

# **BLOWLAMP NEWS**

No 60

JUNE

2007

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The Newsletter of the Blowlamp Society - Founded by Les Adams, August 1992

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The Rally season is now well under way so there are opportunities for us all to search out those hidden bargains and meet up with fellow enthusiasts.

Keith Hawkins will again be operating the Blowlamp Society Hospitality Suite and he can be found at the following locations.

**Leighton Buzzard** on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> June, **Belper** on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> June, **Banbury** on 23 and 24<sup>th</sup> June, **Chiltern Rally** on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> July, **Marcle** on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> July, **Pickering** on 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> August, **Driffield** on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> August, **Lincoln** on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> August, **Honiton** on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> August, **Great Dorset Steam Fair** from 29<sup>th</sup> August to 2<sup>nd</sup> September, **Barleylands** on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> September, **Collectormania at Midhurst** on 28<sup>th</sup> October and **Newark** on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> November.

Keith will be pleased to see you for a chat and a cup of tea, or maybe if you are lucky, something a bit stronger.

## **MEETINGS**

The meeting at Lochristi, Belgium, organised by Brigitte and Willy Mouton was another resounding success. There were 46 collectors present and the displays around the hall had to be seen to be believed. This must go down as the best ever, certainly amongst those which I have attended. There were blowlamps of every size and description, both on display and for exchange. Everyone appeared to enjoy the day with many interesting sales and exchanges made: we all left at the end of the day feeling very satisfied.

Lunch was arranged at mid day and a total of 86 people enjoyed what was on offer. Following on from lunch a presentation was made by Brigitte and Willy to both the Blowlamp Society and to the President of the French Club. Willy had made plaques for both the clubs, to mark the occasion. (See photograph on page 2)

I had travelled on the Friday with Keith Hawkins, Tom Bartlett and Paul Whiddett, meeting in the afternoon at Willy's house to view his collection and exchange stories with other collectors. Dinner was arranged for the Friday evening at a local hotel, where we met with several collectors, all keen to find that early bargain; several deals were finalised over a glass of wine.

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The meeting on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May at the Trust Centre, Copthorne was cancelled through lack of support. Keith Hawkins spent a lot of time telephoning people to gain their support, but despite his best efforts only 11 people showed any interest.

We have struggled in past years to keep the numbers up, so I think it is time to review the situation and ask the question as to whether this is what the membership really wants. It would be a shame if the meeting died as I always feel this type of event gives us the best opportunity to meet fellow collectors and spend a day talking about a hobby we all enjoy.

**LET ME KNOW YOUR FEELINGS AS FUTURE MEETINGS WILL DEPEND ON YOUR RESPONSE.**



The presentation after lunch at Lochristi

## ***THE BOOK***

The long awaited Vintage Blowtorch book, produced by the Blow Torch Collectors Association of America has arrived over the last week or so and I must say it was well worth the wait. Ron Carr, Graham Stubbs and Charles Smith have compiled a comprehensive reference book, covering just about every blowtorch manufactured or distributed throughout the USA and Canada.

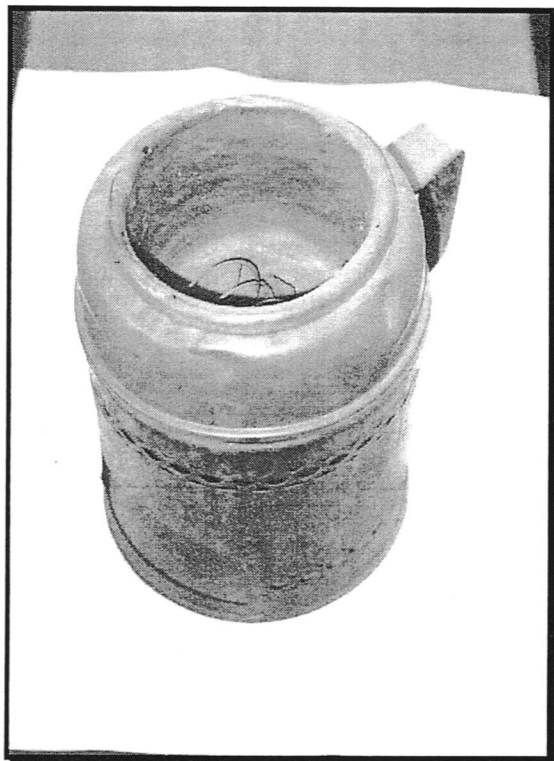
Congratulations must go to all three authors for all the time and effort they devoted to compiling a first class reference book.

Having had feedback from several of the 35 UK members of the Blowlamp Society who have received copies, they are all of the same opinion, that it was money well spent, and there will be hours of enjoyment searching through the pages to identify torches in their collections.

If there are any members who missed out on the first order and would like to receive a copy, please contact me and I will see if there are still any available.

## **NOT A BLOWLAMP**

In issue 44 of Blowlamp News, page 4, I published a photograph of a "blowlamp" Keith Hawkins had photographed in the Organ Makers Workshop at Siegfried's "Mechanisches Musikkabinett" in Rudesheim. Keith paid another visit to the museum, this year, while he was on a cruise down the Rhine – Main – Danube, and this time managed to get permission to go behind the scenes, to get a closer look as he was suspicious about the lamp not having the usual tank and burner. On close inspection, it turned out to be a lead melting furnace albeit on a miniature scale. It looked exactly like a Breuzin type of lamp, with a copper heater below, but with a hollow copper bowl above it. The whole thing was approximately 12cm high and 9cm wide, with the bowl about 5cm deep. Obviously the heating tank was large enough to contain enough fuel to enable whatever metal was in use to be melted down. Keith has never seen anything like it before, but thinking of the Breuzin and other lamps of its type, this one must be of French or German origin. Has any member seen anything similar? Organs on display at the museum date from 1895, so this might give an idea of date.



