

BLOWLAMP NEWS

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The Newsletter of the Blowlamp Society – Editor Graham Stubbs - blowlampsociety@gmail.com

www.blowlampsociety.com



**AUSTRALIAN
"ORIGINAL" LANRAY**

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**MORE AUSTRALIAN BLOW LAMPS
THE ORIGINAL LANRAY**

By Arthur McNamara,

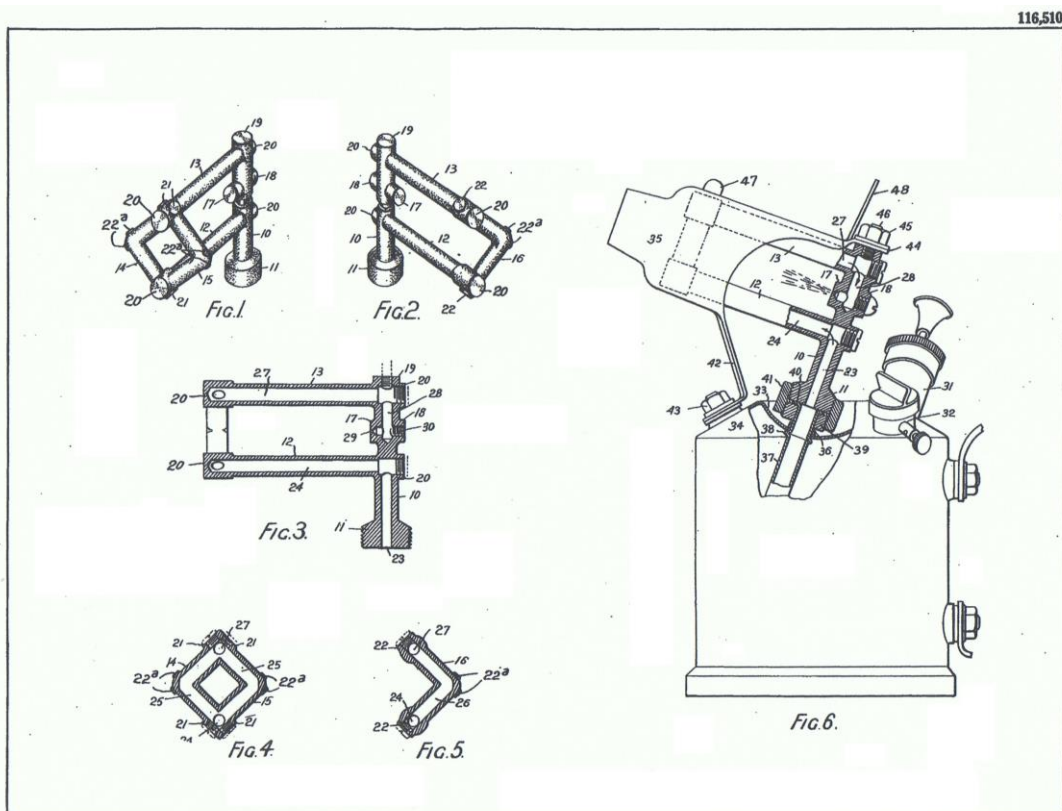
The Original (or First) LANRAY one pint kerosene (paraffin) blowlamp was described in BN36 and again in the BN77 article "Australian Blowlamps" but previously photographs of this unique Australian Blowlamp were not available.

LANRAY Metal Products Pty Ltd was a company registered in July 1940, and had its factory and offices at 11-19 Hargrave Street East Sydney, Australia. It was formed to manufacture metal products for Industrial and Household use. The factory became fully involved in production for the war effort but when time allowed they planned for a return to peacetime production. Lance Raymond Pty Ltd of the same address were appointed as Sole Agents for the sale and distribution of their products.

The company name LANRAY is thought to derive from the sole agents name LANce RAYmond.

In 1941 Lanray announced their intention to produce a blowlamp within their own factory which they called the tradesman's blowlamp.

