

# BLOWLAMP NEWS

No 75

MARCH

2011

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

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It is now 28<sup>th</sup> February and this is the first attempt at preparing the March newsletter, so I will apologise now for it being late. Although I have all the information noted down as to what I would like to include, my computer has been conspiring against me and so far has come out the winner. During the summer last year I got a virus in my computer and having consulted an expert who came with various programmes which he assured me would rid my computer of the problem, over the following six months everything was slowing down and it was becoming extremely frustrating as it could take anything up to 10 minutes to open a programme.

During the sales in January I decided, on the advice of my eldest son, to purchase a new computer so here it is with all the whistles and bells, cordless keyboard and mouse and a 24 inch wide screen monitor.

What it does not have is the ability to do things in a similar way to the one I had become used to with the old computer, which had Windows XP, a programme which would do everything I needed for both work and pleasure. I now have Windows 7 and it just does not work for me. Even my son who studied computer science at college finds it difficult.

The biggest loss for me is not having a Photo Wizard, which I used to use when downloading photographs from my camera. I was able to file photographs according to subject and retrieve them at will. Now all I can do is install the memory card and it dumps all the photographs in the same place. The second problem for me, particularly when preparing Blowlamp News is that it will only allow me to download attachments into a single folder, whereas before I could separate them according to subject. The first time I tried to save a photograph sent by Michel Duval, it disappeared into the bowels of the computer, never to be seen again.

Enough of my gripes, I have a newsletter to produce. You will note a change in font for the heading, again this change was decided upon by my computer as the font I had previously used is no longer available.

## FEEDBACK

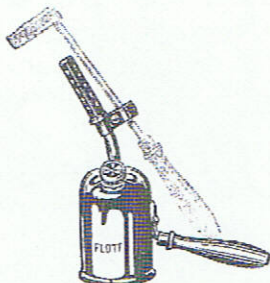
I had some good feedback from the last newsletter, especially about the first part of Graham Stubbs feature on old British Patents. Part 2 is included in this edition.

Michel Duval has answered my query on Adler blowlamps following my article in B/N 72 and 73 where I noted that some of my Adler lamps were stamped Made in Germany. Michel has confirmed that the Adler factory was in Vienna and can only surmise that the reference to Germany was connected with manufacture during the second world war.



This photograph of a soldering torch which Michel owns was made by "Vogtmann & Wabak" who were predecessors of Adler. Adler lamps still carry the VW monogram and the wording is stamped on the control knobs.

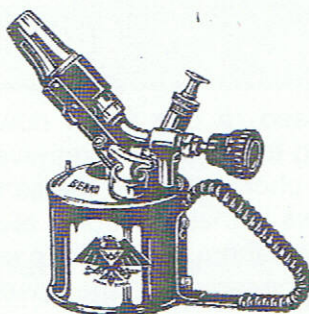
**APPAREILS A SOUDER "ADLER"**  
**LAMPES A SOUDER A ESSENCE EN LAITON**  
 FABRIQUÉES D'APRÈS LES PERFECTIONNEMENTS LES PLUS MODERNES.



