

# ***BLOWLAMP NEWS***

No 72

JUNE

2010

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

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## ***BELGIUM MEETING***

This year saw a new venue at Langemark and new organisers, Marnik and Katy Van Insberg. The meeting was well attended with over thirty collectors travelling from various parts of Europe as well as the UK.

The claim for travelling the furthest distance has to go to Graham Stubbs from San Diego on the West coast of America. Graham and his wife Stephanie had travelled to England to visit relatives and on the Friday morning I met up with him at Stowmarket from where we travelled down to the channel tunnel to meet up with John Tingle and Paul Whiddett.

A number of collectors met at Marnik's house on the Friday afternoon and then on to the hotel for dinner in the evening.

On Saturday the exhibition hall was full to capacity with blowlamps and a lot of trading took place during the morning.



One of the many displays



Plenty of interest from fellow collectors.

Marnik was obviously pleased with the way the day went as he has already booked the date for next year.

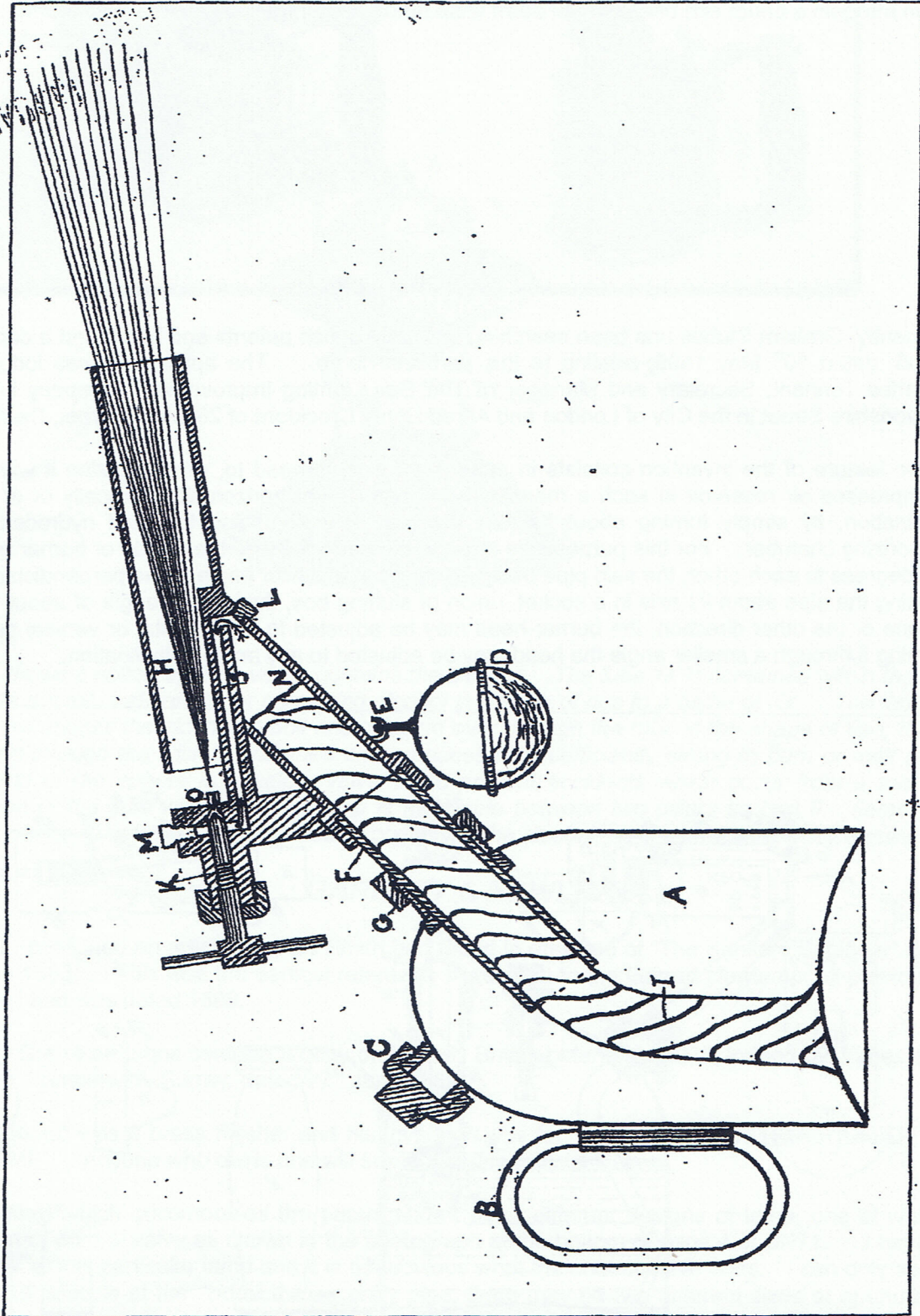
### **ARTHUR THOMAS CARLEY**

During the lunch break at the Belgium meeting I had a close look at two copper tank blowlamps which John Tingle had brought along for identification. On the burner of one of the lamps was the word ARLEY, but it was obvious from the casting that an initial letter was missing, the best suggestion on the day was that it might be HARLEY.



There was also a patent number, 4384, stamped on the burner and Graham Stubbs agreed to search the internet to see if he could come up with any information.

Graham has in the past searched the British Patent Office and has produced a comprehensive list of patents relating to blowlamps. On further investigation through the British Library, Graham turned up the patent number 4384, awarded in 1894 to Arthur Thomas Carley of 93 Northcote Road, Clapham Junction, London, who was an Ironmonger and who had invented a mineral oil or spirit heating apparatus, adapted for all heating purposes scientific or industrial.



