

BLOWLAMP NEWS

BN 81

DECEMBER

2012

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

NOTES FROM THE EDITORS

SUBSCRIPTION DUES

Enclosed in this issue is a renewal form for your subscription dues. Please return it by next February 28th. The next issue of Blowlamp News will be posted in March 2013 to paid-up members only.

BLOWLAMP SOCIETY 20TH BIRTHDAY MEETING

Saturday 27th October 2012 at Toddington Village Hall

See this Issue for a Report



Toddington Meeting: Setting up the Tables

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**MAHR Blowtorches
Bright Lights, Gas bags and Blowlamps Part II**

ANNOUNCEMENT

By Keith Hawkins

For 2013, we plan to return to the usual four issues rather than the three distributed in 2012. Once again we appeal to 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 in assisting with the production of **Blowlamp News**, and/or provision of material for articles. Contact information is on the back page.

REPORT: THE TODDINGTON MEETING 2012

By Graham Stubbs

This was the first meeting since 2008. For me it was an opportunity to renew some old friendships, make new acquaintances, and visit with family. It was also an opportunity as editor of your newsletter to seek counsel on its future direction. By my count, twenty Blowlamp Society members participated in the meeting, including one each from Belgium and Holland, supported by a number of spouses and friends. Keith Hawkins deserves the credit for the hard work to recruit enough participation to make a worthwhile meeting once again, and for arranging the catering of a fine lunch. Those members who showed up early to help set up the tables deserve mention too, particularly Chris Naylor, who was there to open up, and Marnik and Katy Van Insberghe. Thank you also to those members who have responded to my request for comments on the list of "UK Blowlamp Manufacturers, Trade Names and Brands", in particular Malcolm Forster and Max Rhodes, who each came up with good additions.

As you'll see in the following pages there were many fine and rare lamps on display ... as well as some handsome faces! (Note: Any errors in the captions to these photos are entirely mine! .. GS.)



Setting up the Tables



John Tingle with Marnik and Katy Van Insberghe
John *"What do you mean, Marnik, you've seen dozens of them in Belgium?"*



Dave Thomas, Ben Welham & Dave Nichols
Dave (thinking) *"There's something they don't know about the wobbly table legs..."*



Keith Hawkins & Marnik Van Insberghe
Keith (thinking) *"Thank Goodness the Belgians and the Dutch came or I'd have had to eat the rest of the food myself!"*



Trevor Bateman & Paul Whiddett
Paul (thinking) *"I don't really need to tell him what I paid for it, do I?"*



Max Rhodes, Brian Granger & Malcolm Forster
Malcolm *"How can one guy own an entire set of those Sievert HSLs?"*



Sue Staton, Jim Cammack, Ken & Monica Longden & Keith Hawkins
Ken (thinking) *"If I stay behind this cup of tea long enough, he'll never get me in the picture!"*



Keith Hawkins & Chris Naylor
Chris *"Is this really an original Nyberg lamp?"*
Keith *"Yes, I was there when he made it!"*



Ray Everett & Trevor Bold
Trevor *"Who did you say has hundreds of Monitor 26s?"*



John Tingle & Max Rhodes
Max *"Four Jowett Javelin cars and a house for my HSL4?"*



Janus Nooijen
Janus *"I drove all the way from the Netherlands for this biscuit?"*



John Forknall
John (who isn't a member, happens to live locally and wandered in -- thinking) *"These guys must be mad!"*



Barbara Crawford & Rachael
Rachael (thinking) *"These guys must be mad!"*



Sarah & Ben Welham

Sarah *"A nice cup of tea, but where's the Wensleydale?"*



Dave Nichols

Dave *"My collection of slide rules is a lot easier to carry around than these things!"*



Ricky Rhodes

Ricky *"No, I'm **NOT** on ebay!"*



Adrian Cornell

Adrian *"Where on earth do these fellows keep all this stuff?"*



Tony Smith

Tony *"If I shipped this lot to Africa ..."
(See rear cover Ed.)*



Graham Stubbs

Graham *"Did I hear someone say they wanted a job as an editor?"*



**John Tingle's "EXHIBITION ONLY" table.
Polished to Perfection!**



**Paul Whiddett, Marnik Van Insberghe & Graham
Stubbs looking like startled rabbits caught in the
glare reflected from John Tingle's lamps.**



**Ray Everett inspecting
Janus Nooijen's fine display of rare lamps.**



**Janus Nooijen & Paul Whiddett:
Intense Negotiation?**



**Max Rhodes' splendid set of Sievert HSL 4, HSL 3, HSL 2 and HSL 1 Lamps
This example of the HSL 4 is believed to be one of only three in the world!**