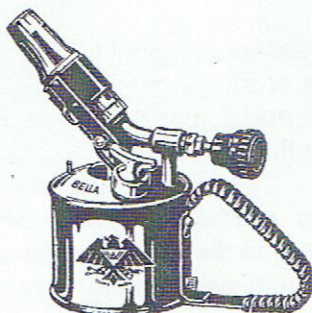
N° 91 — FLOTT



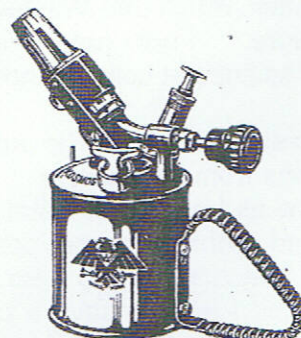
N° 92 — ALFA



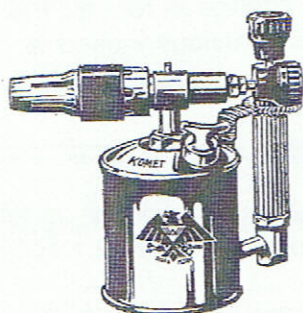
N° 94 — BENNO



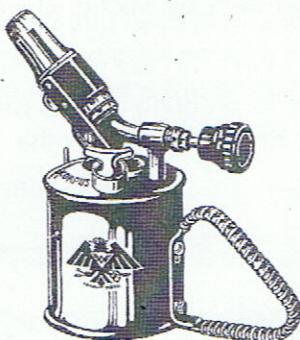
N° 93 — BELLA



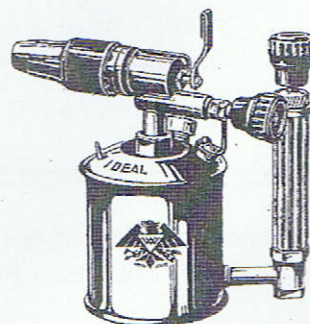
N° 95 — KOSMOS



N° 96 — KOMET



N° 97 — KORPUS

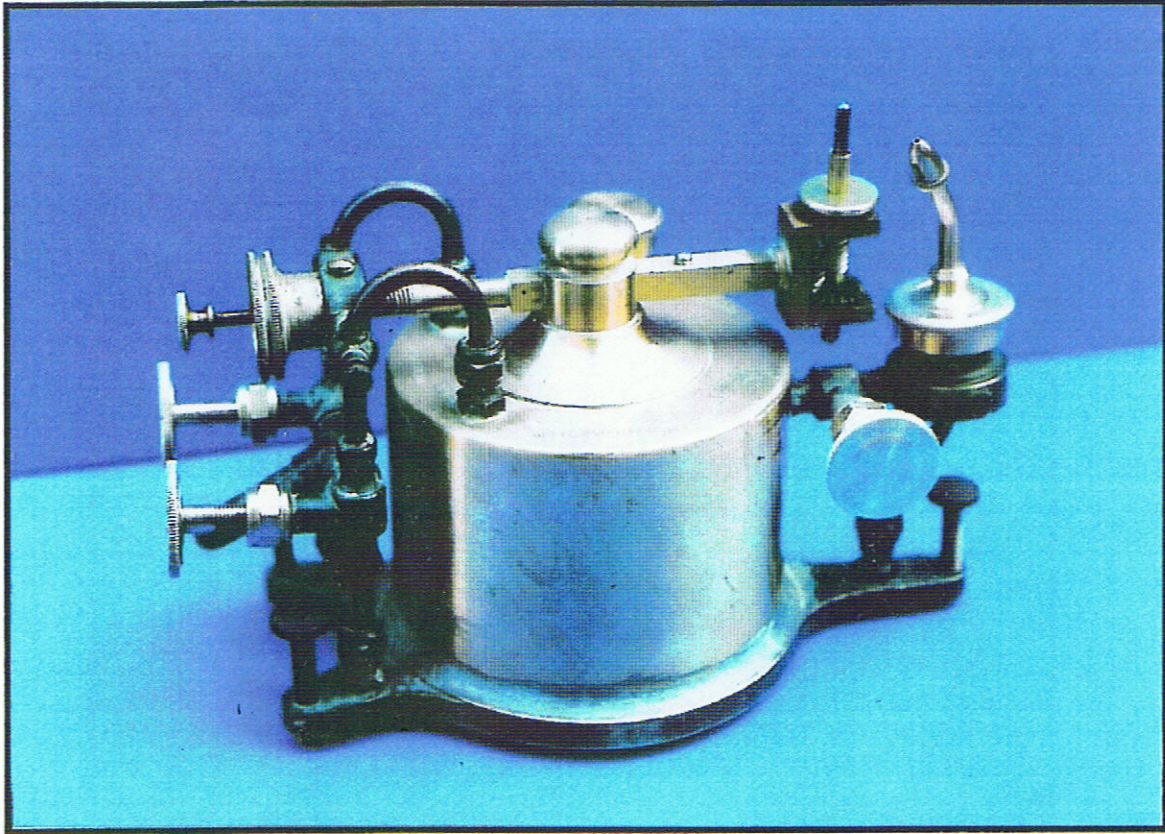


N° 98 — IDEAL  
avec débouchage automatique

Nos	Dénomination	Contenance en litres	Poids de l'appareil complet en boîte avec pièces de rechange	Durée de la marche en minutes	Spécification	PRIX
91	Flott . . .	0.1	0.190	180	sans pompe	40.—
92	Alfa . . .	0.25	0.700	50	"	102.—
93	Bella . . .	0.35	0.900	60	"	136.—
94	Benno . . .	8.35	0.900	60	avec pompe	171.—
95	Kosmos . . .	0.50	1.100	85	"	180.—
96	Komet . . .	0.50	1.300	85	"	196.—
97	Korpus . . .	0.50	1.000	85	sans pompe	148.—
98	Idéal . . .	0.50	1.400	85	avec pompe	230.—

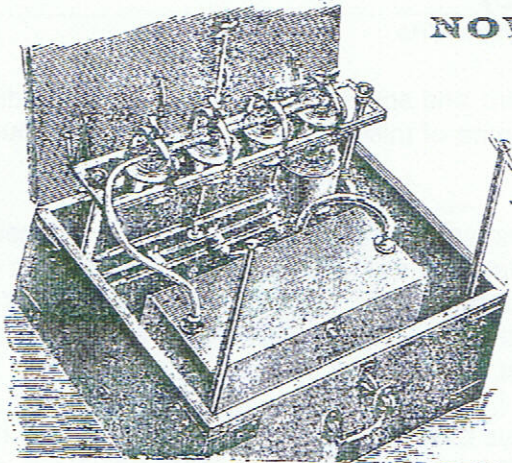
This advert shows a range of Adler blowlamps, and includes one model I had not previously been aware of, the IDEAL, so if anyone has one they would like to sell I am keen to extend my collection.

In the RECENT FINDS feature of B/N 74 I published a picture of a Barthel Kryolir/Kryol, which I had acquired and Gerard Muller has sent me the following photograph of a similar interesting lamp.

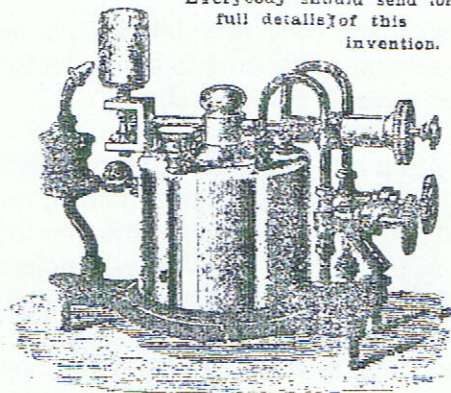


## Stedman's Automatic Oxygen Generator.

**NOW READY.**



Everybody should send for  
full details of this  
invention.



Oxygen ready for use in FIVE MINUTES. No risk, no danger, best gas possible, portable, highly efficient, well made, and cannot go wrong.

