

# BLOWLAMP NEWS

No 33

April

2000

## MOUSCRON 2000

The fifth annual reunion of the French and Belgian Club was another highly successful and enjoyable meeting at Mouscron, - renewing acquaintance with old friends and seeing loads of blowlamps, some unseen before, with plenty of swaps and purchases. One highlight was a working spirit lamp, a drawing of which appears later. I'm not sure of its name, but will check with our guests at Bletchingley. It attracted quite an audience and was interesting to see how the jet of flame issued from the nozzle. It looked in pristine condition so I wonder if it was original or a well reproduced replica. More later. As usual the food was magnificent and as Mick Marshall will testify the wine flowed freely. Also, as usual, our table arguably made the most noise! Those who have not been there should seriously consider if a couple of days can be taken next year to make the journey and see another dimension of blowlamp collecting. It can be done relatively easily in one day, especially if your base is near to Dover. "Le Shuttle" makes for a quicker journey and is totally painless, the journey the other side takes about an hour and a half but is mostly on motorway roads until the environs of Lille. After Lille the detailed map supplied by our host is quite clear and the blowlamp signposts well sited. You don't even notice driving on the wrong side of the road. (which we do quite unconsciously sometimes.)

### Philippe Touillet

One sad note at the meeting was the announcement by Robert Langlois that Philippe Touillet had died a few days before, and a minute's silence was observed in his memory. He had apparently been ill and under treatment for a long time. Though not everyone saw eye to eye with him all the time, he must be acknowledged as having been a leading authority on blowlamps, with a good collection of both lamps and documentation. A lot of members will be grateful for the help he gave them and the many lamp exchanges they were able to effect with him. He will be missed by many.

### Bletchingley 2000

Plans are well ahead for our fourth meeting on Saturday May 13<sup>th</sup> and it is to be hoped that it will be bigger than ever. Certainly several newcomers have expressed an interest, including some from across the Channel so let's have another bumper gathering. Andy Feast has promised to bring his aquarium stands which should give a larger area for display and we have had the offer by a new member to demonstrate silver soldering and for members to have a go themselves. (insurance permitting) I have enclosed the usual menu and directions sheet with a tear-off strip to return with your selection of the main courses. I'd be grateful if this could be returned *as soon as possible* to facilitate the catering. Unfortunately the hire charge of the hall has gone up so the ticket price is now up to £11-00.

### Autumn Meeting - Change of date

Because of a mix up over booking dates the October meeting will be on **SUNDAY October 15<sup>th</sup>** NOT the Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> as previously intended. The venue at Winterbourne is the same. I hope this does not inconvenience too many people's religious convictions but as many shows are held on both Saturday and Sunday I look forward to a good attendance. More details in the next newsletter

### B/N 32 lamps

Patsy O'Neill's lamp was identified by Taff as a Hauck No14 from which the control knob, wind cowl and ignition tray are missing. The control knob would be a cast iron ring with five spokes each terminating in a spherical knob. Tom Bartlett sent a photocopy of the range of five Hauck lamps of 1 ½, 2, 4, 8 and 12 pints capacity while Keith Hawkins added the numbers, No 10 (2pints) 14 (4 pints) 15 (8 pints) and No 16 (12 pints). They were made by The Hauck Manufacturing Company of Brooklyn NY and had steel tanks. The 1½ pint was fuelled by gasoline while the remainder used kerosene, but could be ordered for gasoline. From Tom's illustrations the lamp looks more like a 2 pint but perhaps Patsy can let us know its capacity to confirm this. Thanks to all for the helpful information. The self acting lamp of B/N 32 and B/N 20 was identified by both Taff and Ted Rawson as a "De Coster" of about 1880 but apart from being French little else is known.

**“Radia”** a trademark of Maurice Lejeune who manufactured in Paris from about 1924 and also produced the “Canon 75” and soldering torches with the name “Excelsior”. According to Ted Rawson they were made for export to Belgium and came in four sizes of large lamps with external preheat coils named as H, B, K, M, and three smaller sizes of 25, 35 and 50 cl capacity named C, V, Z. Keith Hawkins’ information, however, is that there were 7 makes each of small and large brazing lamps.

Named respectively 25,35, 35bis, 35bloc,35 P, 50P, 50PS and 0.6PS, 1PS, 1.2PS, 2.4PS, 2.4PSbis, 3PS, 3PSbis. The smaller lamps were in centilitre capacity while the brazing lamps were in Litres. (P= pump S= serpentina = preheat coil) but what is *bis* and *bloc* ? Always more questions than answers, but many thanks for to the New Year resolutions. There has been much more info coming in this time!!

