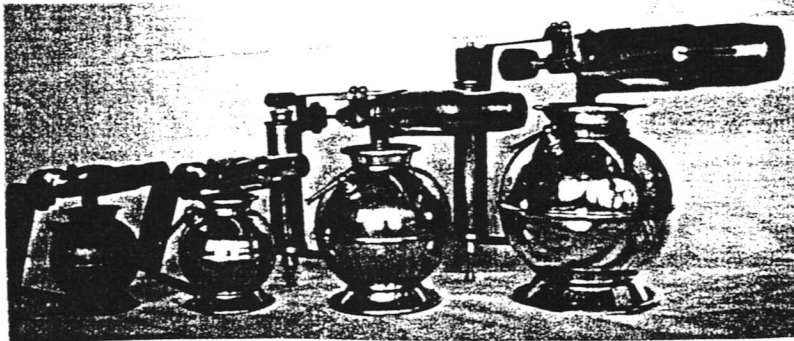


# *BLOWLAMP NEWS*

No 24

April 1998

Yet another grand meeting in Belgium. There were more collectors than in the past, with twenty or more representatives of Blowlamp News attending, adding to the total of some sixty collectors. If we are ever to match this we shall need to pull something very special out of the bag. The marvellous array of lamps on show, though not as many as in previous years, still showed a bewildering variety and I doubt if we can equal that. The idea that you display not one of a kind but the whole range of sizes is what most find hard to take in.



*The Surmelin "boule" family (sizes 0-3-10-20)*

The largest of these is 17 cm in diameter (nearly 7 inches) and apparently there are only four known examples in existence.! Our eyes were definitely very green.

However, many good deals were struck and most came away with some treasured trophies. The dealing was intense and I feel our continental colleagues were well pleased with their exchanges. Some were buying and selling but mostly, lamps were exchanged. This, I am sure, is what most people have come to expect from such gatherings. Except, of course at the end, when bundles of unwanted lamps were sold off cheaply to save bringing them back across the channel and also to help finance the "duty frees" on the way back

Now what about our meeting.

**Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup>** is confirmed and the venue is to be **Great Chart Village Hall** near to Ashford on the M20 in Kent. This is in response to a majority decision of 10:3 over the Sandwich venue by those who have already said they wish to come.

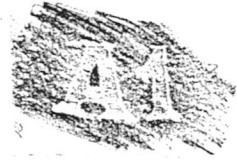
I am hoping that we can have a bigger attendance than this for we shall look well outnumbered by our visitors, six of whom have so far said they will make the long journey over. We'd all like to see some of you who did not come to Bloxham last year and who have so far not been to Belgium.

There are many attractions in the area for wives who may not be enthusiastic about blowlamps, and indeed there is enough to see to make a week-end visit. Kent is the garden of England and the fruit blossom should be out that that time. Canterbury is only 14 miles away, with many good shops and its incomparable Cathedral and turbulent history. In addition to such attractions as Leeds and Dover Castles, there are numerous Battle of Britain museums and in particular a Farm Museum, where, if anything can be collected it is to be found there. If anyone is interested I can send on details of these attractions and a list of possible accommodation ranging from Travel Lodge to B & B. But it is essential that I know in good time. *By return if possible.*

I've enclosed a menu and acceptance form which, to help with the catering, I should like you to return as soon as possible. I'll send full details and a map to those who return these forms.

## Previous issue Updates

On the subject of **B/N 22 burner tube (b)** John Byrne states it is definitely "AL" and not "A1", but here is the rubbing from my lamp and that is definitely "A 1". So where do we go from here? Anyone anything to add?



I've decided to put the topic of *fridge testers* on hold for the moment. There are several pictures available of a considerable range of these lamps which might well lend themselves to some work about which Ray Hyland has written to me. He has been working on processing pictures for photocopy publishing which should give us more illustrations of better quality. He sent me some examples of scanned pictures and some taken with a digital camera. He is coming to Kent and will bring the camera with him for further trials.

