

BLOWLAMP NEWS

BN 88

SEPTEMBER

2014

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



TYERS PATENT 1899
(Photo James Wyatt)

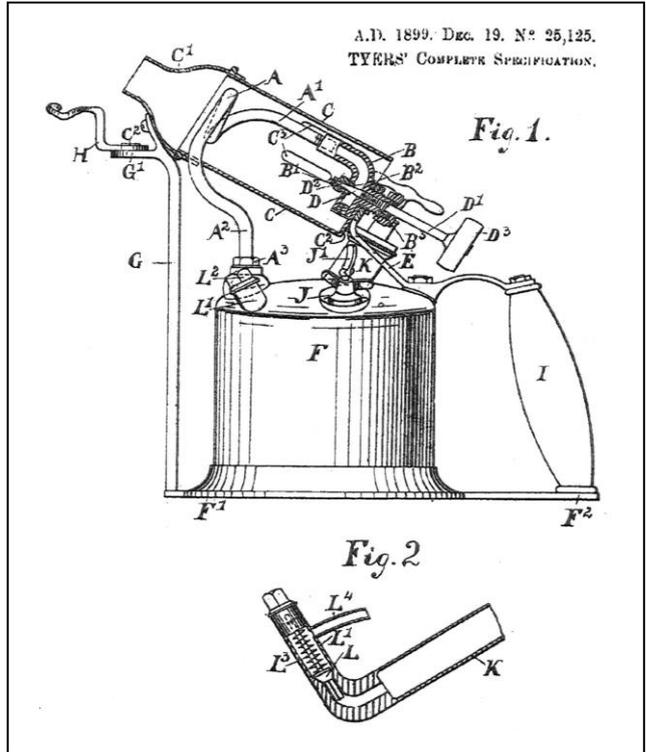
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TYERS PATENT BLOWLAMP



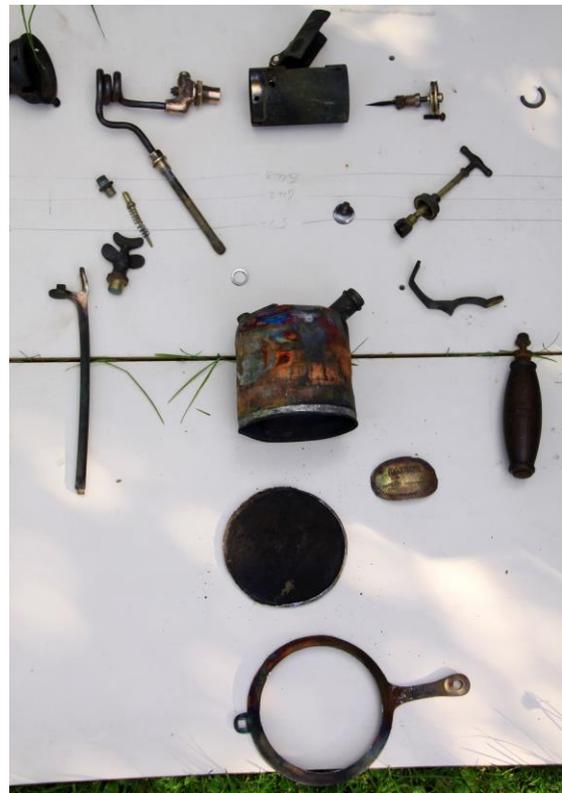
TYERS PATENT BLOWLAMP
(Photo James Wyatt)



In Issue No. 71 of BLOWLAMP NEWS (March 2010) Ray Hyland illustrated the patent application made in 1899 by Frederick Tyers for a blowlamp, and asked for anyone with an example to come forward. The bell-shaped fuel tank has an American look to it.

The patent features an internal check-valve, a self-cleaning jet, and at the front “a rest for supporting any article it is desired to heat”.

Returning member James Wyatt acquired this wonderful copper-tank example earlier this year, and Blowlamp Society member Norman Penny did an outstanding job of restoration.



THE TYERS LAMP DISASSEMBLED FOR RESTORATION



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Thanks to Max Rhodes the Blowlamp Society now has a Paypal account for payment of subscription dues etc. Payments can be made through Max using the Paypal account name:
 Blowlampnews@hotmail.com

For several weeks we have been advertising on ebay memberships in the Society, and we're very pleased to welcome the following new and/or returning members!

