

BLOWLAMP NEWS

No 76

JUNE

2011

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

MEMBERSHIP

We have lost more members this year and we are now below the 100 mark, so if anyone has any ideas as to how we could attract new members, please let me know. With the current membership we have not taken enough through subscriptions to produce the usual 4 issues, so I may have to cut back on the content of the final issue to keep things going. If we are unable to get the membership back up towards the high of 135 then I will have to increase the subscriptions for next year by approximately 20%.

While on the subject of membership I have heard recently from James Wyatt who informs me that his father Ken died suddenly on 3rd May. James and Ken were familiar figures on the rally field with their collections and I am sure many of you will have met up with them for a chat. James has asked me to tell you that he will be selling his collection on ebay, but would like to give the members first chance at buying his lamps, so if you are familiar with his collection and there is a blowlamp you would like you can contact James on 07837 306529.

BELGIUM MEETING

This years meeting at Langemark was another success for Marnik and Katy Van Insberghe, with over 30 collectors in attendance.



I travelled on the Friday with Keith Hawkins and met up with other collectors at Marnik's house where we were able to look through his collection and later we all met at the Feestzaal Caracas for an evening meal.

On the Saturday people were keen to see what was on offer with most collectors arriving well before the hall opened. As you will see from the photographs there were many fine blowlamps on display and for sale and you will see from the right hand picture, Michel Cochard is finalising a deal.

On a personal front I added 7 lamps to my collection and came away feeling very satisfied with my weekend.

Ken Longden brought a friend, Jim Cammack, to the meeting and by the end of the day Jim had acquired 2 blowlamps, the start of a collection, and soon afterwards decided to join the Society.

As well as blowlamps there was an interesting looking advertisement on show (see photograph on page 2)

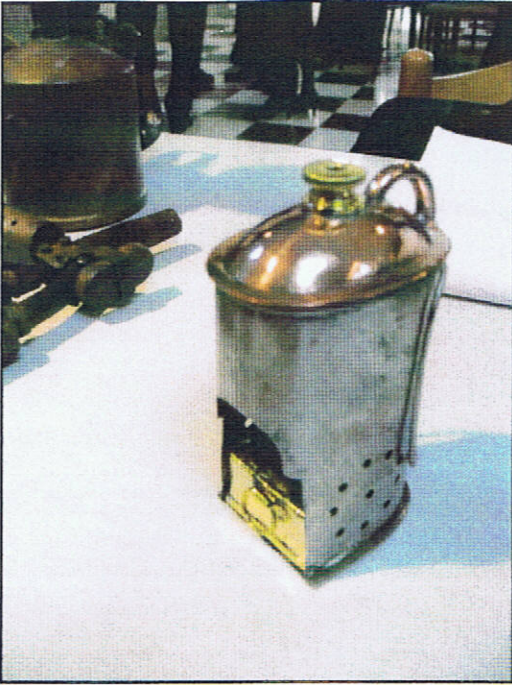


There are a number of blowlamps featured, how many can you spot?



One of the more interesting blowlamps is this Kovopodnik, owned by Janus Nooijen and was produced for pre-heating a two cylinder engine.

Another interesting blowlamp was on display on Guy Gerrard's table. It is an Eolipyle type of a most unusual shape. (see photographs on page 3). Unfortunately Guy did not know anything about the origins of the lamp so if anyone recognises it he would be pleased to hear from you.



FEEDBACK

In BN72 I published some photographs of printers blocks owned by Michel Duval. As a result of this Charles Smith has sent me a photograph of two which he owns.



