BLOWLAMP NEWS

No 80

AUGUST 2012

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

NOTES FROM THE EDITORS

RAY HYLAND

By Graham Stubbs

Ray Hyland, the editor of *BLOWLAMP NEWS*, passed away recently at his home in Stowmarket, Suffolk, England, after a short illness. Ray was sixty-two years old. He leaves his wife Carole, and sons Jaime and Andrew.

Ray will be greatly missed by his family and friends, including those in the blowlamp/blowtorch collecting communities. His interests extended to farm machinery, including stationary engines and steam ploughing. Ray was a good friend and colleague; Carole and Ray were generous hosts on the occasions when my wife Stephanie and I visited their home. Two years ago, Ray invited several of us to join him in a trip by van to the Blowlamp meeting in Belgium; it was one of the top highlights of my experience as a collector.

Ray ran his own business from home, providing a design and planning service, directed at extensions and alterations to property, navigating the local authority approval process and project management. His professionalism in his business activity carried over into the high quality of newsletters that he produced for the **Blowlamp Society** during the past nine years.

ANNOUNCEMENT

By Keith Hawkins

The untimely death of our editor for the past nine years, Ray Hyland, has delayed this issue of *Blowlamp News*. For this year, 2012, we plan on three issues rather than the usual four. While we search for a permanent replacement as editor, I am grateful to long-time member Graham Stubbs who has agreed to assemble the next several issues. Additionally, Chris Naylor has been most helpful in facilitating this transition.

Now is the time for all of you who enjoy **The Blowlamp Society** and its newsletter to consider a more prominent role in its organization. Please let us know your interest in a role as editor, or at the very least in providing content for *Blowlamp News*. Contact information is on the back page.

BLOWLAMP SOCIETY 20TH BIRTHDAY

Saturday 27th October
Toddington Village Hall
9 AM until 4 PM
Admission £22.50 includes a meal, soft drinks etc.

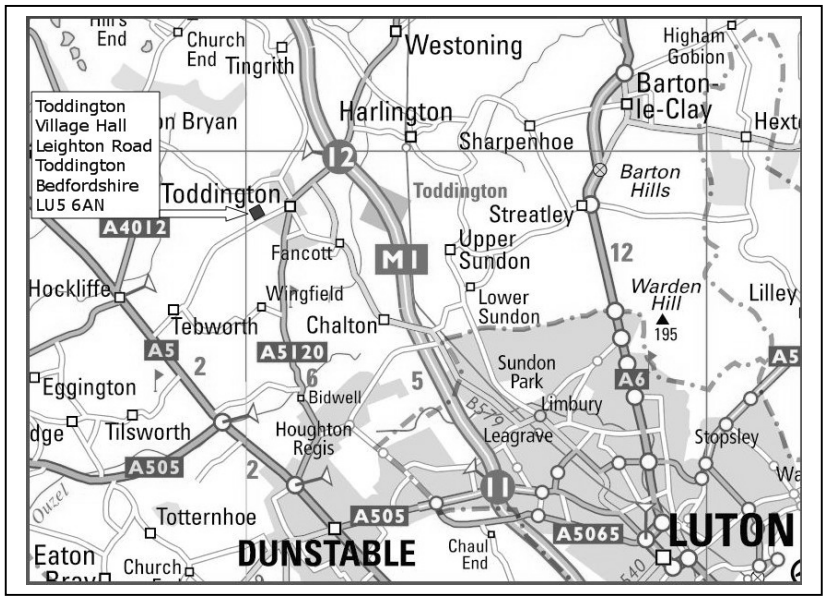
The hall in Toddington has been booked, the food is organized, and many of you have already indicated your intention to be there! If you haven't already done so, please contact Keith Hawkins to register for the event … and bring lamps, photographs and stories, and be prepared to see blowlamp paraphernalia that you've **NEVER** seen before!

Hotel Accommodation:

A Travelodge is located in Hockcliffe, on the A5, two and three quarter miles from the village hall in Toddington.

Travelodge.co.uk

An inexpensive rate of nineteen pounds per night is reported to be available, if you book at least 21 days ahead.



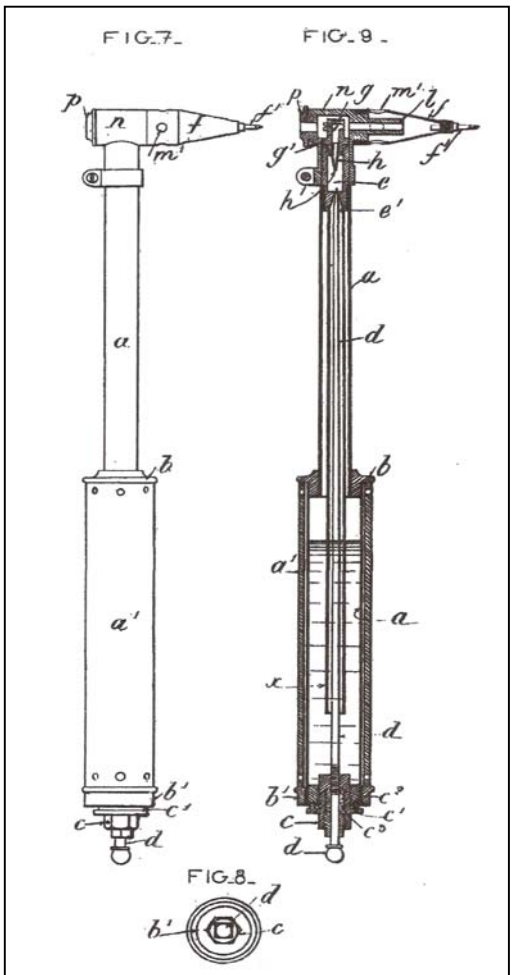
IN THIS ISSUE

Lamps for Cauterizing and Pyrography
Part I

Occasionally a lamp surfaces, which resembles a self-heated soldering iron, but which was designed for a quite different purpose. In 1897 a UK patent was issued to Jean Baptiste **Dechery** of France, a veterinary surgeon, for an "Apparatus for Use for Cauterizing and Soldering Purposes". (The same patent application appeared in France and the USA)

