

BLOWLAMP NEWS

BN 83

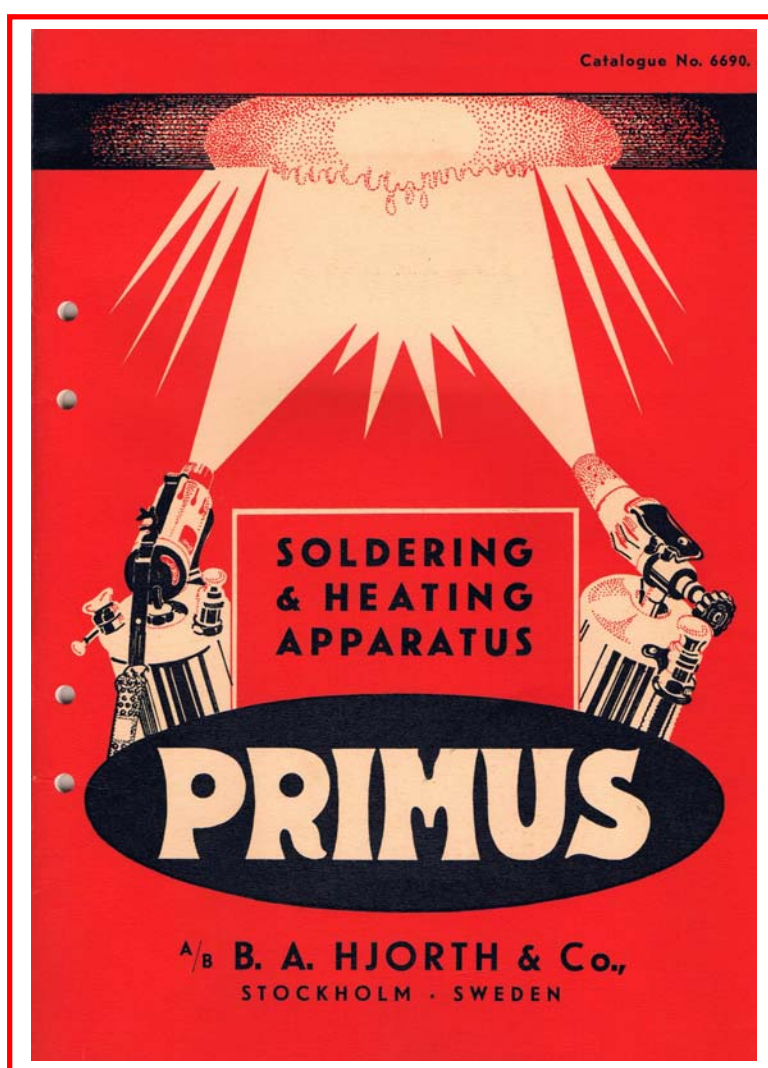
JUNE

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

NOTES FROM THE EDITORS

With this issue we start a three part series about **PRIMUS** blowlamps. In the first article, Chris Naylor discusses the history of the **PRIMUS** brand, and the date and number codes applied. Following issues of **BLOWLAMP NEWS** will provide a comprehensive list of model numbers and names. Your photos of fine examples of **PRIMUS** lamps will be most welcome.



IN THIS ISSUE

PRIMUS History and Date Codes
Garratt & Co.
Unusual Vulcano Lamp

More Cutaway Salesmen's Models
Blowlamp Collectors' Meeting in Belgium
Keith Hawkins Has His Say

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONTRIBUTIONS OF CONTENT This is **YOUR** newsletter, and it depends very greatly on **YOUR** contributions of articles, photos, reports about steam rallies etc. If you don't care to compose an article just send in the pictures and information. Contact information is on the back page.

NEXT MEETING Planning for another meeting, similar to Toddington 2012, is aimed at the autumn of next year, 2014.

MORE CUTAWAY BLOWLAMP SAMPLES

In response to the article on cutaway lamps which appeared in BN82, Bob Prichard (see back page) and Michel Duval submitted more photos. The pictures on this page are from Michel Duval.