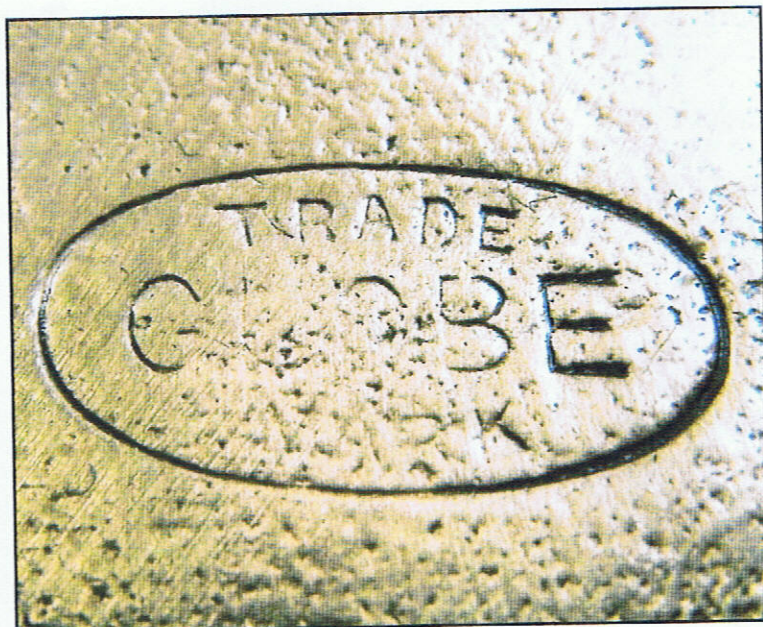
The smaller block shows a Clayton & Lambert No.160A, a one pint blowtorch having a chrome plated brass tank which dates from the mid 1930's. The larger block shows a Lenk Manufacturing Co No.30 (Type 2) "Champion" alcohol blowtorch.

BUTLER PATENT BLOWTORCHES

by
Charles Smith

I have several Butler Patent torches with vertical burner which I would like to share with you. By Butler Patent type torch, I mean the type with an external tube connecting the base of the pump assembly with the top of the fuel tank. The tube supplies air pressure from the pump to the fuel tank. These Butler Patent torches with a vertical burner are usually associated with heating the glow plug wire on early engines. Although these may have been used for that purpose, I have reason to think that they were used in lighting early street lights. I think this is because many of the labels are from street lighting companies and it makes sense to me that they may have been used in lighting the lamps.

I have four different types of these torches; they are (1) those having only a small oval circle stamped on top of the tank just in front of the upper arm supporting the pump assembly. Inside the oval is the word "GLOBE" with the word "TRADE" above and the word "MARK" below.



So the oval reads "GLOBE TRADE MARK"; (2) those having the imprint "GLOBE LIGHT & HEAT CO" and "CHICAGO" stamped onto the front of the tank; (3) those having a brass label reading "PENNSYLVANIA GLOBE COMPANY PHILADELPHIA" and "GLOBE TORCH" soldered to the front of the tank and (\$) the type having "WELSBACH STREET LIGHTING CO. OF AMERICA" and the words "PROPERTY OF" stamped on top of the fuel tank.

Each of these may have been manufactured by the same company, we have no proof of the manufacturer(s). Hopefully one day we will find some trade literature which will resolve this question. Until then, we just don't know who made them.



GLOBE LIGHT & HEAT CO
CHICAGO.

GLOBE LIGHT & HEAT CO CHICAGO



PENNSYLVANIA GLOBE COMPANY
PHILADELPHIA





WELSBACH STREET LIGHTING CO. OF AMERICA

Old British Blowlamp Patents - Part 3 (of 3)

This is the third of a three-part series of articles about early British patents for blowlamps and related devices.

Searching for Old British Patents

There is no single simple method to search for old British patents. The problem is simplified a little if the search is restricted to years after about 1893, for which a searchable data base is available on-line.

After 1893:

The best source is the European Patent Office GB database, which is available at <http://gb.espacenet.com/>. This database only goes back no earlier than 1893.

To use for searching for British patents:

Select "Advanced Search

Then select "WORLDWIDE".

If you don't know the patent number, type "GB" in the "Publication number" window.

After that enter any desired search terms into other windows.

For blowlamps and the like, I tried more than sixty terms such as "blowlamp", "paint burner", "solder heater" etc. and found more than two hundred patents. The database yields lists of patents corresponding to the search terms. The great thing is that the original patent documents can be viewed, printed and downloaded as .pdf files.

After 1909, British patents are included in a European Classification (ECLA) system. Having identified classification numbers for a few blowlamp patents, I then searched using the classification number as the search term and found additional patents that I had missed with earlier word combinations.

Before 1893:

The situation before 1893 is made no easier by the fact the British Patent numbering system at that time re-used numbers every year. To my knowledge there is no on-line database publicly available. However, there are two sources of information that can be helpful.

"A Cradle of Inventions"

In the mid-nineteenth century a man named Bennet Woodcroft compiled a "Name Index" of patents. An extended version of this work is available on CD-ROM called "A Cradle of Inventions", and is sold by MFIS, of Stevenage, Herts.

