

Ken Barnes On Charatan
Pipes Magazine Posts
Compiled by Jesse Silver (sablebrush52)

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/james-upshall-pipes-a-discussion.46520/page-5#post-35491641>

- [Dec 11, 2015](#)

I trained at the Charatan factory for one year as a sander (shaping the bowls after they were 'trimmed' on the saw using a coarse sand paper 60 grit, a 120 grit (medium) and a 400 grit (fine). This is where a necessary skill takes place. I sat next to and was trained by Joan Nicholson who sanded all the freehands coming out of Charatans. She was truly the finest paperer that I have come across. I am sure that Barry, Dan and Stan would all agree with this statement. Stan however did, on occasions sit at the sanding-wheel in front of me 'to paper his own'. I think that he thought he may be a superior paperer than Joan, or he may have been a little over protective about the 'Jewels' he had just turned or he was just helping out as Joan may have had too much work 'coming through'. Sanding is the make or break stage of the pipe-making business and my father knew that, so he wanted me to get trained up with Joan as my mentor. This process is normally carried out by women as they seem to be more patient. Before sandpaper was invented, Frederick Charatan used shark skin. An old shark's skin for the coarse grit and younger for finer grits (i.e. the younger the shark the finer the grit). For the record, that was my speciality before I started cutting. Barry meanwhile was an amazing sand-paperer, so patient, so skilled and could transform a piece of **** into something amazing.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/james-upshall-pipes-a-discussion.46520/page-6#post-35502725>

- [Jan 9, 2016](#)

"I'd love to hear more about the women of pipe making history. Pipes often feel like kind of a man's game, but it is refreshing to hear that women may have played a strong hand in the creation of some of the most premiere and classic British pipes".....

The staff at Charatan's was like a very large family. There were a couple of guys (Jeff was one) in the packing dept in the basement (until 1973), then the packing was done upstairs. The bowl turning room had copy-frazing machines to produce the series shapes (catalogue shapes) and two hand turning lathes. Sid was an old boy who re-set and repaired the machines and made any steel blades that were needed and re-sharpened blades etc. 6 or 7 males worked in this dept. Then, in the sand-papering (and drilling) dept. it was women Joan, the most skilled sander and Prim who selected the bowls after they had been sanded. The boxes of bowls were stacked

on shelves, Charatan bowls, Ben Wade, Mountbatten and Commadore. The Ben Wade and 'seconds' were then taken to the Ben Wade factory in Georgiana St. Camden Town and made into pipes there. The Charatans were then taken to the next dept (finishing) where 90% of the workers were women perhaps 10 in total. Maureen managed the finishing and was responsible for grading all the Charatans into their respective qualities and she was the one who 'graded' all the straight grain Charatan freehands from 1968-1980. These 10 women did the pumicing, staining, hard mopping, stamping, bending mouthpieces, and final polishing. The Cafe on the top floor was run by Stan Haney's (hand-turner and craftsman) mother and I think his sister. So all in all there were more women than men! At James Upshall it was about 50% women. In my experience women are far better finishers than men except for Barry who was truly masterful at finishing. My father told me that Barry became such a good finisher because he loved to come and talk to the women in the finishing dept at Charatan's and gradually picked it up from them.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/james-upshall-pipes-a-discussion.46520/page-6#post-35502752>

- [Jan 10, 2016](#)

Hi Ken,

Did you know of one Alice Sturt at Charatan? I came into possession of a collection of Charatan pipes which included two letters, one signed by Reuben Charatan and the other indistinguishable, dating from 1958 / 59 - see another topic called Charatan collection. Some of the pipes are not stamped and others are not finished and I presume they were er "liberated" at some point. Any information on either the pipes or Alice would be useful as I am trying to piece together their history and what role Alice may have played in their production. The pipes are going off to John Marshall next week to see if he or Dennis can shed any light on them. Dennis is not in the best of health though.

As for Upshall's, fantastic pipes. I love the one I have which, thanks to your input on this forum, I have managed to date to pre 1983 as it is stamped and not engraved.

Keep up the good work as for us Upshall and Charatan anoraks, this is invaluable information

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/charatan-collection.48250/#post-35502778>

- [Jan 10, 2016](#)

I did know Alice. She was one of the old experienced finishers at Charatan in the early 70s. I now recall her standing in front of her bench staining/ and igniting the stain at the bunsen burner bench. I think she specialised in 'background stains' at that time. Barry Jones would probably shed more light on this as she was one of those who taught Barry the art of finishing. She would always give me a warm smile in the morning when I walked passed her. I think she worked there until the mid seventies. Thanks for the recall!

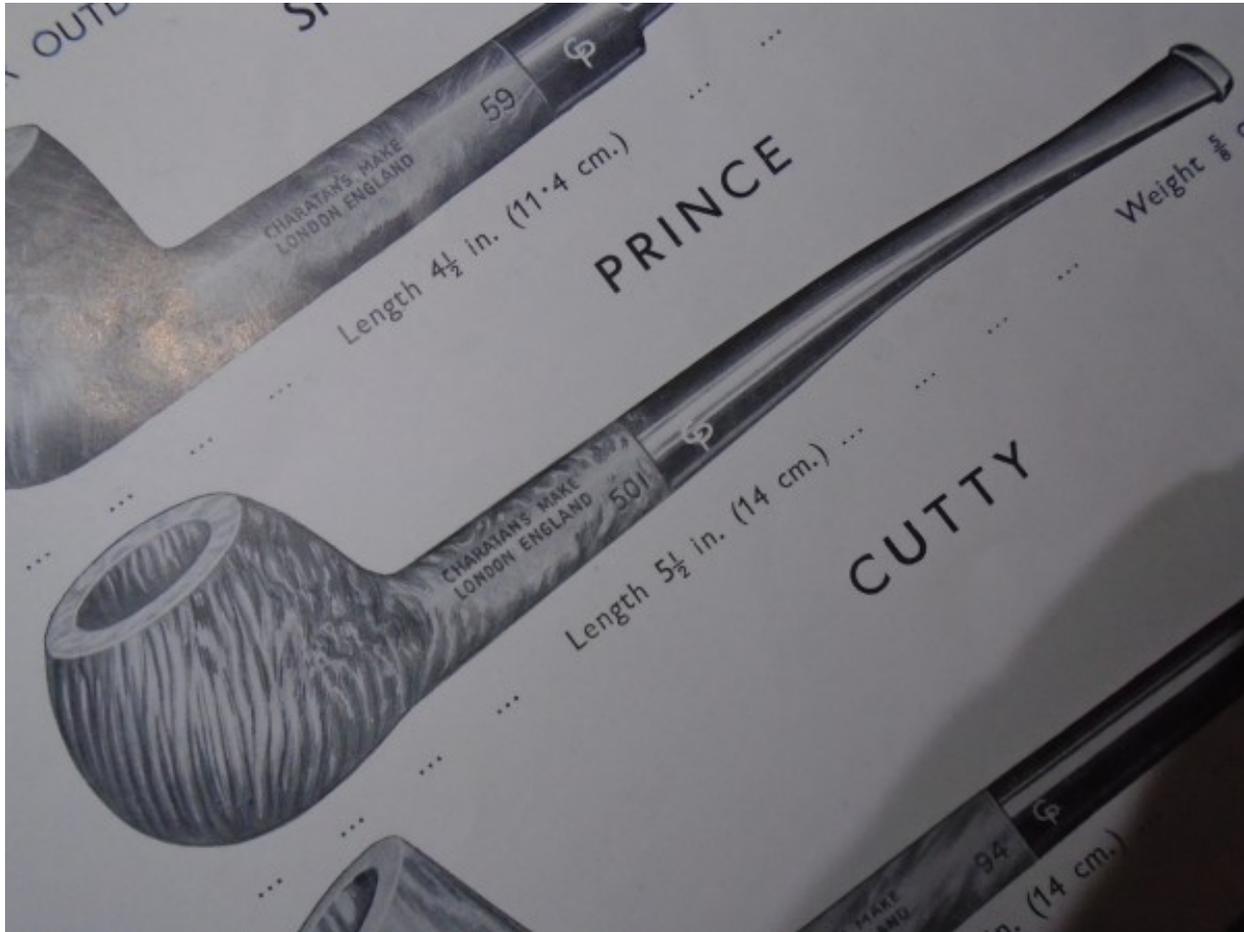
<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/charatan-selected-prince-502.47581/#post-35512878>

- [Feb 3, 2016](#)

Hi, I came across your question just now and have taken a photo of the 501 (one size smaller than the 502) from a 1951 Charatan Catalogue. I am imagining that the pipe has a nice straight grain. If you look at the stamping in the photo, and match it to your own, it is the stamping they used in the 40s 50s and early 60s. I think your pipe may be that kind of age. if the mouthpiece is the original, you can check whether it is hand cut by looking at the lip and seeing if it has a single draught hole which has been opened up by hand. Earlyish Charatans did not always have a cp logo on the mouthpiece. finally,it is unusual to find a selected quality pipe in this 'catalogue shape' in later Charatans.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/charatan-selected-prince-502.47581/#post-35512879>

- [Feb 3, 2016](#)



<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/charatan-selected-prince-502.47581/#post-35513368>

- [Feb 4, 2016](#)

I am sending you the qualities- explanations from Reuben Charatan from 1951 catalogue. I am also enclosing a photo of Reuben Charatan himself holding a briar bur! He mentions in another part of the catalogue that he was producing "orthodox models in straight grain" although these were rare at the time and I would suggest **very rare** to find one nowadays.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/charatan-collection.48250/#post-35497066>

- [Dec 26, 2015](#)

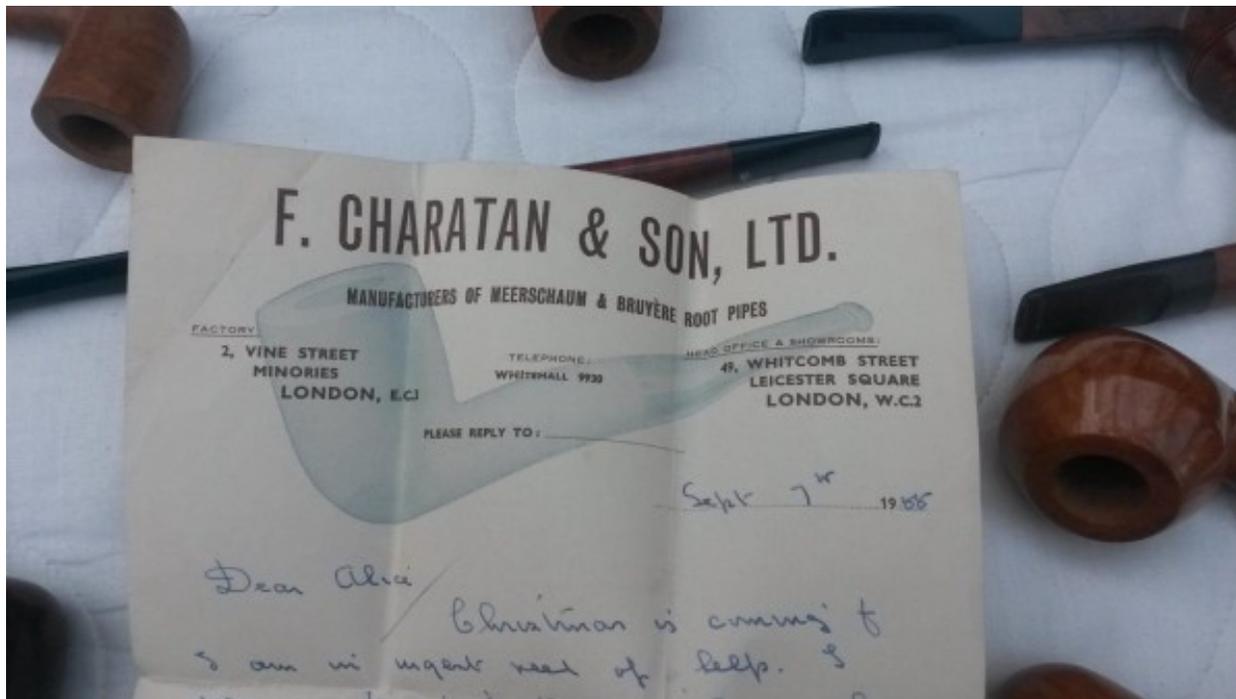
Hi all,

I have just read the James Upshall discussion with much interest and wondered if any of the former Charatan's men can shed some light on a collection of 20 Charatan pipes that I have

come into possession of? These were part of the estate of the late Mrs. Alice Sturt who seems to have been employed at the factory from 1959 or so. Three of the pipes are fully finished and stamped, seven appear to be finished but not stamped, six are unfinished (stems and bowls not polished etc) and four are what I would call rejects as they have apparent flaws. One pipe is a "hurricane" style (I have never seen a Charatan in this style before), there is a very large plateau freehand and several others of good grain but not identifying stamps. I also have two letters (one signed by Reuben Charatan) to Mrs. Sturt. Does anyone know what Alice Sturt's role at the factory was and any information on the pipes themselves would be useful.







