

BLOWLAMP NEWS

No 77

SEPTEMBER

2011

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

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

August 2012 sees the 20th Birthday of the Blowlamp Society and I feel we should not let the occasion pass without a small celebration. Who would have thought when Les Adams produced that first newsletter, an A4 sheet outlining the purpose and objective of the Society, that we would still be going today. Things have moved on from that small group of people with an interest in blowlamps, who would meet at steam rally's and exchange stories, to a group of collectors spread over the UK, France, Belgium, U.S.A and Australia, who collectively possess a wealth of knowledge on all makes of blowlamps.

My proposal is that we resurrect the Toddington meeting for next year, probably during October, when the rally season has come to an end. This would very much rely on the support of the membership as there is a lot of work involved in organizing such an event. With a year's advanced notice I am hoping that we can attract at least 30 members to commit to attending the meeting. Hopefully everybody could bring their 15 favourite blowlamps for display and there would also be opportunities to exchange and buy blowlamps.

If you think this is a good idea and could commit to a day, probably a Saturday, but we could consider a Sunday if it is felt this would be a better day. The one drawback with a Sunday would be arranging the catering, but this can be looked into.

For those of you living too far away, you could send me some photographs of your favourite blowlamps and these can be posted on the walls so we could get a good idea of what lamps members have in their collections.

Anyone wanting to attend should contact me either by phone or email (details on back page) before the end of December so that we can make arrangements to hire the hall.

MEMBERSHIP

It's nice to report that we have two new members, Jim Hunter and Bert Wolde, both from Victoria, Australia. Jim phoned me several weeks ago to find out how he could add some European lamps to his collection and passed our details on to others he knew with an interest in blowlamps. I hope both Jim and Bert will find membership of the the Blowlamp Society helpful to their hobby and look forward to hearing about their collections. This issue of Blowlamp News should interest them as we have a feature on Australian blowlamps.

AUSTRALIAN BLOWLAMPS

by

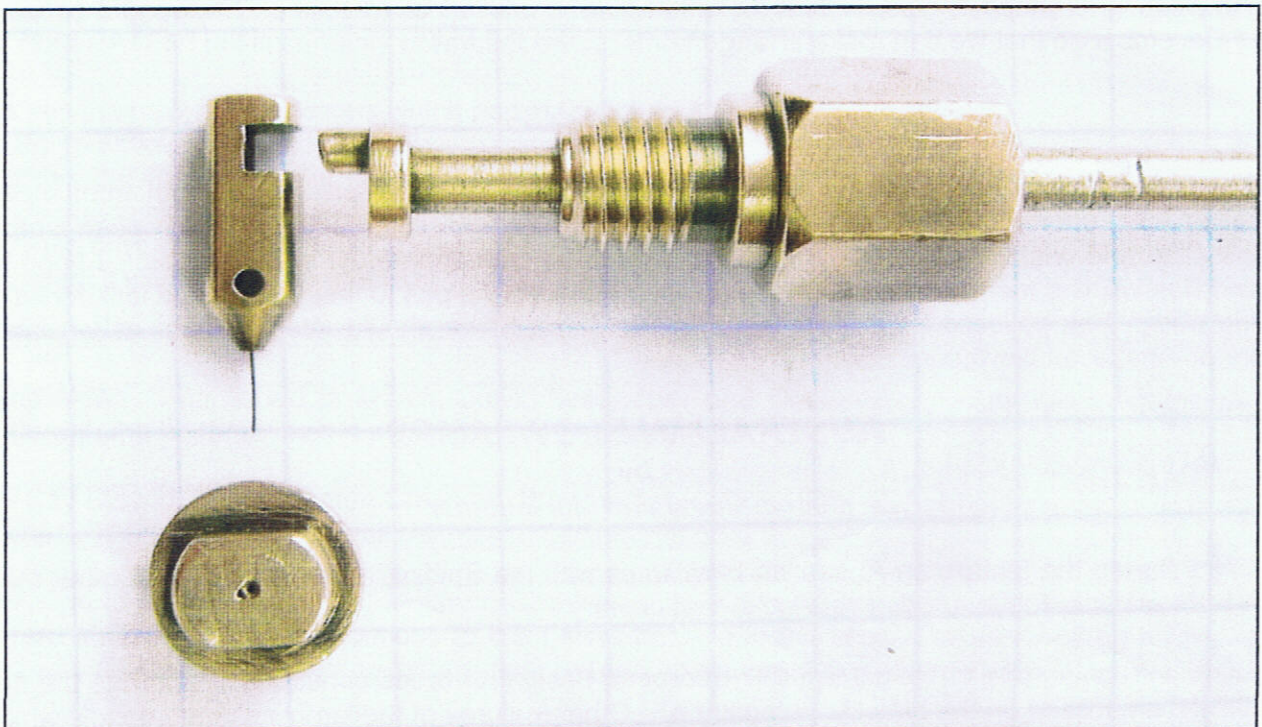
Michel Duval and Mal Mutimer

In BN76 I started the feature on Australian blowlamps with the Spitfire, and this issue lists other makes which were either manufactured or retailed in that country.