See: <http://finpubs-dwh.demonweb.co.uk/books-and-cd-roms/cd-roms/patents.html>

It covers the period from the seventeenth century through 1894, and is searchable by patent number, patent title, date etc. However, it provides only a patent number, an abbreviated title and date. It does not provide a copy of the patent itself. Ultimately the only way to be sure that a patent is relevant to your search is to obtain a hard copy (see below).

Abridgements

The Patent Office assigned patents to classes, based on the subject matter. In the period 1855-1930, there were one hundred and forty six such classes. For each class, the Patent Office published periodically illustrated "Abridgements" of patent specifications. These documents included the inventor's name, a shortened title, an abridgement (i.e. summary) and (usually) a single drawing. Bound volumes of these Abridgements were published about 1905, and are available at some UK reference libraries. Class 83 "Metals, Cutting & Working" is indexed with a subclass for *soldering and brazing*, which contains patents related to blowlamps and the like. I was fortunate to acquire a copy of the bound volume for Class 83 covering the years 1855 through 1876, and to obtain copies of the *soldering and brazing* sections of the indexes for the years from 1876 and later.

Patent copies

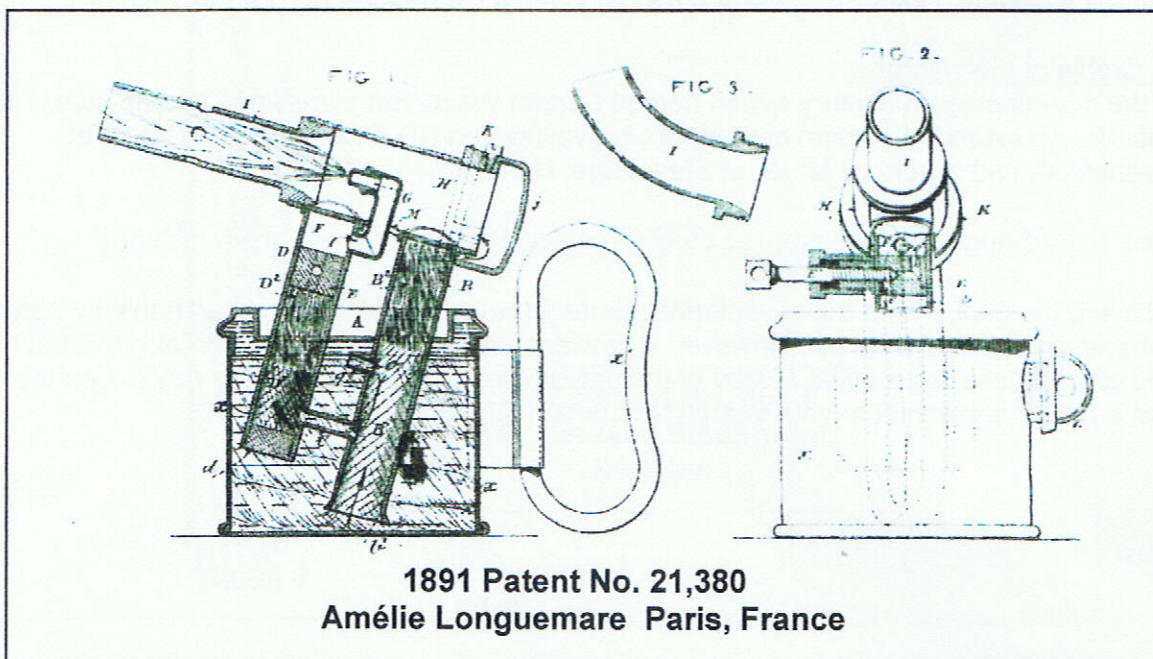
Copies of pre-1893 patents can be obtained for a fee-per-page from several reference libraries in the UK. I found the Science Museum Library in Wroughton, Berks., most helpful. Note that upon request for a copy the library has to go to its archive shelves to pull the physical patent document in order to scan it for copying, and this process is time consuming. See <http://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/library>

Further reading. Anyone interested in studying old British patents is well advised to read *British Patents of Invention* by Stephen Van Dulken, published by The British Library in 1999, and available at reasonable cost in paper back from Amazon.com

British patents awarded to foreign inventors

The British patent system permitted foreign inventors to obtain British patents. However, if the inventor was not present in Great Britain, a local person usually had to represent him or her. Frequently the patent was indexed later under the name of the representative rather than the inventor. Early British patents granted to foreign inventors provide, in English, insight into the development of blowlamps. Four such inventions illustrate this point.

