

BLOWLAMP NEWS

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

www.blowlampsociety.com



**REMEMBER MANCHESTER
22ND MAY 2017**

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COVER PHOTO**TAYMAX 1/3 PINT PARAFFIN BLOWLAMP TAYMAR LTD. MANCHESTER**

Almost eighteen months ago to the day, as I sat down to prepare the December 2015 Issue of *BLOWLAMP NEWS*, the news spread around the planet of the terror attack in Paris. The cover of BN 93 carried the French tricolour and the words VIVE LA FRANCE. Now as I prepare this issue of the newsletter the world is shocked once again, this time by the scenes of the bomb attack on young English concertgoers. It's hard to find the words, other than "Will this never end?"

The cover photo for this issue was going to be related to one of the articles. The choice instead is a picture of a lamp made by a firm in Manchester, the city still reeling from this recent horror. Our collecting interests are international, as is our membership. What hurts us in any one country afflicts all of us. So whenever you look at the cover photograph of this little blowlamp ...

REMEMBER MANCHESTER 22nd May, 2017**NEW SERIES: EOLIPYLES**

A new series of articles about Eolipyles starts in this issue. Charles Smith has collected and studied these devices that represent the early history of blowlamps. In this and future issues Charles will discuss the history, the manufacturers and the fascinating variations in design.

NOTICE:

Keith Hawkins reports because of insufficient support, that there will be no meeting this year.

BOOKS ABOUT BLOWLAMPS

The **French** blowlamp collectors' organization "L'Association Française des Amateurs d'Outils Anciens à Flamme" publishes seven books about blowlamps from various countries. Prices are in the range 25 to 45 Euros per volume.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. France | 5. France (more) |
| 2. Sweden | 6. Worldwide, except France |
| 3. Germany | 7. Worldwide, including some USA and UK |
| 4. Austria, Belgium, Spain, Italy & Switzerland | |

Contact: Lamptérophile N°580, Les Giraudoux Sud 24150 LALINDE FRANCE
 Tel : 0971304507 lamptérophile.club.france@gmail.com
 Website: http://www.lampeasouder.fr/en/

THE BLOWLAMP SOCIETY WEBSITE

www.blowlampsociety.com

ALL of the past issues of *BLOWLAMP NEWS* are now on the site, together with an index to all 99 issues published since the Blowlamp Society was founded by Les Adams in August 1992. The current issue No.99 is in the **MEMBERS** section, as is the roster of members (*Let me know if you have any problem using your user name / password.*) Sixty more photos have been added to the **GALLERY**, bringing the total to more than four hundred. The **CATALOGUE ILLUSTRATIONS** section of the website has more than 200 pages of illustrations of British blowlamps.

Go to the **LINKS** page for a new site from Belgian SIEVERT collector Eric Lefebvre.

EOLIPYLES PART ONE

By Charles Smith

INTRODUCTION

I think you would agree with my opinion that the little lamps known as Eolipyles are the predecessors of the blowtorches which most of us collect. I've had a few of these Eolipyles in my torch collection for well over 30 years, but have only recently begun to specialize in the collection and study of Eolipyles. My current collection consists of about 100 different examples representing some 45 different types. In the following few issues of BN, I hope to share some photos and information with you about the Eolipyles. Future articles will deal with other Breuzin Eolipyles; Eolipyles with manufacturer's marks or actual examples which can be identified with printed publicity such as old catalogs; unmarked and unidentified Eolipyles; and finally an article about the Lampe Docimastique.

The principle of the early Greek Aeolipyle was to transfer heat to a container holding water with the resulting steam producing a rotary or horizontal motion of the container. A very similar function is implied by the French word Eolipyle, which was given to a group of early blowpipes. Instead of water, the liquid furnishing the vapor was flammable and the vapor issuing from the jet was ignited. The resulting flame was used just as in many other blowpipes.

For this essay, I choose to restrict the word Eolipyle to that group of self-acting torches consisting of three parts:

- (A) An upper spherical-shaped fluid chamber, with attached burner tube and combination filler cap/pressure-release valve, containing the flammable liquid,
- (B) The heat source being a lower alcohol lamp, and
- (C) An intervening cylindrical stand (see Fig. 1).

