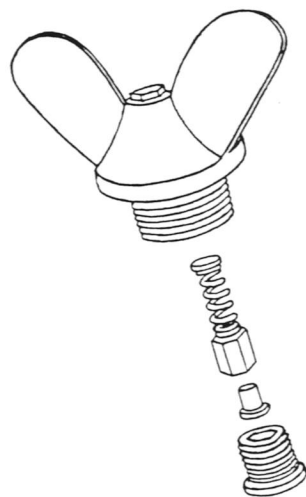
b)



c)



No 41 & 46



No 20

"Exploded" EXPRESS safety valves.  
Thanks to Ted Rawson and Willy Mouton  
for drawings and photographs

### Notices:

#### Change of address:

Richard Hardwick 68 Hallam Close, FILEY, North Yorks -YO14 0AH. 01723 - 515229  
Mrs V Rymer 1 Raby Road, NESTON, South Wirral -L64 9UY.

#### Address correction:

Willy Mouton Belgian Postcode number is :- 9160 **NOT** 9166

#### Welcome to new members:

Sid Jordan 3 Wilkinson Close, SUTTON COLDFIELD, West Midlands-B73 5QG  
0121 - 3556626

Russell Harrower 72 Stowmarket Road, NEEDHAM MARKET, Suffolk - IP6 8DX  
01449 - 720584

L E Hagon 4 Eccles Road, HOLT, Norfolk -NR25 6HJ. 01263 - 712671

Owen Pearson 63 Earle Street, CREWE, Cheshire - CW1 2AJ. 01270 - 257681

Stan Yelland, 36 Tir-Y-Dail Lane, AMMANFORD, Dyfed.- SA18 3AT. 01269 - 594148

Michael Tanner, 19 Lathbury Road, BRACKLEY, Northants -NN13 6HW. 01280 - 705974

**Member's request:** John Tingle ( 01934 - 832267) is keen to increase his collection quickly and wishes to buy any rare or unusual blowlamps and would be interested in buying whole collections.

#### Index:

You'll see I've started with a short index of subjects mentioned in this newsletter but so far I have had only a couple of offers to tackle the rest of the newsletters. I don't feel like asking them to do it all between them so what about another couple or so? It will make for easier reference and perhaps it will help to jog the memory when something comes to your notice in the future. See how I've done it and if you have any better ideas let me know.

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By stretching it a bit I've managed to retain the 6 page format but keep the information coming in to ensure more "meat" in future editions

Cheers