

BLOWLAMP NEWS

No 62

DECEMBER

2007

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

AUTUMN GATHERING

Twenty eight members had committed to attend the Autumn Gathering at Toddington Village Hall on Saturday 20th October. Of those twenty eight, seven dropped out at the last minute, some without prior warning, which makes catering very difficult and the extra food has to be paid for. I felt disappointed for Keith Hawkins who puts in a great deal of time and effort in arranging the meeting and for the 4 members who had travelled from France and Belgium, it is always a pity to see empty tables, which should have been full of blowlamps.

This is the third year of organising the event and numbers remain constant, it is difficult to see what has to be done to attract more members to attend. It is only one day in the year, away from the rally season, so is it the location that is the problem.

We had to cancel the Spring meeting through lack of support; it would be a great shame if this meeting went the same way.

Having said that, those who attended had an enjoyable day, there were many lamps on display and for sale and Dick Fairbrother provided a three course lunch, maintaining his usual high standard.

I know Keith has had a few phone calls to thank him for his efforts, but I thought I would include this letter from Dave Rees.

"Joan and I would, and I feel sure that we speak for all those present, like to express our appreciation for the time and effort put in by Keith, when organising this even; we thoroughly enjoyed it. As on other occasions, during the 160 mile return trip, we reminisced the day's events. As the miles went by we wondered what stage of clearing up Keith had reached. In taking on this responsibility, Keith deserves credit and all our thanks.

I estimate that 60% of lamps available for sale / swap would not have been in the collections of half the UK collectors. The variety and rarity of the lamps laid out in rows was very impressive.

Finally, Dick certainly deserves a mention for providing a first class lunch, which left no one feeling hungry for many hours. Well done Keith; you deserve a pat on the back and possibly a kiss from Joan."

Beat wishes

Dave Rees

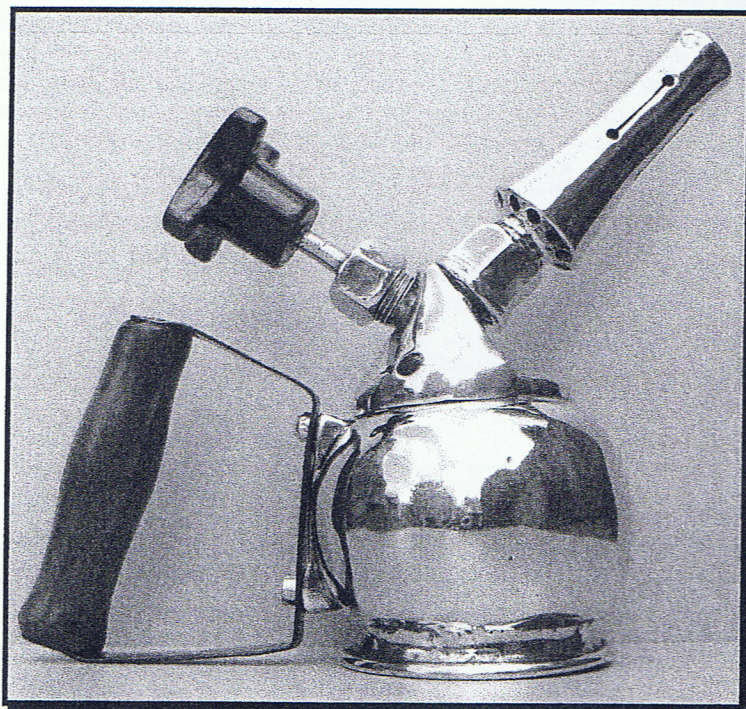
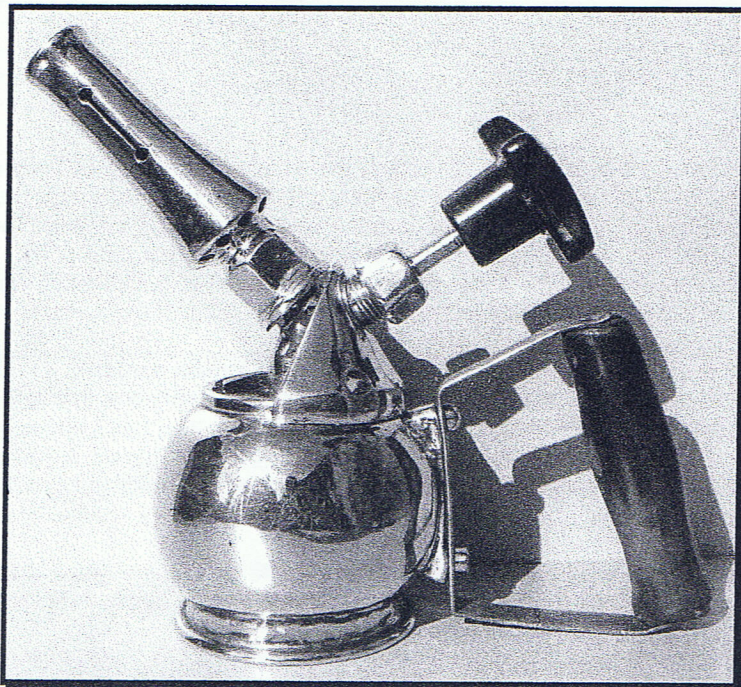
(I would also like to thank the ladies who helped in the kitchen and with the waitressing duties - Ray)