The patent describes a self-heated iron whose primary purpose was the medical cauterizing of wounds. Cauterizing was a long established procedure used to seal blood vessels and to remove unwanted tissue. Ordinarily a cauterizing iron, resembling a soldering iron but with an iron tip, would have been heated in a flame or fire. The self heated cauterizer had the same benefits for the physician or veterinarian as did the self heated soldering iron for the plumber.

These devices sometimes show up as a set in a fitted case with a selection of tips, of various shapes. The case may contain a small alcohol burner, which was used to get the self-heated device lit initially. After lighting, the cauterizing iron would generate its own internal pressure to keep fuel vapor flowing; it did not require a pump.



Jean Baptiste Dechery
UK Patent 189701793

Here are three examples of boxed sets of cauterizing irons, from collections of members of the Blowlamp Society. Each set works on the principles outlined in the Dechery patent.

Norman Penny says that a former member of the Household Cavalry identified this as a German-made "pin and line firer", and that he hadn't seen one in fifty years. It was used on horses' leg tendons if they became weak (stretched). The tendon would be burnt at regular intervals causing it to shrink. This is now an outlawed practice.

Each of these three sets came with multiple burner heads, at least one of which was “axe” shaped, and others are threaded to take the small extension points.

The next example from **Keith Hawkin**s’ collection has a case that carries a nameplate marked for the French company **Gasselin**, of Paris, supplier of surgical instruments and veterinary apparatus.

(Editor’s note: The user booklet, dated 1896, that came with the with the Gasselin cauterizer refers to it as the “Pyrogène Dechery, Cautère Vétérinaire sans Soufflerie, Absolument Automatique” which loosely translates into English as “Dechery’s Pumpless Veterinary Cauterizer - Completely Automatic.” This description establishes the relationship between the Dechery patent and Gasselin and similar cauterizers.

Chris Naylor provided the photograph of the third set, marked **WL Mfg. Co.**, and thought to be American in origin.

Beneath the wooden lid at bottom right are two round heads and threaded points.

The spirit lamp has a vertical extension from one side to support the cauterizing iron while it is being pre-heated.

All three sets include custom made spanners for disassembling the tools.

In the next issue of Blowlamp News, Part II of this article discusses small versions of these tools for use by physicians, and the related pyrography or “poker work” devices.

AGRA

By Michel Duval

This is a quite rare Spanish blowlamp. "A**GRA MARCA REGISTRADA**" is stamped on the tank. I thought the country of origin was from South America. But I recently learnt that **AGRA** is a Spanish make, from Barcelona. The manufacturer was Augustin Granollers and AGRA is made up of the letters A (surname) and GRA (name). AGRA also manufactured stoves.

I know of four different sizes of the models. Mine is slightly more than 2 pints, the second one up in size. The tank is made in strong brass and the solid burner is cast, similar to the German Barthel. The priming cup and the wind shield also look like Barthel. The control knob and the pump knob are in Bakelite. The pump is into the wooden handle and there is an air release valve on the shoulder of the fuel tank.

I don't know the time (period) of manufacture, maybe 1930/1940?

We already knew different Spanish makes like SERROT, FEYER, CIMSA, FOCUS...

Now, we can add **AGRA**. And I think there are some others...

At right are photographs of four models of AGRA blowlamps, in the collection of BTCA member **Gregory Lopez Benito**.

Four Models of AGRA Blowlamps

Four Models of AGRA Blowlamps

CrisCol Blowlamps

By Chris Naylor

Some time back I acquired a **CrisCol** Model 115, a half-pint petrol model (below). It was featured in Blowlamp News No 69. At the time I could find no information about the name, and assumed this was one of those odd finds where the trail seems to end, though notably the name CrisCol appeared on the list of British Blowlamps, which Ray Hyland produced a few years back. It also appears on Michel Duval's blowlamp list, and in fact I learnt from him that CrisCol was a trade or brand name for **Christopher Collins Limited** of **St Paul's Square, Birmingham.** Michel also kindly sent me a photograph of his CrisCol, another model 115, as well as an interesting copy of a Brown Brothers advertisement (below).

CrisCol No 115

More recently I acquired a CrisCol Model 110, a one pint model, also for petrol, though differently configured. Note that a short length of steel tube has been fixed into the end of the burner tube. Most likely a later repair or modification. The soldering iron support may equally be a later addition.

CrisCol No 110

The two models, 110 and 115, do not represent the entire range, as Keith Hawkins reported having once owned a five pint CrisCol which he likened (if my memory is correct) to a Barthel Smaragdin / Diamantin.

Interestingly, a further search revealed a Roll of Honour for the workers from Christopher Collins Limited who fought in the Great War:

"The Roll of Honour for the firm lists the men who joined his Majesty's forces, arranged by their occupation within the company (lamp makers, lamp fitters, polishers, stores, labourers, brassworkers, toolsetters, lorry drivers and attendants, burnishers, a toolmaker, a dipper, an electrician, a spinner and an annealer) giving for each his surname, and initials. The names of those killed in the conflict are noted as such". (Website *The Original Record*).