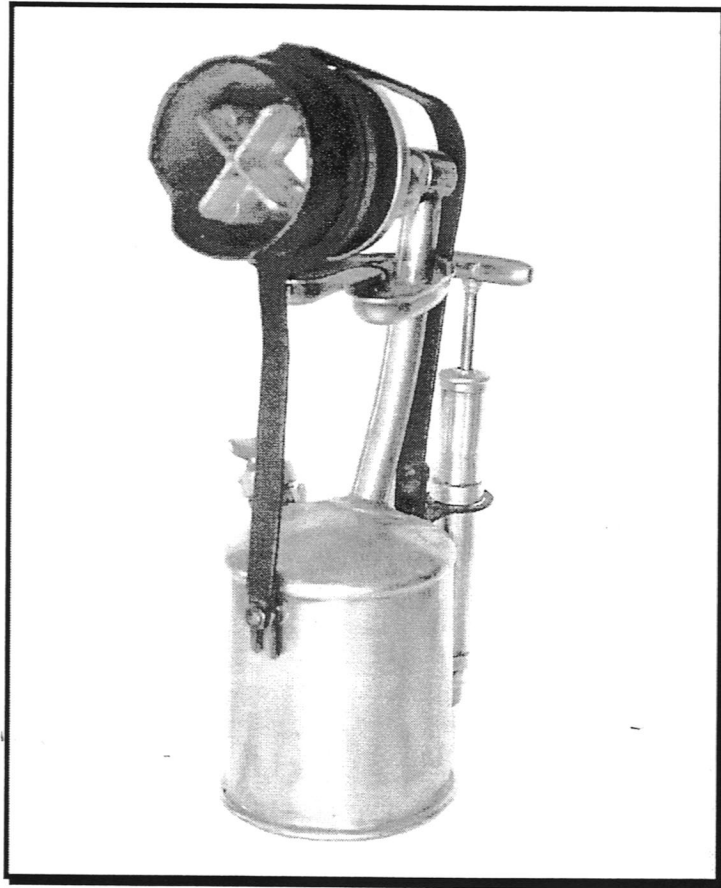
The melting pot, viewed from above.

## **ENGINE STARTING LAMPS**

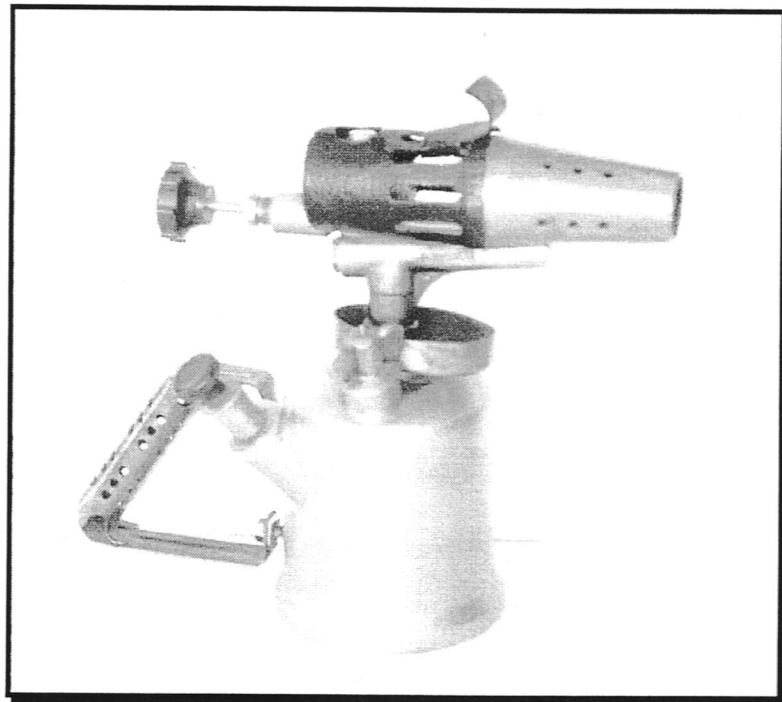
*By  
Keith Hawkins*

One of my collecting themes is engine starting lamps and the following are a sample of the different types produced.

The first lamp is a Sievert Vapouria 3094, which I bought in 1991 for £34 at Winksworth in Derbyshire. As there are many quarries in that area, I assume it originated in one of them for starting an engine which may have driven a stone crusher. I only know of one other of this type which is owned by a Dutch collector. Sievert, Optimus and Primus all produced similar lamps, some with double burners. Does anyone have one of these lamps or any literature indicating its intended use?



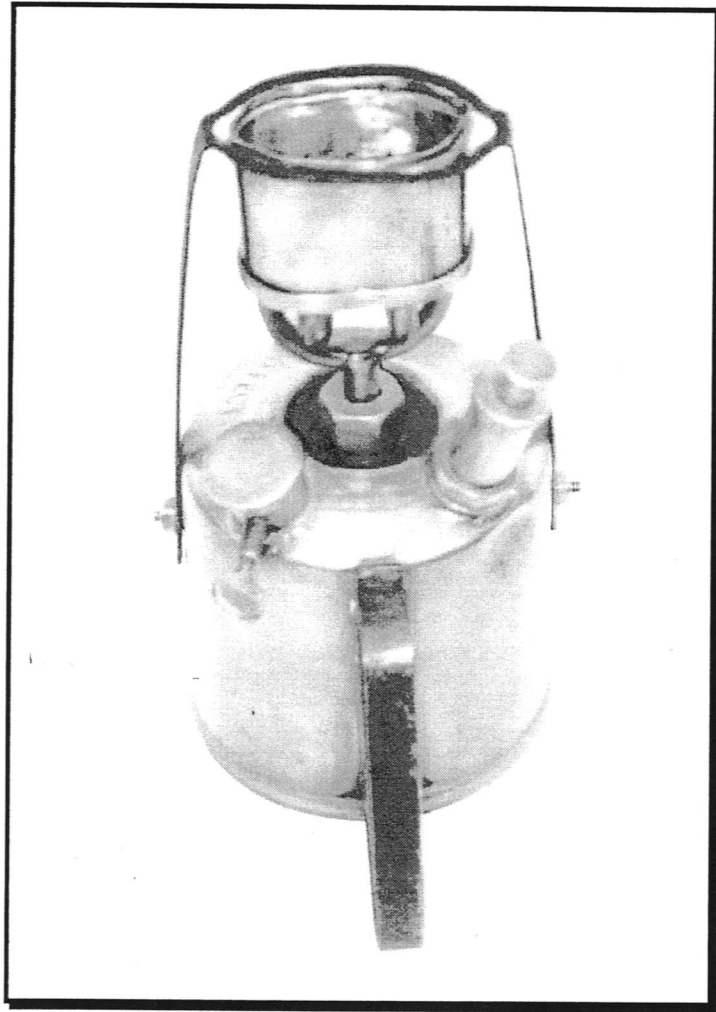
Vapouria 3094



Express

This next lamp is an Express, from France, with a No 46 tank and a No352 burner, presumably to give a fierce heat for a short while. This was used to start the Vierzon 201 tractor – the smallest of the range made by Societe Francaise Vierzon Co. The fitting on

the tractor was not suitable for a large lamp and this was actually tilted backwards, allowing the flame to go at about 30 degrees upwards. The fitting was just in front of the axle.

