

THE TORCH

NEWSLETTER OF THE BLOW TORCH COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

- FIRST EDITION 1998 -

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- THIS NEWSLETTER MAY BE REPRODUCED WITH CREDIT GIVEN TO THE SOURCE -

HO - HO- HO!

As a follow-up to the Christmas holidays, **Les Adams** - Devon, England sent me one of the most original Christmas cards that I have ever seen, and I just had to share it with you.

♦♦♦



ON THE LOOKOUT

As with any true torch collector, we are always on the lookout for one of those "best ever" torches, one that we truly need to add to our collection. There are a number of you that have expressed an interest in a particular torch, one perhaps that someone else has a duplicate of and would like to liquidate. We'll try advertising in this edition to see if we can assist and promote additional trading and selling. **Richard Gjersee** has expressed an interest in securing a **UNIQUE MFG. CO.** blow torch, oval fuel tank, usually of steel construction and painted bright red, pump in the fuel tank, Bakelite knob and wooden handle. If you have one, and would like to trade or sell it, please contact Richard

at 3524 S.261st Place, Kent, WA 98032. **Richard Brazil** is also interested in trading for European or other non US torches. His collection contains mostly American and Swedish brands, and he would like to expand his collection. Interested parties should contact Richard at 5736 Grizzly Bluff Rd, Ferndale, CA 95536. Contact me if you have an interest in trading or selling, and I will compile a list of interested parties for US distribution as well as with the British and French collector groups. There have been a number of international trades, and I suspect that many more collectors would like to get in on the action, but are not quite sure what to do or how to do it. Here's your chance to expand your collection.

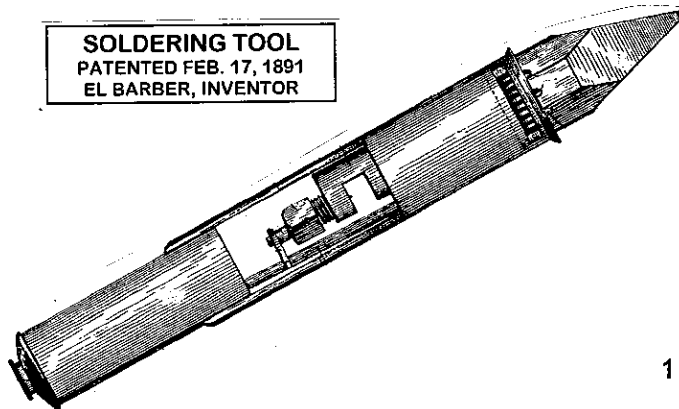
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NEW MEMBERS JOIN

Scott Ellinport - North Miami Beach, FL is just starting his torch collection and in addition, has an extensive collection of fire extinguishers (which is somewhat ironic, a fire producing collection and a fire extinguishing collection), **Walter McKibbin**, Comber, Newtownards, North Ireland has an extensive collection of European torches in excess of 260, **John Tingle** - Avon, England has approximately 1600 torches with 200-400 different models, the balance being duplicates. John travels throughout Europe as well as the US on "torch hunts". WELCOME TO THE GROUP.

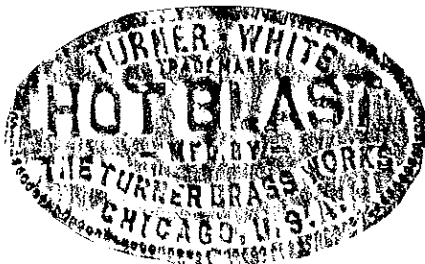
♦♦♦

SOLDERING TOOL
PATENTED FEB. 17, 1891
EL BARBER, INVENTOR



➔ MORE TURNER/WHITE ⬅

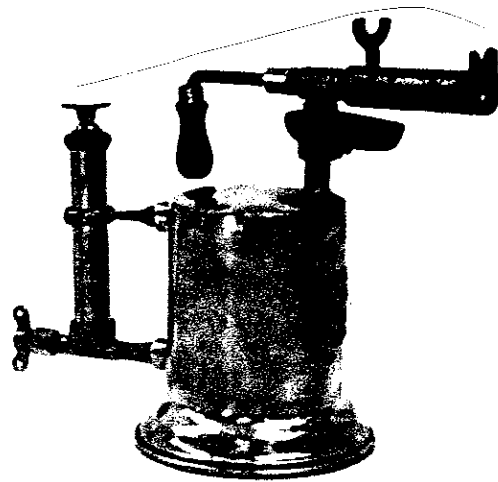
I have heard from a few of you since the last newsletter on the Turner/White business transaction of 1904. It seems that after Turner acquired the White torch line, they continued with a dual nameplate for some period of time. I included a Turner/White nameplate rubbing in the last newsletter, *THE TORCH*, fourth quarter 1997, and in the article, I assumed that Turner would not have continued with the dual nameplate much after the acquisition. Wrong! Richard Gjersee and Chuck Tobin sent in rubbings (see below) of a follow-up nameplate that has TURNER - WHITE embossed on the top, in lieu of the WHITE MFG. CO. that was embossed on my nameplate. Jim Maclean also sent in a photo and information on his WHITE/TURNER torch.



