

# ***BLOWLAMP NEWS***

**BN 90**

**MARCH**

**2015**

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

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## **MORE BLOWLAMP FLAMES**

**OPTIMUS 1322: HAHNEL 29: SIEVERT HLCC**  
(Photo Patrice Faye)

**NOTE: THE BLOWLAMP SOCIETY DOES NOT ADVOCATE LIGHTING UP BLOWLAMPS.**

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

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## ***IN THIS ISSUE***

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**RAY HYLAND'S COLLECTION (page 16)**

## **MORE FLAMES**

Photos by Patrice Faye



**SURMELIN No. 3 (Starting)**



**SURMELIN No. 3 (Fully Burning)**



**LOCHNER (Starting)**



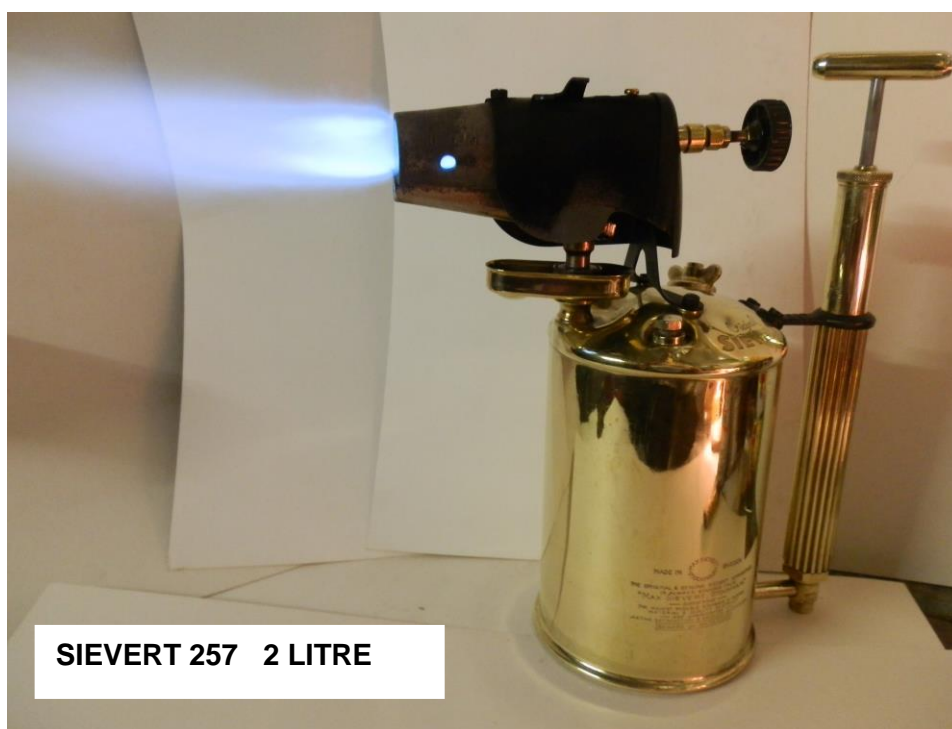
**LOCHNER (Fully Burning)**



**FOUILLARD F.J. No.4**



**LONGUEMARE**



**SIEVERT 257 2 LITRE**



**OPTIMUS 1322**



**FOUILLARD F.J. VESTA K2**

**MEMBERS' PHOTOS**



**WILFIN**  
(Photo: Bob Prichard)



**HORNSBY ACKROYD**  
24 INCHES TALL, WEIGHS 49 POUNDS  
(Photo: Bob Prichard)



**FOUILLARD F.J. No.3**  
Found in Switzerland;  
Hard to get through Swiss  
customs  
(Photo David Frost)



**No.1 BRITISH ARMY PETROL BURNER**  
Used for heating mobile kitchen units in  
the field  
(Photo: Nick Major)

## **HENRY MATTHEWS** (Continued) ~

By Brian Granger

Newsletter BN88 contained details of a Henry Matthews lamp found in my collection, with its connection to the Strength Brand logo. This is a follow-up article.

Following a visit to the Bristol Central Library archives department, I can now add some further information, and comments on Matthews & their blowlamp.

Henry Matthews & Co. Ltd. were established in 1853, and their business consisted of:

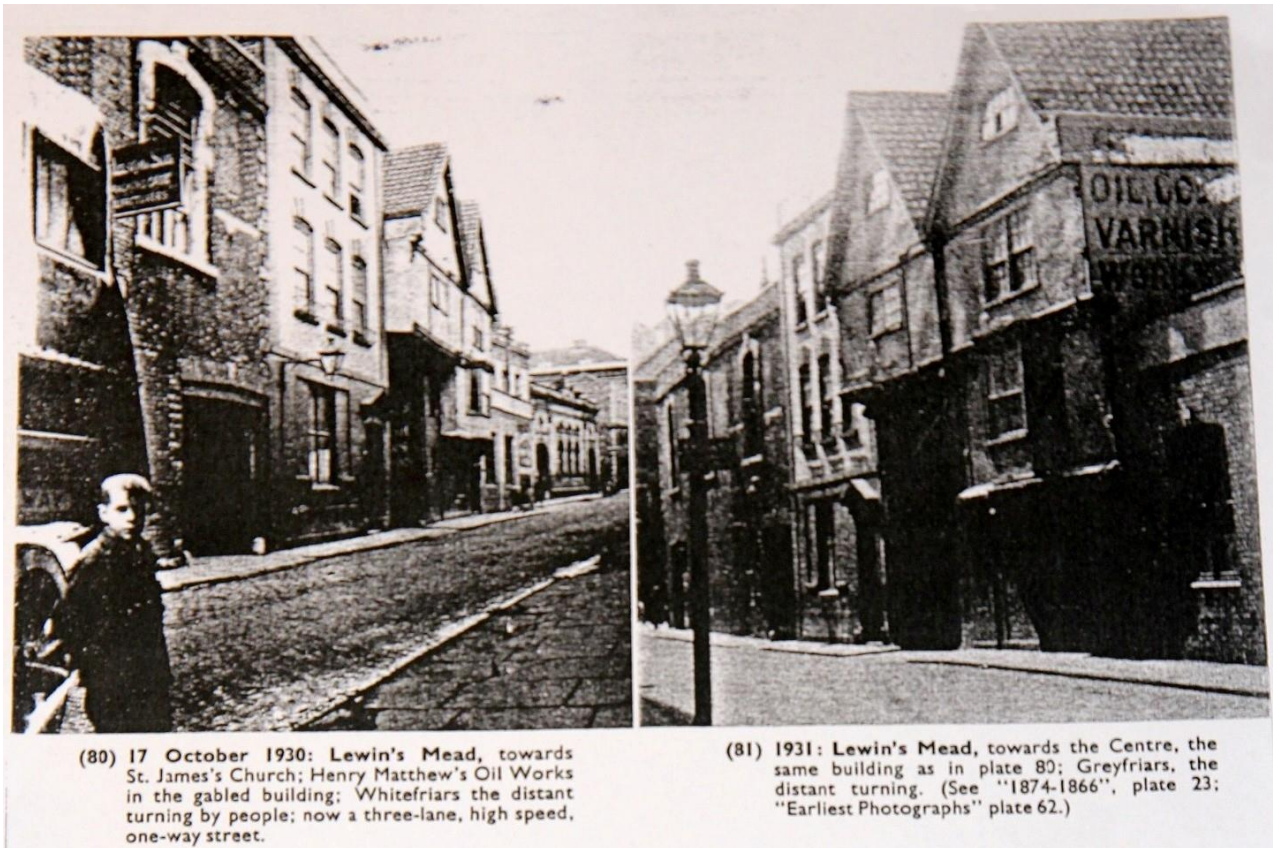
Color & Varnish Manufacturers, Lead & Glass Merchants, and associated goods.

They were situated in the heart of old Bristol:

Offices & Warehouse at Lewin's Mead. Factory at 2a Charles Street.

Further premises, occupied as Oil & Color Men, at 4 Old King Street.

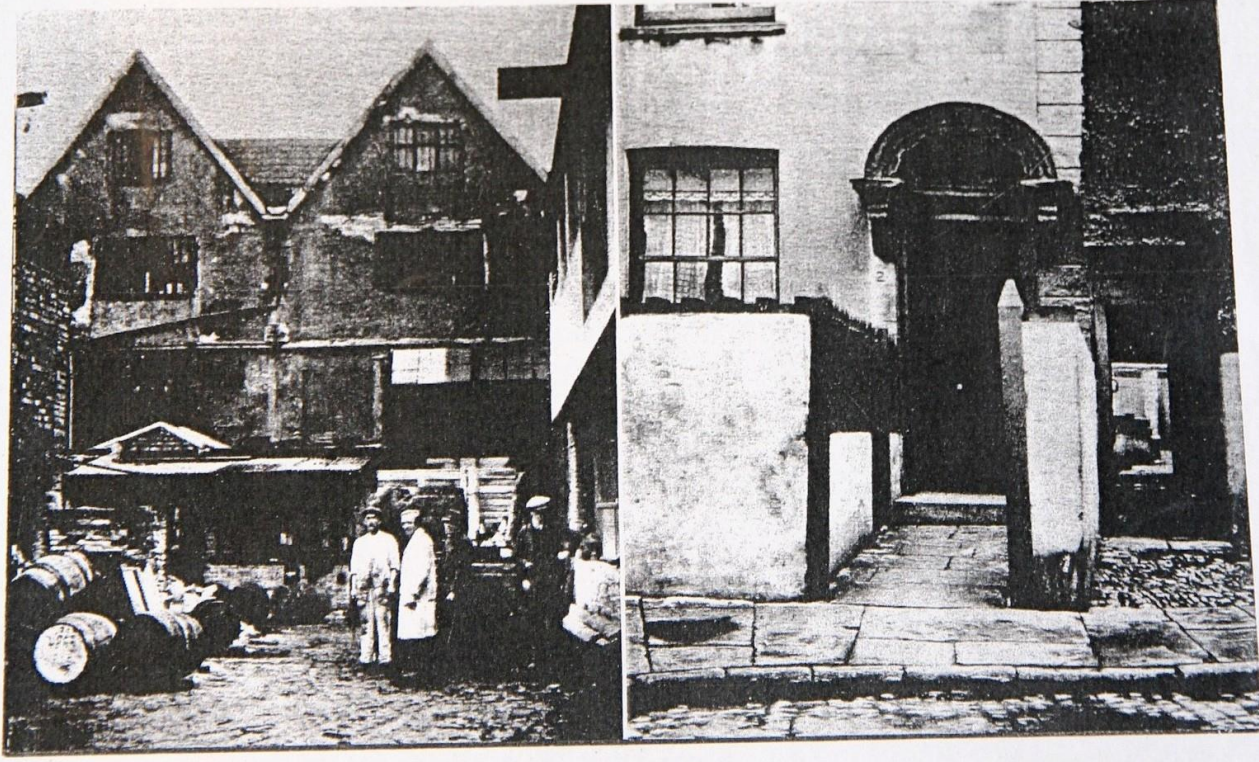
The first two of these premises were destroyed in November 1940 when German bombers devastated most of the central area of old Bristol. They managed to continue in business, with the Government helping in reconstruction after the war, but by the early 1960's they were suffering from competition and entered voluntary liquidation.