In 1892, Amélie Longuemare, the widow of the French inventor Léon Longuemare, was granted British patent **No. 21,380**. The patent specification reveals the purpose of the two cylinders that connect the burner assembly with the fuel tank.



The cylinder closest to the handle is filled with asbestos in its upper part and with a wick below. The upper end is plugged; the lower end is open to the fuel in the tank. A small tube connects this cylinder with the second, which is plugged at its lower end. It too is also filled partly with asbestos and partly with wick. At its upper end is a control valve, with a side knob, a hollow space for the accumulation of vaporized fuel, and a connection to a jet pointed toward the exit of the burner.

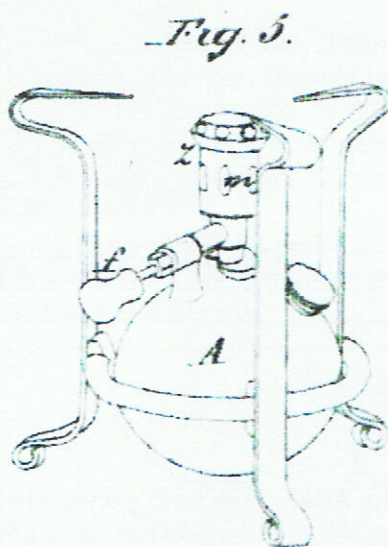
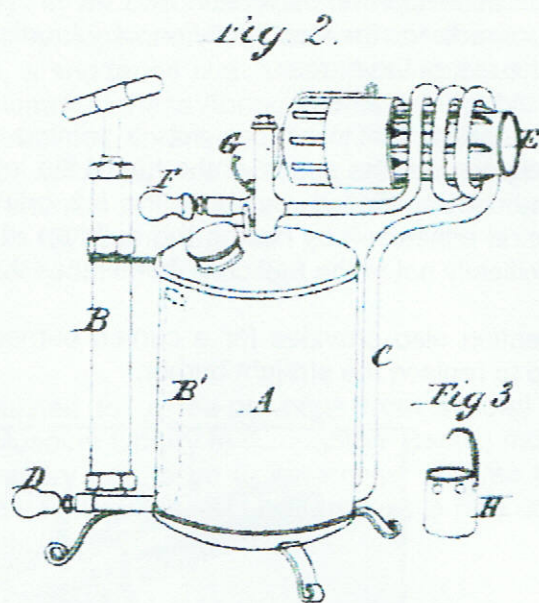
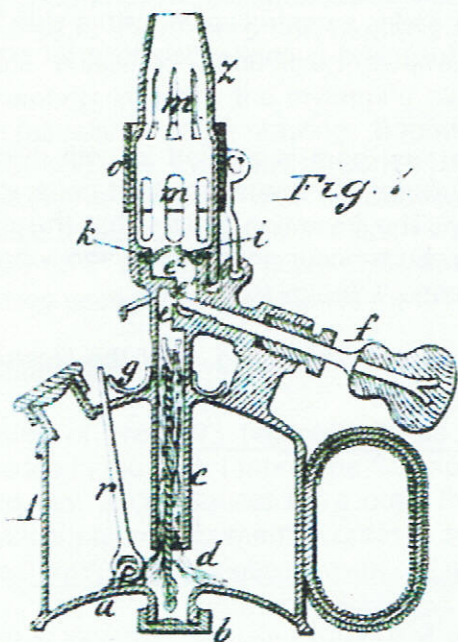
A recess around the two tubes acts a priming cup, and heat is applied to both cylinders forcing vapors into the space at the top of the left cylinder. In operation, heat generated in the burner is transferred mostly to the left cylinder. The invention claims that the risk of explosion is minimized by having the build up of pressure occur only in the vapor chamber and specifically not in the fuel chamber. Hence the name "L'Inexplosible".

The invention also provides for a curved burner tube, shown as Fig. 3 of the illustration, threaded to replace the straight burner.



The British patent **No. 8643**, (see next page) which was awarded to Max Sievert in June 1887, includes a number of inventive details that would guide the development and manufacture of blowlamps for the next several decades.

- (a) In Fig. 1, connected to the inwardly bulged bottom is a tapered rod with the upper end soldered through a hole in the top of the fuel tank, to provide a pressure release.
- (b) Also in Fig. 1, a cylindrical perforated slide is moved up or down the exterior of the burner to control air flow.
- (c) In Fig. 2, oil is forced through an external tube, which is coiled around the burner; the purpose is to vaporize the fuel on its way to the burner jet.
- (d) In Fig. 3, a priming cup is hung beneath the burner.
- (e) Fig. 4 shows a self-heated soldering iron adapted from a blowlamp.
- (f) Fig. 5 illustrates a stove with a spherical fuel tank similar to that employed in Sievert's "Rapid" blowlamp.