<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/charatan-collection.48250/page-2#post-35518921>

- [Feb 17, 2016](#)

It seems that some of these pipes are already stamped and I am imagining that some need finishing and then selected into their respective grades. I am glad that Dennis is inspecting them as he supervised all the grade- selecting during this epoch. I have just remembered the name of the other 'selector' besides Maureen. I think his name was Chera Singh. Maureen was trained by Dennis in the art of selecting the Charatan freehand grades and the very finest pieces would have gone into Dennis's office and both Dennis and Maureen would go through the selecting process based on grain, shape, balance, small sandspots, watermarks and other criteria. Then they would be stamped by Noreen or Chera. Noreen's name just popped into my head just now. I have not recalled these names for 44 years - how amazing is that? My opinion is that Dennis needs to select the qualities of these pipes and the next challenge would be to locate the grading stamps from that era.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/charatan-collection.48250/page-2#post-35527123>

Mar 10, 2016

Chaps,

Sorry for not reporting back sooner - new job and lots of travelling.

Ken, you are spot on regarding the stamping and finishing. I got the pipes back from John Marshall last week and they are fantastic. I'll post some pics once I have taken ones good enough

to do them justice. Dennis has graded them and given his opinion in general. The large freehand is graded as a Supreme and he thinks it was carved by Stan Haney, it has the "Charatan's Make" stamp and Supreme underneath but nothing else either on the bowl or the stem. Several others are graded as Selected and Executive, the majority being Special's. The final buffing that John has given them has brought the grain out beautifully. He has also buffed the stems on those that needed it which has put the finishing touches on them. I guess that in the last few days of production all sorts of things were going awry with stamping and finishing and no doubt there would have been a good deal of work in progress left hanging about in various stages of being finished. I couldn't get up to London to see John personally so a good friend who knows John quite well went instead and spent an hour and a half at his stall - in February!

There are a couple of pipes that seem to be a bit of an enigma - a very good straight grain (although a bit weak) with a DC stem but a carbonized bowl. John said that this would have been a Ben Wade pipe but it shouldn't have had the DC stem. I haven't got to the bottom of the hurricane style pipe yet either - the only other one I have seen has a bakelite cover, but this one is made from briar. John could offer no explanation nor further information though. Dennis refused to grade the Ben Wade (I don't know if Ben Wade had a grading system) and one or two of the unfinished pipes as he could not guarantee that they are real Charatan's. Big respect for his integrity!

Dhcongos, I am aware of the ICCS and the entry requirements. When I next visit the States I will try to arrange it so that I can get to the Chicago show and bring the pipes with me! There doesn't seem to be anything like it in the UK of course! if you know of a UK branch or anything similar, please let me know (apart from this collection, I have several other Charatan's).

I'm still trying to locate Barry Jones, but just haven't had time to pursue this avenue recently.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/charatan-collection.48250/page-2#post-35527865>

- [Mar 12, 2016](#)

Brilliant stuff Bob. I am so pleased that Dennis was able to see them and express his views. The Stan Haney turnings were so stylised- he was a brilliant freehand turner. It would be great if you would take a few individual closeup shots of the ones that 'jump out at you', like the Supreme for example. I am really looking forward to seeing these photos.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/is-this-an-hundred-and-four-year-old-charatan.50300/#post-35537022>

- [Apr 6, 2016](#)

I bought this on the weekend- I couldn't resist it. The bowl is 5 cms tall – quite a large size billiard for this age.

These are some photos of a “1912 billiard straight grain with silver band” and original mouthpiece?

Is it a Charatan? I also think that originally it came in a fitted case. The silver band is Birmingham Hallmarked 1912 with FC stamp. On the shank is simply London Made.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/is-this-an-hundred-and-four-year-old-charatan.50300/#post-35537056>

- [Apr 6, 2016](#)



<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/is-this-an-hundred-and-four-year-old-charatan.50300/#post-35537068>

- [Apr 6, 2016](#)



<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/is-this-an-hundred-and-four-year-old-charatan.50300/#post-35537071>

- [Apr 6, 2016](#)



<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/is-this-an-hundred-and-four-year-old-charatan.50300/#post-35537074>

- [Apr 6, 2016](#)



<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/is-this-an-hundred-and-four-year-old-charatan.50300/#post-35537078>

- [Apr 6, 2016](#)



<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/is-this-an-hundred-and-four-year-old-charatan.50300/#post-35537093>

- [Apr 6, 2016](#)



It's Birmingham (n) for 1912-1913

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/is-this-an-hundred-and-four-year-old-charatan.50300/page-2#post-35537239>

- [Apr 6, 2016](#)

Did Charatan outsource their metal work?

Hi Sablebrush

Yes, I think they did and the biggest clue for me was seeing the way the silver band is burnished (rolled over the face of the countersink hole). This was something Reuben used to tell Barry Jones. "if you burnish it like this, it makes the band look thicker". Charatans used to 'roll them over' like this in the seventies, so that tradition continued. In the 1970s Charatan were importing assorted silver bands from an American Company called Titman. They were, at the time, cheap thin bands which simply said sterling, (obviously, the Coronation, Achievement and Royal Achievement were fitted with much more expensive bands). These were really easy to burnish (roll over) and "did the job". At that time a staff member would simply go through the

box, with 30 little drawers in it for each of the diameter sizes, find one suitable and place it on the end of the shank (with the sterling mark facing up and simply push it against a flat hard surface with 2mm remaining and roll them over with a 8mm round metal rod (with a handle). We did use Titman bands at James Upshall but I thought that I could source better ones and I then took batches of pipes to Les Wood (L&J Silverware) to be banded at his workshop in Carpenters Road in Stratford, London.

Click to expand...

I have a hard time seeing the FC.

As I mentioned earlier the two photos above showing the FC stamp shows an oval and in it a vertical line on either side of the FC. It is definitely there although my photography skills still need perfecting.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/who-can-date-this-charatan.50799/#post-35546924>

- [May 1, 2016](#)







I am struggling to date this one. Probably very early Lane. Any ideas?



<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/who-can-date-this-charatan.50799/#post-35546932>

- [May 1, 2016](#)

I'm always confused by their dating guide and the variables, there often doesn't seem to be a concise/complete set of criteria on a piece.

Charatan's Make in block does look like early Lane.

It lacks the "Made by Hand" (block or script).

This guide, the best I've read, says that tapered stems were never used in this era. So, I don't know.

https://pipedia.org/wiki/Dating_of_Charatans

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/who-can-date-this-charatan.50799/#post-35546934>

- [May 1, 2016](#)

Thanks ssjones, after having read this link quite closely, it seems that it is 1955-1960.

I hope one of the Charatan Specialists can give me some more clues!

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/who-can-date-this-charatan.50799/#post-35547223>

- [May 2, 2016](#)

hi ken,

is that the original box? if so, the pipe dates from 1958-64. at any rate those are the years which list the panton address in the london phone directory.

also, is there anything else stamped on the stem? it ought to be a mite early for a reg number, but i'm curious anyway.

regards,

jon

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/who-can-date-this-charatan.50799/#post-35547638>

- [May 2, 2016](#)



is that the original box? No jguss it is not. but I thought it was in the same era (but did not know about the Panton St. dating).The box is in such mint condition that it looks like it came out of the shop yesterday. Also, it has no shape no. written on the side i.e. it's blank.

I think the reg nos on mouthpieces were only for DC bits from 1960 onwards?

In my 1952 Charatan Catalogue the sandblast quality was only deluxe. this one has no quality stamp and I think that may be the clue. Also I would like to know when Charatan started using shape nos to include the size of the pipe. The mouthpiece is hand-cut and the end of the tenon is turned by hand because it is 'trumpeted'. In the picture, this shape 102 in a smooth weighs 48grms- this one weighs 38grms!

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/my-willmer-collection.52771/#post-35583490>

- [Aug 14, 2016](#)





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<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/my-wilmer-collection.52771/#post-35585425>

- [Aug 20, 2016](#)

I have one notice the resemblance to charatan. Where he used to work. I have 19 charatans. Shel

For the record, Harold Wilmer never worked at Charatans. I have seen so many references to this in the past and I want to clarify that he was Dan Tennyson's brother. Dan Tennyson started working at Charatan's in the 1950s and, after being trained up by Reuben Charatan, he worked on the handturning lathe alongside Reuben. Harold Wilmer used to buy freehand bowls from Charatan in the late 1960s early 70s. He would then take them to his workshop and fit, fraze and finish the pipes and stamp them with his name. I am sure that Wilmer did source bowls

from elsewhere too.

I can see that 10 or more of these pipes were sandpapered by Joan Nicholson (the Dublin shaped ones), who was also taught by Reuben and trained up Barry Jones in the art of sandpapering in 1958 (and she taught me in 1974). In 1958, Barry made the first 'freehand style' Charatan with Joan and when Reuben saw these first pieces, he immediately changed from his factory overalls into his suit and took these pipes down to Mr. Lewington who worked in the Charatan shop in Jermyn St or Whitcombe Street? (incidentally, the Charatan shape 'Lewington' was named in memory of him). Anyway, in 1958 the Charatan 'freehand' was born and Reuben loved them and they sold extremely well.

So some of these briars are actually late 60s early 70s Charatans and the briar that they were using in this epoch was great quality. To make this more personal, I will try to upload a photo of Joan in the 1960s.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/my-willmer-collection.52771/#post-35585429>

- [Aug 20, 2016](#)









I don't know if I got them all but there are a bunch.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/holy-grail-find-charatan-countryman.42178/#post-35387841>

- [Apr 12, 2015](#)

The Charatan "Countryman" shape has been on my Holy Grail list for about four years. This one showed up on Ebay and despite the large size (102 grams!), I made a play for it. I have passed on large James Upshall and Northern Briar versions of this shape, holding out for a Charatan.

We were in the MGB this afternoon when the auction ended, on the way to a remote Maryland winery. My cell signal was going in and out and I was worried the location, where we would arrive minutes after the auction ended, wouldn't offer an internet connection. I pulled over a minute before it ended, popped in my max bid and drove off. I found out later that it was enough.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/holy-grail-find-charatan-countryman.42178/page-3#post-35603102>

- [Sep 30, 2016](#)

I think that the 'Selected deluxe' was indeed made by Dan Tennyson in the 1950s. I am not sure when Reuben introduced the Tan sandblast, I am sure that orlandofurioso knows. Barry told me the other day that Dan had been working with Reuben since the 1930s.

I saw this 'Milton' on ebay and was confused about where it came from. This Countryman shape needs to be specifically cut on the saw before it is turned. As very few people cut plateau on a circular saw,

I am wondering whether Dan was briefly employed by Millville after the take-over (1979-1980) and made this pipe for them?

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/holy-grail-find-charatan-countryman.42178/page-3#post-35603105>

- [Sep 30, 2016](#)

Or it was one of the old Charatan bowls that Millville may have had when the factory closed. Remember that the Countryman only came in a selected quality (straight grain 'round the top of the bowl). This one may have fallen short of this quality.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/holy-grail-find-charatan-countryman.42178/page-3#post-35604334>

- [Oct 2, 2016](#)

"I am wondering whether Dan Tennyson was briefly employed by Millville after the Dunhill acquisition of Charatan (1979-1980) and made this pipe for them?