In response to several requests I shall either put the dimensions of the various components against the illustrations or add these afterwards in the following newsletter. It is not always practicable to draw all pictures to the same scale, but some indication of the size and the capacity of the parent lamp is undoubtedly helpful

### **B/N 23 Burners.**

- a) Identical burners are used on the Bladon B46 and the Primus 802. They are 80 mm long. Fixing is by a single central set screw which also retains the copper bit holder. On my lamps the Primus burner is unmarked, but the Bladon is stamped with the makers name. The lamps are about ¼ pint capacity and look very much alike. The spirit cup depression is oval in both cases - probably a design requirement because of the small diameter of the tank - and since neither filler has a spring valve the safety wire comes through into the base of the spirit cup in both lamps. The handles have been shown in earlier Newsletters. The Bladon was designated in the Post Office Telephone Manuals as "Lamp Torchblowing No3"
- b) This burner which is 98 mm long is of the French EXPRESS No 29. The lamp is of 0.5 L capacity with the burner slightly inclined and the pump set into the side of the tank.

The B/N 23 Filfer cap is from the Bladon B46 and measures 25 mm across the "wings"

I am always asking people to keep in mind the previously unanswered questions, for, as in the case of Herberg lamps, the explanation sometimes is a long time coming. So with the identification of the "**Phoebus**" Austrian makes, raised in B/N 2. The answer came from the Belgium meeting when I was shown pages from a catalogue of *Josef M Rosenthal* so the sequence is J M R and Not M J R. The brand Name of Phoebus is after the Goddess of Light and their logo is named the "Phare" logo (the Lighthouse). Thus with patience all will be revealed ( we hope). The date of the catalogue was thought to be about 1920.

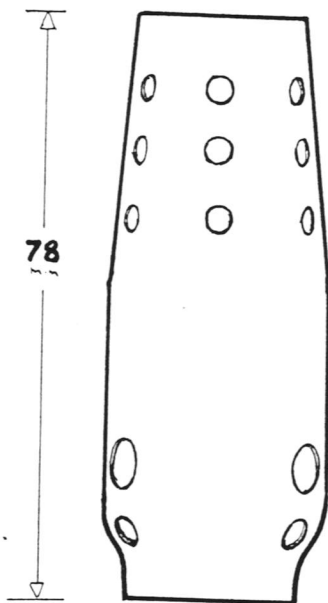
I am still working on the index with the information supplied by Sylvia Black and Tony Bridle. The problem is to present it in a way that can be updated annually without having to reprint the whole thing. Though this may be the simplest but obviously more expensive solution. Initially I plan to provide it in two or three parts to come with the next newsletters.

### **New members.**

At long last, after being one of the first people I approached to join us, Taff (Dave the lamp) Rees has done just that. Welcome to Blowlamp News Taff - we hope we can help you, as I am sure you will be able to help us. He did bring several of his lamps to display at Herseau and introduced the locals there to the Gallic custom of handling blowlamps only with cotton gloves! He has already kindly sent me photocopy of the G.P.O. range of Bladon lamps which includes the statement that for some reason, when there was a problem of getting Bladon lamps for the G.P.O., they tried to use Sievert Type "A" Lamps but these, though of "good quality and construction" were found not to be up to specification.! Taff asks if anyone has ever seen a Sievert lamp stamped as a G P O lamp. I certainly haven't. I'll put in some more extracts from his most interesting notes in later issues.

A few B/N 24 drawings for your collections.

Burner tube



Plaques

a)



b)



Plaque (a) is courtesy of Brian Grainger

It is soldered to the side of a **Corona** ½ pint petrol lamp but a picture in the "Gazette" shows an **Amor** of the same size with "Glynwinna" impressed into the side of the tank. Anyone any other contributions to this puzzle?

Plaque (b) is courtesy of Ron Carr's "Blowtorch" This plaque was used on early **Turner** lamps, after Turner had purchased the manufacturing rights and the "Hotblast" title from The White Company in 1904. Ron asks if anyone has a lamp showing such a plaque.

