

BLOWLAMP NEWS

BN 82

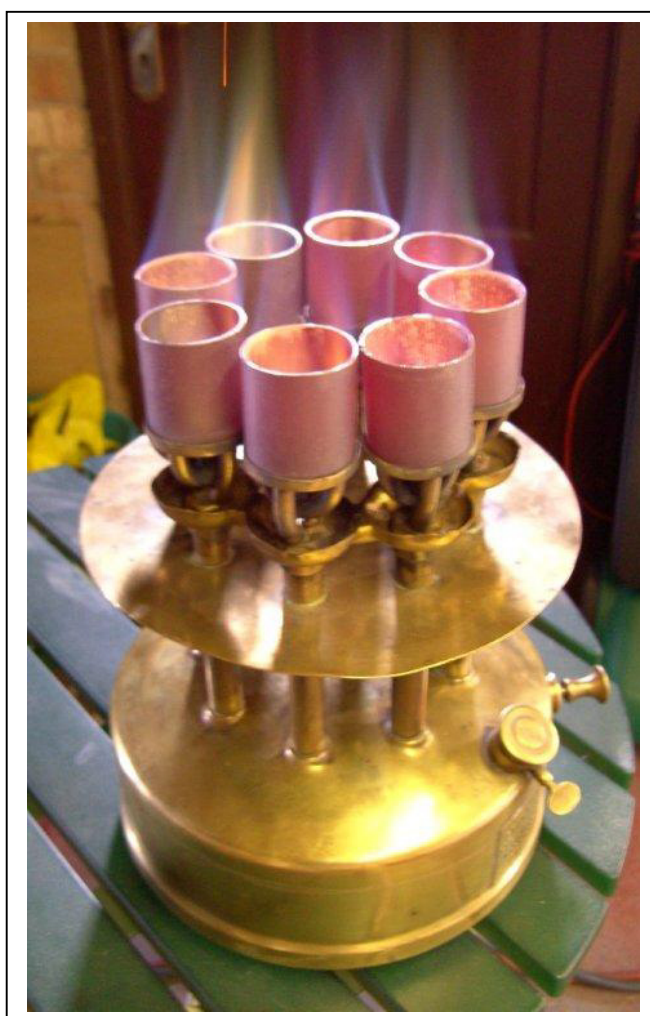
MARCH

2013

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

NOTES FROM THE EDITORS

After a cold winter, it's time for some heat. This photograph came from Ted Rawson, with a note: "I recently met up with Keith Hawkins at Lincoln steam rally and bought this 8 burner. I have restored it and it runs perfectly on good quality paraffin. No idea of its age or for what purpose it was originally used. It has no dating system stamped on it only the name BA HJORTH on the base, and the pump retaining cap has the name Lindquist on it." (In 1938, PRIMUS designated a similar eight-burner / seven-pint stove No.747. – Ed.)



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ANNOUNCEMENT

For 2013, we have returned to the usual four issues per year. 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 and its newsletter. 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.

CUTAWAY BLOWLAMP SAMPLES

These cutaway samples all appear to have been professionally machined. As anyone who has tried milling will tell you, it's not easy to cut across thin sections of metal without distorting the shape. Does anyone have a source for getting this done?



BARTHEL No. 390
Collection of John Tingle



WALL No. 3341
Collection of Charles Smith



OTTO BERNZ No. 87
c1940
Collection of Charles Smith



OTTO BERNZ No. 87
c1918
Collection of Graham Stubbs



COLLECTING LAMPS IN WARRNAMBOOL

From Dave Stennett,

Dave Stennett from Warrnambool, Victoria, on the South Australian coast, provided these pictures, and here is his account of how he became a collector of blowlamps.



For forty years I worked my way up through the ranks of an Optical Prescriptions Spectacle company. I held a commission as a Lieutenant in the Australia Army Reserve and during 35 years in Scouting ended up as Regional Commissioner. My main hobby in this time was Stationary Engines, some of which I still retain today.

When I was 57 I retired from work, and for a few years I went to every farm clearing sale that I saw advertised within 100 Kilometres or so of Warrnambool. At these clearing sales I noticed that most farmers had old blowtorches for sale, and I began buying them. They basically consisted of 3 types. Primus 632, Companion (Aus copy under licence of Sievert), and self heating soldering irons (Sievert and Primus) that were used locally. About 10 years ago my wife and I spent 6 weeks in Queensland, and one night I logged on to ebay and typed in blowtorches, and was blown out of my mind by the variety available. I purchased a Turner, and was hooked!! I now look for blow lamps and blowtorches on Ebay at least twice a day! I now have over 350 torches!! (I am a torch hoarder)

Most of my purchases have been through Ebay, and I have always received what I have ordered. The English postal system is a problem because no matter how much postage is paid for a fast delivery by air, if blowtorch is listed as the item, it is classed as dangerous, and is sent by ship. This means a MINIMUM of 3 months before it arrives.

