

# **BLOWLAMP NEWS**

No 78

DECEMBER

2011

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

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## **MEMBERSHIP**

As mentioned in the June newsletter, membership has been in a steady decline over the past few years, in particular this year when membership dipped below 100. A consequence of this is that this years income will not cover the costs of producing 4 issues of Blowlamp News with a shortfall of just under £100-00.

This has been a year when both printing costs and postage have increased significantly.

We advertise 4 issues of the newsletter when recruiting new members so I am quite happy to make up this shortfall to ensure that we fulfil this years obligation; but I am only able to do it this once.

We have a choice of only receiving 3 newsletters a year at the current level of subscription, which has not risen since 2006, or we raise the subscription so we can maintain a quarterly newsletter. This would mean an increase to £10-00 for UK members, 20 Euros for European members, \$20-00 for USA members and Au\$30-00 for members in Australia. (This would be my choice as I like to see a quarterly newsletter, so I would like to make this a formal proposal)

I do hope that this increase will not deter you from renewing your membership as I feel we have a collectors club worth a great deal. There is a lot of knowledge amongst the membership and it is important that this should be available to share amongst those with a common interest, preserving and researching the history of the blowlamp.

Renewal forms can be found with this newsletter and I would appreciate a swift return so that I know how we stand for next year.

## **BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**

I may have confused some members with the wording of my notice for the proposed 20<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration of the Blowlamp Society, particularly with my idea of bringing your 15 favourite lamps.

It was not my intention to restrict the number of blowlamps anyone can bring, in fact I would like to see the hall completely filled to overflowing. What I meant was that everyone has a few special favourite blowlamps and I would like you to bring them so that you can share with everyone why they mean so much. If we all had our favourites together I felt it would give an interesting display, but if you don't have particular favourites, then bring along just what you want.

That said we still need a few more of you to commit to attending the event. So far I have only had 4 people express an interest and together with Keith Hawkins and myself, we are hardly going to fill a hall. I need at least 30 people (collectors and partners) to make it affordable.

If you thing it is worth pursuing I really do need to know by early January to give us any chance of making the necessary arrangements, village halls tend to get booked up well in advance.

The Blowlamp Society has achieved a lot since those early days when Les Adams found a few other blowlamp collectors at the Great Dorset Steam Fair and the Society was born. I think 20 years is quite an achievement and worth celebrating.



## **BELGIUM MEETING**

Marnik and Katy Van Insberghe are again arranging a meeting at the Feestzaal CARACAS at Langemark on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2012. As with last year Marnik and Katy have also arranged an evening meal on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March for those who would like to make a weekend of it. For anyone wanting to attend I would recommend meeting on the Friday, when we gather at Marnik's house for a drink and a chat before we attend the evening meal which is at the same venue as the meeting.

There are a number of hotels available, the Hotel Munchenhof in Langemark, the Ariane, the Hotel Flanders Lodge and the Novotel, all in Ypres.

The cost of the Friday evening meal is 25 euro per person and for the meeting, which also includes a lunch is a further 25 euros.

Please support Marnik and Katy, this is always a great event, there is always a good display of blowlamps and there are always plenty of sales and exchanges.

Because of printing costs I am unable to send everyone a personal invitation, but if you are thinking of attending please contact me and I will forward details to you. Alternatively you can email Marnik at [marnik.katy@telenet.be](mailto:marnik.katy@telenet.be)

## **AUCTION FEVER**

In September I attended an auction of vintage machinery, following the death of a local collector. I went along to give my nose a treat, as I had known the collector for a number of years but had never seen the extent of his collection, which included a traction engine, several vintage tractors, including a Walsh and Clarke (I have a particular interest in these tractors as I helped to restore and run a pair of Walsh and Clarke ploughing engines owned by the Museum of East Anglian Life), vintage vehicles, numerous stationary engines, spare parts and implement seats.



Amongst the lots were these three blowlamps, a Hornsby, a Vulcano vertical and a Primus 616. The Hornsby and the Primus made just over £100-00 each but when it came to the Vulcano there were two people bidding and eventually ended up going for a little over £300-00 including commission.



I hardly dare tell the winning bidder that I had a one of these in my shed which I would have willingly parted with for £100-00.

While looking round the lots there was a Campbell engine for sale complete with it's starting lamp (left)



The blowlamp in the right hand picture went with the oldest Hornsby engine known to exist.

### **WEED BURNERS**

Charles Smith has sent the following information on 3 makes of weed burner. The first was marketed by Bandwagon Inc., located in Boston Mass. And called their Model No PF-2, or Power Flame No 2.

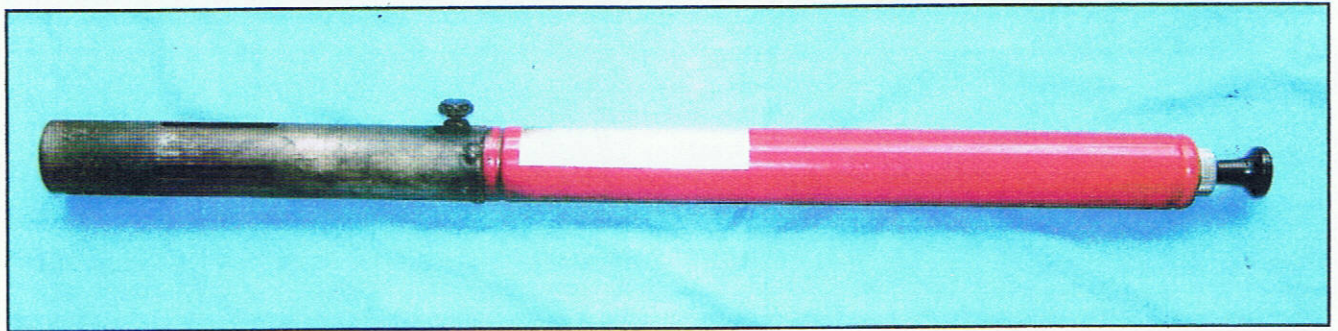


This torch is shown on page 35 in the first Vintage Blowtorches book and measures 30 3/8 inches from the end of the burner to the top of the knob. Both the steel burner and the steel tank measure 2 inches in diameter. The pump assembly is brass, although the pump rod is steel. The knob is plastic.