*Premises of Henry Matthews (1)*

(82) 22 January 1931: Lewin's Mead, the courtyard of Matthew's building seen in plates 80, 81. This was once an inn's coaching yard. Blitzed November 1940.

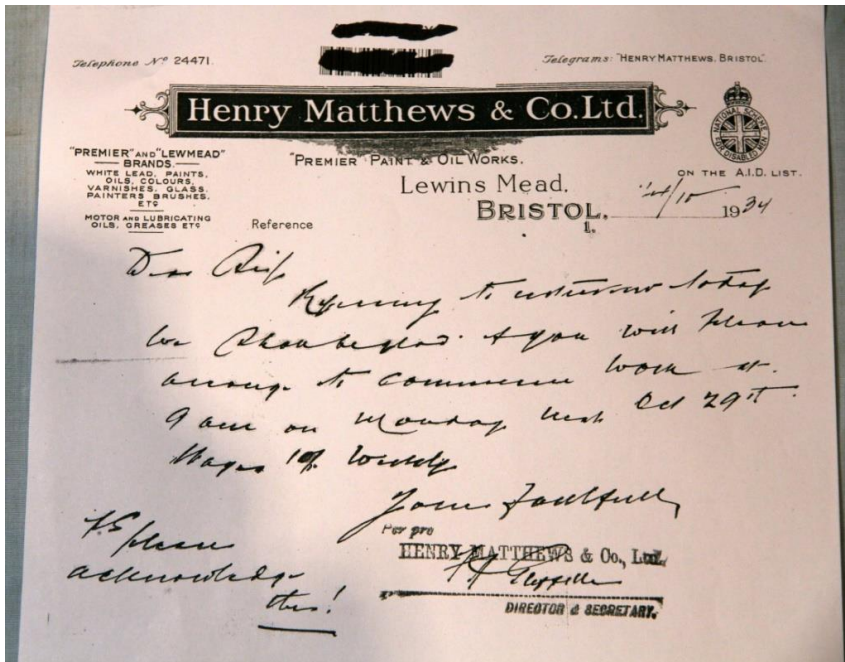
(83) 26 October 1930: 2 New Street, at north-west end, near the Rope-walk, St. Judes. A good shell-hooded porch, a court alongside. House right blitzed, left demolished c. 1950.



*Premises of Henry Matthews (2)*

A copy of their letter-heading (*below*) shows their brands and products; no mention of blowlamps or other hardware. I can quite visualise that by the nature of their products, especially lead, paint and glass, they would wish to offer hardware to their clients,

which is where the blowlamps would be required. Obviously they had no machinery for production of brasswork, and with very little in the way of brassworkers listed in the local Trade Directories, the nearest centre of this activity would probably have been Birmingham – enter Charles Burley & Sons.



*Henry Matthews & Co. Letter-heading*

The BN88 article raised the question of the manufacturer of the Henry Matthews blowlamp, and included a photograph of the handle stamping identifying Charles Burley & Sons.

But who is the manufacturer here? The name Henry Matthews (and their trade mark, Strength Brand) are both imprinted on the tank, whilst the name Charles Burley is imprinted on the handle support, so there is no obvious answer to the question of manufacturer. The names of blowlamp manufacturers do sometimes appear on the handle bracket, but in this case is it possible that the handle and / or brackets are a replacement? Or were Charles Burley & Sons the manufacturers whilst Henry Matthews were stockists or retailers, with "Strength Brand" as their trade mark?