(1 SHEET)

CARLEY'S PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION.  
A.D. 1894, MARCH 1, N<sup>o</sup>. 4384

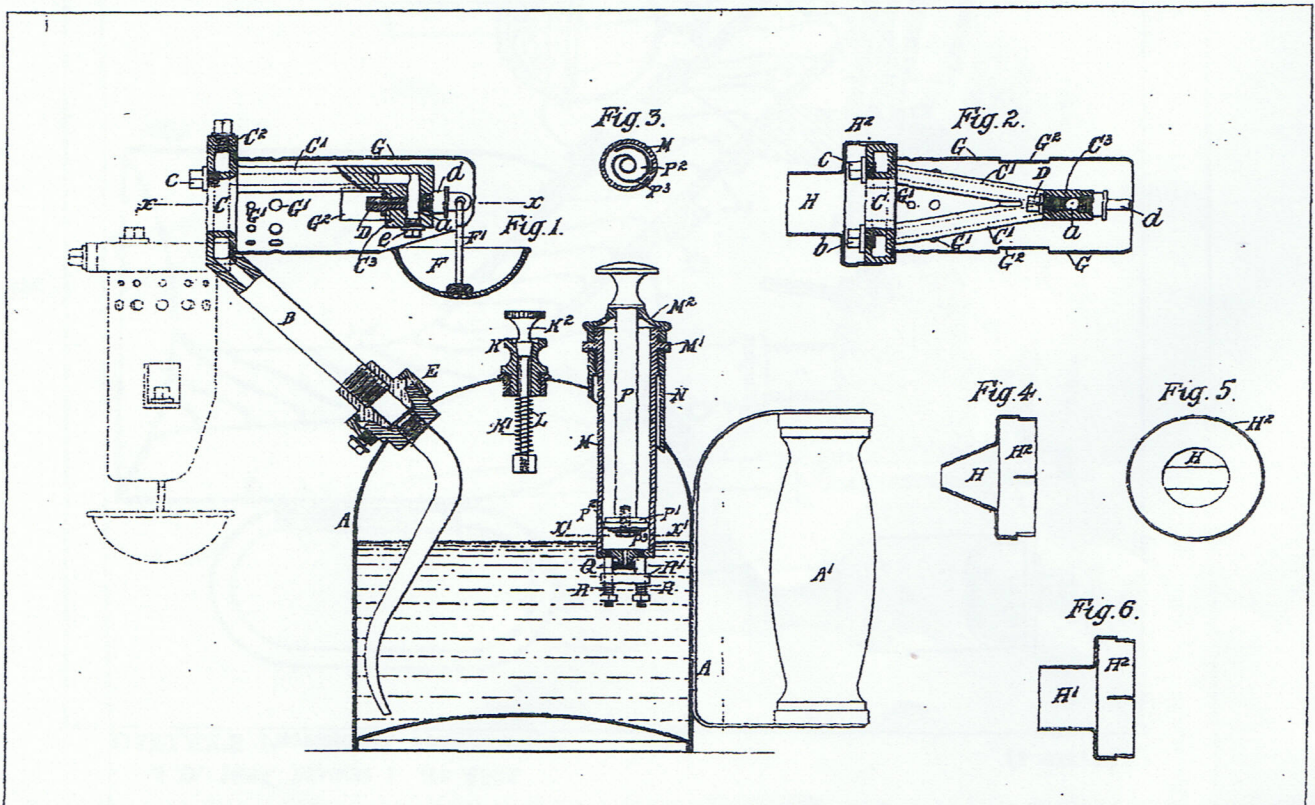
## THE GAS LIGHTING IMPROVEMENT COMPANY (GLICO)

In BN52 I published a translation from a German patent document for the "SIRIUS" blowlamp which I had acquired.