Or it was one of the old Charatan bowls that Millville may have had when the factory closed. Remember that the Countryman only came in a selected quality (straight grain 'round the top of the bowl). This one may have fallen short of this quality."

That is what I was saying!

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/holy-grail-find-charatan-countryman.42178/page-3#post-35604336>

- [Oct 2, 2016](#)

or perhaps Milton (Milltown) was the name before they introduced the trading name of Millville (Mill Ville/Town)?

The 'carved from real briar' is a little bewildering though, some cheaper Italian pipes used to say 'real briar'. that is certainly not an English type description to find on a shank. For me, the shape screams Charatan. It may of course been made by Barry in the last fifteen years for Moty?

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/charatan-authentic-pipes-can-their-image-be-rehabilitated.39464/#post-35617023>

- [Oct 29, 2016](#)

I seem to recall the Authentic quality when I worked at the factory in the 1970s. I think it was one of those qualities that sort of slipped away rather like the Rarity at that time.

When I read the Ivy Ryan's article for the first time 12 months ago, I struggled to find any real commonality there. It was as though she had seen a few pipe factories and things started to get muddled. 'Auld Eddy' - who is Auld Eddy? I asked Barry Jones the other day if there was a craftman there called Auld Eddy. Barry worked at Charatans from 1959-1978 - nearly twenty years and never heard of this man. Another thing I have never understood - Prescott Street? The Charatan Factory was at 19-21 Mansell Street which is about two hundred yards from Prescott Street. Barry did not know of it as a factory. It was a warehouse which stored briar and some machinery. Another thing is that My father remained Managing Director of Charatans right up until Dunhill bought out Lane Limited. The final day was on a Friday and my father and the Dunhill descision makers were on a special phone system to New York negotiating the final settlement figure. Discussions went on into the night (English time) and just as they were finalising the deal it was the 'end of the working day' in New York. Dunhills tried to get Lane to finalise the next day, but as it was the Sabbath, this was unacceptable so the whole deal was put on hold until the following Monday. This was in 1977-1978? I think. By November 1978 the Tilshhead Pipe Co was operational and my father had opened his own Pipe and tobacco store in Salisbury.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/what-shape-is-this-charatan.54305/#post-35618626>

- [Nov 2, 2016](#)

Barry Jones made the first 'cup and saucer' freehand in 1959. He told me that Mr Charatan loved the shape. Barry was working in the sand papering dept at the time with Joan Nicholson, who was his teacher in sand papering. He made his first one in his lunch hour when he saw a giant bent bowl(shape 44) with a flaw in it. Mr Charatan used to put any bowls with flaws on them in a large box under his bench and when there was a scarcity of briar, he would 'rework' these bowls. The flaw was towards the bottom of the front part of the bowl and he cut into it with the coarse sandpaper wheel and the flaw disappeared. He then continued this 'cut in' around the bowl and the 'cup and saucer' appeared. I think that this beautiful Selected Freehand with square shank was made by Joan who loved doing square shanked variations. There is no name for these shapes although Barry did call the first one he made "Cup and Saucer". I have watched Joan making this syle of 'Mohawk?' in the mid seventies when she spent three months training me up in the art of sandpapering. I love this shape!

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/what-shape-is-this-charatan.54305/#post-35618628>

- [Nov 2, 2016](#)

This is an early piece. The reverse side of the shank has no stamp marks ie handmade city of London etc. I think that this may be a 1960s pipe.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/pipe-porn-pre-lane-charatan-and-gbd-pixaxe.54537/#post-35624518>

- [Nov 15, 2016](#)

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Here are two recent acquisitions. A pre-Lane era Cutty that is 5 1/2 inches long and weighs 23 grams.

The pipe is stamped Charatan's Make - London England - De Luxe with a shape number of 54





Here's the other one GBD Rallye (PickAxe) 666P. It is 5 1/4 inches long and weighs 32 grams







<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/pipe-porn-pre-lane-charatan-and-gbd-pixaxe.54537/page-2#post-35625960>

- [Nov 18, 2016](#)

Great cutty. Barry Jones told me the other day that the person who sand-blasted the Charatans in the 1950s was Johnny Mahoney and **every** time he had a bunch of pipes to sandblast, Mr Charatan would say to him "heavy on the bowl and light on the shank".

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/2-charatans-ken-barnes-would-like.54602/#post-35626104>

- [Nov 19, 2016](#)

A couple months ago a friend of mine came into possession of 2 outstanding Charatan estate pipes, one an Executive, the other a Bell Dublin Supreme. While they're both fine examples of Charatan craftsmanship, the Supreme is a Masterpiece. I was then asked if I would do a restore/refinish on both, to which I replied.....Helk Yeah. Knowing the history and value (if such

a thing can be placed on a Charatan pipe) of these pipes, I knew to take my time. In fact, I did the Supreme first, started at 10pm, worked all night and finished at 8am the next morning. These have to be 2 of the finest Charatan pipes I've ever laid my hands on, and like sharing the photo's just because. The top photo in each is the before shot.
Charatan Executive



Charatan Bell Dublin Supreme



<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/2-charatans-ken-barnes-would-like.54602/#post-35626135>

- [Nov 19, 2016](#)

Really great pipes. The Supreme looks very familiar to me for some reason. I am sure that this one was shaped by Joan Nicholson and I reckon it dates from the early to mid 1970s. Lovely piece. I am wondering if it has possibly had a replacement mouthpiece fitted?

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/2-charatans-ken-barnes-would-like.54602/#post-35626215>

- [Nov 19, 2016](#)

I tend to agree with George. As far as I recall Charatan did not use this style of 'flared' mouthpiece. On Supreme quality they would normally have fitted a DC saddle (post 1962-3) or a taper bit.

This is by no way a judgement, merely an observation and the pipe is such a great example of the glory days of freehands at the Charatan factory.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/my-most-favorite-pipe-of-the-year.54720/#post-35628655>

- [Nov 26, 2016](#)



-

Ingo Garbe is my most favorite pipemaker. I think the classic shape of this one is absolutely gorgeous. If I had the money, I would fly to where the pipe is, inspect it more closely and buy it. Approx \$1500 is a steal for this one (in my opinion)

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/my-most-favorite-pipe-of-the-year.54720/#post-35628748>

- [Nov 26, 2016](#)

“Nice work, I especially like the finish”

Yes, I love the finish. It is like the top coat of a Charatan Distinction. The Distinction had a background spirit stain of black, burnt into the grain and then stripped off, leaving a darker grained background (to bring out the grain as it where). This one has no real back ground stain as the grain is already there and there are hopefully no sandspots to hide. I will be showing Barry Jones the photo of this pipe soon - I love to watch his body language when I show him stuff like this!

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/british-pipe-porn-pre-lane-charatan-dublin.54879/#post-35632552>

- [Dec 5, 2016](#)
- [Add bookmark](#)
- [#1](#)

Here's another recent score. it's a pre-Lane Charatan Sandblast. It's just under 5 1/2 inches and weights 25 grams. Perfect for me!! I really like the Lane Era Charatan shapes but I just can't handle the weight and size. I only clench pipes and unlike Brad, I'm a mere mortal.





It's Stamped Charatan's Make - London England - De Luxe - 33



Here's the best part - I have another Charatan that has the logo buffed off the stem but has this exact button. The secret to a great pipe....IMHO.



Obviously the stem needs a good cleaning.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/british-pipe-porn-pre-lane-charatan-dublin.54879/#post-35632582>

- [Dec 5, 2016](#)

What a lovely craggy 33 deluxe. Looks like a hand-cut mouthpiece? I have a 1951 Charatan catalogue here which gives the actual weight of each shape in grams & oz as well as the length in cms & inches. These however only relate to the weight of smooth pipes and this one (shape 33) says 30 grms for the smooth, which sounds about right. It states the length of this shape 33 as 5 1/4" or 13.3cms. I have just realised that in this catalogue Reuben Charatan thought that there were 32 grams in an ounce as all the weights are based on that perhaps these were troy ounces rather than imperial Troy ounce is 31.35 grms rather than 28.2 grms. I don't think he was too hot on stuff like that especially when you notice the spelling of the Charatan Underboar, which sounds like a wild boar has something to do with the invention rather than the pipe's bore hole was lowered!

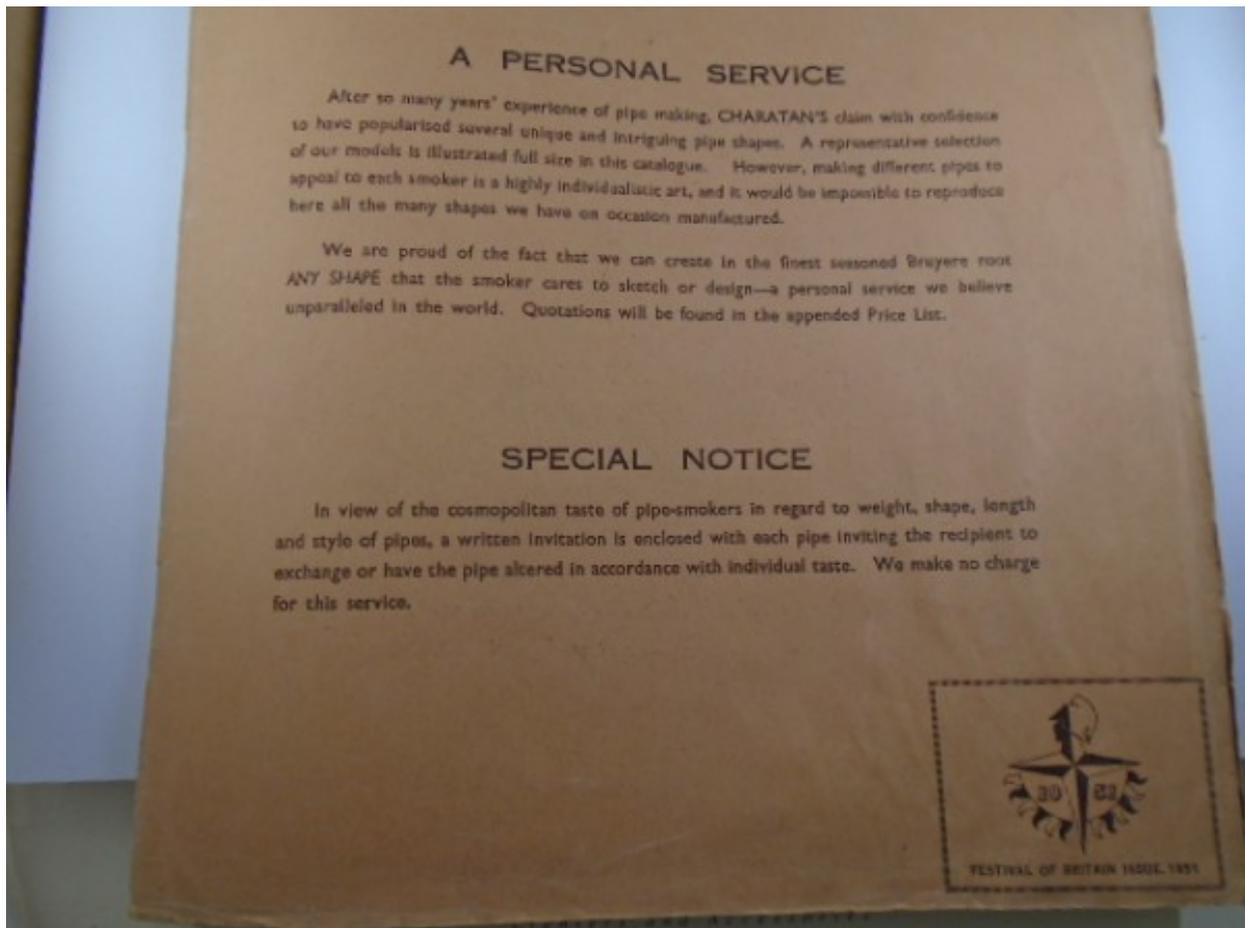
<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/great-charatans-supreme-was-on-ebay.54991/#post-35635221>