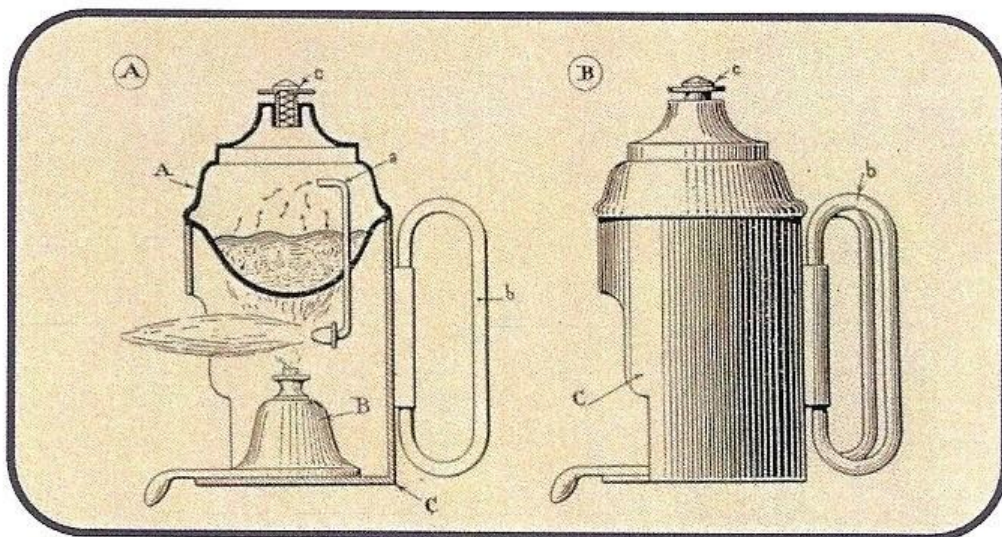


Fig.1

To operate the torch, the pressure release/filler cap was removed from the top of the fuel chamber, about half of the chamber filled with alcohol, and the cap replaced. Next, the lower alcohol lamp was removed from the base of the stand. A small amount of alcohol was added to the lamp and the contained wick ignited. Once the lamp was replaced into the stand, its heat vaporized the alcohol in the fuel chamber, forcefully emitting a strong jet of alcohol vapor out the tip of the burner tube. The flammable vapor was ignited as it passed over the burning wick resulting in a flame which was projected out the front of the stand.

The invention of the earliest type of Eolipyle is credited to Theodore-Pierre Bertin. On September 28, 1799 Bertin was granted a patent for a lamp whose later modification and improvement would become known as the Lampe Docimastique, This Lampe is shaped much differently from the three-piece Eolipyle. Although the principle of the two is the same, the Lampe Docimastique will be dealt with in a future article.

The earliest known publicity about the three-piece lamp discussed in this note dates from the publication of the French "Manuel du Ferblantier et du Lampiste" published in Paris in 1830 by M. Lebrun. This publication describes a three-piece Eolipyle and presents five line drawings of the burner which is defined as a "lampe à esprit de vin", or wine spirit lamp. It seems that "esprit de vin" was the old name for alcohol, the fuel for the early burners. These 1830 illustrations clearly show the three individual parts of the lampe. Although the text does not identify the lampe, it may be that of Bertin or, more likely, another early lamp maker. Although we have no knowledge as to whether this "esprit de vin" was ever "manufactured", this document seems to present the earliest information about the three-piece Eolipyle. Thus, I will use the date 1830 as representing the earliest known beginnings of this type of Eolipyle.

Because most Eolipyles are very similar in detail and because most are unmarked as to manufacturer and/or seller, I have developed an informal system of classification based on the cutout pattern found on the sides of the cylindrical stand. These cutouts consist of circles, stars, rectangles, clubs, flowers, and hearts, among others, and including a combination of these shapes. Although the cutout is consistent within a known type of manufactured Eolipyle, the purpose(s) of the cutout is unknown. I believe the pattern was simply a way to differentiate one type of Eolipyle from another, and thus the different patterns are largely decorative. Others speculate that the openings had some sort of effect on the flame of the alcohol lamp or even the flame from the tip of the burner tube. The fact that several stands had no openings at all would seem to discredit this last theory. However, I simply don't know.

