

THE TORCH

NEWSLETTER OF THE BLOW TORCH COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

Issue #52

March 2012



A Hydrocarbon Lamp manufactured by the Enterprise Optical Manufacturing Co.
Photo from the **Charles Smith** collection.
See page 5 for historical information.

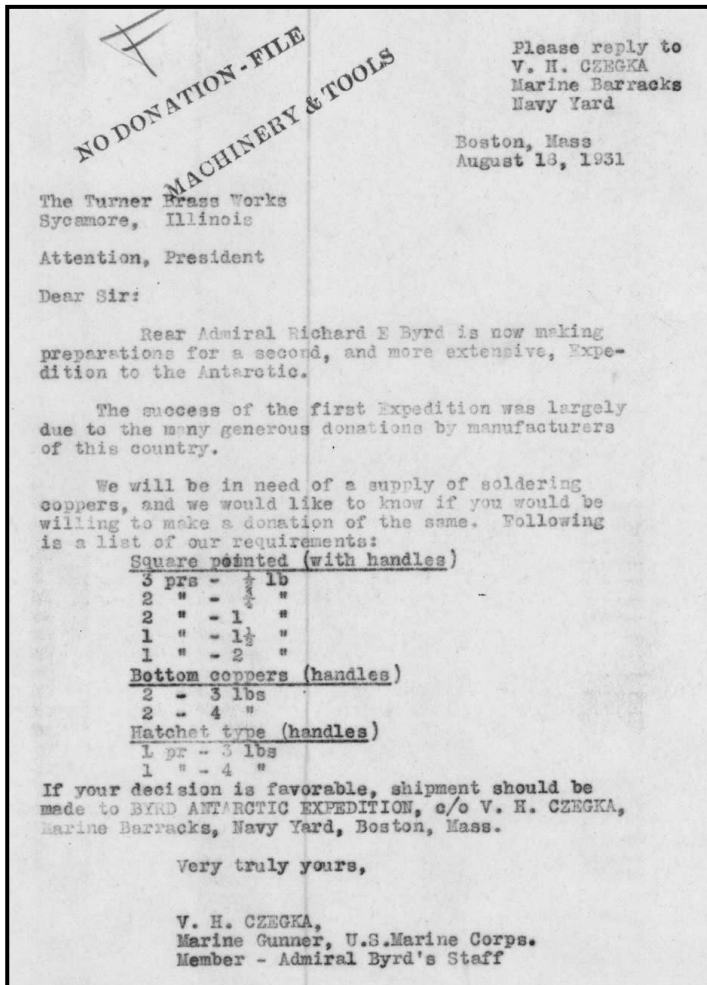


NOTES FROM ALL OVER



Jeff Battye recently purchased an Otto Bernz one-pint torch with a model No. 188 stamped into the top of the air pump knob. He searched through both blow torch reference books and could not find a reference to that model number. Jeff now owns a torch model never seen before...and just when we thought we've seen them all!

What is really ironic is that at the same time Jeff was reporting his find to us, another Otto Bernz model No. 188 was being sold on the US eBay site. The only difference is that the eBay torch has a bolt-on soldering iron holder.



We have been communicating with the Sycamore Historical Museum in Sycamore, IL, the last home of the Turner Brass Works. The museum has become a repository for old Turner records and artifacts. BTCA donated two torch reference books, and in turn the museum has sent us some interesting information about Turner. The letter at left is now housed at the Sycamore Museum was sent to Turner in August, 1931 from a member of Admiral Byrd's expedition staff.

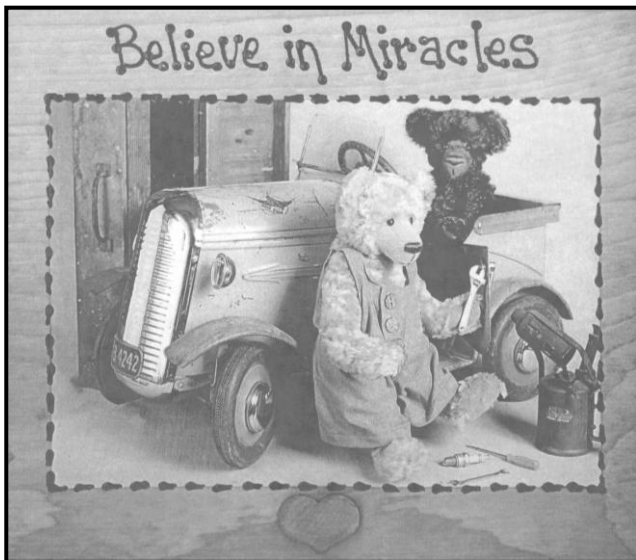
The letter states: "Rear Admiral Richard E. Byrd is now making preparations for a second and more extensive expedition to the Antarctic. The success of his first expedition was largely due to the many generous donations by manufacturers of this country. We will be in need of a supply of soldering coppers and we would like to know if you would be willing to make a donation of the same. Following is a list of our requirements...." The letter goes on to list a total of fifteen pairs of various size and type of soldering irons. It is surprising that the letter did not also request a number of blow torches.

Charles Smith uncovered an ad for TEXACO Motor Oil in the July, 1932 issue of *Fortune Magazine*. The ad, located on the inside of the magazine cover, shows one of our blow torches dramatically heating the engine compartment of a period automobile.

The substance of the ad is that in the most extreme heat, TEXACO oils remain crack-proof and continues protecting the engine even in the most extreme driving conditions. Charles believes that the torch used in the ad is the Turner Master Line No. 43 (see page 404 in *Vintage Blowtorches*) although he admits it might represent their No. 47 torch. Both torches were readily available in 1932 when the ad was designed.

