



# *Queen Cutlery Guide*

## **Stanhope Lenses (Miniature microscopes) on Queen knives.**

Fred Fisher and Dan Lago

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 80<sup>th</sup> and 85<sup>th</sup> 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, 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Stanhope in the late 1700s. They were widely used as portable microscopes in medicine and natural sciences. By the 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](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 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary Daddy Barlow



QUEEN CITY

80<sup>th</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY  
1922 2002  
QUEEN CUTLERY CO

We are proud to offer this unique Jack knife which features a laser engraved spear blade with turn of the century presto light key. Both of these blades are made of 420 H.C. steel. The handles are designed like the famously known Queen City advertising knives with a standhope lens in the cap end. This collectible knife is limited to 500. **MSRP \$275.00**

Queen City  
Franklinville, N.Y.

1922 ANNIVERSARY 2002  
QUEEN CUTLERY CO

Queen City  
Franklinville, N.Y.

Queen City

*Knife measures approximately 3-1/4" closed.*

QUEEN CUTLERY COMPANY—PO BOX 500 FRANKLINVILLE, NY 14737 800.222.5233

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Figure 3. The same stanhope lens and founders image was first used in the 80<sup>th</sup> 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 knives 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 ogn bicycles.