If we would like this meeting to continue, please support next years event which has been booked for Saturday 25th October 2008.

IDENTITY & ASSISTANCE

Guy Gerard has recently bought this blowlamp from Argentina. It has a solid copper spherical tank and a conical brass burner. During the pre-heating phase, a flame guard, placed at the back of the burner, protects the flame adjustment valve.

There are no identification marks or numbers on the lamp so if anyone recognises it please let me know and I will pass the information on to Guy.



SURVEY OF BRITISH BLOWLAMPS

My thanks to members who took the time to complete the survey, I have now had 20 returned, which have extended the list to identify 124 different makes. As well as the 124, of which there are examples in member's collections, there are another 6 makes which so far nobody has an example. Can I ask all those members who have not yet completed a survey to search their collections and see if they can find any of the following:- Easilod, Greens, Kirk & Merifield, Marcol, Simples and Hekla Furnace.

While at the Toddington meeting I was able to start photographing some of the rarer makes of lamp which members has brought along and already I have 48 photographs which could be included in the proposed catalogue.

Also at the meeting, Michel Duval brought his complete file of British manufacturer's literature which he has loaned to me to make copies of anything useful. Thanks also to Chris Naylor and Dave Rees for providing literature on Kelite and Woodward Bros.

My plan is that over the winter months, I will be visiting some of the larger collections to continue gathering photographs for use in the catalogue. For those of you who because of distance, I will not be able to visit, I will ask for photographs of selected lamps listed on your survey return.

I desperately need copies of original literature, so if you have any from which a good quality photocopy can be made, please send them in. I will reimburse all expenses.

BELGIUM MEETING Saturday 8th March 2008

Brigitte and Willy Mouton will again be arranging a meeting at the Feestzaal Breughel, Lochristi on Saturday 8th March 2008, starting at 09.00hrs.

Lochristi is about a 2 hour drive from the channel tunnel, but is a very straight forward journey and easy to find.

For those who like the more leisurely lifestyle, hotel rooms are available close by at a reasonable rate, which allows you to travel on the Friday and join other collectors for dinner in the evening.

There is an invitation included with this newsletter, so please let Brigitte and Willy know as soon as possible, if you would like to attend. (You will not be disappointed, it is always a great weekend)

NOT A BLOWLAMP

In issue No 60 of Blowlamp News I published a photograph of a "blowlamp" which Keith Hawkins had seen in an Organ Makers Museum, in Germany. On Keith's second visit, he was able to get a better look at the lamp and realised that it was in fact a small melting pot.

Charles Smith has sent the following response to the article:-

On page 3 of issue No 60 there is a photograph of an object similar to Brezuin type torches which Keith Hawkins felt was a miniature "lead melting furnace". I have two similar objects, the first and larger has no identifying marks and is almost identical in size to the one mentioned by Keith. This is about 127mm in height and 89mm in diameter. The only pieces which are magnetic, or ferrous, are the base of the alcohol heater, the base of the larger cup, or bowl, and the black stand with its attached handle. All other pieces are non magnetic and presumably of brass construction. As you can see, mine has a small alcohol lamp to provide the heat source to the larger cup which rests in the top of the holder above

the wick. The larger cup serves as a receptacle for a loose-fitting smaller cup, the base of the small cup being 20mm above the base of the larger.

