

No. 25

Celebrations

First this is edition **Number 25** - our Silver Jubilee number- if that is the right term to use. This makes us the longest running newsletter devoted to Blowlamps. At least so far as we are aware. Perhaps some of you know of other groups with more and if so please update me. The other celebration is that for the first time we have 100 paid up members, so we are vying for the largest membership as well

Keep the feed-back rolling in and let me know of other collectors who may well like to join us and we'll rise to even greater things. I know many members are aware of other collectors both at home and abroad so why not try to interest them in our activities, or give their names and addresses to me to send them the invitation?. The more members the greater the chance of exchange of information

Great Chart May 9th 1998

A fine sunny day and an early start by Gina and myself in order to be ready for our visitors. But no such luck.

While fixing the last direction notice outside the village we were met by Michel Duval and Robert Langlois and their party coming back from the hall, soon to be followed by Willy and Bridget Mouton. Because of the time difference between England and the Continent they were one hour ahead of us. We found that Toon had camped overnight in his enormous yellow van in the Village Hall car park!

So our guests, who had arrived first, with nothing ready for them, were recruited to help. Fortunately ace-photographer Tom Bartlett was also an early arrival so he was appointed coffee maker.

It all worked out well in the end, though there were insufficient tables for the large displays which all had brought. Someone estimated that there were 1500 lamps on show. Many swaps were made and everyone was well satisfied with their exchanges.

In all we had 15 - 16 visitors from across the channel from France, Belgium and Holland with a total in the hall of 44. When you consider that we were expecting 20-30 and arranged the catering accordingly a tribute must be paid to Gina, Sheila and the girls who helped in the kitchen, especially Vera and Muriel with, as always, our washer-up-in-chief Sheila Cleaver.

The cooking was only possible through the generosity of the Village Hall Secretary who lived next door. She was out all morning so allowed us to use her kitchen and cooker to cope with the extra numbers. That phrase "sweating over a hot stove" was certainly justified at Great Chart that morning, and the results were acclaimed by all. I have had numbers of letters from people who attended saying how much they enjoyed the experience, and to receive praise for cooking from our French and Belgian friends was accolade indeed **Well done girls and many thanks.**

Nick Lester, a reporter from "The Kentish Express" arrived to learn a bit about blowlamps, and subsequently reported our activities to the citizens of the Ashford area. I've included the cutting for all to see. In the back ground of the picture is part of Andy's display

Shortage of Tables

One thing we shall need to check for future meetings is to have adequate tables for display. Perhaps it would be as well for each member to bring one and then any which are provided will be a bonus. Certainly without Andy Feast's magnificent prefabricated display stand on the stage we should have had a real problem. Unfortunately because of the shortage of space we were unable to see Don Rixon's display of illuminated blowlamps. We hope that is a treat stored up for next time. Don.

All our Continental friends agreed that with their hour's advantage they could well have travelled further inland so another time we can move a bit further east and maybe encourage some more members to join us for the day.

Regional Meeting - Bristol ?

I'm still waiting to hear if anyone in the Bristol area has any ideas about a venue there for a regional meeting. We have a lot of members within easy reach so what about some suggestions, and ideas of dates for me to follow up? It might be too far from Dover but if the dates fitted with a holiday that too might be suitable.

American Blowtorch Convention

In October, Ron Carr's American Blowtorch Collectors Association is planning their first Convention. At that time I shall be visiting my son in Seattle, which is only some 60 miles from the venue, and I hope to be able to accept their invitation to attend. I'll report that meeting in the next newsletter. I've heard from John Tingle that he too will be on holiday in America at that time and plans to be there.

Quizzes are not popular - Why?

We have tried a photograph quiz at Bloxham, John Byrne's "Makers and Country" quiz and the latest one at Great Chart which was a lamp, or parts of lamps in sealed bags to be identified "blindfold".

I wonder why these quizzes are not popular? I'm sure it is important to be able to recognise lamps and to be able to identify their country of origin, but I also think it is important to be able to recognise components such as handles, burners, fillers etc. Then if you have a non-standard part on a cannibalised lamp you will know what to look for to complete the genuine article.

