

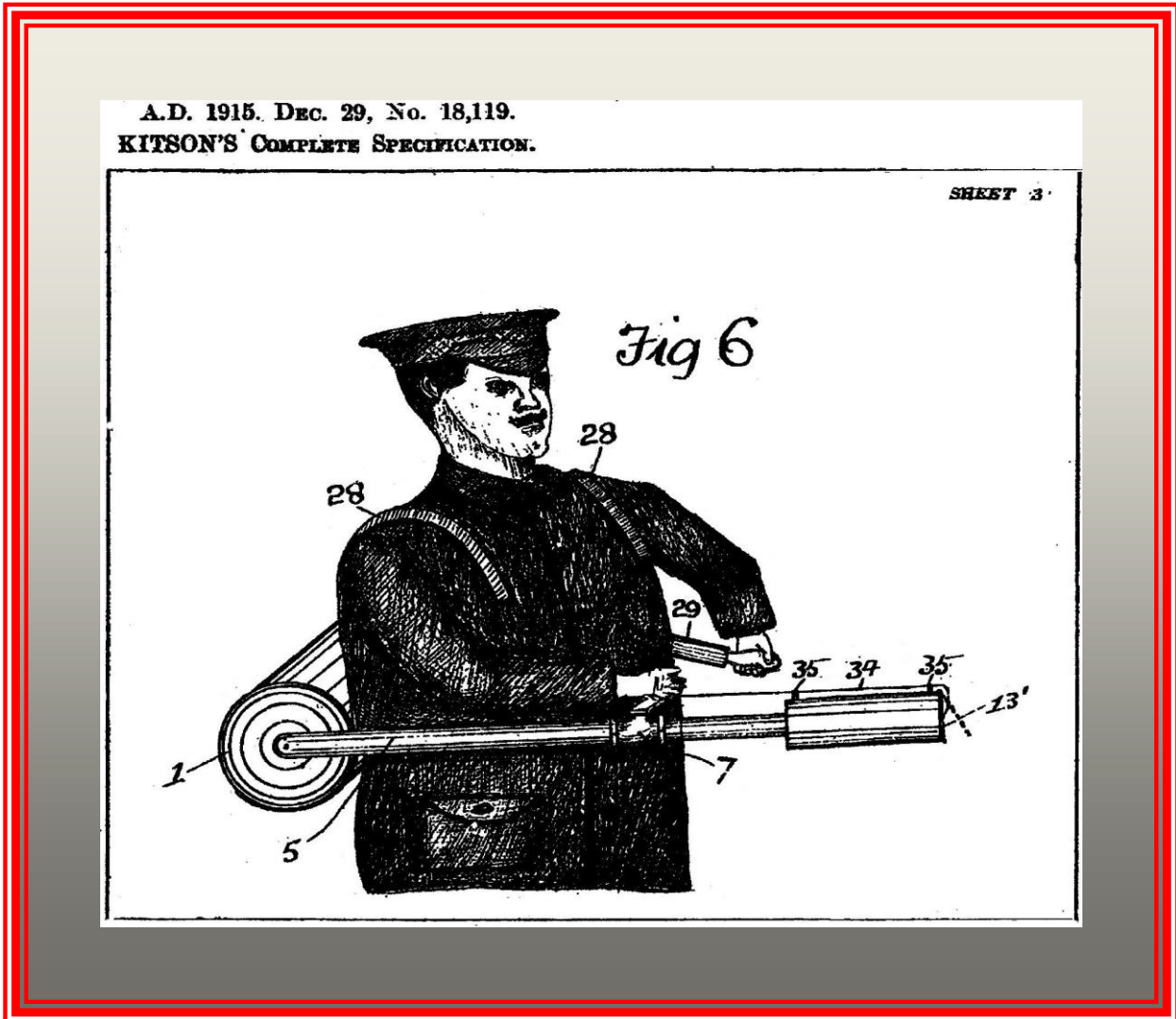
BLOWLAMP NEWS

BN 94

MARCH

2016

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



An Apparatus for Projecting Flame for Military Purposes
Patented by Arthur Kitson in 1915

KITSON EMPIRE LIGHTING COMPANY
KELITE

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**MORE AUSTRALIAN BLOW LAMPS
THE COMPANION / SIEVERT LINK**

By Arthur McNamara with Michel Duval

The **COMPANION** brand of blowlamps was manufactured in Melbourne Australia from late 1941 to mid-late 1960's

They were manufactured by Authority of Max Sievert, Stockholm Sweden and this information was clearly embossed on the side of the brass tank except during the WW2 years of production and later in the 1960's when reference to Max Sievert was completely omitted.

The **COMPANION** models were No 42 (one pint) and No 43 (two pint).

These model numbers were printed only on cardboard packaging boxes and in trade tool catalogues but not on the blow lamp itself. The cardboard soon disintegrated and catalogues misplaced with the result that these odd model numbers were forgotten.