Two Logos

a)



b)

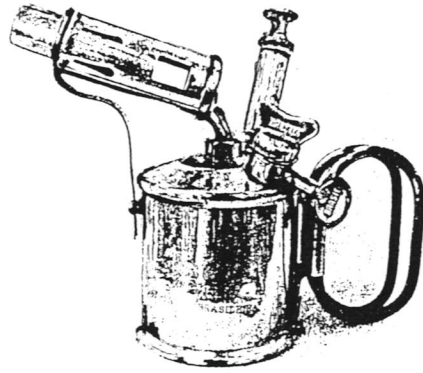


A Sad Note

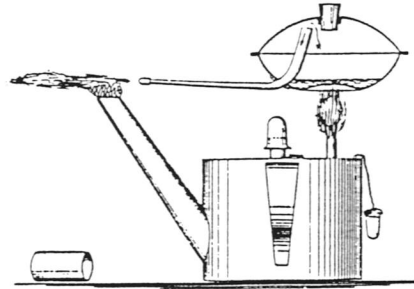
It is with much regret that I report the death of Terry Griffiths a month ago. He had been an enthusiastic collector in recent years and attended our meeting at Bloxham last April. Those who met him will recall his cheerfulness in the face of his obvious disabilities, which he bore with great fortitude. I am sure you would all wish me to convey your condolences and sympathy to his wife June.

### Some News from overseas.

This picture is of a Brazilian "Gasol" lamp. Identical with the Primus 631. The imprinted legend on the tank shows it was either made under licence or made for the Brazilian market. Remember the "Aymaro" of Argentina? They were very adept at pinching each others ideas in those days. Note also the similarity of some "Phoebus" lamps with "Primus" even to the pattern and location of the name on the handle of the "632" look-alike.



A representation of a self acting Blowpipe reminiscent of the **eolipyle** type lamps of France though there does not appear to be any form of support for the top fuel tank.



SELF-ACTING BLOW PIPE  
PATENT DATED AUGUST 3, 1875  
J.M. HANCOCK, INVENTOR

### Information snippets

John Byrne reports that "P T" stands for "Poonam Trading"

Someone at Herseau averred that Otto Herberg ceased trading in 1930 and thereafter used the name "Talisman" But elsewhere it is stated that "Talisman" is a French brand name. Any comments anywhere?

There is still much to be done in correcting the list of non-American lamps as shown in "The Torch". Ron is keen on accuracy and also in trying to ascertain differences between Manufacturers, Brand names and Marketing agents. Not always easy, but some duplication can be put right. For example I have seen K F E, Eriksson, Three Crowns and even Eskilstuna reported elsewhere as four separate Swedish makes of lamp. Eskilstuna of course is the name of the city in which K F Eriksson made his blowlamps, some of which were entitled "Three Crowns"

Lets have some other points of view.

### Rallies and Shows.

So far only **Keith Hawkins** has given me his list.

Up till July he will be doing:-

April 12/13 Game and County Fair Redbourn Herts; May 2-4 Whipsnade Zoo (very risky Keith!) May 23/25 Pageant of Motoring, Enfield; May 30/31 Leighton Buzzard Bypass Rally; June 6/7 Etruria Canal Festival, Stoke-on Trent; June 13/14 Parham Steam Rally, Pulborough; July 4/5 Chiltern Rally, Great Missenden; July 11/12 Rempstone Rally, Loughborough.

As I hope to have the next Newsletter ready in July I hope you exhibitors will let me have your Summer and Autumn dates and places in time for that

That's all for now. Keep the feed-back coming in. The next Newsletter is **No 25** so let's make it a big silver one.

\*\*Don't forget **May 9<sup>th</sup>**

*See you there. Les.*

Let's make it a suitable welcome for our Continental friends, both from the numbers attending and the lamps on show.