Most Eolipyles were manufactured in usually five sizes having either an iron or copper, or rarely a brass, stand. Almost all had alcohol lamps and fuel chambers made of copper. If the Eolipyle is labeled as to its manufacturer and/or its size, the information is normally stamped into the upper front part of the stand either to the right or left of the front opening. More rarely the information is placed on the top of the fuel chamber. The size designation of the lamp, usually a number from 1 to 5, from smaller to larger, is also placed on the front of the stand.

BREUZIN LATTICEWORK CUTOUT PATTERN

The Eolipyle shown in figures 2-3 is a type that I call "latticework" from the intricate overlapping of a series of circles forming the cutout pattern. The stand is made of iron and the lower alcohol lamp and upper fuel chamber are made of copper.

This Eolipyle was manufactured by Alfred Breuzin during the period from about 1879 to about 1888, although it was marketed as late as 1896.



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

Figure 4 (at right) is a scan of an original Alfred Breuzin invoice for a No. 3 copper Eolipyle with the latticework cutout. The invoice is dated December 21, 1881 and represents one of the earliest documents to show this type of Eolipyle.

Found on both the front of the iron stand (Fig. 5) as well as on the copper fuel chamber (Fig. 6) is the marking “DÉPOSÉ”, meaning registered, or registered trademark, with three stars and the cursive initials “A.B” for Alfred Breuzin, all underlain by a flattened “loop” resembling a small fish. An early 1875 Breuzin advertisement makes no mention of the word “DÉPOSÉ” in the trademark, yet a similar illustrated advertisement dated 1879 shows the word above the three stars. It seems likely, then, that the latticework Eolipyles were manufactured as early as 1879. The size designation, No. 2, is for a stand having a diameter of 75 mm with the Eolipyle having a total height of 140 mm.

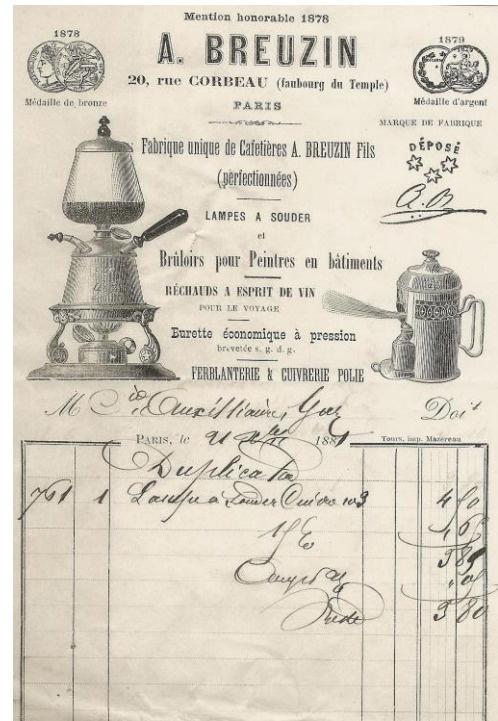


Fig. 5



Fig.6

Figures 7-9 show another Breuzin Eolipyle with the same latticework pattern although this one has a copper stand. It is of a size 3, measuring about 80 mm in diameter by 140 mm in height. The loop-shaped handles are made of brass. It is otherwise identical to the example with the iron stand.



Fig.8



Fig.9



Fig. 7

Examples of this Breuzin Eolipyle with the latticework pattern are also known with movable “wings” attached to the sides of the opening in the front of the stand.

Figure 10, at right, from an 1880 Breuzin publicity sheet (p192 in French RECUEIL 5) shows the winged Eolipyle.

Unfortunately, I have no example in my collection. The purpose of the wings is believed to be to shield the flame from strong wind as it exits the front opening.

MARQUE DE FABRIQUE DÉPOSÉ
Grande Baisse de Prix
TARIF SPÉCIAL
 DES
LAMPES A SOUDER
 ET
BRULOIRS POUR PEINTRES
 Figures 5 et 6 du Tarif général. — Nouvelle série de 5 numéros.