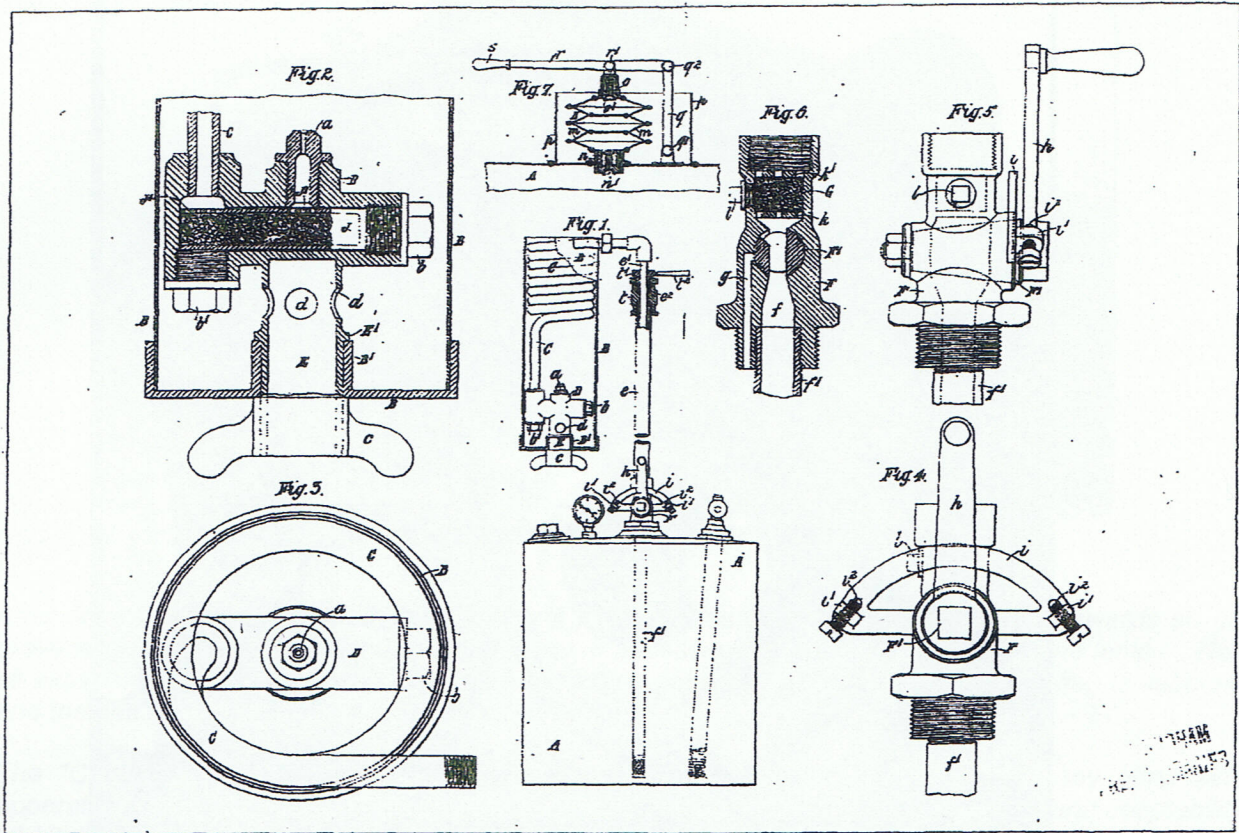


Recently, Graham Stubbs has been searching out early British patents and has found a copy of number 9305, dated 10<sup>th</sup> May 1895, relating to this particular lamp. The application was lodged by Philip Charles Tennant, Secretary and Manager of The Gas Lighting Improvement Company Limited, of 18 Devonshire Street in the City of London and Alfred Henry Crockford of 26 Overy Street, Dartford, Kent.

"One feature of the invention consists in attaching the lamp-head to, or connecting it with the oil and compressed air reservoir in such a manner that it can be set horizontally, vertically or at any desired inclination, by simply turning about its axis the pipe for conducting the fluid hydrocarbon into the vaporizing chamber. For this purpose we arrange the said pipe and the nozzle or burner at an angle of 45 degrees to each other, the said pipe being arranged at a similar angle to the perpendicular, so that by turning the pipe about its axis in a socket, union of stuffing box, through an angle of about 180 degrees in one or the other direction, the burner-head may be adjusted to a horizontal or vertical position, or by turning it through a smaller angle the head may be adjusted to any angle of inclination."



I had long thought that this lamp was unique and perhaps the company's venture into producing blowlamps had been short lived. This was obviously not the case as Graham has turned up an earlier patent, number 235, dated 4<sup>th</sup> January 1894, also lodged by Philip Tennant and Alfred Crockford relating to apparatus for vaporizing and burning hydrocarbons for lighting and heating purposes.