In the Great Chart quiz, to be fair to our visitors, there was a mix of lamps, with 7 from England and 5 from France, Sweden, Germany and Holland. Out of the 44 persons present only 6 took part, but these had creditable scores. Tom Bartlett, as usual, did well, as did Don Rixon and the French Club President Jacques Debrouwer but the winners were **Norman Penny** and **Keith Hawkins** with a score of 7 each. However, on a count-back, since in one bag Keith had identified only one of the two handles in it I docked him half a point leaving Norman to receive the bottle of wine. Congratulations and thanks for your support.

Surveys

Returns from the surveys we have run have not been very fruitful. Not many people have returned their Primus survey results or the blowlamp parts questionnaire and very few indeed have given their lists of lamps or offered corrections to the lists I have published from time to time- especially the list of non-American lamps and makers as sent by Ron Carr from Seattle. Let's have some action!

"A1" or "AL" ?

The saga continues.

Help from Philippe Touillet, Michel Duval, Sylvia Black and Ted Hall has been combined to produce the following

A small 0.15 L (1/4 pint) petrol lamp, in many respects the same as the Primus 802 and Burmos pattern L and the small 1/4 pint Monitor, was designated "L". It had a simple single strip steel handle, probably not bound, in the shape of a triangle. The 0.25 L (1/2 pint) lamp was designated "AL" which had an oval cane wound handle and the burner of which was fixed to the burner head with screws as was "L". The next in the series was the "A" of 0.4 L which had a screw-on burner and a slim pear-shaped wooden handle. The other members of the series were designated "APM" (0.4L) "APH" (0.5L) "APL" with a later variant "APS" which had an inclined burner. All these had handle pumps.

These early versions appear in catalogues dated 1930 and 1933 but a series of photocopied directions for use sent by Ted Hall showed all the above types except "L" and from the printers marks on the last page they could well be dated 1929. I wonder therefore if 1930 was the date of the first appearance of type "L"? By 1937, in a Sievert, catalogue the "AL" appears as "A1". The handle of the "L"

remains as a single strip of steel but the "AL" and "A" have cylindrical steel handles with perforations down the sides. Later, but the dates are not certain, the series was re-designated as:- "L" "A1" "A2" "A3" "A4" with the last three symbols replacing "A", "APM" "APH". By 1954 "A1" was No 209 and there was a pumped version with "L" becoming No 207. 1961 showed 209 with a pistol grip handle and a variant No 210 with folding handles.

Michel poses the question - did the series ever extend to "A5" "A6" etc? Anyone any ideas? He also says he has a colleague who is wanting to obtain, by exchange, an "A2". Any offers?

Two further offerings from Michel throw light on "Phoebus" and "Talisman." The original firm, owned by Josef Rosenthal, was known as *Gerson Boehm and Rosenthal* and used a simple triangular logo bearing the initials "GB&R". These appear in catalogues dated 1901,3,5. A catalogue extract of 1930 bears the lighthouse logo and the initials M J R standing for "Metallwarenfabrik Josef Rosenthal".

So we now have a definitive order of the initials and their meaning. Perhaps yet more information will come later.

Herberg and Talisman

This is stated by Michel to be not so easy. I hope in trying to simplify it I do not get it wrong, and make things even more difficult.

In the beginning, in Germany, "Talisman" was the name given to a particular lamp (No 105a with an inclined burner) made by Herberg, as seen in catalogues dated 1908 and 1914. There was also a horizontal burner version designated No. 120. In a later catalogue No 24 (undated) "Talisman" appears as a Schutzmarke (a registered Trademark) with the same lamp illustrated and the name "Talisman" imprinted on the side of the tank. In 1931 Herberg ceased trading and the manufacture passed to Ludwig Brock & Co. The name "Talisman" disappeared as did Lamp No 120. Meantime from an early date Leon Guilbert imported German and Swedish lamps into France and a catalogue of his from 1909 shows two named Herberg lamps -Nos. 120 and 121. In 1910 Leon Guilbert bought back the S. S. Trading with Systeme Asche (See logo in B/N 10) and started his "Express" business with the logo in B/N 15. (explaining the initials L G on the side of the engine!) He gave up his import licence to Maurice Juchat, who, by agreement

manufactured Herberg lamps engraved with the name "M.J. Talisman Paris" Juchat later took Pion-Vivies into partnership until the business ceased trading after W W 11.