My primary interests nowadays in Blowtorches are any brand verticals and Primus models. Although I have a good range of American and English torches. I am always on the lookout for these two types, or anything unusual. Currently I have the following Primus models.40, 43, 355, 601, 603, 605,606, 607, 608, 615, 617, 618, 622,623, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 655, 802, 803, 804,805, 807,808, 820, 821, 823, 830, 835, 841, 849, 851, 854, 855, 859, 861, 848, 866, 880, plus several unknown models and many tube type SHSI.

All are displayed behind glass in my garage, with lighting for night viewing. I clean and polish all of my torches, most taking a day to strip down completely usually requiring the heat of a gas torch to loosen the parts and then after polishing, I spray with a brass sealer. This seems to preserve the shine indefinitely.

LAMPS FOR CAUTERIZING & PYROGRAPHY

Part 2

By Graham Stubbs

Part 1 of this article, which appeared in BN 80, August 2012, talked about large self-heated cauterizing irons used primarily by veterinarians, and based on the 1897 invention of the French veterinary surgeon Jean Baptiste Dechery

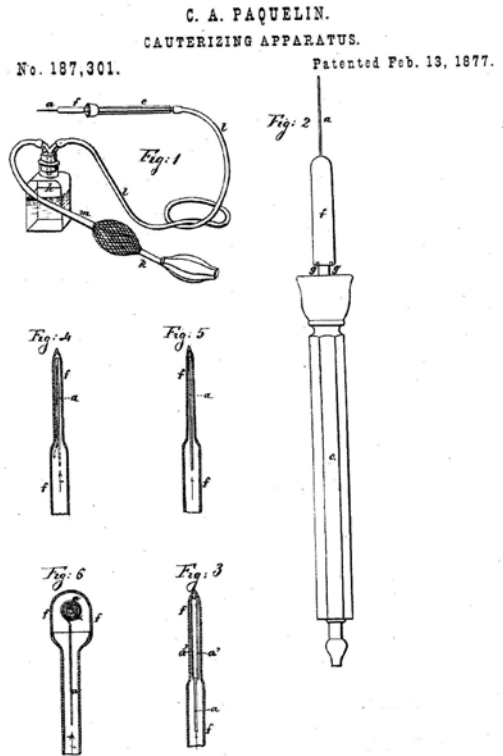
Physician's Cauterizing Apparatus

Prior to the Dechery invention, another Frenchman, Claude Paquelin, had patented in 1877 a self heated cauterizing device intended for use by physicians to treat conditions in human patients. (The same Monsieur Pacquelin is well known to lamp collectors for the distinctive style of his French blowlamps).

The heated point of the Paquelin cauterizing apparatus is much smaller than in the veterinarian's implement, and pressure is obtained by means of a squeeze bulb and a pressure bulb with retaining netting. A hook on the fuel tank allowed the physician to hang it on his belt. You can imagine the intimidating sight of a doctor approaching with this contraption, squeezing the bulb to keep the tip red hot!

The platinum cauterizing points, in a variety of shapes dependent upon the application or procedure, were heated by the catalytic action of spirits on the hot platinum. The heating action was started by first applying a candle or separate lamp to the tip.

The example shown here, labeled "THERMO-CAUTERE DU Dr. PAQUELIN", was supplied by **Collin et Cie.** of Paris.



Pyrography / Decorative Wood Burning

In the late 1800's, a form of artistic decoration became popular as a pastime, using the application of a heated tool to materials such as wood and leather to trace out a design. The technique was known as Pyrography. In 1904 a US patent was issued to Johannes Anderson, of Chicago, for a Pyrographic-Pencil Exciter. His invention was similar to the Paquelin cauterizer, with an improvement in the regulation of consumption of fuel

All of these devices specified the ability to use of a wide range of fuels, including alcohol and hydrocarbons.

This example was supplied by the "FLEMISH ART CO" of Brooklyn, New York. Kits included platinum pointed heated burner-pens, alcohol lamps, absorbent, bottles of benzene and blower bulbs, as well as a variety of coloring agents. The box is decorated by woodburning.

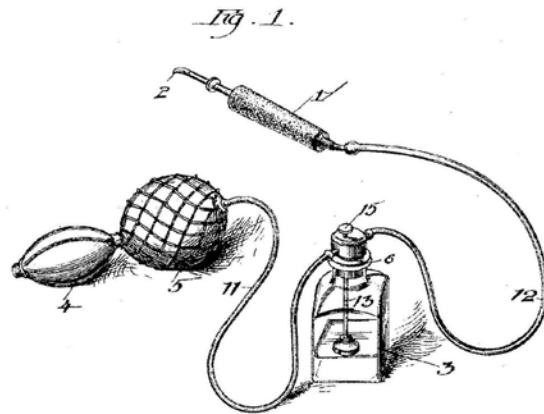
The rubber tubes and bulbs that came with these kits are frequently perished or missing. This example has the squeeze bulb and netting, but not the pressure bulb.

No. 776,482.

PATENTED DEC. 6, 1904.

J. ANDERSON.
PYROGRAPHIC PENCIL EXCITER.
APPLICATION FILED OCT. 17, 1903.

NO MODEL.