#### More “Millennium” news.

Russell Harrower added to his earlier information with some more about the firm. They were originally contractors to railway companies and supplied jacks for lifting rolling stock but were asked to provide a tool for defrosting frozen points. They duly purchased Barthel and other lamps of which they apparently modified the burners to suit the railways’ requirements. No 11 was the eleventh off the drawing board. Later they made a small range of brazing lamps of their own. These are probably those which Keith Hawkins reports as two other “Millennium” lamps *2b* of 7 ½ pints and *10a* of 5 pints with the addition of two lamps *80a* and *80b* made by Lake and Elliott under the name of “Express”

#### “APEX” continued

Peter Gold has recently returned from South Africa and has given some more information on APEX products, derived from a former director and I have had some correspondence with a non-member who is South African and had personal knowledge from a friend who once worked for APEX.

The firm, based just outside Johannesburg, apparently was in production from 1946 until 1978 when it closed down abruptly. There are two stories after that. One is that the firm was bankrupt and one day closed its doors, locking out its workforce. The other is that it was bought out by a competitor and then closed down. In addition to blowlamps they made cooking stoves of which it was said every African had one. They also made a heating stove which was based on their cooker with the addition of a polished reflector. The early cookers were based on the Optimus pattern but later modifications resembled Primus apparatus. With the starting of electrification the need for paraffin cookers diminished and a firm called Kadac, which was largely concerned with L P G apparatus, took over production but the products were not, so it was said, of good quality. Tanks were of steel and soon rusted.

There is some disagreement about how many types of lamp were manufactured. Peter quotes four models one each of 1 pint and 2 pint capacity in plain brass and plated with the succeeding company producing a plated lamp of two pint capacity bearing a modified APEX logo. My other informant says only one model was made - the 1 pint lamp. So we await more clarification, but thank you Peter.

#### The first blowlamp ?

Mike Wareham sent me, with his Christmas card, a small cutting which he says comes from a childrens’ book of inventions and machinery. “James Rhodes of Cincinnati Ohio USA developed and patented the idea of a mineral-oil vapour lamp in 1862 but never so far as is known made one.” It is well documented that the first patented and working petrol fuelled blowlamp is attributed to C R Nyberg and later manufactured by Max Sievert. At the same time the Lindqvist brothers were working with paraffin fuelled lamps and cookers. However the plot thickens, for another Swede Ludwig Holm should apparently be considered for the first honour and it has even been suggested that the others derived their ideas from him. Like many mysteries this may never be solved. Anyone anything else to add to this?

#### Snippets of information.

Brian Grainger reports a Barthel “Little Wonder” with a swastika on the filler cap and another “Little Wonder” purchased in America which bears the inscription “Van Praag Sales Corp New York” stamped into the opposite side of the tank from the “Easter Egg” logo of Barthel ( and thus stamped *before* construction) This appears to be a similar state of affairs to the Optimus “American” brand where a European maker produces specifically for the American market. Keith Hawkins states that there were four lamps of this brand. No 5(1 litre) 32 (1 litre ?) 38 ( ½. Litre) with traditional U S A tanks. No 48 (½, L) was a flat tank toolbox lamp (*editor’s note:- Keith has excelled himself this time*)

### An apology.

I wrongly attributed the drawing (a) of the spirit lamp in B/N 31 to a picture supplied by Eric Fagence which should have been to Hilton Shackley. This is an Otto Bernz No 30 and was purchased by Hilton during a visit to the States. A nice little lamp.

### Post Office Project

Some time ago Taff kindly gave me a quantity of photocopy information about Bladon blowlamps as used by the G P O. Since that time there have been several additions - for example some lamps other than Bladon were marked with G P O or with their "Caution" about use inside buildings. If anyone who has any information, however little, about G P O lamps will let me have it I'll put together a composite article for a future newsletter. I know many of you have information so please send it in. Photocopy, details or drawings or photographs of marked blowlamps or any anecdotal information about G P O telephone use of blowlamps. It could, with such help, be quite a good article.

