

BLOWLAMP NEWS

No 30

November 1999

While we're a little late for Keats' "*Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness*" in Devon we've certainly had quite a few of the mists and much more of the heavier type of precipitation. How did you all fare with the "fruitfulness" thing as applied to blowlamps gained in the season?

Andy Feast reports increasing his collection by 65 while Keith Hawkins had a successful time in many of the French broncantes and via a number of his postal contacts. Sheila is apparently not only a good interpreter but a haggler as well! Peter Gold has opened up a source of South African lamps marketed as APEX and would like to do some swaps.

Reports from the Shows

Stourpaine still so called by some from where The Great Dorset Steam Fair was originally held. The weather was kind this year with no mud and very little dust either and most of the collectors voted it the best ever. We had the best site and though the sign-posting could have been better we were at least accurately marked on the map. A late trimming of the hedge gave us a good view over the rest of the Fair and the only moan was about rubbish collection. A considerable number of our members arrived on various days and had a chat with Taff, Toon and myself who were our representatives as exhibitors. It was good to meet some members for the first time, so that faces could thus be put to voices on the telephone and names on an address list. There were plenty of lamps in the auto-jumble and some of the prices were very acceptable. Sometimes, though, it was necessary to get up at crack of dawn to "beat Janus to the punch" but his favourite venue, the fellow who builds the large wooden hut, was charging quite high prices this year. Elsewhere, a Dutchman was selling (NO- he did not appear to be selling- only asking high prices!) lamps for quite ridiculous prices. A Surmein NO 6, for example, would require £195-00 and a Turner "Hotblast" £125-00 while an uncleaned Sievert A.P.H. could be had (as would the purchaser in such a case!) for £65-00. This I feared, presented us all with a security problem but I was happy to see that he still had all of them late on Sunday afternoon. I wonder if he had heard about the T V programmes?

The Lingfield Show Andy Feast's comment was that it was spoiled by being too scattered and having too little in too big an a space..

Sheila Hawkins reports on their Summer activities.

Keith and Sheila attended 12 rallies, during which they renewed the acquaintance of many members. The main feature of their show was a display of 27 engine lamps from 1 pint to 12.5 pints. Starting with Whipsnade, in bright sunshine, they progressed via Enfield Pageant of Motoring, Leighton Buzzard Bypass to Ashby Magna in Leicestershire. A new venue for them where a vertical lamp was identified as a starter for a Walsh/Clark barn engine c.1917.

A Governor 2 pint lamp was also stated to be the starter for a Petter 12/14 H P. narrow boat engine. A thunderstorm interrupted the sunshine at Chiltern T.E.C rally which was followed by more sunshine at Woodcote where a drink to Taff's birthday was a celebration They were well pleased with the rallies at Godmanchester and Cranford but Haverhill was a near disaster with only six visitors and the early closure at 1.30 on Sunday because of the weather. Some interesting lamps were found at Honiton Hill and some bargains at The Great Dorset Fair.. They learned the secret at the second Lille *Braderie* of where in the 12 kms and 9000 stalls the blowlamps were to be found. Out of more than 100 on display 15 came back to England with Keith and Tom Bartlett including a couple of tractor lamps and a rare Express. Billericay and Old Warden closed a successful season on this side of the Channel. The French Club's meeting at Marzy on September 25th was the start of a four week tour of France. In all 33 lamps were accumulated in the first six months with two more countries of origin added to the tally - Poland and Switzerland.. They both look forward to meeting many of you next year at their various venues.

Many thanks Sheila - I wonder with such an array of Engine lamps whether you could produce an article for a future Newsletter about some of these lamps. I'm sure it would be of interest.

The Second American Blowtorch Collectors Convention.

I had already given up the idea of being there for their second convention but an unfortunate incident of so-called "air rage" on the plane on our return journey in July resulted in me losing three hours of rest trying to settle the individual down. The ultimate benefit to me was a generous flight voucher from B.A. which I promptly used to go back to Seattle - and the Convention!