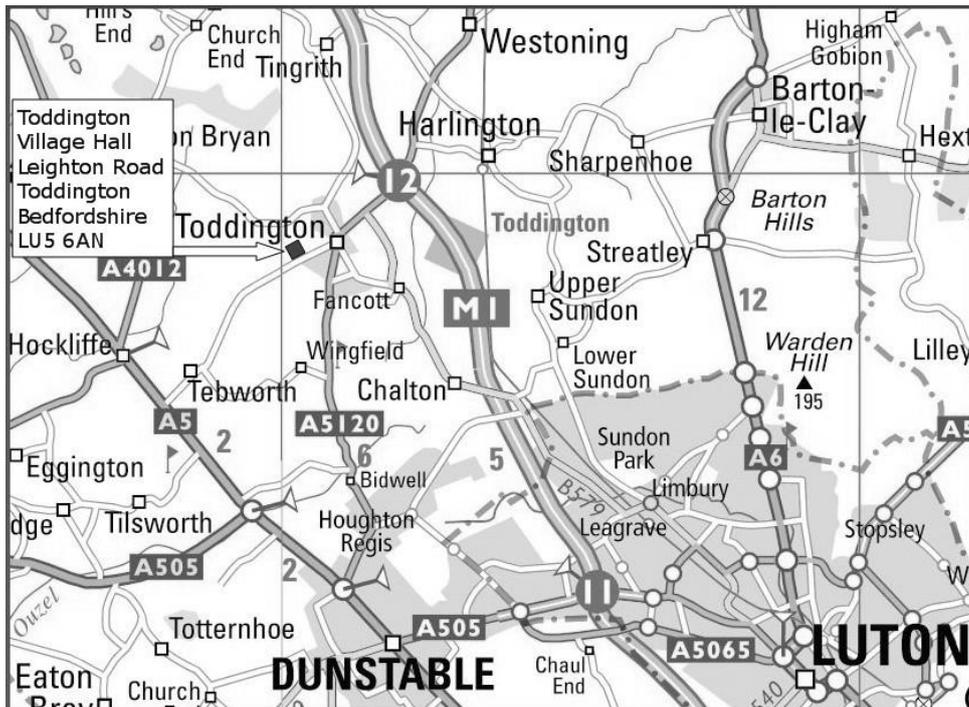
Jeff Battye	Kin Kin, Queensland	Australia
Paul Clarke	Hornchurch, Essex	UK
Patrice Faye	Putot en Bessin	France
Alexander Garcia Hernandez	Portsmouth, Hants	UK
Phil Harris	Bewdley, Worcs	UK
Jean-Yves Le Cam	Ste Thibault des Vignes	France
Jean-Pierre Leymarie	Poitou - Charentes	France
Arthur McNamara	McMahons point, NSW	Australia
Les Taylor	West Preston, Melbourne	Australia
James Wyatt	Minehead, Somerset	UK

A new list of members will be distributed with the December newsletter.

**REMINDER – NEXT BLOWLAMP SOCIETY MEETING
 SATURDAY OCTOBER 25TH, 2014**

The hall at Toddington, Beds. has been booked again for the next meeting of the Blowlamp Society. Mark your calendar and contact Keith Hawkins (see contact information on back page) for details and to let him know that you'll be there; your pre-payment of ten pounds towards the catering cost will be appreciated.

(I plan to travel from San Diego, California to attend; it can't be too far for anyone else!)



BLADON BLOWLAMPS PART TWO



This is the second of two articles about the blowlamp products of T.E. Bladon & Son of Birmingham. In BN 87 the numbered Bladon blowlamps were listed and illustrated from catalogues. We asked members to submit photographs of Bladon lamps considered to be especially rare or unusual. The excellent response is shown in the following pages with many pictures provided by members, showing some of the rare Bladon lamps, and illustrating the evolution of design.

The photos are in numerical order by model number, followed by examples that are un-numbered.