Engineer, Otto Glaser produced the design and lodged a patent application on 28 January 1942, gaining approval a year later on 28 February 1943 for Australian Patent 116510, "Improvements in Blow-lamps". [Editor: The novel aspect of the design was the burner structure, Figs. 1&2, intended to be made as a one-piece casting. The configuration of the burner in this example of the Original Lanray is similar to that in the patent drawing, but it is actually pieced together, and not a single casting.]



By the time the patent was approved in 1943, LANRAY found itself in an entirely different situation. The war had intensified and a year earlier the Australian Government had placed a "Freeze on (*the sale of*) Hand Tools" with the intention that all supplies of new hand tools, either local or imported were to be directed towards the needs of the Armed Forces. Blowlamps were on the list and described as "*Lamps, (Brazing, Blow and Spares)* "

LANRAY was unlikely to have proceeded with the production of the proposed blowlamp before the patent was approved in February 1943. It is possible that the production tools and dies (together with advertising blocks) were prepared but full production was probably delayed until the restrictions were eased.

In September 1943 the company produced an advertisement showing a range of its products, including the blowlamp, but with a warning note "civilian requirements are naturally restricted". Advertisements for the sale of other Australian produced blowlamps did not appear in newspapers until mid-1944 which suggests that was the time when restrictions were eased.

The original LANRAY was a unique blowlamp differing from all others on the market at that time.

This example was at first thought to be a Pre-Production Blowlamp it is fabricated using copper and brass materials. On closer examination (see the magnet...) the copper was found to be "copper plated steel" probably used to make up for metal shortages at that time. {Editor: Max Rhodes has a similar Original Lanray, but without the copper plating on the steel handle and burner cover, and is thought to be a production model.}



LANRAY (continued)

In *Blowlamp News BN36* the then editor, Les Adams described the original LANRAY Blowlamp.....

"There are several other features limited to this lamp.....For example the fixing of the burner tube to the tank is unusual as one end is fastened by a screw to the top of the jet housing and the soldering bit bracket appears to be part of the burner nozzle turned back on itself. The fuel tube from the tank exits the top of the tank at right angle instead of being curved into the base.....This type has a number of features strictly Australian."

The Original Lanray blowlamp does not seem to have been a great success, possibly a victim of its own "Uniqueness". Components were not interchangeable with those of other manufacturers. Maintaining these blowlamps in working condition would have been difficult during the immediate post war years.

The production period of the original LANRAY was not a long and happy one. The difficulties of manufacturing in the post war period, together with management dissent and financial problems did not make for a long production run. Few original blowlamps were produced and even fewer have made their way into collections.

In 1947 LANRAY changed their company structure and introduced a new style for their Blowlamps, not original, but a traditional "all brass" Swedish Pattern Blowlamp complete with a spiral wire handle. The range consisted of two blowlamps, the one (1) pint Model 102 and the two (2) pint Model 205 The company announced that all parts were now interchangeable with those of other major manufacturers.

The shape of the punched holes in the burner tube was carried over to the new model but the only part of the original blowlamp to survive unchanged was the tank filler cap.

Original LANRAY (copper plated handle and burner shield) with the LANRAY 102 (wire handle)



HOWES & BURLEY LTD.**By Brian Grainger**

During my research into the Henry Mathews torch (BN88 & BN 90), the name Charles Burley appeared as a new name as a blowlamp manufacturer. The question was raised about a possible connection to Howes and Burley, both apparently in Birmingham. Whilst Howes and Burley is a well-known blowlamp manufacturer, a search through the Newsletters revealed a complete absence, apart from two photos, of any information on them. The following information has been pieced together from various sources.

The Company was started in the mid-19th Century, by a Mr. James Howes. The Birmingham Directories reveal the following details:-

- 1845-49 James Howes (Military ornament & gilt and steel button solderer)
87 Cheapside, Birmingham
- 1855 James Howes & Sons (Manufacture of improved carriage & railway lamps)
87 & 88 Cheapside, Birmingham
- 1858 James Howes & Sons (Lamp manufacturers)

It is not known how many children James Howes sired, but two of them interest us- Walter born c.1831 and William (date of birth not known)

At some time between 1849 and 1855, these two were taken into the business as partners. A second family was headed by Richard Burley (an iron founder), and two of his children became involved in the Company history- William Burley and his sister Elizabeth Burley (born c.1830) On the 9 May 1853, Walter Howes and Elizabeth Burley were married (between 1853 and 1870, they sired 8 children). The result of this union was that at some time between 1858 and 1862, William Burley became a partner in the business which comprised Walter Howes, William Howes and William Burley. At the same time, the company moved to different premises in Birmingham.