KOVOPODNIK With "Y" ADAPTER
Marnik Van Insberghe



BLADON Self Heating Soldering Iron
Brian Grainger



BARTHEL Nos. 25 & 26

(Used with the Lanz Bulldog German Tractor)
Janus Nooijen



NATIONAL CEMENT Brazier
Janus Nooijen



SOLDANI Engine Lamp
Janus Nooijen"



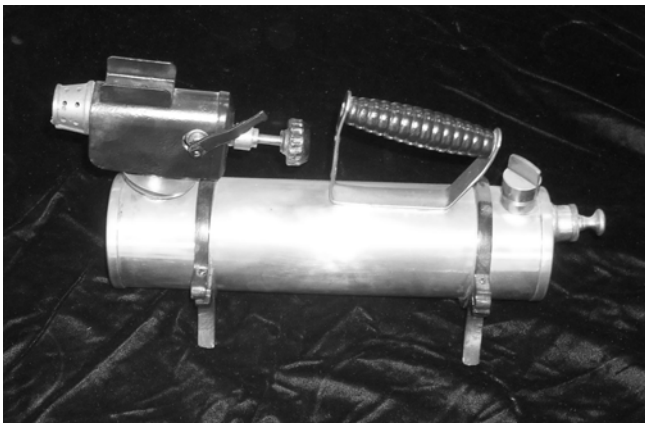
SOLDANI Engine Lamp
(Used with the Italian Landini tractor.
This lamp made only in 1926)
Janus Nooijen



**"DOES IT" Portable Brazing Outfit
Brian Grainger**



**FJ MODEL Model "D" 5 LITRE
Keith Hawkins**



**BARTHEL
An Unusual Configuration
Brian Grainger**



**ARARA (ROMANIA)
Janus Nooijen**



**MEFISTO & TURNER No. 43
John Tingle & Paul Whiddett**



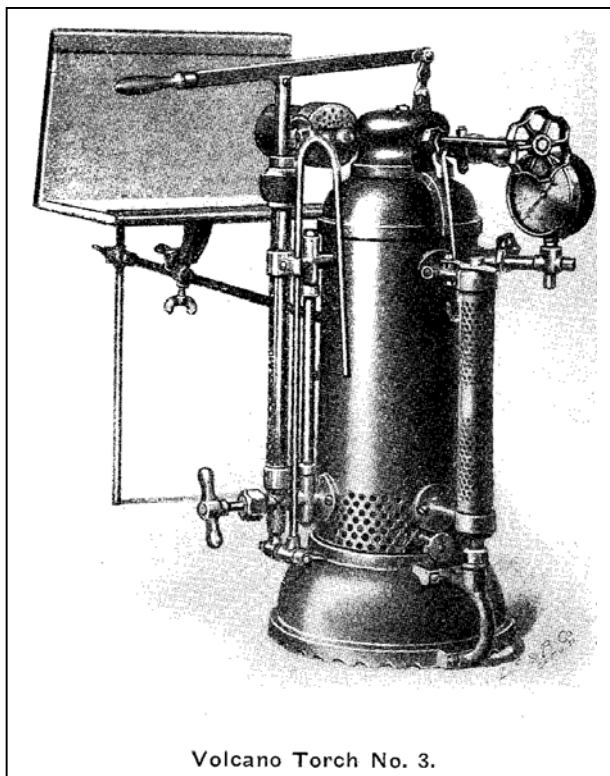
**MEFISTO & TURNER No. 45
John Tingle & Dave Thomas**

THE VOLCANO TORCH

The magnificent and beautifully restored twin burner blowtorch brought to the Toddington meeting by **John Tingle** and shown in these pictures was manufactured by the Volcano Torch & Mfg. Co. of Erie Pennsylvania. Weighing thirty-one pounds and standing eighteen inches tall, this is a very impressive tool. The construction is primarily of nickel-plated steel.



Literature describing similar torches dates from 1906. Volcano claimed to offer as many as eleven variations, including torches with one, two or three burners. This example appears to be a variation of the two-burner Volcano Model No. 3, shown at left below. A torch weighing thirty-one pounds empty, and upwards of forty pounds full of fuel, would seem to be an impossibly heavy thing to manipulate. The Volcano Company literature included this cartoon of a man holding with one hand a torch supported by a chain and pulley!



Volcano Torch No. 3.