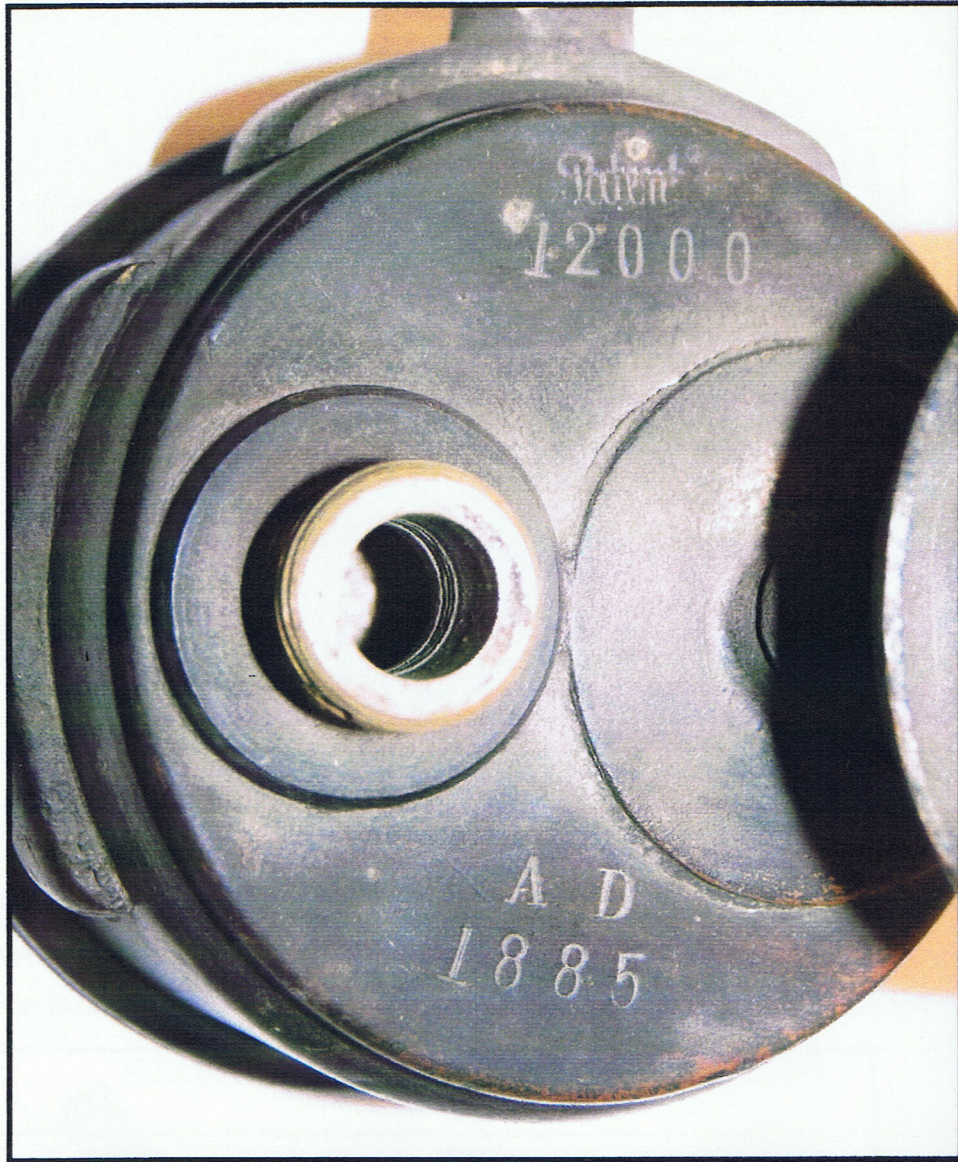


Looking at Fig 1 in the centre, this was a heavy duty lamp with a vertical burner.

*BRIDGEPORT BRASS Co "Vulcan"*



Charles Smith has sent this picture of a Vulcan torch which he purchased on German eBay. What is different about this particular torch is that it has the patent number 12000 stamped on the top of the tank together with the date AD1855.



Charles contacted some friends in Germany to see if they could track down the patent. Unfortunately the only reference to this particular patent was unrelated to blowlamps and was issued in 1894.

To try to clear up the mystery, Charles also contacted Graham Stubbs to see if his research into early patents could help. Graham confirmed that with early British patents the numbering system started with 1 each year, so the same number could apply to various patents, up until 1915, when the system was changed.

On the information Graham has, patent number 12000 is British and was issued to Bernstein and Vogt on 10<sup>th</sup> September 1885 and the description is for "Lamps for removing paint from woodwork"

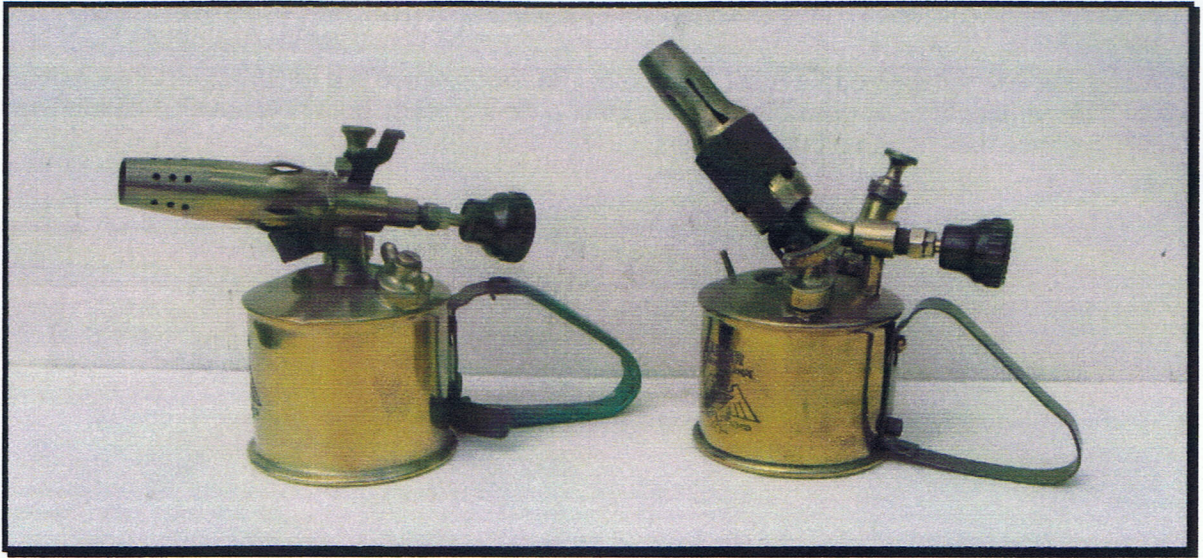
It would seem that the connection with Germany was that they imported chemical supplies for their business.

## ADLER

When I first saw the logo on an Adler blowlamp, I decided I would like to collect as many different models from this manufacturer as possible. It has been a slow process but I now have 11 different models which all have names rather than numbers.