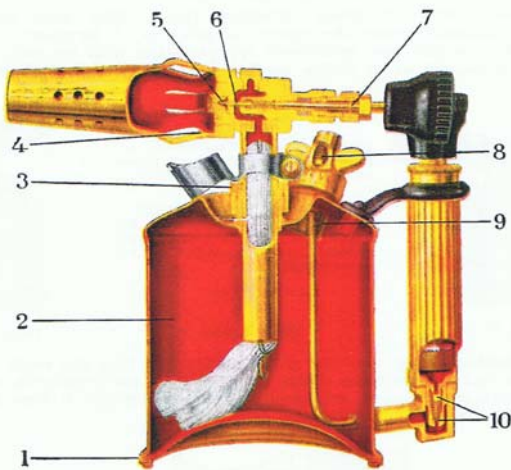


**M. LEJEUNE M35 BLOWLAMP (FRANCE)
CUTAWAY SAMPLE**



**VULCANO 424 BLOWLAMP (GERMANY)
CUTAWAY SAMPLE**

SECTION OF BENZOLINE TYPE "APH"



**SIEVERT TYPE "APH"
CUTAWAY DIAGRAM**
(From Sievert catalogue)



**SIEVERT TYPE "APM"
CUTAWAY SAMPLE**

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 machining done?**

PRIMUS BLOWLAMPS: DATE & NUMBER CODING

By CHRIS NAYLOR

This short review of the **Primus** Date & Number Coding system is based on limited information and data, and quite a bit of guesswork. Those with Primus blowlamps (or indeed pressure stoves or lanterns) amongst their collections, will no doubt point to various errors, contradictions, and omissions. This is to be hoped for, as is the feedback of any new or corrective information.

Early Background

The name **Primus** is generally synonymous with the **portable pressure stove**, and so it is helpful to consider Primus **blowlamps** within this context.

Briefly, the invention of the first paraffin pressure stove is generally attributed to **F W Lindqvist** (and his brother) and a patent was granted to them at the end of the 1880s. In 1892, in Stockholm, F W Lindqvist formed a partnership with factory owner **J V Svenson**, to begin the production of paraffin pressure stoves. The company was named J V Svensons Fotogenköksfabric (kerosene stove factory) and the stove was given the brand name **Primus**. Production began in March of that year. **B A Hjorth** (BAHCO) quickly became interested in Svenson's product and a contract was signed in May 1892 giving B A Hjorth sole global marketing rights. In 1893 a new factory was built. It is thought that the production of pressure lanterns also started at around this time.

In 1895, J V Svensons also took up the production of **blowlamps** based on the **C R Nyberg** prototype¹. C R Nybergs Lampfabrik (lamp factory) had been the first company producing blowlamps in Sweden. In turn Nyberg started the production of stoves based on the F W Lindqvist design. A number of patents² were taken out in the 1890s by both J V Svenson, (with F W Lindqvist as inventor) and C R Nyberg, with ideas and developments for both the pressure stove and the blowlamp.

In 1898 the Svensons factory reorganised as a limited company under the name **Aktiebolaget (AB) Primus**. In 1907, Svensons moved to larger facilities on the island of Lilla Essingen in Stockholm. In a catalogue from 1907, they claimed to have been the biggest blowlamp manufacturer in the world.

In 1918 Svensons was taken over by B A Hjorth, and the **Primus** brand became a company in its own right as part of the BAHCO group.

The PRIMUS name & Trademark

One of the questions arising is just when the **PRIMUS** trademark first appeared on J V Svenson / B A Hjorth blowlamps. The PRIMUS trademark is seen on pressure stoves from as early as 1892, probably when J V Svensons Fotogenköksfabric began production, or perhaps when B A Hjorth took over the marketing. The very earliest Lindqvist stoves manufactured before this had no name on them apart from that on the filler cap which was stamped *F W Lindqvist Patent No 394*.

Unlike pressure stoves however, examples of J V Svenson / B A Hjorth blowlamps prior to 1911 (the start of date coding – see below) do not display the PRIMUS trademark. It also appears that prior to 1911 no *model* numbers as such appear on blowlamps³, rather, *model types* were identified by the names *Aetna*, *Nautilus*, *Petrolia*, *Tarantella*, *Vesuvius*, *Vulcan*, *(the) Swedish Lamp*⁴, and others. In addition to the model name, which was imprinted on the tank shoulder, pre-1911 models display the familiar logo with the *two blowlamps* pointing towards each other, the B A Hjorth circular logo⁵, and a similar version of this on filler caps.



Up to 1911: Svensons / B A Hjorth familiar trade mark, B A Hjorth circular logo (tank shoulder) and filler cap. Model names were generally on the tank shoulder, see Vulcan, below left.

Was the familiar *two blowlamps* logo employed from the outset of production in 1895? And is the logo attributable to Svensons as manufacturer, B A Hjorth as selling agent, or both? Two sizes of the *two blowlamps* logo were used, with small detail differences. Keith Hawkins previously noted the two sizes, with the questions as to which was the earlier, and when did a change occur? Both sizes of logo can be seen on examples of *the Swedish Lamp*, so tank size appears not to be relevant.