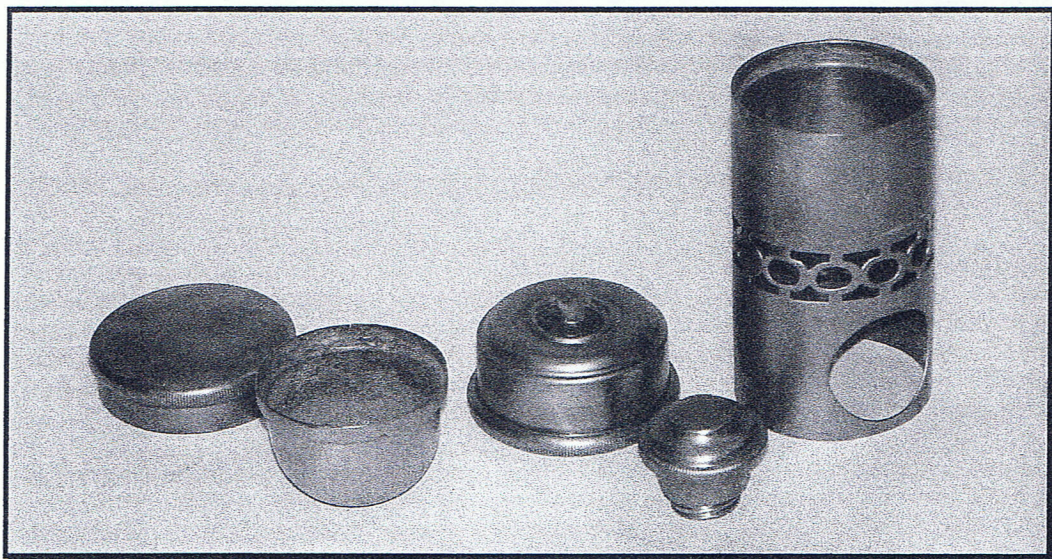
I do not think these were used to melt metals. In my opinion, they are far too delicate to serve this function. I am going to suggest that they are ancient heated shaving mugs! It is my opinion, however speculative, that the lower cup contained a small amount of water and, when hot, transferred that heat to the upper cup which may have contained a shaving cream. I have no proof of this at all, but simply suggest this as a likely alternative.



As with the larger object, above, the second heater is entirely unmarked. It is about 90mm in height and 50mm in diameter at its base. It has an alcohol lamp and wick cover which serves as its base end and is thus somewhat different from my larger heater. Above the wick and its cover is a fixed conical-shaped bowl into which the upper removable bowl rests. The base of the upper bowl, or cup, rests 10mm above the bottom of the lower cup; in design very much like the larger of my two heaters. In both objects there is a distinct gap between the lower and upper bowls. The entire object is non-magnetic, perhaps copper or brass, except for the base of the alcohol lamp.

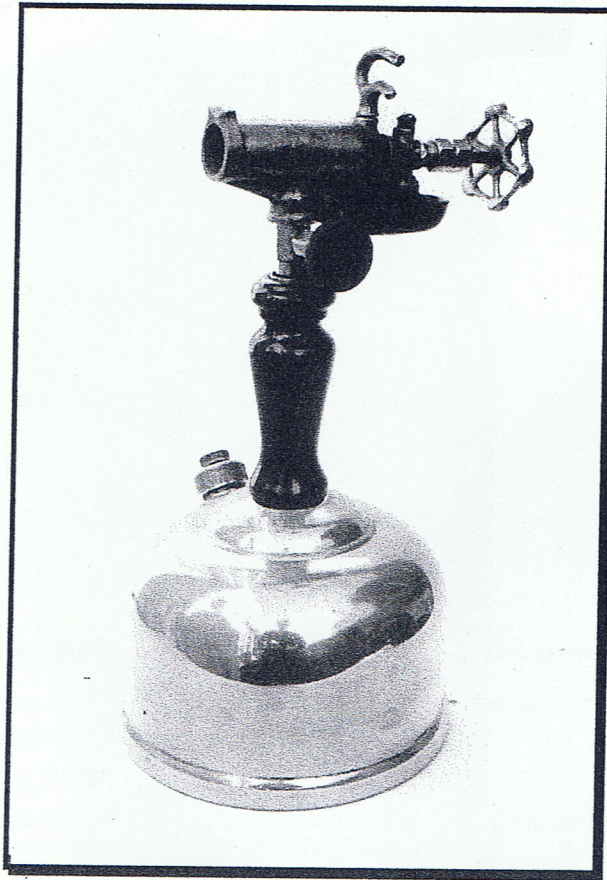
I believe this object, as its larger cousin, was used as a heater for shaving cream, or some other fluid or semi-fluid which required heating. As with the larger heater, this one was acquired from a German acquaintance about a year ago, thus I believe both are of German manufacture, although this thinking may be entirely erroneous.