Can be obtained through any Dealer, or from the Sole Maker and Licensee,

**F. BROWN, 11 & 13, Ossulston Street, London, N.W.**

Charles Smith had a query regarding some engraving on the cap of his Knapp eolipyle blowlamp (see page 16 of B/N 74). Charles has now found some more information from a miners lamp which was for sale on e-bay. The cap has a much clearer engraving than the one on Charles' lamp.



If you look closely at the engraving it would appear to be V & W and an elongated letter B. Could it possibly be connected to Vogtmann & Wabek of Vienna? ( see the monogram on page 2).

## **OTHER PEOPLE'S COLLECTIONS**

*By  
Keith Hawkins*

As time goes on and collectors get older, some retire and some pass away, leaving the disposal of their collection to others. It seems to be my lot to do some of this disposal work, which although taking a lot of effort, does have its compensations.

A couple of years ago I disposed of a collection which mostly consisted of multiple numbers of the same lamp in ½, 1 and 2 pint sizes, with nothing really worth keeping. Most of this collection ended up with me having to strip off all the steel parts and then consigning the remaining brass to the scrap merchants. I remember at one stage, the widow complaining that she had not had much money for my efforts, but when I checked and told her that I had sent her over £850, she shut up!!

What people do not seem to realise is that nowadays everyone, myself included, not only has the Primus lamps in their collection, but also all of what I call "cheap and nasty" lamps which we all started with some 20 years ago and which we all thought were wonderful at the time; I know I did.

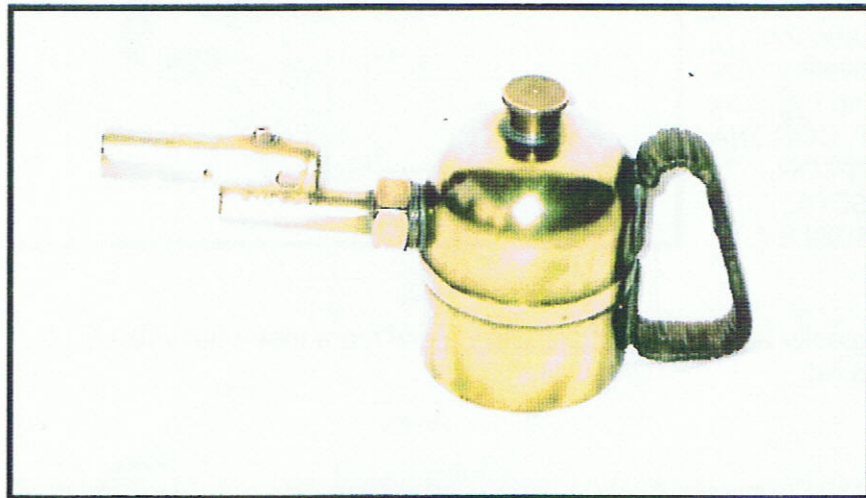
But unlike a lot of other people I only ever bought one of any particular make and model, otherwise one ended up with many versions of the same lamp. So when I stopped collecting I had something in the region of 1250 lamps, every one a different model and from 29 countries of the world and some 275 manufacturers.

However, late last year I again got asked to dispose of a collection. During 2010 I had been in the process of running down my own collection, but then in the disposal of this collection I started to find things that I had never seen before, which of course were too special to pass on so here they stayed.



First of all was a BLADON B65 vertical. I am sure there are some about but this was only the second one I have ever seen and have always wanted, the other one having been at the Sodbury Sort Out two or three years ago and for sale at £200.

A SIEVERT HP of 0.4 litre capacity and circa 1900 with the offset control valve.



A ¼ pint DOESIT from the 1920's, British made and similar to the BARTHEL GRANAT.



A Chinese STAR PIGEON of 2 litre capacity, a modern lamp; not rare, but with a brass tank and a pump in the handle.

This lamp had no hint as to its name and manufacturer. It has a steel tank and the spirit cup and the valve control are similar to the GOVERNOR 1926. It was only when another one turned up on E-bay that I found out what it was – a 1.25 litre paraffin BARTHEL SMARAGD. There is also a DIAMANT of 2.9 litre; these two seem to be different versions of the SMARAGDIN and the DIAMANTIN of 1.5 and 3 litres respectively. The DIAMANTIN being the most copied lamp by many British manufacturers such as DOESIT, CORONA, KELITE, MONITOR, A-E, DUCO, HALYCON, LIDGERWOOD, MILLENNIUM, CHRISCOL, PARKINSON & COWAN, HOWES & BURLEY, ORIFLAM, W.SOUTTER & SONS.

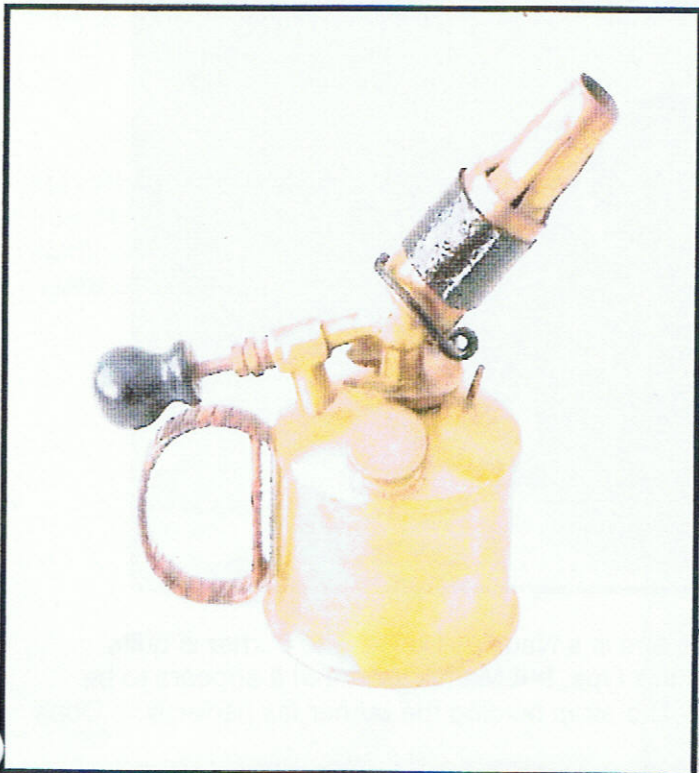


All these were paraffin and of 5 pint capacity and I expect there were a few more than I have listed. Has anyone got any more to add to the list.