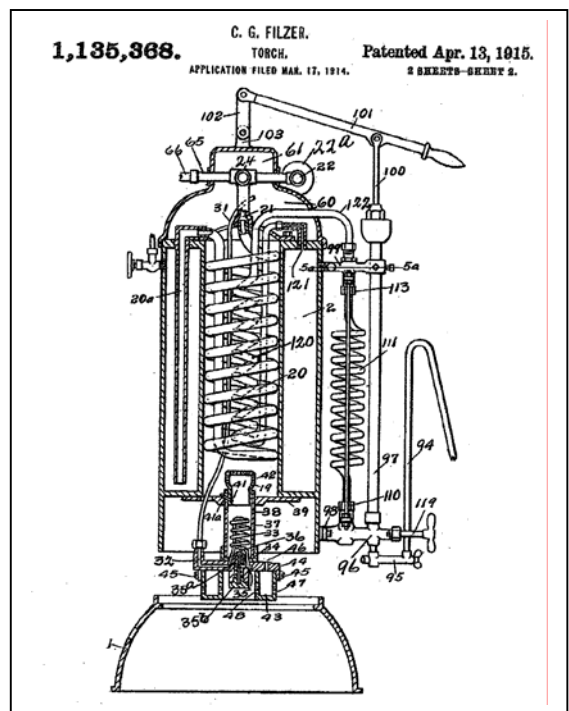
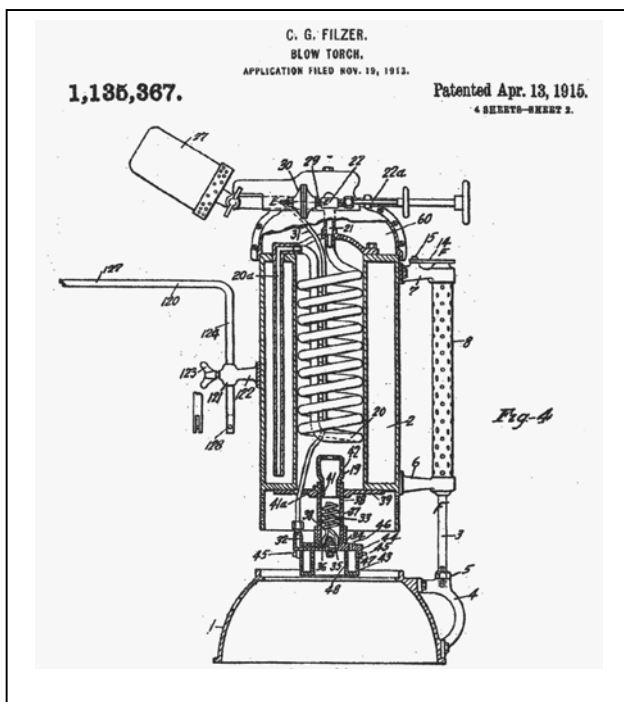
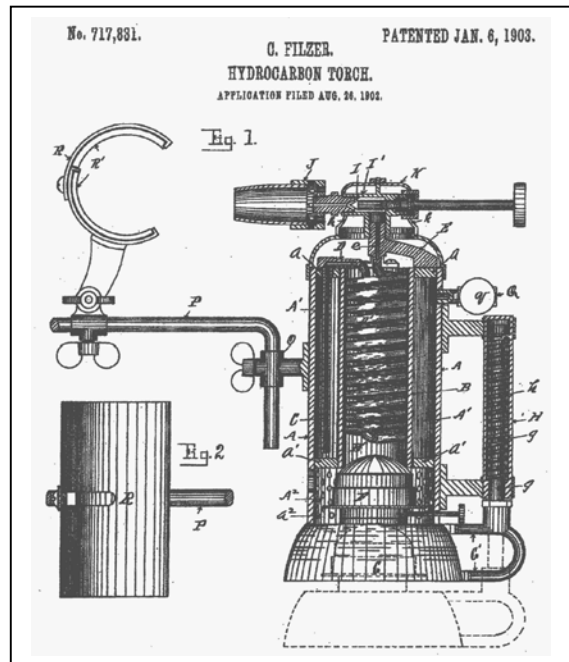
ILLUSTRATION No. 6.

The torch is marked with the company name and city, and with the patent date JAN 6, 1903. This patent was awarded to Christian Filzer for a torch that does not require either a pump or a priming cup. The hollow center of the torch contains a helical pipe in which the fuel is preheated by a lamp placed in the base. Heat from this source also raises the vapor pressure in the fuel reservoir, maintaining the flow of fuel. As shown in the patent illustration, the entire torch stands upon the heating lamp.

By 1915, Filzer had incorporated a number of improvements as shown in the patent illustrations below.

The two burners are hinged, as shown in the photos, and the illustration below left.

The pump handle seen on the photos and in the patent illustration below right, moves a suction pump intended to draw fuel up from an open can of gasoline through the hair-pin shaped tube at far right. It was advertised as “the only machine of its kind that can be refilled while in action.” (A scary thought! ... Ed.)