1887 Patent No. 8643
Max Sievert Stockholm,
Sweden

In May of 1891, Gustav Barthel, of "Dresden in the Kingdom of Saxony, Germany" applied for a British patent for what became the Barthel series of three alcohol blowlamps, the 0.07 litre "Helvin", shown in the photo, the 0.15 litre "Granat" and the 0.25 litre "Fuchsit".

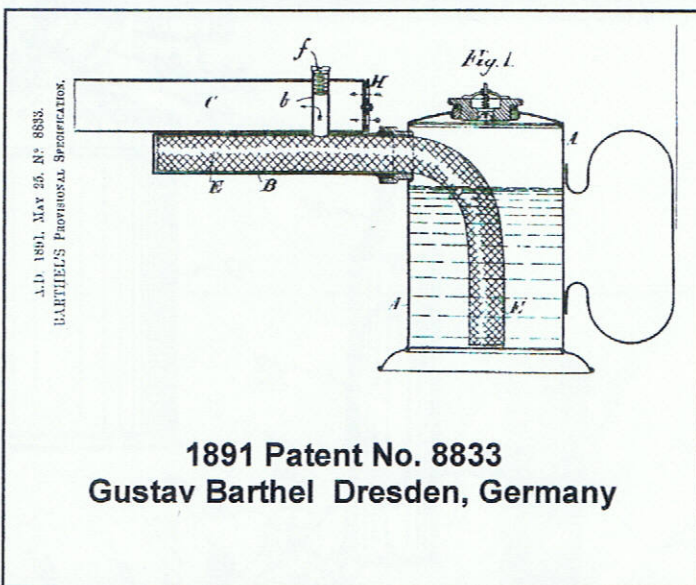
The principle of operation is described in the patent No. 8833 and its illustrations. The lower of the two horizontal tubes, with a wick extending into the fuel tank, serves as an "evaporating chamber" in which the wick is bound for some distance allow some space for the vapor to form. The upper cylinder is the burner tube, which "transmits its heat directly to the evaporating tube though the adjacent wall." The small vertical tube, open at its bottom to the vaporizing tube, has a jet orifice in the side facing the open end of the burner.

Barthel's stated objectives were:

- (a) More complete evaporation, making a lamp which would burn with a hotter flame, and
- (b) Keeping some distance between the hot burner tube and the fuel canister, thus "reducing the liability to explosion."



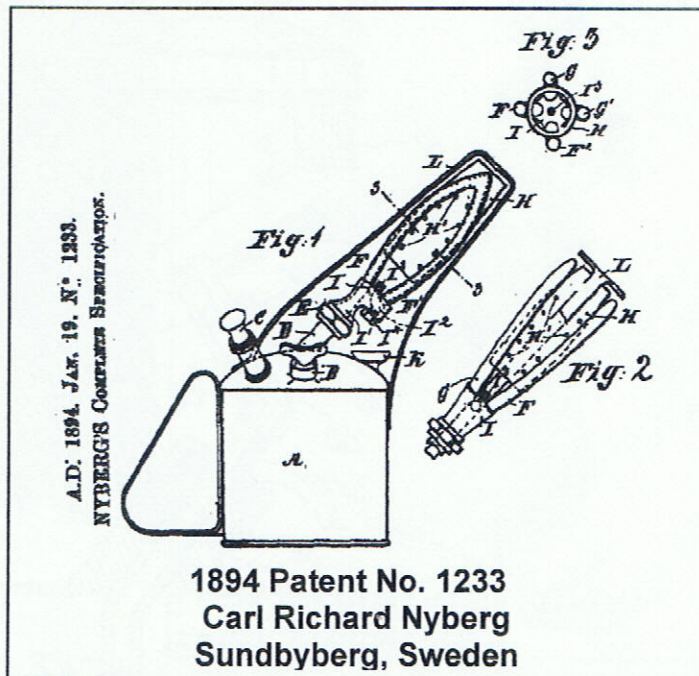
G. Barthel "Helvin"



1891 Patent No. 8833
Gustav Barthel Dresden, Germany

The Swedish inventor Carl Richard Nyberg is best known to blowlamp collectors for the origination in 1884 of the blowlamp design that helped Max Sievert launch his successful business. Ten years later Nyberg was awarded this British patent No. 1233 for a design that more closely resembles the B.A. Hjorth/Primus products than Sievert's.

