

# *BLOWLAMP NEWS*

No 42

OCTOBER

2002

Unfortunately, since my return from America, severe jet lag, bad weather, computer and photocopier failure, all occurring at inconvenient times, have conspired to make what started as an October edition into a November one.

## **Report on 5<sup>th</sup> Annual ABTCA Convention**

Brooks, Oregon September 14 2002

Another great meeting, this time with a variation. After lunch there were five short presentations on various topics of interest to collectors. Dick Sarpolus spoke about the vast amount of work he had to do for his book. This included providing three hundred slides for the illustrations. In order to do this he had to devise his own system of illumination to avoid shadow and reflection and in order to satisfy the publishers of the quality of each picture he "bracketed" the exposure. Thus for the book he took NINE hundred slides!! That's why the photos are so good. Other topics discussed were the differences between "oilers" and blowtorches. We've had confusion in the past between blowlamps and garden sprays especially if they bear the Monitor transfer.

Polishing techniques featured high on the list together with the use of "strap wrenches"

These are large versions of what we would use to change the car oil filter with a long nylon or other fabric strap and a lever nearly two feet long. This is to grip the tank of the torch, near the shoulder to prevent denting, in order to remove the burner support tube to facilitate cleaning.

Keith Hawkins had sent a series of photographs which were displayed as a continuous running computer show. My photographs of our past meetings have excited two members to try to ensure that their U K holiday next year coincides with our possible Bletchingly meeting. I did one or two swaps and was able to buy a few lamps in antique malls but as over here there is a shortage. Except that is on e-bay! I did however manage to acquire a "Spitfire" lamp which you may recall was the front page article of September 2000.

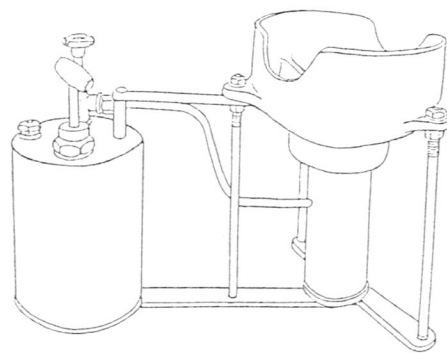
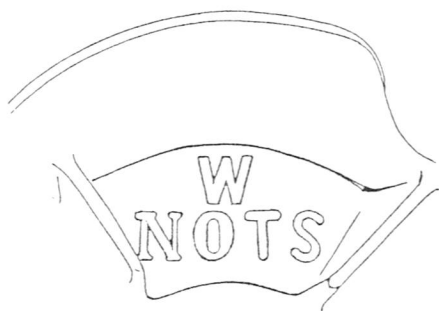
## **Stourpaine. 2002**

We were again well represented with three excellent displays from Toon , Taff and Keith Hawkins. I was pleased to meet a number of members and provide some tea, coffee and a chat but as I had no awning display not too many people knew where I was. Keith ran the chief canteen and I was particularly pleased to meet there our Norwegian friend Arne and his wife. My apologies to those friends I was not able to see on the Saturday and Sunday.

## **Ray Hyland's "Wnots" Lamp.**

It surprises me, with so many of our members visiting "Stourpaine" and combing the auto-jumble, that no one saw an old, rather crudely made, furnace offered for sale there. If they did see it, either they did not examine it, or, if they did examine it, failed to let me know of its existence. So many times I ask questions and get no answers yet someone must have seen this article. When I looked into the iron pot holder above the burner I saw, cast into its base, the letters "W N O T S" spaced as in the drawing overleaf. A representation of the furnace which was about 2'6 long is alongside it.

Now, again, does it ring a bell with anyone?



### B/N 41 drawings

Very little feed-back, with no identification of filler cap (a) or lamps (c) and (d)  
 Filler cap (b) is from an Enders No. 3011  
 Lamp (b) is the small Vulcano. So it's thinking caps all round again for the others !  
 Lamp (a) is Keith Hawkins' **Otto Bernz Vulcan** and here there was much of interest.