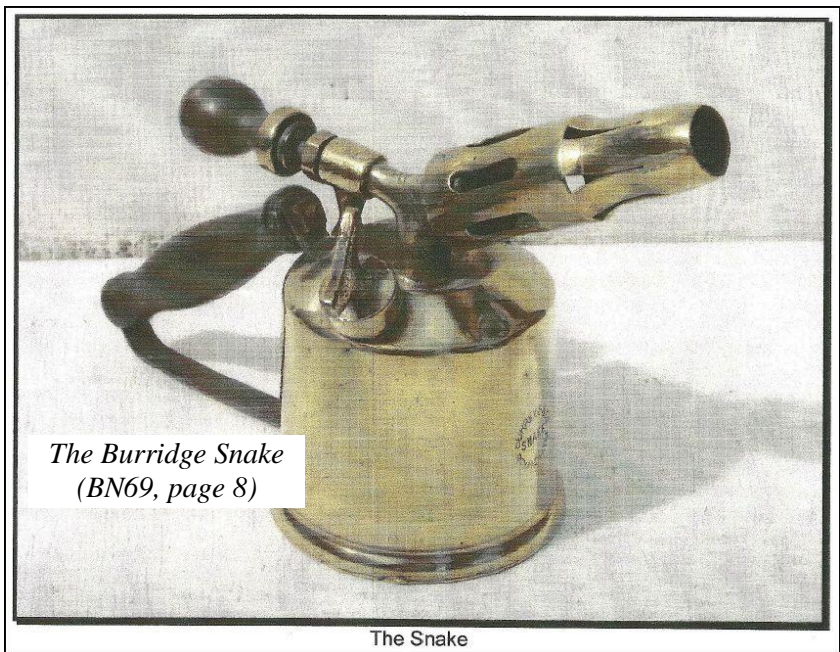
That said, I have had a good look at this on my Henry Matthews / Strength Brand example, and whilst I cannot be 100% sure, the brazing to the handle brackets does look original to me.

**A connection between Burrige and the Strength Brand name?**

The question was raised about the possibility of a connection between Burrige and the Strength Brand name, with an article by Les Adams in BN38 raising this possibility. Les wrote:

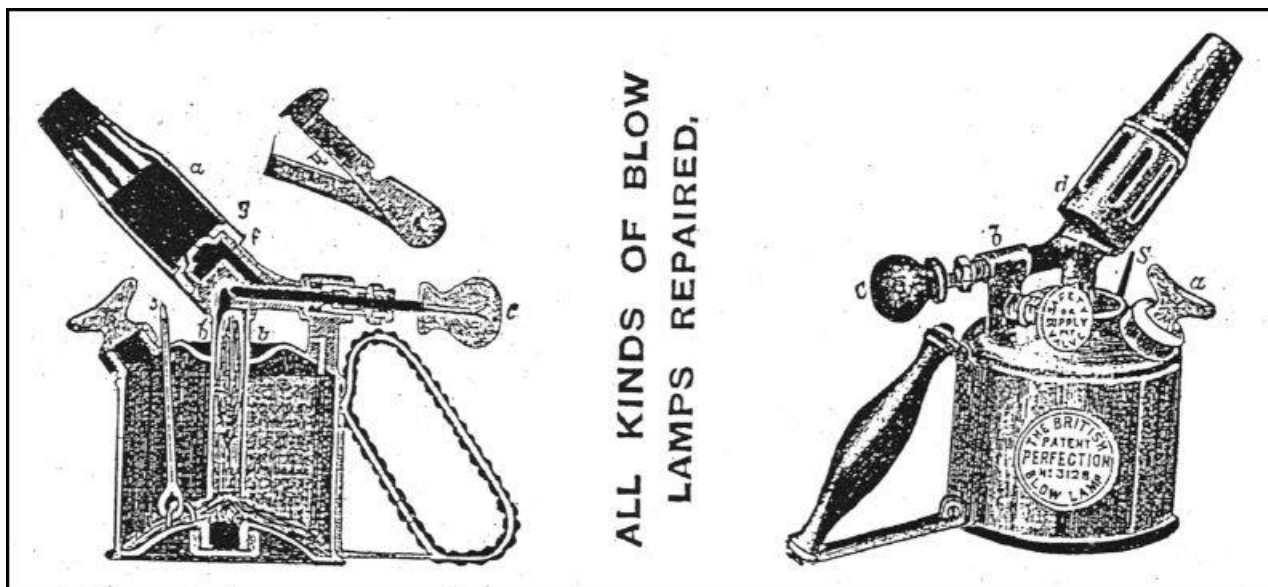
"-----what is the relationship between Burrige and the 'Strength Brand'? At least one Strength Brand I have seen has the same tank as the 2/3 pint Burrige, and though marked 'Strength Brand' the burner tubes are identical as are the spring filler caps. These questions have yet to be answered.---"

Regarding a possible relationship between Burrige and the 'Strength Brand', there is a strong similarity in the burner tubes as on (for example) my Strength Brand example and those on a Burrige. Similar burner tubes also appear on early petrol Samuel Heath & Sons examples. Additionally, there is the 'Snake' Burrige which has a 'smooth-sided' tank – see BN69, page 8, (below) – similar to my Strength Brand, although (to confuse!) the Snake illustrated has a 'non-Burrige' like burner tube.