Now you know - but it seemed much simpler when Michel explained it!

If nothing else has come of all this blowlamp discussion Michel's English has improved enormously! Many thanks Michel and to our other contributors.

Incidentally the pictures of some of the Herberg lamps in the pieces of photocopy sent me with all this information show a remarkable resemblance to the "Corona" burner heads. The tanks are quite different but the shape of the burner heads (where are all those "blowlamp parts" survey replies?) and in particular the small sliding air cover with its control spike on the top is identical. Did they have a common origin and were they imported for *Howes and Burley* for their "Corona" lamps. Most Corona lamps have name plaques soldered on them except the 1 pint paraffin No 105 which has a deep imprint around the base of the tank. Anyone have anything to add to this observation

B/N 24 drawings

The Burner tube is from a *Neve* - so far as I am aware the only Dutch manufacturer. The logo is also shown in B/N 24. My example is of a 1 pint. petrol model with a handle pump. The heat dissipating design of the handle is a steel cover with a square section spiral thread which forms a comfortable grip. The logo bears the inscription "*Excellent quality-Fully guaranteed*" So possibly it was made for the English market.

There is no more information at present about *Neve*. Who they were, where they were made and what other models are available? Also were there other Dutch manufacturers? Come on Toon, Janus and now Han what have you to say about what is apparently your only National manufacturer?

The second B/N 24 logo is of *Adler* (The Eagle). It is of Austrian origin but no further information is available at present. My example is a small (less than half pint) petrol lamp designated "ALFA" on the shoulder of the tank. - vide "A" of the Sievert range already discussed. There is little out of the ordinary in comparison with other lamps of the same size except its handle. This is of strip steel, is a more elongated triangle than most

and has in addition two curved arms extending outwards from its base as a sort of hand shield - a bit reminiscent of the hand shield on some swords! The engraving is particularly well shown.

The *Glynwinna*, I am assured by Taff as being of Welsh manufacture. However, of the two types spoken about already, one has a stamped name and the other a soldered plaque while the two basic lamps are also different. Perhaps more information will come to light in due course.

I'm afraid we've not been able to supply Ron Carr with any news of a White Mfg. Co. manufactured "Hotblast".

A case of being as rare as "*Hen's teeth*" I guess!

How's your Arabic ?

We don't have any middle Eastern members but does anyone have any contacts, either in a foreign languages school or as neighbours who can identify:-

- a) the inscription found on late "Primus" lamps
- b) this inscription which I have found on a Burmos Pattern "C" lamp.

Welcome to some new members

Dave Styles 1 Higher Street, Cullompton.
Devon. EX15 1AJ 01884 - 38408

Ray Gubb "Southill", Kentisbeare,
Cullompton. Devon EX15 2AW
01884 - 266295

Rob Starling has renewed membership
following the Great Chart meeting.

Han Melisse Haaswijk Weg-West 44, 3319
GD DORDRECHT Nederland
0031 78 6166609

David Yol 4 Rue Carolina 1227 Acacias
GENEVE Switzerland

David is Don Rixon's nephew and is aged 14.