ALADDIN – This lamp is of typical British / European design, of brass construction and has the name "ALADDIN" embossed on the bakelite pump knob. Other features of the lamp include a handle which is made up of a heat insulator (red plastic) fixed around a metallic tube, centered on a threaded rod and fastened to a flat metal strap. The filler cap is knurled, but without the "Mickey" ears.



An unusual feature is the control knob at the base of the burner which can be used to clean the jet. When the knob is turned a needle penetrates the nipple and comes out inside a small hole in the jet. In the attached photograph, each square is 5mm x 5mm so the size of the system can be judged. Only one model is known.



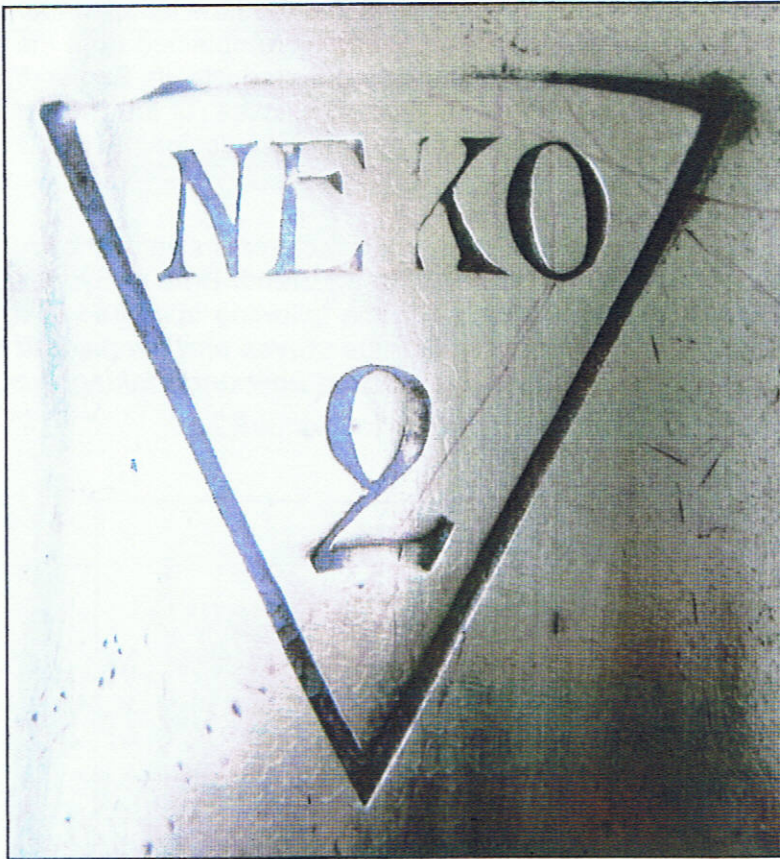
The manufacturer of this blowlamp is not known although purported to be Australian. There was a company in Australia in the 1940's which manufactured Aladdin kerosene table lamps.

Whilst the company "Aladdin Industries Pty Ltd of William Street, Sydney manufactured the lamps under US Patent No 3551086 in Australia, they did not produce the burners. These were obtained from the parent company in America. It is also known that Aladdin manufactured products in England. Besides the table lamps, other known products are kerosene room heaters and stoves (of the Primus type). The shape of the blowlamp would indicate that it is unlikely to be of American design, so was it produced in Australia or Britain?

BRANDT BROS. - This lamp is also of British / European design and the manufacturer is also unknown. On one side of the tank is an embossed brass plaque soldered to the side. Brandt Bros of Sydney were well known lamp (lighting) manufacturers from the early 1900's. The following appeared in a trade journal in 1918 "*Brandt Bros Ltd occupies their usual stand - Primus stoves and ovens, and brazing lamps were interesting items. It is worthy to note that the firm are now undertaking the manufacture of blowlamps for brazing purposes*".



On the opposite side of the tank is engraved in an inverted triangle "NEKO 2". We have not seen this marking anywhere else. As an agent for Primus, did Brandt import unmarked Primus lamps and affix their own distributor plaque or did they have authority to manufacture lamps to the Primus design under licence? Only one model is known.



As an aside, in 1927 Brandt Bros were advertising the supply of "PEKO" regulating nozzles for attachment to garden hoses. Was there a connection between the use of the two brands, "NEKO" and "PEKO" ? Were the names used by a single company? Was that company Brandt Bros?

COMPANION – This blowlamp is of Swedish design – in fact the engraved inscription on the side of the lamp reads; "COMPANION BRAND MADE IN AUSTRALIA BY AUTHORITY OF MAX SIEVERT SWEDEN". The manufacturer was Companion Heaters Pty Ltd of 450 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria; the company being registered on 21st May 1941 as a manufacturer of stoves, lamps, tools etc.