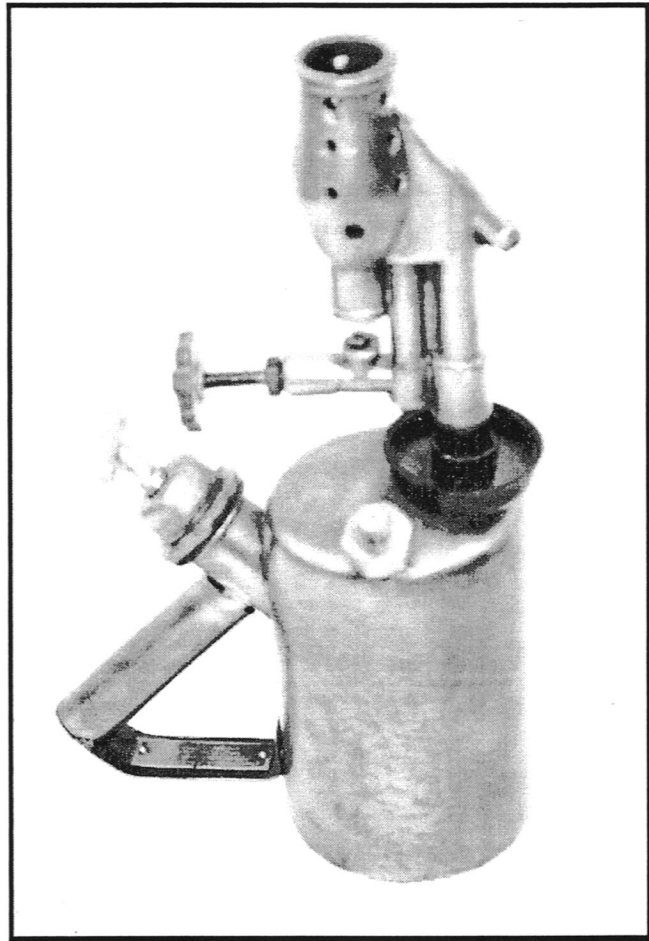


This lamp is a Primus "EFFECTIV", which in the 1898 catalogue is classed as a laboratory lamp and is shown with the metal strap from the handle to the front of the tank, as was also an Optimus version. Acting on information from an engine enthusiast I met at a steam rally, he remembered this type of lamp being used by his father, in the early 1900's, to start a Walsh & Clarke stationary engine. The tanks for both the Primus and Optimus are of 1 litre capacity and paraffin fired.

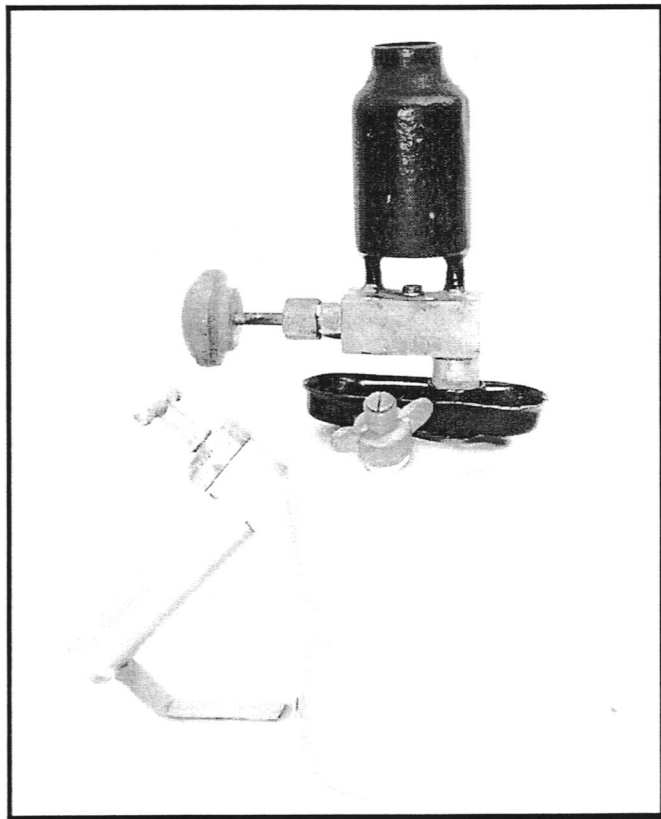
It would appear that most tractor lamps are petrol fuelled, one exception being that used for starting a Munktells – Bolinder from Sweden, which amongst other lamps, uses a Primus 611 with a "Y" shaped burner which is paraffin. (See page 7 of BN59)

There are two marine diesel engines which spring to mind, the Kromhout and the Bolnes, from Holland. The Kromhout uses a spherical tank lamp of its own manufacture and the Bolnes uses a Sievert "Sievertia", both of which are petrol fuelled.

Whilst on the subject of marine engines, there is the single cylinder Bolinder which uses a Sievert Vapouria No15 paraffin lamp. Also I have seen, at Ellsmere Port Narrow boat Museum, a twin cylinder Bolinder which has starting lamps permanently fixed in position, one to each cylinder, playing directly onto the hot tubes.



"INOWROCKLAWSKIE ZAKKADY METALOWE PREZEMSKV TERENOWEGO"



The two lamps on the previous page are both Polish and were used for starting Ursus hot bulb tractors.

The first of the two has a very Germanic look about it and this is because it was made in that part of Poland ceded to Germany before the Second World War. It is thought to have been made in the Breslan district.

The burner on the second lamp is actually a preheater system, in that the fuel passes up the front pipe, round inside the burner tube, down the rear tube and into the jet which is housed in the solid looking block of brass.

## **THE BLOWLAMP COLLECTOR**

*By  
Mike Preston*

It was a Friday morn; market day, like countless others and first "order of the day" was to stock up with comestibles for the week to come. Having dealt with sustenance for the inner man, it was fun time. An hour or two trawling through table after table, displaying piles of pre-owned assorted impedimenta (all right – "junk"), seeking the odd "pearl" or two. A long forgotten object may trigger memories of youth or happier times, or there might be a real bargain. Male, female, teens to senior citizens, shuffling from stall to stall searching for something special. Most pointing to an item and requesting a price with the flick of an eyebrow, while others bartered, Arab style, with the chap or chapess on the other side of the table.