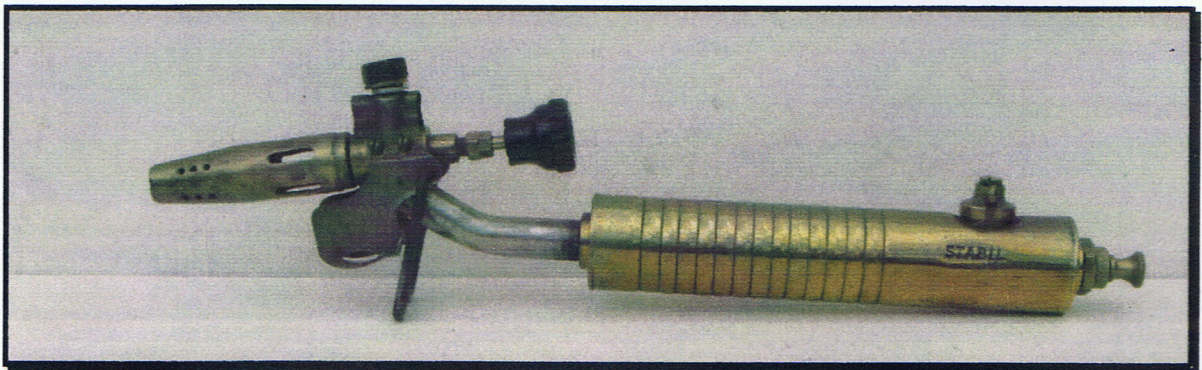
The Alpha and the Bella



Two different versions of the Benno



Two different versions of the Komet



The Stabil soldering lamp





Three versions of the Mephisto 2, note the one on the right has two control valves.



The Kosmos

I had always thought these blowlamps were manufactured in Austria, but two of the ones in my collection are stamped "Made in Germany". Perhaps someone has some advertising literature which can confirm where they were made.

I know there are other lamps in the series, there is a small quarter pint model which I think is called the Flott and at the other end of the scale there is one the size of an HSL2, but I am not sure of its name.

If there are any members who have other models, please let me know and send me a photograph, or better still send me the lamp as I would like to complete the set.

## SOMETHING DIFFERENT



Michel Duval has sent this photograph of some printers blocks which he has in his collection. They were used by tool sellers or distributors when preparing their catalogues. The large block at the back is an Italian advert for an Express blowlamp and is made of rubber on a wooden block. Others are copper or steel, mounted on hardwood and depict a Vesta K or L, Surmelin No 3, three further Express lamps, a Rapide soldering Iron and a Talisman soldering iron.

I think these make a great addition to a collection and if anyone else has anything similar associated with blowlamps I would welcome a photograph.

### HERMAN BUSH

Graham Stubbs has turned up another early British patent, dated 30<sup>th</sup> June 1887, which was lodged by Herman Bush of Hessel Road, Hull.

The description in the accompanying patent, number 9287, is for a blow-pipe style of lamp, which differs from the normal blow-pipe, by having a rotating head on top of the fuel vessel to enable three different sizes of tube.

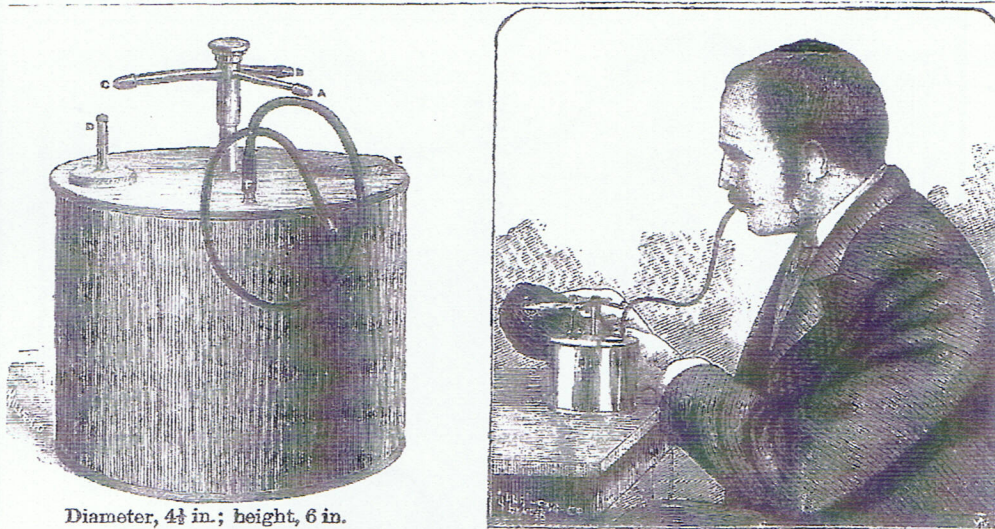
The directions for the use of the apparatus is as follows:-

*Light the wick of the lamp and turn the ferrule on the conical tube so as to bring the orifice of one of the side tubes over the ignited wick which is raised or lowered according to the size of the orifice of the side tube to meet it, take the mouth piece of the India rubber tube into your mouth and blow into it, when the air escaping out of the cross cuts of the spiral winding at the bottom of the vessel will generate gas from the Gasoline or Ligroine, ascending to the top, passing through the conical tube and side hole, entering the side tube of the rotating ferrule and at the orifice of the tube, the generated gas will instantly ignite at the flame of the wick into a solid flame and powerful heat, which being directed onto the place of the*

article to be soldered or heated, will produce heat not to be attained by any other similar arrangement and at such insignificant expense.

3

LAPP & FLERSHEM, JOBBERS, CHICAGO.



Diameter, 4½ in.; height, 6 in.

**No. 6, Bush's Patent Alcohol Lamp. Each, \$3.00.**

After done using the blowpipe, the flame will instantly cease and turn the ferrule sideways so as to prevent the escape of unutilized gas and lower, if necessary or requisite, the wick of the lamp. Nearly all expense, which in any case is of the most trifling nature, ceases the moment blowing is suspended and the apparatus is always ready without re-lighting.

The "Combination Lamp and Blow-Pipe" possesses numerous advantages over any other similar apparatus, prominent among which is its economy, convenience, simplicity, portability and adaptability to all kinds of soldering or heating done by plumbers and gas fitters; watchmakers, jewellers and dental artists; optical, mathematical and other instrument makers; metallic model makers, assayers, chemical manipulators etc.