Fig. 5. — BRULOIR A VENTAUX				Fig. — 6. LAMPE A SOUDER			
Numéros		Prix	Diamètre des Corps et Têtes	Numéros		Prix	Diamètre des Corps et Têtes
Se fait en trois numéros seulement.				Corps tôle. 1 2.50 0.085			
Corps tôle.	3	4.50	0.080	—	2	3. »	0.075
—	4	5. »	0.090	—	3	3.50	0.080
—	5	6. »	0.100	—	4	4. »	0.090
				—	5	5. »	0.100
				Corps cuivre rouge.	1	3.50	»
Corps cuivre rouge.	3	5.75	»	—	2	4. »	»
—	4	6.25	»	—	3	4.50	»
—	5	7.25	»	—	4	5. »	»
				—	5	6. »	»

Toutes les têtes de lampes à souder ne se font qu'en cuivre rouge, et sont soudées à la soudure au cuivre, de sorte qu'elles ne peuvent se dessouder; elles sont munies d'une soupape de sûreté; le tube de la tête est garni d'une tubulure vissée.

In future articles I hope to show some of the other more common cutout patterns, their manufacturers (if known), and variations of the Eolipyles within a specific type of pattern. I also hope to show some of the many different types of cutout patterns seen on unidentified Eolipyles. If you have comments or questions about this article, or questions about Eolipyles in general, please contact me through my email address in our membership directory.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to Michel Duval, a friend of many years who has provided considerable information about the Eolipyles. Although Michel generously reviewed a draft of this article, its content is solely the responsibility of the author. Thanks are also expressed to Graham Stubbs for formatting my words and photographs into a form suitable for this newsletter.

LANGEMARK MEETING 2017
From Michel Duval

Michel Duval provided these photos of lamps displayed at the eighth meeting of blowlamp collectors hosted on April 4th, 2017 by Marnik and Katy Van Insberghe in Langemark, near Ypres, Belgium.

(The names in parentheses are the owners)



BARTHEL
"PERLA"



BARTHEL
BLOWLAMP 4-5 LITRES (Gerard Muller)



BARTHEL BRAZING LAMP
(Lothar Jahn)

The Model Engineer and Amateur Electrician.
February 15, 1902.

BENZOLINE BRAZING LAMP.
Special Price,
21/-
Carriage Paid.



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No. 10
CATALOGUE
OF
TOOLS
Is sent post free for
4d.
To any Address.

C. NURSE & CO.,
182. 184. & 173. Walworth Road, LONDON, S.E.
TOOL MERCHANTS,

BARTHEL BRAZING LAMP
(Catalogue page from Michel Duval)



BARTHEL BRAZING LAMP
(Gerard Muller)

LANGEMARK MEETING 2017



Plaque of the "Club des Amateurs d'Outils Anciens à Flamme"



EXPRESS 30 LITRES LAMP
THE LARGEST SIZE IN CATALOGUE
(Daniel Martin)



EXPRESS
CUSTOM ORDER



SURMELIN No.20



LA TIRLEMONTAISE
Invented by
Joseph Peeters
1889

(Christian Reuchert)

BAUMEISTER SELF HEATED SOLDERING IRON

By Dave Pangrac



Fig.1

Being an avid collector of all types of vintage non-electric related soldering items, especially unique irons, I was extremely pleased to locate what is considered a rare L. Baumeister self-heated soldering iron (SHSI) (Fig.1). This iron is listed on pg. 40 of the 2012 printing of the "Vintage Blowtorches" VB book. The iron has the name L. Baumeister stamped in two locations. One location is on the flow valve circular thumb screw located on the handles end (Fig. 2) and the second location is on the hexagonal base on the bottom of the fuel globe/reservoir (Fig. 3). The U.S. patent application write-up states that Leopold Baumeister, a German citizen residing in Bridgeport, Connecticut, invented this SHSI. This iron is also listed on pg. 490, of the VB book, in the "I.D & Rarity Guide" section. Under the column headed "Rarity", it is listed as a "U" indicating that it is "Unknown if ever manufactured" and that it has been seen in patent illustrations but not in advertisements. In the U.S. patent writeup, Baumeister listed his citizenship as Germany but residing in Bridgeport, Connecticut. He was issued patent number 317,489 on May 12, 1885. I do not know if this SHSI has been previously located by any BTCA members. Below are the physical characteristics of the subject SHSI.