The outbreak of World War II prevented exportation from Europe, which resulted in a shortage of blowlamps and stoves, among many other items in Australia. These were necessary for industrial and domestic purposes and negotiations with Messrs Sievert of Sweden resulted in their consent to the manufacture of these items in Australia under special licence. They are completely Australian, both in material and workmanship and no imported material of any kind was used in their manufacture. Every blowlamp was pressure tested and trial burned before leaving the factory.



Two models are known – No 42 (1 pint) and No43 (2 pint). The numbers 42 and 43 do not appear on the tanks, but are found on the cardboard packing boxes and in catalogues. Both models have a pump, inclined burners and use kerosene as fuel. The brand name can be found on both the filler cap and the pressure release valve. The original Sievert models were 542 and 543, which in turn derived from the Saturnus No2 and No3.

Having said that Companion only came in two types, Mal Mutimer has a ¼ pint version. It is identical to the Sievert Type 207 lamp the marking on the lamp consisting of the standard inscription as above, and the wording COMPANION – SIEVERT – TYPE around the outer edge of the top face of the filler cap. As Companion was made under licence in Australia to Sievert, perhaps some Sievert lamps were imported, stamped with the licence agreement and then distributed

to retailers as either gifts or promotional material. Darlton had a ¼ pint lamp and perhaps this was to test the market. The scarcity of these small lamps in the antique market would suggest that they were not very popular or sales were low, if in fact they were released.



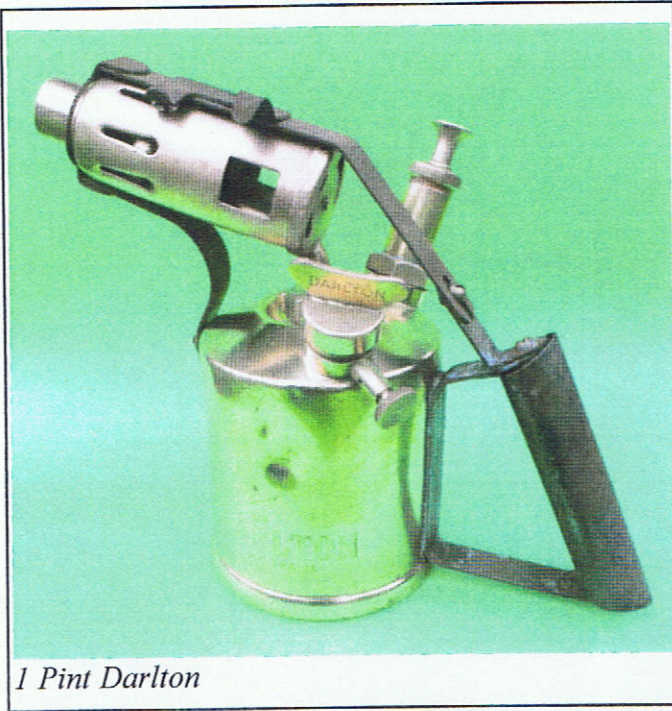
Examples of Companion lamps occasionally appear in vertical format, usually on ebay, and are advertised as stationary engine lamps, which attract a premium in price. It is possible that they are simply lamps of the inclined burner type where the flame tube has been positioned in the vertical plane and the strap adjusted accordingly. In the photograph it does seem that the flame tube has been reorientated – the lugs used to hold the soldering iron in the flame are now in a vertical plane and so useless for the original intended task.



Judging by the number of Companion blowlamps that were available through antique shops and on ebay, it is probable that they were the most used of the Australian blowlamps.

DARLTON – Of all the manufacturers in Australia, Darlton produced the most models. They ranged from ¼ pint to 2 pints, for use with kerosene or petrol and with inclined or vertical burners. As well, they produced a pressurised soldering iron, or what was termed a soldering butt, or commonly referred to today as a self heating soldering iron (SHSI).

Darlton blowlamps were manufactured by Prymace Engineering Co Pty Ltd. Of Sydney, prior to 1948. After this time the manufacturer is listed as the Commonwealth Metallic Pty. Ltd of the same address, so it may be assumed that Prymace was bought out by Commonwealth Metallic. The blowlamps produced by both manufacturers were distributed by Darlton Products Pty. Ltd of Sydney.



1 Pint Darlton



The $\frac{1}{4}$ pint model that was produced, named the DARLTON MINOR, bears a close resemblance to the Sievert Model L and Primus 802. It has become a favourite of collectors and is highly sought after.



The Darlton pressurised soldering iron was available as a stand alone unit, or packaged with all the necessary accessories in a metal carrying box as the Darlton Soldering Kit. The kit included tins for methylated spirit and shellite, funnel, flux brushes, lead flux tray, prickers, solder, spanners and spares.

Darlton Brazier Lamp

This is a heavy duty kerosene fueled pressure lamp fitted with a heavy brass tank of two pint capacity. It is particularly suitable for heavy industrial use in workshops and garages, for brazing and pre-heating metals.