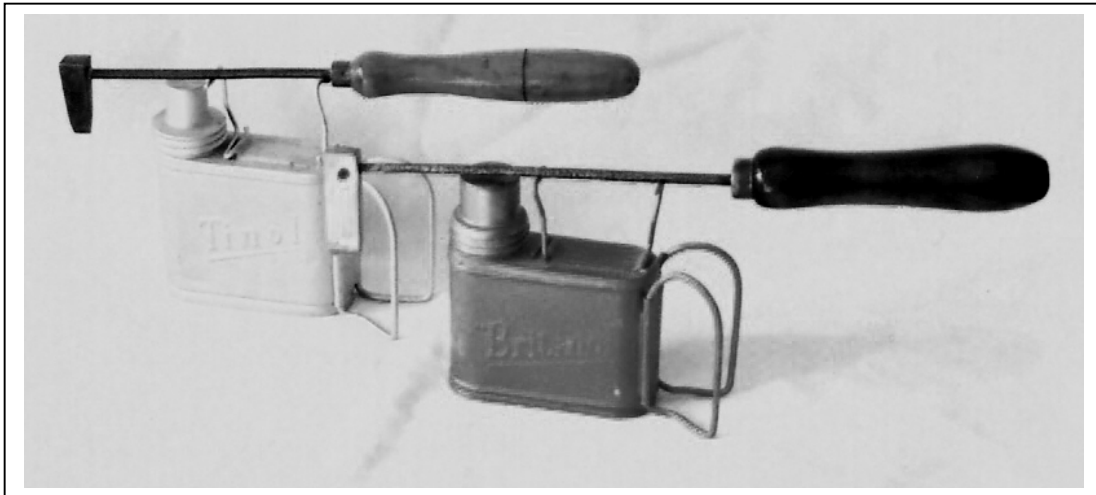
Should you come across a small tool, which vaguely resembles a self-heated soldering iron, perhaps you'll have found a medical device or a tool for burning artistic designs. Decorative woodburning is still a popular hobby, but using electrically heated tools.

MORE SMALL LAMPS

By Keith Hawkins

The lamps that are shown here all work on the same general principle shown in the **BRITINOL** advertisement at the end of this article. (The ad appeared in BN32, November 2000.)

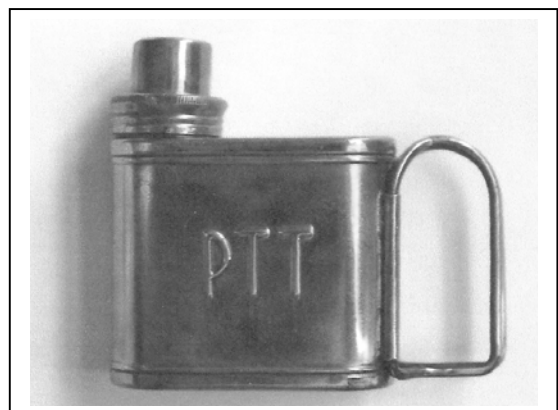
Here are German **TINOL** and British **BRITINOL** lamps side by side, both made in the 1920s / 1930s. The **TINOL** and the **BRITINOL** are identical. The story goes that the Germans liked the lamp but would not buy it under the **BRITINOL** name, so the name was cut to **TINOL** in order to sell it in Germany. Whether this is true or not I don't know ...



Here is a German **STANNOL** lamp, and two lamps from France, a **CORBA** and a **SONA**. All three lamps produce a fine horizontal flame.



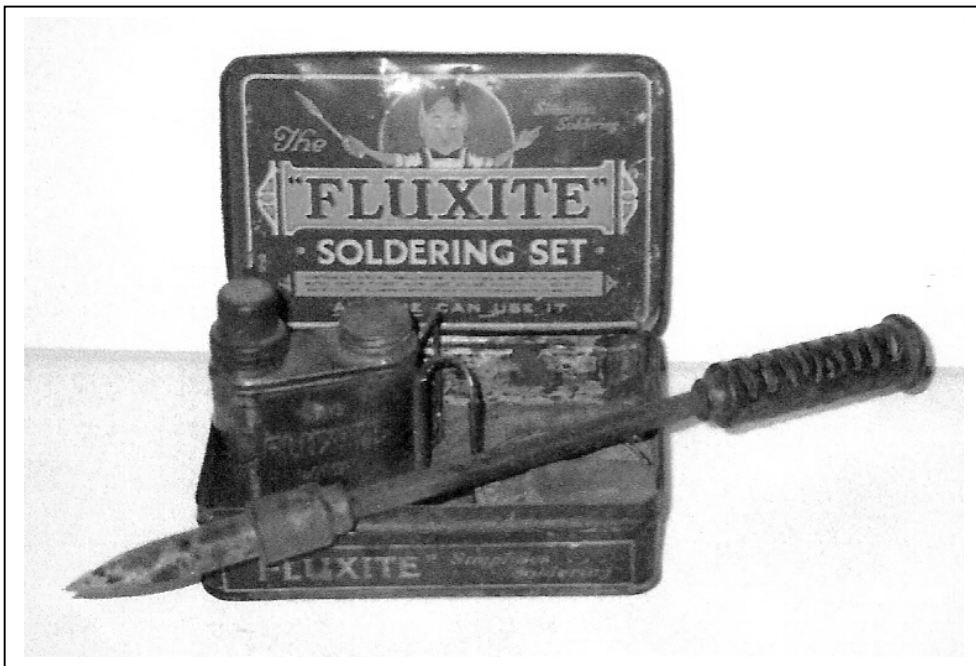
The photograph of this **PTT** lamp came from a collector in Belgium. The nationality of the lamp is not known.