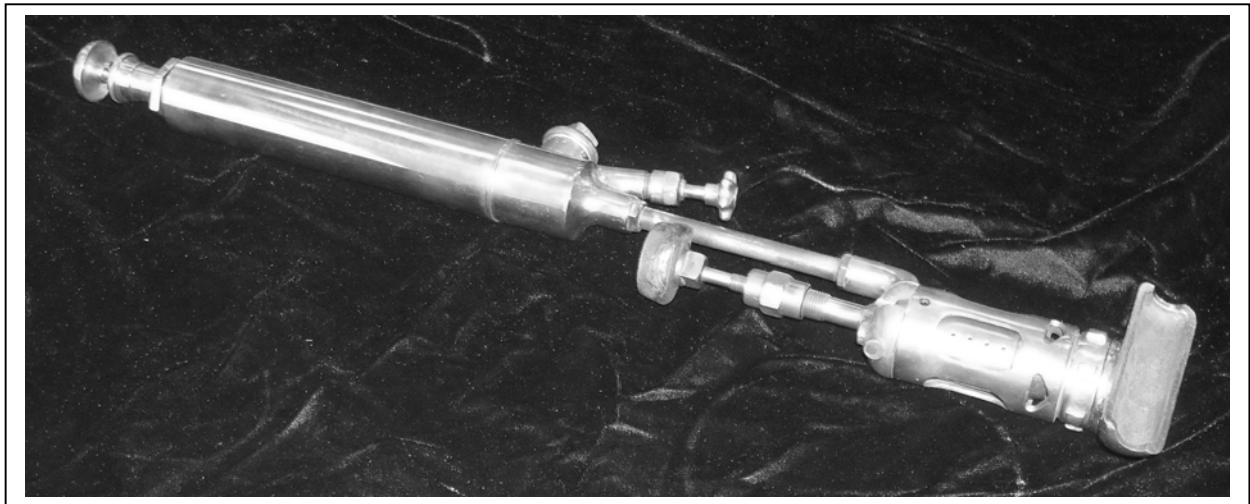


Although these torches were widely publicized when they were introduced in the early 1900s, very few have survived to the present day. Possibly the large size combined with steel construction contributed to their early demise. They were also costly; prices ranged from \$12.75 to \$25.00 US or more each. Those twenty 1906 dollars translate to upwards of \$500.00 (about three hundred and fifteen pounds) today.

THE EVERSOLE SELF HEATING SOLDERING IMPLEMENT

Here's an example of identification of an unmarked tool by reference to an illustration in a patent document. The inventor, Theodore W. Eversole at the age of 35 was working as a "machinist" for the United States Government in Washington, DC when he filed the fourth in a series of patents for self-heating soldering irons.

Eversole was living in Martinsburg, West Virginia, when he filed his first patent (US 388,187) in 1888 for a self-heating soldering iron, with an external pump and a removable copper tip. As a boy he experienced the American Civil War in Martinsburg, which changed hands between the Union and Confederate forces thirty seven times. The town, an important junction and repair depot for the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad before the war, was almost completely destroyed. After the conflict, Theodore's father worked in the rebuilding of the railroad shops as a machinist, and his son followed him into this occupation. In 1889, working in Garrett, Indiana (another B&O hub), Eversole filed a second SHSI patent (US 408,408), with improvements to the removable tip. Five years later, he was working in Washington, DC, where he filed a third SHSI patent (US 525,494), this time with the pump inside the fuel tank.



His final patent, US 835,017 was issued in 1906, with illustrations that match the example of a self-heating soldering iron, SHSI, brought to the Toddington Meeting by John Tingle. In the patent description, Eversole says,