**COMPANION BRAND BOX 1960s
(No reference to a/b Max Sievert)**



**COMPANION BLOWLAMPS
MODELS 42 (ONE PINT) & 43 (TWO PINTS)**

Generally it was accepted that the Companion blowlamps were derived from the **SIEVERT** 542 and 543 models and the earlier Saturnus 2.

Recently a **SIEVERT** 42 blow lamp was acquired. It is a normal Swedish one-pint kerosene blow lamp of brass construction and bearing the normal Sievert branding on the tank and fittings with the additional wording "SIEVERT 42 MADE IN SWEDEN" stamped on the burner support strap.



SIEVERT 42

From enquiries in Europe and Australia it has been determined that the **SIEVERT** 42 (one pint) is a "RARE" model with only a handful currently known to exist. The **SIEVERT** 43 (two pint) may be even "More RARE" only known from catalogue entries and printed photographs.

By direct comparison the **COMPANION** 42 appears to be identical to the **SIEVERT** 42 and we suggest that the **COMPANION** 43 will similarly match the SIEVERT 43 when an example is found.



**SIEVERT 42 (Left)
COMPANION 42 (Right)**



**SIEVERT 42 (Left)
COMPANION 42 (Right)**

We conclude that the **COMPANION** 42 and 43 blow lamps (and the model numbers which appeared somewhat odd at first) are a direct reference to the **SIEVERT** 42 and 43 model blow lamps from which they derived.

The "Companion Story" may have been resolved, however the "Sievert Story" may be just beginning with the discovery of RARE **SIEVERT** 42 and 43 models. These blow lamps are not listed in the recently published "Sievert Table of Model Numbers" BN91, BN92 and BN93 as they were not known of at the time of publication.

Should you have additional information please reply to THE EDITOR or directly to the authors, our email addresses are in the members list and we would be pleased to hear from you.

(Note from Arthur McNamara: The idea for the article started when exploring the origin of the odd model numbering of the Australian Companion brand blowlamps (42 & 43) produced here under authority from Max Sievert. Having acquired a **SIEVERT** 42 some time ago I expected to find it mentioned in lists of Sievert blow lamps recently published in Blowlamp News. Noting it's absence, contact was made with Michel Duval and the story developed. Both Sievert 42 and 43 are RARE and we suspect that there are more missing Sieverts.)



ARTHUR McNAMARA

A photo of me sitting in the "Australian Corner" of the collection holding the **SIEVERT** 42 (A for America starts on the shelf behind me) I have a collection of about 300 mainly polished blowlamps including about 50 Australian blowlamps which are now the focus of attention. In the last year (since the article in BN 90 p12, co-authored with Mal Mutimer & Michel Duval) I have been able to obtain a few rare Australian blow lamps shown in the foreground.

From the left, Spitfire adjustable 1pint, Spitfire adj. 2pint, Spitfire /Everyday 1pint Vertical, and a Spitfire / Everyday 2-pint inclined, Darlton 2-pint, Brazer Vertical and a SHS 5-pinter, which is from the UK, but it may have served in the Aussie Army?

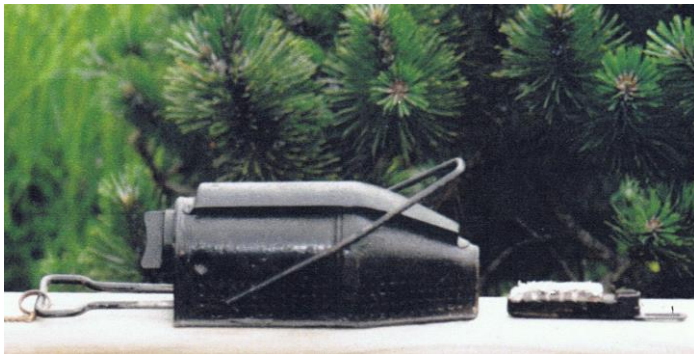
THE AUTO UNION CAR HEATER-LAMP

By Keith Hawkins

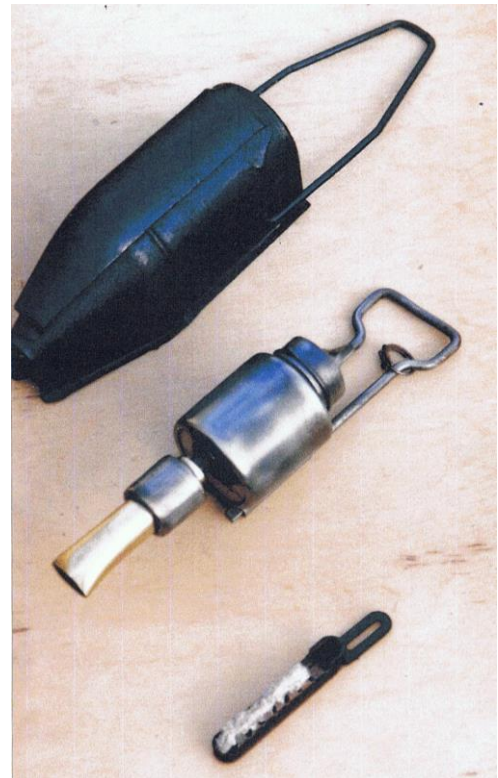
When I recovered some lamps that I had once disposed of when selling off most of my collection, I came across one small lamp which is not mentioned anywhere in Blowlamp news, i.e. the **AUTO UNION**. This one I found in 2000 during a trip to Norway. It has the four interlocked rings underneath the name. As a matter of interest and nothing to do with the lamp, the four rings on the Audi sign represented the four companies, Horch, DKW, Wanderer and Audi, which made up the Audi Company.