The following is a note from **Ted Maire** to **Charles Smith** regarding Charles' Signal Corp donation noted in the last issue of THE TORCH:

"I was going through the latest edition of "The Torch" again and noticed the article about your U.S Army Signal Corp TE-26-A equipment donation. I was in the Signal Corp and spent from August of 1965 through January of 1966 in Fort Gordon prior to shipping out. I was being trained on radio-teletype and Krypto equipment (scramblers). While I was there, one of my friends (Robert C. Smith) got hurt (playing football) and became hospitalized. When I visited him, President Eisenhower was also a patient there. I believe he was having heart problems on the golf course in Augusta...one of his favorite courses. I saw him and his wife Mamie being interviewed when I visited my friend Robert. Fort Gordon is the center for the Army Signal Corp and they must have used the torches for Lineman type tasks. I trained next to the lineman classes. It was nice of you to donate the equipment to the Fort Gordon Museum, and I personally thank you for that. It was a brief but not insignificant part of my life. The museum may also house my award for getting the most KP and Guard duty in a six month period."



Name that lamp? We printed this piece of artwork on the cover of THE TORCH, issue No. 51 and asked if anyone could identify the lamp shown in the lower right side.

We heard from **Lloyd Weber** who thought that it was a Nobel Lamp made by the Optimus Co. in Sweden.

We also heard from **Michel Duval** and **Graham Stubbs** with their choice of identity. We believe that Michel and Graham are correct since both came up with the same manufacturer, a British Parasene lamp based on the decal information.

After receiving his copy of THE TORCH, issue No. 51, John Jaress sent in this note: *"I'm attaching a picture of my Lenk 104A & 105A with copper tanks. I have owned these torches for more than 25 years. When I got them I thought they might have been copper plated. Out of curiosity I used a sharp scraper and scraped the area where the tank is crimped around the torch bottom and based on the color, I am convinced that both tanks are copper. If my memory serves me correctly my 105A had been painted a gold (brass) color. The paint was pretty well scratched up so I polished it all off. I could not tell if the 104A was painted as it was all copper color when I got it. As the picture shows the 104A has the round brass drip cup instead of the cast aluminum one."*



The Lenk Co. must have manufactured many of the copper fuel tank No. 105 torches. **Wayne Poapst** sent in a note telling us that he also owns a No. 105 copper Lenk with a steel drip cup.

We heard from **George Murray** after he read the article in THE TORCH, issue No. 51 regarding the Craftsman No. 5529 blow torch. He also owns one, and has been trying to identify it for years!

Les Taylor sent in an interesting letter and it reads as follows: *"During my time as a Plumbing Apprentice at a trade school, 1955-60, I took a course in lead wiping of small and large lead sanitary pipes. This method was used years ago, way before my time*

Plumber or "plumbum" in Latin means "worker in lead". It involves two ends of supported pipes placed together in a horizontal position for jointing. The areas of the joint were scraped clean, then heated and tinned with a blow torch. A smear of tallow or candle wax was applied as a flux. A composition of wiping metal of 70% lead and 30% solder was heated in a lead furnace. This was ladled out and poured onto the joint area. A moleskin cloth was placed in the hand, under the joint, to catch excess metal, working this back and around to form the joint. The blow torch kept the metal heated and workable. It was a tricky process requiring full concentration; otherwise you could finish up with hot metal all over your wrist area."



Enterprise Optical Equipment Manufacturing Co.

By Ron Carr

A few months ago I received a listing of patent numbers from **Graham Stubbs** to be incorporated into our ever growing US patent list. Both Graham and **Charles Smith** continue with patent research, and the list that Graham sent me was a culmination of their work. While going through the list, I noticed two particular blow torch patents that were assigned to the **Enterprise Optical Manufacturing Company**. We had previously seen photos and advertisements of the blow torch, but had no idea of its details or how it operated. I took time to do some further research and discovered this interesting story:

In August 1900, two inventors, Frank McMillan and Alvah Roebuck were granted two US patents for a Generating Apparatus for **Hydrocarbon Lamps**....better known to us as blow torches. Both of the patents were assigned to the **Enterprise Optical Manufacturing Company** in Chicago, IL. What is so unique about their invention is that they were not the typical blow torches. Rather than producing a blow torch flame, the device produced an air/fuel vapor mixture that was "carried" to an incandescent mantle burner via a flexible tube. The mantel burner (similar to the mantel burners used in Coleman lanterns) was used as an incandescent illumination device for early movie projectors during the late 1800s and early 1900s.

If you look in VINTAGE BLOWTORCHES, page 177 you will see two Sears Co. catalog advertisements for a Stereopticon Movie Projector along with the referenced blow torch.

Optigraph No. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$, and the Enterprise Stereopticon

For the Projection of Both
MOTION PICTURES AND STEREOPTICON VIEWS.

The change from one to the other can be made in **TWO SECONDS**

Price, with Stereopticon Lenses, and the Optigraph (Model No. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$) **\$64.00**

RUNS THE FILMS EITHER BACKWARDS OR FORWARDS

While thousands of exhibitors testify to the merits of the Optigraph No. 3 Motion Picture Machine, we recommend our No. 4 Model, 1907, as being worth more than the difference in price. See illustration and prices on other pages.