This describes quite a wide range of trades within the Company, though the question here is whether Christopher Collins Limited actually manufactured these particular products. Whilst it would seem likely that the Company (as a retailer, or stockist) imprinted (or had imprinted) the CrisCol trade name on other manufacturers' products, the list of trades above indicates a notable manufacturing capacity.

My search also revealed that the Company was the subject of a winding-up order in 1927, and a liquidator was appointed in 1928 (records of the *London Gazette*).

Some time back I also found a link to a CrisCol Primus type

stove. The tank, filler cap and pressure release screw are all stamped thus. Again, was this produced by another manufacturer, and the components imprinted with the CrisCol trade name?

CrisCol Stove

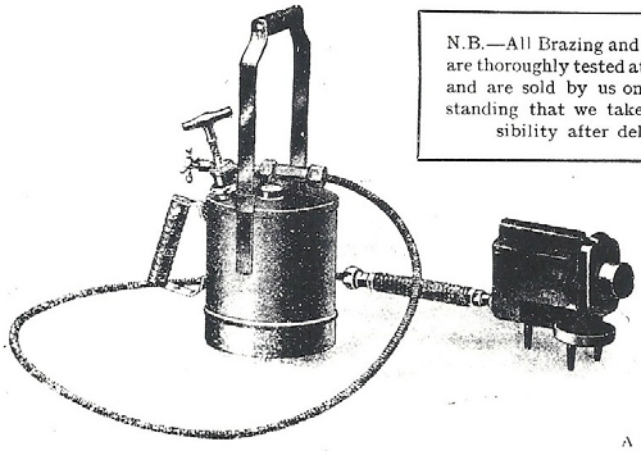
BENZOLINE BLOW LAMP.

Finally, refer to Michel's Brown Brothers advertisement (below), which is dated 1935 and therefore post-dates the closure of Christopher Collins Limited by some seven years. It shows a *Benzolene blow lamp* (left) described as the 'Swedish type', but with the option of either a *British Make* or a *Swedish Make*. Though it is not identical in every detail, it does bear a close resemblance to our CrisCol No 115.

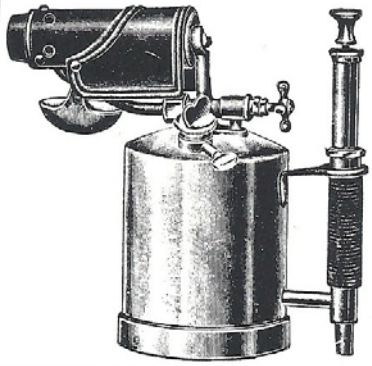
And so, if this particular lamp was manufactured in both Sweden and England, who were, respectively, the manufacturers?

I have searched my own archive to see if I could find identical models, by *other* manufacturers, to both the CrisCol No 110 and No 115, but without success. The *nearest* I found to the 110 was a Max Sievert No 12 Vapouria, and for the 115, an early version Primus 855. It would be interesting to know if any other members had further information, or owned a CrisCol, perhaps a different model to those listed here? Until more is known, it will be difficult to decide who actually manufactured these lamps (*and* stove).

BRAZING LAMPS AND BLOW LAMPS—*continued*



N.B.—All Brazing and Blow Lamps are thoroughly tested at the factory, and are sold by us on the understanding that we take no responsibility after delivery.



"MARCO" BRAZING LAMPS

Swedish make. (Paraffin.)

A concentrated powerful heat, suitable for motor or cycle brazing. A serviceable, durable and thoroughly reliable lamp. Absolutely safe.

No.			Each.
39/B210a/*2160*	2½ pints, flame approx. 9 ins.	.. ..	28/-
39/B210b/*3106*	4 ,, ,, ,, 15 ,,	.. ..	42/-
39/B210c/*3605*	6 ,, ,, ,, 16 ,,	.. ..	48/6

'DUCO" PORTABLE BRAZING OUTFIT.

British made. (Paraffin.)

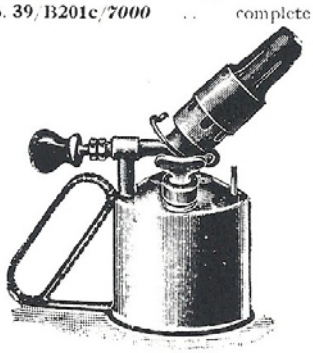
An improved type of brazing lamp with detachable burner and flexible hose.

The burner can, when so desired, be fitted direct to the lamp

The bail handle will be found very convenient

Capacity of container approx. 6 pints

No. 39/B201c/*7000* .. complete 88/-



BENZOLINE BLOW LAMP.

These lamps, popularly known as the "Swedish type," are made from heavy gauge brass throughout, each lamp being well tested at works.

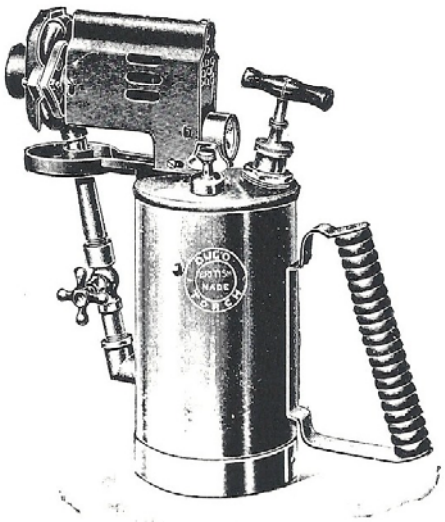
Swedish Make.