After lots of chatting with lots of people in Milton Keynes (VW UK headquarters) I eventually got them interested and took it along to them to see if they had any ideas about it. They took lots of photos which got sent to head office in Germany and some weeks later they came up with the information that there were actually two of these lamps of two different sizes – I do not know whether this one was the larger or the smaller; I would guess the latter.



Anyway there was a small German car still being made in the 1950/60s called a DKW and this lamp was apparently used to preheat the oil in the winter, and the bigger one used to heat the interior of the car. I do not think I would have liked a naked flame in my engine department!



Anyway I think it ran on meths – the burner obviously slid into the black cover and heated up the silver-looking lamp inside. Along the lower side of the black cover it was all covered with black ventilation holes; the end loop folds down over the front to stop the burner dropping out.

WEB SITES



Ellis Rees, maintains a site featuring the collection started by his grandfather Dave “Taffy” Rees. Ellis is seen here with his wife Laura and with the award from their first year of exhibiting at steam rallies. <http://www.theblowlamp.co.uk/>

Collector **Chris Naylor** has a site featuring British blowlamps and a special section for Canadian lamps. <http://blowlamp.co.uk/>

Two of the three organizations for collectors of blowlamps / blowtorches maintain websites.

American Website

The site for the American group, **BTCA**, the Blowtorch Collectors Association, is at www.vintageblowtorches.com

French Website

The French group, L'Association Française des Amateurs d'Outils Anciens à Flamme has a site (in English) at www.lampeasouder.com/en

A Future Website for the British group.

I propose to create a site for the **Blowlamp Society**, modeled on features of the above sites.

The website will include:

- All past 90 plus issues of Blowlamp News
- Photo Galleries
- List of 300 plus UK patents
- Members-only pages, discussion forum etc.

HOWEVER, it will only happen with some **active** participation by members who are willing to help. I don't need assistance to set up the site initially, but I do need a few people to help with planning what should be on the website, and to assist with maintaining it.

If you want this to happen contact me Graham Stubbs at gstubbs222@aol.com

HEATERS & HEATING LAMPS

By Keith Hawkins

In December 2015 Issue of Blowlamp News BN93, the **SIEVERT LISTING PART 3, VAPOURIA MODELS** drew a distinction between “Industrial Heating lamps” and “Engine Heating Lamps”.

Here’s **Keith Hawkins** version of the distinction between Heaters and Heating Lamps: Heaters are nearly always a big flatish tank with 1,2,3,4,6 or 8 burners,, vertically mounted and are used for the most part for heating up large amounts of liquids, water, lead, tar etc. There are exceptions as the **PRIMUS 702** is used as an engine lamp, as are probably the rest of the **PRIMUS 700** range. I once had a 705 with a 12 pint tank and a 4” diameter burner.



**SIEVERT No. 3049 HEATER
BEING USED AS A STARTING LAMP**

Heating lamps however are used for preheating engines as a glowplug does today to assist starting tractor and stationary engines using paraffin as the fuel. They can be vertical, horizontal or 45 degree burners with usually single burners but some have doubles which are referred to as elongated.

The **SIEVERT 3094** is a mystery lamp with a three-inch diameter burner. What it was used for I never found out – possibly for starting a big engine in a quarry used for stone crushing – mine came from Derbyshire where there are many stone quarries.

Both **PRIMUS** and **SIEVERT** made many smaller verticals which were used for the most part as early Bunsen burners, although some were used for starting as well, **SIEVERT 3046, 3047 & 3048** for example. (Bladon made exactly the same lamps with the same numbers) and of course **OPTIMUS** was in on the game as well. In fact **OPTIMUS** made a big lamp which was kept in the engine room of every ship flying the British flag (but more of that another day).



