

# BLOWLAMP NEWS

No 41 August 1993

By now most of your mid-summer shows are over and I do apologise for the late arrival of this issue. There are many reasons, some of which you may even believe, but I intended to get this to you by early July.

## Handles from Blowlamp News 3

Perhaps I should have stated that (a) was a hollow brass handle and not wood as some had assumed. It is from an old Clayton & Lambert 1 pint petrol lamp which I had identified only after having scraped away layers of solder used in repairs many years ago. The date is possibly 1910-1920. Does anyone have any information on this company which obviously made a range of lamps for a considerable period of time? One of the difficulties about American companies is that they often had manufacturing plants in different States. In this connection I have had a suggestion that I can circulate Blowlamp News in the USA. This is ambitious and I am cautious not to start yet. If anyone has contacts in the USA who are known to collect Blowlamps perhaps it could be started on an exchange basis.

(b) is a handle I have seen on 1 pint and 2 pint Optimus paraffin lamps. (I got the number of holes right this time!) No 411 and Nobel types. They are similar in shape to the handle used in Crossland lamps but are a slightly different length and have a different pressing at the handle top. Crossland has a small ridge while Optimus has an inverted keyhole-shaped depression and sometimes bears the Optimus globe logo. I have only seen the 1 pint paraffin Crossland and sometimes with a pear-shaped wooden handle. Any other views?

(c) was used in both brazed and bolted-on versions on  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint paraffin Optimus No 406, probably from the late 1930's until European production ceased.

## Trademarks

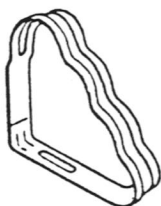
(a) This is the trademark of Barthel, the most prolific German manufacturer whose early patent applications date from 1895, made in the name of A J Boulton.

(b) This outline appears around both the Phoemax and Veritas  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint and 1 pint paraffin lamps on the front of the tank below the burner bracket fixing. Is there any information regarding whether these have a common origin? The outline also appears on a Malivert soldering torch surrounding the letters APMA, and Keith Hawkins also has a Buflam lamp with the same diamond logo transfer in red with gold lettering. John Byrne reports KIGAZ in the same diamond frame, it being an ether mixture fuel used as a cold start device by direct injection into the inlet manifold in some pre-war engines.

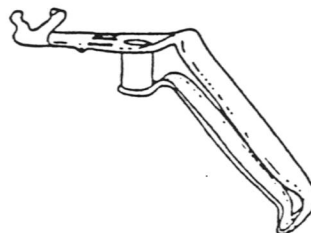
Now by way of a slight change here are three trademarks and only two handles for your consideration. I have drawn Hercules in full, although the lettering is only very faint. The idea is to try to get identification from only partial transfers or impressed logos. Perhaps if any of you who may have partial transfers can draw or photograph them they can be included in future issues to help with identification.

## HANDLES

(a)



(b)



## TRADEMARKS

(a)



(b)



(c)



Referring back to Bladon and the change of handle on the larger lamps from the plain tapered tube to the five-slot tapered tube. This seems to have been about 1936 according to some tool catalogues but it is understood that some printers and producers of catalogues did not always update their illustrations to time, and as an economy continued to use the same blocks despite a change of pattern. It makes life difficult, but more accurate assessments will be made when more data is available from your survey results. Prices did not change as rapidly in pre-war years as they do now so this does not give much help either.

It is early yet to expect much from the Primus surveys but to assist I shall produce a check list with the next issue of Blowlamp News for you to correlate the date letter (or its absence) with other features of the lamps which may have varied from time to time. This should make the survey more comprehensive and with a piece of paper to prompt you, more extensive.

A similar sheet will follow about Bladon and for this idea I am indebted to two of our members who are obviously much more organised in their collecting than I am. Their contribution will be acknowledged when the membership list is published. This now stands at fifty and is rising.

## RALLIES

I met Tom Bartlett at the Downs Rally at Petersfield together with Steve Skinner from Guildford. This Hampshire show is only in its second year and was extremely well organised. Redhill, after seven years, was much larger but not so well organised. There again I made the acquaintance of Tom Bartlett with the Ansleys from Ashford, Kent. Unfortunately it is late in the year for other bookings to be useful but I hope to meet many of you at Stourpaine again this September. Keith Hawkins tells me he will be at Harewood House in Leeds, August 28 29 & 30, Roxton September 18 & 19 and Barleylands September 25 & 26. Unfortunately I have no further dates from exhibitors to give you. If you see collectors with their exhibits, let them know about Blowlamp News if they are not already members. They may have answers to some of your questions. To be realistic about publishing these dates I really need them as early in the year as possible - certainly the summer shows should be available for June/July publication. So for next year, if I can get my act together, perhaps you will all send me the information.

## MEMBERS QUESTIONS

I received a photograph of a Reliance but no other information. I must say that although it was stated to be British Made it looked a bit Continental to me. Any other views?

Brown Bros were tool merchants who sometimes applied their plates to otherwise anonymous lamps. I was given an address in Swindon as their last known whereabouts. It has not yet been checked.

No information about the other queries in Blowlamp News 3.

NEW QUESTIONS

A lamp called Aymaro is reported, with the words Industria Argentina and No 1003 underneath, but a filler cap with the English instruction to "Fill Three Parts Full". I've not seen it yet, nor a picture, but has anyone any information about such a lamp?

A new subscriber asks the best way to clean lamps. I've heard many ideas, from Coca cola to steel wool, but my two methods are as follows.

A proprietary oven cleaner or carbon remover containing methylene chloride and ammonia in a gel is applied freely, left overnight and removed the next day before it dries with cold water and a green nylon scouring mat. Second treatments are sometimes needed. I use Betterwear's oven cleaner and would definitely advise against a cleaner containing caustic soda. This will leave a copper film, presumably by removing the zinc, and this is more difficult to polish out than carbon.

My second method needs a flexible drive for my drill, a polypropylene cup or disc brush and a light touch to save the surface of the brass. With practice, no damage results, and a 6" stitched mop and Picador's Yorkie bar driven by a large Hoover lawn mower motor through a Picador spindle do the rest. Brasso (but infrequently) maintains the appearance. It's all very personal. Some like showroom models, others perhaps cover their lethargy as I do by saying that their presentation is of well-kept working tools. What are your pet methods?

See you at Stourpaine, and meantime, let's have some replies.

Best regards

Les Adams

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