

# *BLOWLAMP NEWS*

No 31

December

1999



Having written the world's first newsletter for blowlamp collectors in the 1900's it appears that I am now writing the world's last one in the Century. So I thought it appropriate to commemorate the advent of the new Millennium with the reference to the blowlamp world's own Millennium - Lake and Elliot's No 11.

Inevitably this exposes the lack of knowledge we find throughout our collections.

It is almost certain that Lake and Elliot did not make these lamps. So many of identical pattern, differing only in such replaceable components as filler caps etc., were marketed in the period 1920-40 often under the title "Barthel Pattern". Most were blank with soldered name plates -as the Millennium -and some, especially the wartime productions with steel tanks, bore either just a date or a simple stamped name or initials. Regrettably this is a question which because of time and lack of detailed written information we shall probably always have as a discussion point without a definitive answer. At least there is much evidence to state that the original pattern was by Barthel but whether the facsimiles were legally made under licence, blanks imported from Barthel or, as often happened in industry, blatant pirated copies, is still conjectural.

Now for one name we do know :- *Lake and Elliot*. Apart from existing in Braintree, Essex what else do we know? They made many tools and were probably famous as makers of cast iron jacks whose origin is less questionable, since their name was cast into the jack. Anyone collect these tools in addition to their lamps? Indeed, does anyone know any more about this firm?

Let's have some answers about the Millennium - for the Millennium.

I wrote that the December letter was always traditionally thin, and so it is now, with very little response to the questions posed in B/N 30.

Nothing on the Optimus "American" lamps, nor anything about "Kigaz"

Andy Feast has acquired another of the diamond shaped logos featured in B/N 29 which clearly links that design, at least on some lamps, with Primus. - yet the transfer states "Made in England"!

Tom Bartlett's "Firefly" (B/N 26) has the same pump locking device as Graham Stubbs' lamp but the control knob is of brown plastic which Tom says is similar in shape to the Governor petrol models. He also describes a different handle pattern. Perhaps we'll have more detail - (like a picture?) for next time. Any more Fireflies about?

#### **B/N 30 drawings.**

I had a long letter from Peter Gold reference APEX - Apparently I was misinformed that he has a source and has lamps to swap. They are difficult to come by and expensive, but he does, I think, have one remaining lamp available. They originate in South Africa and there is some debate about whether they were manufactured there, or exported from Europe and sold under the S. A. registered trademark. My own personal experience of the name APEX was seeing it on a brand new and unused Primus look-alike cooker, still in its box and with its maintenance instructions. The vendor had apparently bought it in S. A. but I cannot remember the address of the maker on the box though I recall it was in S. A. Not being interested in cookers I did not pay the rather high price being asked. It has been suggested that the name could represent "A Primus EXport" and also that they could have been made in Switzerland and exported. Peter states there was a manufacturing company in S. A. with the Trademark APEX but that they are no longer in business. If these apparatus were made elsewhere, I feel Sweden is a more likely place than Switzerland (where indeed Oerlikon were made) especially as they bear a resemblance to the Primus 632 with the later type pressed steel handle which encloses the pump barrel. Anyway my apologies Peter for misrepresenting you.

The "Ralph" - a deeply impressed logo on the front of the tank - is from a nice looking 1 pint paraffin lamp owned by Andy Feast. It is of standard shape with a sloping turned wooden handle similar in pattern to Belgian handles. John Tingle reports that there is a petrol version as well - perhaps we'll have a picture of this or more details next time.

**The filler cap** is a variant of one shown in an earlier newsletter (B/N 13 filler b.).

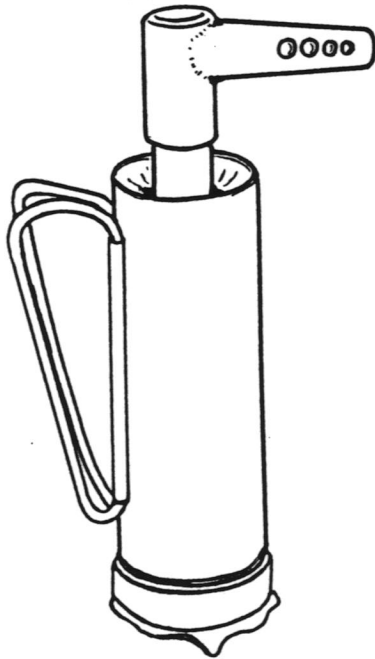
The original had no safety valve and the butterfly wings were of a slightly different shape. There is always endless debate about the reason for these fillers. A measure for the igniting spirit is one, but why? Every other lamp uses the spirit cup depression in the top of the tank, which most instructions I've seen require to be filled - thus it is own measure. Has anyone tested how much fluid is held within the "mushroom" cap and how that compares with the volume held in the tank top depression? It has also been put forward that the style was a commemoration of Sievert's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The two types, one with and one without the safety valve, would, I feel, be against this theory. Unfortunately we don't have any illustrations which bear a date to check on any of this - that is unless someone has something hidden away somewhere.