SIEVERT 3094



**SIEVERT
3046 (in front)
3047 (on left)
3048 (on right)**

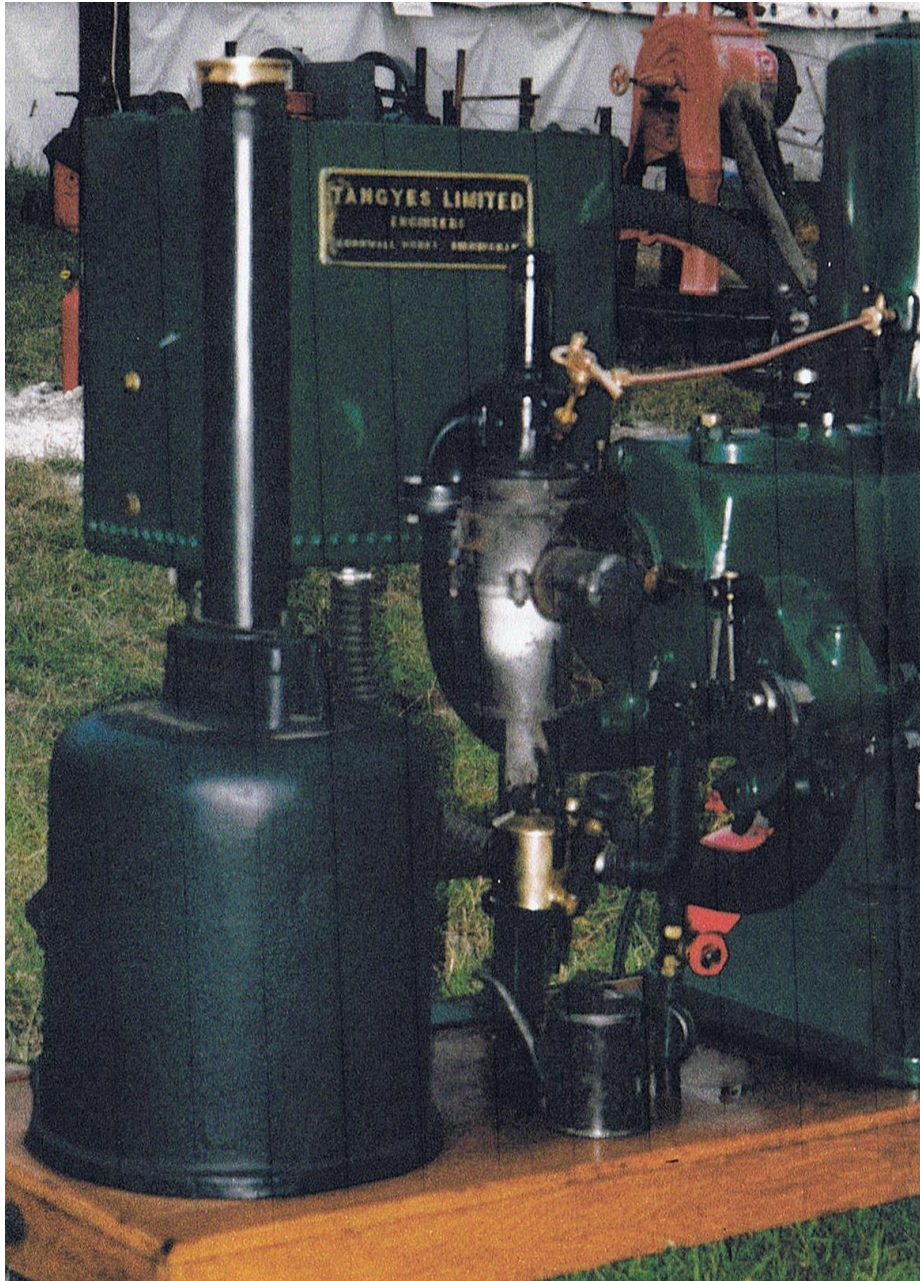


At right: SIEVERT VAPOURIA 3112

**At left: PRIMUS 617
(Note the cross-shaped valve handle that is
usual on an engine lamp. If it was a solid one it
would be a laboratory lamp.)**