No. 39/B238a/*611*	½ pint ..	each	9/3
,, 39/B238b/*808*	¾ ,, ..	,,	11/6

British Make.

No. 39/B238e/*609*	½ pint ..	each	8/11
,, 39/B238f/*806*	¾ ,, ..	,,	11/-

Any of these lamps can be supplied with vertical burner to special order.



'DUCO" BRAZING LAMP

(Barthel System.) **British made.** (Paraffin.)

Thoroughly recommended for long and hard service. All have brass containers.

No.		Each.
39/B209a/*4000*	Capacity 2½ pints ..	50/-
39/B209b/*5000*	,, 5 ,, ..	60/-

PARAFFIN BLOW LAMPS.

Well-known "Aetna" type all have brass bodies

Swedish Make

No. 39/B213a/*803*	½ pint .	each	11/-
,, 39/B213b/*900*	1 ,, ..	,,	12/-
,, 39/B213c/*1101*	2 ,, ..	,,	14/9

British Make.

No. 39/B213f/*906*	1 pint ..	each	12/6
39/B213g/*1009*	2 ,, ..	,,	14/6

BLOW LAMPS (Painters').

(Paraffin.)

Similar to above, but with open type burner for burning off paint, etc

Swedish Make.

No. 39/B215b/*1001*	1 pint .	each	13/6
,, 39/B215c/*1108*	2 ,, ..	,,	15/6

Any of these lamps can be supplied with vertical burner to special order

As a footnote, Brown Brothers had been, amongst other things, manufacturers of cycles, motorcycles & automobiles, and also supplied a diverse range of spares, accessories and tools. Duco and Marco (the brazing lamps shown) appear to have been brand names used by Brown Brothers on a variety of items at different times. The names Duco and Marco have appeared in previous editions of Blowlamp News. To follow up, see the Blowlamp News Index, which appeared with the June 2011 issue, BN 76.

McCaul No. M126 Blowlamp- Australia

By Michel Duval

This is a typical British blowlamp with the usual burner, handle, tank, pump, etc. I am no specialist on Monitor lamps but this **McCAUL** looks like a Monitor N°26, they are as like as two peas in a pod!

It has a 1 pint tank, there is the same burner, the same filler cap and the same high pump. However in the space where "MONITOR" is usually stamped on the Monitor handle but there is no marking on the McCAUL handle.

The usual Monitor marking : "FILL THREE PARTS FULL" is on the filler cap. One difference is the bracket without the soldering iron hook.

"PARAFFIN ONLY McCAUL BRITISH MADE N° M126" is stamped on the tank.

In the list of Australian agents and importer found in BN77 page 11 is McCaul (1949) Automatic Heating Appliances Pty. Ltd., 41-43 Park Street, Melbourne.

So this lamp appears to be British made by Monitor, and imported into Australia by McCaul, with that Company's name stamped on it.

Also note the small brass part fastened to the upper burner support bracket. This detail is found on some Monitor lamps, and is seen on a few advertisements for the Monitor No. 26. It would have been filled with a length of wick, one end on which would have been resting in the primer cup, directing a preheating flame into the burner shield. See below the same feature on a Marples lamp.

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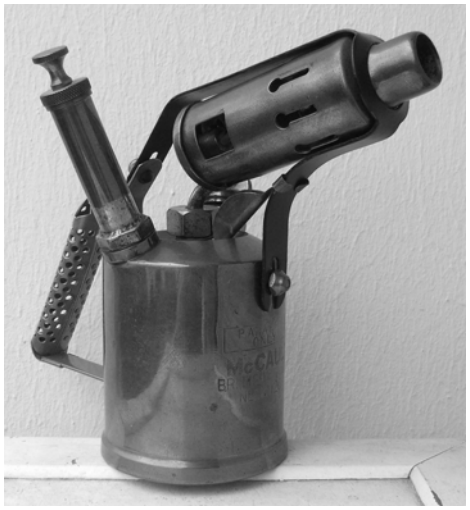
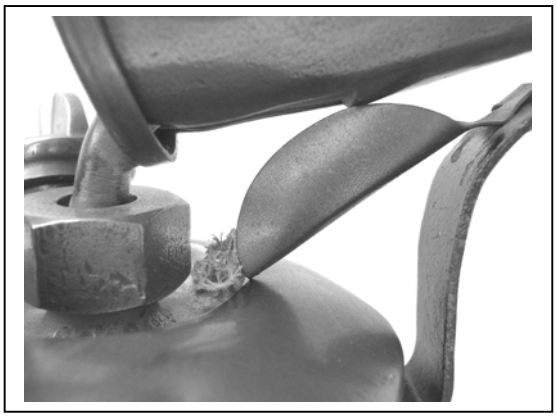
McCaul One Pint Lamp, Like Monitor 26



McCaul One Pint Lamp, Like Monitor 26



Bright Lights, Gas Bags, …and Blowlamps

By Graham Stubbs

Part I

Bright Lights

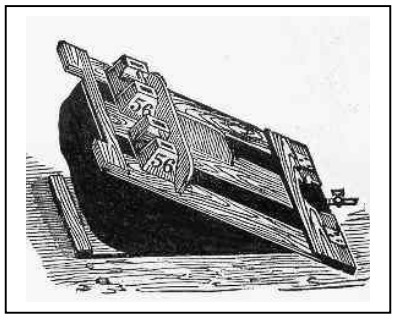
In 1825 Michael Faraday, the famous English scientist, discovered that if an oxygen-hydrogen flame were directed against a piece of quicklime, the heated lime produced a brilliant yellowish light. A British Royal Engineers officer, Captain Thomas Drummond applied this brilliant light to land surveying. In an early demonstration, he set a limelight marker on a mountaintop near Belfast, Ireland, which was so bright that it could be seen in Scotland nearly sixty miles away.