Left: Vulcan (prior to 1911), and Tarantella **with** model No 607 (format from 1911 to ?)

However, from 1911 (possibly to 1918, when Svensons was taken over by B A Hjorth) blowlamps were stamped with *both* the PRIMUS and the Svensons / B A Hjorth trademark, as an Aetna 632 example with the date code A for 1911 (below) shows. Certainly by 1920 the Svensons / B A Hjorth *two blowlamps* trade mark is *no longer* present, as an example of a 1920 model 651 (date code J) demonstrates. Model numbers also started to appear on blowlamps in 1911³, whilst model names continued to appear *with* numbers (see *Tarantella* example above). More information is required to establish when and if the model names / numbers combination was dropped, and replaced with just the model number.



Primus Aetna 632 (1911) with date code **A** on underside of tank, with both the Svensons / B A Hjorth & PRIMUS logos, as well as the stamping "A/B B.A.HJORTH & CO, STOCKHOLM, SOLE MAKERS OF THE GENUINE PRIMUS APPARATUS, with the same wording in four different languages below.

Date & Number Codes

Although there has been much debate, the consensus is that the Primus date coding started, as discussed, in 1911 and ran until c1963. This applied to paraffin stoves, blowlamps, and pressure lanterns. The generally accepted date code chart is shown below. With this chart, the codes **I** and **AI** are used rather than the codes **Q** and **AQ** which are used on the alternative (earlier?) chart⁶.

As well as the date letter, a **number** starts to appear *with* the letter code in what is believed to be 1921 at the earliest, and continues (in the case of blowlamps) until at least 1953 though both dates are subject to some revision. In addition, the *meaning* of the numbers has been the subject of considerable speculation and has not yet been satisfactorily explained. Furthermore, there is not *always* a number present. Refer to the chart "*Date & Number Codes observed (to date) on blowlamps*" below. Clearly, without further data from other blowlamp (or stove or lantern) examples we can only work from the information to hand, and so additional data from collectors of Primus blowlamps (or indeed stoves or pressure lanterns) would be very welcome.

In the earliest models that had just a letter code within a B A Hjorth circular logo (1911 to at least 1921, below left), the logo was centrally positioned on the underside of the tank. Blowlamps, pressure stoves and lanterns were stamped thus. Blowlamps after this - with the combined date & number code - have the marks stamped within a small circle on the side of the tank towards the base, whilst pressure lanterns and stoves continued to be stamped, with the combined date & number code, on the underside of the tank. Some later date codes appear *without* a number; these, as far as is known, are always on the underside of the tank. By 1957 a six-digit numerical code was in use, with the last two numbers denoting the year. In the case of stoves, this later six digit code was often found on a leg or the burner riser tube depending on model, otherwise it continued to be located on the underside of the tank. After 1963 the codes may have been included on the outer packaging rather than the item itself.



*Summary: L to R: Early type date code, 1911 to c1921 (on model 632); Later date code **with** number code, (T over 9); and later date codes (on underside of tank) **without** numbers. Note AC (model 851) central in circle, AT (model 854) towards top of circle.*

To further complicate matters, one source describes that in 1953 (AS), number codes were replaced with letters H, Z, HZ, FZ (and possibly others) such that examples AT over Z, AU over Z, and AX over FZ on pressure stoves are noted (*Classic Camp Stoves website*). Again, without further examples it cannot be said for certain if this change to the coding applied to blowlamps, but there is nothing to say it didn't. What is to note here though is the code AX over FZ (on a Primus 71), which is a clear anomaly as the date code AX does not feature on the *preferred* code chart, whereas it can be accounted for if we refer to the (earlier?) alternative chart⁶.

Date Code Chart (Generally Accepted)

(Pressure Lamps International, and Classic Camp Stoves websites)

A 1911	B 1912	C 1913	D 1914	E 1915	F 1916
G 1917	H 1918	I 1919	J 1920	K 1921	L 1922
M 1923	N 1924	O 1925	P 1926	R 1927	S 1928
T 1929	U 1930	V 1931	W 1932	X 1933	Y 1934
Z 1935	AA 1936	AB 1937	AC 1938	AD 1939	AE 1940
AF 1941	AG 1942	AH 1943	AI 1944	AJ 1945	AK 1946
AL 1947	AM 1948	AN 1949	AO 1950	AP 1951	AR 1952
AS 1953	AT 1954	AU 1955	AV 1956	**** 57 1957	**** 58 1958
**** 59 1959	**** 60 1960	**** 61 1961	**** 62 1962	**** 63 1963	

Date & Number Codes observed or noted (to date) on blowlamps⁷:

(Corresponding to the 'generally accepted' date code chart above)

A In the centre of the circular B A Hjorth logo (632)	B In the centre of the circular B A Hjorth logo (632)			E In the centre of the circular B A Hjorth logo (632)	
			J In the centre of the circular B A Hjorth logo (651)		
M 21 (632)		O O O 7 8 9 (603) (631)(618) (865)	P P 7 9 (861) (619) (866)		
T 9 (618)	U 7 (615)		W W W 7 8 9 (606)(831)(618)	X 9 (615)	Y 9 (862)
Z Z 9 37 (607) (632)		AB 7 (861) (862)	AC No number (801) (851)	AD AD AD 2 8 9 (607)(618) (606) (618) (866)	
AF 2 (808)	AG 9 (863) (866)				
		AN 7 (618)		AP AP 4 No number (607) (630)	AR AR 6 No number (611) (804)
AS 6 (605)	AT No number (632) (854)				

- a. Numbers in brackets are Primus **blowlamp** model numbers.
- b. In respect of **blowlamps**, date codes AC, AP, AR & AT *without* a number are stamped on the underside of the tank. Also date codes up to *at least* J (1920) are stamped on the underside of the tank. All other date codes (those combined with numbers) are stamped on the tank side. The highest number observed is 37.
- c. On **pressure stoves**, the lowest number noted is 1 and the highest 37, said to fall between 1926 and 1952 (*Classic Camp Stoves website*).

Notes

1. The collaboration between C R Nyberg and **Max Sievert** is well documented. Nyberg had produced his first prototype blowlamp by 1882, and had his own factory from the early 1890s producing blowlamps and, as early as 1895, stoves. Very few blowlamps displaying the Nyberg name appear. This might be explained by the fact that Max Sievert, as early as 1883, took on the marketing of Nyberg's blowlamps, and later, stoves. Eventually **A B Max Sievert** took over the company of C R Nyberg, in 1922.

2. A number of Swedish patents can be viewed at <http://was.prv.se/spd/search>T.

3. There is the possibility that Svensons / B A Hjorth model *numbers* for certain models appeared on their blowlamps *before* 1911. Certain model numbers appear with the model names in a Primus / B A Hjorth catalogue of 1898, but these numbers, *as far as is known*, do not appear on the blowlamps themselves. As discussed, this is open to further research and confirmation.

4. *The Swedish Lamp*. It might be surmised that *the Swedish Lamp* was the first to be produced by Svensons, given its similarity in design and function to the Nyberg prototype, and the name *Swedish Lamp* a way of establishing a generic type (possibly free of patents) and / or as a way of acknowledging Nyberg's achievement and – it goes without saying – its country of origin. The name *Swedish Lamp* was also later given to similar models produced by Optimus, Erikssons (and others?) and possibly also to versions with no manufacturers name, but produced in Sweden, and possibly Britain, intended for resale and re-marking or rebadging with stockists or retailers names or brand names; possible examples of this are Beanco and Willander.

5. The B A Hjorth circular logo is sometimes seen with the word 'SWEDEN', or the words 'MADE IN SWEDEN', or 'PATENT' in the centre. There are also versions with and without 'Akt.Bol' (aktiebolaget) in front of the name *B A Hjorth & Co*.

6. Date Code Chart (earlier alternative, of unknown origins). Essentially the difference is that this chart ends in 1960, there is no change to six digit codes in 1957, and it is differentiated by the use of 'Q' and 'AQ' rather than 'I' and 'AI', which makes a difference of one year to a small number of the dates. Note the code AX, seen on a Primus 71, appears only on this chart. Alternatively, the code AI over 1, noted on a Primus 391 stove, does *not* accord with this chart, but does accord with the 'generally accepted' chart above.

A 1911	B 1912	C 1913	D 1914	E 1915	F 1916
G 1917	H 1918	J 1919	K 1920	L 1921	M 1922
N 1923	O 1924	P 1925	Q 1926	R 1927	S 1928
T 1929	U 1930	V 1931	W 1932	X 1933	Y 1934
Z 1935	AA 1936	AB 1937	AC 1938	AD 1939	AE 1940
AF 1941	AG 1942	AH 1943	AJ 1944	AK 1945	AL 1946
AM 1947	AN 1948	AO 1949	AP 1950	AQ 1951	AR 1952
AS 1953	AT 1954	AU 1955	AV 1956	AW 1957	AX 1958
AY 1959	AZ 1960				

7. No date coding has been noted on Primus self heating soldering irons due to insufficient information. Were in fact Primus SHSIs ever date coded? If so, where was the code positioned?