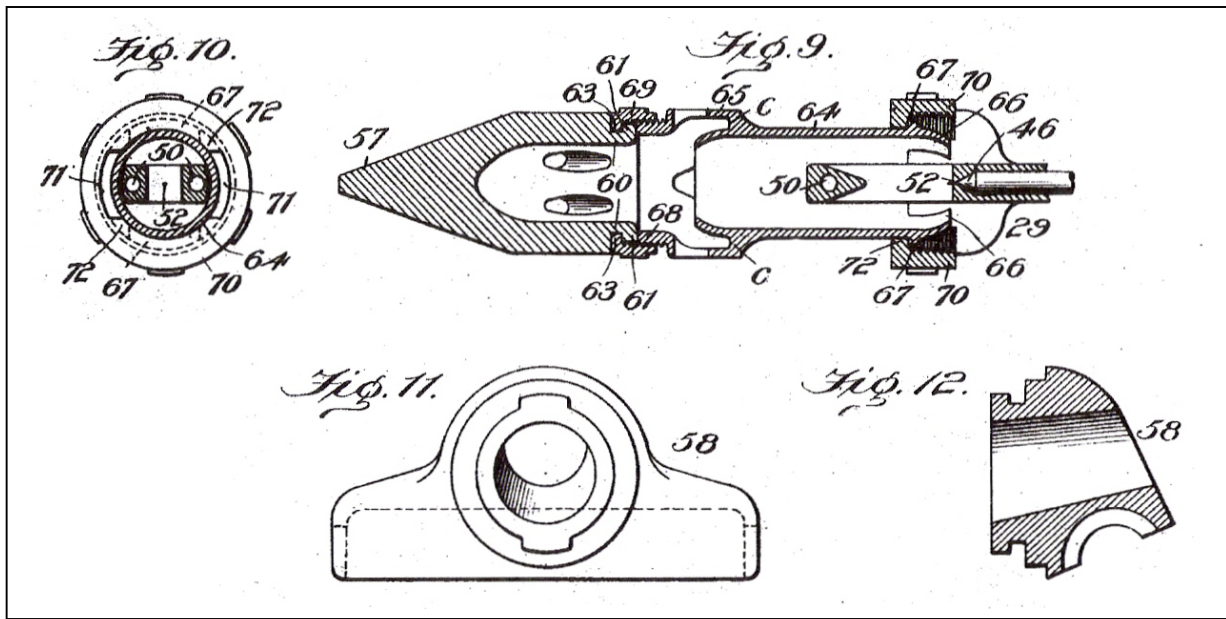
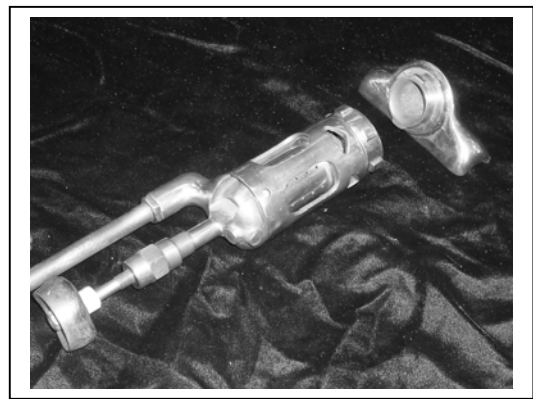
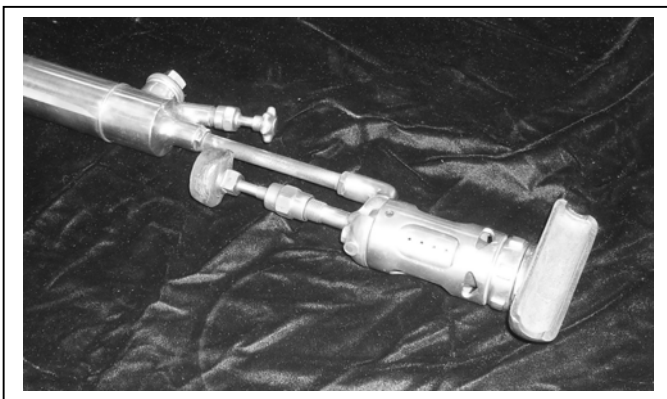
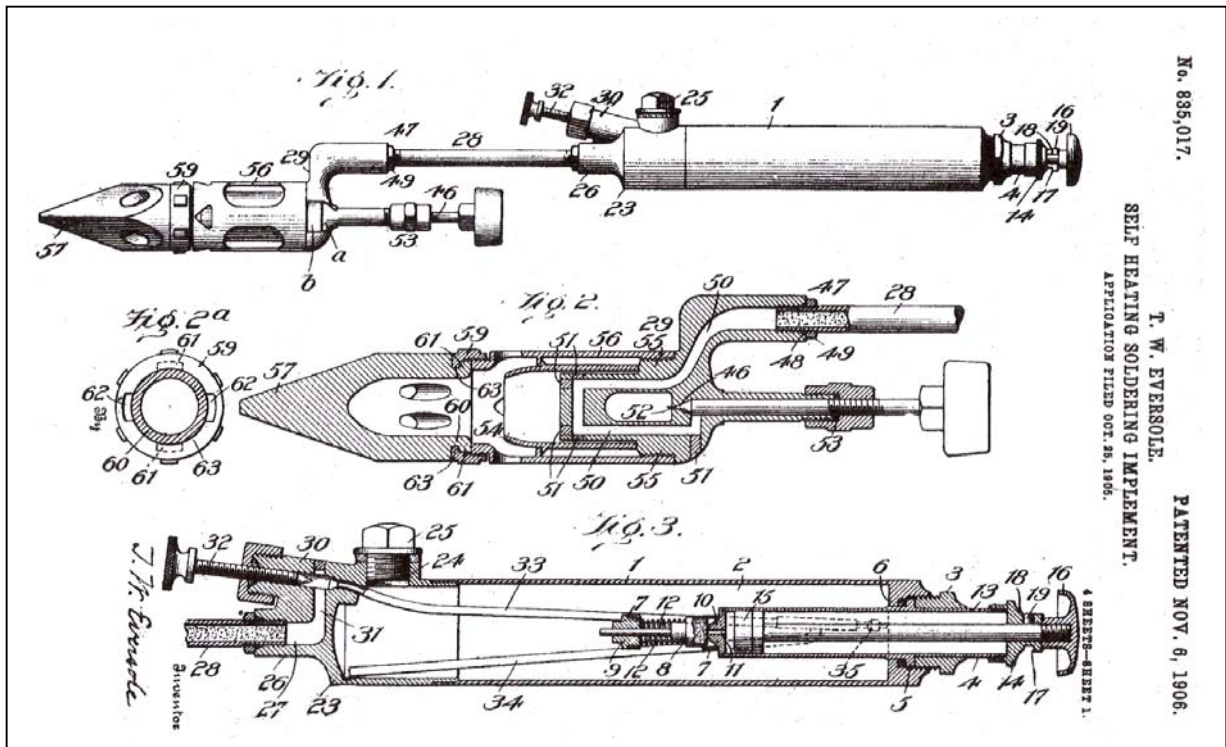
"My invention relates to that class of self-heating soldering implements in which the fuel to be employed is gasoline or similar volatile fluid supplied from a reservoir which forms the handle of the implement. The principal objects of the invention are, first to provide for a supply of fuel to the burner in whatever position the implement may be held or supported; second, to so construct the burner that an interchange of soldering tools or points may be provided for, and third, the adaptation of the implement for use as a paint breather or as a torch for heating purposes when used in connection with a suitable heater...."

