

BLOWLAMP NEWS

No 3 March 1993

Dear Member

So far we have had 33 subscriptions returned and I am hopeful that a number of forgetful people might be prompted by a second reminder.

Some more information has been derived from the questions posed last time but details of manufacturers are scarce and this is an area where further research is needed. First I must apologise for handle "a". It should, as so many of you pointed out, have had only 7 holes on each side instead of the 9 I drew. It wasn't a catch - it was a mistake! Still, it did show that many of you are now going into much more detail in examining blowlamps.

HANDLES

(a) This was used by Parasene (M H Berlyn) and Veritas on 1pt and 1pt paraffin lamps. Parasene appears to have been red and Veritas black. One member stated that Parasene handles were closed by spot welds whereas Veritas used a through rod with dome nuts. Dates thought to be 1950-1960. The Parasene logo was the name in script with a large flourished initial "P" in red and black. Veritas had a flattened diamond enclosing the name stamped on the front of the tank below the burner bracket.

One member reports a 7-hole handle on a "Sump Warmer" which also bears a soldered plaque inscribed "Tested 1971 Body 60lbs Safety Device 30lbs". This was standard practice in the Services and some public utilities like gas companies and the G P O. The usual interval was two years and some lamps bear several plaques, although most appear to have been removed when retested. The pressures stated were standard in all plaques I have seen. I have not seen these plaques on foreign lamps.

(b) is found on the larger Burmos (Townson & Coxon) lamps - 1pt, 3/4pt and 1/2pt types A B & C, and "Regency" paraffin and petrol lamps.

(c) is found on Buflam (Chas Twigg & Sons Ltd) of which I have only seen a 1pt paraffin lamp. Did they make others? The name was stamped in large block print down the handle where I left a blank space.

TRADEMARKS

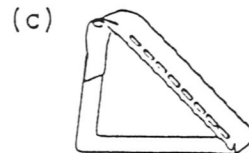
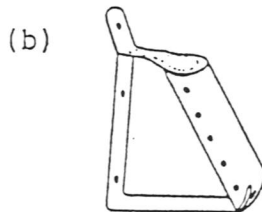
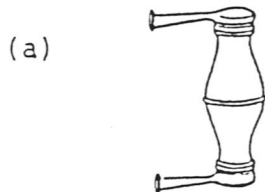
(a) This is the mark of Phoebus of Austrian manufacture but closely follows the original Sievert patterns and uses a similar perforated handle to the mid-1930 Primus lamps. I have only seen 1/2pt paraffin and petrol types. Has anyone seen a 1pt? There is no information on the significance if the letters J M R, or should it be M J R? Keep searching!

(b) This is the Diamond Brand of T E Bladon & Son Ltd. It sometimes had a vertical line through the centre which extended a short distance above and below the diamonds. This I had thought to be an early logo up to about 1934-35 used at the same time as the unslotted tapering handle, but one member reported it with a dated mark of "Bladon 1937" under the base. Does anyone have any other dated lamps to check the trademark? Could they also check dates against the "B" lettering and numbers on the shoulder of the tanks. These numbers seem to have been used after the Diamond Brand was discontinued. One member suggested that he had heard that Diamond Brand was used as a joint trademark with another manufacturer and Bladon. Again, any comments?

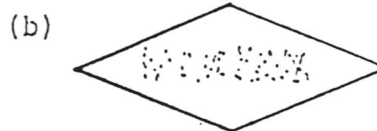
While on the subject of Bladon, has anyone come across a production model of a patented device invented by Bladon to prevent the tube coming out of the paraffin level when the lamp is inverted? The device was a swivelling J-shaped tube such that gravity always kept the end of the tube below the fuel level. I've dismantled all the paraffin Bladons I can lay my hands on but so far have found nothing unusual. Someone somewhere may possibly have a rarity!

Not much information yet on Rallies. Keith Hawkins tells me he is going to a number but dates are not yet confirmed. I have not yet decided on mine, but I hope to be able to publish a list of dates, venues and members in the next edition. Please let me have your bookings in due course.

Now, three more handles for your comments:



and two trademarks:



Two members are interested in checking the reliability of the Primus dating letters. For those who may not be aware of the system it is as follows: On Primus cooking stoves and some Primus blowlamps a small circle about 3/8" diameter containing one or two letters and sometimes a number may be found stamped on the tank. In cookers it is usually in the centre of the bottom of the tank. In blowlamps it may be in this position or on the side of the tank about 1/4" above the base. This is considered to represent a dating system like silver hallmarks. The numbers are not significant and may be an inspection number.

The single letter A started in 1911 and proceeded through the alphabet until 1935. Thereafter AA was 1936, AB 1937 and so on. Unfortunately the very early lamps do not seem to have this regularly, neither do the later types. I now examine any Primus apparatus I come across whether or not I intend to buy it. I then record the type of handle, control knob in the case of petrol lamps, the trademark, and the letter and number. If a number of members would do this, a very large database could be accumulated over a period of time and a reasonable check can be made on the reliability of the system. Perhaps also the missing letter in the first series can be found. It may well have been "I" since this could be confused with "1". This would be interesting research and needs only a small notebook and pencil. I have also had an offer from a member to computerise any information and this could be a good start.

REQUESTS FROM MEMBERS

Does anyone have any Tyers Furnaces for sale? Especially of interest are numbers 4 5 & 6, or any details of variations of numbers 1 2 or 3.

Is any information available concerning "RELIANCE" blowlamps?

Any information on the significance of "BLOSTA" as a name on a petrol blowlamp?

Any information on "Brown Bros"? Probably tool distributors who applied their transfers to lamps made by the larger well known firms.

With Best Wishes for a Happy Easter - Les Adams

Stacombe Farm, Docombe, Moretonhampstead, Devon TQ13 8SS