Having now particularly described the construction of the "Combination Lamp and Blow-Pipe" and ascertained the nature of the said invention, and in what manner the same is to be performed, I declare that what I claim as features of the novelty consist of:

1. Combination of ordinary lamp with a blow-pipe, affording the advantage of giving a good light in dark rooms or corners when used by plumbers or gas fitters, and providing at the same time, instantly and without any preparation, a powerful heat sufficient for soldering the largest lead, brass or iron pipes, jointings or defective places. The blow-pipe will answer for melting moderate quantities of gold and silver, without recourse to crucible or fire, or for testing mineral substances or native ores or alloys for precious metals. Likewise for soft as well as hard soldering metallic articles generally manufactured or repaired by various metal working trades, or serve, without the use of a blow-pipe, as an ordinary lamp on a work bench or in dark chambers.
2. Simpler construction and more handy form of the apparatus in general and lower rate of manufacture than similar contrivances of soldering lamps and blow-pipes.
3. Increase of heating power and range of flame by forcing a large volume of air through the cross cuts in the spiral windings, thereby generating a maximum quantity of oil-gas to produce the heating power and likewise utmost security against unavoidable accidents by guarding the rotation ferrule against removal from the conical tube, not otherwise to be avoided.

(Well that is quite a claim, if it was as good as it reads there would be no need for any other type of blowlamp. When describing the fuel to be used, it states LIGROINE; this is a term I have not heard before, has anyone else.)



This photograph is of a lamp owned by Graham Stubbs which works on a similar principle to the Bush.

**FILLER CUP FOR EOLIPYLE BLOWLAMP**

**ALCOHOL BLOW LAMP.**

An illustration of an alcohol blow lamp. The main component is a cylindrical body with a handle on the left side. To the right of the body is a burner assembly with a small cup. The illustration is in a simple, technical style.

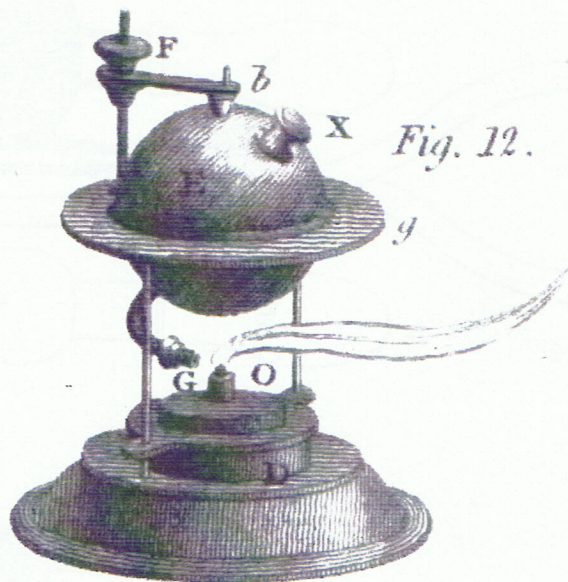
The inside arrangement of the tube permits one to place the lamp at any inclination, and to direct the flame toward the positions most difficult to solder, without danger of accident.

Graham Stubbs has been corresponding with Michel Duval, following his discovery of an advert from the Electrical Supply Co for an eolipyle style of blowlamp which included a filler cup. The only references Michel could find were from two British companies, C.NURSE of London and JLK & S.

Michel does not know of any collector in Europe who has a lamp, complete with the filler cup, so I am hoping someone in the UK might be able to provide a photograph of an original.

### **EARLY SELF ACTING BLOW-PIPE**

Charles Smith has been searching through some early trade journals and has found a diagram of a self acting blow-pipe from 1807.



*"Fig 12 shows a hollow sphere, which contains the alcohol. The tube 'G' is contained within the sphere, almost to the top and serves for conveying alcohol in a state of gas to a flame at 'O'. The lamp under the sphere causes the alcohol to boil and to come over through the tube in the shape of gas; this being conveyed through the wick is enflamed and produces heat sufficiently strong to burn or melt anything. At the top of the sphere is a safety valve 'X' to prevent accidents which occur from a too sudden expansion of the fluid within. The lamp is moveable between two pillars so that the flame may be brought nearer to or further from the vessel containing the alcohol, as circumstances may require."*

### **GARRATT & FOWLER**

In BN70 I published an article Charles Smith had found in an issue of "The Sanitary Engineer" dated 1<sup>st</sup> February 1883. This was the earliest reference I had seen to the Garratt blowlamp; all previous sales literature I had was dated 1889.

Recently Graham Stubbs sent me a copy of an early British patent, No 3026, lodged by James Thomas Garratt of Camberwell, Surrey, dated 27<sup>th</sup> June 1882.

James Garratt was a brass finisher and his invention was for "A NOVEL CONSTRUCTION OF BLOW PIPE LAMP". Anyone who owns one will agree that it is a novel idea.

The diagram which accompanies the patent shows three different designs of lamp, one of which has some sort of control valve as shown in the photograph at the bottom of page 4 of BN71. I have had a close look at this particular lamp and it is not obvious what the control valve does. I can only speculate that as the valve is at the end of the air entry pipe, there may be two different sizes of aperture which

could have an effect on the intensity of the flame produced. If anyone has any other ideas, please share them. A sectional view of the lamp is shown in Fig 5 below.

A.D. 1882 JUNE 27. N<sup>o</sup> 3026.  
GARRATT'S SPECIFICATION.