- [Dec 12, 2016](#)

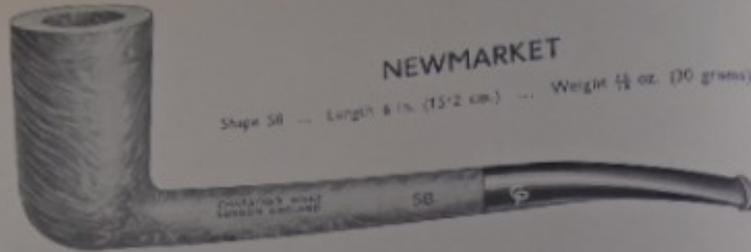
My instinct is that the pouch did not come with this pipe. When people say 'Lane era' I am imagining that they know that Lane started importing Charatan pipes in 1955. I have a 1951 Charatan catalogue which says that the highest quality that they were producing at the time (and through the 1950s) was the 'Supreme'. Reuben says (in this catalogue) that these pipes were "orthodox shapes in straight grain". Although I cannot see the stamping in detail, I think that this one dates from between 1958-1961. The '58' shape stamp is stamped quite closely to the fit which is quite typical of this period. Unsmoked, I think that the price for this Newmarket is an absolute 'steal'- I would have thought the price would have been much higher.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/great-charatans-supreme-was-on-ebay.54991/#post-35635511>

- [Dec 14, 2016](#)
-
- [Add bookmark](#)
- [#10](#)

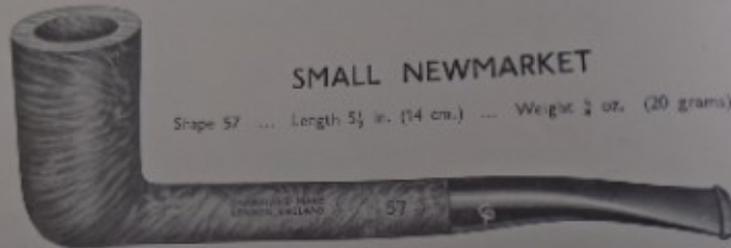


THESE ATTRACTIVE AND UNUSUAL DESIGNS ARE MODERN ADAPTATIONS FROM OLD "CLAY"



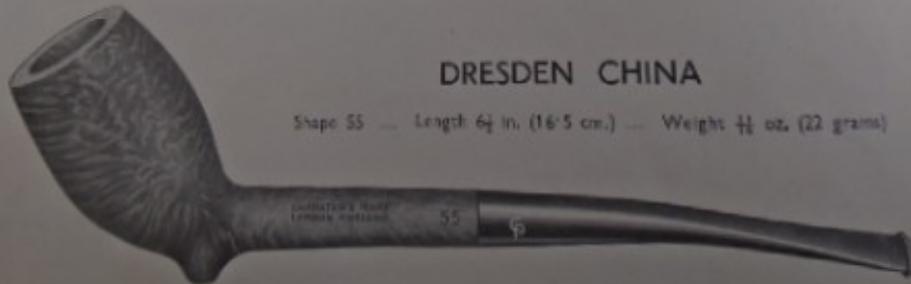
NEWMARKET

Shape 58 ... Length 8 in. (20.3 cm.) ... Weight $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. (14 grams)



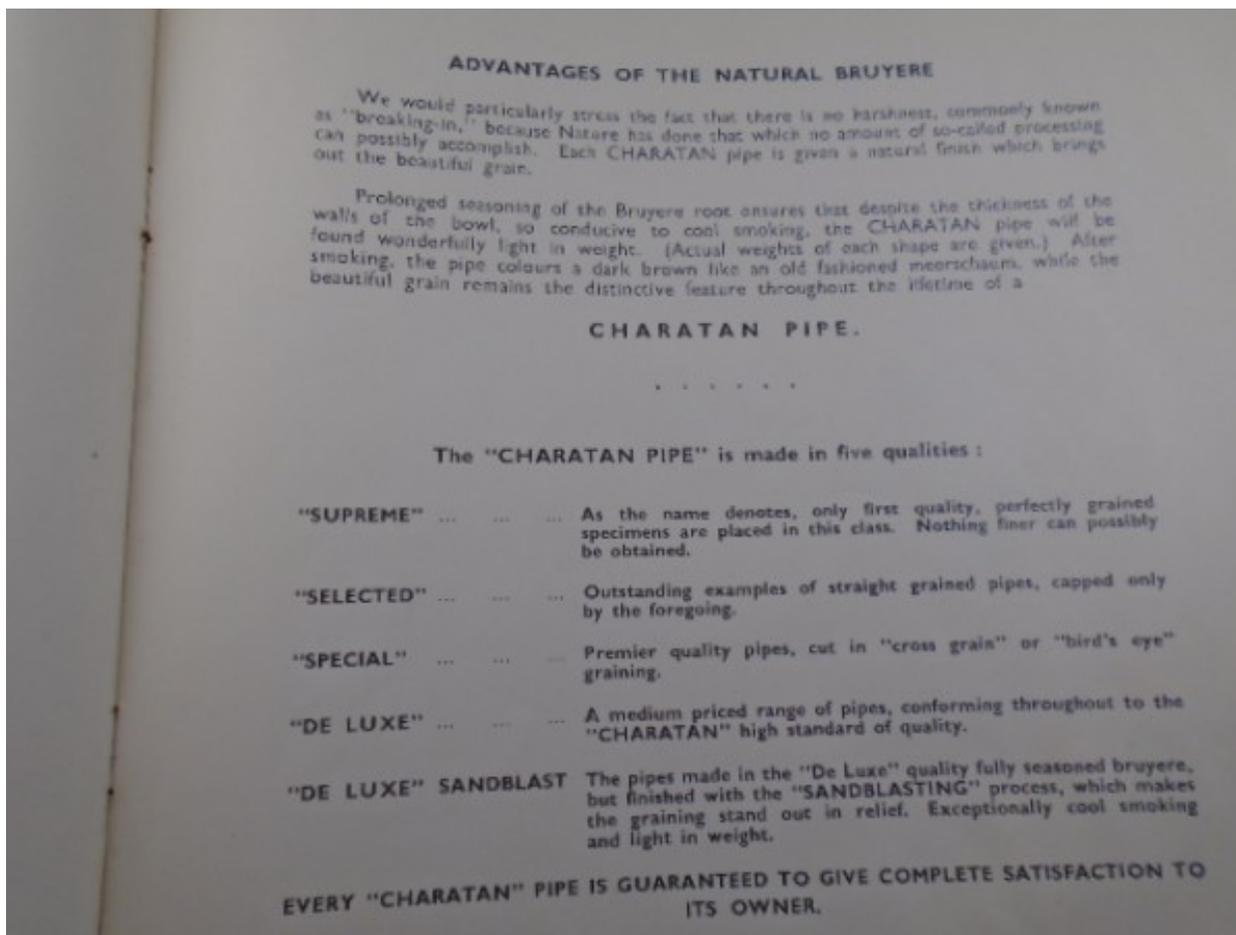
SMALL NEWMARKET

Shape 57 ... Length 5½ in. (14 cm.) ... Weight $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. (7 grams)



DRESDEN CHINA

Shape 55 ... Length 6½ in. (16.5 cm.) ... Weight $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. (14 grams)



oldgeezersmoker: I have enclosed some pics from that 1951 catalogue which you may find interesting.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/great-charatans-supreme-was-on-ebay.54991/#post-35635512>

- [Dec 14, 2016](#)

pipestud: I have two 'holy grail' Charatans from the Frderick Charatan era (around 1904 I think) which your guy from China may be really interested in. These two pipes, in my opinion, are the rarest Charatans I have ever seen and for that matter have never seen on any of the online socialist sites! I will be listing them on ebay in January or February 2017.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/new-additions-charatan-astley-stanwell-nording.55003/#post-35635308>

- [Dec 13, 2016](#)



Charatan Special 71x. Sadly with a bit of spider webbing around the rim.



<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/new-additions-charatan-astley-stanwell-nording.55003/#post-35635574>

- [Dec 14, 2016](#)

The Charatan Trafalgar (71 X) is an old one. The ones from the 70s were stamped either 171X or 371X depending on the group 1 or group 3 size, (the X being for a saddle mouthpiece). I think that this pipe was repaired at one time by Charatan (new mouthpiece) and during the frazing process the original stamping faded out but not completely. The person who finished the pipe noticed this and tried to re-stamp over it. Unfortunately, over the years, the original stamp die had been replaced (the single stamp die for Charatan's Make over London, England) and the new die's size was marginally larger. Anyway, that is my explanantion.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/great-charatans-supreme-was-on-ebay.54991/#post-35635722>

- [Dec 14, 2016](#)

All this talk about the Newmarket shape got me thinking. So I had a look in the box of ye olde unrestored English pipes; Lane era shape 58 sand blast,



<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/great-charatans-supreme-was-on-ebay.54991/#post-35635732>

- [Dec 14, 2016](#)

Duke Street Irregular. This one is a 'Reuben Special'! What a beautiful craggy blast. As I have mentioned before, Barry recalls the words of Mr Charatan to Johnny Mahoney (the sand blaster in the 50s) "Mr Mahoney, heavy on the bowl and light on the shank". Lovely example.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/great-charatans-supreme-was-on-ebay.54991/page-2#post-35636421>

- [Dec 17, 2016](#)

I'd love more shots of that thin shanked Diplomat (?) at the 1 o'clock position

It looks like a shape 373 to me- The Salisbury shape

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/great-charatans-supreme-was-on-ebay.54991/page-2#post-35636503>

- [Dec 17, 2016](#)

Good call Ken. It appears that the shape 373 is somewhat rare.

https://www.smokingpipes.com/pipes/estate/england/moreinfo.cfm?product_id=142101



<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/great-charatans-supreme-was-on-ebay.54991/page-2#post-35636625>

- [Dec 17, 2016](#)

This one above has a replacement mouthpiece fitted because the curve on this mouthpiece is awful. Charatan did not have the best mouthpieces but the way they bent the mouthpieces was fine. This one would not have left the factory with a 'hooked' bend on it. When some repairers heat the mouthpiece to form a curve they do not warm the whole mouthpiece- just the bit they think needs bending... and this is the result - no curve just a horrible looking kink. This shape, the Salisbury came in two sizes a 173X (a group1) and the group 3 you see here. I think that they may be quite rare in the U.S. because in those days, American pipe smokers wanted larger pipes, minimum group 4 size.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/great-charatans-supreme-was-on-ebay.54991/page-2#post-35636662>

- [Dec 18, 2016](#)

I like the subdued heel of Georges pipe.

Here's a better example. This one is still available (although I've never heard of Blue Room Briars).

<https://www.bluroombriars.com/products/charatan-special-373-dc-1-4-bent-smooth-scoop-estate-pipe>



 *Blue Room Briars*

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/what-english-makers-used-a-dark-red-purple-stain.55810/#post-35653136>

- [Jan 31, 2017](#)

Charatan's Belvedere was a spirit stain green background stain, first coat burnt in, second one left on and a 'Post office red' top coat.

Roughly the same for the James Upshall 'S' red finish.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/what-english-makers-used-a-dark-red-purple-stain.55810/#post-35653174>

- [Jan 31, 2017](#)

Perfection was a walnut type stain with a walnut background stain I think. The 'intensity of any finish was the amount of background stain and stripping that of and how many top coat stains are applied etc.

The four main stains that Charatan used was dark green for the 'black' background, walnut, P.O.Red and Orange

The Distinction was a burnt-in walnut background with a light orange top coat.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/what-english-makers-used-a-dark-red-purple-stain.55810/#post-35653265>

- [Jan 31, 2017](#)

I really like the After Hours series. It is made from a material called Catalin. My favourite grade at the moment is a very full grained (straight grain) in a Distinction finish.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/what-english-makers-used-a-dark-red-purple-stain.55810/#post-35653266>

- [Jan 31, 2017](#)

I just remembered that we used to make an orange S grade finish when I worked at James Upshall in the 1980s. I must have loved that finish in those days as well!!!