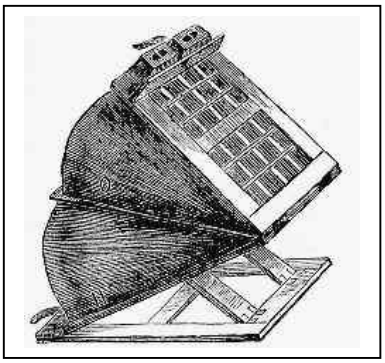
Soon enterprising individuals saw a more general use for these light sources and by 1856 the first theatrical installation was put to use in London's Princesses Theater, where a lens was placed in front of the lime to produce a spot of bright light. Prior to this, the only lighting for actors on the indoor stage was by oil lamps and candles. By 1860, the technique of limelight operation was well known, with the operator sitting atop bladders containing the oxygen and hydrogen and using his weight to control the pressure. Unfortunately, accidents were somewhat common and after London's Drury Lane Theater was burned to the ground as the result of a burst bag, iron cylinders were made mandatory.

Gas Bags

Initially Lanternists, as they became known, had to manufacture their own hydrogen and oxygen, which were stored on the floor beneath the lantern. Two bags were needed, one for oxygen and another for the fuel, which was normally hydrogen, although coal gas could be used. The bags were made of two layers of stout twill cloth with a layer of rubber in between. The gas was pressurized by trapping the bags between boards held together by a “wedge” frame, the top board being held down by heavy weights. Small boys were sometimes hired to sit on the bags to create the desired pressure, but this was a hazardous procedure. Gas compressed at high pressure into iron cylinders fitted with regulators eventually replaced the gas bags

At right is an illustration of a single gas bag, used to supply oxygen for the oxy-calcium lamp, showing the weights that were used to apply pressure. At far right are the two bags used to supply separately the oxygen and hydrogen to a limelight.





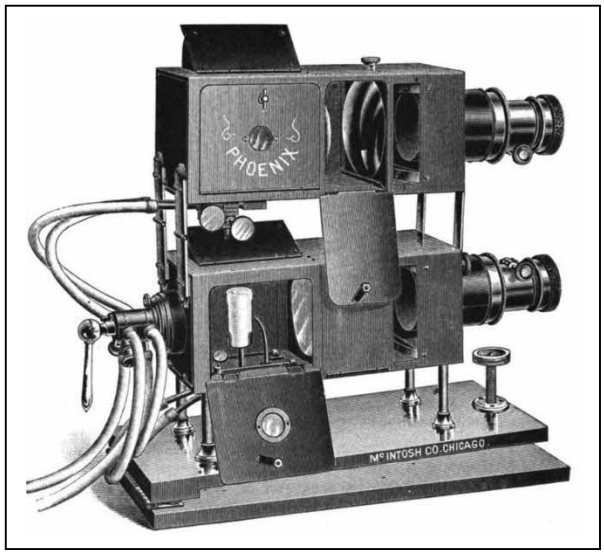
Limelight

The term “limelight” originally referred to the light itself, both the device and the illumination. It also came to mean the space on a stage where the limelight was cast. Because this was the prime space at the center of a stage where aspiring actors wanted to be, being “in the limelight” came to mean achieving fame. In the late nineteenth century, the expression spread from theatrical circles to widespread use among the general public through trade publications and popular journalism. The word “Limelight” appeared in two movie titles, the best known of which is Charlie Chaplin’s 1952 film in which he played an aging performer who seeks one last chance at fame and fortune on the stage.

Magic Lanterns

Limelights were also used extensively in magic lanterns. The intense white light was focused on hand-painted or photographically prepared slides, which were then projected on a white calico screen. The early versions of the magic lantern, which was invented in the seventeenth century, had a concave mirror in front candles or oil lamps that gathers light and projects it through a slide with an image scanned onto it. The invention of the limelight made the projected images much brighter, and enabled the showing of images screens as large as thirty feet across to large audiences. Beginning in the early 19th century, the magic lantern became immensely popular as a medium of entertainment and amusement, as well as a vehicle for bringing information to audiences. By mid-century, successful projectionists would, through popular demand, present current events, exploration, travel, natural history and astronomy, as well as the usual comic and novelty slides.

In the late eighteen-hundreds, apparatus used for these public events was typically an impressive combination of polished mahogany and lacquered brass, with pipes connecting to the gas sources for the illuminating lamps. All of this had to be carried from show to show by the showman. In order to dissolve from one image to the next, versions of the magic lantern were provided with two or three projectors rolled in to one pieces of apparatus. Often called "stereopticon" shows, the events were the combination of projected images, live narration, and live music. This was the technology that preceded the movies. Interestingly, the use of painted slides permitted color images long before Technicolor motion pictures.



Lantern slide shows were incredibly popular on both sides of the Atlantic. It is estimated that by 1895 there were between 30,000 and 60,000 lantern showmen in the United States, giving between 75,000 and 150,000 performances a year.