This lamp is a No 382 ½ US gallon HAUCK. Although I cannot find any Hauck with this type of inclined burner in either of the American Vintage Blowtorch books. I am sure this one has not been dropped or otherwise bent as there is no evidence of damage.

A gas fired bunsen burner by BAIRD & TATLOCK. This firm also made a curious contraption which measures the flash point of liquids. I wonder what else they made?



This lamp appears to be an original NYBERGS, Carl Richard Nyberg experimented with new sources of heat for soldering and produced his first blowlamp in 1882 for use with petrol. In 1883 he sold his first two lamps to Max Sievert, who at that time was not a manufacturer but a selling agent. By the mid 1880's Nyberg was formalizing business dealings with detailed contracts with Max Sievert, but it was not until the mid 1890's that he could purchase a site to build a factory. I have always assumed that Nyberg was a German, but as he was born in Arboga, some 85 miles due west of Stockholm, I think he was Swedish after all. Co-operation between Nyberg and Sievert was to last 40 years. At that time they were only making blowlamps, but when the Patents ran out on

pressure stoves which were made by Lindqvist and Svensson and were marketed by B.A.Hjorth from 1892 onwards, Sievert started to make and sell them as well.



This photograph shows the Nyberg on the left and the "S" Type Sievert on the right and I would imagine that the latter was a direct development of the former. You will no doubt immediately spot the difference, the handle shape, the angle of the valve control and it's support tube. You will also notice that the spirit cup is rather different in shape from any other lamps. The "S" Type was also the first lamp to go into mass production and I believe that approximately 500,000 per annum were manufactured and sold. When you consider that these lamps were produced in these numbers and quality, it all happened before 1900. The Nyberg lamp does not have a name.

on it except "Max Sievert Patent – Stockholm on top of the filler cap.

The whole point of this article is really because I fail to understand why people can have all these rather unusual and special lamps and do not share their existence with other members. In the case of the Nyberg I do not know how many collectors have one, except for Gerard Muller who has an example with a vertical burner. According to the "Primus – Sievert 100 Years Anniversary" book published in 1982, there were only originally three made, the third being similar to the Sievert HLL. So if anyone would like to see my example, I hope to be making a comeback on the rally field this year.

### **IDENTITY AND ASSISTANCE**



This photograph was sent in by Marnik van Insberghe and is a Nautilus No6. The burner is quite different from anything I have seen on other lamps of this type, but Marnik says that it appears to be original and not something that has been modified. The strap holding the burner fits perfectly. Does anyone have an answer?





Malcolm Forster would like to find out about this lamp. It has a 5 pint tank and Malcolm has several similar lamps, the exception being with this one is the tank has been made in two halves. Does anyone have a similar lamp or know what make it is?

Max Rhodes bought this blowlamp on E-bay, from Romania. It has METROM BRASOV stamped on the front of the tank. Has anyone heard of this make?



## Old British Blowlamp Patents - Part 2 (of 3)

This is the second of a three-part series of articles about early British patents for blowlamps and related devices; the focus is on patents dated earlier than 1900. The word "patent" is defined in the Oxford English Dictionary as a document conferring some privilege, right, office etc. The patents that we deal with here are specifically "patents of invention".

Patent documentation for blowlamps and firepots can shed light on several topics of interest:

- The date of introduction.
- The name and nationality of the inventor and sometimes the name of the manufacturer.
- The nature of improvements over previous designs, and novel features.
- An explanation of how the product was intended to work and how to use it.
- A confirmation that an article was intended to be manufactured, not just a "one-off".

Patent documents supplement what otherwise may be known only from suppliers' catalogs and instruction materials.

### What is a patent?

A patent for invention, which is granted for a limited time called "the term", by the government of a country to a person (or persons) is an exclusive privilege to make, use or sell some new invention. It applies usually within the geographical boundaries of the county that granted it. A patent is a negative right that is a right to prevent others from using the invention. A patent is a piece of property that can be assigned, sold, licensed or bequeathed. The term for British patents has changed over the years. 1852-1919 fourteen years; 1919-1977 sixteen years; later than 1977 twenty years. Patents can be subject to renewal fees within the term, and may lapse if the fees are not paid up.

Part of the bargain when an inventor was granted the exclusive rights of a patent is that the details be published to educate the public. For this reason, the government undertook to publish patent documents on a regular basis.

The idea of granting a patent for an invention is that is for something novel. However, until 1902 the British patent system did not require, or have the ability to search, for earlier instances of an invention. As a result, some patents may appear to re-invent concepts disclosed in earlier patents or in prior literature.

Sometimes products are marked with a patent number. However, because the British system, until 1915, re-started the number sequence every year, a date is also required to uniquely identify a patent.