Most sorties were rewarded with a "find", but this day was special. Through a gap between the tablecloth and ground, was a box of freshly sawn wood. At first it seemed empty, but on closer inspection revealed two items huddled together in one corner, as if seeking shelter and mutual protection. Reaching to retrieve one of the objects, I sensed their desire to remain together and stood up with a blowlamp in each hand.

Tools have been my constant companions for several decades and I enjoy the feel of a quality item. These blowlamps have balance and fit my hands perfectly. They are not new and gleaming, but carry the patina of honest toil. In engine terms, they are nicely "run in". Will I buy them, most certainly. Want to take them from me, be prepared for a fight. This is not an example of a bygone memory, but a new source of pleasure. A functional device built to carry out a task by becoming an extension to the human limb. There have been many inventions over the centuries, to aid our domination of the world. These gadgets are seen as a separate entity, to be used, but not allowed to get too close, in the majority of cases that is. Socrates, in ancient Greece, had the wisdom to recognise the advantage of human / object integration and gave it a name, "ergonomics". F W Lanchester built cars to act as an extension of the human frame (and fashion), to aid control. But the humble blowlamp? A certain Mr Royce, car builder to the elite, said "That which is well done, however humble, is noble". Heft a blowlamp in your hand and you are holding something very noble indeed.

We all indulge ourselves, chocolate, malt whiskey and many other desirables. Me? I am a blowlamp collector.

## **THE HAUCK FLAME GUN Co**

Some years ago I was given a large flame gun; according to the person who gave it to me it was because I was the only person he knew with the strange hobby of collecting blowlamps.

When I got the thing home and cleaned it up, the only identification mark was the word HAUCK cast into the body of the control valve. I assumed from that, it had been made by the Hauck Mfg.Co. of Brooklyn New York. Keith Hawkins has a similar flame gun and had come to the same conclusion.

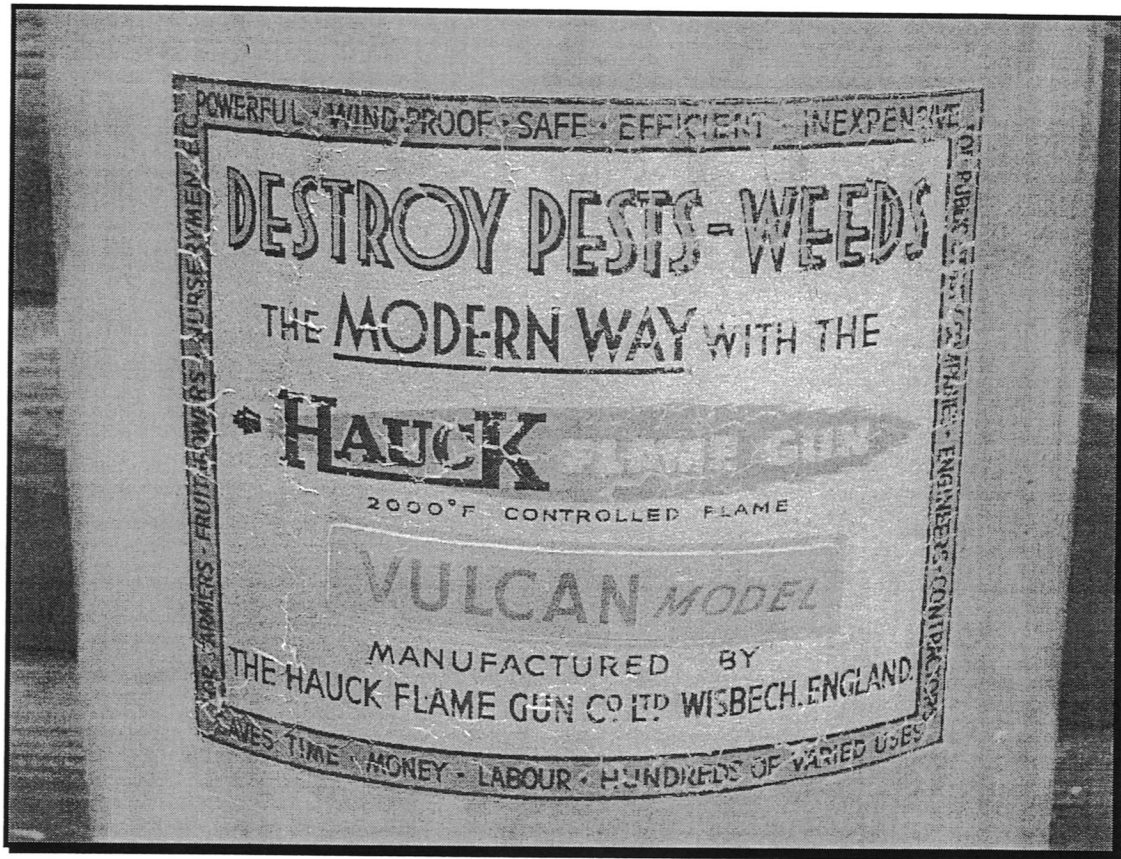
Recently, while returning from a job at the Cambridge Science Park, I decided to call in at an antique centre, which I had not visited for some months. When my search of the shelves

was almost over, I saw the top of a tank which I recognised as being that of a Hauck flame gun. On turning it round to get a better look, I saw a complete transfer which stated that it was manufactured by THE HAUCK FLAME GUN Co Ltd. WISBECH, ENGLAND. As the HAUCK logo is similar to that found on the American torches, with the H and the K linked, I can only assume that there was a link up.



The complete flame gun, the tank is 25 inches high (63cm) by about 7 inches in diameter (18cm)





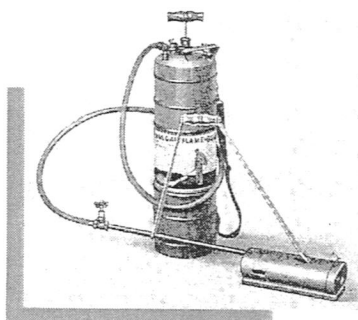
A close up of the transfer clearly shows the familiar HAUCK logo

Having forwarded copies of the photographs to the authors of the recently published American Blowtorch book, Charles Smith has sent the following reply.

"I have a large number of Hauck Catalogues, yet none list a marketing outlet or production facility in England. We know there was a German outlet in Chemnitz, and my guess is that you have uncovered the first record of a similar manufacturing / marketing outlet in Wisbech. I have attached a copy of a page from Hauck Catalogue No 2024, showing the same Hauck "Vulcan" Flame Gun as you have recently acquired. The catalogue is undated; however, I would guess the printing date was in the early 1930's. To my eye only the labelling is different. Thus I feel we are dealing with the very same Hauck Company product with different labelling for different marketing regions. Since your torch clearly reads "Manufactured by The Hauck Flame Gun Co Ltd", I would further guess that the unit was manufactured in England, under contract from the Hauck Manufacturing Co, in Brooklyn NY. Mind you this is my opinion."