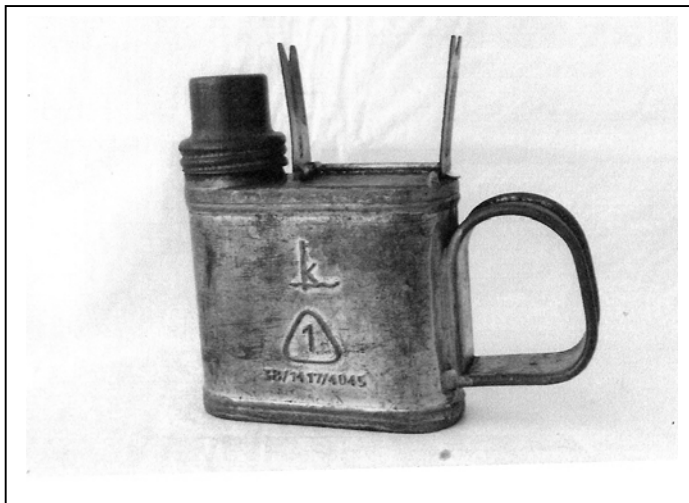
Two **FLUXITE** lamps and a **RAWLPLUG**. One of the **FLUXITES** has a separate filler cap, whereas all the other lamps are filled through the wick holder.



The **FLUXITE** could also be purchased as a complete soldering set, in a tin, the iron itself being in three pieces to fit in the tin. Priced around 50p (ten shillings).



I think this lamp may be German. I have no idea what the marking means. It has foldable soldering iron supports.

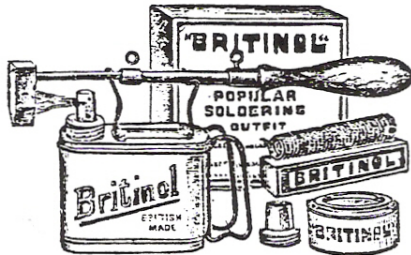


This **BRITINOL** advertisement shows the typical flat **BRITINOL** lamp, complete soldering sets with paste and flux core solder, and a round version of the lamp with three times the fuel capacity, the **REX**.

"BRITINOL"

EASY SOLDERING PRODUCTS
FOR HOME OR FACTORY

Complete Soldering Outfits



"BRITINOL" "Popular" Outfit

This outfit contains everything for successful soldering:—

- 1 Self-Blowing Spirit Lamp
- 1 Telescopic Soldering Iron
- 1 Tin Paste Solder
- 1 Coil Self-Fluxing Wire Solder
- 1 Pair Extra Wicks for Lamp

Packed in cardboard box. Price 16s. 3d.

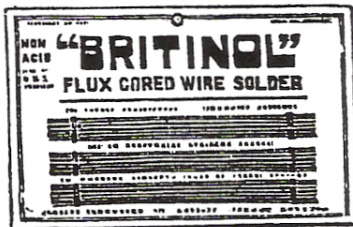
"BRITINOL" "Junior" Outfit

Same as the "Popular" above, but without the Telescopic Soldering Iron. Price 9s. 6d.

The "**BRITINOL**" Telescopic Soldering Iron as illustrated above, closed measures 5in. extended 12in. Specially designed to fit over the rests on "**BRITINOL**" and "**REX**" Blow-lamps. Price 6s. 6d.

"**BRITINOL**" Paste Solder. Finely powdered tin and lead, combined with a non-acid flux of great cleaning power. As used by leading radio and electrical manufacturers. Price per tin 1s. 6d.

"**BRITINOL**" Flux-cored Wire Solder. Containing a core of the same non-acid flux. Price per coil 9d. Bulk prices on application.



"**BRITINOL**" Cored Solder on cards
6in. lengths 2d. per length.

"*Britinol*" products are manufactured only by:

BI-METALS (BRITINOL) LTD.,
ST. MARY'S WORKS,

TEL TOT. 9413

BRIDGE ROAD, LONDON, N.9.

BLOW LAMPS



"BRITINOL" Pocket Spirit Blow Lamp

This Blow-lamp, burning methylated spirit, is self-acting, easily lit with a match and will give an intensely hot and clean blow-pipe flame 3-4in. long. The Lamp cannot leak when carried in the pocket, and has folding supports to carry a soldering Iron. Complete in box with instruction leaflet.

Price (with iron rests) 7s. (without) 6s. 6d.



"REX" Round Spirit Blow Lamp

Same self-blowing action as above, but has three times the fuel capacity. Ideal for burning paint-work off indoors and for all soldering jobs. Complete with instruction leaflet.

Price (with folding soldering iron rests) 7s. 6d.
Price (without rests) 7s.