Willy Mouton kindly sent me information that he has an identical lamp with the sole markings of "patent" and the following logo stamped into the tank.

He also sent a print-out of an e-bay transaction of August which was entitled :-

"1892 Blow Torch like Clayton & Lambert No 8".

It apparently bore two patent dates viz. April 4 1892 and April 19 1892, and an inscription on the top of the tank "Mfg in USA" To describe it as an 1892 lamp

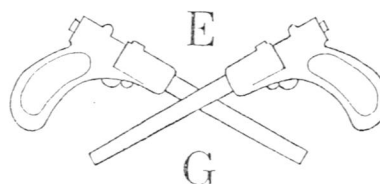
is pushing credibility too far since there is bound to be an appreciable delay between the patent date and completion of a production run before it comes on to the market. Dealers often use such dates to impress the age of their "sale" yet the actual date of manufacture of a popular lamp could be as many as twenty years after the patent date. So beware of sales talk! Similarly the picture shown is not in any way like a C & L No 8 which is almost identical to the Otto Bernz No 8 shown in Dick Sarpolus book P.114. The lamp for sale also appears on page 114 and the front cover of the book and it is unquestionably like an Otto Bernz Vulcan

I am indebted also to Ron Carr for in the first edition of the *Torch* he features all three lamps on page 2. He comments that he has only seen the Vulcan advertised in an Otto Bernz catalog (!) of 1910 so in the absence of a definite maker's mark there is still a question about that. An observation is that from the pictures he shows, which were from catalogues, the Clayton and Lambert lamp appears to have the name embossed in the tank, while the Otto Bernz name looks very like a soldered on plaque

What is also of note is that the vendor was at a loss to explain the second screw boss on the side of the tank which, he stated, was larger than that of the handle boss. Willy confirms that, as with Keith's lamp, that boss is the alternative position for the handle which fits it.

Anyone have anything further to add to this debate?

Incidentally with seven days to go before the close of bidding the price had already risen from the first bid of \$9-99 to \$212-50 !! So it's Christmas and birthday present material.

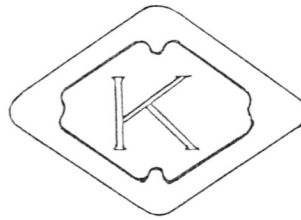


### B/N 42 Logos

At the American Convention I saw two lamps which looked rather oriental to me and about which their owners knew nothing. Nor did any of the other members present.

They are about four pint capacity and remarkably alike in basic construction and form.

The burner tubes are encased in a mild steel tube which expands from the back to the front, unlike the more usual parallel or converging sided wind shields. Both end in a cast iron nozzle which is fixed with screws. This resembles the nozzles of the larger Swedish brazing lamps, the English military lamps and the series called "Barthel pattern". In one lamp the nozzle is a plain, machined circular component while the other has four ribs cast onto its outer surface. The base of the tank is reinforced, with a brazed on steel band on one lamp and a brass strip with a rolled edge riveted on to the other. The only identifying marks are the logos I have drawn. Does anyone know the significance of the "K" logo with "Type S burner" or has anyone ever seen a "Star Pigeon" lamp?



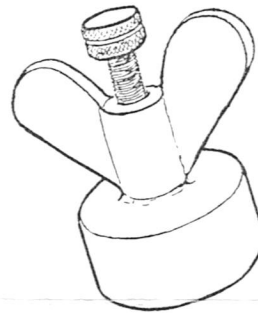
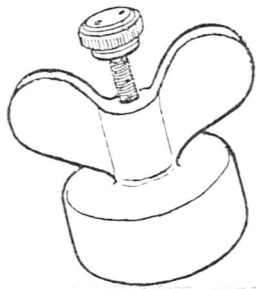
TYPES  
BURNER

Filler Caps

(a)