The inventor's purpose was to facilitate cleaning of the burner tubes



1894 Patent No. 1233
Carl Richard Nyberg
Sundbyberg, Sweden

AN UNUSUAL DESIGN

by
Mal Mutimer

There are at least three known Australian made SPITFIRE blowlamps. One of these was made by Everyday Products Pty Ltd of Sydney. It has a unique design which allows the lamp to be used in more than one position without having to tilt the lamp to undesirable angles. The patent was granted in 1941 (see drawing below which was attached to the patent.)

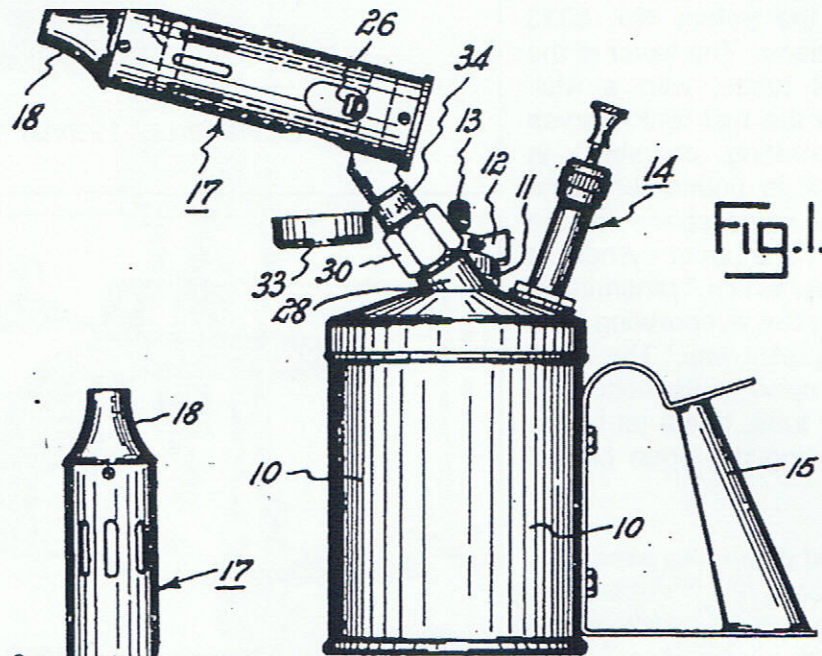


Fig. 1.

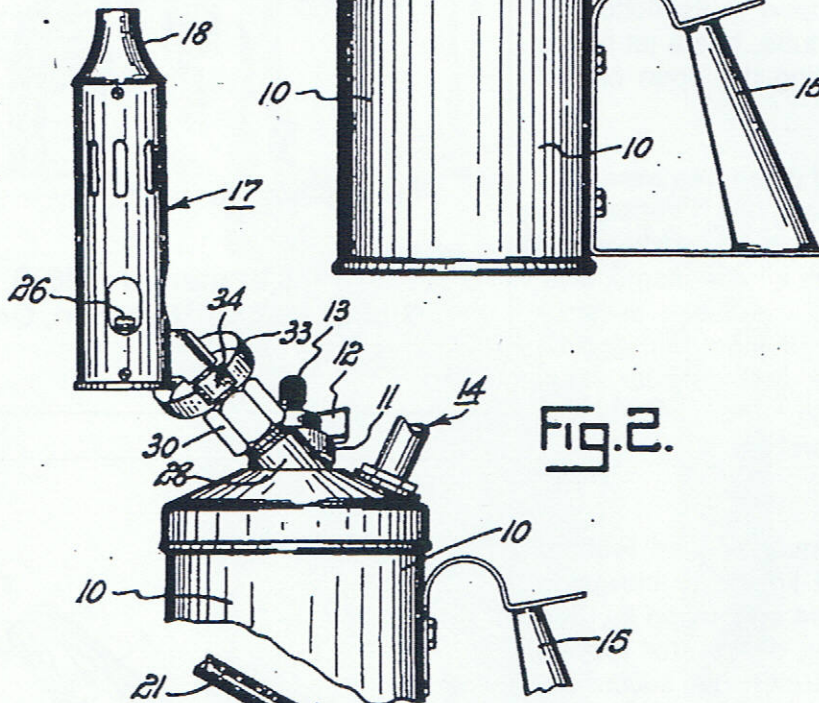


Fig. 2.