The directories provide the following information:-

- 1862-84 Howes and Burley (Lamp Manufacturers) 264 Bishop Street
- 1888-99 Howes and Burley (Lamp Manufacturers) 24, 26, 28 Bishop Street
(Street had been renumbered)

In the London Gazette for 25 February, 1887, details of First Meetings & Public Examinations for various Debtors were published. These Bankruptcy proceedings included Walter Howes & William Burley as Partners, and both as separate individual estates. The date of Public Examination was set for 15 March, 1887. All the other names on the list had Orders for Summary Administration made against them, but this column was empty for Howes & Burley. It would appear that they were able to come to an arrangement with the Court, and this is supported by the fact that later in 1887, the business was acquired by a Mr. Hallewell Rogers. He retained the name of Howes & Burley, and ran the business as a partnership with William & Walter Howes and William Burley.

On the 31 December, 1893, this Partnership was dissolved following the buy-out of William Burley, but the three remaining partners continued the business retaining the Howes & Burley name. William Howes & Walter Howes both died c.1896.

Howes and Burley became a Limited Liability company in 1900. The Limited Co. was incorporated on 27 June, 1900, "to acquire the business of carriage lamp manufacturers of firm of same name".

Directory entries show the following:-

1900-1913 Howes and Burley Ltd. (Lamp Manufacturers) 24-34 Bishop Street

1915 Howes and Burley Ltd. (Lamp Manufacturers) 99 Holloway Head

1921 Howes and Burley Ltd. (Lamp Manufacturers) 101 Holloway Head

The address for H & B is usually shown as Bishop Street, but c.1914 they purchased land at Holloway Head, Birmingham. I have not been able to ascertain whether this was for additional premises, retaining Bishop Street, or was a total move. They obtained substantial work from the War Ministry, and this could well have required additional premises (see later)

The London Gazette for 17 December, 1929 contained the following announcement-

“Companies Act, 1929

Notice is hereby given.....that the names of the undermentioned Companies have been this day struck off the Register, and such Companies are hereby dissolved”

Howes and Burley Ltd. were one of the Companies, and thus ceased to exist in 1929.

And now to Howes and Burley products

From the mid-19th century, to the beginning of the 20th, their output was in respect of lamps for horse-drawn coaches and carriages. Included were acetylene lamps for early motor-cycles and cars, ships lanterns and lamps for military vehicles (These occasionally appear for sale, and command high prices.)

With the outbreak of WWI, they were given contracts by the War Dept. for military vehicle lighting, including tanks, and other ancillary equipment (including blow-lamps, see later)

I have not been able to ascertain the date from which they commenced manufacture of blowlamps, although I believe it was possibly 1913/14. With one exception, all the H & B lamps I have are undated, and it seems that they did not deem this necessary. (Can anyone contradict this?)

At the same time, they started to produce Camping Stoves. A search of the Classic Camping Stoves website reveals that they also have no information on Howes and Burley, and whilst they carry photos of several stoves, these also are undated.

None of the Birmingham Directories attribute blowlamp manufacture to them. The first mention of such output I can find is dated 1918, and this appears on the website “Birmingham Brass Makers”. Interestingly, this shows the address as 20-34 Bishop Street, and not Holloway Head.

During WWI, numerous adverts appeared in local newspapers seeking employees, the following being examples. It would appear that the Government contracts had resulted in rapid expansion of the work force.