Main sources of information: *Classic Camp Stoves website; Classic Pressure Lamps website; Pressure Lamps International website; Blow Lamps Unlimited website; author's archive material / blowlamp examples; and Primus catalogue information kindly supplied by Graham Stubbs.*

Please note that a catalogue / listing of the various Primus model types, names and model numbers is the subject of separate and ongoing research and development.

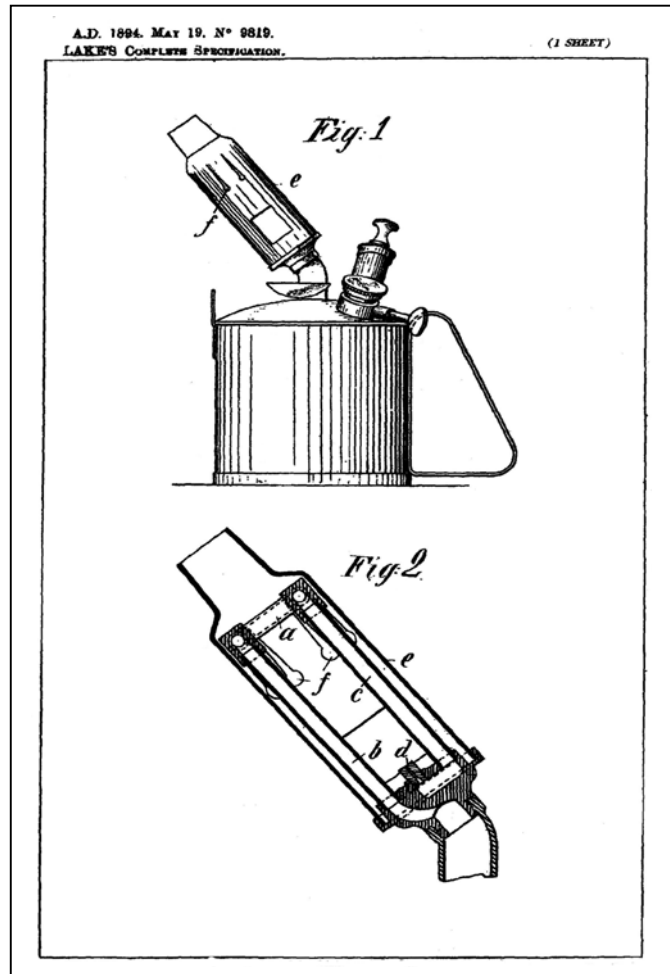
(See the next two issues of BLOWLAMP NEWS for more about PRIMUS – Ed.)

PRIMUS THE B.A. HJORTH PATENT of 1894

In his article *PRIMUS BLOWLAMPS: DATE & NUMBER CODING* Chris Naylor cited the website which lists Swedish blowlamp-related patents. No. 5102, patented on November 21st, 1893, filed by J.V. Svenson, lists F.W. Lindquist as the inventor.

GB189409819

The same invention, with identical illustrations, was filed in the UK by the UK patent agents Heseltine, Lake & Co. in 1894 and was accepted as patent 9819. The preamble states "Communicated from abroad by B.A. Hjorth & Co. of Klara Norra, Kyrkogata No. 5, Stockholm, in the Kingdom of Sweden, Merchants."



The description in the British version of the patent reads:

This invention relates to a petroleum heating and soldering apparatus or blow lamp, in which the burner consists of a ring-shaped tube, which is connected with the receptacle for the petroleum by a tube and with the outlet-opening for the evaporated petroleum by another tube the said outlet being situated on the axis of the ring. ...

The invention consists of a funnel or chimney *e*, surrounding the burner which chimney is not made a plain cylinder throughout the whole of its length but is reduced close above the ring-shaped tube *a* and provided with openings *f* below the said tube.

By reason of this form of chimney the flame at the outlet *d* is forced to pass around the tube *a* thus imparting to it heat sufficient to gasify the petroleum and of such uniformity as cannot be obtained without the use of the improved funnel, because the flame then passes through the middle of the tube *a* without passing around it. On account of the uniform gasification of the petroleum in the tube *a*, the flame also becomes very uniform and the developed heat of great uniformity.

Many European makers of blowlamps used the iconic shape of the burner described in this patent over a period of many years!