The lamp also is available with vertical type burners for pre-heating oil engines etc.

Jets on these lamps are readily ac-

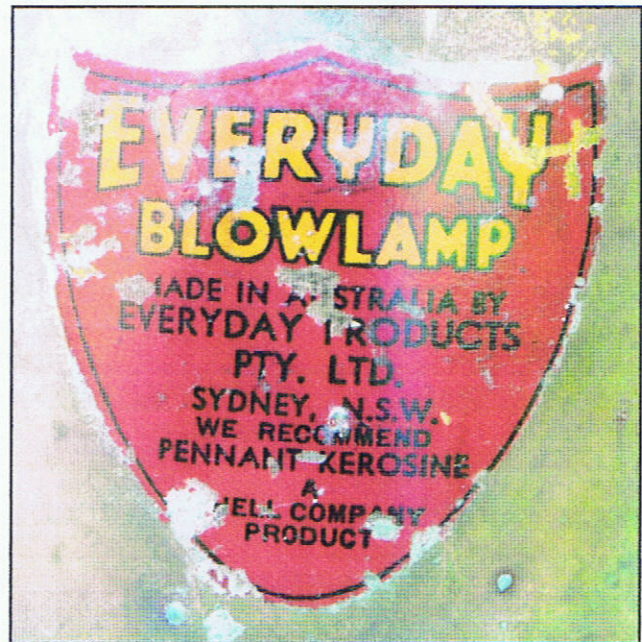


cessible for cleaning and spare parts are easily obtainable.

Manufacturers are Prymace Engineering Co. Pty. Ltd., and sole distributors are Darlton Products Pty. Ltd., Sydney.

A model called the Brazier was also produced, being particularly suitable for heavy industrial use in workshops and garages.

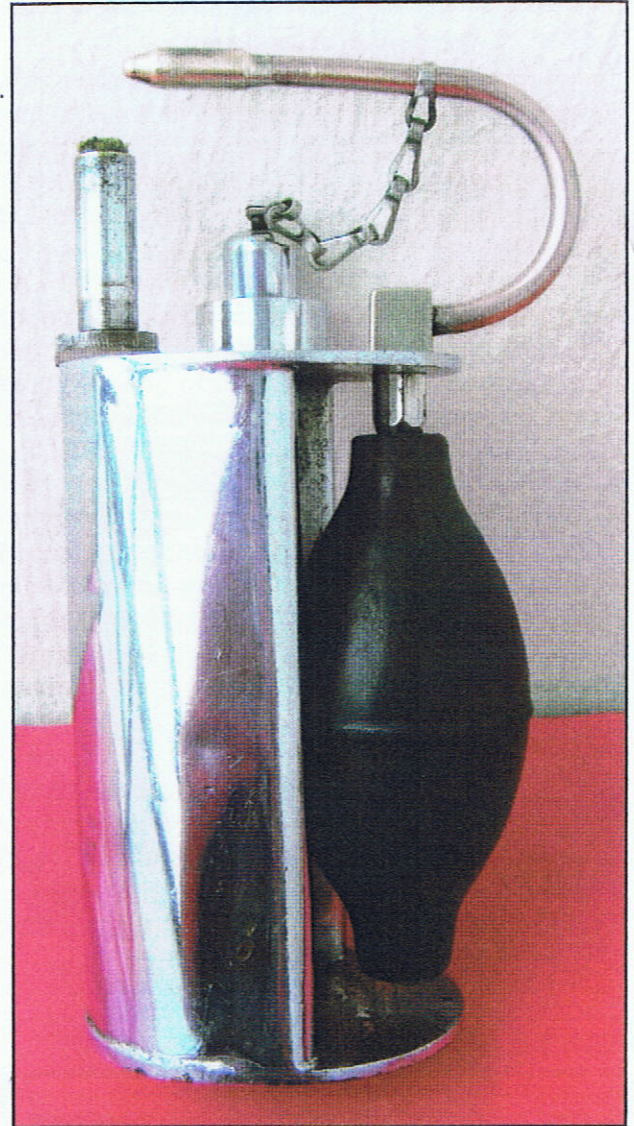
EVERYDAY – This blowlamp was manufactured by Everyday Products Pty. Ltd. Of 337 Kent Street Sydney. It was of brass construction and available in 1 pint and 2 pint capacities. The company is known to have also produced kerosene operated bath heaters, room heaters and cookers.



FELTON GRIMWADE – On 1st July 1867, Fredrick Grimwade and Alfred Felton founded a company in Melbourne for the production of pharmaceutical products. Despite numerous evolutions the company still exists today. Whilst they were responsible for the formulation of many products, including “VICKS” they also manufactured small methylated spirit blowlamps for use by dentists.

The chrome tank, which contains a wick, is filled with methylated spirit and lit. The flame is controlled by squeezing the rubber bulb, which directs a stream of air from the jet above the flame. The small cap, attached by a chain, is placed over the top of the wick to extinguish the flame.