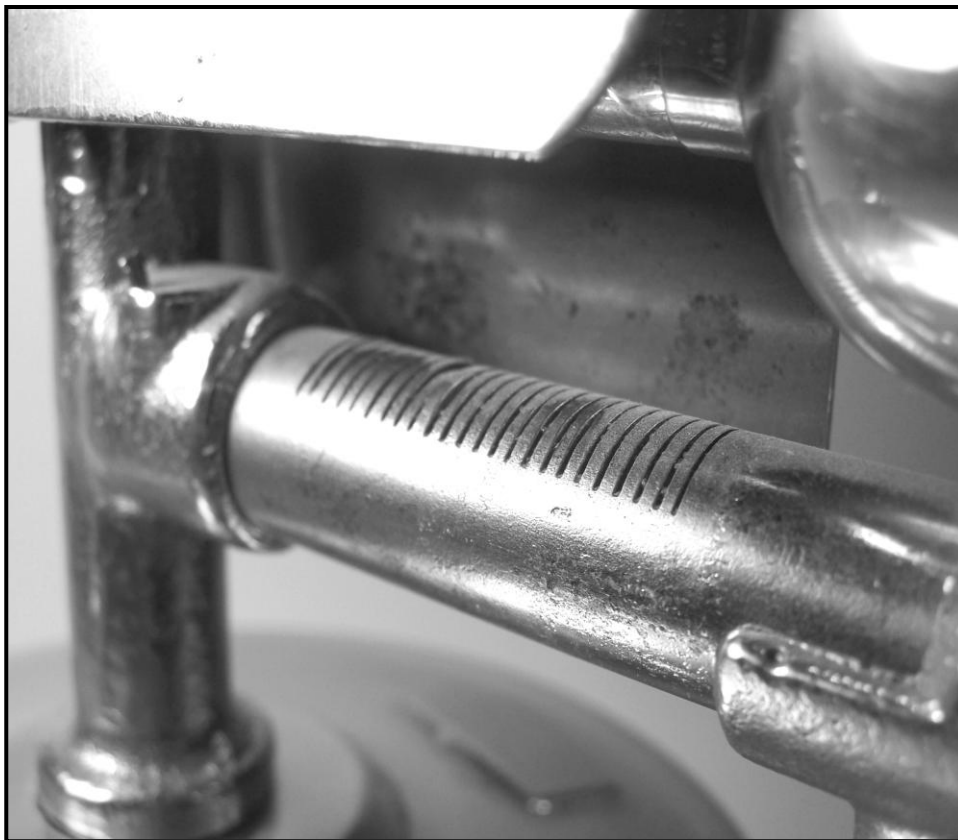
Has handle 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ins. from center to crank handle, and the new separable reel with screw clamp

Patented in the United States and England.

Shown above is the type of movie projector, circa 1900, that may have utilized the hydrocarbon lamp. The lamp would be located just behind the large box that is located on the far right side of the projector. The illumination mantle would be located inside the box. This advertisement was most likely from a Sears Co. catalog considering they were the owners of the Enterprise Optical Manufacturing Co. that produced the Enterprise Stereopticon and the originators of the Optigraph.

You'll note in *VINTAGE BLOWTORCHES*, on page 176, a photo of the Enterprise Optical Co. torch which is now owned by **Charles Smith**. Charles purchased the torch from the Mel Olson estate and restored it to an original condition.

You'll note some unusual features in the photo on the front cover (it is a larger color photo so you can see the details better); there is no air pump, a windscreen that is missing one side, a large number of slits in the horizontal pipe that is located just above the fuel tank, a brass cone-shaped piece around the nozzle area, and a huge gap between where the nozzle is located and the forward receiver tube.

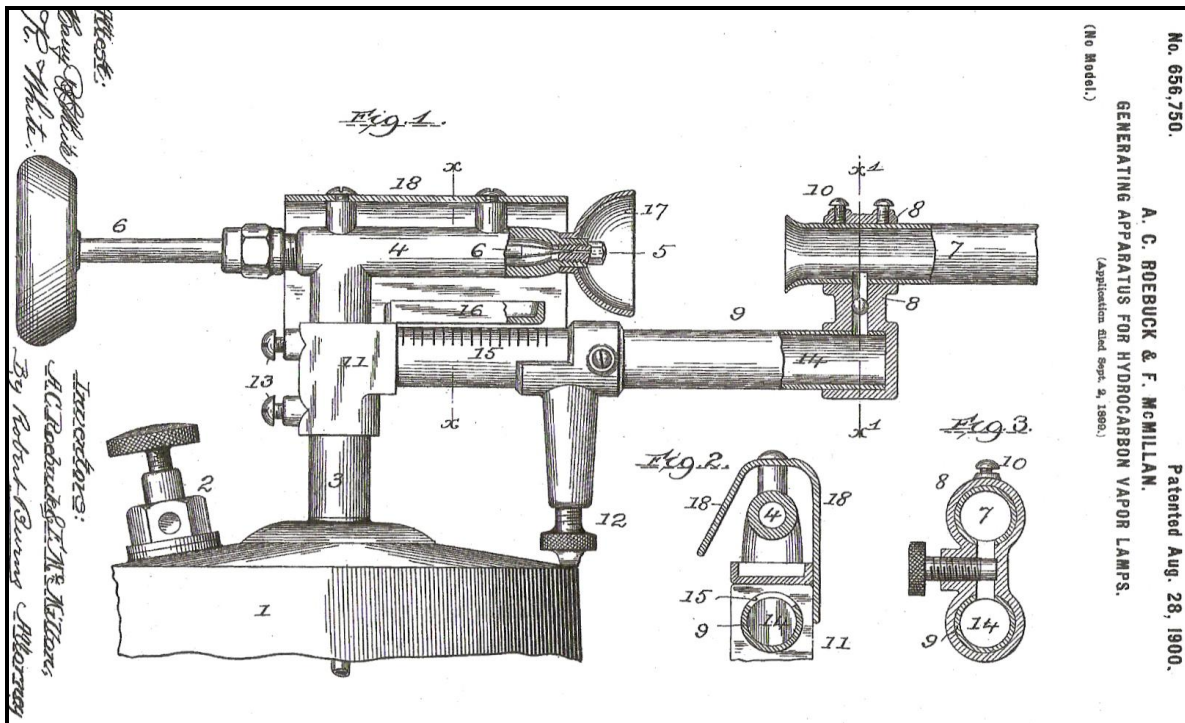
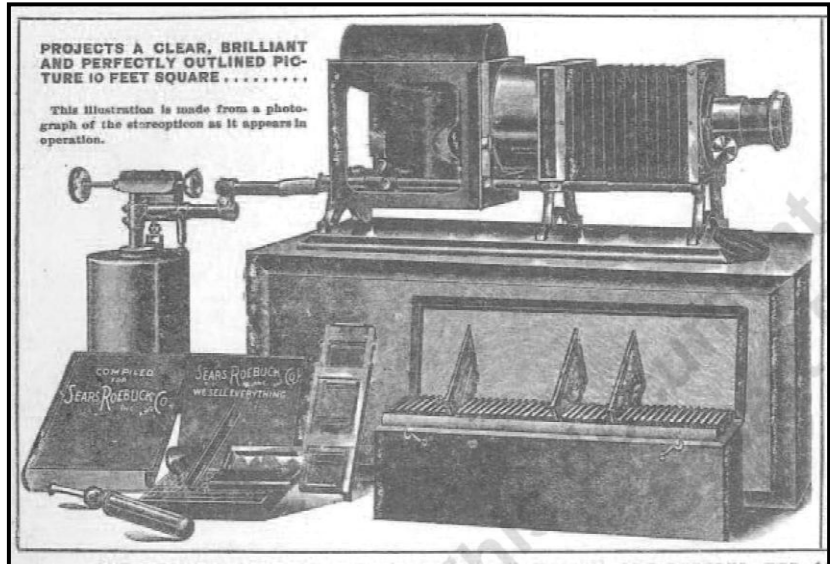