**BODGE-UP OF A SIEVERT
SATURNUS No.2 AND
3039 BURNER**

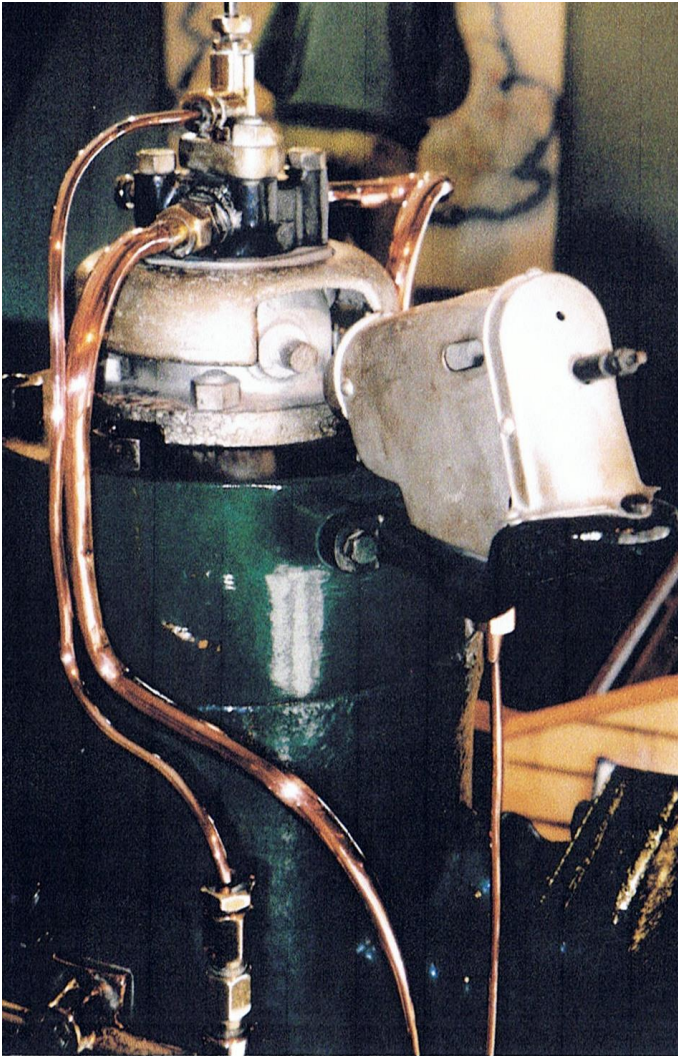


SIEVERT 3047 ON A TANGYE ENGINE

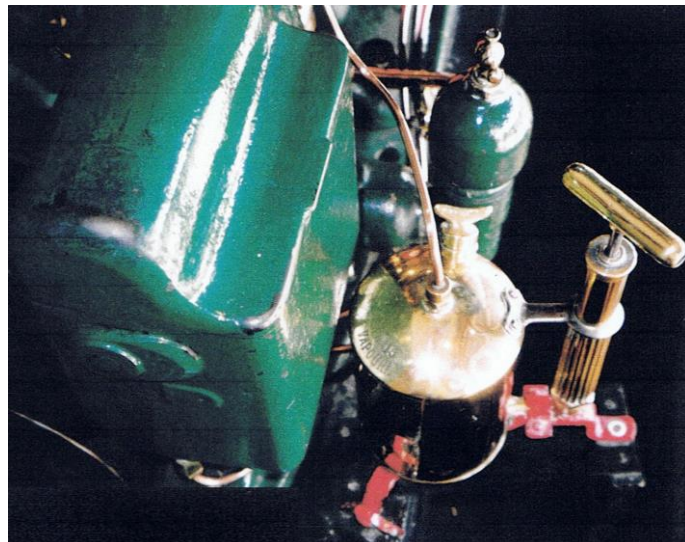
Note the angled pump on the **SIEVERT 3047** in the photograph above, and on the example at right.

BLADON made a lamp with the same angled CONFIGURATION.





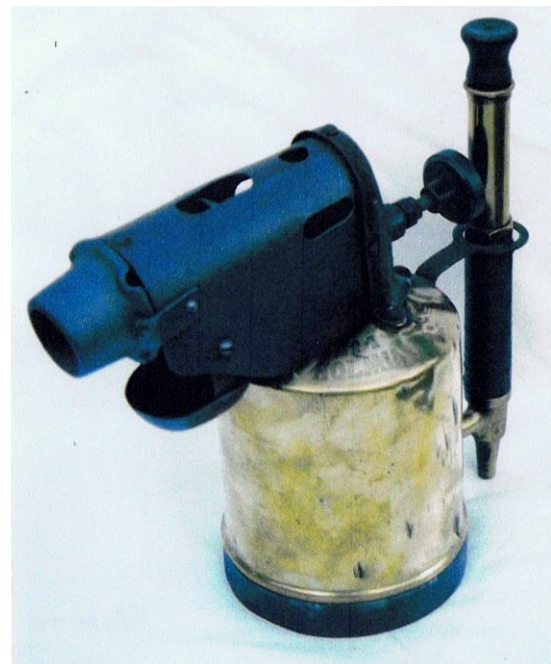
SIEVERT VAPOURIA No. 15



**SIEVERT VAPOURIA No. 15
ON A BOLINDER SINGLE CYLINDER
NARROWBOAT ENGINE**

Upper photo: Burner at the head of the engine.

Lower photo: Tank and pump screwed to base of engine.



**SIEVERT HOLMIA NO. 1
ENGINE LAMP,
(But I don't know what engine)**

FLUXITE

Michel Duval is looking for a copy of the original instruction **FLUXITE** leaflet. Can anyone help?





Set 7/6
Lamp only 2/6

The Fluxite Soldering Set

CONTAINS SPECIAL "SMALL SPACE" SOLDERING IRON WITH NON-HEATING METAL HANDLE, POCKET BLOWLAMP, FLUXITE, SOLDER, ETC., with full instructions.

A compact, substantial outfit, suitable for carrying on a car or motor cycle, or for any soldering jobs about the Home.

THE PASTE THAT
**SIMPLIFIES
SOLDERING**

Fluxite

Recognised world-wide as being the most effective flux invented. Used for thirty years in Government Works, and by the leading Engineers, Manufacturers and Railways.

In Tins 4d., 8d., 1/4 and 2/8 of all Factors.