Other known makers of dentists blowlamps included the American made Steffan, Hanah and the Gem, the Swiss made Products Dentaries and the German made Martin.



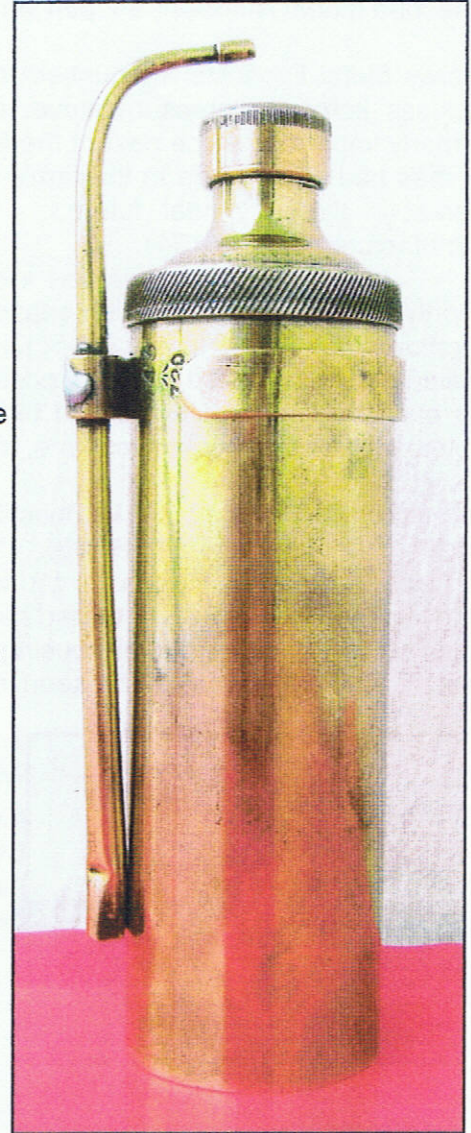
JET – The Jet Automatic Blowlamp was manufactured by R.J.Parsons. It is a twin tank methylated spirit lamp, very similar to the Valtock 2000. We have not been able to locate any further information about this company or its products.

The instructions for use for the Jet blowlamp were published on page 6 of BN37.

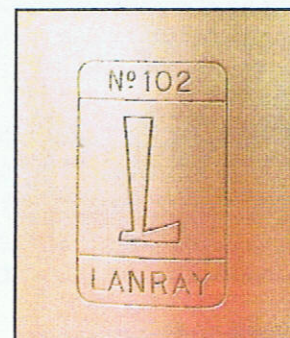
KEMPTHORNE – This blowlamp is a single tank, methylated spirit or alcohol, mouth operated type. It was manufactured by Kempthorne Lantern Works, East Malvern, Victoria, which was set up in 1931 by Selwyn and Owen Coffey, to pursue their interest in lighting and the way it could transform a room when used imaginatively. Two years later the company changed its name to the Kempthorne Lighting Company and relocated to Little Lonsdale Street in Melbourne.

For the duration of the second world war, Kempthorne was called upon to manufacture for the Navy, Army and Air Force. Among the items they produced were oil lamps for the Navy, including port and starboard lamps, mast head lamps, engine room gauges, torches, waterproof cigarette lighters, cans for the fuses of anti-aircraft ammunition and .303 charge clips for the Department of Army.

The lamps in our collections are stamped "D UP-ARROW D 1943 720". The significance of the number 720 is not known. One has a plain brass finish, but another has a tank cap, mouth piece pipe and clip finished in a blue gun metal type finish.



LANRAY – This blowlamp was based on the Swedish standards of manufacture. This would explain the spiral wound wire handle, such as can be seen on some Radius and Erikssons blowlamps. It was manufactured by Lanray Metal Products Pty Ltd., 11-19 Hardgrave Street, Sydney. The lamp uses kerosene, is of one pint capacity, inclined burner and has "LANRAY" "MADE IN AUSTRALIA" and AUSTRALIA embossed on the filler cap and air-release valve. (See page 3 of BN36 for detail of cap) The Lanray logo with the number L102 can be seen stamped on the side of the tank.



A second model is known, a 2 pint version, which is numbered L205.

Lanray Metal Products announced in 1941 that they had manufactured and placed on the market a wickless kerosene pressure stove, designed and operated on exactly the same principal as those formerly imported. The next of the firm's manufacturers was to be the "Lanray" tradesman's blowlamp. All dies had been made in the firm's own workshops and the complete article was to be placed on the market in the very near future. This would seem to indicate that Lanray blowlamps were not manufactured prior to 1941.

Shortly after this the production capacity of Lanray Metal Industries was directed to the war effort for the duration of the war. In late 1945, Lanray announced they had converted their plant to the production of civilian goods and were now in a position to supply their well known line of products. This line included not only the kerosene stove and blowlamp, but also key blanks, industrial reflectors, light fittings and hollow ware (aluminium saucepans, frying pans, bread bins etc.).