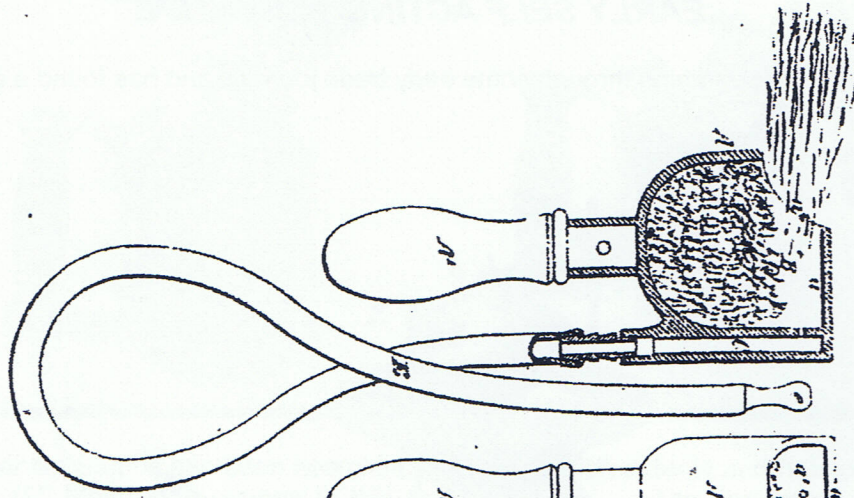


FIG. 1.

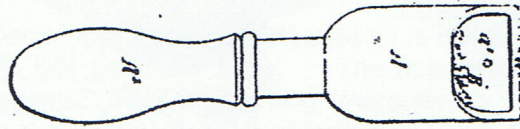


FIG. 2.

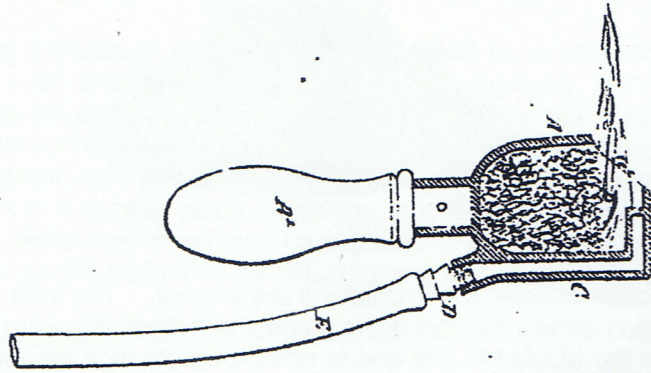


FIG. 3.

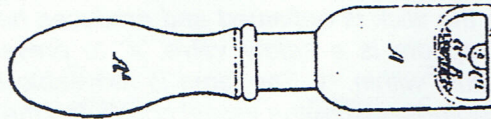


FIG. 4.

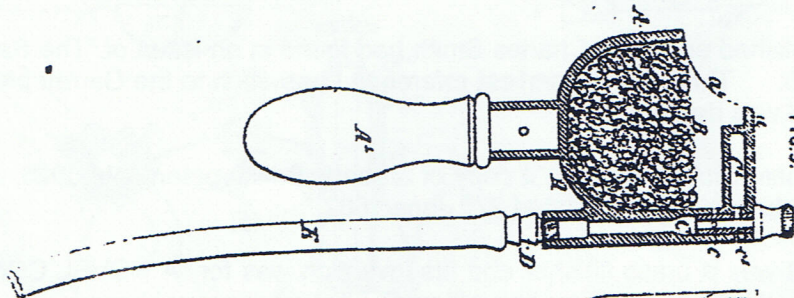


FIG. 5.

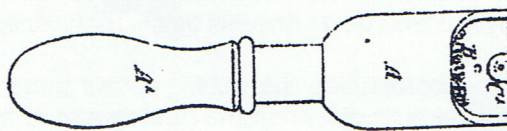


FIG. 6.



My growing family of Garratt & Fowler blowlamps.

Each of the lamps has a four digit number stamped onto the casing. I had originally assumed these numbers were connected with a patent but as each number is different I can only guess it could be a serial number.

### **CLASSIFIED**

**Willy Mouton** still has quite a number of blowlamps for sale; they range in price from 15 euros to 150 Euros, this being for a 3 litre lamp on feet. If you are interested you can contact Will by E-mail [brigitte.willy@skynet.be](mailto:brigitte.willy@skynet.be) or for those without access to E-mail contact the editor and I will pass on your request.

**Michel Duval** has a Bladon B48 for sale or swap, if you are interested contact the editor and I will pass on your details.

**Wanted** – Soldering iron heaters – mains gas or paraffin fuelled. Contact Ray Hyland on 01449 615648.

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

Editor – Ray Hyland, 47 Lockington Crescent, Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 1DA, England  
Telephone 01449 615648 E-mail [ray.hyland@btinternet.com](mailto:ray.hyland@btinternet.com)

My thanks go to Graham Stubbs, Charles Smith and Michel Duval for their contributions to this newsletter.

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And finally turn to the back page to see an advert for Herberg's blowlamps for sale in 1909.

1909

ORIGINAL

# "HERBERG" Benzoline BLOW-LAMPS,

WITH SELF-CLEANING NOZZLE.

## ADVANTAGES.

Automatic nozzle cleaning arrangement

No more Lost or Broken Needles.