### Reading a patent

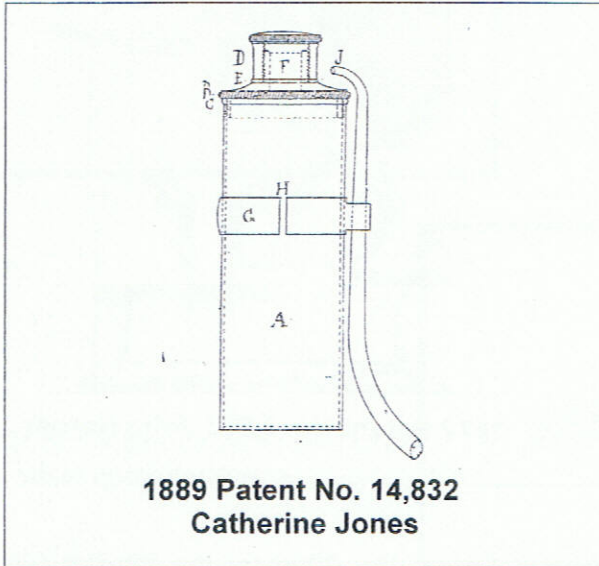
- Early titles of patents tend to be wordy.
- The inventor's name and address is an essential part of the patent.
- The preliminary wording of a patent can indicate what problem or opportunity for improvement the inventor was addressing.
- The description must indicate the best method known to the inventor of carrying out the invention. The description must be sufficiently detailed and accurate that the claims can be understood. The drawings are an extension of the description. Note: The description and supporting drawings may NOT be the only way that an invention can be implemented.
- The claims define what the inventor has exclusive rights to use, and are the key to understanding a patent.

**Five more examples of early blowlamp patents by British inventors.**

Mrs. Catherine Jones, ironmonger of Shepherds Bush was awarded in 1889 the patent "*Improvements in or connected with Spirit Lamps or Burners for Lighting and heating Purposes*"; it is unusual from two aspects:

(a) Inventions by women in the nineteenth century were very uncommon, and (b) with very little modification, this design was produced for a very long period, until at least the 1960s, notably by Moore & Wright Ltd. of Sheffield.

It claims two simple concepts: (1) A blowpipe attached to a sliding collar on the outside of a cylindrical spirit lamp, and (2) a double cap allows for a large or a small flame.

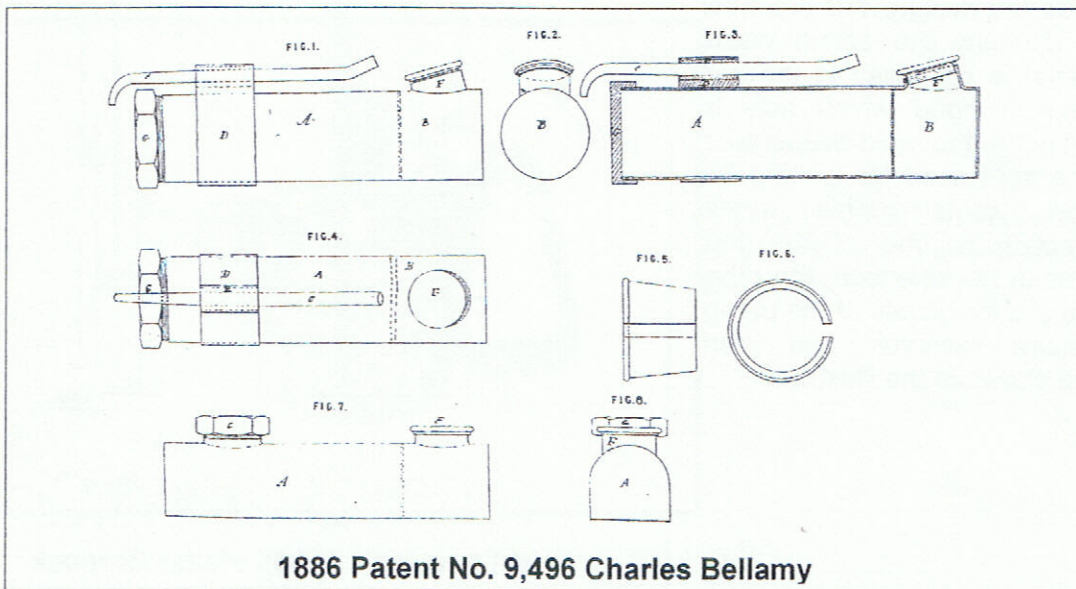


**1889 Patent No. 14,832  
Catherine Jones**



**Moore & Wright-Style  
Mouth-blow Lamp**

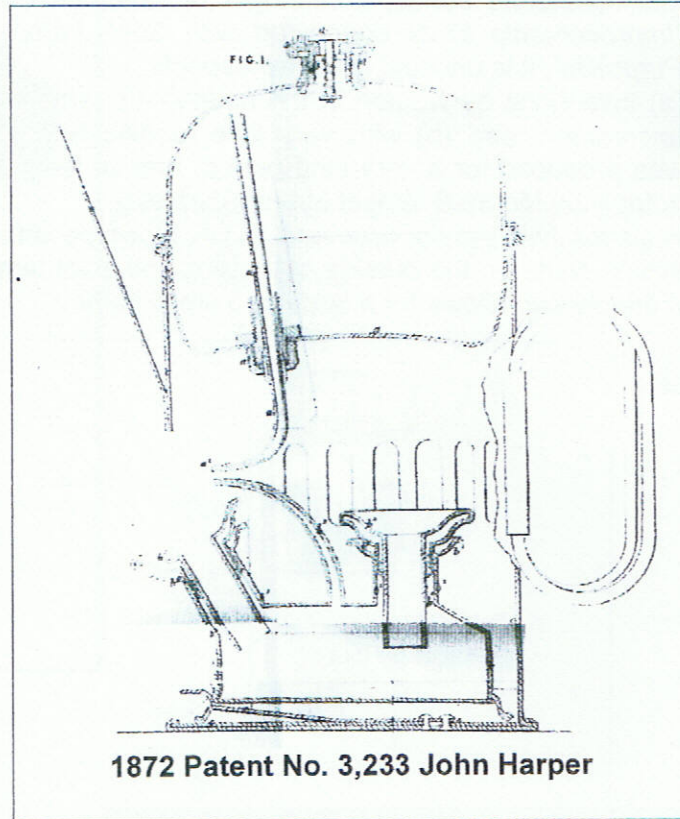
The 1886 patent awarded to Mechanic Charles Bellamy' of Streatham, Surrey, "*Improvements in the Construction of Plumbers Blowpipes*" describes a lamp, which operated with the canister held vertically. Here the position of the blowpipe is adjusted by sliding it within a rubber clip attached to the side of the fuel canister. What is a surprise is the nature of the fuel. Rushes, soaked in grease or resin, are secured in a clip and pushed inside the section A of the canister. Grease or resin for soaking the rushes is placed in section B of the canister. Alternatively, a wick soaked in spirit can be employed.