### Some B/N 33 drawings

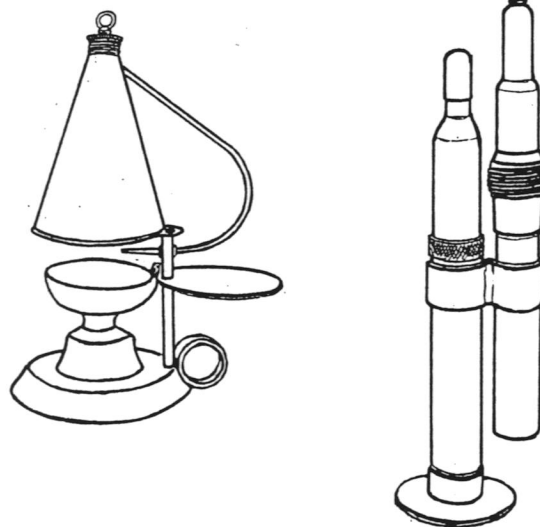
A couple of logos



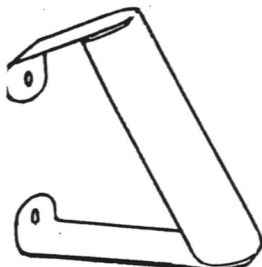
Filler cap



Two automatic spirit lamps



Handle



Let's have some feed-back from these

### Member's request

Brian Grainger has acquired a Doesit brazing lamp with a large detached reservoir and a handset from which the flexible pipe is missing. He asks if anyone has a source of such tubing. The brass end connectors with the conical "kink-preventers" would present no problem to reproduce..

### Omissions from membership list

for which I offer my apologies to :-

Ted HALL 28 Melbourne Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex CO15 3HY 01255-424885

Peter HUNT Ye Olde Coffin House, King Street, Brixham, Devon TQ5 9TF 01803- 856011

John TRIPPICK 19 Wyatts Field, Trull, Taunton, Somerset. TA3 7ET 01823-351851

### Change of Phone number

Following B T code changes

**Dave Nichols** New number is **023 8025 4244**

I haven't been notified of any other alterations from these code changes but we have members with the old London prefix of **0181** which will become **0208** and Northern Ireland which will become **028**. Perhaps they could let me know of any other changes for publication next time.

### Members Rallies until July 2000

#### Russell Harrower

June 3-4 Woolpit Steam Suffolk, July 1-2 Vintage Rally Gosfield Airfield Essex

#### Keith Hawkins

April 29-30 May 1 Steam Fair at Whipsnade Zoo, May 27-29 Enfield Pageant of Motoring

June 3-4 Leighton Buzzard By Pass Rally, July 1-2 Chiltern Rally Prestwood

July 15-16 Woodcote Rally Oxford, July 22-23 Wood Green Animal Shelter Rally Huntingdon

#### Taff

April 29-30-May 1 Abbey Hill Yeovil, May 13-14 Castlecombe, May 27-28-29 Abergavenny,

May 31-June 1-2-3-4 Bath & West, June 10-11 Parham, June 24-25 Banbury

July 1 - 2 Bromyard Gala, Hereford, July 8-9 Ardingly, July 21-22-23 Netley Marsh

July 29-30 Wroughton

Other rallies from August in the next newsletter - please send me your bookings in time for B/N 34.

### Welcome to Newcomers

Trevor BATEMAN "Lealand" Hollowmere Lane, Great Barrow, Chester CH3 7LF 01829-741209

Henk KROON 24 Blakemere Road, Welwyn Garden City, Herts. AL8 7PJ

Sid CALLENDER "Meadowsweet" Station Road, Wargrave, Reading Berks. RG10 8EY 01189-402695

Frank SMITH 34 Hopes Grove, High Halden, Kent. TN26 3ND 01233-850509

### Use of Membership List

It is expressly understood that members give consent for their names, addresses and phone numbers to be included in the Society Membership List for use of members ONLY. Without their consent this information should NOT be used for any other purpose as it may contravene the Data Protection Act. Evidence of this misuse follows several phone calls I have received, especially from new members, asking how their names came to be known to non-members overseas who wrote to them offering articles for sale. Some were not pleased that this had happened and I have been asked to ensure that it stops forthwith. As indeed should the photocopying of newsletters to send to non-members which apart from infringing my copyright, is cheating those members who regularly pay their subs.

It would be a great shame to have to cease publication, which is the only recourse open to me, for the sake of what is obviously personal gain to one or more individuals, for this would prejudice the enjoyment so many get from the continuing production of Blowlamp News. So let's not spoil it for everyone.

### Cessation of membership

The following no longer wish to subscribe and should be deleted from the membership list.

Steve Cuffley, Marc Fowle, Bill Jamieson, Sid Jordan.

Marc Fowle wrote to say he has a collection of 150 lamps for sale at £1,500-00. He says they are all cleaned and many are unusual, but whether he still has them or has lowered his price I do not know.

I look forward to seeing many of you at Bletchingley and certainly Gina would appreciate it if you could let me have your meal selections back in good time

Best wishes