EDWARD GRUBE THE "FLAMMOBIL" BLOWLAMP From Nick Major

Blowlamp Society member Nick Major sent in these pictures of a rare German brand of blowlamp. A brass ring on the top of the tank is marked: **FLAMMOBIL No.2 EDW. GRUBE ALT-RAHLSTED.** The height of the steel fuel tank is 12 inches and the diameter is 6 inches. Length of the burner from 2 nuts to end of burner is 12 inches.

Nick says, "I brought it a farm auction 2 years ago it didn't come cheap, good stuff never does. The 2 brackets semi circular have a connecting bracket to the front of the burner on the sideways projectors. I suppose to take weight of burner "

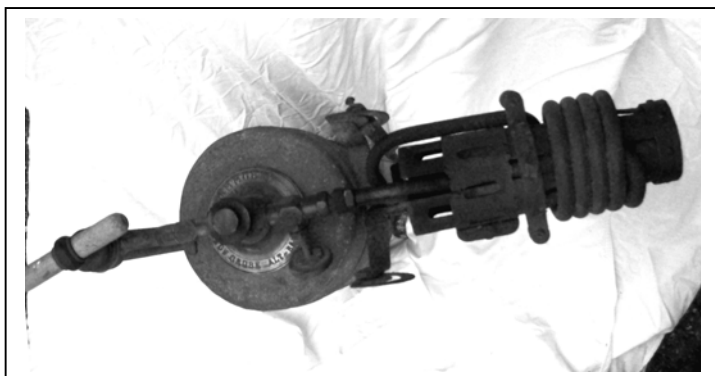


EDW. GRUBE FLAMMOBIL 2



Edward Henry Grube (1856-1924) was an inventor / industrialist in the town of Alt-Rahlstedt, near Hamburg, Germany. He is credited with having financed the construction of the local railway station in 1893. The advertisement above right, for an industrial blowlamp, is the only example of literature that I'm aware of regarding **GRUBE**. (From RECUEIL No. 3, published by the French Blowlamp Collectors' Club.)

Between 1897 and 1912 Edward Grube was awarded eleven patents on subjects ranging from blowlamps to water cisterns. None of the patents resembles the blowlamp shown here.



Does anyone have another example of a **GRUBE** blowlamp?

SMALLWOOD BROS.

**“THE PREMIER” BLOWLAMP
From Michel Duval**

The capacity is about 1/2 pint; there is a wooden control knob (it seems original) and a cone-shaped burner. There is a small pump in the handle with fibre heat insulation. The unusual filler cap also serves as safety valve with a spring inside.



On a riveted plate attached to the handle is stamped:

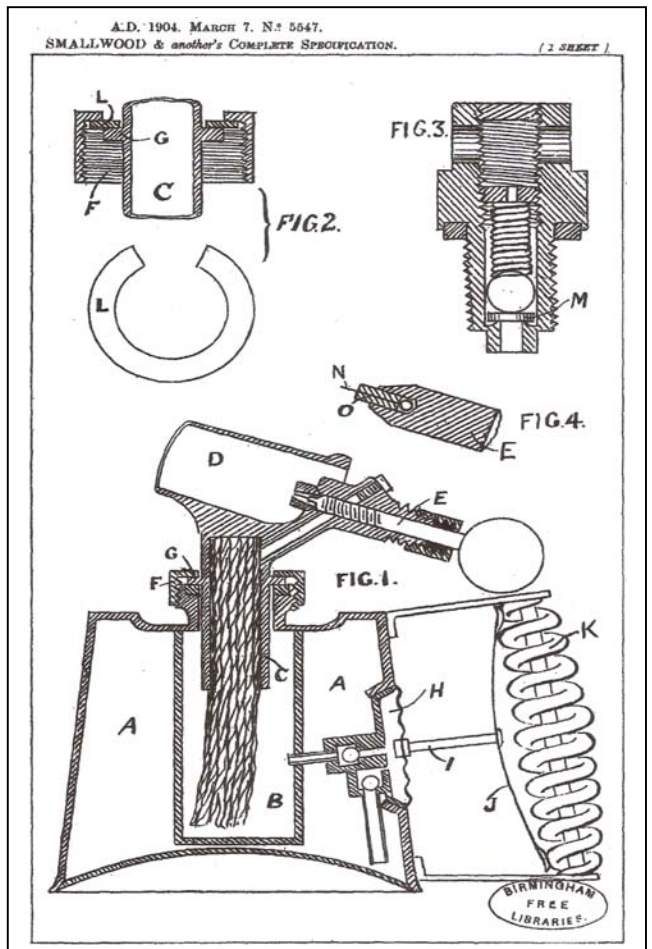
THE PREMIER No.
SMALLWOOD BROS.
INVENTORS, PATENTEES & MAKERS
MANCHESTER, England



The Smallwood Brothers (noted as blowlamp makers) were at 76 Bury New Road (now demolished) and nearby Mount Pleasant, Manchester. They were at the Bury New Road address in the 1916 trades directory and were still there in 1935.