**1886 Patent No. 9,496 Charles Bellamy**

In 1872, John Robert Harper, of Clerkenwell, was awarded a patent for "*Improvements to Gas Lamp Blow-Pipe apparatus, Part of Such Improvements being Applicable to other Spirit Lamps*"

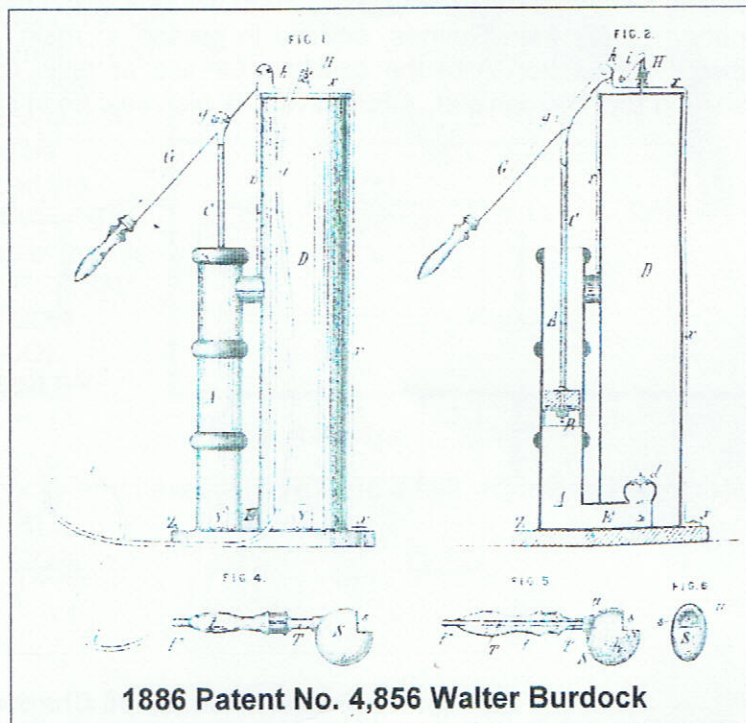
Harper's patent is for several improved features for the well-known eolipyle or self-acting lamp. He provides two burners (the funnel shaped devices), one to heat the upper fuel container (causing vapor to be emitted through the upper of the two jets shown) and the second to provide a flame in the path of the vapor coming from the jet. Out of concern about a build-up of pressure in the lower fuel container, he provides a second jet to burn off excess vapor. He also provides a new design of spring-loaded safety valve, using a flat rather than a conical shaped washer.



1872 Patent No. 3,233 John Harper

Four years after James Garratt was awarded Patent No. 3026 for the familiar Garratt & Fowler lamps, Walter Henry Burdock, of Painswick, Gloucestershire, patented "*Improvements in Lamps or Burners for Painters', Plumbers', and Gas Fitters' use and Apparatus to be Employed therewith for Producing a Blast of Air.*"

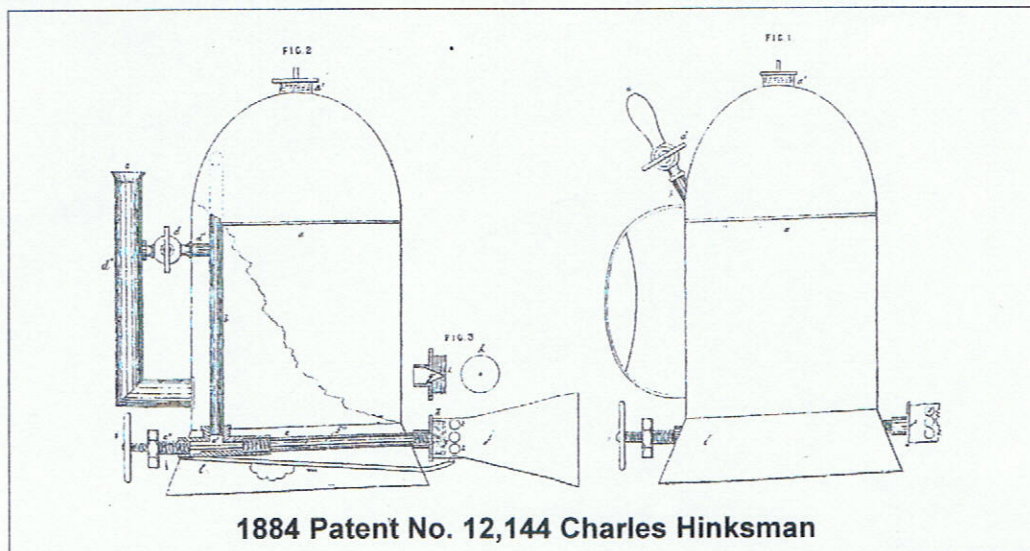
The burner produces a flame that is in line with the handle, rather than at right angles as in the Garratt design. The chamber that contains the cotton waste material is cut away to leave a "dome or hood which acts to prevent the too rapid evaporation of the spirit used for igniting the cotton waste." This subtle distinction is one of the four claims in his invention; the other three are for details of the pump, pressure reservoir and stem valve shown in the illustration.