The inventor claimed to have achieved the first objective of a tool that would work in any position by means of the two small diameter pipes extended inside the fuel tank from the end of the pump.

Theodore Eversole provided a quick-release mechanism for various soldering points and adapters.

With John Tingle's example came an adapter (Fig. 11 in the patent) for the particular purpose of facilitating soldering of heavy electrical wires, which would be laid in a trough at right angles to the body of the tool.

To my knowledge, no examples of the Eversole patented SHSI exist in collections in the USA.



BRIGHT LIGHTS, GAS BAGS ... and BLOWLAMPS

By Graham Stubbs

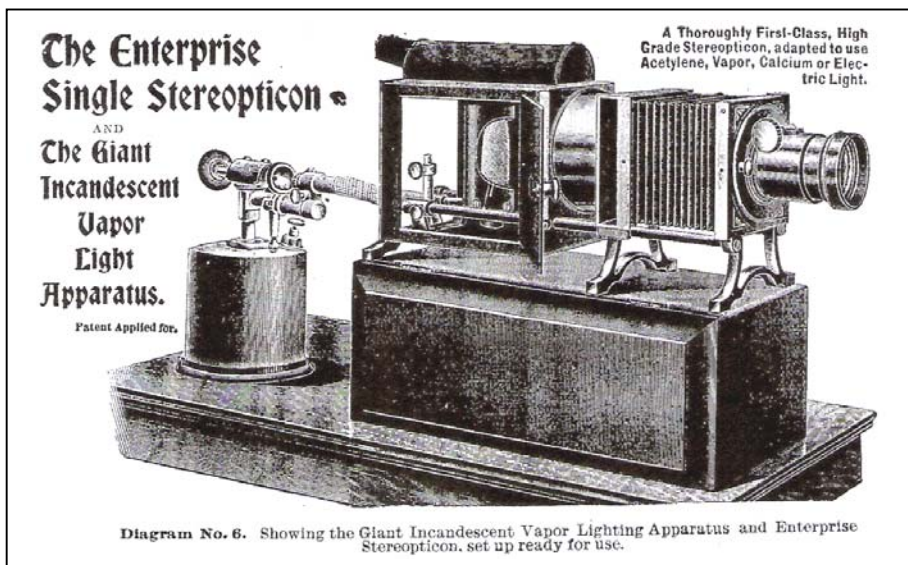
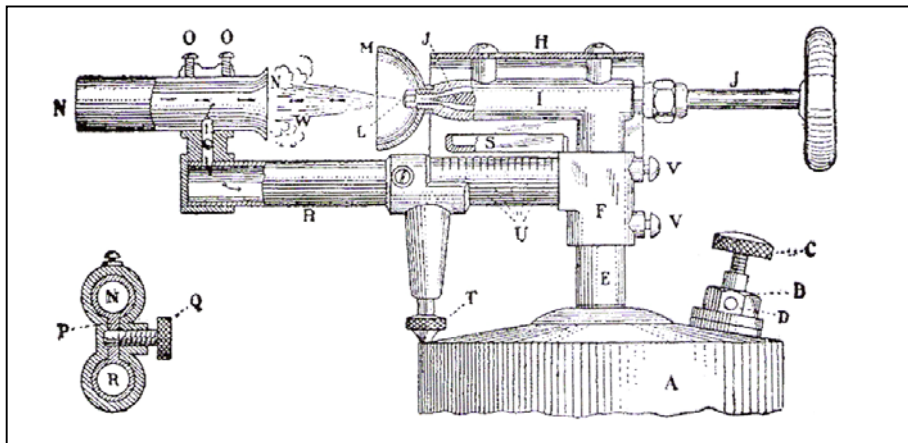
Part II (continued from BN 80, August 2012)