TURNER-WHITE NAMEPLATE
SUBMITTED BY R. GJERSEE & C. TOBIN

When you think about it, their marketing strategy concept is the same that is still in use today, utilize the original manufacturer's name, in a consumer product merger or acquisition, for as long as possible to retain loyal purchasers. Turner was merely holding on to the White name for an extended period, to transition the loyal White users to Turner HOT BLAST torches. Even though there was no mention of the dual manufacturer reference in the 1904 letter written by the president of the White Mfg. Co., there may have been a follow-up letter covering some of the details, such as marketing and sales guidelines. Then again, they didn't have the same legal requirements back then that we are so accustomed to today. Please, check your collections to see if there are other versions of the Turner - White nameplates and, if so, then send me a nameplate rubbing and we'll continue the saga. The story continues.....

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TURNER-WHITE TORCH
CIRCA 1905
SUBMITTED BY J. MACLEAN

KOVOPODNIK

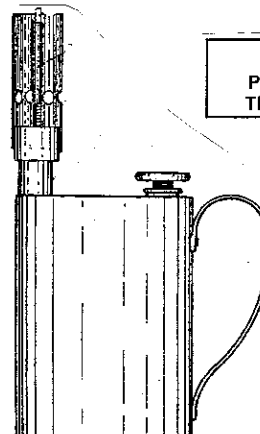
I received information on a Czech Republic torch company from Michel Duval, Longjumeau, France that was referenced in his *LA GAZETTE des LAMPTERPHOLIE* newsletter, dated June 1997, and translated by Larry Fields and Jean Allard. The company's name is KOVOPODNIK, and they manufacture a line of blow torches that can be ordered from the following address:

KOVOPODNIK
Ceske Budejovice, a.s.
Kasarenska 4
370 69 Ceske Budejovice
CZECH REPUBLIC

Telephone: 42 038 731 31 73
Fax: 42 038 731 31 69

When calling or writing, refer to Mr. Klein and request a catalog. At press time, I had not yet received my catalog, and therefore, cannot comment on cost or quality.

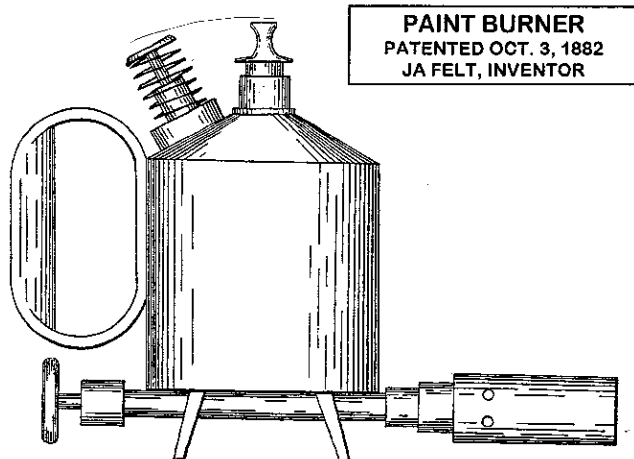
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PAINT BREMER
PATENTED AUGUST 11, 1885
THOMAS POYSER, INVENTOR

OPTIMUS

In the last newsletter, *THE TORCH*, 4th Quarter '97, I wrote a short article on OPTIMUS, and indicated that they had a home page on the web. I have since written to the distributor, A&H Enterprises in Tustin, California, and they responded by sending me a catalog that lists 11 new torches, one soldering iron, and numerous spare parts. Anyone interested in purchasing new OPTIMUS torches should contact A&H Enterprises, 1582 Parkway Loop, Suite G, Tustin, California 92780, telephone: 714-258-2525, fax: 714-258-7077. They did not include a pricing sheet, so I cannot comment on pricing.



✉ TURNER DECALS

Early in 1997 I provided information on a source for TURNER BRASS WORKS replacement decals. The decal is identical to those used by Turner at their Sycamore, Illinois facility. Dave Kolb secured a large quantity from a decal manufacturer and is making them available at his cost of \$5 each. If you renovate Turner torches and have an interest in a total restoration with a excellent reproduction decal, then contact Dave Kolb at:
709 8th Ave. NW
Austin, MN 55912
507-437-3839 evenings

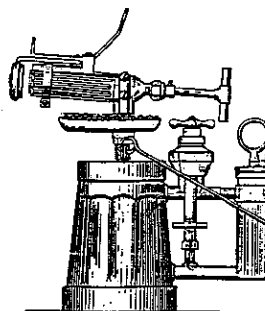


THE COLLECTOR

Many antique publications provide a free service to organized antique groups, and frequently print articles in support of a collecting group. *THE COLLECTOR*, a Midwest antique newspaper publication, ran the following ad in their February 1998 issue:



Blow Torch Collectors Association



The Blow Torch Collectors Association is starting its fourth year as a successful torch collecting group, with a goal to preserve the history of blow torches and to exchange blow torch knowledge. Members in the U.S., Canada, France, England, and Australia are communicating, trading and selling through a quarterly newsletter appropriately called "THE TORCH."