The Snake is the only Burrige with a smooth-sided tank (all my Burrige examples have ribbed tanks). The Blowlamp News photograph of the Snake shows the lamp with a "non-Burrige like" slotted burner tube. However can I suggest that this was in fact the standard burner tube for the Snake. My reasoning? ---- In 1999, Philippe Touillet produced a Catalogue entitled 'A Background to British Blow Lamps'. Page 58 (see below) contains directions for the use of the Burrige 'British Perfection No.1', which appears to be the Snake, and from this the slotted burner tube (as in

the BN69 example above) was the standard for this model. This then disqualifies it from comparison with the Matthews torch.



*Philippe Touillet Catalogue – page 58. The Burrige Snake on the right?*

However, said illustration (above right) whilst it could represent a Snake – shows the notable Burrige auxiliary supply / pre-heater valve (at 90 degrees to the main control valve). The Snake does not have this auxiliary valve. Also the illustration appears to use some artistic licence; note that the cross-section to its left is probably that of a Max Sievert ...!

The burner tube on my Matthews example is exactly the same as on the other Burrige models. In fact I can confirm that apart from the inscriptions on them, they are identical and interchangeable, one fitting the other. But when they are removed, another important difference becomes apparent; they use totally different jet systems (see photos below). The Burrige uses what I would term the 'standard' system, with jet forming part of the fuel supply tube. The Matthews, however, has a system whereby the fuel is forced through a large orifice at the top of a small chamber, and from there a flame is formed through a cup jet sited at the bottom of the burner tube, held in place by a washer.



*The Burrige Jet*

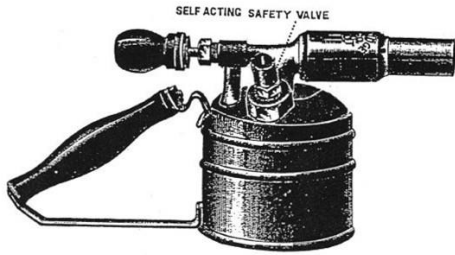


*The Matthews Jet*

So apart from the burner tube, the Matthews has no other characteristics of the Burrige lamps. It has no safety valve, but uses the safety pin method shown. With regard to the burner tube, is it possible that both Burrige and Henry Matthews / Charles Burley (and others such as Samuel Heath mentioned) used a sub-contractor to supply these? There is an interesting website called BIRMINGHAM BRASS MAKERS 1850-1950 which lists hundreds of brass manufacturers in the



-1925- **BURRIDGE'S**  
 "British Perfection" Blow Lamps.



Unexcelled in quality and finish and efficiency, a most popular type. They give an intense flame, are unaffected by wind or rain and may be used in any position with absolute safety. Made by experts of the finest non-porous polished Brass. Every Lamp is tested to pressure and trial burned.  
 Patent Needle Lamp, Capacity  $\frac{1}{2}$  pints, with side feed and self-acting safety valve. It holds two-thirds of a pint, and may be used constantly at the greatest pressure. Repairs are seldom necessary if properly used.  
 Each Lamp is sold with a complete set of Reserve Fittings.

*Philippe Touillet Catalogue, page 59*

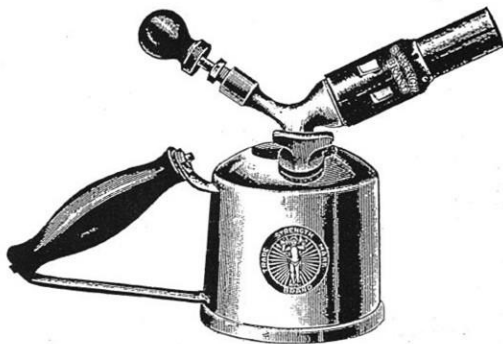
Birmingham area (included are Howes & Burley, Samuel Heath, Townson & Coxon & others). Strangely though, Burridge does not appear nor Charles Burley! Amongst such a large community of brass workers, I would imagine sub-contract work would be quite extensive. If any of the Companies we are considering actually manufactured these tubes, I cannot see them agreeing to supply their competitors.

Referring back to the handle / brackets on my Strength Brand / Henry Matthews example, the lower bracket of which carries the Charles Burley & Sons name, the top bracket is a short straight strip of brass brazed to the tank, whereas all of the Burridge lamps (except the Sanke) show this support as being of a convoluted strip. See illustration *left*.