Again it was held at Mt Vernon, Washington State and hosted as last year by Jon Suta. The lamps were again quite extraordinary and this time there appeared to be more of the smaller torches. Many enthused over a magnificently prepared Lake and Elliott which was quite the largest on display if one excepts the multitude of fire-pots (furnaces) and engine lamps on show. These really are something with their convoluted pipe-work and controls. An enormous meal was enjoyed



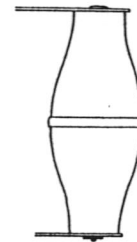
by all and our present this year was this colourful embroidered patch. They are planning to get regional meetings organised and already are considering how they can delegate some of the work so far undertaken by Ron Carr. There is obviously a group on a much larger scale than either ours or the French/Belgian Club so they are wise to think ahead before they wear out their chief. I'm also taking on board some of their advice, so it is likely that in the next year I shall probably be looking for volunteers to assist with the production of *Blowlamp News*, but even with such help what is really needed, for whoever is doing it, is more copy and information to publish.

I know you all have something to contribute -so, thinking caps on!

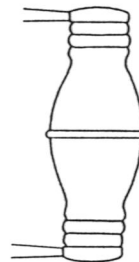
I have had some e-mail correspondence with Graham Stubbs, one of our new American members, about a vertical Primus lamp designated No 42. It appears to be the same as the vertical "Vesuvius" No 853 which has the cooker type burner. Its handle is strip steel with cane covering. Anyone any further information about this which might help with its I.D.? Graham has come up with the idea that Primus changed its numbering from two digits to three which is the system we are currently familiar with. Does anyone have anything to add to this theory or any Primus lamps bearing a two digit inscription.? Another idea was that some Swedish manufacturers made lamps specifically for the American market e.g. The Optimus "American" lamp whose logo is shown below.



Optimus
"American"



During a discussion with one of the members at Mt Vernon this year I asked why some American collectors were not very interested in having English or Swedish lamps and the suggestion put forward was that "they didn't look like Blowtorches". Was this the reason for Optimus making lamps which looked almost American?



Clayton
&
Lambert

The tank of mine is bell-shaped, the burner looks like an Otto Bernz but while the pump looks Swedish the handle looks like a poor imitation of an old Clayton and Lambert handle. Keith has a lamp with the same logo which was illustrated in the "Collect it" article but this appears to be a copy of the flat tanked tool-box type lamp. More details please Keith and does anyone else have such an "American" lamp we can feature? Photos or other details please from which I can draw an illustration.

The **FIREFLY**. During my visit to the second American blowtorch collectors convention I was surprised to see another "Firefly" - owned by Graham Stubbs from California. It is based on the same Bladon B61 as the other two I know about but, though it has the same external tank mounted pump there is no Bladon patented lever operated valve at its base. Instead there is the same locking pump as featured in the Samuel Heath drawing of B/N 10. The pump stem is hexagonal and the end screws into the base of the pump piston. I'll try to locate details of the patent number when I am able to research it. Also the control knob is round instead of the octagonal shape one would find on this vintage of Bladon while the handle, though of the same sloping slim pear shape of Bladon, has seven rings turned into it - like the Barthel "Donuts". Graham apparently bought it some years ago at a sale at Hemswell in Lincs!! Keep looking, there must be more about.

John Tingle's mystery lamp in B/N 27

Andy Feast found a Tyzack catalogue of 1908 advertising a poker-work kit and sent me a copy. Recognise the lamp in the box? If everyone keeps their eyes open and their minds alert many answers will be forthcoming. Send them to me so we can all learn. So John, and Sheila Cleaver here is one of your queries settled.

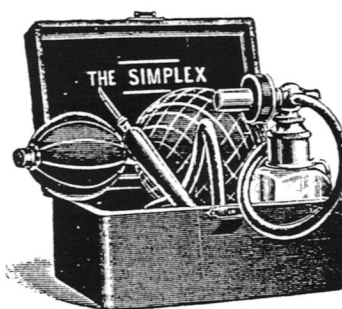
Pokerwork Outfits.

No. 1375.	The "Simplex," with A Flat Point	21/- per set.
" 1376.	" "Pyro," " A "	15/6 "
" 1377.	" "Popular," " B "	10/6 "

Directions for use are sent with each Outfit.

Extra Platinum Points to suit above.

A Flat.	A Flat (extra fine).	A Horn.	B Flat.	B Horn.
7/-	7/-	7/-	5/3	5/3 each.
Round Sharp.	Cone.	Claw.	Shading.	Knife Point.
7/-	7/-	7/-	7/-	15/- each.



No. 1375.