For a copy of the latest newsletter send \$1.50 for postage or \$10 USD for an annual subscription. We are always interested in hearing from new collectors. For more information contact: Ron Carr, 3328 258th Ave. SE, Issaquah, WA 98029-9173, e mail: swcv70e@prodigy.com, or call (425) 557-0634.



TORCH LITERATURE



Numerous collectors outside of the US have expressed an interest in torch literature from US torch manufacturers. I have received torch literature over the past few years from numerous collectors, and have accumulated an extensive file. The information available includes catalog sheets from numerous US torch manufacturers, and historical data on a few of the major companies such as Clayton & Lambert, Otto Bernz, and The Turner Brass Works. Due to the high volume of requests, I have decided to make my library available to anyone that has an interest. I have contacted a copying company that will provide me with a reasonable fee for bulk copying, and I would only ask that you pay for the nominal copying fee and whatever postage is required. Please contact me if you have any interest in the US literature.



Have a great spring, and don't forget to "stop and smell the roses!" ☺

Ron

(No Model.)

G. HEIDEL.
PAINT BURNER.

No. 459,288.

Patented Sept. 8, 1891.

Fig. 1.

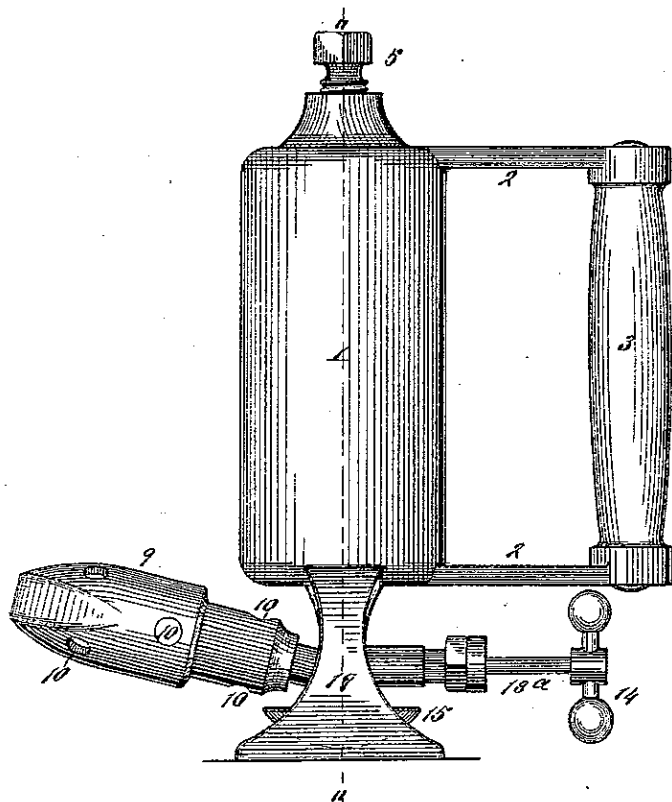


Fig. II.

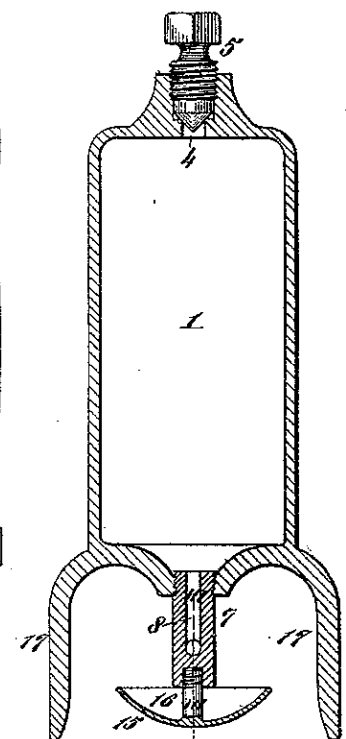
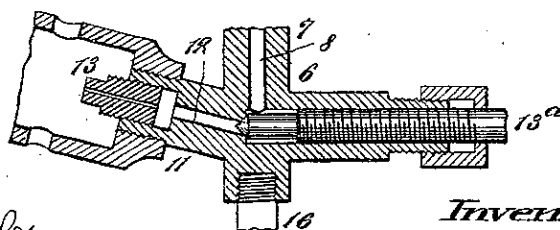


Fig. III.



Attest:
J. H. Knight
Harry O. Palmer.

*Inventor,
Aus. Heidel.
By Knight Bros
attys*