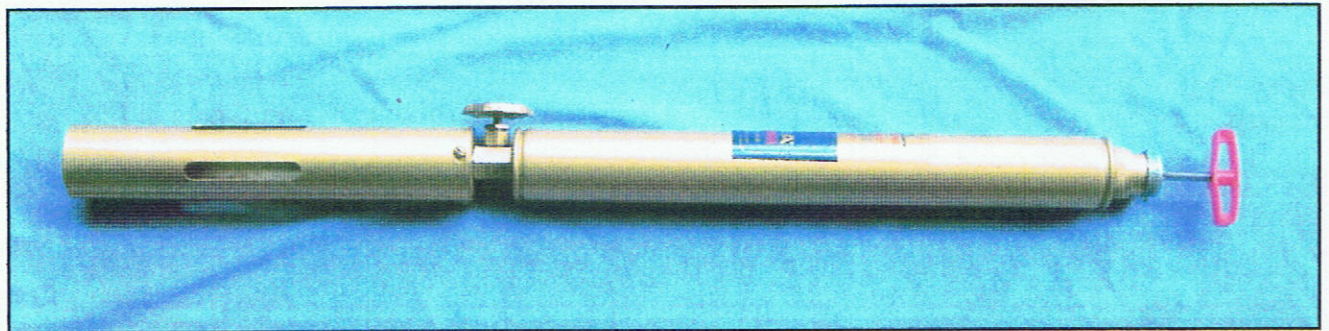


Uses for this torch are listed as destroying weeds, sterilizing soil, thawing frozen pipes and melting snow and ice.

Charles adds that he knows we get our fair share of snow in the UK, so we might be familiar with these torches. However he was born and raised in Texas, which has little snow, but lots of cattle and cactus. South and West Texas is covered with prickly pear cactus, the leaves of which are filled with a watery juice which is impossible to get at because of the sharp spines. During drought conditions, which seem to occur with some frequency, these weed burners are used to burn off the needles from the cactus so that the cattle can eat the leaves and quench their thirst. These torches were widely sought by cattle farmers and ranchers as "cactus burners".



The second torch was marketed by the Corsican International Inc., of Los Angeles, California. It is called the "Quick-Flame" and was manufactured in Hong Kong for the Corsican company. The torch measures 30 1/2 inches long and 2 inches in diameter, the pump assembly is nickel plated brass, with the pump rod being of steel construction. The pump knob is black plastic. Again the uses of this torch were advertised as for the Bandwagon.



The last of the weed burners was marketed by H.D.Hudson Mfg. Co. Illinois and is model No 6103 "Porta Flame Sprayer". This torch is also listed in Vintage Blowtorches, page 226. It measures 30 inches in length and is 2 inches in diameter. Other than for the design of the pump knob and flame control knob, this Hudson torch varies little from the Bandwagon and Corsican weed burners.

The uses listed for this torch include burning paint, burning insects and several uses in heating and disinfecting.

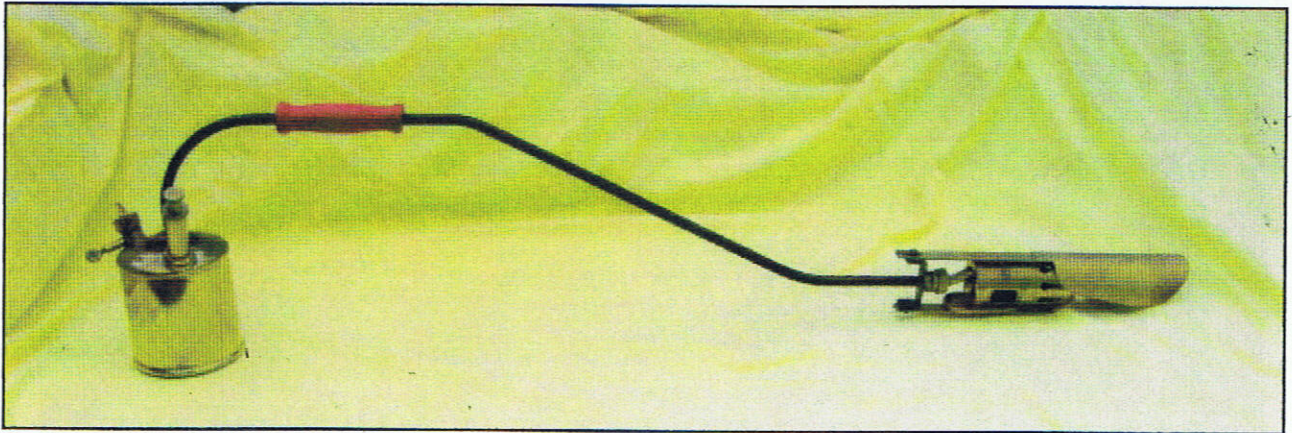
Although the Hudson Company is still in business in Chicago, and market a large variety of commercial and professional sprayers and dusters, through numerous outlet stores throughout the world, no record can be found of weed burners being available today.

As well as the 3 makes Charles has identified, I have one in my collection which was manufactured by Sheen and is called a "Flame Wand", it is 36 inches long and 2 inches in diameter and although I have no literature for it I assume it performed the same functions as those produced in USA.