The torch actually does produce a flame, but not a typical blow torch flame. There was an external air supply that provided the necessary air pressure for operation. The fuel in the horizontal pipe was ignited (one side of the wind screen was removed to facilitate lighting the fuel vapor) and a wide flame was produced along the line of slits in the horizontal pipe. (You can see a large number of slits in the horizontal pipe in this close up photo.) The flames heated the fuel in the upper horizontal pipe and produced a fuel vapor. The fuel vapor under pressure was fed through the nozzle and across the air space and into the receiver pipe. The cone-shaped brass piece

was in place to prevent the fuel vapor that was coming out of the nozzle from igniting. The receiver pipe was connected to the movie projector by a flexible hose and the fuel vapor traveled through that hose into the mantel burner located inside the rear of the movie projector.

The advertisement shown on the right is the only known illustration of an Enterprise Optical Co. hydrocarbon lamp in operation with a movie projector.

The advertisement is not a very clear copy taken from a Sears Co. catalog circa 1900. You can just make out the flexible connecting hose from the front of the hydrocarbon lamp to the rear of the movie projector.



Shown above is an illustration from the Roebuck/McMillan patent from 1900. The torch manufactured by the Enterprise Co. appears to be identical to the patent illustration.

Does the name Alvah Roebuck mean anything to you? For those of you who remember Paul Harvey, he used to say; "here's the rest of the story", so, here is the rest of the story.

The co-inventor of the **Enterprise Optical Co. hydrocarbon lamps**, Alvah Roebuck, was born in Lafayette, IN on January 9, 1864. At the age of twenty-two he began work as a watchmaker in a Hammond, Indiana, jewelry store. On April 1, 1887, he answered an advertisement for a watchmaker in the Chicago Daily News, and two days later he received a reply from Richard Sears, who wanted to interview him. Roebuck went to Chicago for the interview with samples of some of his watch repair work, and after Richard Sears saw Roebuck's work, he hired him on the spot.

Thus began the association of two men who would soon form one of the world's best-known business partnerships. The business in 1887 was known as the R.W. Sears Watch Co. In 1889, Sears sold the R.W. Sears Watch Co. to Roebuck and moved to Iowa to enjoy the small town life. Roebuck immediately changed the Sears Watch Co. name to A.C. Roebuck Co. In 1891 Sears returned to Chicago and rejoined Roebuck renaming the company A.C. Roebuck and Co. In 1893 the name was changed, again, and incorporated in Chicago as Sears, Roebuck and Co.

Around 1895 as sales increased so did the company's debt and Roebuck grew concerned that he might be held personally liable in a bankruptcy situation, so Roebuck asked Sears to buy him out for about \$20,000. After the buyout, Richard Sears asked Roebuck to remain with the company as a salaried employee to manage the Sears Home Entertainment Division that handled watches, jewelry, optical goods, and, later, phonographs, [magic lanterns](#) and motion picture machines. One of the Sears Co. owned ventures, where Roebuck was President, was called the **Enterprise Optical Equipment Manufacturing Co.** While President of Enterprise Co., Roebuck co-invented the two **hydrocarbon lamps** and designed an early motion picture projector originally marketed as a "magic lantern".



Alvah Roebuck, circa 1891

After four years Roebuck quit the Sears Co. to form his own movie projector manufacturing company, with the Sears Co. becoming one of his best customers. In 1903, Roebuck worked on the first of many improvements to the motion picture machine, building the Optigraph Motion Picture Machine. Roebuck was a prolific inventor and had a large number of patents awarded to him for a variety of motion picture projector parts and devices...including the **hydrocarbon lamps**.

In 1909, after the Emerson Typewriter Co. defaulted on loans from Sears, Roebuck & Co., Roebuck himself was installed as president at Emerson (1909-1924). He became deeply involved in the mechanical redesign of the company's typewriters and even invented an improved typewriter, called the "Woodstock".

Roebuck left Emerson in 1924 for "retirement". After several years in semi-retirement in Florida, the financial losses he suffered in the stock market crash of 1929 forced Roebuck to return to Chicago. By 1933, Roebuck had rejoined Sears, Roebuck and Co. as a salaried employee where he largely devoted his time to compiling a history of the company he helped founded.

In September 1934, a Sears store manager asked Roebuck to make a public appearance at his store. After an enthusiastic public turnout, Mr. Roebuck went on tour, appearing at retail stores across the country for the next several years.

Alvah Roebuck returned to his desk at company headquarters in Chicago, where he enthusiastically assumed the task of compiling a corporate history.

Later when Roebuck was asked about his ex-partner's great wealth and his own modest wealth Roebuck replied: "Sear's dead. Me, I never felt better."

Roebuck died on June 18, 1948, age 84, never publicly regretting the fortune he missed by not staying as a partner/owner with Sears, Roebuck and Co.

Here is the other half of the Sears, Roebuck & Co. story:

Richard Warren Sears was born December 7, 1863, in Stewartville, MN. His father was a blacksmith and wagon-maker by trade, and in Richard Sears' early years the family resided in Spring Valley and Mankato, MN.