WITH FLUXITE, "WIPE" JOINTS CAN BE MADE SUCCESSFULLY THAT ARE IMPOSSIBLE BY ANY OTHER METHOD—ASK FOR LEAFLET

KELITE

An email message came from Ray Gubb, accompanied by several photographs;
"I have been putting all my lamps onto a new inventory and have come across this oddity and thought you'd be interested. What I feel distinguishes it most is the circular burner tube."



I asked Michel Duval for help, and he replied, with pictures of a brass lamp with a clearly marked fuel cap.

"This blowlamp seems, of course, an one pint British blowlamp. The very unusual characteristic is the round part of the pipe inside the burner. Usually, this is a square part. I checked all my British blowlamps and I found only one with this round part: the make is **KELITE** (the Kitson - Empire Lighting Co). The tank, handle, burner, pump, bracket around the burner, even the square nut in front of the tank are very similar. The two differences are the filler cap and the screw valve."



KELITE (Continued)

Ray went back to his collection and found another **KELITE**. More photographs arrived showing the comparison.

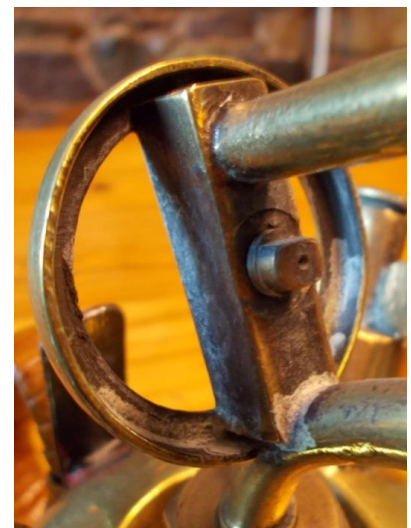


I asked Max Rhodes to look at a couple of examples in his collection. Both have the circular tube near the nozzle end. Both have steel tanks.

So the conclusions are that:

The round tube is unique to **KELITE**, as far as we know, but not all **KELITE** lamps have it.

Kelite made one-pint lamps with both steel and brass tanks



All this got me interested in **KELITE** and the Kitson-Empire Lighting Company of Stamford, Lincolnshire, and its owner Arthur Kitson.

This gentleman was a prolific inventor, a British currency theorist who wrote extensively, and a political activist.

His company made a range of blowlamps comparable to other British and European makers, as indicated by the selection of products illustrated in the advertisements on the page following this.

Kitson's inventions as related to blowlamps included a burner remarkably similar to an unusual American design, a pricker for a burner jet, and a safety valve. The most unusual innovation is a military flame-thrower, using coal tar mixed with methylated spirits or other inflammable liquid.

By the time of his death he was said to be the second most influential fascist in Britain, the first being Oswald Moseley. In his later years he developed relationships in Germany, an interesting contrast to the message on one of his company's post WW1 advertisements "NO DEALING WITH HUNS or PRO-HUNS".

We'd like to hear from anyone with an example of a particularly interesting **KELITE** blowlamp.

KELITE (Continued)

A selection of **KELITE** advertising: The comment in the first 1919 advertisement about "NO DEALING WITH HUNS or PRO-HUNS" is reflective of Kitson's sentiments immediately after WW1.

The Kitson-Empire Lighting Co.
 STAMFORD, Lincolnshire.



We are the originators of INCANDESCENT OIL LIGHTING, and are Manufacturers of all types of INCANDESCENT OIL LAMPS suitable for both Indoor and Outdoor Lighting. We are also Manufacturers of BLOW LAMPS, BRAZING LAMPS, and similar Oil Burning Apparatus of every description. Write for Catalogues and Prices. We supply these goods to the British and Allied Governments in large quantities.

ADVANTAGEOUS EXPORT TERMS ON APPLICATION



THE "KELITE" Oil Engine "Starting Lamp." Code Word "Kelite".

THE "KELITE" Petroleum Vapour Stove No. 1. Code Word "Kelite".

ALL GOODS ARE BRITISH-MADE THROUGHOUT.
 NO DEALINGS WITH HUNS OR PRO-HUNS AFTER THE WAR—DIRECTLY or INDIRECTLY

1919

PORTABLE PLUMBERS' FURNACE

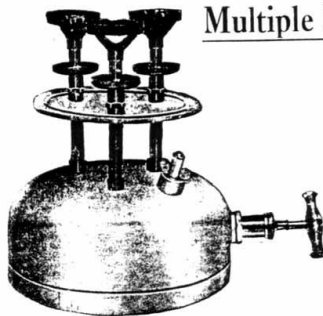
FOR PARAFFIN
 Indispensable to Plumbers, Electricians, Etc.

Code Word—**KEPLUMB**

1923

Multiple Burner Vapour Stove

These Stoves are made to meet the requirements of Hotels and Canteens, and are frequently used for jam boiling. They can be fitted with either roarer or silent burners. Each Burner can be fitted with a separate valve if required.



