

BLOWLAMP NEWS

Number 6

December 1993

Many thanks to those who heeded my plea in B/N 5 for more feedback and may I repeat the plea to those who have yet to respond. In this "Dickensian" season I'm like Oliver Twist- I always want more. The more information I have the easier it is to sort out and publish without repetition.

But enough of the sermon.

B/N 5 Handles

a) These folding handles are seen on the small paraffin Primus 631 and Optimus 407 lamps. usually the number is embossed on the tank side but some Primus 631 have the number embossed on the plate between the hinges of the handle arms. This plate is also a slightly different shape between the two lamps. There are some larger Primus lamps with similar handles notably Nos. 701--704 and 531 & 533, and also the old French "Paquelin" lamp. No other suggestions have so far come to light but as with all other questions please try to keep them in mind in the future so they can be updated as and when information becomes available.

b) Samuel Heath & Son (see also T/M "c" B/N 5) used this on many wartime service steel tank lamps of both 1 & 2 pint paraffin sizes. The date of onset of use is uncertain because so far no dated catalogues show these handles. Some of their lamps were marketed under the Tradename "Thermidor".

c) Primus 630 from the early 1930s to 1950s when the red painted plain handle with two scwdriver access holes replaced them (see Primus survey notes). Was this at the same time as the perforated handles on the 1 & 2 pint paraffin lamps were replaced by the pressed steel handles as in B/N 4? Hopefully the survey may help here but most lamps of that era seem not to have been date marked.

B/N 5 Trademarks

a) & b) These, as previously stated, are two small oval copper plaques soldered to the front of 2/3 pt Bladon petrol lamps bearing the Double Diamond logo. Is any more information available as to dates? A Frank Love catalogue of 1928 advertises AMOR and XL lamps which are certainly Bladon lamps though some AMOR lamps illustrated in other catalogues are certainly not. More data is obviously needed and may come to light in future editions. So far as plaques are concerned it is possible that earlier Bladon lamps had large circular logos based on the Double Diamond fixed to the tank sides. The illustration appears in a catalogue of 1925 when adhesive transfers were not common. Again the plea does anyone have one or information about this?

A rubbing, drawing or photo would help for publication.

Pump locking device.

This is on an old 1pt petrol Governor lamp with the pump in the handle and it appears more complex than is necessary. Locking is achieved by the screw thread on the pump stem which is operated by rotating the larger lower ring. The central upper ring works on a slide within the outer ring and provides the thumb plate for the pump handle when it sinks into the recess and is flush with the outer ring. The only useful purpose I can see to this is to protect the screw thread while the pump is operated. since in use it butts onto the screw cap of the pump barrel and covers the thread. When the pump is screwed into place the central part rises above the outer ring. Did I not tell you it was more complex than necessary? Does anyone have one and do they have anything to add?

B/N 6 Trade marks

(a)



(b)

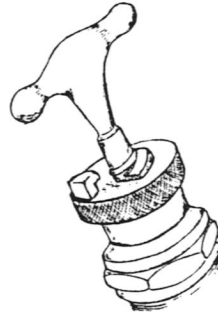


(c)



Pump locking device

This is a simple quarter turn locking lug in the base of the pump knob which interlocks with the catch on the base of the barrel top screw.



AYMARO

This logo is deeply embossed into a standard shaped 1 pt. paraffin blowlamp with no other identifying marks. The handle is of the spiral spring type as in Radius and Eriksson lamps as B/N 1 and is supported by a wide flat metal bracket which is screwed to the tank. The burner bracket is noticeably narrower than the handle bracket but of course may be a replacement. The filler cap is like Monitor and the air release is plain and operates into the side of the filler tube.

Does anyone else have one or any information about this lamp?



PRIMUS Survey

I am indebted to Alan & Sylvia Black for the ideas behind this venture, they already have a large survey of their own material and I have pinched most of their good ideas. It is hoped to correlate the Primus date marking letters with other changing features of Primus apparatus (lamps, cookers, lighting equipment etc) such as Trademarks, handle and control knob design and filler caps. Though, of course, only those features fixed or embossed on the tank can be certainly original.

The enclosed sheet can be cut across and folded to form a small booklet to be carried for reference at sales etc. It could be reinforced with card for greater protection.

Apart from your own collections more information can be obtained by examining lamps etc which you may have no intention of buying or which other non-members may have.

Please try to keep the information you record as accurate as possible (identifying the apparatus and the features of note) so that the statistics are as credible as any statistics can be!

How you record them is up to you. As long as you use the same coding, it can be transcribed by Dave who has already offered his computer expertise to Blowlamp News. Please send results from time to time so that a large mass doesn't arrive all in one post and swamp the system. I hope the scheme will run for most of next year in order to get as large a database as we can.

If you have any queries about it please ask. I hope I've not omitted something obvious and vital.

One other thing to tax your ingenuity this winter. John Byrne suggested some time ago that in order to be accurate in our descriptions and to avoid mistakes in identification we should agree a standard terminology of the various parts of our blowlamps. Now, what about some drawings and labels and we'll see what the consensus opinion is?

Once again lets hear from you and meantime a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Les Adams