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/what-english-makers-used-a-dark-red-purple-stain.55810/page-2#post-35934271>

- [Apr 12, 2019](#)

Speaking of Charatans, I forgot to include my only Charlatan (Belvedere 1180):



<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/what-english-makers-used-a-dark-red-purple-stain.55810/page-2#post-35934638>

- [Apr 12, 2019](#)

I remember my father saying that the 'Plum finish' was a must (way back in 1971). It was the biggest selling line for Charatan and remained so throughout the 1970s. I suppose it looked warm and 'broken in' when new. It also served well in hiding the small sand spots in this quality of pipe.

Even today, I notice the top Danish makers using this kind of finish. This one is a fresh Kurt B.



<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/charatan-selected-99.56005/#post-35656836>

- [Feb 9, 2017](#)

I bought this Charatan Selected 99 Billiard off eBay this week. I thought the pipe may be on the cusp of the Rueben and Lane eras somewhere around 1960? The seller believed that it may be closer to 1955. Nonetheless, I cleaned it up a little this afternoon and fired it up this evening. It smokes like a dream and I couldn't be happier with my purchase. I don't buy many pipes, but I couldn't pass this one up as it's a 1 ounce Charatan Billiard. I pulled some photos from the listing to share.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/charatan-selected-99.56005/#post-35656899>

- [Feb 10, 2017](#)

Wow! This has got to be my most favourite pipe of the year so far. Originally, I think that this piece came in a case and therefore has been preserved so well. What a beauty.

In the 1950s Reuben Charatan was specialising in making straight grain 'Orthodox' shapes in straight grain and, according to Barry Jones, Reuben was the only one who turned these pipes at that time (about 24 pieces a week).

In my experience this shape (Billiard, Lovat & Canadian) is the very rarest shape to achieve in a straight grain and that is probably one reason why I love this pipe so much. It would be great to see the other photos.

This is a 1951 Charatan catalogue which shows this pipe - yours is so much more beautiful!



<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/charatan-selected-99.56005/#post-35657212>

- [Feb 10, 2017](#)

Thanks for that information Ken, and also for everyone's nice comments. Here are some more pics from the listing and a couple additional that I requested showing the drilling. I thought I had one of the slot, but I don't. I can try and take one if anyone would like to see the slot. It's nice too. The shank is off-center to the bowl a little and the seller believed it was most likely for grain accommodation? It didn't bother me once I saw the pipe was drilled correctly.











02/02/2017 14:13









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CH. BATHINSON
LONDON, ENGLAND
SELECTED

GP

02/02/2017 14:11



<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/a-special-pipe.56049/#post-35657812>

- [Feb 12, 2017](#)

Hi all

As my first post I thought I would share an introductory story which says something of the way I feel about my fellow pipesters.

Quite a few years ago, 1992 or 1993, I was at a conference in Bridlington on the Yorkshire coast in England. One afternoon was quiet so I went off to explore the town. I wound up in a shop selling second-hand books – the kind of place you could browse for hours. The proprietor was a bushy bearded Scot and, judging by some posters he had up, he was prominent in the local pipe club. His desk and the shelves behind him were cluttered with pipes and other smoking bits and pieces.

Sadly I had left my pipe in the hotel but he said, 'Never mind: have this', and he gifted me with a lovely little freeform. He even gave me some tobacco from his pouch although, if I'm honest, it was way too strong for me (Warhorse or some similar plug).

So we spent a happy hour talking pipes until it was time for me to go. I never made it back to Bridlington and I imagine the proprietor is no longer with us: he was pretty ancient even then.

Even so I always remember him as an example of how gracious and generous pipesters can be. I attach a picture of the pipe itself (hopefully!). My collection is not a large one, but this is the only pipe I have that I would never ever sell or pass on. Look at the grain! There is nothing on it to indicate who made it or even what country it came from. It's very special.



<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/a-special-pipe.56049/#post-35657923>

- [Feb 12, 2017](#)

Yes, nice one didache.

This pipe looks very 'Charatan handmade 1970s' to me.

It is certainly a lovely looking pipe.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/recent-charatan-aquisitions.57690/#post-35692846>

- [May 18, 2017](#)
-
- [Add bookmark](#)
- [#1](#)

Greetings, all.

I managed to bag a couple of Charatans recently. We hardly ever see them here in South Africa. One is a Special shape 47 and the other a Deluxe shape 33. Both look sound and I'm sure they should clean up nicely.

Once gain though I seek some assistance with dating. Both have CHARATAN'S MAKE over LONDON, ENGLAND over the grade name as can be seen in the pics below. Apologies for the quality as I grabbed them off the auction site. There is no sign nor mention of any MADE BY HAND stamp. Both have standard tapered stems and at least one has the CP stem logo with the C apparently intersecting the P. Any ideas?





<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/recent-charatan-aquisitions.57690/#post-35692902>

- [May 18, 2017](#)

Nice pipes! The de Luxe may well be 1950s - late 1950s and I think the Special quality could well be later.

The DC mouthpiece was designed by William Williamson-Barling in 1965-1966.

After the Barling Family let go of their business William did some 'short term consulting assignments' with other Pipe-makers and this was an example. This was the year my father joined Charatan and I did meet William once.

Dennis Marshall, who was the Production Manager of Charatan also came from Barling, where he first learnt the business. The DC mouthpiece was first patented in the US in 1966. It was designed in Nov 1964 Patented in Uk in April 1965 and then this US patent in January 1966

I hope this photo is readable.

203,573

MOUTH PIECE FOR A SMOKER'S PIPE

William Alan Williamson Barling, London, England, assignor to F. Charatan & Son Limited, London, England, a company of Great Britain

Filed Apr. 5, 1965, Ser. No. 84,598

Claims priority, application Great Britain Nov. 11, 1964

Term of patent 14 years

(Cl. D85-8)



FIG. 1



FIG. 2



FIG. 3

FIG. 1 is a side elevational view of a mouth piece for a smoker's pipe embodying my new design.

FIG. 2 is a plan view thereof; and

FIG. 3 is a perspective view thereof.

I claim:

The ornamental design for a mouth piece for a smoker's pipe, substantially as shown.

References Cited by the Examiner

UNITED STATES PATENTS

D. 25,772	7/1896	Mayer	.....	D85-8
D. 120,275	4/1940	Rothman	.....	D85-8
D. 131,146	1/1942	Koenigsamen	.....	D85-8
D. 163,952	7/1951	Johnston	.....	D85-8

JOEL STEARMAN, Acting Primary Examiner.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/recent-charatan-aquisitions.57690/#post-35693263>

- [May 19, 2017](#)

Out of curiosity what is so special about this brand of pipes?

Charatans were the pioneers for freehand unorthodox straight grains in 1959. Before this time Mr Charatan would hand turn around 24 pieces of straight grain blocks in orthodox classical shapes per week.

This is a set of Charatan 'Crown Achievements' which was possibly the second set they made in c1972. This may give you an idea of the quality that they were making at that time.



<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/recent-charatan-aquisitions.57690/#post-35693264>

- [May 19, 2017](#)

One thing that I find confusing is the 'Lane era'. I suppose that most people mean the era after Herman Lane purchased Charatan in the mid 1960s? Herman Lane started importing Charatan pipes into the USA in 1955.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/recent-charatan-aquisitions.57690/#post-35693415>

- [May 19, 2017](#)

So if the Lane stamp was used from 1955 on for pipes imported into the US, then they are considered Lane Era.

The 'L' stamp was not used in the 50s. It was first introduced in the 1960s - when, I am not sure. This is another question for Barry Jones. As you indicate Jesse, the 'L' stamped was only for pipes going to the USA, so, in that case, there are lots of 'Lane era' pipes without the 'L' stamp.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/charatan-question.57853/#post-35695220>

- [May 26, 2017](#)

I would like to know about one or two of these 'carved/blasted patch' straight grains that I have seen lately.

http://www.ebay.com/itm/STUNNING-Lane-Era-Charatans-Make-SELECTED-XL-FREEHAND-English-Estate-Pipe-CLEAN/401333203649?_trksid=p2047675.c100011.m1850&_trkparms=aid%3D222007%26algo%3DSIC.MBE%26ao%3D1%26asc%3D40130%26meid%3Db36c0169746d454a8bb7bc2c64051e62%26pid%3D100011%26rk%3D2%26rkt%3D12%26sd%3D361982842594

This one is reportedly from the 1950s to early sixties which I do not agree with. As far as I am aware Charatan only sandblasted one shape in a Selected quality and that was the Countryman. I have never seen these types of part-sandblasted pipes coming out of the Charatan factory between 1970-1977. If a freehand pipe had a small flaw on it and lovely grain it was either completely sandblasted or finished in a distinction quality. Was this type of part-sandblasted 'high grades' made after the Dunhill take-over 1978 onwards? They were certainly not made when I was working at the Charatan factory after the take-over 1976-1977.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/james-upshall-pipes-a-discussion.46520/page-10#post-35696156>

- [May 29, 2017](#)

Yes, nice one. I am not sure what the bowl height is on a group 6, 2.5"?

As the Charatan skater was machined made and came in a group 2 or group 4, the Bowl height of the larger group 4 was 5.2 cms, just over 2" (shape 4654 DC). It was very rare to find one in a 'freehand' size.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/heres-a-charatan-shape-you-rarely-see.59146/#post-35715583>

- [Jul 25, 2017](#)

This Charatan Extra is a very rare piece and were made in the 1920-1930s. In the 1930s it would have sold for £12. At that time a Farm Worker's pay was about £2 per week so it would be equivalent to 6 weeks pay.

In those days, this would have been the Selected equivalent and the grade higher was the Super which later became Supreme.

I notice that this seller has a Frederick Charatan era cunted Dublin (what an unfortunate error) which is incredibly rare with stamp markings Charatans Make (no apostrophe) London. Eng. and no grade or shape no. I think Frederick Charatan priced his pipes by the piece rather than grading them.

I actually have a 'canted' Lonsdale straight grain from the Frederick Charatan era which I will hopefully sell directly to a collector rather than going through ebay.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/do-you-think-charatan-made-this-one.59223/#post-35716660>

- [Jul 29, 2017](#)





<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/do-you-think-charatan-made-this-one.59223/#post-35716730>

- [Jul 29, 2017](#)

It looks very much like a Charatan second and, although I cannot see the stamping in detail, the size of the stamping looks small which could well make it an earlier example.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/do-you-think-charatan-made-this-one.59223/#post-35716813>

- [Jul 29, 2017](#)



Does this help?

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/do-you-think-charatan-made-this-one.59223/#post-35716888>

- [Jul 29, 2017](#)

Yes, in my opinion, this large bent is from the late 1950s-early 1960s. Towards the middle 1960s onwards, the stamp font size increased from 1-1.5mm to 2-3mm. Normally this No.42 giant bent would have been 're-worked'/ re-sanded to try and eliminate the flaws to make, for example, a Charatan 'cup and saucer' type shape. Also Reubin Charatan nearly always chose a saddle mouthpiece for a large bent because he said it was easier to warm and bend a saddle mouthpiece than a thick tapered one.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/do-you-think-charatan-made-this-one.59223/#post-35717615>

- [Aug 1, 2017](#)

“What percentage of pipes that went out the door (as opposed to becoming firewood) actually received the Charatan stamp? (any grade)”

Relating to the 1950s, this is an interesting question that I will ask Barry Jones the next time we speak - possibly this evening. Barry did tell me the other day that Reubin Charatan did not have a sandblasting machine in the 1950s and Barry or Jonny Mahoney would prepare these pipes/bowls to be sent to a London Glass manufacturer who would use the machine they used for frosting/texturing glass for bathroom windows. Each order would have a note saying 'heavy on the bowls and light on the shanks'. When they came back sandblasted, Barry said that there were always a few that were completely blown away - so these were scrapped

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/do-you-think-charatan-made-this-one.59223/#post-35717771>

- [Aug 1, 2017](#)

“What percentage of pipes that went out the door (as opposed to becoming firewood) actually received the Charatan stamp? (any grade)”

I spoke with Barry just now and he told me:

In the 1950s at the factory in Vine Street, Charatans would machine-turn one gross of one shape per week, say the largest billiard group 4, this would be turned with a small tobacco hole (group 1). These bowls would be inspected and the ones with flaws on the bowl or shank would be re-turned to a size 3. These were inspected and the ones with flaws were once again re-turned to a size 2. The group 4 ones which were clean were then placed in a pre-set chuck and the tobacco holes opened up the extra 2mm and so on. This is called 'solid turning' in order to maximise the yield. If these bowls had some small spots they were sandblasted. The fallings, (some people call them failings) were sold to other pipe companies as C-D bowls (the best being kept for Charatan, namely A-B bowls). So the production of catalogue-shape pipes was 144 per week although some were sold off as C-D bowls. In 1964 The factory took over the old Philip Morris factory in Prescott Street, a few hundred yards away, where they continued this production of 1 gross a week. Then in 1967, the factory moved again to Mansell Street, a few hundred yards from both other factories. When my father joined the company in that year, Barry suggested to my father that they turn half a gross each of 2 shapes so that more shapes would be coming through as the shape chart broadened. After this, production markedly increased as the demand for Charatans grew stronger.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/is-this-a-charatan-reject.59332/#post-35718399>

- [Aug 3, 2017](#)

I spied this rather fetching estate Cherrywood on the pages of a particular Ebay seller that I occasionally frequent. It was advertised as a '**London Made Cherrywood Sitter**' but in the more detailed information she said though it was marked as a reject she *thought* it to be made by the Charatan Company. The only nomenclature on the pipe is 'Reject' over 'London Made' as seen in picture #6.