Ron Lamb 14 Queen's Terrace Bristol Road
SHERBORNE. Dorset DT9 4ED

Michel Cochard 15 Rue Courteline
89100 SENS, France 03.86.65.74.80

Michel is Secretary of the French Club

Change of Address

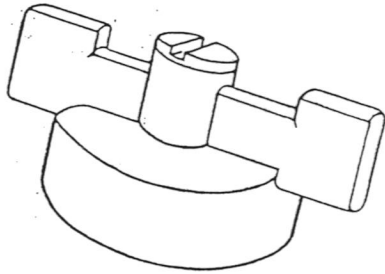
Norman Penny 6 Douglas Haig Road
Salisbury Wilts SP1 3NB 01722 - 414929

B/N 25 Drawings

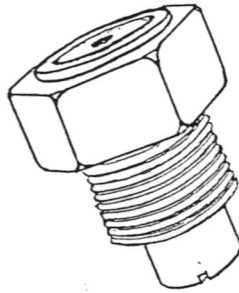
I have been asked why I present these illustrations as a sort of quiz. That is not the real intention but I look for comments which would make for a fuller description in a later issue than I am able to offer at first. So examine your lamps and let me have your observations. You were all very quick to pick up my early unintentional mistake in the number of holes in the side of the Veritas and Parasene handles in B/N 2 !!

B/N 25 Filler caps

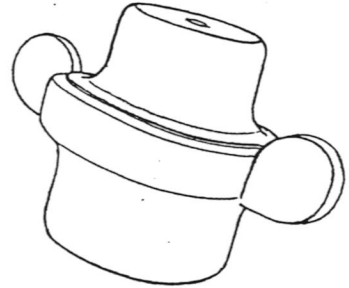
a)



b)

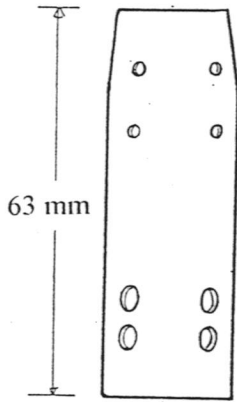


c)



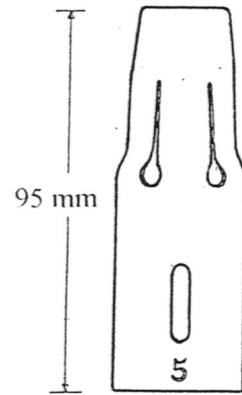
B/N 25 Burner tubes

a)



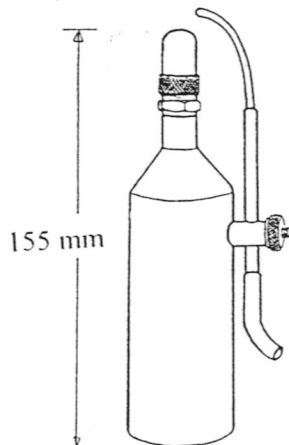
A clue - both these are French but the two lamps I have which use burner (b) are different and only one bears the number "5". Does anyone know the reason for this number?

b)

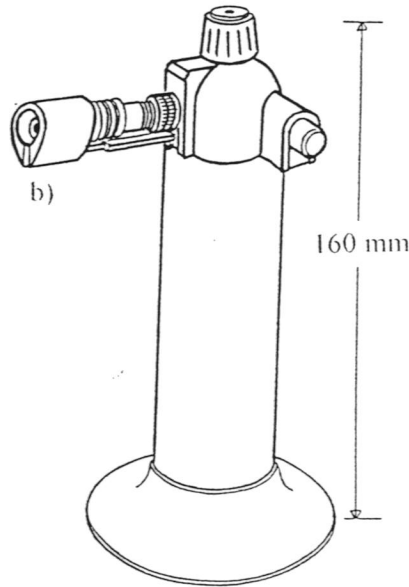


Three distinctive blowlamps

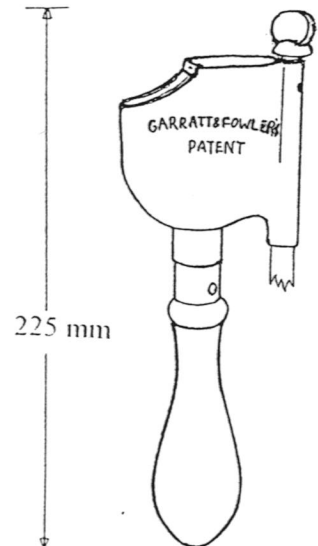
a)



b)