**The "Little Wonder" blow lamp**

NOW, further reference to the Philippe Touillet catalogue, pages 61 & 62 (below) shows two examples of the "Little Wonder" blow lamp, but no manufacturer is noted for these.

- 61 -  
 "LITTLE WONDER"  
 British Made Blow Lamp. - 1912 -



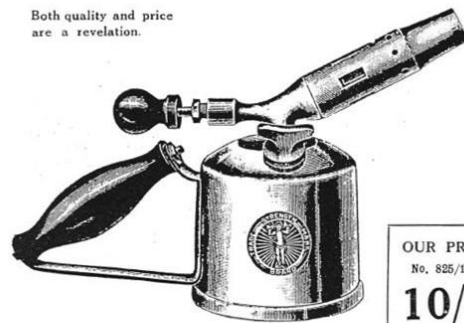
**Burns either Petrol or Benzolene.**  
**Capacity two-thirds of a pint.**  
 Made throughout of solid brass, with polished black wood handle, this is one of the strongest, most perfect, safest, and cheapest blow lamps ever offered. Indispensable to motor and cycle makers, painters, plumbers, electricians, engineers, braziers, smiths and other craftsmen. A positive boon to cycle repairers for burning off old enamel, for soldering, for making new lead joints, loosening an old joint, and other operations. Gives a continuous heat in the coldest atmosphere or wind. Holds two-thirds of a pint, and may be used constantly at the greatest pressure. Repairs are seldom necessary if properly used, but each lamp is sold with repair outfit fittings.

Made throughout of Best Solid Brass.  
 This Lamp does not need Wind Guards.

*Philippe Touillet Catalogue, page 61*

- 1916 - **TWO SPLENDID**  
**BLOW LAMPS**  
 British Made "LITTLE WONDER"  
 Blow Lamp.

Both quality and price are a revelation.



**OUR PRICE**  
 No. 825/108.  
**10/6**  
 Post Paid.

**DIRECTIONS**  
 for Using

Feed the lamp through the opening (about three-fourths full), and then screw on the cap tightly. Don't feed lamp near a light or fire, nor while lamp is burning. Pour a little spirit into recess at the top of lamp, and apply a light to spirit. Then tilt lamp right to left, causing a little spirit to overflow, continue this process until lamp is hot; then open valve knob slowly by turning it once to the left, when heated spirit will be emitted at the nozzle. Have a light ready, and light lamp at nozzle.  
**REGULATION OF FLAME**—The flame is regulated by use of the valve knob. While lamp is temporarily unemployed, reduce flame to a small blue one, just turning to keep tube hot.  
**EXTINGUISHING**—By turning valve knob to right the flame will be instantly extinguished. Lamp can be kept burning without the slightest fear until the last drop of spirit has been used. The flame increases considerably when lamp has been burning for some little time. Lamp can be used in any position without the slightest danger.

**TO KEEP THE LAMP IN ORDER**—The small hole in mouthpiece must be frequently cleaned by means of the probe (pins or needles must not be used as they have a tendency to enlarge the aperture). If, after probing, lamp still burns badly, valve knobs should be unscrewed, and opening cleaned by means of the needle. The tube or nozzle is screwed to lamp and holds the mouthpiece. Between inner part of tube and mouthpiece is an asbestos washer. It is necessary to remove this sometimes and put a fresh washer in. The screw-cap is provided with a cork washer to make it fit tightly. If the washer gets worn out, a new one must be substituted. Valve works easier if occasionally oiled, but if it works too easily, screw nut-loosener. After being in constant use for six or twelve months, the wick may be renewed. Pull wick out by means of the hook through the bottom of the apparatus, and substitute a new wick.

*Philippe Touillet Catalogue, page 62*

However, the example on page 61 is, without doubt, the Matthews lamp, with the 'Strength Brand' mark. I have compared the lamp closely with the illustration, and they are identical, down to the straight, upper handle support mentioned above. The illustration carries the date 1912 overprinted, but sadly, as said, no identification as to manufacturer.

Below are some archive photos of Little Wonder examples. Of interest (though not in itself proving anything) is that all these examples appear to have a 'bolted on' type handle bracket. Whilst the illustrations in Philippe's book do not show any such 'bolts' or screws, this could be artistic licence of course!



*Little Wonder No 2 blowlamp*



*Little Wonder No 2 blowlamp  
Note the "ornate" (original?) handle*



*Little Wonder, believed to be a No 1*

All this leads me to the following conclusions:-

- a) Henry Matthews was not a blowlamp manufacturer
- b) Manufacture was by Charles Burley & Sons
- c) 'Strength Brand' Trademark belonged to Henry Matthews

- d) 'Strength Brand' lamps were marketed under the 'Little Wonder' model name
- e) No compelling evidence of a connection between Burrige and 'Strength Brand'
- f) Possible connection between Charles Burley & Sons and Howes & Burley Ltd.

Hopefully this information will bring forth some thoughts from other members, either confirming, contradicting or adding further information. I doubt that I am the only one in possession of a 'Strength Brand' torch – in fact Les Adams' notes indicate that he had seen others. Where are they?