Although Sears' father was at one time fairly prosperous, he lost all of his money—about \$50,000—in a failed stock-farm venture. Consequently, at a young age, Richard Sears found it necessary to work in order to help support the family. After learning telegraphy, he was employed by the Minneapolis and St. Louis Railroad and eventually became a station agent at North Redwood, MN.



Richard Sears, circa 1893

Because of his heavy family burden, Sears looked to supplement his income. In 1886, he found an ideal solution when a local jeweler refused a consignment of watches. Sears asked the manufacturer's permission to try to sell the watches. Permission was granted, and soon he had sold all of them to fellow agents.

Within six months, Richard Sears' watch business escalated so much that he resigned from the railroad in 1886 and moved to Minneapolis, where he could devote full time to his growing mail-order enterprise, which he founded that year as the R.W. Sears Watch Company. He was only 22 years old. Although he enjoyed his commercial success, he longed for the laid-back, small town way of life. In 1889, Sears sold the R.W. Sears Watch Company for \$72,000 and moved to Iowa to enjoy the small town life.

Richard Sears was soon bored of his new life and decided to start a new company with his old business partner Alvah Roebuck in 1891. It was a mail-order operation selling watches and jewelry under the name of A.C. Roebuck and Company. The headquarters of Sears, Roebuck and Co. were established in Chicago in 1893.

In 1908, poor health forced Richard Sears to retire from active participation in his company, which had grown to annual sales of \$40 million. He became Chairman of the Board and continued to actively participate in the company for the next several years. He died six years later, on September 28, 1914.

Now, that was a long story about a blow torch! I hope you enjoyed the story and the historical information as much as I did doing the research and putting it all together.

If you would like to see some of the early movie projectors that utilized the Enterprise Optical hydrocarbon lamps, check out Soterios Gardiakos. He is an accomplished sculptor, and in 2000 he started collecting early commercial use movie projectors. As parts could no longer be ordered from the factory (the earliest projector in the collection having been made by Thomas Edison in 1896) Soterios started buying industrial machines to make new parts and repair damaged parts for these rare projectors. He has written five books on these early movie machines.

His collection can be seen at this website: (search for) **OPTIGRAPH MOTION PICTURE MACHINE**, the first option that pops up should be (pdf) **OPTIGRAPH**, and underneath that should be a sub listing for **BIOSCOPE.BIZ**. It takes awhile to upload so be patient.

Did you ever wonder where the term "in the limelight" came from? During the early years of motion pictures a type of movie projector light was developed in which unslaked lime was heated to incandescence that produced a very brilliant light....also known as the limelight.



TWO MORE PATENTED SOLDERING IRONS

By **Graham Stubbs**

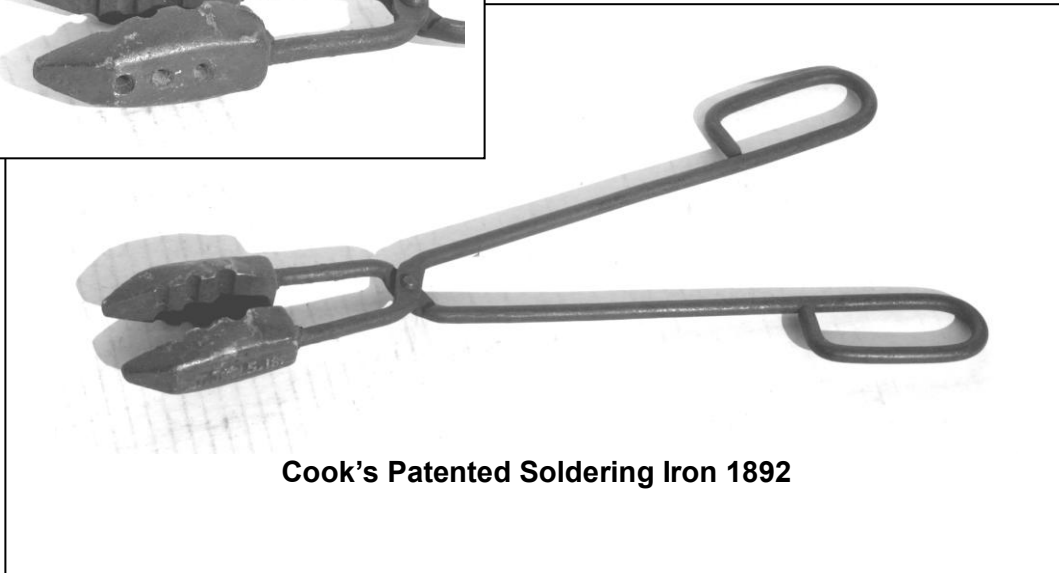
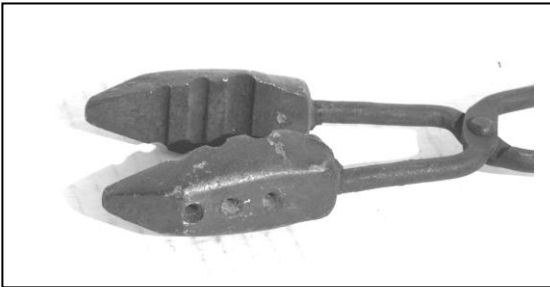
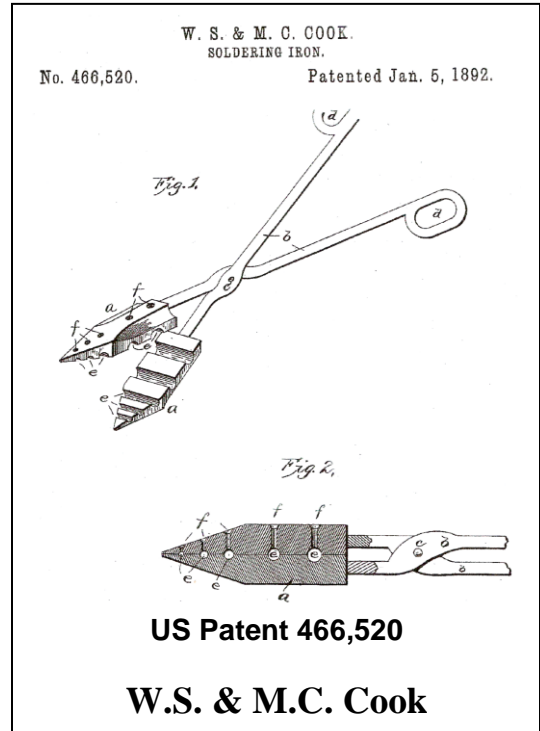
The article SOLDERING IRONS (Part 2), which appeared in the last issue of THE TORCH, appealed for photographs of examples of patented soldering irons. Here are two more.