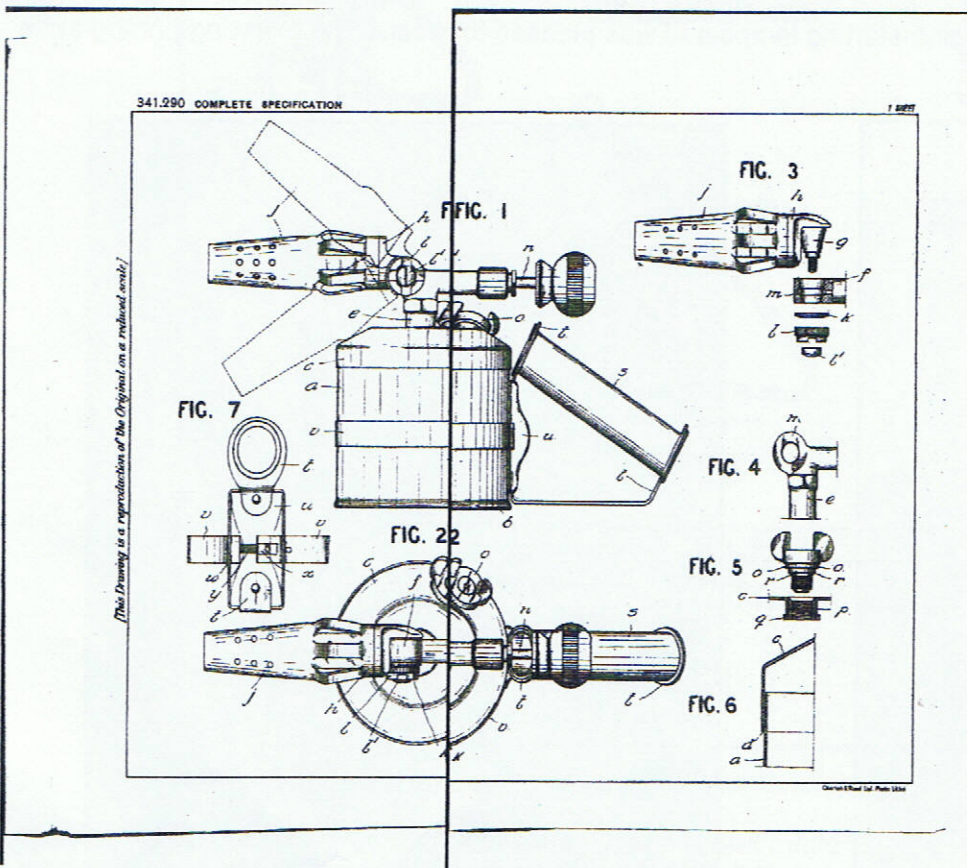


My final offering in this feature is a weed burner produced by Bladon, the B50, and although it differs in style, being a conventional blowlamp tank with an extended burner tube, it is lightweight and easy to use.



### GOVERNOR CONVERTIBLE

In the September newsletter I published photographs of a Governor blowlamp where the burner could be adjusted to any angle from vertical to horizontal. Since then Chris Naylor has sent me a copy of the Patent document for this lamp which was registered in January 1931.



Unfortunately the drawing was split and it is difficult to bring both halves together at a reduced scale.



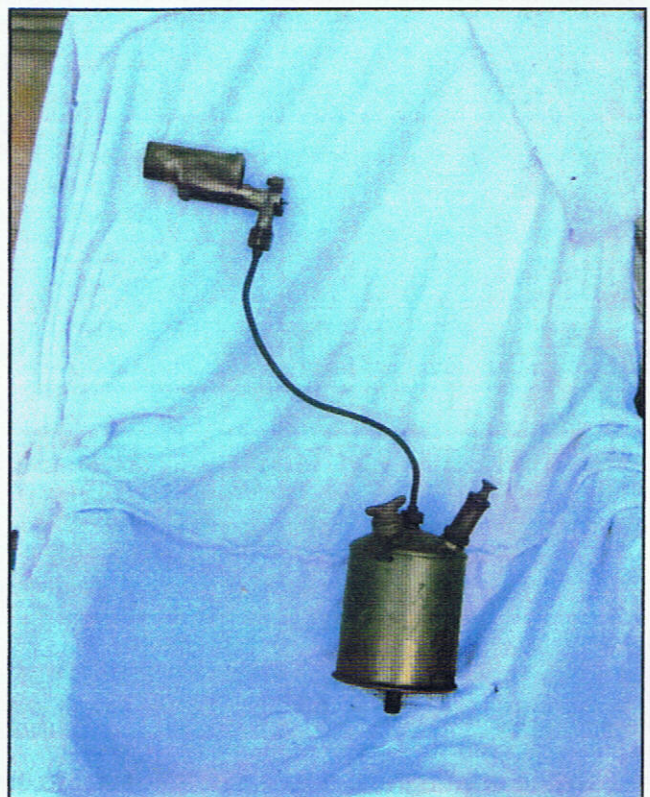
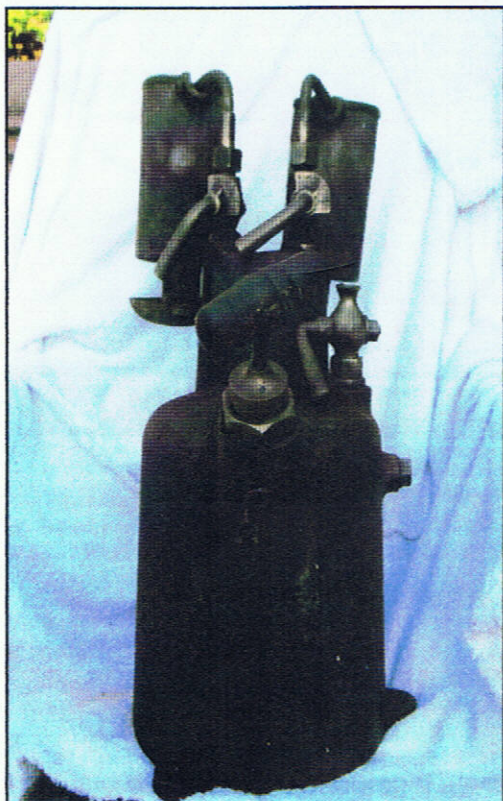
## MEMBERS BLOWLAMPS

It is not often we see an original Nyberg's blowlamp, the like of which can be found illustrated in the Primus -Sievert centenary publication of 1982 (A copy of which was reproduced in BN53, page 7).