Until another Strength Brand, or Matthews torch turns up, we are stymied. With a distance of about 100 years, and a lack of available torches from the era, I have a feeling the full history may never become clear. We need other members who may have examples to come forward.....

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### **CAN YOU IDENTIFY THIS EOLIPYLE?**

Charles Smith recently acquired this "torch" on German eBay.

It appears to be an early type of an Eolipyle, with one wick heating the fuel container and the other wick serving as the object flame.

The offset, or middle, opening is the filler which has been sealed with a cork. The stand and its base are ferrous and appear to be made of thin sheet iron. It is 7 1/2 inches in height and the base is almost 5 inches in length.

If you have any information about this unmarked item, please contact Charles at [ccsmith2@charter.net](mailto:ccsmith2@charter.net).



## AUSTRALIAN BLOWLAMPS *Spitfire – Everyday Link*

Mal Mutimer, Arthur McNamara, Michel Duval

In the June 2011 edition of *Blowlamp News* (No 76) we (MM & MD) published an article on an Australian made “Spitfire” blowlamp (made by Everyday Products Pty Ltd) with an unusual uptake tube. This was followed up, in the next edition, with an article on all the other known Australian made blowlamps, including those made by Everyday Products. Arthur McNamara, a new member of the Society, has presented some new information and photographs from his collections, showing the evolution of the SPITFIRE and EVERYDAY blowlamps.



**Figure 1. Everyday blowlamps 1941 to 1945**

The lamp on the left, No 1, shows the Everyday “Spitfire” blowlamp as depicted in the 1941 patent. It has the unusual shaped flat and narrow handle, an elongated burner tube and a uptake tube which allows the burner to be adjusted from horizontal to vertical. Note, this picture also shows the filler cap/ pressure release which is missing from the photograph of the lamp in *BN 76*.

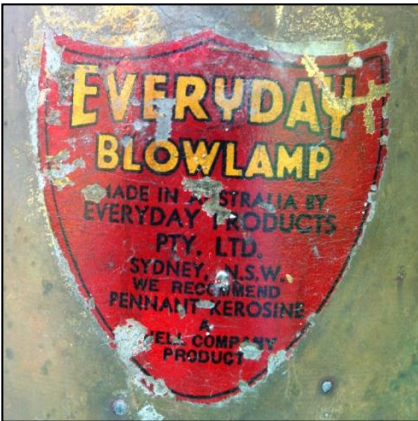
The lamp in the centre, No 2, is a derivation of No 1; but now the adjustable burner tube has been replaced with a fixed version, the tank shoulders have been lowered to allow for the incorporation of a pre-heat well in the centre top of the tank, a steel burner strap, without soldering iron hooks, has been added and the handle modified to form a fixing point for the burner strap.

The lamp on the right, No 3, resembles the centre lamp except now the handle shape has been changed. We do not know when this lamp was in service. It has the usual Department of Defence markings and the plaque soldered to the side of the tank is stamped “TEST60LBS 23.7.45”. Besides the handle, both the filler cap/pressure release and the pump have been altered. It is hypothesised that as this lamp was manufactured under a Commonwealth Government contract, the changes were made to meet the specifications of that contract. The handle would have been more comfortable to hold for extended periods than the original, the pump is larger and the filler cap/pressure release is of a more robust construction. As a result we have a blowlamp which is a hybrid, produced not for the general market but for a specific purchaser.



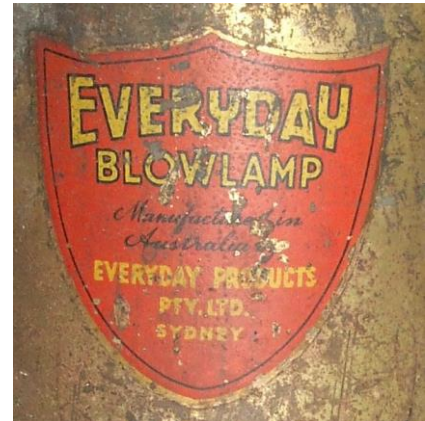
**Figure 2. Vapouriser tube arrangement**

Figure 2 shows the arrangement of the single vapouriser tube; the tube forms a single vertical arc at the front, a primitive form of the usual arrangement. This arrangement continued to be used on all the Everyday lamps described in this article.



**Figure 3. Decal - Version 1**

Another decal has surfaced which shows slightly different wording. One possible reason for this change was that the Shell Company had been paying a royalty to have their brand of Kerosene (Pennant) advertised on the blow lamp, and the need for this form of advertising had now diminished.



**Figure 4. Decal - Version 2**

*[The photograph of Decal - Version 2 is published by courtesy of Mr George Radion.]*

From this stage onwards we see the transformation of the blow lamps made by Everyday Products away from the 'SPITFIRE Patent' into the post WW II Anglo/Swedish pattern blow lamp simply called 'EVERYDAY'.