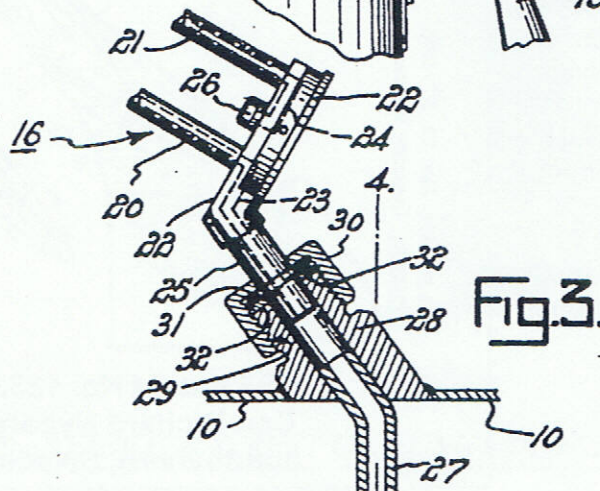


Fig. 3.

It can be seen that by loosening the union nut which tightens on the uptake pipe, the burner assembly can be turned to any desired position.

My lamp is incomplete, it is missing the filler cap, but the photographs show the burner tube in both the vertical and inclined position, as well as the distinctive metal handle.



The Everyday Products Company also produced blowlamps of the traditional English / European design, with a fixed inclined burner, but these were probably of a later manufacture.

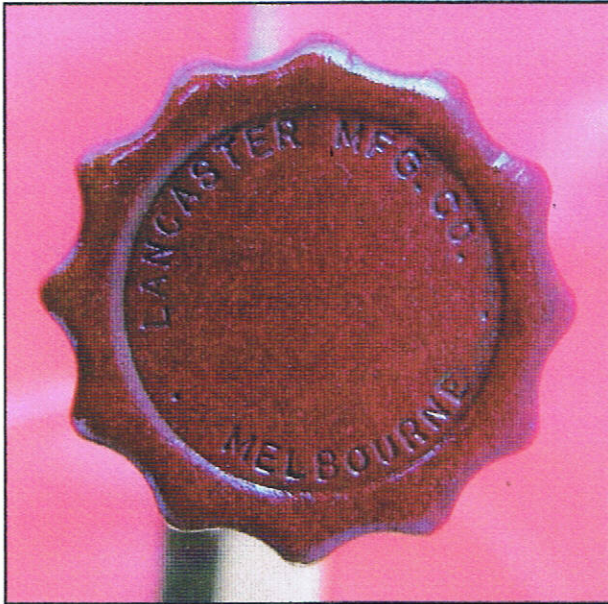
I am not aware of any other blowlamp which has this configuration. I would be pleased to hear from anyone who has a complete Spitfire blowlamp, or knows of another manufacturer who produced a lamp with a similar design for the adjustment of the burner tube.

(In March 2004, I published photographs in issue No47 of my Gas Lighting Improvement Company "SIRIUS" blowlamp which has the same configuration for the burner. This lamp was patented in 1894 so it pre-dates the Spitfire by a good few years)

MORE SPITFIRE BLOWLAMPS

by
Michel Duval

Mal mentioned at the start of his article that there are three Australian blowlamps, all with the name Spitfire. The second Spitfire has a Bakelite control knob which is clearly marked LANCASTER MFG. CO. MELBOURNE.



The blowlamp has a flattened bell shaped tank, about 2 pint capacity, with a large 100mm long x 50mm diameter, steel flame tube. Two uptake tubes feed into a 2 section mixing control unit at the back of the flame tube. Engraved into the front section of the control is "PAT APP 1370-39. A search of the Australian Patent Office did not locate any documents relating to this number.

The blowlamp is designed to use any fuel or waste oil. A line from an air compressor is attached to the tube at the base of the handle. When the knob on top of the handle is opened, a small amount of air / fuel mixture is released via the front tube to the burner, even when the control knob at the back of the control unit is closed.

This would allow for the fuel to be lit and it would work as a pilot lamp. When the control knob for the mixing unit is opened, more air is passed into the system and fuel is

drawn up, passed into the burner, where it lights instantly (from the pilot) and a large amount of heat is available at once.

The blowlamp was probably intended for stationary use in a large workshop, where, when not in use it burnt little fuel, but when required could immediately supply a large hot flame.