I hope some of our members might have some documentation of the intended use and identify the source of these objects.



COLEMAN (Genuine or Fake)

By
Brian Grainger



Coleman is a Canadian company, probably best known for their pressure lanterns. This photograph is of my Coleman blow torch, over which there appears to be a great degree of controversy. In his book, *Collectible Blowtorches*, Dick Sarpolus suggests that it may be a fake, never produced by Coleman. I have seen other comments that it is probably composite, cobbled together from other torches by someone looking for an oddity on which to make some money.

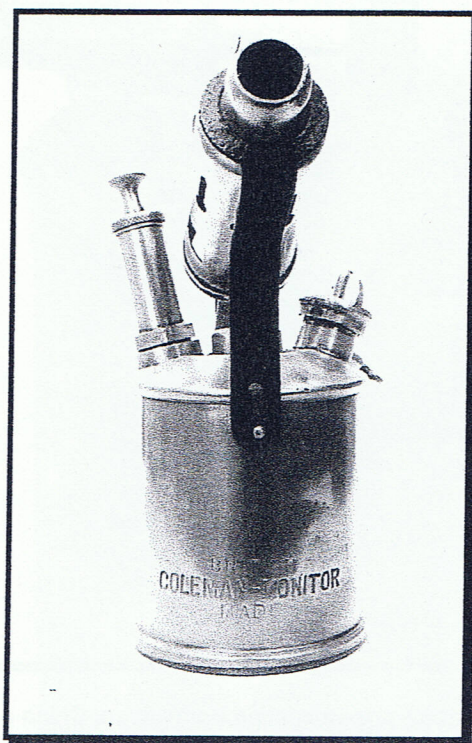
I do not agree with this, as quite a few have now appeared for sale on eBay, and no-one surely would be daft enough to purchase two torches to make one (albeit different) on which there would be a doubtful profit.

Most of these torches I have seen on eBay differ considerably from each other – tank, handle, burner – all different.

My suggestion is that Coleman had the manufacturing facilities for their lighting and similar products, but did not wish to tool up for the manufacture of blow torches, a product for which the market was already saturated. Is it possible that they may simply have used the tank and handle from their lighting outfits and bought in the burners, which appear to be from various American manufacturers? By the nature of the model – heavy tank, high rise burner – they may have produced it for a specific purpose and market.

Coleman is known to have collaborated with other manufacturers. Here in the UK, one of the most common lamps to be found is the Monitor 26 (Manufactured originally by Monitor Engineering & Oil Appliances Ltd, now absorbed by Parkinson & Cowan Group.) This lamp is available by the 100's but the next photograph shows a variation which is extremely rare in

this country – a Monitor 26, but with the tank impressed with the logo COLEMAN-MONITOR, but BRITISH MADE.



It would seem that Coleman wished to produce a European style blowlamp, but not set up manufacturing facilities to produce their own model. They appear to have taken the easier option of entering into an agreement with Monitor to produce the lamps for them. But the fact that these Coleman-Monitor lamps are quite rare in the UK, tends to suggest that they were not intended for the UK market (where they would have had to compete against the prolific Monitor 26) and possibly they were sold in Canada and elsewhere.

I understand that Tom Bartlett has a Coleman torch manufactured in Mexico, so they were quite adept at outsourcing.

Edition 22 of "The Torch" (the newsletter of the Blow Torch Collectors Association of America) contains a good article on Coleman, where it is indicated that there appears to be no literature available to support a blow torch production line in either Canada or Wichita. Could it be that Coleman blow torch output was in fact manufactured for them, or put together from other manufacturer's parts, and that there was no 100% Coleman production?