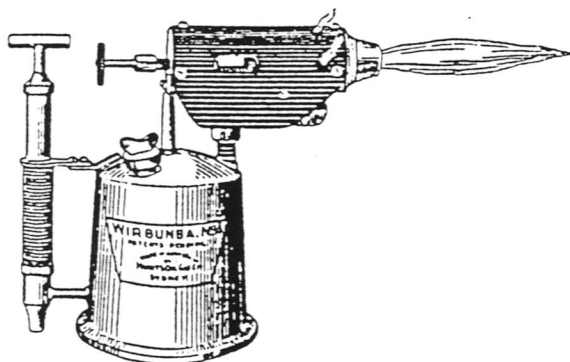
Coleman-Monitor Saga

Ted Rawson recently sent me some photocopy which originated in Australia. It contained a reference to Coleman-Monitor lamps and cookers dating from 1921 which were imported to Australia by the Coleman company of Sydney.

How many have any further information to add to the incidence of Monitor and Coleman-Monitor lamps? Were they all made by Parkinson Cowan -the parent Company and holder of the Monitor Trade-name. or was the Coleman Company of American involved in any way? Lets have some discussion on this.

Also of great interest in Ted's Aussie photocopy was the reference in 1921 to the import of "Oriflame" (note the single "m") cookers and blowlamps of which there were four paraffin sizes from 1/2 pint to 5 pints and one 2/3 pint petrol lamp. They were attributed to the Kings Norton Metal company and imported into Australia by their subsidiary Kynoch Company of Sydney. These, and some other companies, were all originally manufacturers of ammunition and were later to become part of I C I. and marketing Eley-Kynoch cartridges.

Also in the same catalogue is this lamp which is stated to be entirely manufactured in Australia by Hunt's Oil Gas Company Called the "*Wirbunba*" which is an aboriginal word meaning "Flame of the fire bursting forth" So here is another one for your list. Thanks again to Ted.



B/N 29 drawings.

Burner :- Is from a KIGAZ and bears the maker's name "Malivert Paris".

Handle :- Is also from the same KIGAZ

Can anyone enlighten me, and probably the rest of the membership, about the relationship, if any, between the KIGAZ lamps and the KIGAZ injection method of starting some tractors and engines. Notably this process was used to start Spitfire and Hurricane Rolls-Royce "Merlin" engines during W W 2

Pump lock:- is from a Vesta M2

Logos Sadly only one reply.

(a) Andy Feast said this was on the burner of a Primus lamp he had - but the logo inscription stated "Made in England" so it is possible that the burner was a replacement. The transfer, in blue and white with gold stars and crescent moon. I saw on a small ½ pint paraffin lamp offered, for far too much, at a car-boot sale in Kent, was on a Veritas-like lamp with the usual hexagonal black bakelite handle. Surely someone else must have seen one of these, or if not, then the price being asked was in keeping with such a very rare item!!

I still don't really believe that so have another look through your collections.

(b) A transfer, appropriate to the subject, in red and black colours (or colors !) this American logo drew no response from our transatlantic members and does not appear in Ron Carr's list of American lamps. The shape and size of the tank, the handle and the control knob shape is much like a Turner as is the pump knob but this bears no trapeze logo on it. So possibly this is a lamp made unmarked by Turner to be marketed as a "Hades". Any further information welcomed.

(c) Yet another variant on Monitor name plates - this is on a two pint vertical lamp shown by Trevor Bold at Mouscron in March this year.

The Tyzack Catalogue mistakes.

No responses here - but did you notice that the two "genuine Swedish lamps" numbered TM 463 and 461 were in fact J M Rosenthal's Austrian "Phoebus" numbered 151 and 53 ?

B/N 30 drawings

Logos

a)



b)



Filler cap



Pump



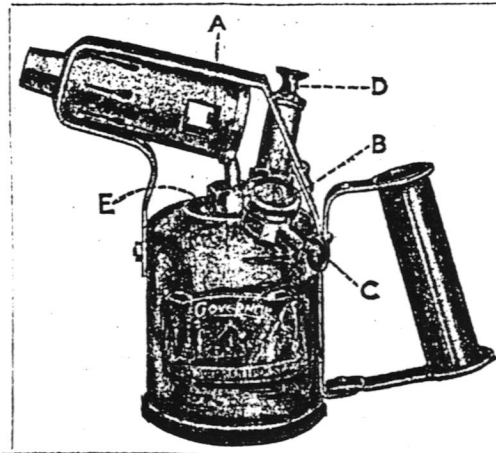
Instructions for Using
"GOVERNOR"
PARAFFIN BLOW LAMPS

(BRITISH MADE)

The Most Reliable
and Strongest
Paraffin
Blow Lamp
Made.