B40



Bladon B40 Refrigerant Detector Lamps --- left: steel / right: brass
Note the copper button on the burner of the example on the left. Also note the absence of a pressurizing pump on this example.
(Photo Brian Grainger)



Bladon B40 Refrigerant Detector Lamps --- left: brass / right: steel
(Photo Bob Prichard)

B49



Bladon B49 Methylated Spirits Lamp
Similar to catalogue illustration in BN87
(Photo Keith Hawkins)

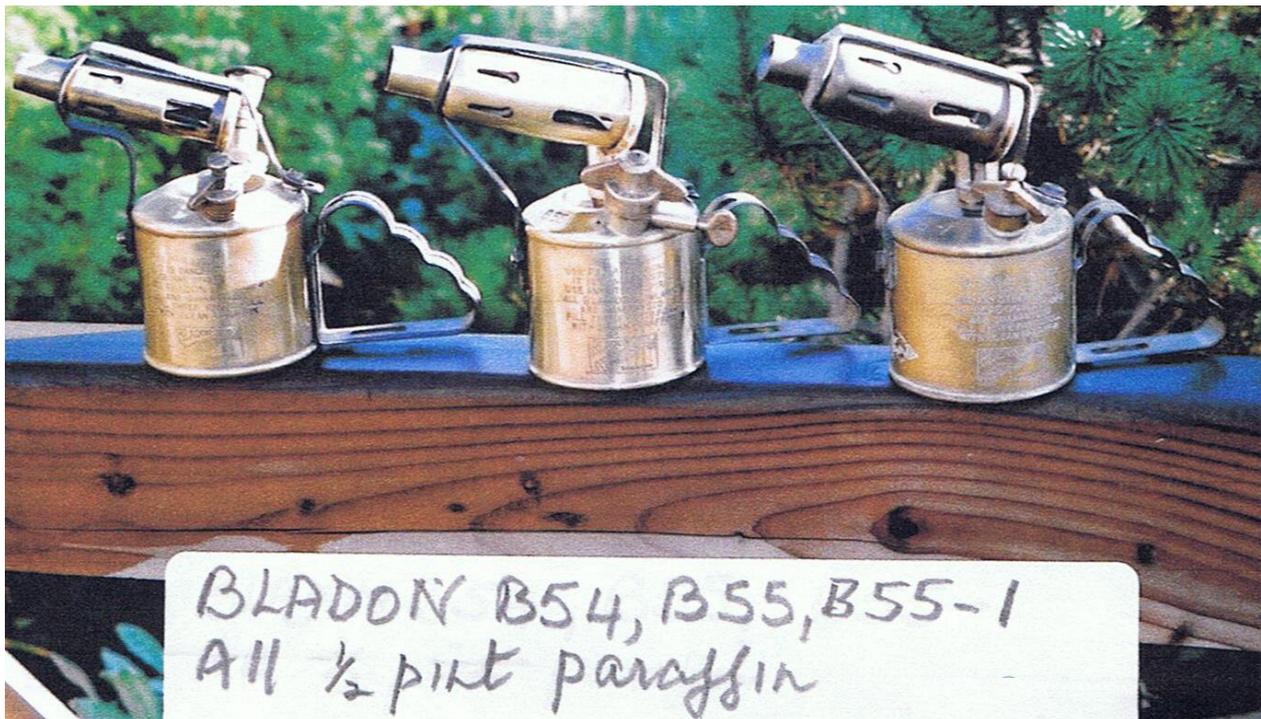


Bladon B49 Methylated Spirits
Lamp wire handle
(Photo Bob Prichard)



Bladon B49 Methylated Spirits
Lamp wire handle
(Photo Brian Grainger)

B55



Bladon B54, B55 and B55-1 Lamps
Note the progressively larger burners (left to right)
No catalogue illustration found for B55 or B55-1
(Photo Keith Hawkins)

B58 variant?



Bladon 2-Pint Lamp
Note the side mounted pump – rare variant
Otherwise like the B58
(Photo Chris Naylor)

B60



Bladon B60 2/3 Pint Petrol Lamp 1934
Marked **BLADON** and also **DIAMOND BRAND**
About the time Bladon ceased the Diamond brand and
started to number lamps. Similar to catalogue illustration
(Photo Keith Hawkins)

B60



**Bladon B60 2/3 Pint petrol lamp 1933
Horizontal burner solid steel handle
(Photo Chris Naylor)**



**Bladon B60 2/3 Pint petrol lamp 1926
Inclined burner wooden handle
(Photo Chris Naylor)**

B62



**Bladon B62 2/3 Pint Petrol Lamp 1930
Marked with Patent No. 338,776/29
(for the pressure pump and valve)
(Photo Chris Naylor)**