If anyone else has an example of the flame gun, or indeed any knowledge of the Wisbech company: please let me know.

## HAUCK "Vulcan" FLAME-GUN



Reddish Blue FLAT Flame  
Spreads 6" Wide by 26" Long

Exclusive Broad Flat Flame  
of 2000°F.

Clean, Intense, Consuming Fire  
Always Under Operator's Control. Low Cost All-Purpose Unit

Burns Kerosene, Range Oil, Stove Oil  
or Light Furnace Oil

The universal popularity of the Hauck Vulcan Flame-Gun is due to its low initial cost, obtained without sacrificing the greater heating value and larger burning coverage of the Improved Flat-Flame Burner (fully patented) that produces a "fan-shape" flame spread. This supersedes the round thin flame of ordinary burners, giving an even,

intense, forced heat, which spreads from the burner like a hand with the fingers extended, mushrooming out against the ground, stone wall, or rock pile, to "melt" every growing plant within its range.

The "VULCAN" Flame-Gun consists of a 4-gallon capacity, all-welded steel tank (not riveted or soldered), tested at 100 lbs. pressure, fitted with tank handle and snap shoulder strap; quick-acting, long-stroke pump which does not have to be removed when filling tank because a "hand-tite" filling plug (requiring no wrenches) is provided; 60-lbs. pressure gauge; 6-ft. length of oil resisting hose with brass couplings and the fully enclosed steel coil Hauck patented FLAT FLAME Burner with windshield, back-plate and removable pan, fitted with bronze regulating valve and carrying handle. Overall length of burner including valve 37½ in. Average oil consumption 1 gallon per hour, net weight 21 lbs., shipping weight 23 lbs.

Code Word — YEYCF

PRICE \$16.00

F.O.B. New York, Chicago, San Francisco



Vulcan Flame-Gun  
Burning Safety Strip

### 10 DAYS TRIAL

Order a Hauck Flame-Gun on 10 Days Trial. If not satisfied in every way, return it at our expense.

6

## SOLDERING TORCHES

By  
Keith Hawkins

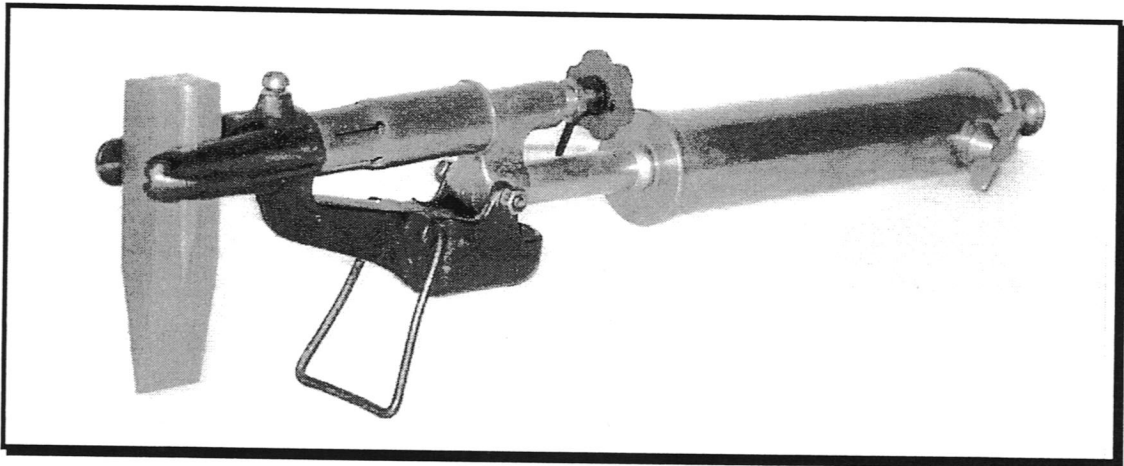
We are all familiar with the range of very attractive blowlamps made by Surmelin of France, the No's 0, 3, 10 & 20 make very desirable additions to any collection. What is probably less well known is that Surmelin also made soldering lamps, No's 30, 31 and 32.

No30 has a tank 20cm long, of 25cl. Capacity and a burning time of approximately 2 hours and 20 minutes, without the need to refuel. This lamp was especially for amateur use, mainly for small jobs. No31 and 32 were especially for outdoor use and were resistant to being blown out by the wind. Both have a 30cl capacity tank, No31 in brass and 32 in steel.

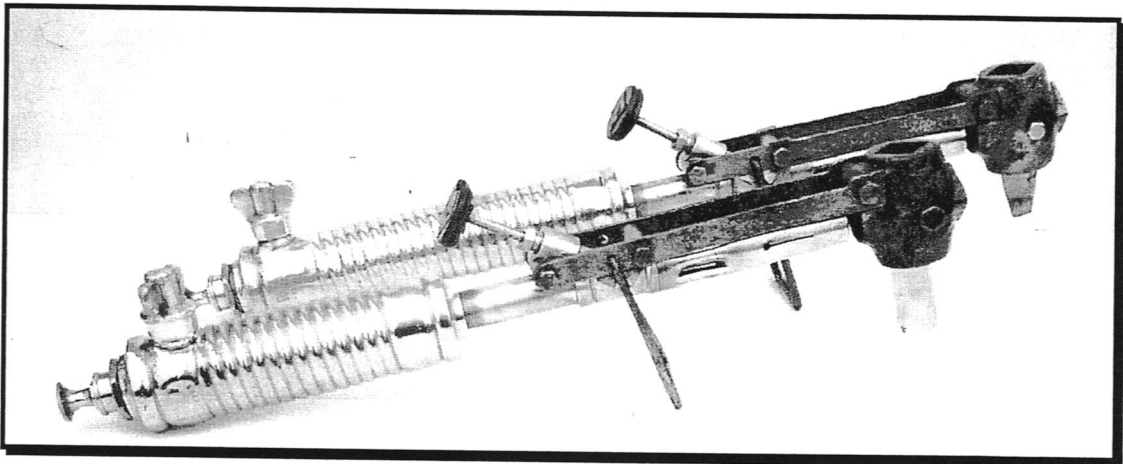
Express Rapide made a range of lamps, the No 426, which has an automatic self cleaning device for the burner was suitable for larger jobs, particularly in the motor trade, constructed with a steel tank of 25cl capacity and would burn for 1 hour 30 minutes.