1915 Dippers for Brasswork

1916 Soft Solderers. 20 girls used to burner making

? Wanted for important Government work. Experienced Hard Solderers

(H & B Ltd. Motor, Carriage & General Lamp Manufacturers)

? Annealor wanted- Government Work

1917 Power Press Toolsetters for urgent Government work


1918 20 young girls wanted- assembling small munitions metal parts

1918 Expert women welders for work of highest importance

Applications were to be submitted to both Bishop Street and Holloway Head. This seems to confirm that Bishop Street remained in business after the purchase of Holloway Head. Both the blowlamps and the camping stoves were of what I would call ‘standard designs’, and no unusual configurations appear to have been made. It would appear that Howes & Burley were copying other manufacturers designs (but given the time-frame, could it be that others copied H & B ?).


The following illustrated list of models produced under the 'Corona' name (extracted from Philippe Touillet's book "A Background to British Blowlamps") shows a fairly standard range. Unfortunately no date is included on this sheet (the 1933 date shown is not pertinent, as the Company ceased to exist after 1929)

"CORONA" BRITISH MADE BLOW LAMPS 1933



For Brazing and Soldering.
With Folding Handle. Paraffin.


No. 106 Capacity $\frac{1}{2}$ pint.
PRICE, 13/



For Brazing and Soldering.
Paraffin.

No. 107 Capacity 1 pint.
PRICE, 13/

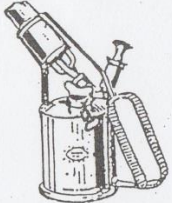
No. 108 Capacity 2 pints.
PRICE, 15/



For Painters and Plumbers.
Vesuvius Pattern. Paraffin.

No. 110 Capacity 1 pint.
PRICE, 15/6


No. 113 Capacity 2 pints.
PRICE, 17/6



For Painters and Plumbers.
Vesuvius Flat Nozzle Pattern.
Paraffin.

No. 111 Capacity 1 pint.
PRICE, 15/6

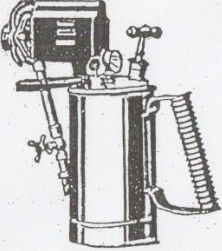
THE "VESUVIUS" BLOW LAMP.
Paraffin.



Burns paraffin oil without wick. One pint size will burn three hours without refilling.

Burners ..	Inclined.		Vertical.		Inclined.	
	1,	2,	3,	4,	*5,	*6
Nos. ..	1,	2,	1,	1 $\frac{1}{2}$,	1,	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Capacity ..	1,	1 $\frac{1}{2}$,	1,	1 $\frac{1}{2}$,	1,	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Prices ..	31/	34/9	31/	35/	33/6	36/

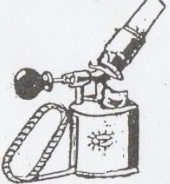
* Nos. 5 and 6 Flat Flame, Painters' Pattern.



For Heavy Brazing and Garage Work.
Paraffin.

No. 112, Capacity 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ pints.
PRICE, 30/

No. 115, Capacity 5 pints.
PRICE, 60/



No. 8.
For Burning-off and Soldering.
Capacity $\frac{1}{2}$ pint.

No. 8—Inclined Burner, 12/

No. 9—Horizontal Burner, 12/

Note.—Self-cleaning Nipple by needle. Also Self-acting Safety Valve.



These two photos are of a very early, undated 1 pint lamp, identified by the soldered plaque. This appears to be the early version of the model later carrying No.107 under the Corona banner



This is the only H & B. blowlamp I have which carries a date. On the base is stamped "H & B. 1917" (The website "Historical Military Vehicles" confirms that the 'H & B' stamp is in fact a Howes & Burley identifier) This one was made for the military, and carries a plaque they used after testing
Tested 60 lb 9.4.18 No.1205

Note the safety valve, which is similar to others found on War Dept. lamps – it appears to be a hollow tube, with a side vent over which fine copper gauze has been applied. Top is probably removable, but mine is sealed tight, so I cannot ascertain what is beneath.



At left is CORONA Model No. 9, undated, with horizontal burner. This one carries no stampings on the tank, the only identifier being the name CORONA on the filler cap.

At right is the later version of that the H&B lamp in the photo above. Again undated, but identified by the tank stamping "CORONA No. 107 MADE IN ENGLAND"

Note that all of these models have cane-bound handles, a common feature of early blowlamps.

A photograph of the Brazing unit (No. 112 or 115) appears in BN51, page 7.