I have only seen one such lamp at the meeting in Belgium which was owned by Gerard Muller. Recently Gerard sent me the following photograph which shows 3 Nyberg's lamps in his collection.



I have always been a fan of engine starting lamps so I was pleased to receive the following photographs from Nick Major.







The photo on the left shows a starting lamp for a 2 cylinder Hornsby engine. This is the largest of a range of lamps, all with heavy cast tanks, which Hornsby produced for their engines. The lamp on the right is a Sievert Vapouria 14, one of a pair of lamps to start a 1918 twin cylinder Gardener engine.

## PERSONAL FAVOURITES


As I have limited information for this issue of Blowlamp News, I would like to share with you all some of my favourite items.

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

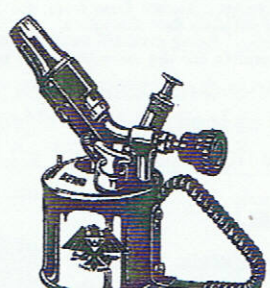





N° 91 — FLOTT



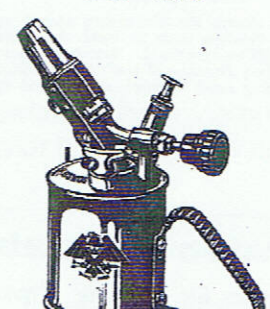
N° 92 — ALFA



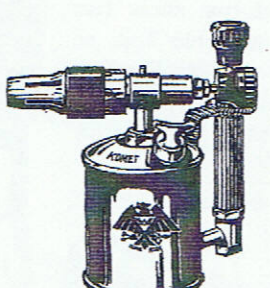
N° 94 — BENNO



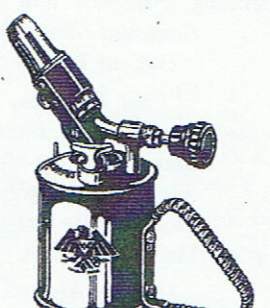
N° 93 — BELLA



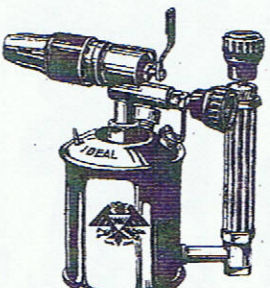
N° 95 — KOSMOS



N° 96 — KOMET



N° 97 — KORPUS



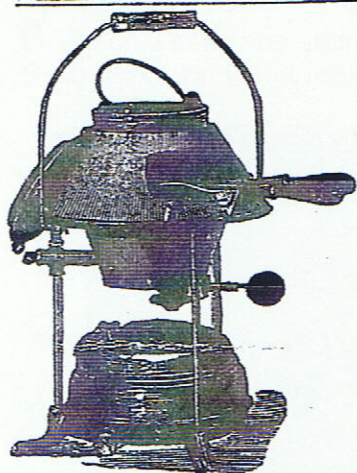
N° 98 — IDEAL  
avec débouchage automatique

Not	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	"	138.—
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	"	198.—
97	Korpus . . .	0.50	1.000	85	sans pompe	148.—
98	Idéal . . .	0.50	1.400	85	avec pompe	230.—

I have always admired the Adler blowlamps, they are well made and they have a great logo. I am trying to complete my set, so if anyone has a FLOTT or an IDEAL I would be pleased to hear from you.



Another sideline I enjoy is collection furnaces and soldering iron heaters, a selection of illustrations from trade literature follows.

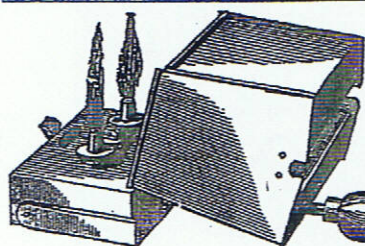


### WELLINGTON'S AUTOMATIC PLUMBER'S FURNACE, OR COLD-AIR PRESSURE FURNACE.

Indispensable to Plumbers, Gasfitters, Machinists, &c., and those who want a perfect apparatus which is safe and portable.

THIS Furnace is constructed and is used similarly to the "Wellington Torch." It has a valve air-pump to force the cold air into the reservoir, thus creating a perfect blast. It is made wholly of brass and galvanized cast iron; consequently there is no danger. It smelts 10 lbs. solder in as many minutes,

PRICE, complete, with Solder Pot, .. .. . 39/ each.



Showing Interior.

### IMPROVED PORTABLE SOLDERING FURNACE.

PATENTED 1883. No. 3487.

PRICE, with directions for use, .. 12/6 each.



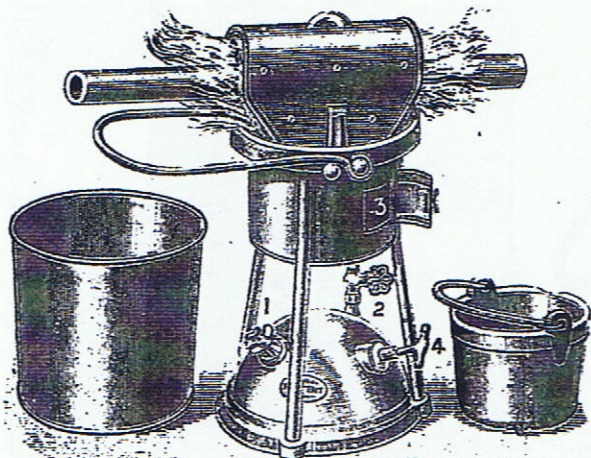
Ready for Use.

