

BLOWLAMP NEWS

Number 5

November 1993

Now that the last Shows are over and most of the better Boot Fairs and Sales have closed for the Winter it is time for everyone to study their collections and perhaps find some of the answers yet to be supplied to questions raised in earlier Newsletters.

Probably one of the reasons so little is known about our hobby is that no one person has sufficient data on which to base firm opinions in the absence of printed evidence from Company records. This is where a group such as ours (now numbering nearly 60) should, by pooling all our information, be able to get somewhere near the truth about the history of our lamps.

The key is POOLING information and this is where I make my plea for more feed-back.

Several members write copious letters about their observations on, in some cases, quite modest collections but by no means all respond. Some have apologised for sending only snippets of information but often these scraps help fill in a gap in our knowledge and are still welcomed.

I feel quite sure there is much more information available if it is sought out and reported. Then, when the opportunity occurs, or some other reference is made about it, it can be published as a more complete item.

Drawings or photographs, especially if annotated with dimensions, are most useful.

Now let's hear from you, even if it is only to say "I've got one of those".

B/N 4 Handles

a) Used on small Bladons both petrol and paraffin e.g. B43, B54 and B55 though some have no "B" classification. These are less than 1/2 pt capacity -one in my possession being approximately 1/4 pt. It has a safety wire rather than the more usual Bladon feature of a spring loaded valve. Under its base the date of 1935 has been over stamped with a 7. Hopefully, more information on this will be forthcoming when the Bladon survey is underway. The handles bear an embossed inscription "REG 712348" between the folds on the edges of the middle curves. I've not yet checked but I assume this to be a patent number.

b) This paraffin lamp handle is a modern pressed steel variety enclosing the barrel of the pump and also supporting the burner tube. Seen on Primus 632 and 633 (1 & 2 pt), Optimus 4II (1 pt) and Sievert 542N.(1 pt)

It may well have been used in all these makes, after Optimus took over the licences of Radius and Primus-Sievert, since it was so easy to produce and assemble. Dates otherwise not known - 1960s. What ideas are there for the use of the two small lugs with circular holes which are either side of the burner tube support in front of the three longitudinal slots?

B/N 4 Trademarks

a) The earliest T/M used on Primus apparatus, often appearing without any other reference to the name "Primus". Date early 1900 but I have no information when this T/M was registered. More will undoubtedly come to light when the Primus survey gets under way.

b) **Hercules.** A transfer on a typical American lamp, probably of prewar vintage and closely resembling an Otto Bernz. The handle and its support brackets and the pump knob and its locking device are typical O.B. There is no other news except that the Blacks have one which is labelled "Hercules" but is not American and doesn't clarify this incomplete transfer.

c) **K.F.Eriksson.** Possibly the smallest Swedish manufacturer. They were based in the City of Eskilstuna and their smaller lamps were characterised by spiral handles as in B/N 1. They used the Trademark "Three Crowns" and early models -early 1920s-displayed the name "Erikssons" deeply embossed in the side of the tank in large flourished script letters. The Three Crowns and "Spark-plug" were late 1920s to 1930s

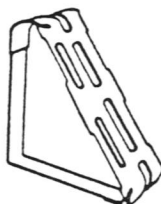
Now this edition's pictures.

B/N 5 Handles

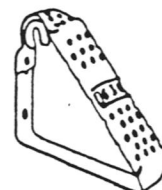
(a)



(b).



(c)



B/N 5 Trade Marks

(a)



(b)

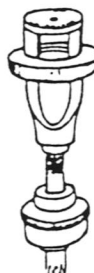


(c)



A new feature.

Pump locking devices. These are difficult to portray as a single drawing so a certain amount of imagination as to their function will be required.



Rallies

Apparently a number of you were able to meet at rallies up and down the country and several new members were introduced in this way. The attached membership list may help you to find hitherto unknown neighbouring collectors.

I met a number of members for the first time at Stourpaine (I still can't get used to saying Tarrant Hinton and I may well yet compromise with "Blandford") but must apologise to those who came on the Thursday, as did Alan and Sylvia Black. As a protest that day, and an admission of defeat, my display consisted, solely, of two dirty, tatty and incomplete lamps. I was totally unable to compete with the full volume of one of the largest Fairground Organs placed directly opposite me and twenty five feet away. Eventually the Admin. people took action, allowed me to move, and resited the Organ to everyone's satisfaction. I could then hear what people were saying and they in turn did not need to lip-read nor use sign language. The rest of the show was very successful. A number of people brought lamps to show me and several discussions took place up and down the line with Dick and Sheila Cleaver whose exhibit was close by.

Noteworthy were two 1/2 pt. bronze lamps with the characteristics of Reliance. One had an interesting feature of five turned fins on the shank of the burner tube support which was thought to be for cooling that part of the tube next to the tank. I can't recall seeing anything like that before. The tank appeared to have been turned and the base was located with three rivets before being brazed. Does anyone else have experience of this lamp?

Dave Nicholls brought in his Argentinian "AYMARO" lamp which, apart from the well embossed Tradename, Number and legend "Industria Argentina" was a perfectly ordinary 1 pt. paraffin lamp. I'll draw the Trade Mark for next issue but meantime does anyone have any further information or other "Argy" souvenirs

Trevor Bold brought in the lamp with the "Amor" trademark (a). As a clue this, like (b), is a copper plaque soldered on the front of a Bladon petrol lamp tank. I'm more interested in information about the lamps than the copper plaques unless anyone has some other, similar, types of plaque to describe.

As promised, earlier, here are a few abbreviations you may come across on blowlamps and other related apparatus which some may not understand.

A.B. - Aktiebolaget Swedish for Limited Company. Incidentally SAAB is in effect Swedish Automobiles A.B!

S.A. - Société Anonyme Limited Company France, Belgium, Switzerland, Luxembourg.
Sociedad Anonima " " Spain, Portugal.

G.m.b.H. - Gesellschaft mit beschränkter Haftung Limited liability Company Germany
"& Co" has, apparently, also been used which can explain a query I raised concerning the "Herberge" logo in B/N 1.

D.R.G.M. Deutsches Reichsgebrauchtes Muster German registered design A patent
S.G.D.G. Sans Garantie du Gouvernement Without Government guarantee of Patent

Cheers for now, let's hear from you.

Les Adams