**Figure 5 Everyday – later version**

Figure 5 shows a later version of the Everyday blowlamp. Modifications include the provision of a filler cap with wings with the pressure release valve incorporated below; very similar to those used on Companion blowlamps of that time. The handle is made of pressed steel and has been rounded and the top and bottom ends rounded. This is a further improvement on the first handle change seen on the Department of Defence lamp, No 3, where the handle is of oval shape and the top and bottom ends are flat sloping edges. These handles whilst rougher would have been simpler to make, the final product being as it came off the fly-press with just the need to add a single screw to attach the burner strap. This would have been a less costly product



**Figure 6 Modified handle**

with no need for the expensive operation of brazing as required in handle 1. A comparison has been drawn to the similar handles which can be found on Optimus and Lux blowlamps.

We ask that if you can add to this discussion please contact one of us (contact details in Membership List) and we would most pleased to hear from you.

## **ENGINE STARTER LAMPS & TRACTORS**

Keith Hawkins



**VIERZON TRACTOR**

owned by Janus Nooijen, with a selection of Express lamps 915T, 916T & 918



**EXPRESS 916T**

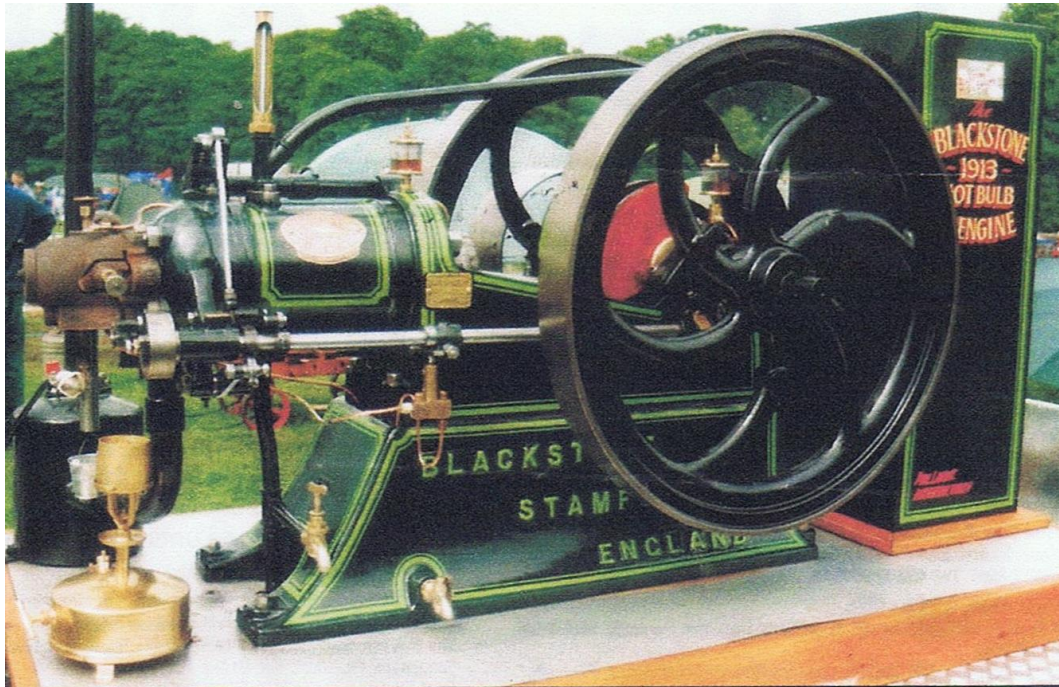


Express 46, with 352 burner  
Starting lamp for the Vierzon tractor  
below left.



**SFU 201 VIERZON TRACTOR**

Starting lamp is on a sloping shelf on front axle, pointing upwards



**1913 7hp BLACKSTONE ENGINE** (Photo Nigel McBurney)  
Lamp is a Primus 703, normally a 702



**PETTER  
'S' TYPE ENGINE**  
With Governor Lamp (flame visible  
inside lamp)



**LANZ BULLDOG TRACTOR  
WITH BARTHEL 26 LAMP #1**



**LANZ BULLDOG TRACTOR  
WITH BARTHEL 26 LAMP #2**

## JUST FOR FUN



Keith Hawkins provided this cartoon, which appeared in *Old Glory*, a Preservation magazine. Keith notes that after 23 years of attending as an exhibitor he doesn't like having to pay to get in rather than getting in free as in the past!

### PLANNED FOR INCLUSION IN THE NEXT ISSUE

Wright's of Lymm

More Optimus American

Sievert

Members Photos

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.

### RAY HYLAND'S COLLECTION

A large part of the collection of the late Ray Hyland is still being offered for sale by members of his family. On ebay look for sellers names petrol-can-z, drifters31 and victoria09\*. Larger items may be offered through Cheffins Auction, Cambridge ([www.cheffins.co.uk/vintage](http://www.cheffins.co.uk/vintage))

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