Overall length (With copper)	19 1/4"	Estimated Fuel Capacity	3/4 cup
Overall Weight (lbs)	2.6 lbs.	Copper length / Weight	3" / .6 lbs
Fuel Reservoir / Globe Diameter	~3 1/2"	Wood Handle Length	5 1/2"

Evidently the iron was invented and originally patented in Germany. On pg. 187 of the VB book, there is a write-up, along with illustrations, covering the German made "Flürscheim SHSI". The iron shown in the illustrations is almost exactly the same iron as the Baumeister iron. In that VB write-up there is a quote from a March 11, 1882 article in *The Metal Worker Journal (TMW)* that reads: "Over one thousand of these tools were in use (as of 1882) in Germany where they contributed to a revolution in outside soldering." The article also states that M. Flürscheim was the inventor. The Flürscheim SHSI, that was designed/ manufactured in Germany prior to 1882, appears be the same as Baumeister's. Baumeister filed for his U.S. patent on Sept. 12, 1883. From printed sources, at some point in their lives, Baumeister and Flürscheim lived in the same town and worked together. Since this is a very unique design it would have required some dedicated tools & equipment to produce. I am assuming that Mr. Baumeister imported the iron from Germany, filed for a U.S. patent and just stamped his name on the iron. That is what the following quote from the Blue Book of Gun Values seems to indicate:
 "In 1873, Michael Flürscheim (1844-1912) purchased the Gaggenau Ironworks with its forty workers. Flürscheim added a joiners' shop, a tool shop, metal-plating equipment, and a wood processing division to produce rifle stocks. The staff grew to 390 in 1882 and 1,041 in 1889. Apparently, many guns made by Gaggenau were not marked, probably so that they could be sold under other trade names."

The subject iron has a nickel plated fuel globe and a substantial wood handle, both features that the Gaggenau Ironworks were capable of producing. Since Flürscheim produced other goods that were not marked as being produced by him, so that other sellers could put their brand name on the products, it appears that this is what happened with the Baumeister iron.

Features of the Baumeister SHSI that are of interest are:

(Some terminology is from the patent write-up and some is mine.)

1. There is a large flare at the top of the wooden handle that is designed so that the iron fits/rests very comfortably into the "V" created between the thumb and fore finger and prevents the hand from riding up. A great feature if using the iron for long periods of time. This allows one to hold the iron in a vertical position when not soldering, thus reducing the moment-arm length.

2. If you look closely at the Baumeister name that is stamped on the hex base of the globe/reservoir, it appears to have been "hand" stamped as each part of the name is on a different face of the hex. I say this because the letters are not uniformly stamped. Some of the letters, on the different faces, are on slightly different angles. I would say it was stamped after the iron was made. On one of the hex faces is the word "*Patent*" in script, on the next face are the letters "L. B", the next face has the letters "AUM", the next face "EIS" and the 5th face has "TER" (Fig.3 shows the AUM face)

3. On the iron that I have there is a feature located on the base of the iron that is not included in the patent drawing. It is a pivoting device that would limit the travel of the flow valve circular thumb screw (Fig. 4)

4. Copper unscrewed. (Fig. 5)

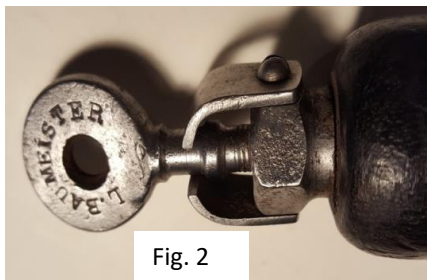


Fig. 2

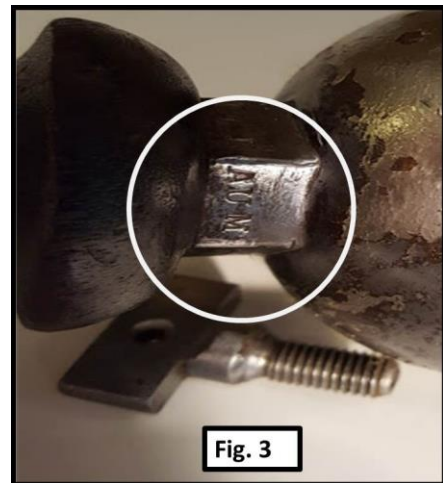


Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

[Editor's note: When I asked French collector Michel Duval if he had ever seen a lamp like this, he sent me this photo of one that he owned at one time ... without knowing the make.]