EXPERIENCE has shown the difficulties attending soldering joints of wire on the roofs of buildings and other inconvenient places, in consequence of the objection to lighting fires to heat the ordinary soldering iron, the only alternative, viz., to carry a heated iron from the basement, being as inconvenient as can well be imagined. Another great difficulty, wherever the work is done, has been to properly flux the joints. This simple invention disposes of both these difficulties, and, in addition, effects a great saving of solder. Being portable (weight under 2 lbs.) it can be taken anywhere; no firing need be used, methylated spirits supplying the heat required. It is also impossible for the strongest wind to blow the light out.

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### Patent Portable Oil Blast Furnace.

Specially suitable for Heating Pipes for Bending Purposes and Melting Metals. Burns Common Paraffin Oil, and will melt 1 cwt. of Lead with only one Burner.



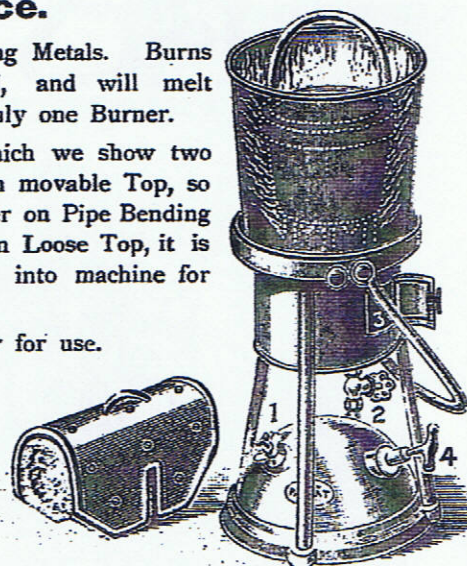
This drawing shows Furnace suitable for heating Pipes for bending purposes, or for heating Copper Bits, Plumbing Irons, Branding Irons, etc.

This Furnace, of which we show two drawings, is fitted with movable Top, so that by taking off Cover on Pipe Bending Furnace and placing on Loose Top, it is immediately converted into machine for Heating Metals.

Always ready for use.

Perfectly safe and very powerful.

Requires little or no attention.



This drawing shows the same Furnace suitable for melting Lead, Tin, Solder, Zinc, and other Metals.

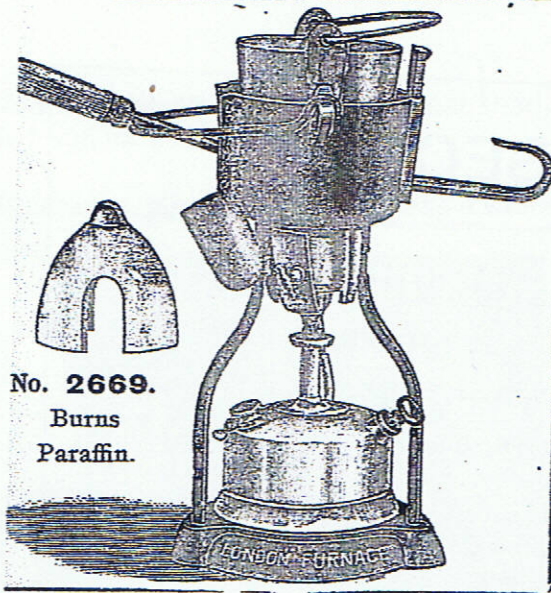
Price of Furnace, including Metal Pot, Pipe Bending Cover, and Loose Top complete :

No. 929	...	...	£2 17 0	No.	...	...	£3 12 6	No. 931	...	...	£6 17 0
" 930	...	...	3 5 0	"	...	...	5 0 0	" 932	...	...	8 15 0

THE SPECIAL ADVANTAGES ARE :—It is portable, it can be carried to any place where heat is required and at once got to work. Each Machine is fitted with Valve to regulate flame, so that a lower heat may be obtained, and Metals or Pipes can be kept at any desired temperature for any length of time.



## "LONDON" FURNACE.



No. 2669.  
Burns  
Paraffin.

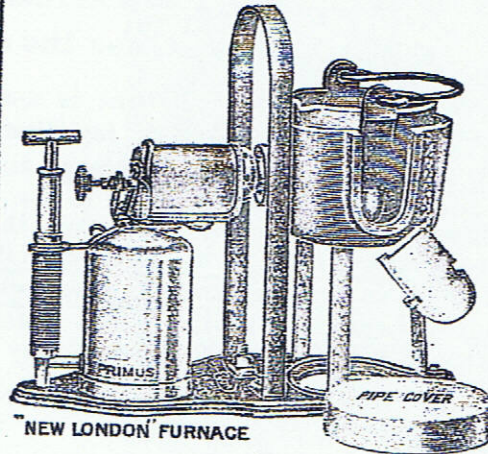
Can be used with any blow-lamp (horizontal or inclined, burner) the pipe cover acting as support for small sizes.  
Easily carried.  
Always ready for use.  
Melting Pot with Lip.  
Will melt lead quicker than any other furnace of similar capacity.

Weight without Lamp (No. 605 "Primus") .. 22 lbs. nett.  
" with " (" " " " " " ) .. 26 lbs. "  
Height .. 16 in. Length ... 18 in.