In 1904, British patent 5047 was awarded to John Smallwood, of Strangeways, Manchester, traveller, and William Edward Crowther of Old Trafford, manager, for a blowlamp with a rotatable burner head and an unusual pump. To date no connection has been made between the Smallwood the inventor on the 1904 patent and the blowlamp shown in the photo above, other than the similarity of name and location.

Does anyone have an example of the lamp shown in the patent, or any other Smallwood blowlamps?



RALLIES & STEAM FAIRS

Many blowlamp collectors learned about the Blowlamp Society at a Steam Rally or Fair, or perhaps found a first lamp at one of these meetings. Here's a list prepared by Keith Hawkins of events through July 2013. Max Rhodes plans to attend the ones marked **, and is always happy to meet other collectors; he's the chap who sells nuts and bolts and misc. camping equipment ..

NOTE: CHECK THE DATE AND LOCATION BEFORE GOING!

Dates	Name	Location	Contact
Mar 31 – Apr 1	Medway Festival of Steam & Transport	Historic Dockyard, Chatham, Kent ME4 4TZ	Alena Olmond 01630 823 800
May 4-6	** Cavalcade of Trans. & Country Show	Rushden, Nt'hants,	Mr. Sugars 01933 350415
May 24-27	Strumpshaw Rally	Strumpshaw Park, Nr. Norwich	Mr. P. Worbey 01462 851711
May 25-27	Enfield Pageant of motors	Enfield, Mddx. EN1 3PL	June Bayer 0208 3671898
May 26-27	** Carrington Steam & Heritage Show	Nr. Boston, Lincs PE22 7DZ	enquiries@carringtonrally.co.uk
June 1-2	Etruria Canals Festival	Stoke on Trent ST47AF	infor@etruriacanalsfestival.org.uk
June 1-2	** Rockingham castle Steam Fair	Market Harborough, Leics LE16 8TH	Phil Wing 07860 758872
June 1-2	St. Albans Steam & Country Fair	Oaklands College, St. Albans AL4 0XR	Mark Waite 07896 555097
June 8-9	Belper Steam & Vintage Event	Denby, Derbys DE5 8NE	T Mellor 0780 3902053
June 22-23	** 1000 Engines Rally	Astle Park, Chelford, Cheshire SK11 9AD	info@1000engines.co.uk
June 29-30	Banbury Steam Rally	Banbury, Oxon	www.banburyrally.com
June 29-30	Preston Rally & East Kent Show	Nr. Canterbury, Kent CT3 1DH	Michael Gates 01843 588554
July 6-7	Chiltern Steam Rally. Prestwood	Great Missenden, Bucks HP16 9HQ	M.Biggerstaff 07901813459
July 6-7	** Elvaston Steam Rally	Elvaston Castle, Borrowash, Dbs DE72 3EP	General.enquiries@elvastonsteam. co.uk
July 6-7	Duncombe Park Steam Rally	Helmley, Yorks	Mrs. Pinder 01609 776608
July 6-7	Hollowell Steam & Heavy Horse Show	Hollowell, N'thants. NN6 8RB	Allen Eaton 01604 505422
July 12-14	Woodcote Rally	Nr Reading, Oxon RG8 0PG	Mrs. Allright 07491 680872
July 13-14	Rempstone Steam & Country Fair	Nr. Wymesfold, Leics. LE12 6ST	rempstonesteam@googlemail.com
July 19-21	Weeting Steam Show	Weeting, Suffk	Wendy Young 01842 810317
July 20-21	Much Marcle Steam Rally	Nr. Ledbury, Herefds HR8 2LX	C. Poyner 01532 633392
July 26-28	Netley Marsh Steam Show	Nr Southampton, Hants SO40 7GY	Ms. Kay Savage 023 80734843
July 26-28	Welland Steam Rally	Upton on Severn, Worcs WR13 6NG	Mrs. Prout 01531 890417
July 27-28	Cumbria Steam Rally & Gathering	Grange over Sands, Cumbria LA11 7LS	D.R. Foster info@steamgathering.org.uk
Aug 2-4	Gloucester Steam & Vintage Show	Cirencester, Gloucs GL7 5RD	John Keedwell 01453 890891
Aug 2-4	Cromford Steam Rally	Matlock, Derbys DE55 6DB	K. Bowmer 01629 534487

THREE UNUSUAL EOLIPYLES

By Dr. Charles Smith

I have been collecting little Eolipyles for well over 30 years and currently have more than 50 different examples with about 25 different cutout patterns in the stand. The observed cutouts include small circles, ellipses, several rectangular patterns, 5- and 6-pointed stars, tulip, spear, heart, bird, keyhole, flower, and latticework shapes, among others. Often, two of these patterns occur together, such as stars with tulips and stars with ellipses, or two different-size stars together. Also, the Eolipyles occur in different sizes, usually marked 1 through 4. Most also have stands constructed of either thin sheet iron, or copper. As you can see, there are many combinations of cutouts, size, and metallic composition. All of which, in my opinion, make for a challenging and an interesting collection.