Cook's Patented Soldering Iron 1892

In 1892, William S. and Moses Chalmer Cook of South Omaha, NE patented a soldering iron "particularly adapted for soldering together joints in wires in a quick and thorough manner to make a perfect joint".

"In using this invention the wire ends are properly twisted and treated and the iron heated and opened and the wire-joint placed in the groove in which it fits. The iron is then closed, thereby completely inclosing and thoroughly heating the joint from all sides. The solder is then applied through the passage for a particular socket.... melts down and runs into the passage and as the iron is moved back and forth the solder runs in between the turns of wire...

The inventors claimed that perfect joints could be made "no matter how cold or windy the weather".



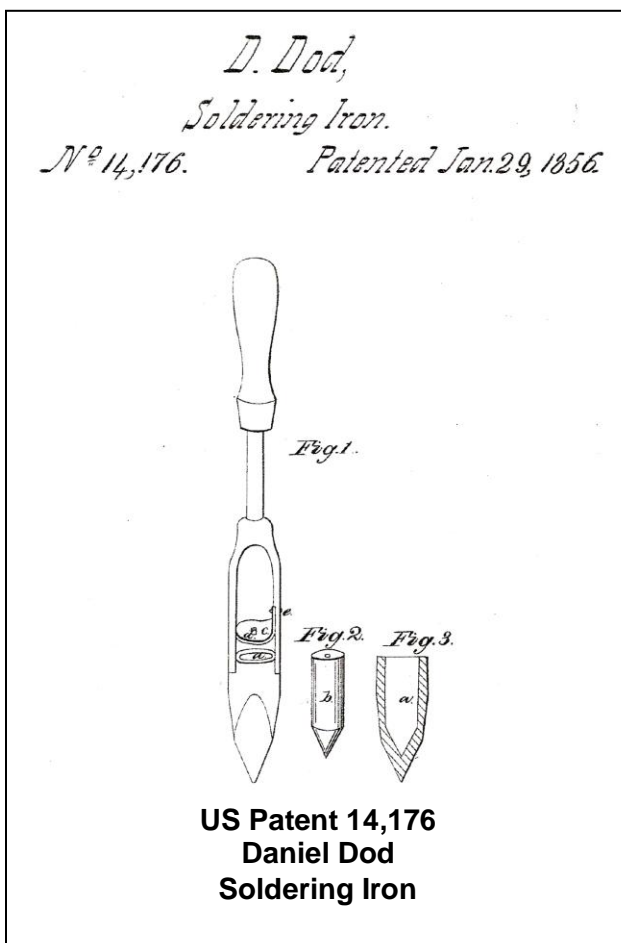
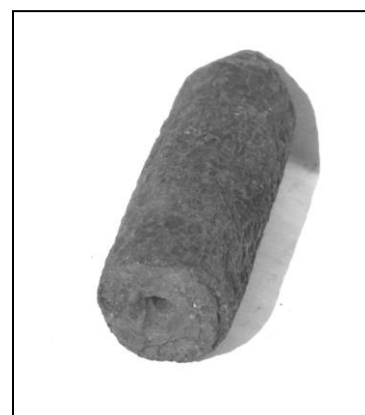
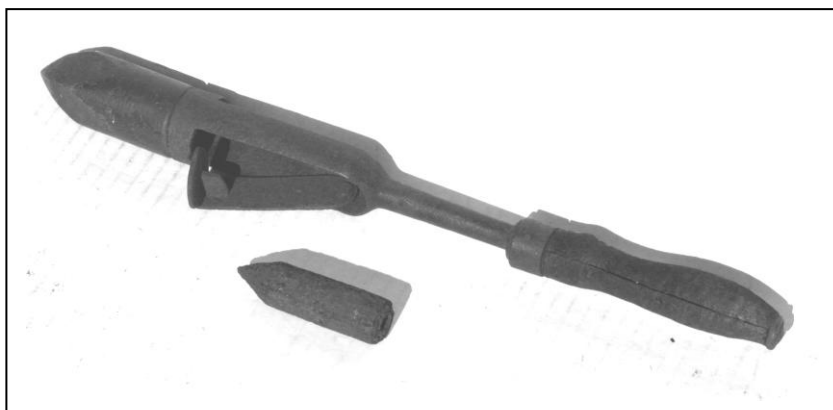
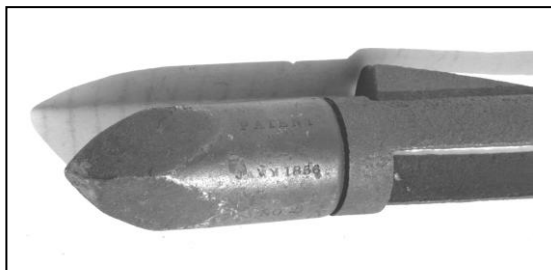
Cook's Patented Soldering Iron 1892

One of the copper jaws is marked "PAT. JAN 5, 1892". The other jaw is marked with the numeral 3, presumably the weight of copper in a pair of these irons.

Dod and Read's Patented Soldering Iron 1856

In 1856, five years before the American Civil War commenced, Daniel Dod, of Brooklyn, NY patented a hollow soldering iron, heated by a removable pre-heated iron core.

He assigned the rights to himself and to Henry Read, and the copper tip is marked "DOD & READ PATENT JANY 1856".