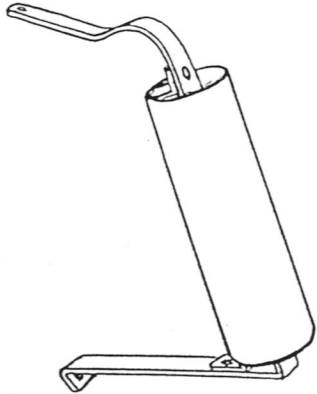


c)

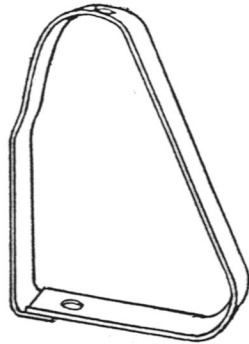


B/N 25 Handles

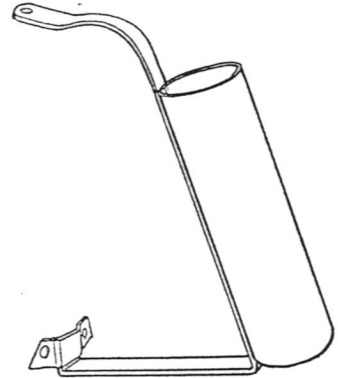
a)



b)

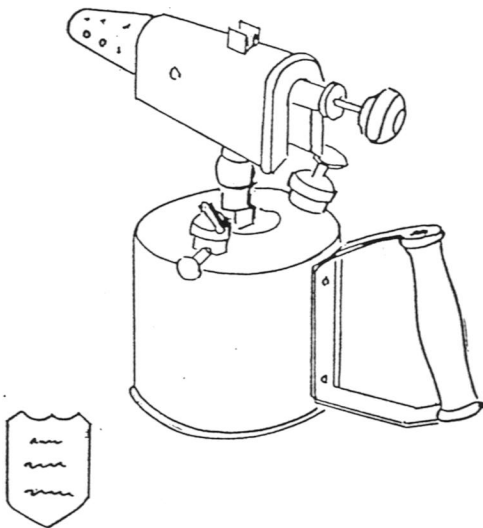


c)

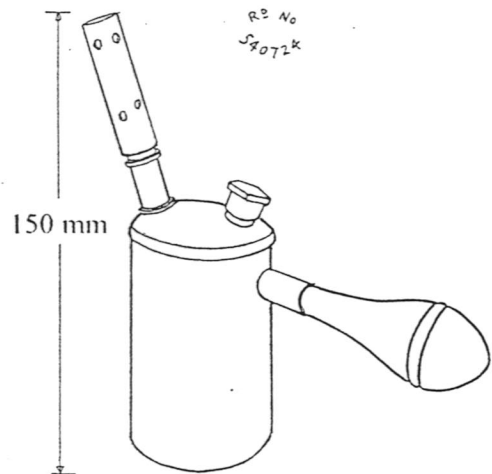


Can anyone identify these lamps?

a)



b)



a) Requested by Keith Hawkins.

The only mark appears to be a small shield shaped logo on one side of the tank which appears to have three lines of writing.

b) is one I have acquired recently. The only mark is a circular stamp on the top of the tank indicating:- Reg. No. 540724

Finally my thanks for your support with the first 25 editions of the newsletters. I hope I can count on the same for the next 25.

My apologies for

a) the delayed publication

b) the poor quality of the reproduction of the newspaper photograph- though one of the subjects was slightly less photogenic than the other !

I look forward to meeting some of you at "Stourpaine" Sept. 2nd - 6th when hopefully the weather will be somewhat better than the second day at the Downs Rally.

Cheers.

Nick Lester sheds a little light on

rare but burning issue of history

Blowlamp buffs' warm reception

ENTHUSIASTS from Belgium and Holland were among those who converged on Ashford for the first international meeting of blowlamp collectors.

More than 1,500 blowlamps from around the world were on display at Great Chart Village Hall.