Not a Blowtorch

This is the story of something that looks a lot like a blowtorch but really isn't.

In the list, developed by the American Blowtorch Collectors Association (**BTCA**) of U.S. blowtorch patents, are two assigned to this same **Enterprise Optical Manufacturing Company** for what appears to be particularly unusual blowtorch. We had previously seen photos and advertisements of this device, but had no idea of its details or how it operated. **BTCA** editor Ron Carr took the time to do some further research and discovered this interesting story:

“In August 1900, two inventors, Frank McMillan and Alvah Roebuck were granted two US patents for a Generating Apparatus for **Hydrocarbon Lamps**....better known to us as blow torches. Both of the patents were assigned to the **Enterprise Optical Manufacturing Company** in Chicago, IL. What is so unique about their invention is that they were not the typical blow torches. Rather than producing a blow torch flame, the device produced an air/fuel vapor mixture that was “carried” to an incandescent mantle burner via a flexible tube. The mantle burner (similar to the mantel burners used in Coleman lanterns) was used as an incandescent illumination device for early optical projectors during the late 1800s and early 1900s.”



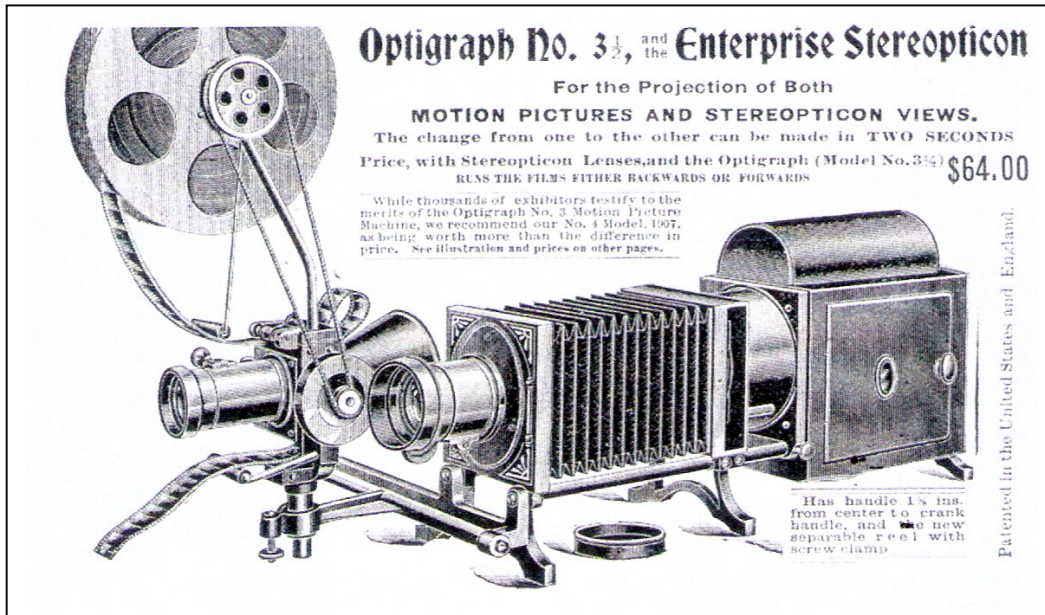
“You’ll note some unusual features); there is no air pump, a windscreen that is missing one side, a large number of slits in the horizontal pipe that is located just above the fuel tank, a brass cone-shaped piece around the nozzle area, and a huge gap between where the nozzle is located and the forward receiver tube. The torch actually does produce a flame, but not a typical blow torch flame. There was an external air supply that provided the necessary air pressure for operation. The fuel in the horizontal pipe was ignited (one side of the wind screen was removed to facilitate lighting the fuel vapor) and a wide flame was produced along the line of slits in the horizontal pipe. (You can see a large number of slits in the horizontal pipe in this close up photo below.) The flames heated the fuel in the upper horizontal pipe and produced a fuel vapor. The fuel vapor under pressure was fed through the nozzle and across the air space and into the receiver pipe. The cone-shaped brass piece was in place to prevent the fuel vapor that was coming out of the nozzle from igniting. The receiver pipe was connected to the movie projector by a flexible hose and the fuel vapor traveled through that hose into the mantel burner located inside the rear of the projector.”