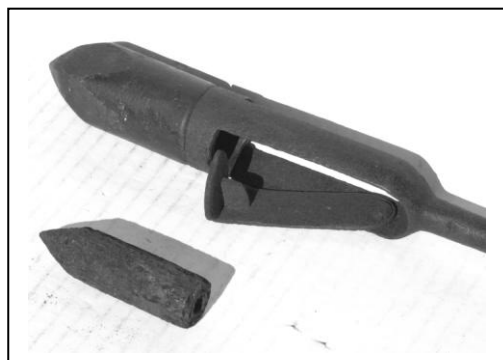
According to the patent description, attached to the handle with a rivet is a pivoting button that holds the hot iron core in place when closed. The iron slug, heated to red hot in a fire, was intended to be picked up using a wire inserted in a hole in its blank end, placed inside the copper soldering tip, and retained in place by closing the button "thereby avoiding the necessity of heating the soldering iron by direct contact with the fire."

The Dod patent from 1856 is the earliest of any related to soldering irons in BTCA's list of blowtorch-related patents.

This example has burn damage to its wooden handle, but its copper tip is in excellent condition. As received the iron rattled; something heavy was inside. The iron handle and button are rusted, and the button refused at first to move on its pivot. With a screwdriver I was able to pry open the button in small increments, finally releasing the iron core, which has evidence of being heated to a high temperature.



There is very little wear to the copper tip, suggesting that it was not much used. I would like to think that when I opened it, I may have been the first person to handle the iron core that was “frozen” inside for perhaps a hundred and fifty years!



How We Started Our Collection

By Alan & Sylvia Black

We started to collect blowlamps in 1982, after a neighbor gave us a one-pint pump-in-body paraffin lamp that had given him some grief over the years and was to be sent onto a reclamation site. Alan decided he would clean this ‘thing’ up and place it onto the mantel shelf. Both my father and Alan’s father had owned items very similar to this, though we had not inherited them at this point in time.



The Vesey Lamp

A few weeks later we were wandering through a local antique shop and spotted a very nice one-pint pump-in-handle paraffin lamp, so this was purchased to go on the other side of the mantel shelf. Neither of us had seen a blowlamp that had its pump in the handle. And so the rot set in!! Suddenly blowlamps seemed to pop up everywhere from tiny ones to large five-pint ones, some were paraffin, some were petrol, and the odd one was for methylated spirits.

It was decided that we needed a book on these things since we were surprised at the volume of manufacturers and the variety of models for each manufacturer. Now in 1982 as you will have realized there were no publications on the market that covered blowlamps so we were left with the only alternative, which was manufacturers catalogues. Again we were amazed to find the humble blowlamp in an enormous range of publications from general tool suppliers and DIY to many specialist sellers. Our first and most treasured catalogues were found in a basement of a bric-a-brac shop where the front cellar had non-fiction books that included many scientific and medical items (so near and yet so far from what we wanted) with a selection of fiction books in the rear cellar. At the foot of the stairs between the two cellars was a cardboard box with a selection of catalogues. We stood and selected those of interest, leaving the items concerning cement etc in the box and were just about to take the selected items to the till when we spotted the price on the side of the box. The whole lot was on offer for a very lowly sum, so everything was re-assembled into the box, paid for and lovingly carried to the car. We were both so amazed at our purchase that we were both shaking as we left the shop. The most interesting catalogues were dated between 1903 and 1914 though the earliest ones rarely quoted the manufacturer just giving an etching, description and price. Incidentally we sold those items we were not interested in for the same price that we paid for the whole box.



We have a lamp that is very similar to the unknown torch shown in MORE VINTAGE BLOWTORCHES, page 291, though it does not appear to have quite as many ridges as ours now that I have fetched it from the workshop. The only marking on the underside is MADE IN SWEDEN. The lamp is identical to one shown in a 1914 George Adams catalogue and is identified as a FIX lamp. It was designed to hang under the burner of a pressure stove to preheat it instead of using methylated spirits in the usual cup. (By the way, there are little back packing pressure stoves that use this same coil method whilst sitting in their carrying container, to heat a saucepan or kettle.)

Due to the sudden volume of information it was impossible to memorize all of it, but some years later we were fortunate to find one of the FIX lamps.

The attachment that hooks it to the pressure stove had come adrift but its original position was still visible and it has been polished up without the attachment.

Before we polished the FIX we tried it out on a pressure stove where it performed beautifully though we still use meths in the pre-heater cup since this is how we were brought up to light a pressure stove.



The “Queen” Blowtorch and the Shirley Brothers of Coventry, England

By Graham Stubbs

A seller in the United Kingdom recently sold on eBay a previously unknown version of the “Queen” blowtorch for almost one thousand US dollars. An elongated diamond-shaped nameplate on the front has the wording “QUEEN AUTOMATIC TORCH SHIRLEY BROS, PATENT PENDING.” A British patent of 1900, which was issued to Arthur and Edward Shirley of Coventry, England, describes exactly the torch made by the American company Bridgeport Brass Company of Bridgeport, CT, with offices in Manhattan, NY. Other than the wording on its label, the torch as it appears in the Ebay photos seems to be physically similar to those already known. The appearance for sale of this torch raises the question of who were the Shirleys, and what was the connection of these two men from the English Midlands to an American maker?

On the 21st of July 1890, Arthur and Edward Shirley stepped off the ship “City of Richmond” in New York harbor. The steamship was equipped to make the crossing under sail if necessary; the journey took eight days.

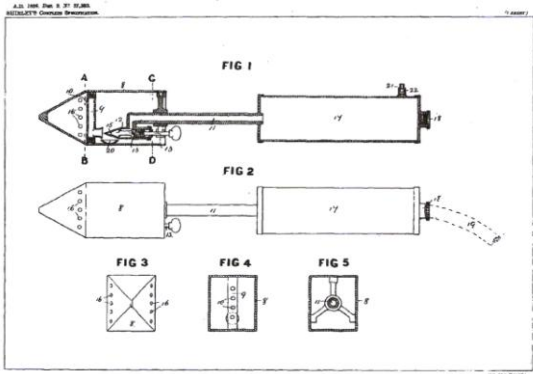
Twenty-two year old Arthur, and Edward then aged eighteen, were two of the five sons of William Shirley, a successful manufacturer of “trimmings” supplying the British garment industry. Coventry, one of England’s great industrial cities, had been a center for the silk weaving trade and emerged in the late nineteenth century as the leading location for the production of bicycles.