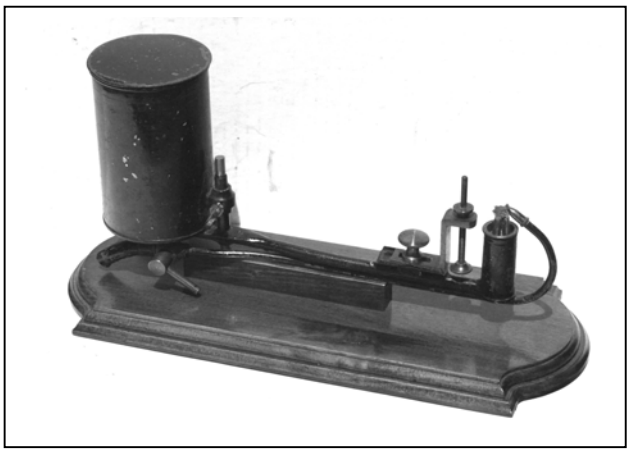
The Limelight Lamp

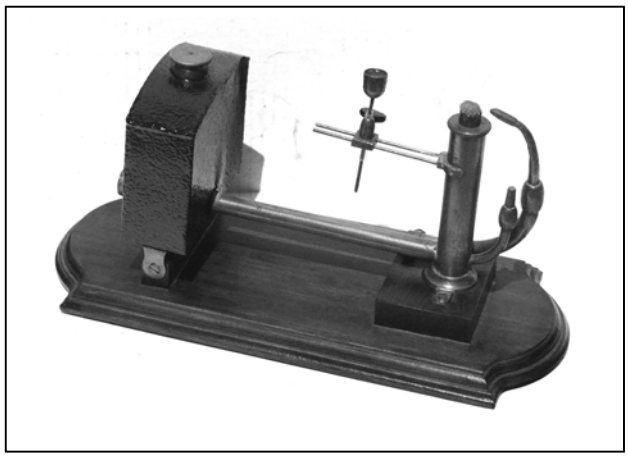
This is the story of something that doesn't look much like a blowlamp ….. but really is.

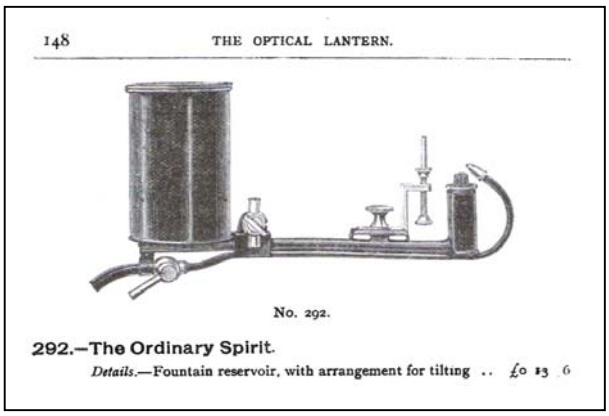
The device that enabled this popular form of public entertainment was the "limelight" lamp, which was made in two basic types. In each case a flame was directed on to a block of lime but the method of combustion varied and the intensity of light was not the same.

The oxy-calcium lamp used a jet of oxygen blown through the flame of a spirit (alcohol) lamp to heat the surface of the lime block. An even more intense light was produced by the oxy-hydrogen jet, where oxygen and hydrogen were mixed together before being burnt. This flame was so hot it could burn a cavity in the lime and great care and constant adjustment was needed to produce a steady light. A mechanical arrangement let the operator rotate and raise or lower the lime cylinder so that a fresh part of the surface could be presented to the fiercely burning flame, and another adjustment altered the distance between the nozzle of the jet and the surface of the block.

Several years ago I came across what I thought were two blowpipes used for chemical analysis. Each has a container for liquid fuel in the form of alcohol, a burner with a wick for a flame, a pipe (or pipes) for connecting to some form of source of gas under pressure, and a blowpipe nozzle directed at through the flame location at an adjustable fixture that can hold a cylindrical mineral sample. (In these photos they are mounted on display boards; in practice, they were typically mounted on a short stem at one end of a metal tray – photos collection of Graham Stubbs).







148 THE OPTICAL LANTERN.

No. 292.

292.—The Ordinary Spirit.

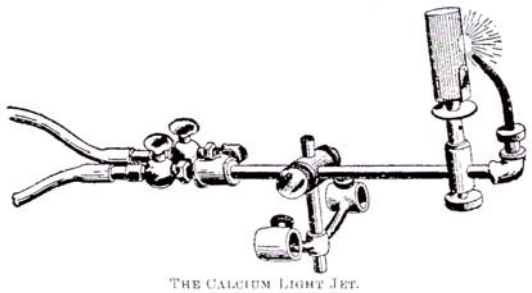
Details.—Fountain reservoir, with arrangement for tilting .. £0 13 6

The book "Optical Lanterns", published in London in 1888 illustrates exactly the device at above left, described as a "spirit jet for limelight". A fixture allows for mounting a hollow cylindrical piece of quicklime, for adjusting its position in relation to the jet, and for rotating it as one side became pitted from the intense heat. This is in fact the "limelight" lamp for a British Victorian Magic Lantern.

The limelight fell into disuse as cheaper and more efficient electrical lighting sources found their way onto the stage. But, the word limelight remains with us today in metaphor.

Enterprise Optical Manufacturing Company

Another version of the limelight lamp, this one using two separate gas supplies, appears in the 1900 catalog of an American company, **Enterprise Optical Mfg. Co.** of Chicago, Illinois, manufacturer of a products related to magic lanterns and early movie projectors. This company also made another illuminating device based on the same principles as a blowtorch.



THE CALCIUM LIGHT JET.