1886 Patent No. 4,856 Walter Burdock

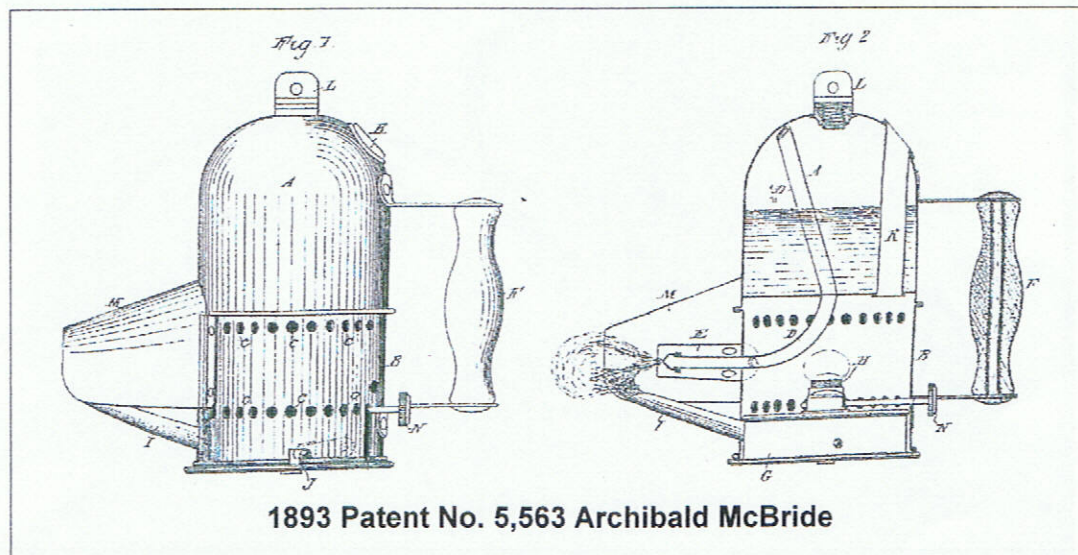
The two patent illustrations on this page are for two devices of similar external appearance, but which are completely different in operation.

Charles Hinksman, a builder, of Bloomsbury, London, patented "*Improvements in Apparatus for removing Paint from Wood, and for Use in Soldering or Brazing.*" His 1884 patent uses paraffin for fuel in the domed reservoir at the top of the lamp. Air is blown into the same reservoir (two examples are shown) and the tap on the side is then closed. This is a very early example of the use of a needle valve for regulating the flame. Another innovation is the thin wick holder pre-heating the burner.



1884 Patent No. 12,144 Charles Hinksman

Archibald Bennie McBride, a manufacturer of Glasgow, Scotland, patented in 1893 another variation of the eolipyle / self-acting lamp, "*Improvements in and connected with lamps for Blistering, Soldering, Brazing and other Purposes.*" As in Harper's patent of 1872, McBride has two separate flames derived from a single oil reservoir. One heats a boiler filled with flammable spirits, and the other is placed externally in the path of a jet of spirit vapor. In order to more efficiently assist heating the boiler, a hollow tube, shown as K, conducts hot fumes through the boiler from the lamp below. The inventor also provides a storm shield M.



1893 Patent No. 5,563 Archibald McBride

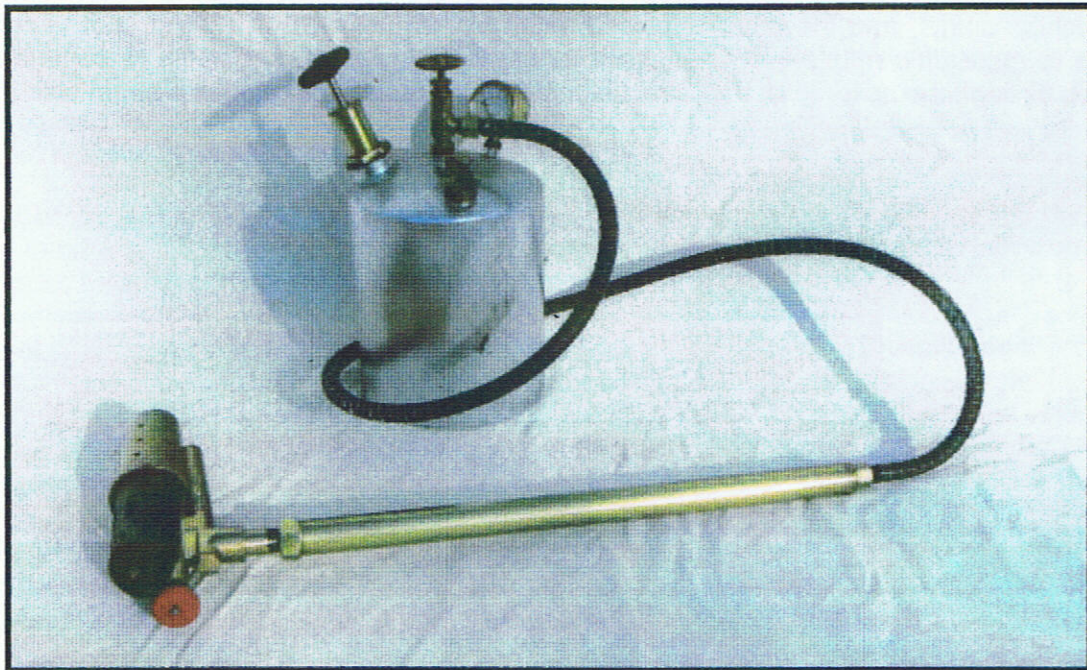
Part 3 of this series will discuss the processes for searching for early British patents, and will be illustrated with examples of early British patents awarded to foreign inventors.