B65



**Bladon B65 2/3 Pint Petrol Lamp vertical burner 1930
(Photo Bob Prichard)**



**Bladon B75 Combined Blowlamp & Soldering Iron
(Photo Brian Grainger)**

B81



**Bladon B81 Lamp
Early brass tank
(Photo Brian Grainger)**



**Bladon B81 Lamp
Steel tank - painted
(Photo Brian Grainger)**



**Bladon B81 Lamp
Later Brass Tank
(Photo Bob Prichard)**

BLADON - NOT NUMBERED



Bladon one-pint steel blowlamp 1917
Brass plaque
MADE BY TE BLADON & SON LIMITED
BIRMINGHAM 1917
(Photo Brian Grainger)



Bladon one-pint steel blowlamp 1918
Brass plaque
MADE BY TE BLADON & SON LIMITED
BIRMINGHAM 1918
(Photo Bob Prichard)

The blowlamp shown below (right & left views), in a style similar to FRANK LOVE / ROMA lamps, has a number of additional names and numbers on the tank, some are soldered-on plates. Additionally there are a couple of British military arrows. This example has a combined filler / pressure release valve which may not be Bladon. (However, see upper left photo on page 10, Ed.)



Bladon one-pint blowlamp 1927
(Photo Chris Naylor)



Bladon one-pint blowlamp 1927
(Photo Chris Naylor)



**Bladon one-pint blowlamp
(predecessor of B50)
Wood handle and unusual filler cap 1927
Stamped T.E. BLADON / Diamond logo
(Photo Brian Grainger)**



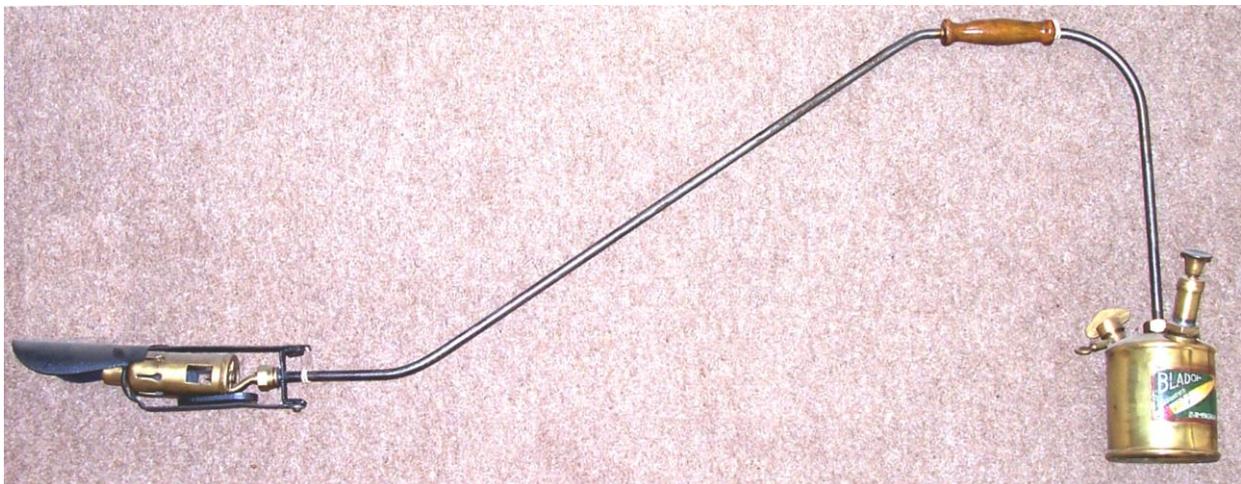
**Bladon one-pint blowlamp
(predecessor of B57)
Pump in cord-wrapped handle (no date)
Diamond logo stamped on brass plaque
(Photo Brian Grainger)**



**Bladon 1/2 pint lamp
(predecessor of B59)
Solid steel handle 1935
(Photo Brian Grainger)**



**Bladon Mouth-blowlamp
Square cap fits over squared bottom
Stamped T.E. Bladon 1935
(Photo Brian Grainger)**



**"Holden" Weed Gun
(Photo Bob Prichard)**

Bob Prichard points out that "Apart from the transfer 'B50', which is stamped on the top, the tank is completely smooth with no brackets or mounting points etc. which you would normally expect there to be for the attachment of the usual Bladon type handle and fittings".

Ray Gubb provided photos of this approx. ½ pint size Diamond-brand blowlamp.