**The Pump** is interesting in that it has a male threaded closer to the barrel and the corresponding female thread is used in its male form on the outside to engage with the female thread inside the pump knob. This locks the pump. Makers were Schaefer and Beyer of Newark, New Jersey whose logo I have drawn below. Their motto and title of "Always Ready" bears a resemblance to the Otto Bernz motto of "Always Reliable". However there is apparently no connection though they were both numbered among the seven blowtorch manufacturers of Newark. Ron Carr has not been able to find out much about Schaefer and Beyer but I believe that, in addition to my lamp which is the standard 2 pint tank, there is also a 1 pint version.

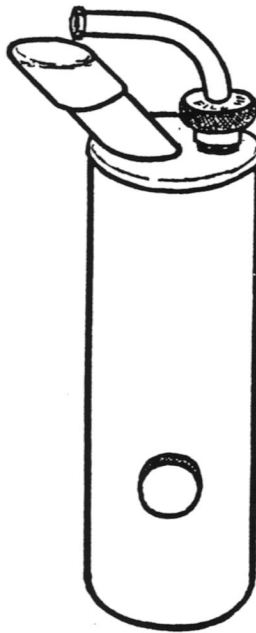
**B/N 31 drawings**

**Spirit blowlamps**

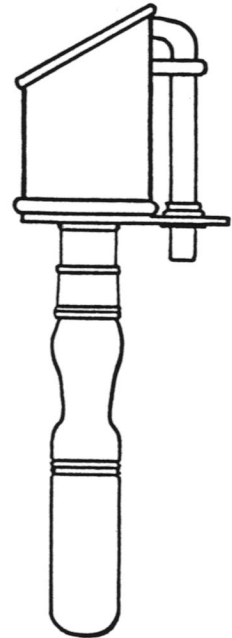
a)



b)



c)

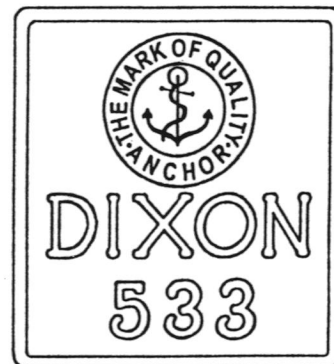


**Logoes and Trademarks**

a)



b)



**Welcome to new members.**

**Peter Williams** Orchard House, Prospect Road, Osbaston, Monmouth. NP25 3SZ  
01600 - 712619

**Paul Jefferies** 13 Townsend, East Harptree, Bristol BS40 6BH 01761 - 221576

**Frank Gibbinson** 10 Ainslie Close Hereford HR1 1JH 01432 - 268787

**Subscriptions**

The 2000 subscriptions forms are enclosed and it would help me considerably to keep track of administration if these could be paid as soon as possible. It would also be appreciated if you are not continuing to subscribe if you would drop me a line to that effect.

More of Vera's poetry - with a twist !

### Hubby's Loves

Mavis she'd tried everything  
To get attention from her man  
Affection's what she craved  
So she devised a cunning plan'

Fed up with competing  
With her hubby's old tin pots  
Mavis went and purchased bits  
From the local hardware shop.

A chunky piece of sturdy card  
Some string and super glue  
A litre of golden paint  
And a length of plastic tube

Gathering up her purchases  
She quickly scurried home  
Anxious to get going  
Her ideas were fast and flowing

He sees in all those blowlamps  
Rare beauty and perfection  
"I only need a bit of love  
All I get is just rejection"

With scissors snipping  
Paint brush flicking  
Her nimble fingers raced  
Squeezing every ounce of glue  
She worked at lightning pace.

**But :-**

There may be a small prize for the one who correctly guesses what Mavis intends to do, especially if it is answered in Rhyme.!!

Something to think about at Christmas.

### Meetings in 2000

- Belgium:-** I believe this is to be held on Saturday March 11<sup>th</sup> probably at the same venue  
**South East** Either Saturday May 6<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup>. So make a note. Venue to be decided. Andy is researching the possibility of using a school hall near where he lives. If that is not on then we'll use Bletchingly again - with more tables  
**Bristol** There is an opportunity for us to hold a meeting North of Bristol near to junction 19 of the M4. Provisional plans are for Saturday October 7<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup>.  
More information on all these will be available in B/N 32 towards the end of January.

Meantime have a jolly good Christmas and think of all the things you're going to write to me about next year

Good Luck

Her hubby would be late that night  
So she had lots of time  
To get it all just right

At last she proudly stood right back  
To get a real good view  
Amazed at what she had achieved  
With paint pot brush and glue.

Work day done and hubby home  
His tummy nicely fed  
Picked up his latest Blowlamp News  
The one he hadn't read

Stuck behind that magazine  
Mavis didn't get a glance  
Intent was he on planning next  
His blowlamp show in France

Mavis couldn't wait to see  
The outcome of her plan  
To divert his whole attention  
From his brassy old tin cans

### So what happened next?

Read on in **Blowlamp News No 32**