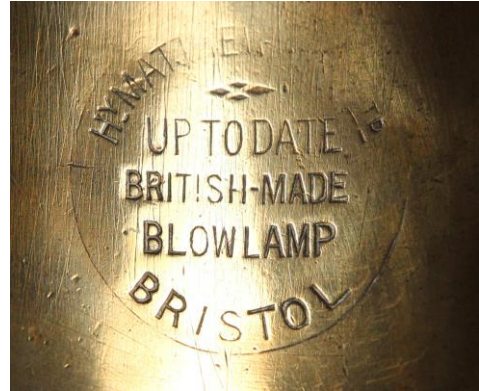
The lack of dating on most H & B output poses a query as to when the "CORONA" trademark was first used. I have searched Trade Mark websites, but without result. Does any member have CORONA lamps which are dated, or catalogues carrying issue dates? (Note: The National Archives website contains a history of the Limited Company No.66388. Unfortunately this has not been digitised, and is not available for download. Printed copies are available, and I requested a price for this. I was quoted £195, there being several hundred pages. I did not proceed!!!)

(Nothing was unearthed during the search for H & B information, in respect of Charles Burley & Sons, manufacturer of the Henry Matthews blowlamp, so this mystery remained until more information surfaced See the article following)

CHARLES BURLEY AND SONS LTD.**By Brian Grainger**

In my articles on the Henry Matthews blowlamp (BN88, BN90 and the preceding article), the existence of a previously unrecorded blowlamp manufacturer (Charles Burley & Sons) was noted, together with some notes regarding the 'Strength Brand' trademark.

[Editor's note: the four pictures below of the 'Strength Brand' blowlamp appeared in BN88.]



My conclusion number three stated 'Strength Brand Trademark belonged to Henry Matthews.' Further information, as follows, has now come to light which contradicts this.

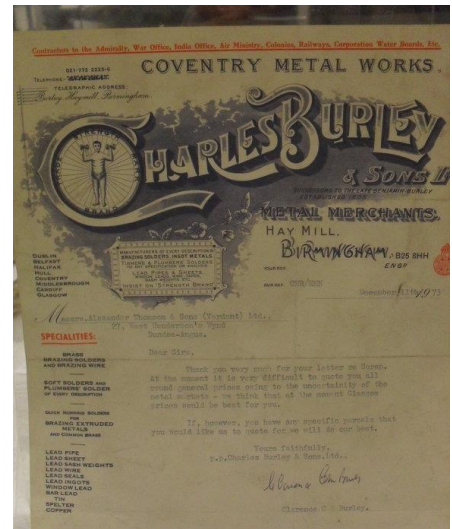
On the COMPANY CHECK website, there is an entry for Charles Burley & Sons Ltd. This gives their Company Number as 00163858, indicates that they were a Private Limited Company with Share Capital. The Limited Company was incorporated on 9-2-1920. The Company is shown as 'Dissolved', but no date of such is given. It would thus appear that prior to 1920, they were operating as a partnership, as the Henry Matthews lamp stamping shows them as Charles Burley & Sons. Another item (see later), indicates that they were successors to a company founded in 1805, belonging to Benjamin Burley.

Charles Burley was born in 1840, and died in 1905. Presumably his Sons (names unknown) continued as a partnership until converting to a Limited company in 1920. The Limited Company had manufacturing premises at 198 Speedwell Road, Hay Mills, Yardley, Birmingham, B25 8HH, operating under the title of COVENTRY METAL WORKS. The Hay Mills area consisted of a mix of residential and commercial premises, and still does to this day. Postcode B25 8HH includes Civil Engineers & Skip Waste companies amongst others. An old map shows a small arms factory near the Burley premises.

(As a side issue, the interesting history of Hay Mills is available at the following site:- Billdargue.jimdo.com/placenames-gazetteer-a-to/places-h/hay-mills/)

The following images have come to light, revealing much information

This letter to a customer is written under a complex Company header, and of great interest here is the 'Strength Brand' Trademark incorporated within the 'C' of Charles Burley. [The weightlifter logo is same as on the blowlamp. Ed.]