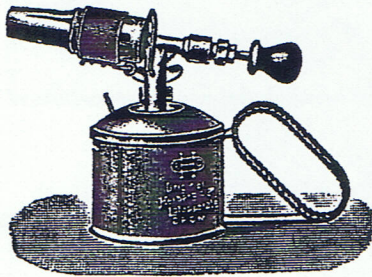
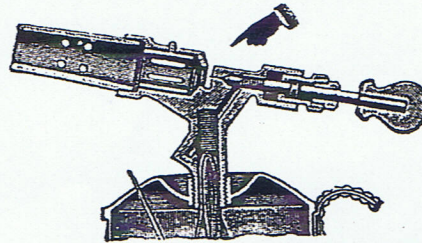
Body of the Lamps made of  $\frac{1}{10}$  millimetre thicker material than the ordinary Swedish Lamps.

Every time the Lamp is turned out, the Needle goes through the Nozzle and therefore automatically cleans it.

## ADVANTAGES.

The knob being protected by a metal lining cannot drop off.

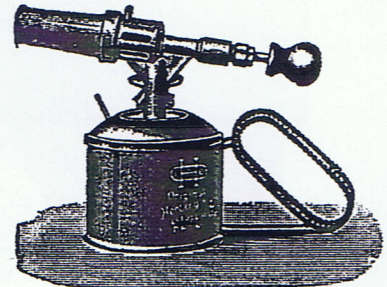
Every part is made of the very best material, and each Lamp most carefully tested before leaving the factory.



No. 99 ...  $\frac{1}{2}$ -pt. ... 13/- each.  
.. 123 ...  $\frac{3}{4}$ -pt. ... 16/- "



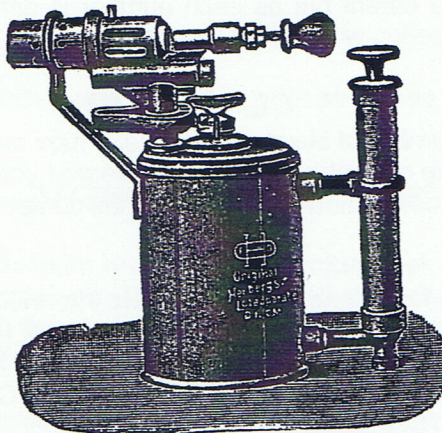
No. 97 ...  $\frac{1}{2}$ -pt. ... 6/- each.



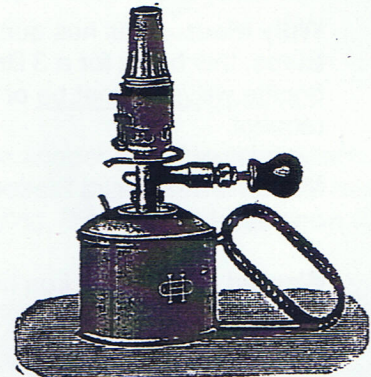
No. 105  $\frac{1}{2}$ -pt. ... 19/- each.  
.. 105  $\frac{3}{4}$ -pt. (new model) 18/- "



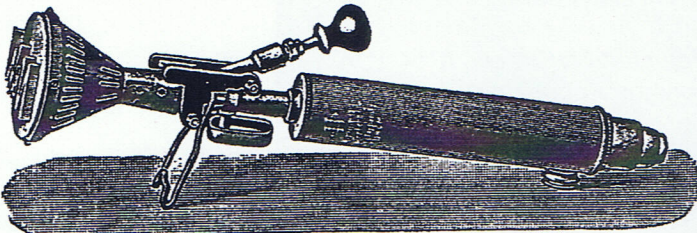
No. 98 ...  $\frac{1}{2}$ -pt. ... 11/- each.  
" 100 ...  $\frac{1}{2}$ -pt. ... 13/- "  
" 102 ...  $\frac{3}{4}$ -pt. ... 16/- "  
" 103 ...  $\frac{3}{4}$ -pt. (light model) 15/- "



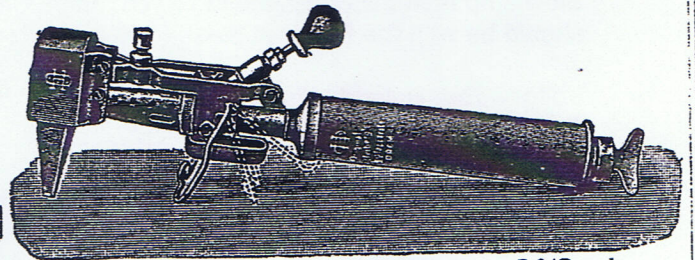
No. 107 ... 1-pt. ... 25/- each.  
" 111 ... 2-pt. ... 33/- "  
" 113 ... 4-pt. ... 66/- "  
" 114 ... 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ -pt. ... 90/- "



No. 104 ...  $\frac{1}{2}$ -pt. ... 16/- each.



No. 136 ...  $\frac{1}{2}$ -pt. with 2 letters ... 49/- each.  
Each additional letter 5/6 extra.



No. 133 ...  $\frac{1}{2}$ -pt. with pump ... 24/6 each.  
.. 134 ...  $\frac{1}{2}$ -pt. without pump ... 20/6 "

EACH LAMP PACKED IN NEAT CARDBOARD BOX.

Complete Catalogues for all Types of Blow-Lamps (containing about 150 illustrations), will be sent on application.

**HODGE, JACQUES & Co.,**  
137, Victoria Street, **BRISTOL.**

Telegrams—"Hojac, Bristol."

Telephone No. 3632.

This List cancels all Previous Lists