The editor of Blowlamp News describes some unusual features of a Lanray blowlamp belonging to a Society member (page 2 of BN36). This included the method of fixing the burner tube to the tank - one end was fastened by a screw to the top of the nipple housing - and the soldering bit bracket appears to be part of the burner nozzle turned back on itself. Also the fuel tube from the tank exited the tank at an angle so that it enters the jet housing part of the burner at right angles, instead of being curved into the base. These features can be seen in the next illustration.



This latter Lanray blowlamp would appear to be the earlier model, the illustration being taken from an advertisement in 1943. Company advertising of 1947 featured the model with the spiral wire handle for the first time. However, from this time on, both blowlamps were used to promote the company's product.

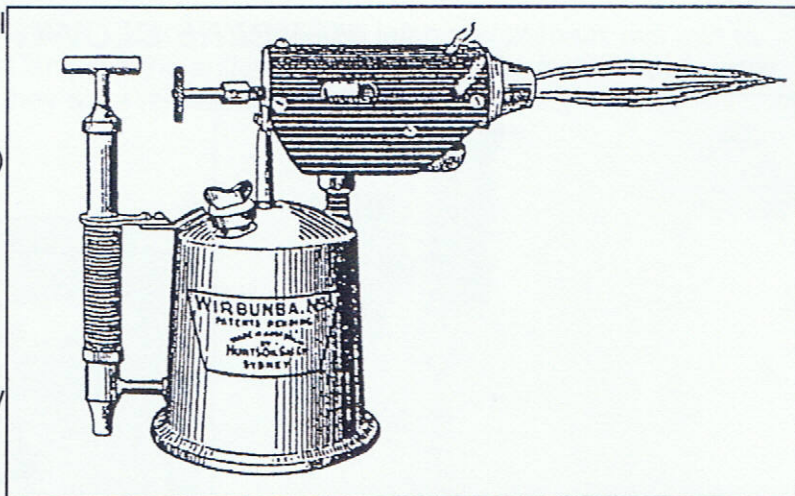


ROEC - The Roec Pumpless Blowlamp was manufactured in 1946 as an altogether new concept of soldering. It and the "solder brush" were manufactured by E.G. Willis, 23 Taringa Street, Ashfield, Sydney.

The blowlamp is of all brass construction, except for the windshield, which is copper and the turned wooden handle. The tanks are filled via inclined tubes, which are closed by hexagon nuts and it is on top of these nuts that the letters ROEC are stamped.

The lamp was intended to be used with the Roec solder brush, which was made entirely of glass and was impervious to acid and heat. It could be used to pre-heat articles to be soft soldered with Roec brush or to be hard soldered or silver soldered. Being particularly suitable for small fine work, it was ideal for jewellers. Its greatest value lay in the fact that no iron was needed when using the Roec method.

WIRBUNBA – This is the blowlamp that all Australian collectors would like to have in their collection. As far as I know, no example of this lamp exists in any collection (I would like to be proved wrong) This blowlamp was first described in an advertisement in 1920, when the Hunt Oil Gas Co of 193 Hay Street, Sydney gave a demonstration of their Wirbunba brazing and burning-off lamp. The blowlamp could be obtained in five sizes (not enumerated) from the distributors Maroney & Egan, Vickery Chambers, 82 Pitt Street, Sydney.



This blowlamp has been featured in Blowlamp News on two previous occasions, BN30 and BN50. The blowlamp was reported to possess several improvements, which are detailed in the latter article.

The illustration shows a decal fixed to the tank which says that "patent is pending". Attempts to locate the patent have been unsuccessful so far. The Australian Patent Office has a very unfriendly system of storing early patents – without the name of the applicant, the date of application and the patent number, it is quite impossible to locate the relevant document. There is no on-line search of database and the cost just to obtain a copy of a patent document is rather expensive.

IMPORTED BLOWLAMPS

The following list of Australian agents and distributors has been compiled from various literature sources and the date is the year when the company first advertised as the representative.

ACME – 1915 – H.S.Harvey, 38 Pitt Street, Sydney; **Barthel** – 1926 – Gloria Light Co., Cr. Clarence & Market Streets, Sydney & 360 Post Office Place, Melbourne; **Burmos** – 1949 – Cecil E.Mayo Pty. Ltd., 209a Castlereagh Street, Sydney; **Coleman / Monitor** – 1949 – Coleman Quick-lite Co. of Australia, 185 William Street, Melbourne. (see also C.J.Thomas & Son); **Crossland** – 1949 – C.J.Thomas & Son, 477 Kent Street, Sydney & 185 William Street, Melbourne; **Eriksson** – 1915 – Arthur E.Allen, 39 Pitt Street, Sydney; **McCaul** – 1949 – Automatic Heating Appliances Pty. Ltd., 41-43 Park Street, Melbourne; **Mox** – 1928 – Lawrence & Hanson Electrical Company Ltd., 172-176 William Street, Melbourne; **Oriflam** – 1921 – Kynoch Ltd., 90 William Street, Melbourne and 277 Clarence Street, Sydney; **Primus** – 1927 – Walter A.Cox Ltd., 195 Clarence Street, Sydney – 1925 – Brandt Bros. Ltd., 236 Pitt Street, Sydney – 1930 – Nelson & Company Ltd., Broughton House, 47 King Street, Sydney – 1931, 1935, 1936, 1954 – Nelson & Company Pty. Ltd., 352 Kent Street, Sydney; **Radius** – 1936 – Walter A.Cox Ltd., 195 Clarence Street, Sydney; **Sievert** – 1926 – J.G.Black Pty. Ltd., 5 Somerset Place, Melbourne – 1940 – Victoria & Tasmania – H.Hecht & Co., Melbourne – N.S.W., Qld., S.A. & W.A. - E.P.Houghton, Sydney – S.A.- Harris Scarfe Ltd., Adelaide.