This example of the **Enterprise** hydrocarbon lamp is from the collection of Dr. Charles Smith. Also see BN73, September 2010.



Does the name Alvah Roebuck mean anything to you? The co-inventor of the **Enterprise Optical Co. hydrocarbon lamps**, Alvah Roebuck, was born in Lafayette, IN on January 9, 1864. At the age of twenty-two he began work as a watchmaker in a Hammond, Indiana jewelry store. On April 1, 1887, he answered an advertisement for a watchmaker in the *Chicago Daily News*, and two days later he received a reply from Richard Sears, who wanted to interview him. Roebuck went to Chicago for the interview with samples of some of his watch repair work, and after Richard Sears saw Roebuck’s work, he hired him on the spot. Thus began the association of two men who would soon form one of the world’s best-known business partnerships. In 1893 the company was incorporated in Chicago as Sears, Roebuck and Co., evolving into the major American catalog retailer. One of the Sears Co. owned ventures, where Roebuck was President, was called the **Enterprise Optical Equipment Manufacturing Co.** While President of **Enterprise Co.**, Roebuck co-invented the two hydrocarbon lamps and designed an early motion picture projector originally marketed as the Optigraph.

Roebuck's Optigraph No. 3½ shown here, operated as an accessory to a Magic Lantern slide projector. The maker claimed that changeover from slides to motion pictures took less than two seconds. Films that were marketed for use with the Optigraph projector were typically fifty feet in length, and played for about a minute.



For the early movie projectors that utilized the Enterprise Optical hydrocarbon lamps, check out the web site of Soterios Gardiakos at <http://bioscope.biz/home.htm>

THE DOWNEY BLOW TORCH

The W.C. Downey Company of Springfield, Ohio manufactured and sold what is undoubtedly one of the most unusual and rare blowtorches in North America. Patented in 1925, the gravity fed torch was advertised as “Absolutely different – No Pump – No wick – No needle valve – Nothing to get out of order” It was said to generate its own pressure from low-grade gasoline, and to produce intense heat resulting in a “long, livid blue flame.”

In his correspondence with the American collector Charles Smith, who provided from time to time material that appeared in *Blowlamp News*, Ray Hyland had long expressed a desire to own one of these torches

The letter that is reproduced on the next page is self-explanatory. The Downey torch remains with Ray’s family just where he set it down.



A Letter from Ray Hyland 12th February, 2010

Hi Charles

When I got home this afternoon the postman had left a card to say there was a parcel for me to collect from the sorting office which required a signature. My wife's first comment was "What have you been buying and forgotten to tell me about?"

After racking my brain I could not think what it could be, especially as it had a customs sticker on it, which meant it had probably come from America.

My curiosity was now such that I had to get to the sorting office before it closed, and made it with 5 minutes to spare.

Walking home reading the label, I was wondering what you could be sending me; the label stated blowlamp and then my heart missed a beat. You are one of the few people who knew of my desire to own a Downey, I dare not hope that this could be it.

You can imagine my excitement when I read your letter. What can I say? Thank you seems so inadequate for such a generous gesture, but I do thank you most sincerely.

As I sit typing this, the Downey has pride of place on top of the speaker next to my computer monitor, which is just where it will stay. Working from home it will be the first thing I see each day when I switch on the computer and it will always give me fond memories of your kindness.

And should I end my days swinging in a hammock on a desert island, you can rest assured that it will be the one possession I will take to remind me of the outside world.

Sincere best wishes

Ray

TOOLS FOR SELF RELIANCE

Blowlamp Society member **Tony Smith** from Lymington, Hants., is a member of "**Tools for Self Reliance**" a small UK based charity that focuses on the artisan sector in rural communities in Africa. In Netley Marsh, Hants., the Charity has workshops where "volunteers clean and restore hand tools ranging from screwdrivers and saws to hand-operated pillar drills and **blowlamps**." For more information contact Tony Smith, or see the charity online at <http://www.tfsr.org/>

IN THE NEXT ISSUE

Lamps for Cauterizing & Pyrography: Part II
Cutaway Samples of Blowlamps

British Makes, Marks and Model Names
Penny Farthing Lamp

Blowlamp News is published in 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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The editors' thanks go to all those who attended the October 27th meeting in Toddington and who gave permission for photographs to be taken of themselves and their blowlamp collections.