The 427, similar in design, but with a brass tank and was recommended for use by car mechanics.

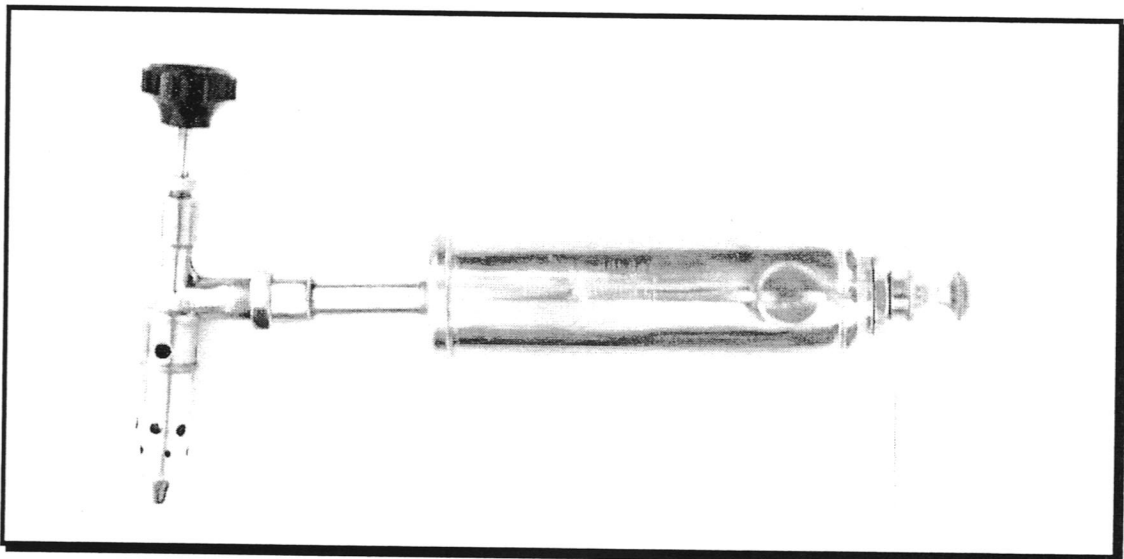
Express Rapide Souder No's 208, 209 & 210 were of solid and robust construction and had many uses, plumbing, tinwork, roofing work, and were all useable in windy conditions. The two which I own have copper tanks and look particularly impressive. (They will form part of my stand for the steam rallies previously listed.



Surmelin No 30

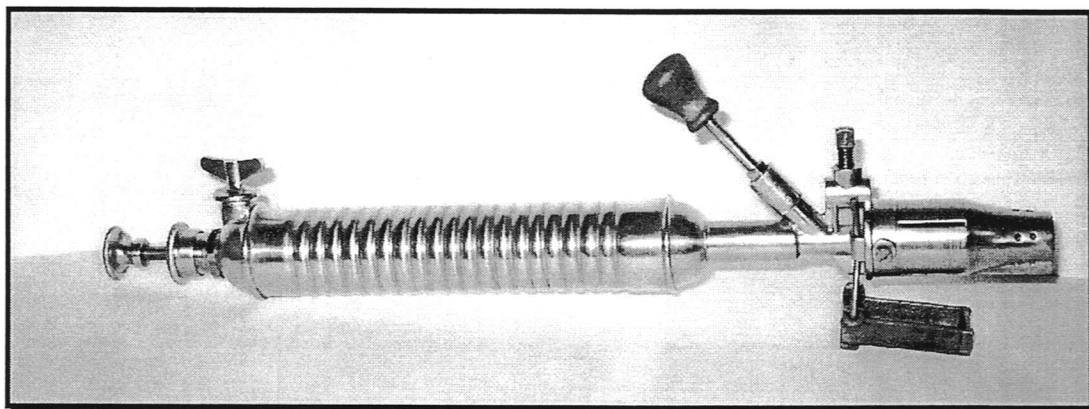


Express No's 208 & 209



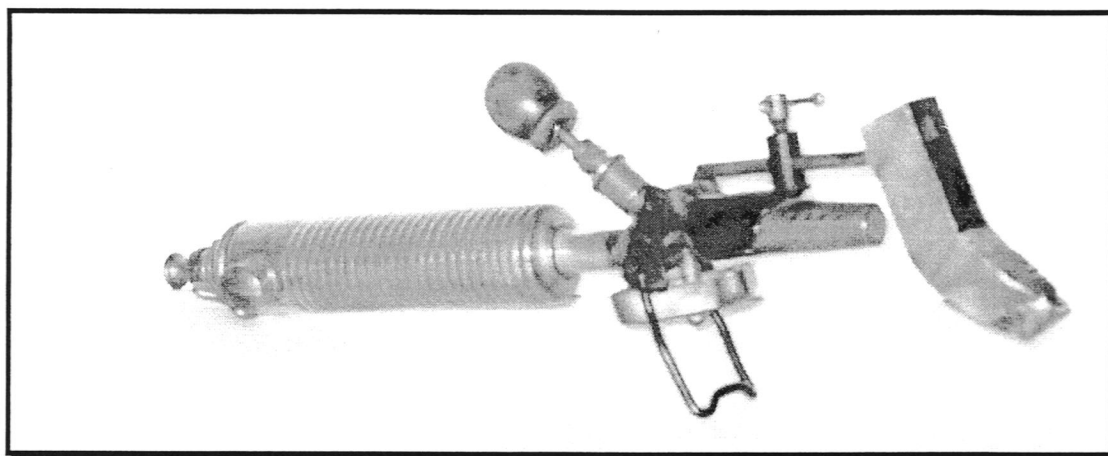
Express No 427

The next photograph shows a Katzenberger petrol lamp, designed to be used as either a soldering iron or a blowlamp. It works very well in cold conditions and will not go out in low temperatures and wind. There is no separate stand, the spirit cup when in use, taking its place: but I would think it could get in the way when the lamp is being used. I think this is quite a rare lamp, the manufacturers only appear to have made 4 pumped lamps of 0.4, 0.6, 0.8 and 1.5 litres in the "L'Ouragan" range, 2 pumpless "Monachia" lamps of 0.33 and 0.4 litres and their one soldering iron "L'Orage".