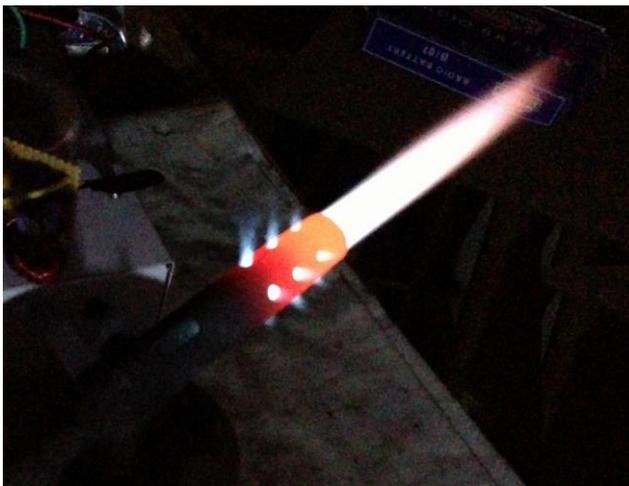
**Diamond Brand ½ pint blowlamp 1933
Wooden handle
(Photo Ray Gubb)**

Does anyone recognize it?

BLADON FLAMES

Here side by side are the distinctly different flames produced by a petrol blowlamp and a paraffin blowlamp, both Bladon.

Phil Harris took these pictures at dusk with his smartphone's camera, capturing the flame pattern as well as the red-hot flame tube.



**Bladon B46 Petrol Lamp Flame
(Photo Phil Harris)**



**Bladon B51 Paraffin Lamp Flame
(Photo Phil Harris)**

NOTE: THE BLOWLAMP SOCIETY DOES NOT ADVOCATE LIGHTING UP BLOWLAMPS UNLESS YOU REALLY KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING!

That said, does anyone have photos of blowlamps doing what they do best, making noise and flames?

LES ADAMS IN 1989



Great Dorset Steam Fair 1989

Les Adams on his stand with Keith Hawkins (stripy sweater), Ken Longden (in the cap) and Keith thinks the man with sun glasses could be Brian Grainger* (see below)

Keith's recollection of events twenty-five years ago.....

"Les was talking to Ken about this lamp he had seen in the auto jumble but hadn't bought it and when he decided to go and get it, it wasn't there any longer.

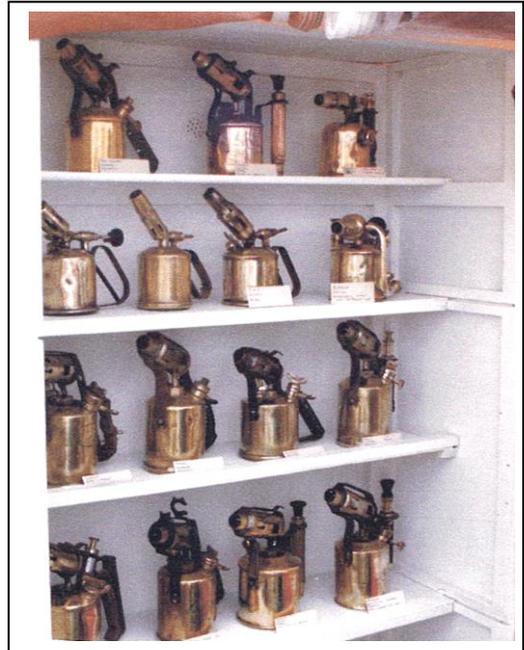
Whenever I saw anything interesting I bought things straightaway and of course while Les was rueing the disappearance of the Optimus it was already back in my caravan. I remember the seller wanted \$18 but accepted my \$16. It was the first decent lamp I ever bought & I have never seen another to this day.



OPTIMUS "AMERICAN" No. 48 AUTO TORCH

Optimus made several lamps for the US market, all classed as OPTIMUS AMERICAN.

Les Adams stand at the Great Dorset Steam Fair 1989



On another occasion I walked on to a stand just as Les's wife Gina walked off the other side & fortunately did not see me. There, prominently displayed was a Bladon 49 priced a \$22.



That one rapidly made its way into my pocket & when later I got up to Les's stand, he was in a hurry to go off and buy a lamp which his wife had told him about. I'm sure it was the Bladon, which had this perfect label, but being a gentleman I never said a word as I thought the walk would do him good!"