MORE SHSI PHOTOS

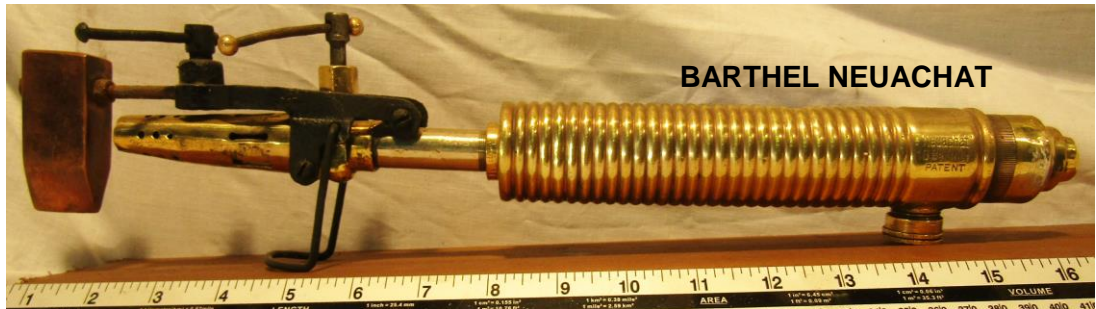
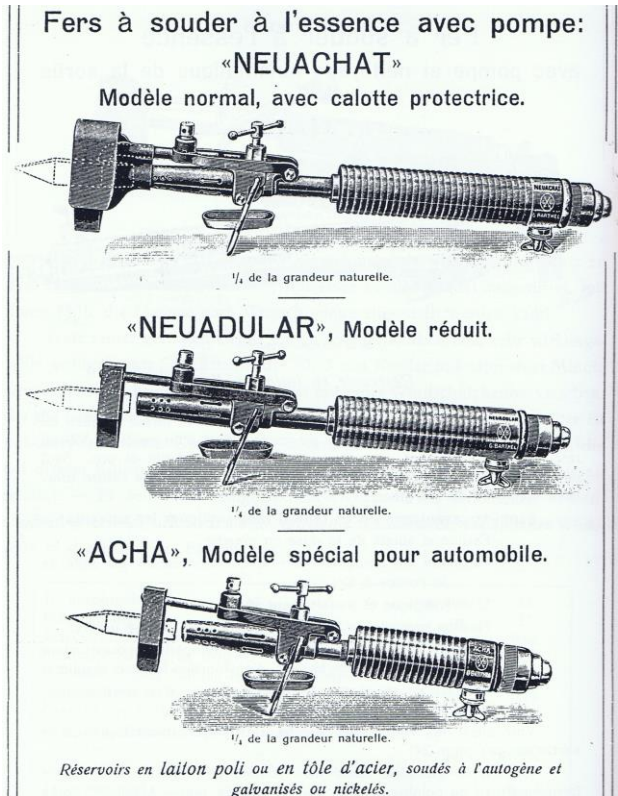
From Clive Finch

When Clive Finch joined the Society in 2015 he was asking how many makers & models of self-heated soldering irons (SHSI's) there were. Not getting a definitive answer, he set about finding out the hard way, by collecting as many as he could find. On the following three pages are more photos from his large collection.

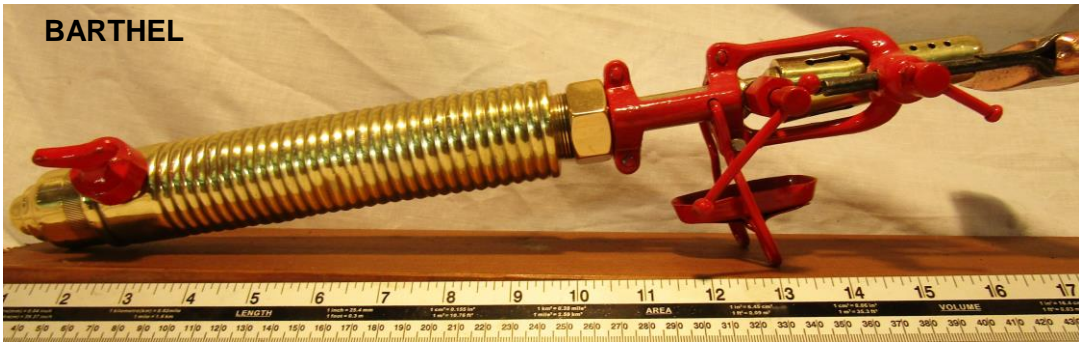
First page: Barthel SHSIs in three sizes, matching the illustrations in the ad. Note that a number of early SHSI's employed a cover over the pump knob, clearly shown in the illustration.