It has some beautiful grain as can be seen but for the life of me I cannot see why it was stamped 'reject'. The only fault I can find (and I'm being picky here) is the draught hole is not perfectly central in the bowl.

What do the experts think, is this a known Charatan shape?













The length of the pipe by the way is 14cm or 5 1/2 inches.

Regards,

Jay.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/is-this-a-charatan-reject.59332/#post-35718948>

- [Aug 4, 2017](#)

Joan Nicholson, the sander at Charatan, who worked with Barry 1959-1978 and taught me sand-papering in 1976 (working next to her for six months) created this shape and showed it to my father and Dennis Marshall. They both liked it and asked her to give it a name. She told me that what she meant was Kipling and she forgot the name at the time and Gilpin emerged from her mouth and that's what they called it and made it into one of the catalogue shapes. Occasionally, you may see a 1970s freehand Gilpin pop up. These were hand made by Joan - her shape!

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/is-this-a-charatan-reject.59332/#post-35719461>

- [Aug 5, 2017](#)

“So in your opinion was the seller correct in her assumption that it is a Charatan reject or do you think it to be a no name reject?”

Yes, it was turned in the Charatan factory and is a Charatan 'second'/reject. Charatan never stamped their name on rejects or seconds. From the mid 1960s their seconds, pipes with small flaws, were stamped Ben Wade and thirds were stamped with many different brand names like Mountbatten, Tinderbox (own label), Commodore, Mcquaid and so on and fourth grades were LM rejects (London made rejects). The names would change all the time but the shapes remained constant and can be recognised by the more knowledgeable pipe-smokers/collectors. There are many reasons why a pipe becomes a reject. This may have been, as mentioned before, a cut back or it has a very large flaw in the tobacco chamber which is then 'carbonised'/blackened or the countersink and 'face' was not drilled straight or the draft hole was wonky etc

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/james-upshall-pipes-a-discussion.46520/page-13#post-35769178>

- [Jan 5, 2018](#)

I feel like this thread has some crossover with Charatan, and I'm hoping Ken can give me some insight.

I purchased this Charatan Selected last year - best as I can tell, Lane era but with a DH stamp and no double comfort bit, so plausibly made before Lane took over and then they added the L stamp after.





Ken, if you're still around, I'd love to hear your thoughts. Piecing the brand together has been a challenge and this is the only one I own, but it does smoke quite well.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/james-upshall-pipes-a-discussion.46520/page-13#post-35769225>

- [Jan 5, 2018](#)

Hi fishingandpipes.

What a lovely piece. I have never seen a shape like this with a spur. This Selected, in my opinion, was made in the early 1960s (1960-62). I think that from the late 1950s (1959 onwards) was when the first Charatan 'Freehands' were produced and stamped FH.

Barry Jones who started his apprenticeship in late 1958 started making these Freehands along with Joan Nicholson in 1959. Before this time Reuben Charatan would select blocks of briar which had straight grain potential and hand-turn orthodox classical catalogue shapes in straight grain.

Herman Lane became the exclusive Charatan distributor for the U.S. in 1955. The L stamp was used as an identifier to monitor pipes exported to the U.S. I am not sure when the L stamp was first used-possibly around this time (1960-62?), and if I remember, I will ask Barry the next time I speak with him. I have seen the first FH Charatan ever made (which Barry made) and Reuben said he could keep it as it was his first.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/james-upshall-pipes-a-discussion.46520/page-13#post-35769264>

- [Jan 6, 2018](#)

Love that pipe! The foot is reminiscent of the old clay pipes. And it looks to be in stellar condition. I wonder if the double comfort mouthpiece would have been impractical to make here, since it's quite short. The combination of the L stamp and a standard tapered mouthpiece isn't really that unusual, according to this [article](#).

"Charatan records indicate the DC (Double Comfort) bit was introduced in the 50's, but some report seeing them in earlier production. Still others indicate they were introduced by Lane in 1960. Regardless, the DC bit is not an accurate way to date a pipe because many Charatan's were made with regular and saddle type bits throughout the "Lane Era"."

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/james-upshall-pipes-a-discussion.46520/page-13#post-35769275>

- [Jan 6, 2018](#)

203,573

MOUTH PIECE FOR A SMOKER'S PIPE

William Alan Williamson Barling, London, England, assignor to F. Charatan & Son Limited, London, England, a company of Great Britain

Filed Apr. 5, 1965, Ser. No. 84,598

Claims priority, application Great Britain Nov. 11, 1964

Term of patent 14 years

(Cl. D85-8)



FIG. 1



FIG. 2



FIG. 3

FIG. 1 is a side elevational view of a mouth piece for a smoker's pipe embodying my new design;

FIG. 2 is a plan view thereof; and

FIG. 3 is a perspective view thereof.

I claim:

The ornamental design for a mouth piece for a smoker's pipe, substantially as shown.

References Cited by the Examiner

UNITED STATES PATENTS

D. 25,772	7/1896	Mayer	.....	D85-8
D. 120,275	4/1940	Rothman	.....	D85-8
D. 131,146	1/1942	Koenigsamen	.....	D85-8
D. 163,952	7/1951	Johnston	.....	D85-8

JOEL STEARMAN, Acting Primary Examiner.

The DC mouthpiece was designed by William Williamson-Barling and first patented in England in 1965 with the US patent application in January 1966

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/charatan-bulldog-restoration.62128/#post-35772302>

- [Jan 14, 2018](#)

Thanks to Piffyr and Geoged for advice on dealing with that @#!\$@\$ Charatan CP stem stamp!
This one caught my eye for two reasons

- a rare shape (most Charatans are freehands)

- no double comfort

Most Charatan bulldogs are of the smaller variety as well, this one is only 38 grams, bonus!
Here's the full write-up at Reborn pipes

<https://rebornpipes.com/2018/01/14/charatan-special-bulldog-restoration-1955-1960/>
Before





After





<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/charatan-bulldog-restoration.62128/#post-35773020>

- [Jan 16, 2018](#)

Al, this is a lovely pipe.

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Prolonged seasoning of the Bruyere root ensures that despite the thickness of the walls of the bowl, so conducive to cool smoking, the CHARATAN pipe will be found wonderfully light in weight. (Actual weights of each shape are given.) After smoking, the pipe colours a dark brown like an old fashioned meerschaum, while the beautiful grain remains the distinctive feature throughout the lifetime of a

CHARATAN PIPE.

.

The "CHARATAN PIPE" is made in five qualities :

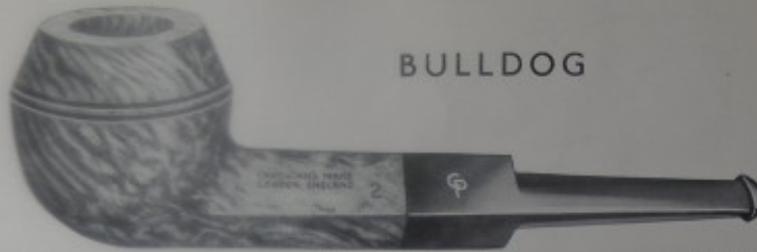
- "SUPREME" As the name denotes, only first quality, perfectly grained specimens are placed in this class. Nothing finer can possibly be obtained.
- "SELECTED" Outstanding examples of straight grained pipes, capped only by the foregoing.
- "SPECIAL" Premier quality pipes, cut in "cross grain" or "bird's eye" graining.
- "DE LUXE" A medium priced range of pipes, conforming throughout to the "CHARATAN" high standard of quality.
- "DE LUXE" SANDBLAST The pipes made in the "De Luxe" quality fully seasoned bruyere, but finished with the "SANDBLASTING" process, which makes the graining stand out in relief. Exceptionally cool smoking and light in weight.

EVERY "CHARATAN" PIPE IS GUARANTEED TO GIVE COMPLETE SATISFACTION TO ITS OWNER.

The Special quality was around in 1951 as shown, and this was the largest size of the Bulldog shape no. 8

THREE POPULAR EXAMPLES OF THE ELEGANT IN PIPE DESIGN

BULLDOG



Shape 2—As illustrated	...	Length 5½ in. (13.3 cm.)	...	Weight 1½ oz. (36 grams)
.. 24—Same size, but taper stem	...	Length and weight same as above.	...	
.. 8—Size larger, saddle stem	...	Length 5½ in. (13 cm.)	...	.. 1¾ oz. (56 grams)

RITZ

(Base flattened to stand up on your desk or card table)



Shape 47	...	Length 5½ in. (13.3 cm.)	...	Weight 1 7/16 oz. (46 grams)
----------	-----	--------------------------	-----	------------------------------

ZULU



Shape 60	...	Length 5½ in. (14 cm.)	...	Weight 1 oz. (32 grams)
----------	-----	------------------------	-----	-------------------------

Each pipe (except Giant pipes) can be supplied in ANY quality (see page 5 and Price List)

I think that the mouthpiece is hand-cut. I have learnt that the clue is that the saddle 'step' is sharp and 90 degrees rather than curved (a photo of the bite opening would confirm this).

I was thinking that there may be someone out there who could etch the Cp a little deeper and then fill the stamp with Crayola white wax and wipe away the surplus. I think that Reubin Charatan first used Crayola wax for the logos in 1910. I do know that the Crayola company was founded in 1903.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/james-upshall-pipes-a-discussion.46520/page-15#post-35778567>

- [Feb 3, 2018](#)



My friend has a very similar Charatan Executive (the stem is not original, it is made by Mauro Gilli, a famous Italian repairer).

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/james-upshall-pipes-a-discussion.46520/page-15#post-35778932>

- [Feb 4, 2018](#)

What a lovely Charatan Executive Fabioptrn. This is the first Charatan that I have seen fitted with a Cumberland mouthpiece!!!

The James Upshall P grade looks like a very early one - nice shape & nice grain.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/is-this-a-lane-era-charatan.63581/#post-35805589>

- [Apr 15, 2018](#)

My question is mostly about what are the desirable, good smoking Charatan pipes. There is no Lane logo on this pipe. The CP logo is on stem.



<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/is-this-a-lane-era-charatan.63581/#post-35806482>

- [Apr 17, 2018](#)

“There is no Lane logo on this pipe.”

The Lane logo was only stamped on the shanks of pipes shipped to the U.S. I am sure that there are many Charatan pipes in the U.S. which were bought in London stores or the Charatan shop in Jermyn Street in the 1960-1970s as the cost of them in England was about half the price. These would not have been stamped with the L logo.

The first 'freehand' was made by Barry Jones in 1959 and I think the name 'Freehand Relief' came about in the early to mid 1960s (before this Relief was called Sandblast at Charatans).