To this date, I have seen only three Eolipyles, which have no cutout pattern at all. This seems highly unusual as most collectors agree that the openings in the sides of the stand provide pathways for oxygen to fuel the flame. Two of these Eolipyles which lack cutouts were illustrated in the September 2010 issue of *Blowlamp News*, BN73.

The first one, shown in figure 1 and on page 6 in BN73, is almost entirely made of copper, including its sheet-copper handle riveted to the back of the stand. The pressure chamber has a brass filler plug but surprisingly contains no pressure-release valve. Both the upper tank and lamp are not fixed to the stand, and if tipped too far, both will simply fall free from the stand. For this reason, it seems possible this torch was used in a workshop or laboratory environment where the Eolipyle would remain in a stationary, vertical position. The stand is about 3 1/4 inches in diameter with the total height of the Eolipyle being 6 1/2 inches.



The second Eolipyle lacking a cutout pattern is shown in figure 2 and on page 9 in Issue 73. This torch consists of a stand, lower alcohol lamp, and pressure-release valve made of brass and an upper pressure chamber made of copper. The upper and lower containers are affixed to the stand with little "hooks". Brass straps riveted to the rear of the stand hold a relatively large wooden handle. This Eolipyle is about 3 inches in diameter and 6 inches in total height.

The third Eolipyle with no cutout in its stand, and the most recent addition to my Eolipyle collection, is shown in figures 3 and 4. This torch has iron "loop" handles and a thin sheet-iron stand and base. Both the alcohol lamp and pressure chamber are made of copper. The pressure-release valve and its fitting in the top of the pressure chamber are the only parts made of brass. There is the number one, "1", stamped into the front of the stand just above the opening for the flame. This suggests that there are possibly other unreported sizes of this particular Eolipyle. The stand is 2 3/4 inches in diameter and the entire Eolipyle is 5 1/2 inches in total height.



Fig. 3

Note also the two jet-holes in the burner tube. I have not seen this feature on any other Eolipyle in my collection.

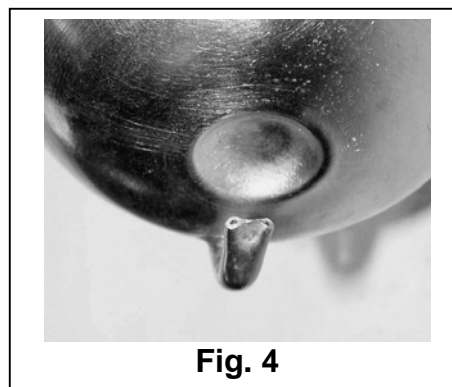


Fig. 4

Not only are these Eolipyles highly unusual in having no cutouts on its sides, the upper surface of each pressure chamber is a smooth, unornamented, hemi-spherical enclosure. Most of my other Eolipyles have a somewhat flattened upper chamber with concentric "ridges". Although the smooth design may be a simpler manufacturing feature, the low profile and "ribbed" chamber on my other torches may bear a greater internal pressure prior to rupture. To be truthful, I just don't know why the reservoir should have concentric ridges.

Each of these Eolipyles remains unidentified. If anyone can provide information as to a manufacturer and date, or a distributor, the author will be grateful.

Note from the editor: I asked Charles how he became interested in these unusual lamps.

Ed: I don't think that I ever heard how you started to collect eolipyles thirty years ago in Washington. You've talked about regular torches, starting with your dad's, but not these.

Charles: At this time, I really was more interested in my young family and career, research with the Smithsonian and teaching at George Washington University.

I do recall finding one Eolipyle at an antique store in Arlington, Virginia. And two others came from Europe, one from Germany and one from France. At this time, I was being sent all over Western Europe to collect geological samples for my future paleontological investigation. It was on these trips that I collected two additional Eolipyles. I remember boxing them with my samples and having them diplomatic pouched back to Washington. I had a diplomatic passport and the samples, and Eolipyles, were hand carried by government courier back to Washington. No declarations, no inspections, no nothing! Being regarded as a "Diplomat" certainly had its rewards.

THE PENNY FARTHING BLOWLAMP

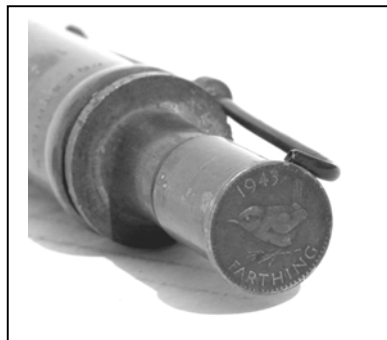
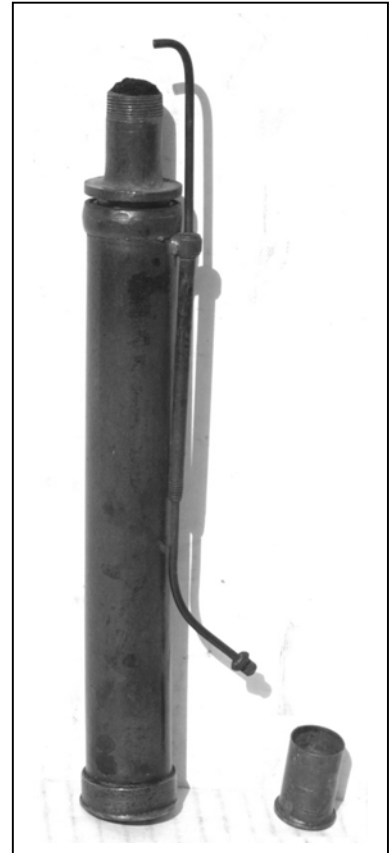
By Graham Stubbs

This is about a mouth-blow lamp made by someone with a sense of humour. I call it the **"Penny Farthing Blowlamp"**.