	PRICES.				
Without Valves	35	45	60	75	90
With Valves	37	48	65	80	100

	2 Burners.	3 Burners.	4 Burners.	6 Burners.	8 Burners.
Height	12ins.	12ins.	12ins.	12ins.	12ins.
Width	14ins.	14ins.	14ins.	17ins.	17ins.
Weight	7lbs.	8lbs.	8lbs.	17 1/2 lbs.	19lbs.
Capacity	6 pints.	6 pints.	6 pints.	8 pints.	8 pints.
Code word	4110.	1010.	1010.	1010.	Kelite

1923

Oil Stoves, Blow Lamps, Brazing Outfits, Oil Engine Starting Lamps, Incandescent Oil Lamps.

A WORD OF WARNING.

Many serious accidents have happened from the bursting of brass containers when employed for Blow Lamps and Stoves. So far we have never heard of a single accident where Steel Containers are used. For this and other reasons we recommend Steel Containers for Blow Lamps and Oil Stoves in preference to brass. The "Kelite" Oil Stoves and Blow Lamps, unless otherwise ordered, are provided with Steel Containers carefully tinned inside and outside to prevent corrosion. They are recognised as the safest, strongest, and most durable ever placed on the market. Each lamp and stove is tested to four times the maximum pressure to which it will be subjected when in normal use. "Kelite" Oil Stoves and Blow Lamps are Fool-proof. The "Kelite" Oil Stove is the easiest to light and the cheapest to maintain of any other.

Thousands are in use all over the World.

The "Kelite" Portable Brazing Outfit.

Capacity of Oil Container, 2 galls.
 Weight of Outfit complete :
 Empty 21 lbs.
 Charged 38 lbs.



The "Kelite" Petroleum Vapour Stove No. 1.

Code Word—**Kelito**
 Height 9 1/2 inches. Capacity . . . 2 pints.
 Width 9 Net weight, empty, 4 lb.
 Made in all sizes up to 10 burners.
 A splendidly made Stove designed to simplify working.
 It will boil one quart of water in six minutes.

The KITSON-EMPIRE LIGHTING CO. LTD.
 STAMFORD, Lincs, England.

1919

Oil Stoves, Blow Lamps, Brazing Outfits, Incandescent Oil Lamps

500 c.p. Lamp (INVERTED MANTLE)



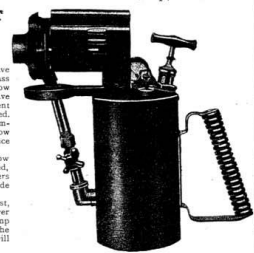
Type No. 11 (Patent) 500 c.p. Incandescent Lamp. Wide and burn-proof. Indoor and Outdoor Lighting. Gives a brilliant and shadowless light.

A Word of Warning!

Many serious accidents have happened from the bursting of brass containers when employed for Blow Lamps and Stoves. So far we have never heard of a single accident where Steel Containers are used. For this and other reasons we recommend Steel Containers for Blow Lamps and Oil Stoves in preference to brass. The "Kelite" Oil Stoves and Blow Lamps, unless otherwise ordered, are provided with Steel Containers carefully tinned inside and outside to prevent corrosion. They are recognised as the safest, strongest, and most durable ever placed on the market. Each lamp and stove is tested to four times the maximum pressure to which it will be subjected when in normal use.

"Kelite" Oil Stoves and Blow Lamps are fool-proof! The "Kelite" Oil Stove is the easiest to light and the cheapest to maintain of any other.

"Kelite" Blow Lamp, No. 1



A strongly made and thoroughly reliable Blow Lamp.

The "Kelite" Petroleum Vapour Stove, No. 1.



A splendidly made Stove, designed to simplify working. It will boil one quart of water in six minutes. Made in all sizes up to 10 burners. BRITISH MADE THROUGHOUT

Thousands are in use all over the world.



"Kelite" Table Lamp

All Goods supplied are made at our own Works:

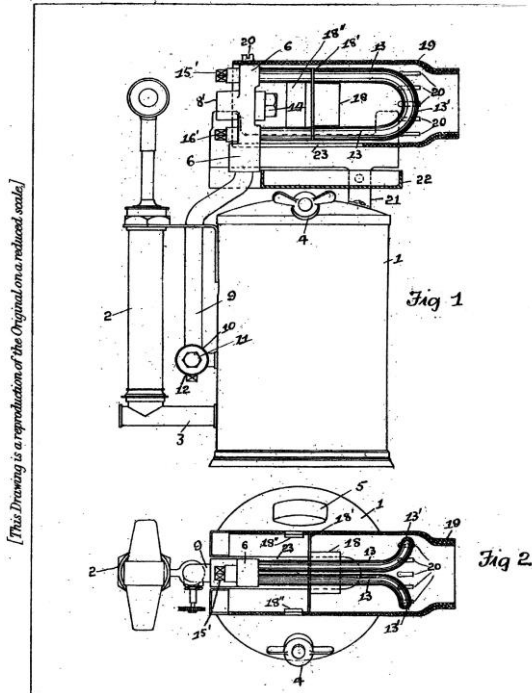
THE KITSON-EMPIRE LIGHTING CO. Ltd.
 STAMFORD.