Calcium Light Jet, 1900

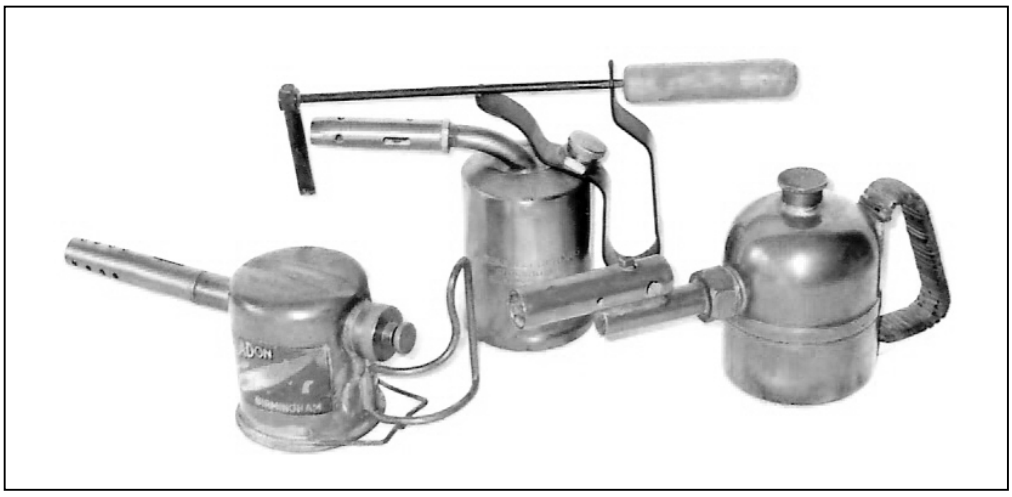
Part II of "Bright Lights, Gas bags and Blowlamps" will appear in the December 2012 issue of Blowlamp News.

¼ Pint Blowlamps … and a Mystery Solved

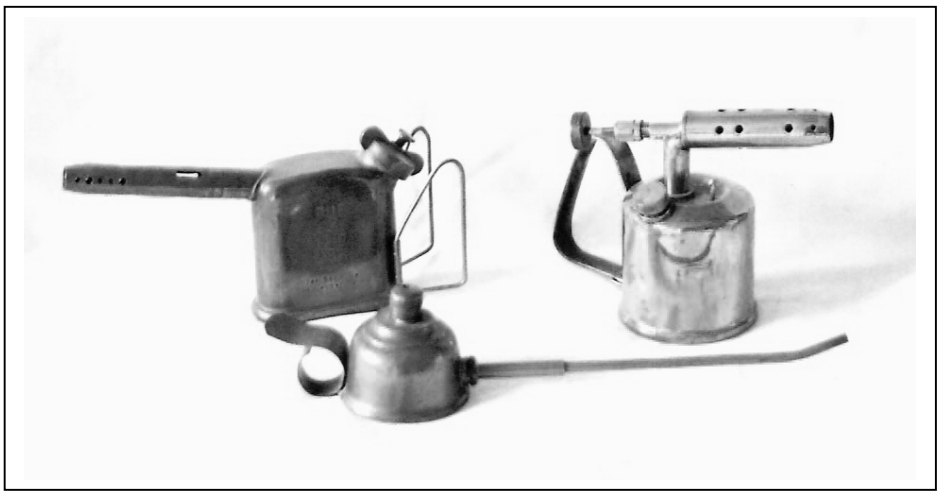
By Keith Hawkins

There seem to be a great quantity of ¼ pint blowlamps, for all sorts of uses, ranging from radio & electrical soldering, thawing out frozen pipes, piano tuning, in the kitchen, very fine jewelry work, stained glass windows, telephone work, in the car & for model makers.

The first photograph shows a **Bladon B49** from 1939, an **Optimus 301** with the soldering iron & handle all in one piece & the third is a British made **"Doesit" S.1.** Looking through the British catalogue put together in 1999 by Philippe Touillet, I notice that there is also a "Kelite" No. S.1. Kelite lamps were made by Kitson-Empire Lighting Company Limited in Stamford. So the "Doesit", which is identical must have been made by the same company. Both of these lamps are for use with methylated spirits (meths). To light fill the tank half full & then hold a match under the burner & it will ignite. These lamps were used in the 1920s. The Bladon 49 also used meths. I have to confess that I do not know for certain what the Optimus used, but I would expect it to be meths as well. For the record the ancient name for it was "The Swedish No. 0"



The second photograph has a **Hahnel "EHT LAMPE"** on the left. For those of you who want to know what EHT stands for it is "Ernst Hahnel Taschenlampen". Next to it is a C**anon 75 "U"** from France; both of them are petrol fueled. The spirit lamp in the front has no name, but it's the one used by piano tuners for warming warped wooden hammers in a piano. When sufficiently warmed up they can be straightened up by pressure from one's forefinger and thumb.



(Editor's note: The term "1/4 pint blowlamp" is taken here to mean "smaller than ½ pint", rather than a precise measure of fuel capacity.