This lamp was introduced to the Australian market in 1941, by sole Australian selling agents Estee Trading Co. Pty. Ltd of Melbourne. No manufacturers name was given. They advertised that it consumed 1/3 to 2 1/2 pints per hour, according to the heat required and that two sizes were available; one quart and two quarts.

They marketed the blowlamp under the name "SPITFIRE".



The **SPITFIRE**

Patented Blowlamp

NO WAITING
PRIMING
PUMPING
PRICKING!
Lights Instantly!



So was this blowlamp made in Australia? Maybe not. If there was an Australian manufacturer, more distributors would have likely spread across the states. One distributor suggests that Estee Trading Co was probably an importer. If so, where was it made? How does the Lancaster Manufacturing Co fit in? Do we call it a **LANCASTER** or a **SPITFIRE**?

Let us know what you think!

The final Spitfire is the Marman, manufactured by Martin & Manning Pty. Ltd of 50-52 Dow Street, South Melbourne and distributed by E.P.Houghton Pty.Ltd., of 346 Collins Street, Melbourne.

It was first advertised in 1950.

The lamp operates on methylated spirit, but the manufacturers claim that fuel other than spirit (not specified) can be used, so long as the appliance is kept perfectly clean and the jet is kept cleared by the pricker supplied.

Two models were available; one giving a flame horizontal to the apparatus, the other a vertical flame. We are not aware of the existence of one of these lamps, perhaps you know differently.

Note: A "Spitfire" alcohol blowtorch, Model A-100 was patented in America by Robert H. Livingstone in 1949, details of which can be found on page 283 of Vintage Blowtorches.

THE MARMAN

A *must* for every householder.

Throw away your old soldering iron and use the . . .

SPITFIRE Automatic Blowtorch

Fits in the pocket
Automatic Operation
Intense Heat
No Pumping
Economical
No Priming
Handy
Safe

In nickel plated brass.

For ordinary household Soldering,
Brazing, Silver Soldering.

No tradesman or hobbyist can resist one.

Used extensively by Jewellers, Dentists, etc.

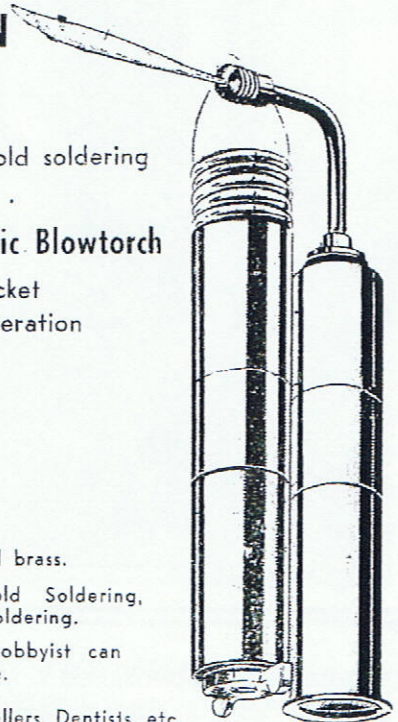
Obtainable from your Wholesaler
or

346 Lt. Collins St.,
Melbourne.
MU 1835

E. P. HOUGHTON PTY. LTD.

"A MARMAN PRODUCT"

379 Kent St.,
Sydney.
MA 6318



This is just part of a feature prepared by Michel Duval and Mal Mutimer on Australian manufactured blowlamps. The remainder of the article will feature in the September issue of Blowlamp News.

IDENTITY & ASSISTANCE

Michel Duval has recently acquired a small blowlamp stamped "VALVESPOUT MADE IN ENGLAND BY MULLER & Co PAT PEND." It is nickle plated and stands about 155mm in height. It is an alcohol fuelled lamp and Michel has had it working when it produced a fine jet, probably intended for fine soldering work on such things as Mamod steam model pipework and jewellery. The jet end opens and closes and Michel is not sure why it works without a pressurising system.



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

My thanks go to Charles Smith, Michel Duval and Mal Mutimer for their contributions to this newsletter and a special thanks to Graham Stubbs who not only found the time to produce the third installment on British Patents, but also managed to update the Blowlamp News Index, which I am sure you all find extremely useful when trying to find out information from past issues.

Producing this issue has been a real pleasure; with the amount of information I received I am well on the way to filling the next issue. Having said that, don't let it deter anyone from sending in information and pictures, it will all be used.