*

Use Good Quality
Paraffin only.



Every Lamp
inspected
and tested
before leaving
Works.

*

Do not fill Lamp
near Light or Fire.

TO FILL.

Unscrew Cap (B) and fill the Lamp about three-quarters full of good quality paraffin or petroleum; replace the cap and screw down with thumb and finger pressure.

TO HEAT

The top of the vessel is in the form of a cup (E); fill **TO THE BRIM** with methylated spirit and light same. See that valve (C) is slightly open whilst the lamp is being heated.

TO LIGHT

Before the spirit in cup (E) has been quite consumed, close valve (C) and pump a little air into the vessel; a few strokes with the pump (D) will be sufficient. This will cause the gas to pass through the burner tube and out at nipple (A) and become ignited. A few extra strokes of the pump will bring up to the correct heat when the flame should be blue. Care should be taken to see that the nipple hole is kept clear with the cleaning needle.

TO REDUCE FLAME

Slacken screw (C) until the flame is of the desired size, then tighten screw.

TO EXTINGUISH

Open valve screw (C) and leave open—in fact, when Lamp is not in use this should always be open.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

The nipple (A) in burner of every Blow Lamp should be cleaned periodically, and with no other cleaning needle than that furnished with the Lamp. If this is not done, the Lamp will burn badly and lose power, not only so, but the burner hole will become choked and there will be a tendency to overpump, with detrimental effects to the Lamp. Many a Lamp has been wrongly condemned on this account.

Another important point is to be sure that there is no air escape at valve (C) or filler Cap (B). See that the washer on the inside of cap (B) is in perfect condition. An occasional dressing with castor oil or vaseline will keep pump leather in good condition.

Should repairs be necessary at any time, the lamps should be sent to the makers. Many lamps are spoiled by unskilled repairers.

Publicity

The latest periodical to feature blowlamps is the "SAGA" magazine following an interview with John Tingle, but again the price problem reared its ugly head. I've had a number of enquiries about membership via these media but unfortunately also a number of requests for free valuations of lamps "which my grandfather used to use" and advice on what to ask for as a reserve at auction. As you can guess I've played the prices down a good bit here. The Society is also to be added to the "Collect It" list of organisations and will shortly be featured in the "Collectomania" web-site.

New members

Welcome to :-

Arne Aasgaard Seterhoyveien 22 1176 OSLO Norway 47-22 29 36 49
e-mail arne.aasgaard@powertech.no

George Youngman 14 South Park Road, ILFORD. Essex IG1 1SS 0181-478-2660

E. Nykolyszyn (better understood as Nicholson)

47 Haworth Road, Heaton, BRADFORD, W. Yorks BD9 6HP

Graham Stubbs 17715 St. Andrew's Drive POWAY, California 92064. U.S.A.

e-mail GStubbs222@aol.com Phone 001 619 673 0174

Charles Monthy 1019 North Sheridan TACOMA W.A. 98403-1528 U.S.A.

James Wyatt Greenbanks, Selworthy MINEHEAD, Somerset TA24 8TN 01643 - 862982

David Bickerton 9 Chester Avenue, TETTENHAL, Wolverhampton WV6 9JU
01902 - 750845

Cliff Pountney 43 Broadacres, COVEN, Wolverhampton 01902 - 790243

Meetings in 2000

There will be a meeting in early May but the venue, though probably in the South East, is still under discussion and, following a chance chat at Stourpaine, a possible venue in October could be on the Northern outskirts of Bristol. When dates are fixed I'll let you all know.

Instruction sheets.

Many members have said how useful these sheets are, so, to my perennial request for more feed-back copy, if anyone has more original instruction sheets I can use please send me a good photocopy, or a returnable original. What is needed is a clear print and illustration. Stains and rust marks can be dealt with to a large extent and so can some tears or missing text.

Member's message

Roy Edwards writes that because of his impending move to a smaller house he will be giving up collecting blowlamps. He has about 60, most of which are complete and cleaned and he wishes to sell them as a complete collection. I do not have any further details about them so you must contact him direct if you are interested.

I shall hope to get you another newsletter before Christmas but, as it is normally a very thin time for copy, it may only be a very thin letter! So if you have any information or news which might help fill a few spaces let me know about it. Also don't forget to let me have your show prospects in good time.

Best wishes.