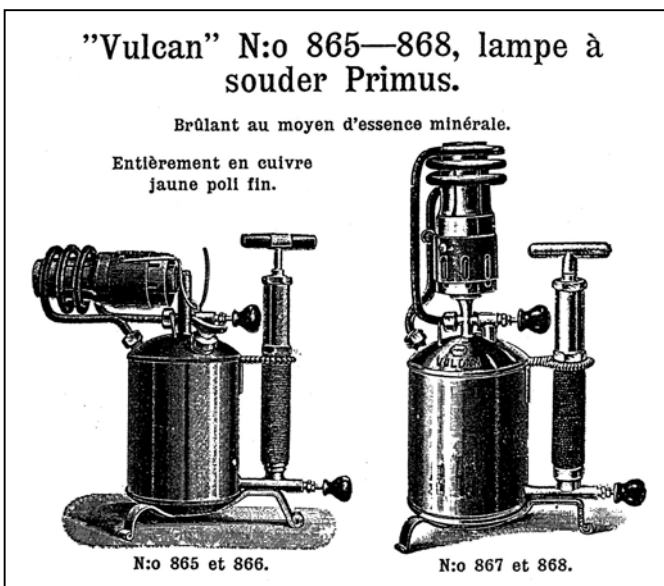
PRIMUS

PHOTOS FROM MICHEL COCHARD

Blowlamp Society member Michel Cochard, of Sens, in the Burgundy Region of France, submitted these photographs of two very fine examples of PRIMUS lamps.



In RECEUIL No. 2, published by the French "Club des Amateurs d'Outils Anciens" the "PRIMUS" No. 683 "lampe à moteur" is listed as having a fuel capacity of one litre, and standing 320 mm tall.



RECEUIL No. 2 lists the No. 867 "lampe à souder" with a fuel capacity of 2¼ litres, and standing 425 mm tall.

This example carries a brass label for BRANDT BROS. of Sydney Australia, well-known early sellers of lamps.

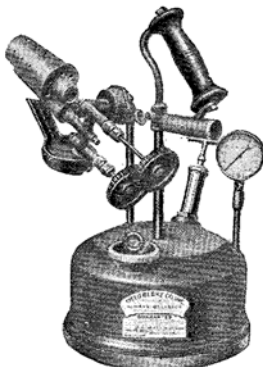
OTTO BERNZ: A VERY LARGE BLOWTORCH

Nick Major of New Bolingbroke, Lincs. sent these photographs of a very large Otto Bernz blowtorch. This example is of a little earlier date than the catalogue in which it appeared in 1936. The spiral valve knobs date it to the 1910s / 1920s.

This gasoline OR kerosene (paraffin) Bernz No. 70 torch has a one (US) gallon steel fuel tank, and is described in the Otto Bernz catalogue as:

..an extra large torch especially designed for heating heavy objects such as automobile axles and frames while in place, which eliminates taking work apart. ... The burner is mounted on a swivel so as to be directed to any point desired and is so constructed that it can be cleaned thoroughly and quickly.... The burner is equipped with a removable jet block and flame control so as to give a multi-flame.”

The filler, equipped with a pressure release knob, is unusual for an American torch. The pressure gauge, marked OTTO BERNZ NEWARK NJ reads 0 to 100 LBS.



For Gasoline or Kerosene
No. 70 — 1 Gallon
Wt. 15 Lbs.

NO. 70 GASOLINE (OR KEROSENE) BLOW TORCH

A LARGE MULTI-FLAME TORCH FOR PREHEATING AND BRAZING PURPOSES
FOR GARAGES, RAILROAD COMPANIES, UTILITIES, MACHINE SHOPS.

THE NO. 70 BLOW TORCH is an extra large torch especially designed for heating heavy objects such as automobile axles and frames while in place which eliminates taking work apart. It is also suitable for brazing and preheating work for welding.

The patented special composition burner is large and produces a powerful long flame and will preheat a part very quickly. The burner is mounted on a swivel so as to be directed to any point desired and is so constructed that it can be cleaned thoroughly and quickly. The blunt needle has a stuffing box nut to prevent the user from unscrewing the needle completely. The burner is equipped with removable jet block and a flame control so as to give a multi-flame.

Reservoir is made of extra heavy seamless drawn steel reinforced with protecting ring on bottom edge. Heavy bushings are brazed and all joints are welded. NO SOFT SOLDER USED. Funnel and patented dust-proof cap prevents dust or dirt from falling into reservoir. Pressure gauge attached to reservoir.

Powerful heavy 1" pump with "T" handle has patented screw-down feature. Patented holder and three cleaning needles in convenient carrying handle.

BELGIUM MEETING MARCH 2013

Marnik and Katy Van Insberghe, who once again organized the meeting in Langemark, Belgium, sent these photographs. There were twenty two collectors, a lot of lamps; and some very fine displays. The Blowlamp Society was represented at the meeting by Keith Hawkins, Ken Longden, Paul Whiddett and Jim Cammack.



