

# BLOWLAMP NEWS

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Number 7

March 1994

Greetings from a cold, wet and very windy Devon. Certainly there is no encouragement to think that summer shows are only a couple of months or so away when we should expect warm and sunny days. No time for gardening either so this is the time to go through your collections looking for all those little items of information I keep on about. They're all there somewhere and I do need them for publishing.

## Updates.

The folding handles in B/N 5 are also seen in an old photocopy of a French lamp called "La Francaise" dated 1905 (Keith Hawkins) and a Sievert Vapouria No 10 dated probably early 1930 (E R Hewitt)

## Plaques

Tom Bartlett sent this drawing of 1 3/8 in. diameter brass plaques he has on two one pint Bladon paraffin lamps one of which has a steel tank. They both have cane wound handles, but unlike the picture I have from a catalogue dated 1925 the plaques are soldered to the front of the tanks rather than the sides. These illustrations had been thought to be transfers, but at that time I don't think transfers were much used. The steel tank probably dates to the first World War. Unfortunately Bladon seemed only to datemark the bases of their petrol lamps, though I have a steel tank 1 pint paraffin cane wound handle lamp with a small steel embossed date mark 1918. Hopefully more light will be shed when the Bladon survey starts later this year.



## PRIMUS Survey

Several members have already started sending in their data on this, though it is too early to start to analyse anything yet, or to draw any conclusions. In any case I would like to let the process run for the rest of this year to include any apparatus you might see at Shows, Car Boot sales or autojumbles through the Summer, to get a really big set of figures.

## B/N 6 drawings.

Lee McGuckian of Frome posed the question about the "Plumbob" logo and it was his alertness in subsequently spotting the name on a delivery van which has given further clues.

Lee's lamp is a half-pint paraffin with the rectangular section, 7 holed handle associated with Veritas and Parasene (B/N 2 [a] with 7 NOT 9 holes!). His transfer is black above and red below, with the name in white lettering. My lamp is a 1 pint paraffin with the same style handle, though set at a flatter angle than the Veritas and with a slightly different joint at the top of the handle bracket. It, too, is closed with a spot weld and fixed to the tank with brass domed nuts. Its transfer is blue above, red below with white lettering and is about 1 3/8 in. across. I have also seen this transfer on a standard size paraffin cooker. This too was blue and red. Lee saw the name Plumbob Hardware Supplies on the side of a delivery van and checked by phone that they had marketed lamps in the past which were made by M H Berlyn who also made the Parasene lamps. I wonder if they also made Veritas or if the similarity of the handles is a coincidence? I'll try to check for next Blowlamp News.

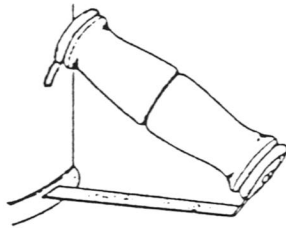
Logo (b) is Frank Love's AMOR, which name is printed within the scroll below the cupid. This poses more questions. Frank Love, who registered his trademark and name in 1919, undoubtedly marketed Bladon Lamps among others, using AMOR for petrol and ROMA for paraffin lamps. The petrol lamps were those bearing the oval copper plaques of Amor and X-L (B/N 5). However there are certain lamps which have characteristic features and which bear either the name Amor or the Cupid logo. Two which I know about with these features, have no other identifying marks. The special features which I have not seen on other lamps are, a pear shaped wooden control knob with a recessed locking nut, and a ferrule with two lugs inserted into slots on the face of the knob. The retaining nut for the packing gland and needle valve spindle is a single female cap with hexagon flats which is quite unusual and I have seen no other lamps with this arrangement. The safety wire ends in a short flat rectangular protrusion above the tank. The handle is a slim wooden turning with a bulbous centre section retained by a steel spindle locked at each end by flat nuts. The handle frame is bolted to the tank. I know John Byrne has one with the Cupid logo, I suspect Malcolm Forster has an unmarked lamp, as is one of mine, while my other one has the name Amor stamped on the side of the needle valve housing. Frank Love is described in a catalogue (A & S Black) as supplying "the highest quality brasswork made" so perhaps he made the lamps with the special features, or had them made for him, and marketed Bladons with his own Trade Name. Can any more light be shed on this matter and does anyone else have any Amor or Roma lamps?

**Logo (c)** I'm afraid I cheated a bit here as I've never seen this on a blowlamp. It is the logo of a Portuguese cooking stove manufacturer and since most makers of cookers also made blowlamps I thought we might get some information like this. Unfortunately nothing was forthcoming. However, when I was on holiday in Portugal recently, I found the address of the Casa Hipolito S.A. company so I've written to see if they can help.

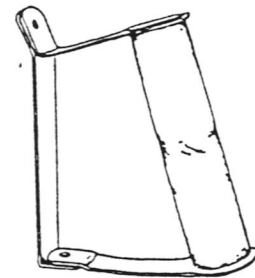
**Pump locking device.** This is on several old Clayton & Lambert lamps, and judging by the control knobs, of the mid 1920 to 1930 era. Pump handle locking devices are not common except on Soldering torches where there is a need to retain the pump while the apparatus is used in different positions.

**Aymaro.** (Dave Nichols) No one seems to know anything about this lamp. Did anyone have any relatives who served or are serving in the Falklands and who may still have contacts living there? It's worth a question because some supplies came from Argentina before 1980 and some older residents may recall the TradeName. B/N 7 handles

(a)



(b)



**Pump locking device.**

The flat on the lower flange of the pump knob seats alongside a cowl on the pump barrel cap when the handle is in the closed position. Rotating the knob locks the handle under the cowl.



**B/N 7 Trademark.**

I've blanked out the more obvious clues but two still exist.



**Rallies.**

Keith Hawkins tells me that, subject to him being able to see to get there, he is planning the following early shows:-

21/22 May - Old Glory Tallington, 28/29 May - Sandringham Spring Spectacular, 4/5 June- Little Wymondley Herts Rally, 11/12 June- Belper Festival, 26/27 June - Banbury, 9/10 July- Rempstone.

I have his provisional Summer and Autumn dates but will publish these later.

I have none planned early but may well go to the Borde Hill Rally at Haywards Heath 14/15 May

No one else has given me early dates but I hope for more news of the mid-Summer and Autumn shows in time for B/N 8 in June.

You'll see I've been doing a bit of name-dropping as an acknowledgement of the source of information either by letter or photocopied material. This is most appreciated but unfortunately I don't get around to writing individually and I hope this public acknowledgement goes some way to making up for these omissions. Good luck with your collecting, I hope to see some of you at Rallies and that some of you will meet up with each other but as always, please let's hear from you.

Les Adams