From the data in the main article and in this list, it would be reasonable to propose that large scale manufacture of blowlamps in Australia commenced as a direct result of the outbreak of World War II. Prior to this, the major European manufacturers were all represented in Australia and probably satisfied the market requirements. Australian manufacturers did not produce a number of models in their range; two seemed to be the norm. As a result there was no need to produce a catalogue setting out the features and advantages of each model, as we find with European and British manufacturers. So we need to rely on advertising and tool catalogues for information as to when models came on to the market.

We asked at the start of this series for anyone with additional information to contact us, you can find our contact details in the membership list or you can pass any information to the editor of Blowlamp News.

MEMBERS BLOWLAMPS

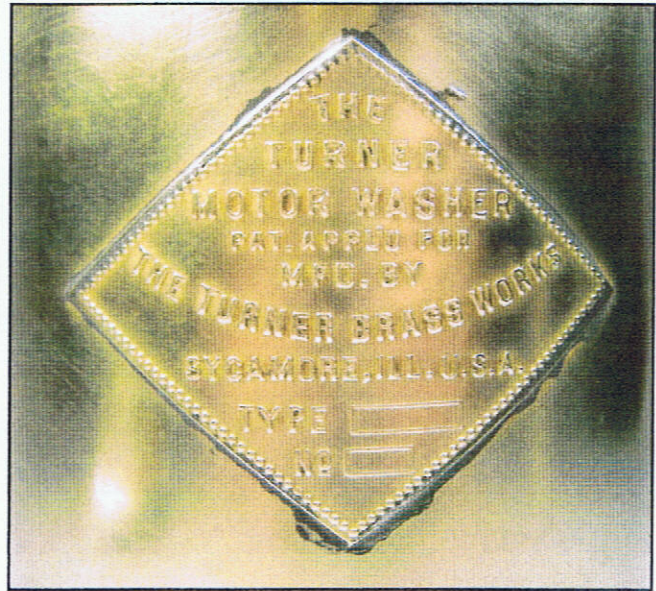


These photographs were sent in by James Wyatt; on the left is a nice GEM heater and on the right a melting pot which is heated by three ½ pint blowlamps, similar to the Governor one I have in my collection.



Following my article on "Flexible Heat" in BN75, Gerard Muller has sent these photographs of his Etna blowlamp.

TURNER ENGINE CLEANER



Charles Smith acquired this engine cleaner back in April. Made by Turner, it has a quart size tank and is often mistaken for a blow torch. This is known as a MW-1 (Motor Washer) and will operate with gasoline or kerosene, or will work equally as well when pumped full of air and used as a duster or dryer. The nozzle on the front of the tank operates very much like those on garden sprayers. By rotating the nozzle, the output can be regulated from a fine spray to a needle-point stream.

Clayton & Lambert and Otto Bernz also made similar cleaners, all of these dating from the mid 1910's and early 1920's.

VALVESPOUT

In BN76 I published two photographs of a Valvespout "blowlamp" sent in by Michel Duvel. A few days after sending out the newsletter I had a phone call from John Tingle who informs me that it was not a blowlamp, it is actually an oil can and he has one which was part of his kit when he was a dentist.

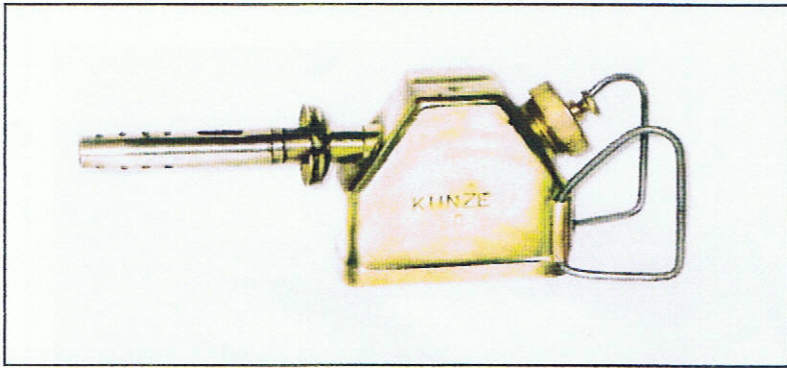
Since that time I have seen another different Valvespout oil can for sale on ebay. Quite how Michel managed to get a flame out of his is a mystery.

