

Stanhope Lenses (Miniature microscopes) on Queen knives.

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A Stanhope lens showing the founders of the company was built into the handles of both the 2002 Presto light jack knife and the 2007 Daddy Barlow for both the 80th and 85th anniversaries of Queen Cutlery. You might find old Queen City advertising knives that also used Stanhope lenses – Tell us if you ever find one – It would be extremely rare!

A small tube of glass with ends ground as lenses, this device was invented by Charles, 3rd Earl of Stanhope in the late 1700s. They were widely used as portable microscopes in medicine and natural sciences. By 1the 1860s, they were adapted to magnify microscopic photographs set at one end, and became popular for souvenirs and advertising. (see http://www.stanhopes.info/who_made_stanhopes.html)

Here are several images of the 2007 Stanhope Daddy Barlow:



Figure 1. Single-blade Daddy Barlow, with Stanhope lens in place of a lanyard hole. Image inside shows founders of the company. Our skills at getting a photo of that tiny image are not adequate. You need to see a knife in person for that experience.

Figure 2. Close-up of Stanhope lens in 2007 85th anniversary Daddy Barlow

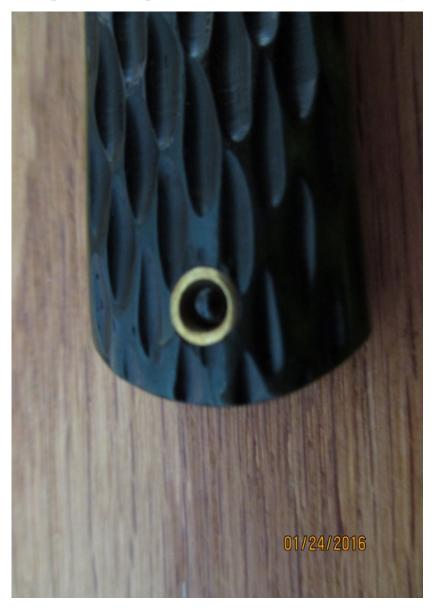




Figure 3. The same stanhope lens and founders image was first used in the 80th Anniversary Presto light (Prestolite) jack knife. The sales flier announcing this hard to find knife is displayed above.

These knives were expensive when first produced and remain highly sought after by collectors. The question remains, were these lenses laying around in the factory, left over from advertising knifes early in the companys history, when such knives were relatively more common? As we said, earlier, a copy of an earlier stanhope advertising knife made by Queen would be a wonderful, rare find. None has as yet been found.

For the record, a prestolite key was used to open a valve to provide gas for the headlights of early cars before 1915. The Prestolite company, still in business today in automobile etectronics, used the prestolite key to open a valve on the running boards of cars to drip acetylene onto calcium carbide to provide acetylene efficiently for open flame headlights. The larger key was for cars, while the smaller system was used on bicyles.