*Brian Grainger's recollection of the same event:
"Yes, it is me. The glasses are in fact my usual reactive lens specs., not sunglasses. This was the first time I had met Les Adams (or indeed any of the lamp collectors) and I was not at that time aware of the blowlamp fraternity. After talking with Les, and viewing his display, and then another similar meeting with Dave Rees, I was hooked and the collection started."



The first **BLOWLAMP NEWS** was issued three years later in August 1992.

MOX SELF HEATING SOLDERING IRONS

HISTORY FOLLOW-UP TO BN87



MOX SHSI
(Photo Dr. Charles Smith)

The story of the **MOX SHSI** is found in a succession of patents.

A German patent from 1930 **DE 492122** illustrates the MOX soldering iron with features commonly seen today. The cartridge is placed flat down in a chamber (2). The patent claims relate to the method of latching down the lid (3) to the chamber. The patent was registered by Deutsche MOX Brenner, of Berlin; the actual inventors are not named.

The Development of the Cartridge

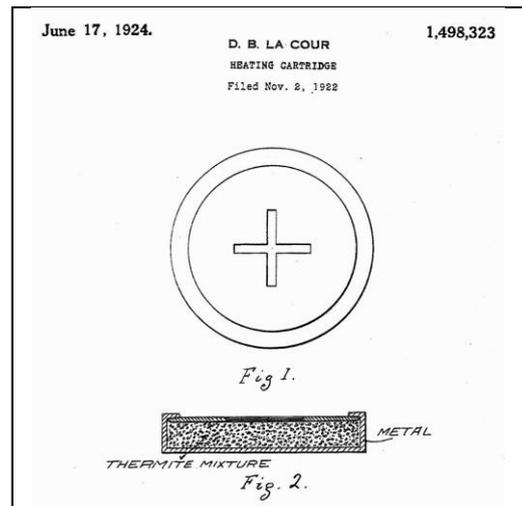
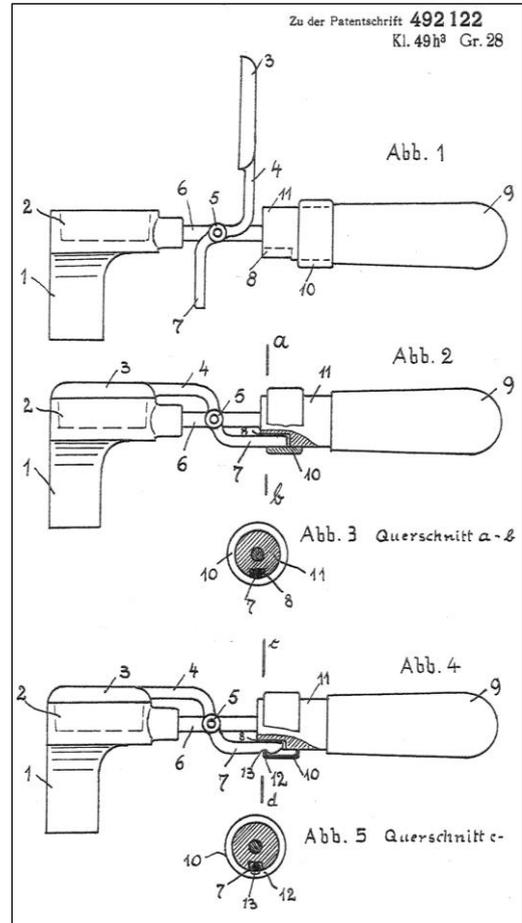
In 1915 two Danes, Dan B. La Cour and Cecil Vilhelm Schou, patented a heating cartridge that intended to be used with a separately inserted fuse. The same patent was issued in several other countries. The name **MOX** occurs in a 1922 Swedish application for an Austrian patent for the same device.

An American patent from 1922 **US 1,498,323** illustrates an improvement to the cartridge in which a thin aluminum cover is used and which can be lit by pushing a lighted match through the cover. The inventor is one of the inventors of the original cartridge, Dan La Cour. (This appears to be the version of cartridge found with surviving examples of **MOX SHSI**'s)

Evolution of the MOX SHSI

In 1915, the year they patented the cartridge, the same two Danish inventors patented in Denmark (**DK 20655**) a self-heated soldering iron, using the same cartridge. Two versions of the SHSI were illustrated, one in which cartridge was inserted edgewise into its compartment, and another in which it is laid in flat. In neither case was there the convenience of the hinged cover shown in the 1930 German patent.