## FLEXIBLE HEAT

When it came to the larger job there were a series of blowlamps made which had fuel tanks of such a capacity that they could not be held while the work was being carried out. Because of this the burners were fixed to the tank with a flexible hose and the following photographs show some of the ones I have in my collection.



This large PRIMUS has a 32 pint capacity and would have been used in large engineering works, such as shipbuilding.



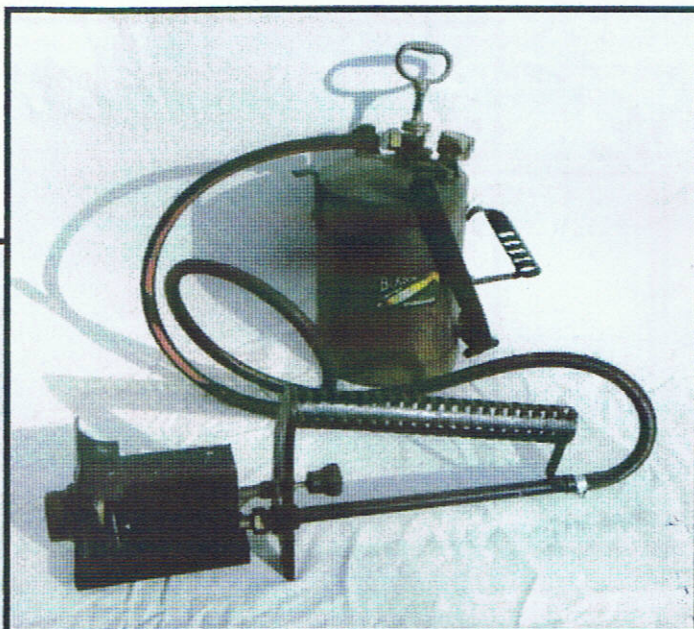
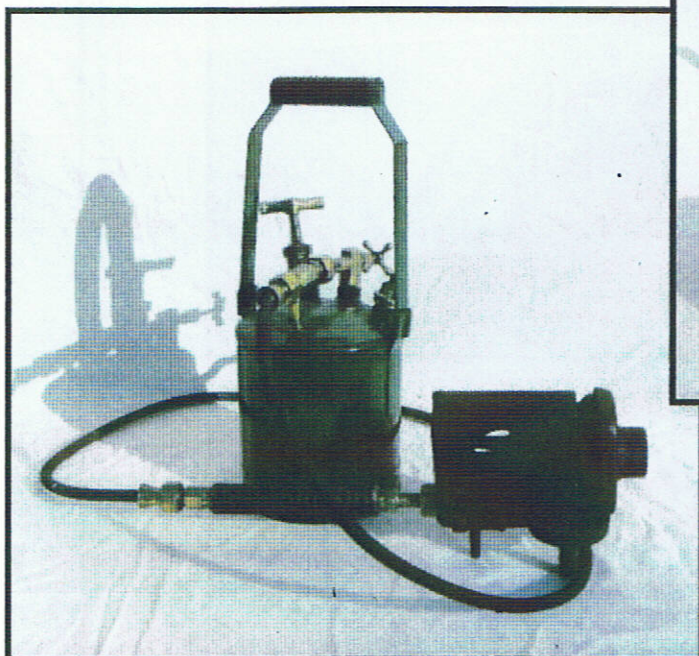
With a 5 pint capacity tank this EXPRESS has a long handle to the burner for extended reach.



This GEM No 4, which I recently acquired from Ted Rawson, is unusual in having the flexible burner. My other GEM No4 has the usual burner fixed to the tank.



The other GEM in my collection with the twin tank, I am not sure which model it is. GEM did make a larger model, similar in size to the PRIMUS, so if anyone has one needing a good home I would be pleased to hear from them.



The lamp on the left is by S H & S and the one above is by BLADON. This style of blowlamp was commonly used by the Utilities, for jointing cables.

### **CLASSIFIED**

**Michel Duval** is keen to extend his library of manufacturers literature, including catalogues, adverts, leaflets, instructions for use and postcards. If you have any such items you would like to dispose of, preferably original copies, but good quality photocopies as well, contact Michel at [michel.duval7@free.fr](mailto:michel.duval7@free.fr) If you do not have access to e-mail you can telephone the editor on 01449 615648 and I will pass on the details.

**Wanted** – Soldering iron heaters, gas, paraffin or petrol fired. Telephone 01449 615648

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

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My Thanks go to Graham Stubbs, Keith Hawkins, Charles Smith, Michel Duval and Gerard Muller for their contributions to this newsletter.

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**THERE ARE A NUMBER OF MEMBERS WHO HAVE NOT RENEWED THEIR SUBSCRIPTION FOR 2011. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE RECEIVING BLOWLAMP NEWS PLEASE SEND YOUR SUBSCRIPTIONS BY THE BEGINNING OF MAY OR WE WILL ASSUME YOU NO LONGER WISH TO RETAIN YOUR MEMBERSHIP.**