This Business Card indicates the breadth of materials in which the Company dealt, but of particular interest is the statement that they manufacture Strength Brand blow lamps. The list of customers at the top is impressive.

The two images both contain a list of cities other than Birmingham, where they had premises. These were probably sales offices &/or warehouse/distribution facilities, with manufacture concentrated at COVENTRY METAL WORKS.



The following two pictures (from eBay) show another of their products, decorative brass trays. The stamping on the underside confirms them as 'Manufacturers of Strength Brand Brazing Solder'.



I feel that within these three sets of images, we have sufficient evidence to confirm that my original contention that the Strength Brand trademark was the property of Henry Matthews was incorrect, and that title to this Trade Mark was in fact vested in Charles Burley & Sons Ltd.

P.S. It is quite obvious that Charles Burley & Sons Ltd were a very large Company, and the lack of information is somewhat puzzling. A website under the name of The Library of Birmingham indicates that they have a large archive section. Is it possible for a Blowlamp Society member nearby to make some enquiries there?

BLOWLAMP SOCIETY MEMBER

Russell Harrower

At the 2016 Bedford rally (Old Warden air museum and college at Biggleswade) Carolyn and Max Rhodes met Russell Harrower, one of our members from Ipswich, who was visiting the rally with his family. Carolyn asked if he would like his picture taken for the BLN and got one picture of him "talking blowlamps" with Max, and another picture of Russell with his son (who said he knew more about which lamps his father has, than he did), buying a couple of lamps from Max's stall. - Always nice to put a face to a name.



Russel had this to say about collecting blowlamps:

“Here is how it all started.

In 1981 my father-in-law died and I had to clear his shed as my mother-in-law was coming to stay at ours in a Granny Flat. While clearing the shed I came across a couple of blowlamps and some Blacksmith's tools and got rid of the rest. I built up my modest collection of around 300 with some rarities and oddities. Also collecting Blacksmiths, Wheelwright & Coopering Tools, Wood Tools i.e. planes, braces & saws. Agricultural Hand Tools, Hobbies Tools etc. so you see I might be described as a collectomaniac.

In 1988 I was invited to have a display of my blowlamps and some other tools at a nearby show in the marquee and I must say I thorough enjoyed the experience. I then started to display in our caravan and awning at rallies. This is where I met Keith Hawkins and we became friendly meeting up at rallies whenever our paths crossed. After displaying for 30 years my wife and I decided to take her classic car, a 1968 Riley Kestrel 1300cc beige/brown saloon, to rallies. Sadly she passed way 18 months ago but my son and I still show her car at rallies on her behalf.”

**MORE PHOTOS FROM
AUSTRALIAN COLLECTOR DAVID STENNETT**

Nearly all are polished, and I have been collecting for some years. I have about 14 Turner double jet of various models, and 69 different Primus models. Almost all via eBay. Total collection is about 400 units. All are tagged with the name of the item, and what I paid (in Code). [Editor: For more about David Stennett, see "Collecting lamps in Warrnambool", BN82 March 2013]

Because of space limitations and various comments that my wife has to say, currently I am selective in that I am always looking for Primus models I do not have, Turner double jet models that I do not have, and unusual SHS models. Plus unusual verticals, plus anything really different. I also have to bear in mind that the postal charges from the USA are now ridiculously high, meaning that a normal size model could cost \$60-\$80 Australian, it has to be very special now for me to purchase from that source.

Here are some lamps that I consider special: among them are two rare models, a Sievert vertical and an Australian Companion with twin semi vertical burners.



NO MARKINGS

[Editor: Keith Hawkins says it's a 2 litre Hungarian HKLV]



TURNER BRAZING TORCH



**VERTICAL SIEVERT
WITH PRE-HEATER**

[Editor: No model identified; Keith Hawkins says he had one like it]



PRIMUS 682



**PRIMUS PETROLIA 614?
UNUSUAL BURNER**

[Editor: Keith Hawkins thinks it's a Model 613]



**AUSTRALIAN COMPANION
WITH DOUBLE BURNERS**



I think it could be a one off with Primus 617 burners, but it has been done so well that I am not sure

All the blowlamps are behind glass in my garage, and most are lit for night viewing.