Emil Katzenberger "L'Orage"

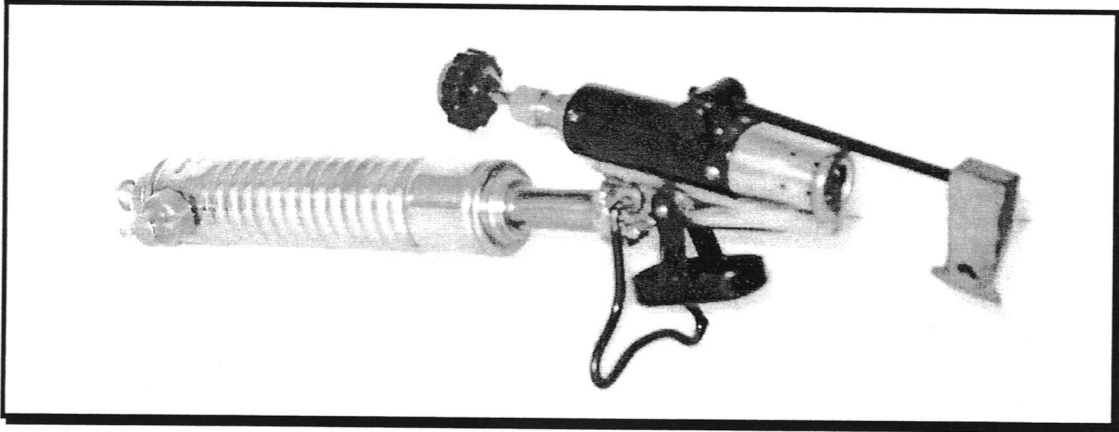
The Hahnel "Stabil" was the one mentioned in Phillippe Touillet's book on British blowlamps as being originally picked up by a Royal Artillery gunner in the 8<sup>th</sup> Army in Tunisia, early in 1943, somewhere near the Mareth Line. I was given it by the now elderly gunner who had kept it all his life, but now had decided that I could give it a better home. The soldering tip is not original as when he picked it up, it did not have one on it.



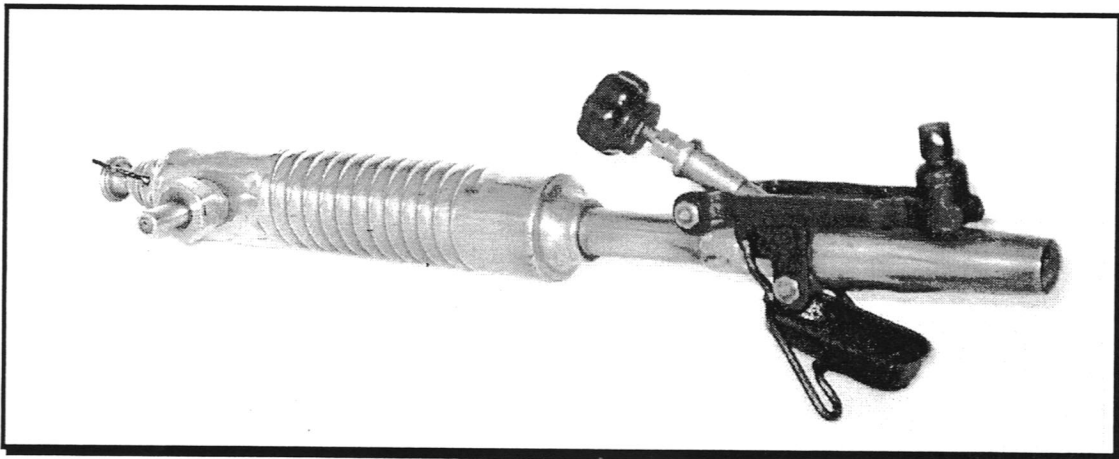
Hahnel "Stabil"

Kunze of Hildeshelm produced a lamp with a 25cl capacity tank. The name is written on the top of the tank with Hildeshelm, in capital letters beneath it. Janus Nooijen, from whom I got the lamp, says it is a "Lotkunze", but it does not say so on the lamp, so which is correct.

There is no information readily available for the Italia lamp. None of my Italian catalogues for this make show any information for this particular lamp with this type of control valve and as my knowledge of Italian is zero, I find it difficult to identify.

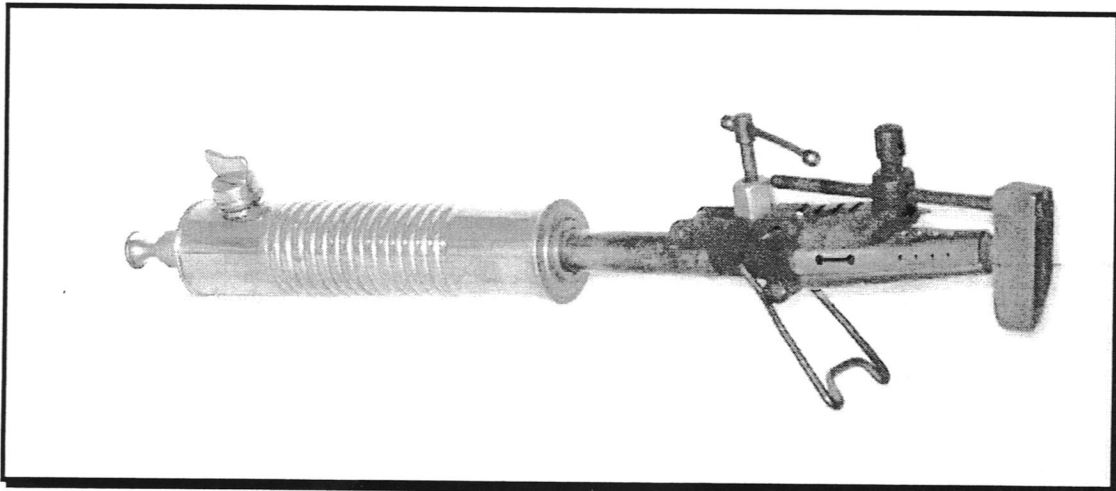


Kunze of Hildeshelm



Italia

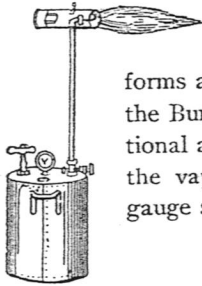
Finally, for this selection, is the Chybel from Argentina, but very Germanic in appearance. No documentary evidence is available, but the design of the ringed tank may help with identification. The only sign of a name is on the filler cap, but this could have been put on at any time. Tom Bartlett also has a Chybel lamp with the name only appearing on the filler cap.