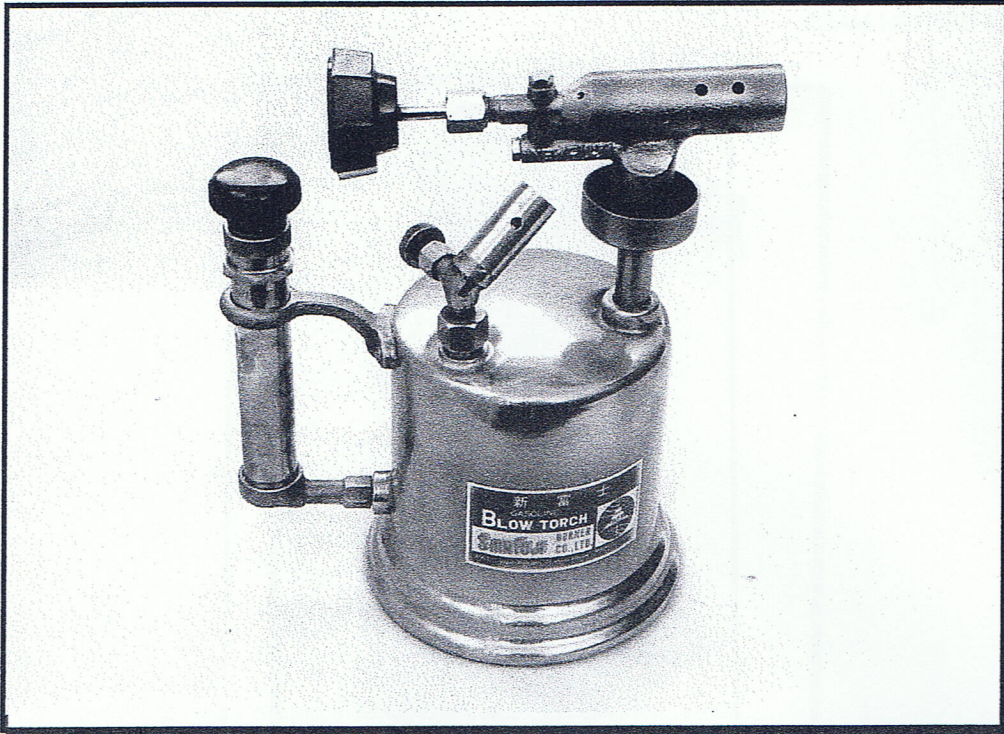
GENERAL INTEREST

Brian Grainger has sent a series of photographs of blowlamps taken from his collection.

Firstly there are a series of blowlamps appearing out of the Far East, which appear to be recent manufacture, but copying many of the characteristics of the American Turner torches. The photograph shows one bearing the name SHIN FUJI BURNER Co Ltd.

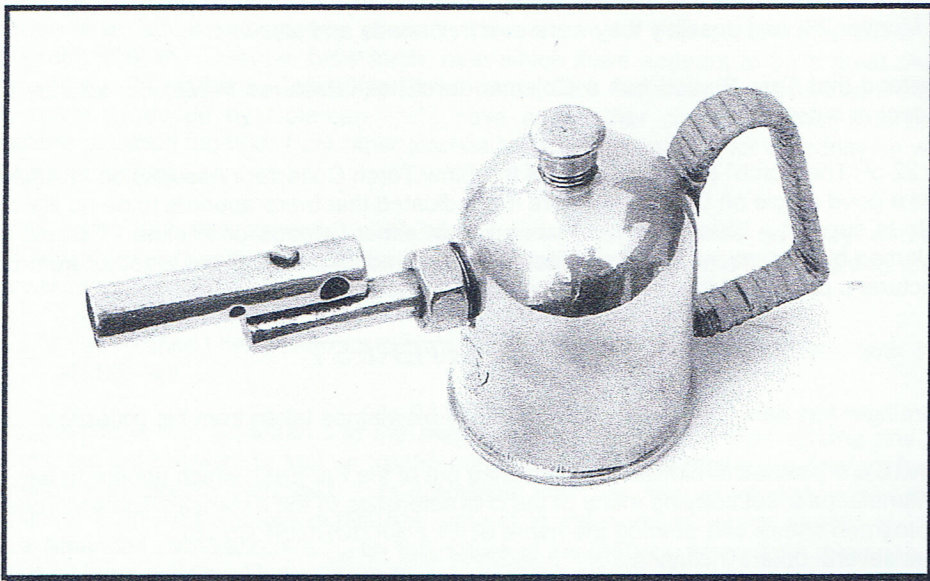
Brian has several others including

- 1.- Name FUJI cast into the burner
- 2 – Name FUJI by the KAWAGUCHI Co Ltd
- 3 – Name PEACE-HATO by the MUSASHI Mfg Co.