No. 725 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Price, with "Primus" No. 605 Brazing Lamp (2 $\frac{1}{2}$  pints) ... 50/- each. } without pipe cover.  
No. 726 $\frac{1}{2}$ . " without " " " " " " .. 19/6 "  
No. 727 $\frac{1}{2}$ . " of Pipe Cover extra .. 2/6 "

Capacity—Tank holds 3 pints of Paraffin. One filling will last for 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  hours. Pot holds 23 lbs. of Plumbers' Metal.  
Price, complete with Melting Pot (without Soldering Irons or Fire Clay Cover) .. £2 - 5 - 0 each, F.O.R.  
Price of Fire Clay Cover for heating pipes, extra. 2/6 each.

## THE "NEW LONDON" PARAFFIN FURNACE.

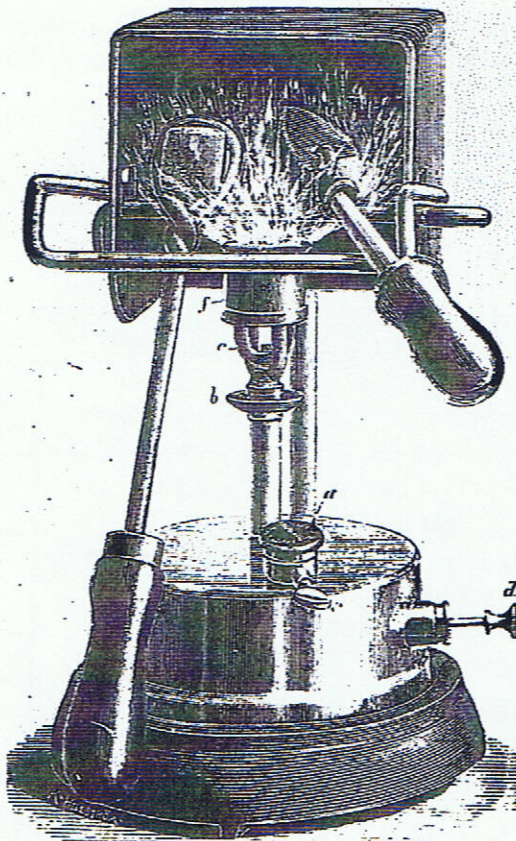


"NEW LONDON" FURNACE

THE  
HANDIEST  
and  
QUICKEST  
FURNACE  
on the market  
for  
MELTING  
LEAD, BEND-  
ING PIPES.  
HEATING  
SOLDERING  
IRONS,  
&c., &c.

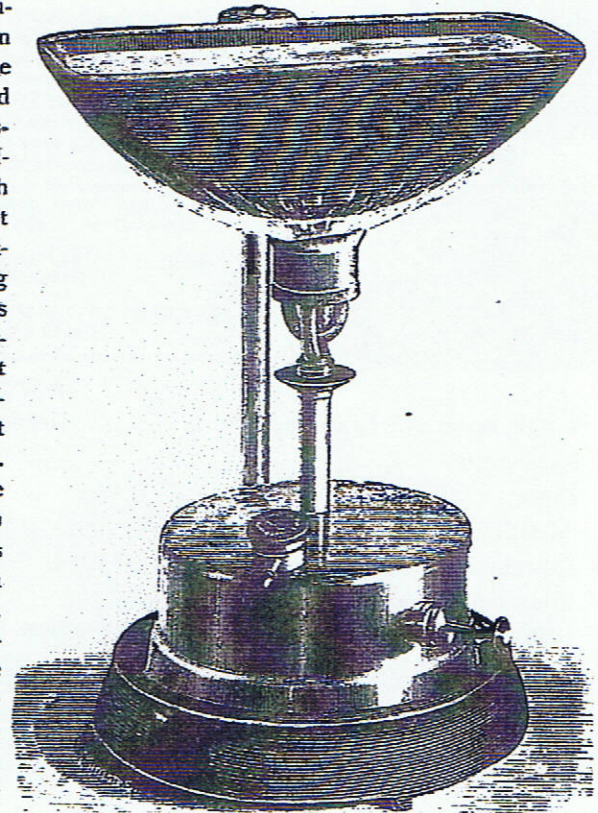
Tests (with 605 "Primus"):  
17 lbs. of Plumber's Metal melted  
in 5 minutes,  
1 in. Steam-pipe ready for bending  
in 2 minutes.

## The Plumbers' Stove.



FOR HEATING SOLDERING-IRONS.

Specially constructed for use in Workshops. The Stove is supplied complete, as illustrated (without Soldering Irons), both with Melting Pot and Hood for heating the Soldering Irons. It burns Petroleum or Paraffin Oil without Wick, and is absolutely without smoke or smell. This can easily be carried about in one hand. It burns only one-third of a pint of oil per hour. Every Stove is warranted perfect. The Stove itself is made of brass, polished. The Foot, Stand, Hood, and Melting Pot of cast iron.



FOR MELTING TIN OR LEAD.

One Burner, 2-pint tank ... .. price, 30/9 complete.  
Two Burners, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ -pint tank (very strong) .. 43/6 "



# (C.) INDUSTRIAL SECTION.

## The GENUINE Max Sievert "Empire" Furnace (PATTERN REGISTERED.) for the exclusive use of PETROLEUM.

In this Furnace absolute immunity from complaint is assured, Compactness, Efficiency, and Safety have been equally studied. Through an ingenious device, it is possible to do the melting of plumbers' metal, the bending of pipes, and the heating of soldering bits simultaneously. Due attention has also been paid to the intensity of flame, which has been encased to guard against outside influences. Further, the handle of the stand has been constructed as to afford a rest for pipes or soldering bits. Finally, trap-doors have been fixed on both sides of upper metal casing, which by unscrewing is detachable, a distinctive feature to which particular notice is drawn. The Lamp and metal pot are of course also detachable. The Lamp therefore can be used independently and may thus serve more than one purpose.

MOST USEFUL FOR HEATING BRANDING IRONS, TEMPERING TOOLS, etc.

Code Word: Empire.