The British collectors, Paul Whiddett, Keith Hawkins (in red shirt), Ken Longden, Jim Cammack (back to the camera), together with Honore and Mme. Schenk (from France) and Katy Van Insberghe and son.



**Ken & Monica Longden
sample the wine**



**Keith Hawkins and Ken Longden
investigate the shrubbery for treasures.**



Display of Mme Posé, of France



Display of Janus Nooijen of Holland



**French Société Française Vierzon
Model Tractor displayed by Christian
Reuchert of Belgium**



**Engine Starter Lamp
on the Vierzon Tractor Model**



**Marnik Van Insberghe with
Belgian Collectors Marnix Craeynest and Marcel Boonet**

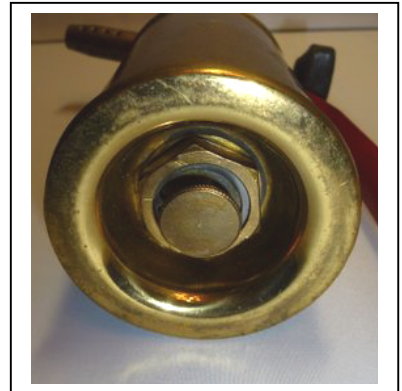
AN UNUSUAL VULCANO LAMP SUBMITTED BY JOHN TINGLE

I bought a Vulcano 1/3rd pint alcohol torch on eBay recently, mainly because it seemed to differ from the ones in my collection, in so far that it had a pressure release valve in the top of the tank.

Once it arrived, I could not find where it was meant to be filled.

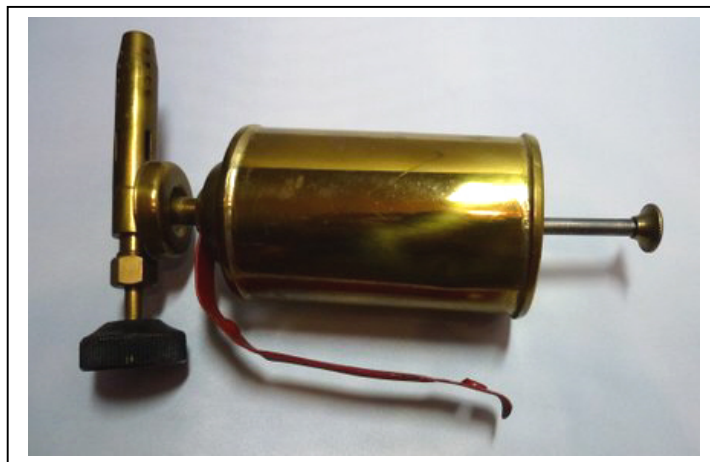


Upon close examination, I found a large nut in the recessed base of the tank. Removal of the nut provides access to the tank for filling purposes BUT IN THE CENTRE OF THE NUT IS A KNURLED BRASS DISC AND THIS REVEALS A PUMP MECHANISM in perfect working order. I have never seen a pump located in this place before.



Comparing this lamp to illustrations of Vulcano lamps in RECEUIL No. 6 (published by the French "Club des Amateurs d'Outils Anciens") John says:

"The Vulcano/Enders torch listed in Book NO 6 is No 511, tank dimensions 3" high x1.5" diameter no pump and flat top to the tank. My version is 4" high x1.5" diameter with beveled top to the tank. I have seen just one other example of my lamp in the last 18 years of collecting."



Has any other collector seen a lamp of this type, and/or any documentation?

KEITH HAWKINS HAS HIS SAY



AN INTERESTING "ODDBALL" LAMP

I wonder why anybody wanted to make up this lamp & what it was used for. With a burner that size no doubt off a 5 or 6 pint brazing lamp, it would obviously only be in use for a short time. The burner is mounted on a Sievert "Vapouria" 114. The lamp is owned by Tom Bartlett.