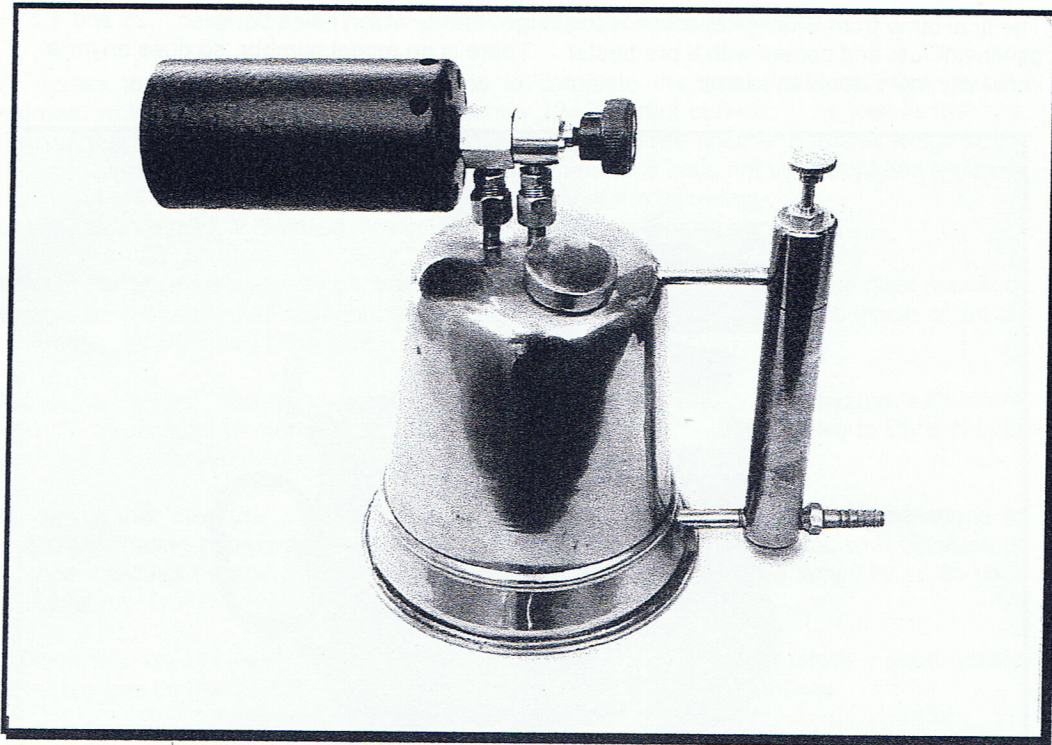


It would appear that these lamps are emanating from Japan, China and Taiwan; I wonder what the connections are, if any.

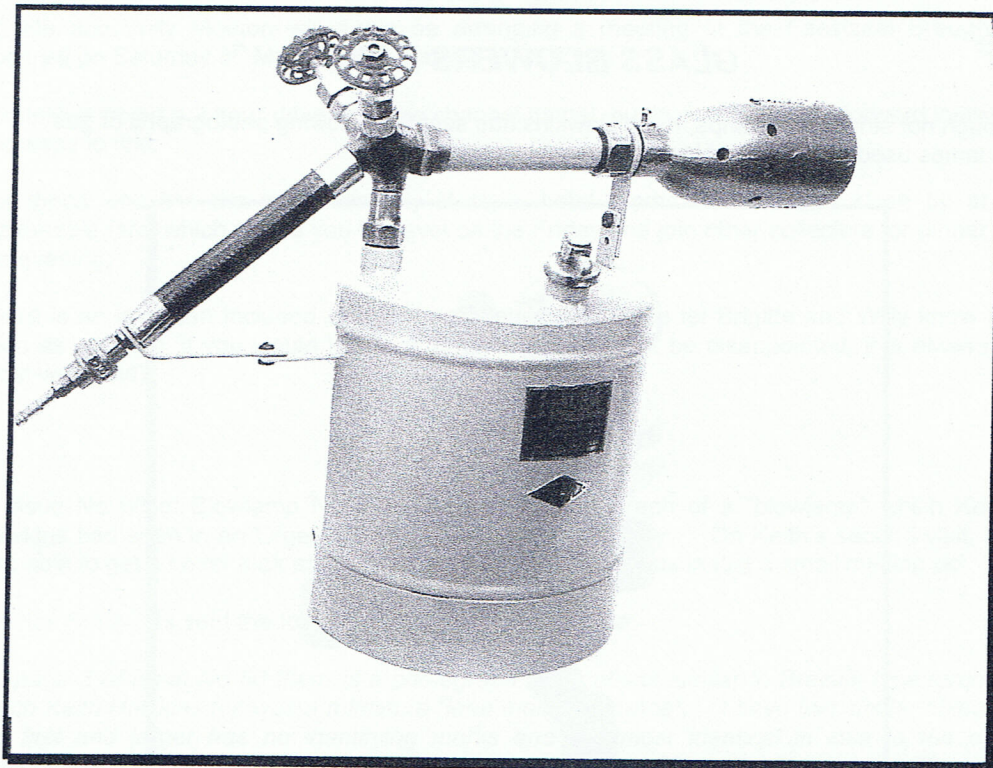
There are several lamps of the type in the next photograph, originating from various manufacturers. This one is the TROJAN by John Shaw & Sons.