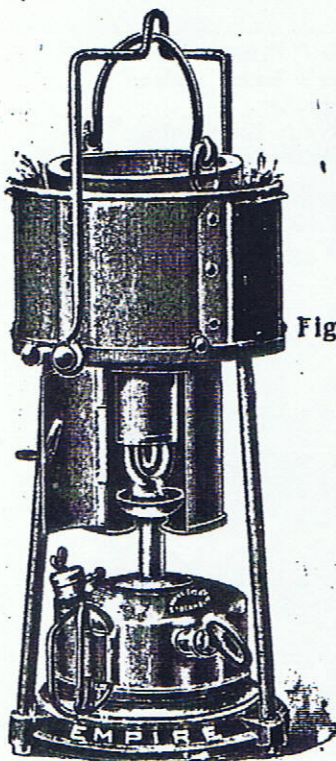


Fig. 1.

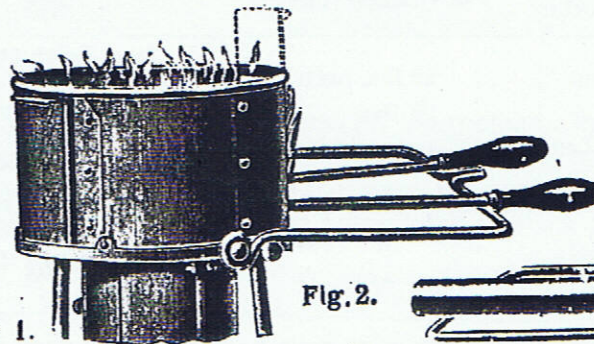


Fig. 2.

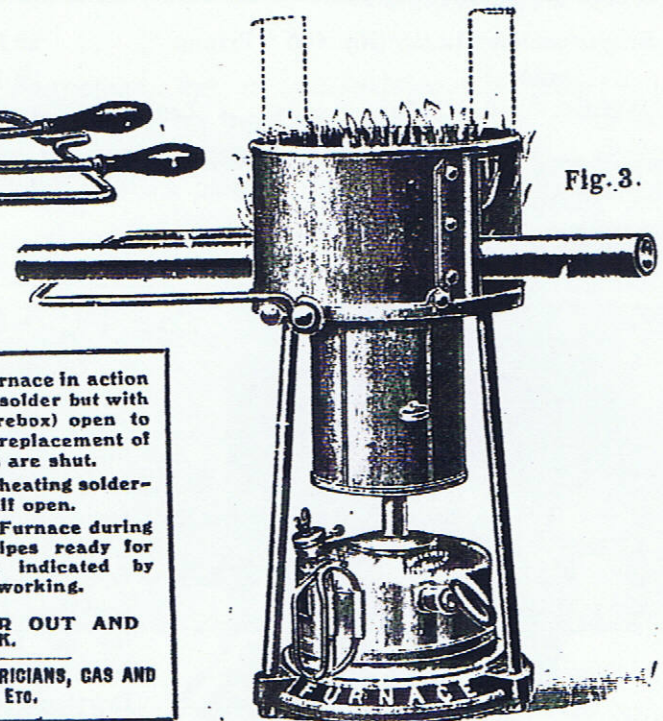


Fig. 3.

Fig. 1 shows "EMPIRE" Furnace in action ready for melting plumbers' solder but with door of lower encasing (firebox) open to illustrate the removal and replacement of Lamp. NOTE—Trap-doors are shut.

Fig. 2 represents the action of heating soldering bits, with trap-door half open.

Fig. 3 illustrates "EMPIRE" Furnace during the process of heating pipes ready for bending. Trap-doors are indicated by dotted lines to show their working.

EQUALLY POPULAR FOR OUT AND INDOOR WORK.

INVALUABLE TO PLUMBERS, ELECTRICIANS, GAS AND WATER COMPANIES, ETC.

### PARTICULARS.

Tripod Stand with handle upright ...	...	Height 24 inches ...	Weight 13 lbs. ...	PRICE 14/6 each.
Melting-pot " " ...	...	" 11½ inches ...	" 6 lbs. ...	" 2/- "
Lamp ...	...	" 11 inches ...	" 3½ lbs. ...	" 25/6 "
"EMPIRE" Furnace, complete ...	...	" 24 inches ...	" 22½ lbs. ...	
Capacity of Lamp Tank ...	...	3 pints.		Melts 25 lbs. of plumbers' solder in ... 9 minutes.
Consumption per hour ...	...	1 pint.		Heats Soldering Bits in ... 1 minute.
Diameter of Burner ...	...	2¼ inches.		Heats 1½ steam pipes ready for bending in 8 minutes.

Price, including Packing, complete ... .. 42/- each.