STILL COLLECTING

by
Keith Hawkins

Although I am supposed to be packing up and selling my collection, I still cannot resist a bargain or two, so when at the Belgium meeting in March, I found a ¼ pint Barthel "Little Wonder" look-a-like, a KUNZ 80, of which I had never heard. Nothing special, but another make. Then there was a M.L. Canon 75 "U", another nice little lamp which although expensive, I have wanted for years. The third one I bought was a DIAMANT of 2.9 litres, from Barthel. This is the larger version of the SMARAGD, featured in BN75, page 6. The Diamant is in perfect condition as of course it would be, having previously been owned by a Frenchman. I always wish I could get my lamps as well preserved as they do, but.....!!

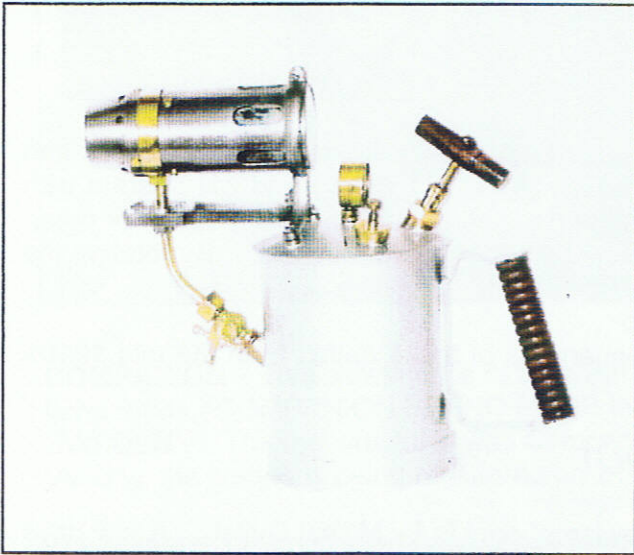
At the 2010 Belgium meeting, Graham Stubbs, from USA attended and in his report in "The Torch" mentioned that he had not only been impressed by what he had seen, but that he had even noticed a Clayton & Lambert No65 in the possession of one of the Belgian collectors. This was a lamp I had only just sold to that collector half an hour before Graham saw it. But now I have acquired another one.



The Barthel look-a-like.



M.L. Canon



Barthel DIAMANT



C & L No65

For anyone who might be interested in going back to BN55, pages 5 and 6, there is the Sievert 4000 railway lamp. I still, after exhaustive enquiries, do not know what the exact identification of No's 9-13 D.H.B. are, but I do know that these numbers probably refer to boundaries of the districts through which the trains ran on any given line. I also know that these lamps in particular were used on "crash" trains. These trains were fitted with large steam powered cranes for lifting wreckage, following a crash and in the days before diesel, cranes were kept in steam 24 hours a day for instant use. So I have made a bit of progress but still do not know what the "H" stands for.

In the same BN55, on page 7, was a photograph of two Express engine lamps. The larger one has been shown in the French publication as a starting lamp for a single cylinder SAMCI engine.

The smaller one, the 1014, with the frontal attachment is apparently for a Renault hot bulb tractor and not a Vierzon, as I first said, although I did not know that Renault ever made a lamp start tractor. Come to think of it, I have never seen a Vierzon tractor which would take a horizontal lamp, except possibly the 201, which used an Express 46 with a 532 burner and was mounted on a plate under the front of the tractor at 45 degrees.

GOVERNOR CONVERTIBLE

Max Rhodes has sent in the following photographs of a Governor Petrol blowlamp which has an adjustable burner, so that it can be used at any angle from vertical to horizontal. I cant find any reference to this lamp in any of the Governor literature I have, but I have seen one a few years ago in the collection of Ted Hewitt.



You can clearly see the point of adjustment from this photograph.

ZEDERHOLZ

Charles Smith has a query over a different type of "Automatic Blast Lamp" or "Russian Blast Lamp" which he has been unable to identify. (This style of lamp features on pages 189 and 190 of More Vintage Blowtorches).



The lamp is stamped ZEDERHOLZ and has the patent date of 1849. The word seems to be German, but the word PATENTED is certainly of English origin.

Charles has the following questions which hopefully one of our readers can answer.

1. Do you know of this little torch?
2. Does ZEDERHOLZ refer to a manufacturer or to the name of the patent writer?
3. Do you think this could possibly be British or German?
4. Does anyone have contacts in Germany who might be able to help? If we could locate the patent it would be a great help.

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 Michel Duval, Mal Mutimer, Charles Smith, Keith Hawkins, James Wyatt, Max Rhodes and Gerard Muller for their contributions to this newsletter. For the second issue running I have been provided with a wealth of interesting information. Keep up the good work, I am sure it is appreciated by all our members.