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/charatan-underboar-1920s-to-wwii.63958/#post-35814073>

- [May 14, 2018](#)

Here's some photos of a pipe I picked up a while back. It's unique and I think it's a bit gimmicky. Back when the pipe was made there was a sort of "Arms Race" involving stingers and inserts that were all promising the ever elusive "Perfect Smoke". In the case of this Underboar it's a combination of stinger and cleaning aid. In its former life this pipe was smoked very hard and then put away dirty (very typical for that age of smoking). Here are the pics. The two diagrams I shamelessly lifted from Pipephil.EU.



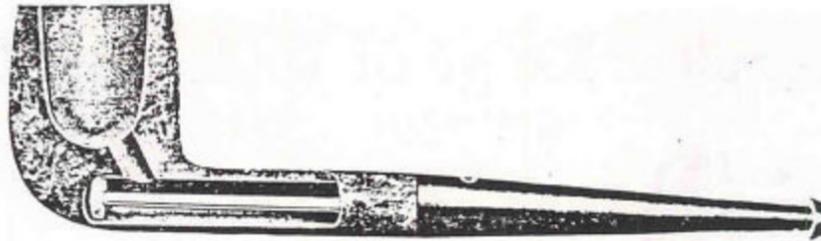






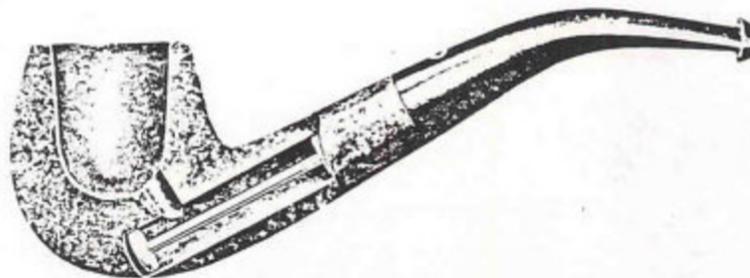


During a period from 1920s to WWII Charatan proposed pipes equipped with a self-cleaning system. Description and operating information of what looks like a gimmick are summarized below in a descriptive booklet issued by the londoner maker.



Section of a straight Underboar pipe showing duralumin plunger trap for moisture, and sloping bore from bowl to stem. When plunger is withdrawn it brings with it all the residue collected in the trap.

Section of a straight Underboar pipe showing duralumin plunger trap for moisture, and sloping bore from bowl to stem. When plunger is withdrawn it brings with it all the residue collected in the trap



A curved stem pipe, showing how the plunger is fitted in this case.

A curved stem pipe, showing how the plunger is fitted in this case



The mouthpiece of the Underboar pipe can be cleaned with a pipe cleaner in the ordinary way.

The mouthpiece of the Underboar pipe can be cleaned with a pipe cleaner in the ordinary way

NOTE—After smoking an Underboar withdraw the plunger BEFORE knocking out the ash

The model was marketed in the US by Samuel Gordon. That's why the pipe is often referred to as the *Gordon Underboar* in America. In this case the US distributor made the pipes stamped with his name.



Booklet by Charatan
Click to enlarge



October 23, 1924.
Ad in Princeton's newspaper offering the Underboar to the college crowd, available at Skirm's Smoke Shop



1932.
The Times of India Annual.
Click to enlarge

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/charatan-underboar-1920s-to-wwii.63958/#post-35814405>

- [May 15, 2018](#)

Super mega-rare. I love the craggy finish and the fairly naive way that the shank has been formed.

My father told me that he had never seen one, he did show me a photo/print of one in 1974. Barry Jones, who worked at Charatans from 1959 - 1977 had not seen one either. I would have thought that one may have been sent to the factory for repair or refurbishing.

Until a few weeks ago, I had not seen one and then a friend of mine, who has an extensive Charatan and Upshall collection sent me one as a gift saying that 'I needed one for my collection'. So now I am the proud owner of one too.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/charatans-make-sandblast.64214/#post-35820038>

- [Jun 3, 2018](#)

I love a good sturdy Charatan, and now I have one with a great blast.









<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/charatans-make-sandblast.64214/#post-35821260>

- [Jun 6, 2018](#)

I love these craggy blasts. In the 1950s early 60s, Reubin Charatan used to tell Jonny Mahoney, before he packed the bowls up to be sent to the glass works to be sand-blasted "don't forget to write a note saying 'heavy on the bowls and light on the shanks' and put it in the box"

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/charatans-make-pipe-arrived-today-pic-heavy.64598/#post-35828900>

- [Jun 30, 2018](#)

The Charatan I couldn't resist buying last Sunday at 3 in the morning just arrived today! I plan to dig into this baby tonight cleaning it up and getting it ready to start working on the stem tomorrow. The bowl is in great shape and I am in love with it already.







<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/charatons-make-pipe-arrived-today-pic-heavy.64598/#post-35828979>

- [Jul 1, 2018](#)

This is a great example of a 73 Salisbury shape and probably dates from 1966 (before the prefix size number was added to the shape numbers around 1967?). I like the fact that the cp is still sharp and this can be re-whitened rubbing a 🧼 ola white 🧼 on on the logo and wiping off the surplus.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/my-old-charatan-looking-for-opinions.64602/#post-35828993>

- [Jul 1, 2018](#)

Beautiful, I knew it was a Supreme.

I think that when this pipe was made this was the highest Charatan grade available.

The blocks of briar for the 102 (larger size billiard) in the 1950s used to be selected by Reuben Charatan and he would take the straight grain top grade blocks and turn these orthodox catalogue shapes by hand himself and turn them to the 'exact' measurements shown in this 1951 catalogue (the other blocks would be machine-turned for lesser qualities).

In 1962 and after, these classics in straight grain were things of the past as the 'freehand (FH)' shapes were establishing themselves and it was very, very rare to see a classic billiard in a Supreme quality. Occasionally one would be found in the machine-turned catalogue shapes but I never saw one in this quality in the early to late 1970s.

These classic shapes in straight grain are my most favourite pipes.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/my-old-charatan-looking-for-opinions.64602/#post-35828994>

- [Jul 1, 2018](#)

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EVERY "CHARATAN" PIPE IS GUARANTEED TO GIVE COMPLETE SATISFACTION TO ITS OWNER.

Page 5

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/nice-canted-billiard-stack-made-by-charatan.64654/#post-35829905>

- [Jul 3, 2018](#)

Saw this on eBay and it caught my eye. A fairly sizable pipe, nice grain, but only stamped Selected Collection, London England. I couldn't find much about it but found a few other pipes stamped like that in my search. A couple of them (smokingpipes) accredited Charatan as the maker. I've never seen or heard of this stamping before, but it is a nice pipe with a few small pits. Over 6in. long, 3in. tall bowl. Anybody come across anything like this before, or have any info?







<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/nice-canted-billiard-stack-made-by-charatan.64654/#post-35829915>

- [Jul 3, 2018](#)

Is it stamped Selected Collection or Special Collection?

This piece does look very Charatan-like.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/nice-canted-billiard-stack-made-by-charatan.64654/#post-35829916>

- [Jul 3, 2018](#)

Sorry Ken, I must have had a brain fart. It is indeed stamped Special Collection. Ever heard of them?

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/nice-canted-billiard-stack-made-by-charatan.64654/#post-35829919>

- [Jul 3, 2018](#)

I think I have seen one or two others on ebay a while back and they also looked like they were made by a Charatan craftsman

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/who-is-the-charatan-historian-on-the-forum.65516/#post-35848731>

- [Aug 29, 2018](#)

Here's the question. What year did they stop using Charatan's Make on the pipes. I'm looking at two pipes stamped Charatan's Make - a 4651X Special and a 149DC and trying to figure out the time period they were made in. I'm waiting to hear back from the seller to find out what stampings are on the stem.

I've read the Charatan's articles on pipedia and pipephil, but I can't seem to find the answer. Am I missing something?

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/who-is-the-charatan-historian-on-the-forum.65516/#post-35849126>

- [Aug 30, 2018](#)

Hello pappymac.

I don't seem to have received a PM from you, but I know that the 4651X (The Banker shape) was first catalogued with the X for a saddle mouthpiece - I think this was in 1969-1970. I think that later on it became a 4651DC (in the 1975 catalogue). The Small Chubby Pot shape 149 was a simple saddle (X) in the 1970 catalogue and in the 1974 catalogue it appeared with a DC mouthpiece.

The 2615 relates to the group 2 shape no. 615 - The Shannon which is a slightly forward canted Dublin. This appears in the 1970 catalogue with a taper mouthpiece and with a DC in the 1974 catalogue. I have never seen the Shannon shape with a simple saddle fitted and stamped with an X. This could have been from the inception of the shape when they were 'playing with' the best mouthpiece to fit to this shape.

Whilst looking at the 1974 catalogue, I now realise that out of the thirty six catalogued shapes that Charatan made at this time (in various sizes), 35 are fitted with a DC mouthpiece!!! One is not.. which one? The Prince.

The 'L' stamp was stamped on pipes going to the USA from the factory. It served as a check for Herman Lane whether pipes that turned up for repair in New York were bought in the U.S. or in London (where they were cheaper).

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/who-is-the-charatan-historian-on-the-forum.65516/#post-35849132>

- [Aug 30, 2018](#)

@Ken - do you know when the "Charatan's Make" stamp was discontinued?



<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/who-is-the-charatan-historian-on-the-forum.65516/#post-35849174>

- [Aug 30, 2018](#)

I do not think that I have seen a Charatan without 'Charatan's make' stamped on it. If they did do away with this, it was most likely after 1980. I am not sure about this.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/who-is-the-charatan-historian-on-the-forum.65516/#post-35849282>

- [Aug 30, 2018](#)

This Russian article on Charatan is the most comprehensive I know of.
http://brbpipe.ru/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/T-shop_1-2011-12_56-69_3.pdf

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/who-is-the-charatan-historian-on-the-forum.65516/#post-35849287>

- [Aug 30, 2018](#)

Kenbarnes, since you are on this thread and mentioned the 149 pot I'm jumping in with a question. I acquired an estate 149X that strangely has a DC mouthpiece. All I can imagine is that the pipe is mismatched. Do you know what era this pipe comes from?





<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/who-is-the-charatan-historian-on-the-forum.65516/#post-35849839>

- [Aug 31, 2018](#)

Hi Seldom, this 149x looks like it may have been from the early 1960s and it has received a replacement mouthpiece after 1965 and the customer was asked whether he would like a DC mouthpiece fitted (Charatan's newly designed saddle mouthpiece at the time) The repair, frazing the mouthpiece to the shank, has been carefully done so as not to remove any of the stamp markings on the shank. Notice that in those days Reuben Charatan stamped the shape number very close to the fit. Years later this was not stamped so closely to the join. In the second photo you can see that the repairer (at the factory) could not help removing part of the 'e' and some of the 'D' in order to get the mouthpiece to fit flush.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/would-someone-be-able-to-date-this-charatan.67602/#post-35895691>

- [Jan 7, 2019](#)

Hello ywainthebastard. First of all welcome to the forum!

I have never heard of this 394DC shape and therefore this is the first time that I have seen it. I think that the Charatan stamping and the cp logo on the mouthpiece is in keeping with Charatan pipes of the 1970s. The quality and colour of the finish is also typical of this era. However, Charatan did not make this shape as a standard shape during my time (and my father's time at Charatan) i.e. 1966-1977 and I have not seen an Oom Paul like this from the 1950s-1960s either.

During my time at Charatan gold and silver mounts were always fitted before the pipes were stamped so that the stamp would be positioned fairly centrally on the shank. This band looks like it was mounted after it was stamped. Does the band have a hallmark or some initials?

My gut feeling is that it was made around 1978-1981. This was at a time when Charatan belonged to Dunhill and it may be that Dunhill wanted this shape included in the Charatan range. It may well be that the bowl was turned elsewhere - possibly France or Italy.

The dating clues are the stamping and the colour of this 'Special' finish. It is certainly in immaculate condition for the age and was certainly wrapped up well and 'put away' for many years.

Another dating clue would be whether the tobacco chamber is/was natural or blackened (pre-carbonised). I think it was around 1980-81 that Dunhill blackened the chambers of this Special quality. Is this pipe still un-smoked?