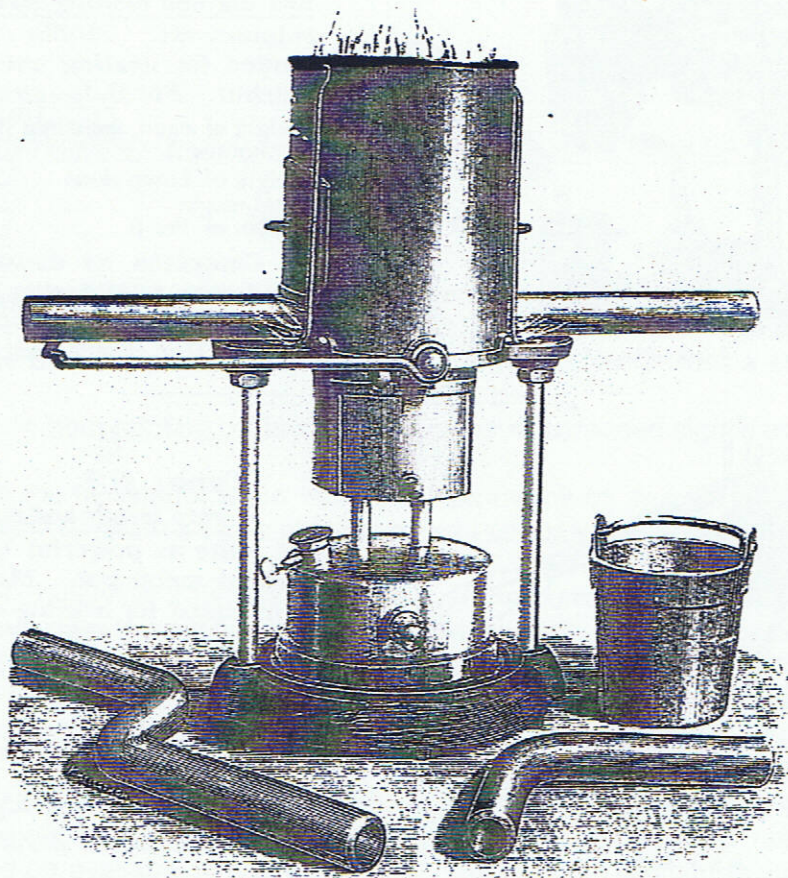
Each Furnace Packed in a Case.

(For Spare parts see Vapouria No. 3089 pages 45 and 47.)



## Portable Street Furnace.

Very Powerful.



No. 918.

This Stove is decidedly the most perfect Street Furnace on the Market. Warranted to burn the paraffin oil in form of gas without the slightest smoke or smell. The flame is enclosed and is not affected by wind or rain. The furnace is so constructed that one can melt metals at the same time the soldering irons or iron pipes are being heated. It is very substantial and can be easily carried about. It is easily lighted and the size of the flame regulated like a gas-jet. It is very economical.

	A.	B.	C.
Number of Burners ... ..	1	(usual size) 2	3
Capacity of Oil Tank ... ..	2½ pints	2½ pints	4½ pints
"    " Melting Pot for lead ... ..	21 lb.	21 lb.	29 lb.
Melts lead } Pounds ... ..	21 "	21 "	29 "
} In Minutes ... ..	8	4	4
Price complete ... ..	43/6	48/9	60/-

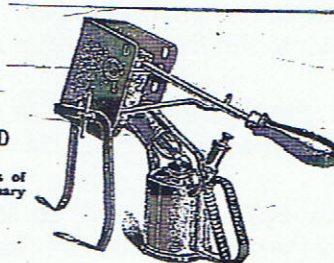
### "HANDY" SOLDERING IRON STAND

ADJUSTABLE so as to take two irons of different shapes. Will fit any ordinary Blow Lamp.

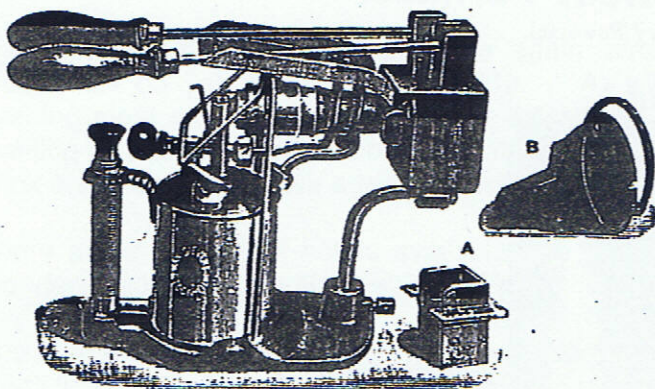
No. 60.—12 x 3½ in., 3/6 each.  
 " 61.—12 x 4 " " 5/ "

Weight, 2½ lbs.

330







$\frac{1}{2}$  act. size.

Type : **KHLL.** Code Word : LACUSTRE.

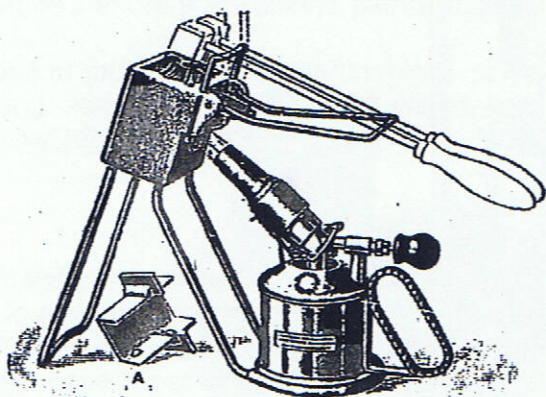
Used in connection with type HLL, it constitutes a compact and most serviceable heating and melting stand for lead, tin, zinc, sulphur, etc. Muffle A., as supplied, is intended for heating one Butt, and to heat it quicker. Pot B. for melting.

Weight of stand, including Butts and Muffle A. ... ..	12 lbs. 5 ozs.
Weight of Lamp alone ... ..	3 lbs. 8 ozs.
Total weight ... ..	15 lbs. 13 ozs.
Weight of Pot B. ... ..	3 lbs. 5 ozs.

Complete as drawn, with Butts,

Price **39/6** each.

(For Spare parts see page 35.)



$\frac{1}{2}$  act. size.

Type : **ES.** Code Word : IRMA.

A very handy and portable heating stand, not quite as powerful as type KHLL, and without metal pot. Muffle A., as supplied, is intended for heating one Butt, and to heat it quicker.

Weight of stand and Muffle A. ... ..	4 lbs. 10 ozs.
" " Lamp ... ..	1 lb. 10 ozs.
Total weight ... ..	6 lbs. 4 ozs.

Complete as drawn, without Butts,

Price **21/-** each.

(For Spare parts see page 34.)

## CLASSIFIED

Wanted – To complete a collection of Bladon blowlamps, the B75 soldering lamp – contact Bob Prichard on 02476 636363

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.

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