The next two photographs show blowlamps requiring an external air pressure feed to provide the power.



This lamp was manufactured by the Lancaster Mfg. Co of Melbourne, Australia.



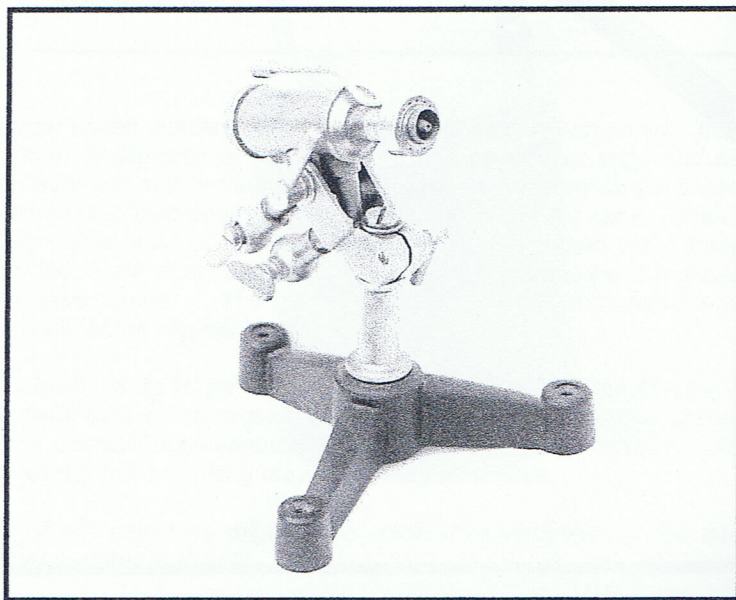
This is the Hauck Venturi Compressed Air Suction Torch and requires a minimum air pressure of 40 p.s.i. It lights instantly without pre-heating, hence no drip tray. This particular model No 137, holds 1.5 gallons of fuel which is consumed with one hours use.

The final lamp from Brian's collection is this large Primus which holds between 1.25 and 1.5 gallons of fuel and comes with a pre heater. There is no model number, so does anyone know any more about this lamp.



GLASS BLOWERS LAMPS

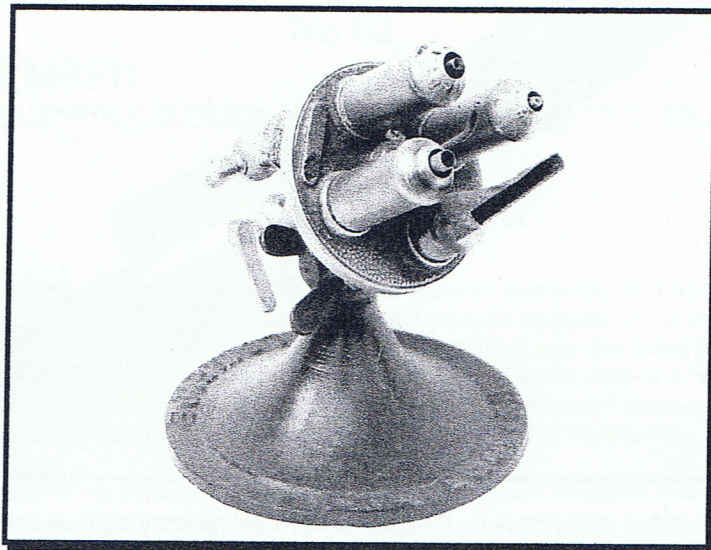
Although not strictly blowlamps, Keith Hawkins has sent the following photographs of gas fired lamps used in the glass blowing industry.