A few words of explanation about terminology and history. (*People my age can skip this bit.*) When, in 1971, the United Kingdom decimalised its currency, the Old Penny coin, worth two hundred and forty to the pound sterling, became obsolete. Eleven years earlier, the farthing, value - one quarter of an Old Penny, had also ceased to be legal tender.

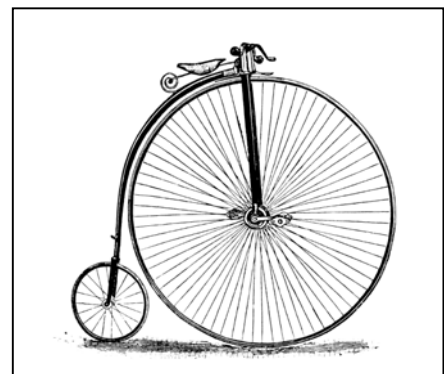
From 1860 until it was obsoleted the penny was 31 mm. in diameter. (The halfpenny was 25.4 mm. or exactly one inch.) During the same period the diameter of the farthing was 20 mm. The contrast in size between the penny and the farthing led to the adoption in the late 1890s of the popular name "Penny Farthing" for a type of bicycle, sometimes known as the high-wheeler, having a large front wheel and a much smaller rear wheel.

The individual who constructed this mouth-blow spirit lamp soldered a penny to seal the bottom of the fuel tank, and a farthing to finish the cover for the wick. The two coins represent the two World Wars, the penny from 1917 and the farthing from 1943.



Stamped on the body of the fuel tank is the single word "NESTHILL", the trademark of Ernest H. Hill Ltd., the company that manufactured the first bicycle pump for Dr. Dunlap, and made pumps specifically for Rolls Royce and Bentley. Whoever hand-made this lamp used the barrel from a Nesthill pump for a fuel tank.

And the bird on the farthing coin? Popularly thought of as the smallest British bird, the wren was chosen in 1937 for the smallest-value British coin.



MAHR**From Michel Duval and Brian Grainger**

Examples of the Blowtorches carrying the name of the American brand "**MAHR**" have been reported by Blowlamp Society members Brian Grainger and Michel Duval.

This nicely restored Mahr "Jiffy" blowtorch was brought by Brian Grainger to the 2012 Blowlamp Society meeting in Toddington in October 2012.



Mahr Mfg. Co was a Division of Diamond Iron Works of Minneapolis, Minnesota, which was founded in 1880 or 1885 as a repair shop for a company that produced sawmill, flour mill, woodworking and elevator machinery. It also produced the Diamond Junior wheel tractor circa 1900, gas engines (e.g. the American) beginning in 1912, and the William A. Sorg oil-gas engine starting in 1913.

Diamond Iron Works also assembled at least two lines of tractors on contract for Transit Thresher Company and tiller wheel crawler tractors for The Holt Manufacturing Company from 1909.

Mahr Manufacturing Co. was operated as a division of Diamond Iron Works from 1937 to 1953. Sales literature printed from 1937 through 1940 bears both company names. Mahr torches advertised for use by metal foundries for use in "skin-drying" sand molds used for castings. The primary purpose of this procedure was to reduce moisture and gas forming at the surface of the mold, where sand was in contact with metal in heavy castings. **Mahr** torches were made with heavy steel tanks, and various models were supplied for use with external compressed air, and with internal pumps.

Michel Duval supplied the photos on the next page and wrote:

"This is a blowlamp I recently obtained. I think it is a very unusual model. In "*Vintage Blowtorches*" and "*More Vintage Blowtorches*" we learn that "**MAHR Mfg. Co.** manufactured heavy-duty blowtorches". Yes, the MAHR blowlamps are very heavy, the mine weighs 4,7 kg (10.36 pounds), and measures 40 cm (15 3/4 inches). The tank contains about 4 liters (7 pints). The American collectors don't know this big model.

This blowlamp is quite similar to the GEM, also red but I don't know if that is the original colour. ... There is an unusual hook to lock the pump knob, when it's not being used. The handle is a simple and solid steel pipe, soldered on the tank. There is an automatic priming cup filling up in the front of the burner. We can see the long path taken by the paraffin from below the burner, then around it, then above it and over to the jet.

This lamp is not really nice but I like it because it is interesting..."



IN THE NEXT ISSUE

More Photos of Members' Lamps
Even More Small Lamps
More About PRIMUS

British Makes, Marks and Model Names
Just for Fun
Early History

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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Graham Stubbs, 17715 St. Andrews Drive, Poway, CA 92064, USA gstubbs222@aol.com

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