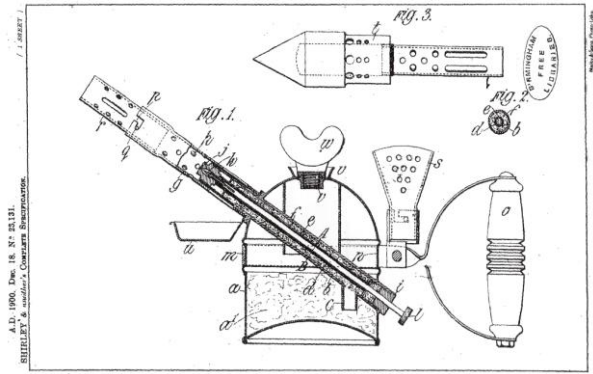
On November the 6th of the same year, a third Shirley brother, Amos Reginald, arrived in New York, accompanied by his wife Ruth and five year old young son Amos. The Shirley family was already represented in the United States. The brothers’ uncle, also named Amos, had arrived in 1879 with his wife Annie, and daughter Eliza, and they settled in Philadelphia.

The three brothers were to make their mark in the bicycle business on both sides of the Atlantic. Amos Reginald Shirley set up in Manhattan as a maker and seller of bicycles, and later as a dealer in motorcycles. Edward also settled in New York and established an importing business. Arthur returned to England to continue there in the bicycle manufacturing business. That all three brothers were successful in their respective ventures is evident from the numerous transatlantic trips made by each of them, and that are found in arrival records for the Port of New York.

In 1896, Arthur filed for a British patent with the title “Improvements in Soldering Bits”, describing a self-heated soldering iron with novel features. (No physical example has yet been reported by collectors of blowtorches / blowlamps.) In December 1900, Edward and Arthur jointly filed a patent for what was marketed as the “Queen” torch. The following year, Edward settled permanently in the USA and married a young woman from Mississippi.

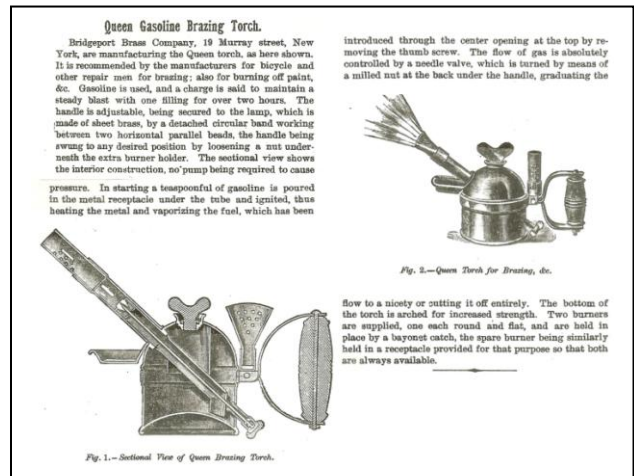


British Patent No. 27,383
Improvements in Soldering Bits
Arthur Shirley 1896



British Patent No. 23,131
A Portable Vapour Lamp or Stove
for the use of Plumbers and the like.
Arthur and Edward Shirley 1900

In 1899, more than a year prior to the application for a patent by the Shirley brothers, an American periodical, *The Metal Worker*, carried an illustrated product announcement by the Bridgeport Brass Co., showing the “Queen Gasoline Brazing Lamp” and citing a New York address. Edward and Arthur Shirley were clearly in New York at that time. However, the exact relationship between the two English inventors and the American company that manufactured their unusual blowtorch is still not known. *More Vintage Blowtorches* has more about Bridgeport Brass Co., see pages 47 & 48.



Postscript:

Eliza Shirley, the cousin who was already living in Philadelphia when Edward and Arthur arrived in New York, has her own place in history.

As a seventeen-year-old girl she unofficially commenced the very first Salvation Army work in America soon after she arrived with her parents. The organization still celebrates her pioneer work, and the Salvation Army Eliza Shirley House in Philadelphia provides emergency shelter services for homeless single women and families 365 days of the year.





Shown above are two Turner No. 92 torches from **Charles Smith's** collection. According to Charles; "**Duane Ritchie** contacted me some months ago and said that he had two nice Turner No. 92 torches, one top-fill variety and the other bottom-fill variety. He stated that if I was interested, he would not only sell them to me, but recondition each to working condition and polish them up. I have others like these, but nothing even similar to the condition of these two. These are in really remarkable condition. How they could have survived so many years, one hundred or more, without significant damage is amazing to me. This, with the polishing and other restoration that Duane completed, makes the pair quite unique."

THE TORCH

Official publication of the Blow Torch Collectors Association is published
three times per year; March, June, & December.

Editor
Contributing Editor
Contributing Editor

Ronald M. Carr
Graham Stubbs
Dr. Charles Smith

THE PURPOSE of BTCA is to preserve the history of blow torches and related equipment, to encourage the identification, classification, and exhibiting of such equipment, also to promote the study and better understanding of operation, purpose, and application.

Membership in BTCA is open to any person sharing its interests and purposes. For membership information, write to: Blow Torch Collectors Association, 6908 April Wind Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89131-0119, email to: BTCA@cox.net, or by phone: 702 395-3114.

THE TORCH encourages contributions from anyone interested in our purpose. Articles can be submitted in any format and should include supportive literature whenever possible. All submittals should be sent to BTCA at the above address.

No part of *The Torch* may be copied or reproduced without the written consent of the Blow Torch Collectors Association.

COPYRIGHT MARCH 2012