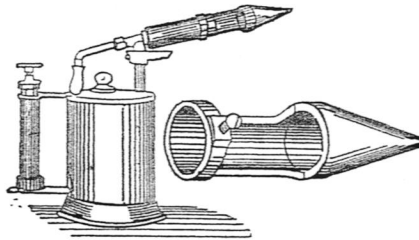
Chybel

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

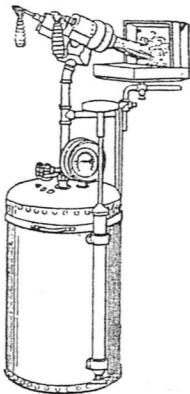
Michael Hanson has sent in the following interesting details from a copy of a publication called "Mechanised Movements & Devices", originally printed in 1899.



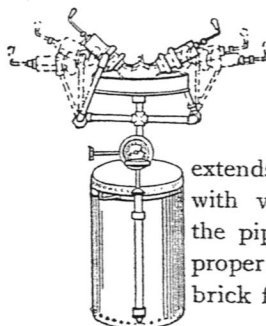
688. AIR AND GASOLINE TORCH.—Air is pumped into the tank with the gasoline, and forms a saturated air and vapor gas, which is carried to the Bunsen burner through the vertical pipe. The additional air for combustion is regulated at the burner, and the vapor at the valve in the pipe near the tank. A gauge shows the pressure.



689. TORCH SOLDERING COPPER.—The conical tip is made of copper, and slips on to the nozzle of a plumber's gasoline torch. Used largely for electric wire connections.



690. AIR AND GASOLINE VAPOR BRAZ-  
ZER, double flame. The pressure of vapor to the Bunsen burners is regulated by a valve near the top of the tank. The valve handles hanging from the stems regulate each burner.



691. AIR AND GASOLINE BRAZING APPARATUS.—A small attached pump forces air into a tank holding a small quantity of gasoline. A gauge shows the air pressure. From the top of the tank a pipe extends to two oppositely placed Bunsen burners with valves for regulating the flame. Swivels in the pipe allow the burners to be adjusted to the proper distance from the piece to be brazed. Fire-brick flame plate.

## **BRITISH BLOWLAMPS**

Now that the American Blowtorch book has arrived, I am convinced that with the help of the membership we can put together a catalogue of British blowlamps. Firstly we need to identify what information is available and I have compiled a survey sheet for members to fill in to highlight where the various makes of lamp are and what literature is available. If we all take the time to fill in the survey sheet, the information can be collated and I will then be able to work out how it can be best pulled together.

The survey sheet has a list of makes that I know should exist, plus there are a few extra lines for you to fill in for the ones I am yet to discover.

The idea for the book would be to get as much original literature and company history as possible and then to cover all the gaps with photographs from members collections.

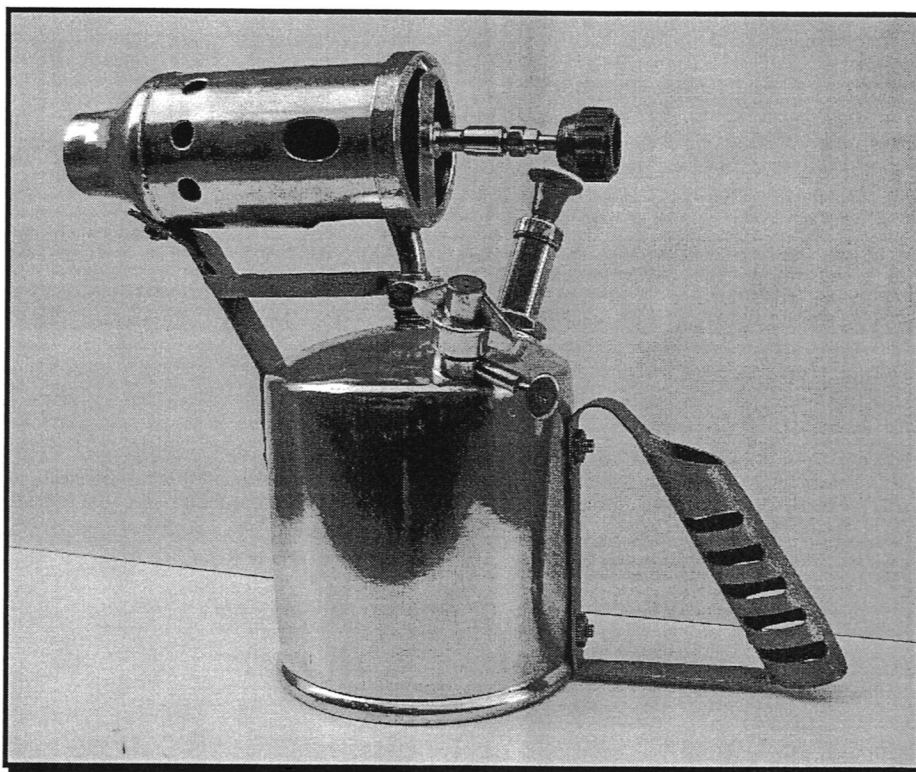
I have had an offer of help from Graham Stubbs, one of the co-authors of the American book, so with his experience I am sure we can make this a success.

## **IDENTITY & ASSISTANCE**

New member Pat O'Connor, from New South Wales, Australia has recently bought a 1 pint paraffin blowlamp with a red, 14 sided, composite handle. The only identification mark is "Aladdin" on the pump handle and Pat is asking if anyone knows if this is genuine and whether there is any information on the range they produced.



Pat has discovered that Aladdin had a lighting factory in Sydney, which has been confirmed by Neil McCrae, a collector of pressure lamps. Neil has also added that Aladdin had a link with Radius and looking at the control knob at the base of the burner the lamp looks very much in the style of the Radius 52.



Gerard Muller has sent this picture of a Bladon blowlamp. Does anyone know which model it is?

### **CLASSIFIED**

For Sale – Blowlamp Society Key Rings – Black leather with the Society logo on an enamel badge – ideal gift - £4-00 including postage.

For Sale – Part of the late Don Rixon collection – For details of what is available contact Keith Hawkins – 01525 290122.

For Exchange – I have a Primus 865 with legs to exchange for a Primus 865 without legs, to complete a set – Telephone Keith Hawkins on 01525 290122.

Wanted – Soldering iron heaters – gas, petrol or paraffin fired – Telephone Ray Hyland on 01449 615648.

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Blowlamp News is published in March, June, September and December. Any items for inclusion in the next issue should be with the editor at least 4 weeks before the issue date.

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**Acknowledgements – Keith Hawkins, Mike Preston, Charles Smith, Pat O'Connor Michael Hanson and Gerard Muller.**