[Editor: David mentioned his age, and ended with the comment: "but I still enjoy the thrill of the chase!."]



MORE FLAMES: BURMOS

FIRST LIGHT AFTER 62 YEARS by Phil Harris

A friend of mine found me this brand-new and unused 2-pint Burmos paraffin blowlamp a couple of years ago, at the cost of a fiver. Un-burned lamps are a rarity in my collection, so it sat around for a long while until the need for a larger capacity lamp arose, so I gave in to the temptation to light up a new lamp. Today I have been playing with it and making some flames.

The brass tank is painted in camouflage green and the flame tube is in unpainted brass. The legend "FA/15015" and the UK military/ordnance broad arrow or "Pheon" device appear on the tank, and the attached label states, in classic military style, "Lamps, Brazing, 2 pint". I have been unable to locate any information to confirm whether Townson & Coxson made this style of lamp solely for the military, or whether it was a military-painted version of a standard lamp sold on the civilian market.

The pump worked rather indifferently, due to the plastic cup washer having become hard. A new oiled leather washer was fitted, which cured that problem. The filler cap seal seemed airtight, so I filled the lamp with paraffin and after a single preheat with meths, it worked a treat. The flame burned quietly and was bright green to start with, no doubt as the fresh brass flame tube and vapouriser were becoming oxidised, but this grew paler, and the flame ended up blue with a slight orange tinge.



BURMOS (continued)

In a crude test to check whether the lamp is truly capable of brazing, I held a piece of 1/8" thick x 1" wide steel strip in the flame and it quickly reached a dull cherry-red, the same as with other paraffin blowlamps. This equates to about 900 degrees C (1,470 deg F) which technically is hot enough for brazing, defined as over 450 deg C. However I don't think the flame temperature and heat output would be adequate for brazing serious pieces of metal! Nevertheless, this is a nice blowlamp which will receive regular use for soft soldering in my lamp workshop on the Severn Valley Railway.



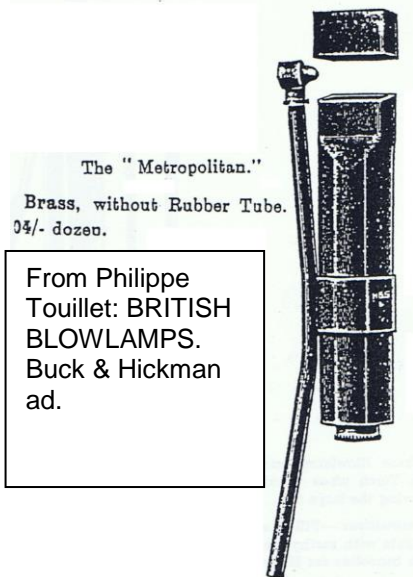
METROPOLITAN

Does anyone know anything about the METROPOLITAN mouth-blow lamp? (Photos from Keith Hawkins, Max Rhodes and Arthur Warhurst, who also pointed out the Touillet illustration.)

In BN88 (September 2014) a similar lamp was identified as Bladon. Max Rhodes, who now has the lamp (below centre), says that T.E.BLADON is stamped on the rectangular end cap, and SMGAS Co. on the slider. [Editor's note: My wild guess for SMGAS Co. is South Metropolitan Gas Co. in business from 1833 into at least the 1950s.)



1929 Spirit Blow Lamp



The "Metropolitan."
Brass, without Rubber Tube.
03/- dozen.

From Philippe Touillet: BRITISH BLOWLAMPS. Buck & Hickman ad.

SURMELIN 20



Max Rhodes looking like a proud new dad and his new baby the **SURMELIN No. 20**

NOTE! Max has 600 blowlamps **FOR SALE**, and he invites members "to come to rummage through boxes". The Rhodes live in Derbyshire, close to the M1, mobile 07703 191 728. Some of the lamps are appearing on eBay with the seller name willowwallace.

WANTED

Your contributions of photographs, information and articles for both **BLOWLAMP NEWS** and for the **WEBSITE**. Submissions to: blowlampsociety@gmail.com or directly to gstubbs222@aol.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS RENEW NOW (See insert)

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.

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