So the final design with a latch for the cartridge cover seems to be the 1930 German patent. The styling of the single word **MOX** on the copper tip of the **MOX SHSI** at the top this article is exactly the same as in the illustrations in BN87, which came from a catalog of the Deutsche MOX Brenner, of Berlin, to which the German patent, above, was registered.



A MYSTERY BLOWLAMP
HENRY MATTHEWS / STRENGTH BRAND / CHARLES BURLEY
 By Brian Grainger

Looking through my collection, I have come across a lamp which answers a few questions, and raises a further one. I attach some photos of a Henry Matthews lamp, and the stampings thereon.



Within Chris Naylor's list of British Blowlamp Manufacturers (BN 84/85) there are two apparently unrelated entries:-

- a. Henry Matthews & Co. -- No information available
- b. Strength Brand -- Blowlamps similar to Burrige

The stamping containing the Henry Matthews name identifies it as a Bristol company. Unfortunately I can find no information at all for this company. Enquiries at the local library prove negative, as without an address, and possibly a date, they have nowhere to start a search of the extensive Bristol Directories.



The second stamping (on the same tank) establishes that the Strength Brand was in fact the Trade Mark belonging to Henry Matthews.

The entry in Chris' list of manufacturers under Strength Brand suggesting a comparison to Burrige is possibly a re-iteration of an entry by Les Adams in Newsletter No. 38, page 5 where he queries any link between Strength Brand and Burrige. This Matthews lamp does not correspond to any of the Burrige lamps I have.

In addition to the tank stamping, the burner tube also contains the words STRENGTH BRAND. (One wing of the filler cap has been broken off at some time). From these markings, the tendency would be to assume that Henry Matthews was in fact the manufacturer.

But here we have to think again, as you will see from the photo. of the brass support strip to the handle, that manufacture was in fact by Charles Burley & Sons of Birmingham. Again a search of the internet reveals no entries that I can trace of this name. So here we have another apparently unrecorded British Manufacturer. (I wonder whether Charles Burley was connected in any way with Howes & Burley).



From these details it would appear that we can discount any link between Burrigge and the Strength Brand trade mark. But who was Charles Burley & Sons? They must have been a fairly substantial company to have the tooling and facilities necessary to produce lamps. The lamp I have is well worn, and it is surprising that no others appear to have surfaced. A query answered, and another raised !!

Chris Naylor replies:

I've had a quick look for references to the names / manufacturers Brian has described, but like Brian, I haven't had any success so far. I'll get back to you and Brian on the subject of a link between Burrigge and "Strength Brand" as - unlike Brian - I think there is a very good case for a link, as I had suggested under "Strength Brand" in my A to Z. That said, I had not made the connection between "Strength Brand" and Henry Matthews & Co, Bristol, nor was I aware of the name Charles Burley & Sons, Birmingham. As Brian suggests, one question is answered, but another is often raised...!

(No doubt we'll continue this discussion in future issues. Ed.)

FOR SALE and WANTED

Long-time Blowlamp Society member Brian Grainger has asked that members be advised that his collection is up for sale. In total it comprises 1020 items, from all around the world, including quite a few rare and/or unusual lamps etc. Of these, approx.95% have been cleaned, restored to display condition (not working), and polished.

Brian's hope is that there will be a person interested in the complete collection, or a group of individuals interested in acquiring it for dispersal amongst themselves. Brian can be contacted at briangrainger@btinternet.com or see the membership list for address and telephone. Also, Brian is looking for a **Primus** control valve knob, of the round metal type with a brass insert.

INCLUDED IN THE NEXT ISSUE

More Bladon Blowlamps	More Optimus American
Another Blowlamp Sculpture	October 2014 Toddington meeting report
Your contributions of stories from steam fairs, unusual lamps, and photos of collections	

INDEX to ISSUES 1-88 (1992 – 2014)

A cross-referenced index to all issues of **BLOWLAMP NEWS** is available from Keith Hawkins on request, with a contribution to cover the costs of printing and postage.

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

The editors' thanks go to Brian Grainger, Ray Gubb, Phil Harris, Keith Hawkins, Chris Naylor, Norman Penny, Bob Prichard, Max Rhodes, Dr. Charles Smith and James Wyatt for contributions to this issue of **BLOWLAMP NEWS**.

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