UNUSUAL AUSTRALIAN LAMP

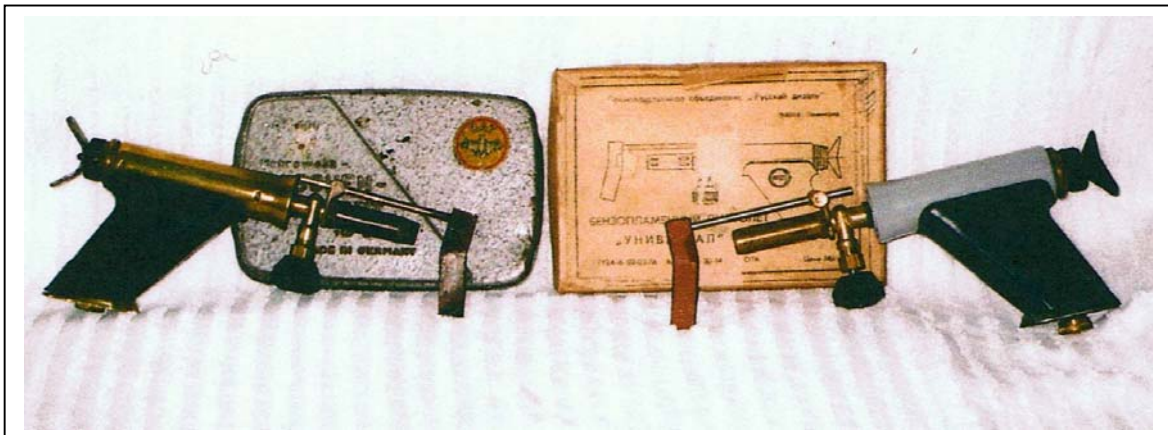
With reference to Page 8 of BN82, Brian Grainger's unusual Barthel, this one is an Australian Companion, made under license from Sievert./

(Editor's note: I think that this lamp bears a peculiar resemblance to a dachshund dog!)



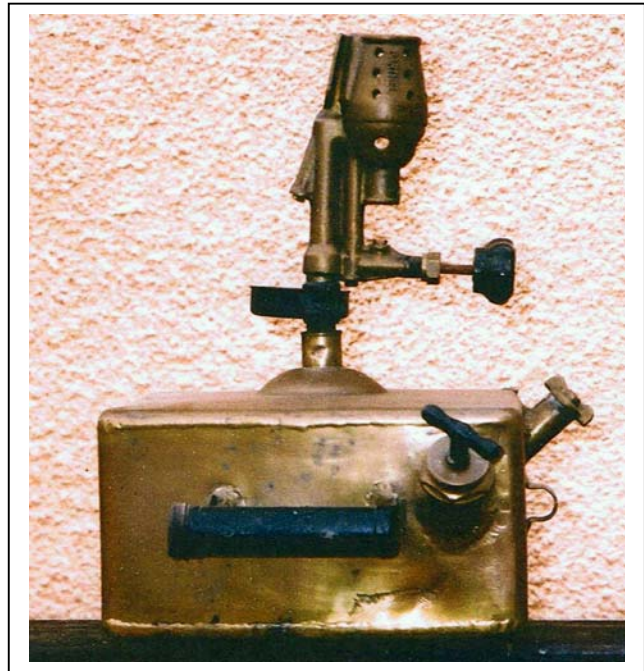
CLONES

Two almost identical soldering irons, a German BAT100 on the left, and a Russian version on the right. I thought it was only the Japanese (long ago) who copied things!!



ENGINE STARTING LAMP?

Another home-made device. The tank was made in heavy gauge brass, welded round the seams & the blowlamp used was probably a Barthel 26. It certainly must have been made for a very special purpose as who in normal circumstances would have wanted to dismember a much sought after Lanz Bulldog starting lamp. I got it from north Norfolk, but I do not know whether it originated there or whether it was used there. I've always wondered what it was used on maybe for starting a boat engine because it actually came from Kings Lynn, a fishing port with many inshore fishing boats & being that shape & weight would have been able to stay put when at sea.



GARRATT & CO.

At the October, 2012 meeting in Toddington, Brian Grainger brought two small brass lamp burners marked "GARRATT & Co.". See the part at left in the photo below.



At right is what a complete lamp looks like. It's interesting that the lamp is marked only "GARRATT" not "GARRATT & FOWLER" like other lamps in this series of lamps. The number "980" is NOT a patent; presumably it's a style or catalogue number.

(See BN 72, June 2011 for the Garratt patent and a photograph of a collection of these lamps.)





**SAMUEL HEATH & SONS (UK)
ONE-PINT BLOWLAMP
CUTAWAY SAMPLE
(Photo Bob Prichard)**

IN THE NEXT ISSUE

More Photos of Members' Lamps

British Makes, Marks and Model Names

More About PRIMUS

Art and the Blowlamp

Early History of Blowlamps

Your contributions of stories from steam fairs, unusual and rare lamps, and photos, photos, photos!

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.

Contacts:

Keith Hawkins, 28A Rectory Close, Carlton, Bedford, MK43 7JY

Tel. 01234 720974

Graham Stubbs, 17715 St. Andrews Drive, Poway, CA 92064, USA

gstubbs222@aol.com

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