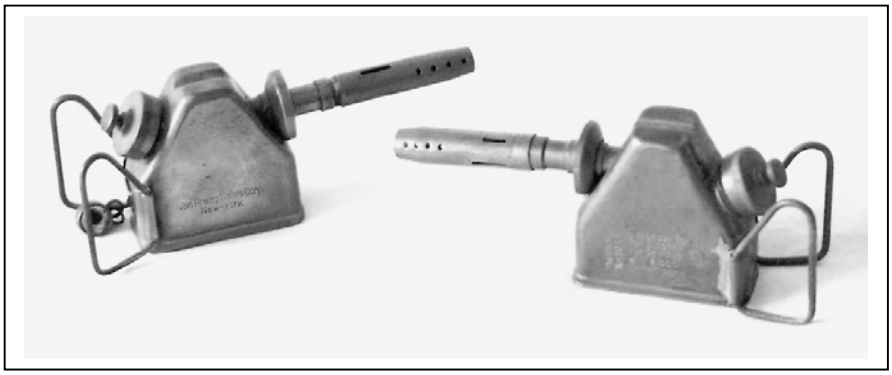
In the third photograph, the first lamp is a **Sievert 207**, the centre lamp is a **Burmos** and the third is a **Monitor 130**. Most of these small lamps have a push on burner secured by a screw, but this third one has a screw on burner tube with a nut to tighten it. The three lamps are for petrol & all date back to the 1920s & 1930s.

The two lamps in the fourth photograph are:

At left, the **"Hecowa"** from Germany, for use with meths, and used in the kitchen to remove the stubble from freshly plucked fowl. The other lamp is an **"Original Hahnel" No. 260**. This has a pump and is for petrol.

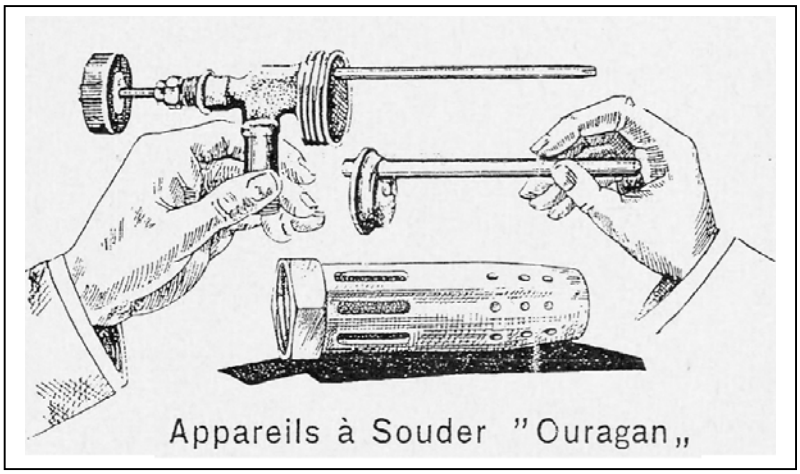
The fifth photograph shows two **Monitor 130s**, one with the wind shield & the push-on burner & soldering iron holder and the second one with the nut attached to the burner for tightening.

In the sixth photograph are two **Barthel "Little Wonder Torches"** for alcohol, but the left hand one was distributed by the **Van Praag** Sales Corporation of New York.



In the last photograph are two lamps, - one German – the **Orkan 150** & the other, larger, one an **Oerlikon 501** from Switzerland. Nothing odd about these two ordinary lamps, except on the main fuel supply casting just behind the burner it says –cast into the brass- "Patent Orkan". What is the common denominator between these two? They are completely different in every way so why the Orkan patent on a Swiss lamp? …What's the solution to this mystery?

Blowlamp Society member **Gerard Muller** explained, "Orkan or Orcan is a German trade mark. It is **ALSO** the name given to a Swiss patent, used in lamps made by Oerlikon and Wettstein, for the petrol preheating system. It replaces the spiral tube around the burner (all Swiss lamps with spirals have them made from copper or brass and not iron). It is a tube of 3 mm diameter, as long as the burner, in which the petrol his heated before burning. All Oerlikon models are available Orkan (with the internal tube) or Standard (with spirals). In the French book n°4 (edited by Michel Duval) it's explained with a drawing on page 157."



Michel Duval went on to explain: The French word "Ouragan" is "Orkan" in German and is "Hurricane" in English. On the one hand, there are two German trademarks: Orkan and Orcan. These two makes are from the same German manufacturer (see 2 photos). In my opinion (I am not sure) Orkan became Orcan because the Swiss trademark Orkan existed before the German trade mark Orkan. So, the German manufacturer had to replace the letter K by the letter C.

On the other hand, there are two Swiss trademarks: Oerlikon and Orkan. These two marks are from the same manufacturer. The Oerlikon models "Type Standard" have a coiled pipe around the burner. The Orkan models ("avec brûleur Ouragan") have the preheating tube inside the burner.

Twentieth Birthday of *Blowlamp News*

Ten years ago, **Les Adams**, the founder of the **Blowlamp Societ**y, wrote in BN 41, August 2002

Ten Years On

It is ten years since, in August 1992, I wrote the first tentative *Blowlamp News* to 32 people I had met at "Stourpaine" and other much smaller rally venues. In response to a discussion among a small group of collectors about how to keep in touch during the rest of the year, when rallies were over, I suggested a newsletter. There followed the inevitable finger pointing and "you had better do it then!" Altogether since then some 200 or more people have either become members or sought information because of their interest in blowlamps. Some joined and some did not and it surely cannot have been the cost of subscriptions! Some people indeed are not Society or Club persons.

From that time a group of friends across the world has gathered together and seen the emergence of two other magazines - first the Gazette, now known as Nouvelle Gazette in France and The Torch in the USA. The popularity of the collection and study of blowlamps has spread and the documentation of their history has increased into a vast and steadily growing database.
International meetings are now held annually in four countries and with the onset of e-mail a further means of communication has been established.…

Blowlamp News is normally published at the end of March, June, September and December. Any items for inclusion should be with the editors at least four weeks before the issue date.

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