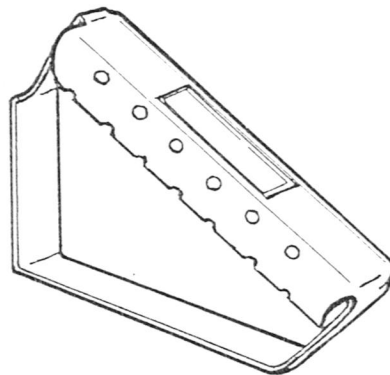
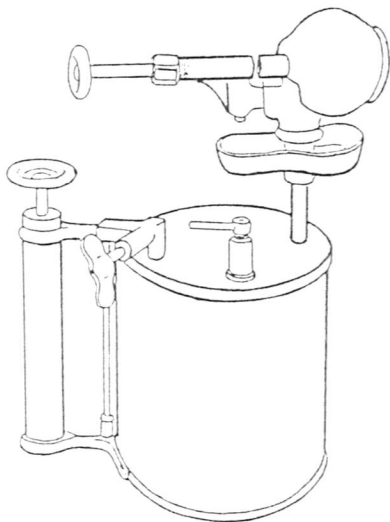
(b)

(c)



American  
"Invincible"

THE  
INVINCIBLE  
MFD BY  
INVINCIBLE MFG. CO.  
WILMINGTON, ILL.



## Snippets.

Having recently had some correspondence with Paul Whiddett about "The Invincible", which was patented by H Allen, I thought it might be of interest to know about the American "Invincible" This, as you can see, is a big machine compared with its counterpart. It has a rather unusual shaped burner head and the maker's name is deeply cast into the top of the tank I'd not seen one before the American Convention in September

Norman Penny has been on holiday to Malta where he saw some unusual lamps in the market, as indeed have some other members. He found an Indian "Liberty", a Primus 633 look-a-like which had a filler and air release both marked "Original". He felt it was of quite good quality brass unlike some reports we have of Indian lamps. Also he reports a one gallon Chinese brazing lamp which was made in Shanghai. It had a quantity of petrol still in the tank yet all the inscriptions on the tank apparently warned *against* using petrol. Norman doesn't speak the language so his interpreters were from his local Chinese takeaway. ? Was this ever used for chop suey brulee !

I came across some information about Stuart Turner blowlamps which were used for powering model boilers. The tanks are small, about 2 1/2 ins diameter and 4 ins long, with external fuel tubes and controls and a Primus cooker burner with a cowl over it. Classified as Nos. 480, which has a horizontal tank and in line-burner, 481 with a horizontal boiler and transverse burner and 482 a vertical tank with the burner at its base. This appears similar to the unnamed model boiler now owned by Toon which was featured in B/N 8, though the burner here was slightly inclined upwards. Anyone seen any, or any of you model makers know anything about them?

### Members requests

New-comer Bob Prichard is interested in obtaining a Vesta "K" if anyone has one. He is not worried if it requires cleaning, in fact he still likes cleaning lamps! It must however be complete. I've tried to persuade him that Mouscron next year might offer the best opportunity. He has also sent in his method of cleaning using hydrochloric acid and an artist's paint brush. He advises frequent washing to avoid taking out the zinc and leaving a difficult job to polish out the resulting copper surface. A Dremel is used for the inaccessible places and his feeling is not to polish excessively "as they were working tools" Incidentally, as an aside, either Taff has changed his policy or he didn't get his annual "fix" of Brasso. Stourpaine was not illuminated as brightly this year!

### Welcome to new member

Bob Prichard 81 Princethorpe Way Ernesford Grange Coventry CV3 2HG  
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r.prichard@comserve.net

### Change of address

Iwan Evans Brymeillion Talgarreg Llandysul Ceredigion SA44 4EN  
01545 - 590657

### Phone number correction

Norman Penny 01722 - 505856

Let's have some response to the questions to help with copy for next the B/N and anyone on-line whose address I do not have please let me know.

**P S** there are still some outstanding subscriptions. So think hard whether you want to continue.  
Best wishes