1922

KELITE (Continued)

Arthur Kitson's 1915 invention (British patent GB191512932) of a blowlamp with a vapouriser in the form of two vertical loops is remarkably similar to the construction of the American PEERBLOW CO. "PEERLESS" No. 14 blowtorch patented in the same year in America by a Charles H. Swanson (US Patent 1,135,072).

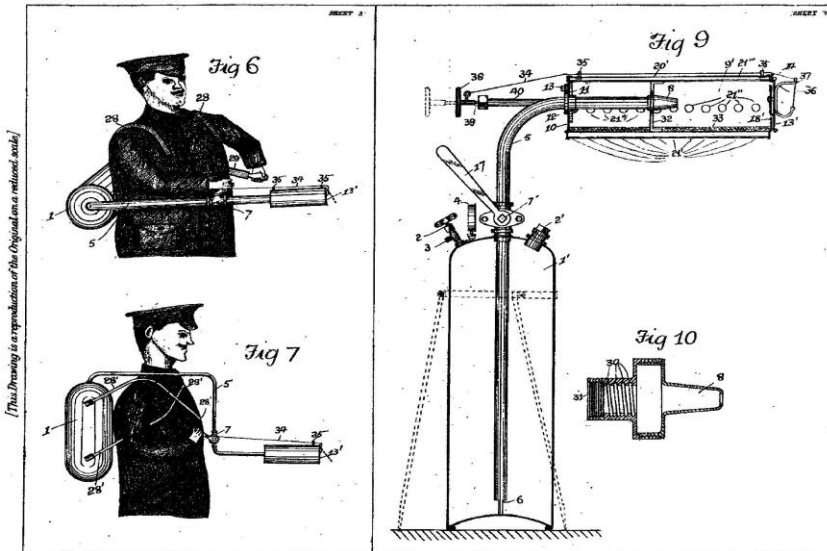
A.D. 1915 SEP. 9. No. 12,931.
KITSON & others' COMPLETE SPECIFICATION.



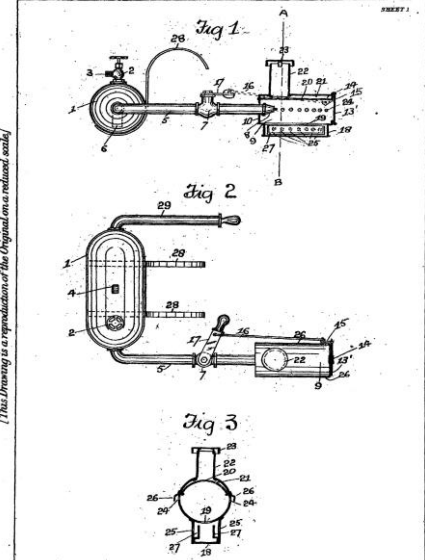
PEERBLOW "PEERLESS" No.14 BLOWTORCH (without burner cover)

Blowlamps are sometimes incorrectly advertised for sale as "flame throwers". Kitson applied his knowledge of blowlamps to the War Effort in 1915 to this invention of a real flame-thrower. A linkage opened a swinging door at the end of the firebox and at the same time opened a stop-cock for fuel to pour into it. The nozzle within the firebox could be "variously formed to permit the burning liquid to issue therefrom in a straight stream or in another case in a spiral form"! One of the illustrations shows a configuration using the burner in a more conventional kind of blowlamp.

A.D. 1915, Dec. 29, No. 18,119.
KITSON'S COMPLETE SPECIFICATION.



A.D. 1915 Dec. 29, No. 18,119.
KITSON'S COMPLETE SPECIFICATION.



THIRTY YEARS AGO ...



Keith Hawkins first display of blowlamps was in 1986 at the Mill Green Museum in Hatfield, Herts. He says that he “didn’t have enough lamps to fill the table, so I filled it up with oil cans.” The flat lamp in the centre row is the “first decent lamp I ever bought **OPTIMUS** No. 48 **AMERICAN**. Sixteen pounds I paid for it. I bet it’s more expensive now!”

SUBSCRIPTION DUES

Annual subscriptions are: For UK members 15 UK pounds, for International members 25 pounds. You may pay by PayPal to Blowlampnews@hotmail.com Payments may also be made by post to: Carolyn Rhodes, Mathom House, 71 Ryecroft Road, Hemington, Derbys. DE74 2RE England. (Note: If you have already paid for two years, including 2016, you may ignore the dues notice.)

FOR SALE

Gerard Muller has a number of different and complete SHSIs for sale, including Barthel. Contact Gerard at: isabelle.mulleri@laposte.net

INDEX to ISSUES 1-93 (1992 – 2015)

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.

EDITORIAL 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

Thanks go to Keith Hawkins, Michel Duval, Ray Gubb, Arthur McNamara, Ellis Rees and Max Rhodes for their contributions to this issue of **BLOWLAMP NEWS**.

WE NEED MANY MORE OF YOU TO CONTRIBUTE MATERIAL FOR THESE NEWSLETTERS!

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