Second page: A Herberg SHSI (note the pump-knob-cover is off) and three Talismans. The maker of the fifth SHSI is unknown. The fibre sleeve was evidently installed prior to installation of the end caps and is not removable.

Third page: On page 8 of BN61 is an illustration from a 1902 Melhuish catalogue of an elaborate holder for the soldering copper. The same holder is present on SHSI's from Barthel and from Scholze & Aster. The last two are from Express-Rapide.







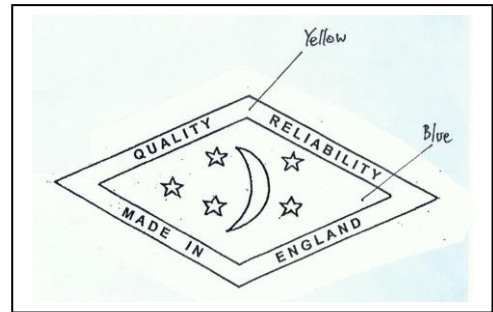
Stamped label:
**SCHOLZE & ASTER
DRESDEN**



MORE ABOUT THE DIAMOND TRANSFER

From Brian Grainger

(Writing to Max Rhodes) Just received my copy of BN98, and this caught my attention. Russell Harrower raises the question of the Diamond transfer. This first surfaced in BN29 with one of Les Adams drawings. In BN30 he confirmed he had seen this at a boot sale, but did not buy it because of the price. In BN31, Andy Feast was acknowledged as having found another. And in BN32, the existence of mine was revealed. This one, of course, is now in your (Max Rhodes) possession. So the answer to Russell is that his is not unique, and others are known.



I have always had a theory of my own about this logo. The torches known are almost certainly Veritas products, and I wonder whether Veritas produced a run of these for a client with no identifiers on the tank, to which the client attached their own logo. These logo materials are well known from other makes as being unreliable in their longevity, and disappear easily from tank heat, spilling of paraffin and general cleaning. From memory, I believe mine had lost part of the logo. Over the years I have seen many of this particular model with no identifying marks, and I wonder whether many of these originated with the Diamond transfer. This can now never be proved, but possibly many torches survive with a Diamond logo transfer originally applied, making it a far from rare torch!! I wonder whether there are other non-torch products produced by this Company carrying this Diamond transfer, which would lend credence to these thoughts.

KELITE

Michel Cochard sent the photo at right of a serpentine lamp with this query:

“I can’t find any documentation in the English catalogue concerning this model. Do you know it and can you give me some details?”

Max Rhodes has a similar lamp (below), but different tank and label.


Does anyone know anything more about this style from Kelite?



BLADON BITUMEN LAMPS



1 gall. Bitumen Lamp



A highly efficient outfit for tile-laying, roofing work and similar jobs where intense localised heat is required. Powerful burner gives 6 inch flame and is fed by 6 ft. of flexible hose giving wide coverage. Burners will work efficiently in any position. 1 gallon pressure tank and control valve to flame.
Can also be supplied with two burners and 2 gallon tank for two-man working.

Bladon FOR A REALLY PROFESSIONAL JOB

SPECIAL BLOW LAMP OUTFIT FOR BITUMEN WORKERS

Designed for Tile Laying, Roofing work, or any trade where intense localised heat is required.

The illustration gives the general idea of design, showing the two powerful burners (flame 6in. X 1 in.), two 6 ft. flexible hoses, which enables two men to cover a large area at one time.

The burners will work in any position, which is not possible with an ordinary blow lamp.

Two-gallon capacity pressure tank, two separate control valves, handle for carrying, and rests for burners.

Can also be supplied with one burner and one-gallon capacity tank.

(The bitumen heater is mentioned in BN87 page 3. Regrettably I didn't include the picture.)