This single burner lamp was used to soften the rim of any glass receptacle so that it could be polished after manufacture. Also on the base of the glass was a pontil mark, where it was

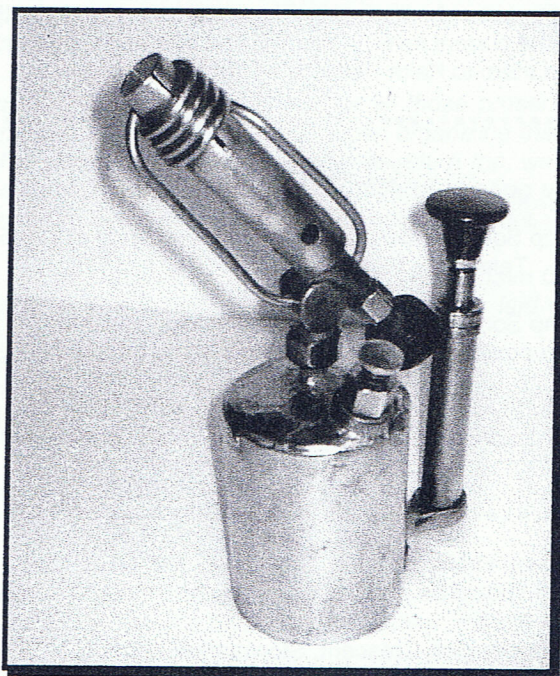
attached to the blowpipe during heating. Usually this was heated and ground off, but some used it to put on their firms trade mark.

I described this lamp to the Director of Gibraltar Glass Co and he confirms the lamps use and added that it was probably made in Germany during the 1920's.

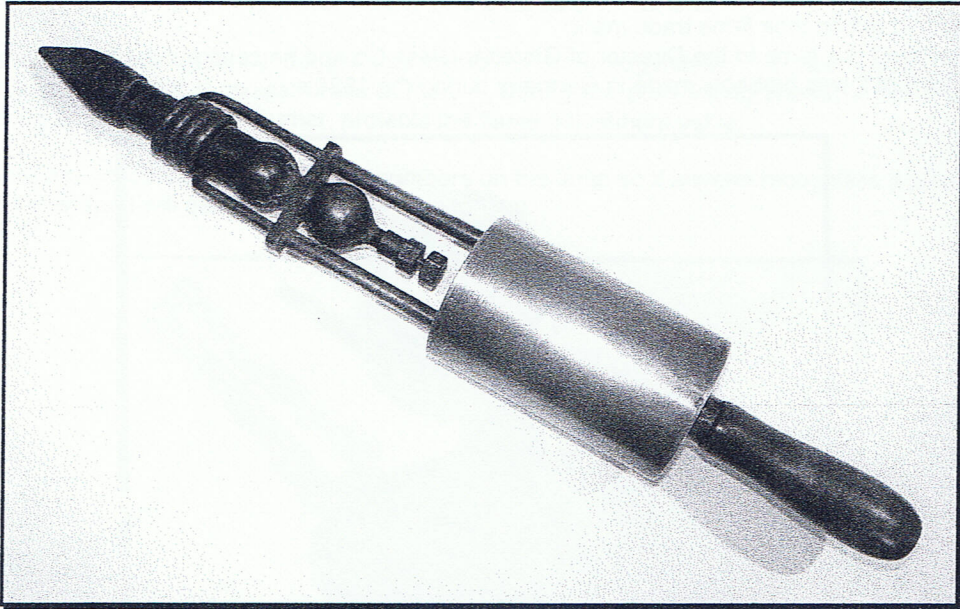


This multi burner lamp is called "The English Blowpipe". I would imagine the small centre pipe was a pilot light, which in turn would light one of the main burners when it was needed. Presumably also used for polishing glass, but the actual processes used I do not know; maybe someone can provide further information.

RECENT FINDS



Max Rhodes recently found this lamp and originally thought it had been home made. On closer inspection he now feels that the component parts could be manufactured. Has anyone seen anything similar or perhaps have some literature identifying the lamp?



Now here is a torch I really like. Charles Smith has recently acquired this self heating soldering iron manufactured by F.J.Mann Tool and Appliance Co of New York. Charles is one of the co-authors of the American Blowtorch book (a must for all collectors) and the only record they found for this torch was through a patent assigned to Frank Mann in 1909. It's nice to see the torch actually went into manufacture.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

For those of you who would like to continue with membership of the Blowlamp Society, it's that time of year to renew your subscription. There will be no increase this year as we seem to manage OK at the current level. You will find a renewal form included with this newsletter, please return them to Keith Hawkins as soon as possible.

CLASSIFIED

- For Sale** Blowlamp Society calendar – only one remaining at £10-50, including postage. Telephone Ray Hyland on 01449 615648
- For Sale** Blowlamp Society Key Rings – Ideal stocking filler for Christmas at £4-00, including postage. Telephone Ray Hyland on 01449 615648
- For Sale** Complete Fluxite Soldering Kit, together with Fluxite gun, complete with tin and instructions – very good condition. Telephone Dave Rees on 01873 880795.

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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