Dr Leslie Adams, a retired GP from Devon, who organised the event, became interested in blowlamps more than 10 years ago, after buying one from a car boot sale.

He now edits *Blowlamp News*, a quarterly newsletter which has more than 90 readers, including subscribers in the US, Canada and Warsaw.

Collectors had previously met in Belgium and France, but this was the first meeting to be held in this country.

Great Chart was chosen as a location because of ease of access from the Continent and the North of England.

There is no published literature on the subject and Dr Adams, who is interested in the history and development of blowlamps, said such meetings gave people the opportunity to

learn from each other.

Other information is derived from old tool catalogues and former employees of manufacturing firms.

Dr Adams said the first controllable lamp fuelled by petrol was invented in Sweden in 1882.

It was copied and refined throughout the world until the 1950s, when replaced by butane/propane gas blowlamps, although some are still made in India, Africa and some eastern countries. He said there were at least 6,000 different types of blowlamps in existence.



Jacques Debrouwer, president of a visiting club, and Leslie Adams compare blowlamps from their collections during the enthusiasts' get-together 3/2140E

HINTS AND ADVICE

FOR THE USE AND UPKEEP OF

Bladon Petrol Blow Lamps

Best spirit only should be used. The majority of Blow Lamp troubles are caused through dirt or grit entering the container. To prevent this, all spirit should be kept in a clean receptacle and filtered before use. For this purpose we recommend our SPECIAL FILLER & FILTER, the design of which is registered.

To start Lamp fill three-parts full with petrol, replace filler screw. Pour a quantity of methylated spirit or petrol into well at top of Lamp, see that valve is turned off. Place Lamp in sheltered position then light the spirit or petrol in the top of the well.

It is most important that the reservoir is not overfilled. There must always be room left for the expansion of the petrol which takes place when the well containing the methylated spirit is lighted.

The centre tube of lamp contains a wick, this conveys the petrol to the vaporizer and the outside heat causes the petrol to turn into vapour.

As soon as the spirit has burnt away, turn on valve and apply light to nozzle. We recommend that until nozzle has become hot the valve is not opened full.

All petrol lamps require internal pressure, and this is obtained by heat in the first place from the well, afterwards from the nozzle. See, therefore, that nozzle is screwed on tight.

Where Lamps are fitted with pressure safety device a new synthetic washer is occasionally required.

Care should be exercised in fitting. Bladon safety valves are automatic and are accepted by Post Office Engineers as their standard.

Lamps are sometimes started up by placing on a fire; this is dangerous and bad practice; top heat only is required.

Models B59, B61, B62, B63, B64, B48, B68, & B46 are fitted with hurricane nozzles and self-cleaning nipples—a steel needle is secured by a small brass screw to the end of the control valve, and each time that is shut off the needle is passed through the nipple.

Types B62, B63, B64 & B48 are fitted with a side pressure Pump and patent valve. The pump gives extra pressure when a very fierce flame is required, but should not be used until Lamp has been burning some little time. To operate pump hold up lever which opens patent valve and allows pressure into Lamp. This valve automatically closes and prevents any mishap due to petrol leaking into pump. No other make of Blow Lamp is provided with this safety device.

All pumps are fitted with gauze to filter the air thus preventing dirt getting to the valves. To fit new cork washer, unscrew cap at bottom of pump, see that cap is screwed up tight when replaced.

After continual use it is advisable to fit a fresh wick. To do this remove hexagon cap in the centre of bottom of lamp, fitting fresh cork washer to cap before replacing.

"BLADON" Blow Lamps are tested and guaranteed. They can be obtained from all Plumbers' Merchants, Ironmongers and Paint Dealers, or direct from the makers.

When ordering spares, state number of Lamp and year of manufacture.

I thought this instruction sheet from Bladon might be of interest

STOP PRESS Several members have indicated that they have lamps for sale or exchange. Lack of suitable space this time - but if anyone else wants a particular lamp or has some to dispose of by sale or exchange let me know for the next newsletter