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/a-question-about-a-charatans-distinction.69190/#post-35929939>

- [Mar 30, 2019](#)

I have just bought this Charatan's Distinction pipe and it has EX in a box marked on the shank. I have never seen this before does any one know what it means. I'm looking at you Ken Barnes in particular.





<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/a-question-about-a-charatans-distinction.69190/#post-35930488>

- [Apr 1, 2019](#)

I have never seen this kind of stamping on a Charatan.

The pipe looks like a late 1970s example. I left Charatan in 1977 after the Dunhill sales staff had 'moved in' and I don't know what happened after that really. Is this Cp slightly larger than the earlier one? That would probably date the pipe better. I am pretty sure that the bend on the DC mouthpiece was made by Leslie Rand, who was in charge of the bending when I worked there. The bend is slightly more 'hooky' than the more graceful 'curve' that Barry Jones would form.

I wish I could be more helpful.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/charatan-coronation-one-of-the-most-perfect-straight-grain-specimens-known.69851/#post-35943372>

- [May 12, 2019](#)

First off, this pipe is huge. 120 grams, over 7 inches long.

Second, photographs don't convey the "seamlessness" of the grain. In hand the grain's symmetry and evenness of color is astounding. And **NO** sand pits. Not a speck anywhere. None. Zero.

Third, prominent PipeWorld citizen, straight grain specialist collector, and author of this book:

<https://www.amazon.com/Perfect-Smoke-Gourmet-Relaxation-Reflection-ebook/dp/B00GYHDWCQ>

...says this Coronation has the best combination of straight grain symmetry, size, color, and flawlessness **HE** has ever seen. 8)

I hope Ken Barnes spots this thread and will tell us what he knows about Coronations in general, and with luck maybe this particular specimen. (All I know is they pre-date Herman Lane and his many uber-grade additions to the Charatan line... Achievement, Crown Achievement, etc.)

It found its way to me for a tenon replacement on the original stem, and after a bit of discussion a second stem was requested. One that was a bit longer and more flowing. (The original was apparently made deliberately short because of the pipe's size and weight, but the gain in practicality was a loss in design balance and visual appeal.)

The tenons were made identical in size to a couple ten thousandths of an inch so that they could be freely swapped at any time without causing fit problems.







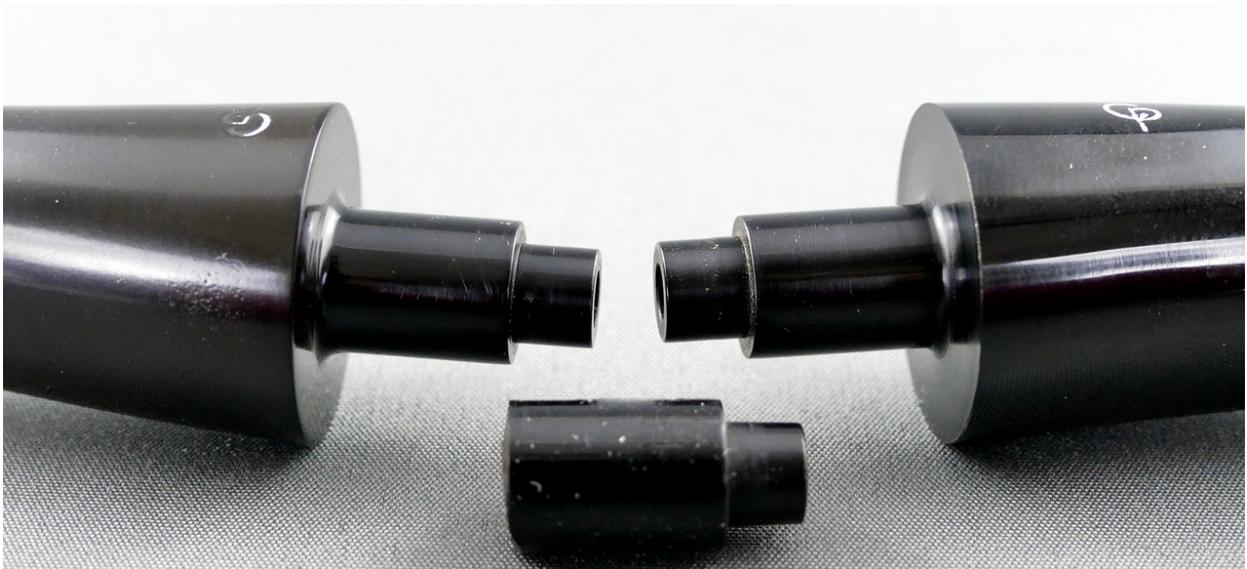












<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/charatan-coronation-one-of-the-most-perfect-straight-grain-specimens-known.69851/#post-35943386>

- [May 13, 2019](#)

I think that this is one of the earliest Coronations I have seen.

I must say that Charatan's bowl-work was far superior to the mouthpiece work that was produced!

I think the bend/curve on the mouthpiece of the original is really poor whilst the curve formed on the mouthpiece below this pic is absolutely gorgeous as is the mouthpiece work in general -

exquisite!

Another thing I notice, whilst looking at the old tenon in the bottom picture, is that it was turned by hand using a cage chuck, which you can see on the old Pathe News video on Charatan's manufacture, as the chimney is slightly tapered. I will also ask Barry the year they first used a Floccing machine to carry out this operation.

<https://www.britishpathe.com/video/pipe-dream>

Reuben used to turn the chimney so that it was tapered the other way and I think that Sid Percy turned and fitted this one.

I do not know the date when the Coronation quality superseded the Supreme, but will ask Barry as he joined the firm in 1959 and would probably know.

Another interesting point is that I think that this 'Coronation stamp die' was the original which was slightly altered so it did not fan-out so much and could make it easier to stamp.

I think this later stamp is slightly more bunched? It certainly wasn't replaced due to the fact that the stamp die was worn!!!



<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/charatan-coronation-one-of-the-most-perfect-straight-grain-specimens-known.69851/page-3#post-35947035>

- [May 25, 2019](#)

Thank you huntertrw, jguss and others who have contributed to this thread.

I knew Herman Lane slightly, as I had met him on half a dozen occasions but, more importantly, I felt his presence from 1967 – 1977 and experienced the impact he had on our family. He was a 'tough cookie' and very passionate about developing his business.

Charatan supplied Lane Ltd with the qualities Supreme and Supreme S and when they arrived in

the U.S. Mr. Lane or a member of staff would go through these and add the number stamp to some of these pipes.

When I worked in the packing dept at Charatan for a few months, I would help Leslie Rand make up the shipments for Lane Ltd. One job I had was to stamp the 'L' stamp on all the pipes going to the U.S.. I have only ever seen one Supreme S 100 which was brought into the Jermyn Street shop for repair by a U.S. visitor.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/charatan-summa-cum-laude.69898/#post-35944202>

- [May 15, 2019](#)

The Charatan Coronation on the previous thread is very nice and I think this one is a real 'corker'! Below is a photo of a photo that my father took of the first Charatan Summa Cum Laude – I think that there were only 3 ever made? He took this picture in the factory's showroom with a black & white film on a Polaroid camera! I think this one is from 1971 or 1972?

When I saw it, I remember going weak in the knees as it had the most beautiful grain, right around the bowl, that I have ever seen. The plaque says 9000. I think that was the price of it in 1971 - \$9,000 which, in those days, was a huge amount of money. I think this one was the precursor to Herman Lane's first \$10,000 pipe.

Charatan used to make a duplicate mouthpiece for only a very few pipes that were truly exceptional. I think this second mouthpiece was made from catalin which was the material used to make the Charatan 'after hours' series.

I would love to know who is smoking this pipe now - has anyone seen this pipe or has anyone got this one in their collection? Any feedback from members re: the dating or the ownership would be most welcome.



<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/charatan-summa-cum-laude.69898/#post-35944206>

- [May 15, 2019](#)

“One of them was given as a gift to Pablo Casals”

Yes, I saw that one, it was shaped in the form of a cello and the grain, in my opinion, was not as spectacular as this one.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/charatan-summa-cum-laude.69898/#post-35944389>

- [May 16, 2019](#)

Hello all. And greetings to kenbarnes. That is a tremendous Summa. Thank you for sharing that photo. You and your father are legends in the pipe world.

I remember holding a huge Summa Cum Laude that was the centerpiece of a large Charatan

show held at Smoker's Haven in Columbus back around 1977 or so. At the time, it was \$10,000 and promoted by Lane Limited as the most expensive briar pipe in the world. Being in my 20s at the time, I remember Dick Dimeola, the vice president of Lane Limited, looking upon me with kindness as I openly gawked slack jawed at the pipe. Earlier, I had been assaulting him with Charatan questions and he patiently answered them all with both detail and a surprising degree of candor. At some point he quietly walked over to the Summa, opened the glass display case in which the Summa was housed, and pulled the pipe out and gave it to me to hold and inspect for several long minutes. It was a major highlight of my 52 years of pipe smoking and pipe collecting.

And by the way, in answer to the post of my close friend jguss above, our close friend Tad Gage did indeed once interview Herman Lane for his long missed pipe magazine, *The Compleat Smoker*. The interview took place in Herman Lane's NYC apartment. Tad has told me several times that he saw and held a half dozen Summa Cum Laudes that were laying around in Herman Lane's flat at the time, and that the story of there being only three ever made was obviously mistaken. Tad also told me that, after seeing my Coronation in the other thread (which was made in the early to mid 1960s before the Summa grade was created), that the grain of my Coronation was the equal of, and in the same league as, the Summa Cum Laudes that he saw at Herman Lane's home. Tad said that he honestly believes that that Coronation would have been a Summa Cum Laude if there were such a grade at the time of its making. But of course, that is just speculation, intriguing as it may be.

According to rumors, those Summa pipes along with other top Charatans were passed along to Herman Lane's son and were never seen again by anyone in the pipe world that we know of. Many of us Charatan devotees have often wondered what ever happened to those legendary pipes. And of course, I don't know if that story about his son is true. But there it is for what it is worth.

And I want to send a public thank you to my friend Geoged for posting the photos of my Coronation in the other thread and doing an absolutely fantastic job on the stems, which I received in the mail today. I am a happy guy!

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/charatan-summa-cum-laude.69898/#post-35944646>

- [May 17, 2019](#)

Thank you very much for this information fredhanna,

your words have definitely taken me down memory lane. I have just been on the 'phone to Barry Jones and we spent one hour going down memory lane too. Barry was telling me that the first Coronations that were made were classically shaped in the early to mid 1960s as were the first 'few' Summa Cum Laude pipes some years later. Then the demand for Summas, the 3 Achievement grades and Coronations in extra, extra-large sizes became so strong that Barry and Stan Haney simply selected and cut the finest quality plateau that Charatan had in stock (possibly 10 blocks a week) and simply turned the tobacco chamber on the lathe and the rest of the shaping was done by Joan Nicholson, Barry and Stan on the sandpapering wheels. Seven-

day sets were then created from these. Barry said that the reason for making two mouthpieces for some of these pipes was because of their size, as they thought the inevitable would happen to the bite of these stems. He said that Johnny Mahoney was in charge of making these hand-cut mouthpieces. I was incorrect here when I said that Sid Percy was responsible for these. Barry said that Sid's workshop was next to Johnny's and he would carry out all the hand-cut replacements/repairs.

Incidentally, I never met Herman and Elsie Lane's son, only their daughter (Jeany?). She would come with her parents to London and whilst Herman was 'dealing with my father', the 'girls' would go shopping! I don't think their son was interested in the business.

Dick Dimeola did contact me some years ago to say hello to the family which my mother found heart-warming.

Finally, I must say that George carried out an exquisite piece of work on this Coronation.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/charatan-experts-needed.71012/#post-35966130>

- [Jul 29, 2019](#)

Didn't have a Charatan in the collection--wanted an earlier one which are hard to come by. This one was advertised as a Pre-Lane era pipe. Nice delicate pipe, very light. Measures 6 inches long but the barrel is only 1 inch across with a chamber diameter of 5/8 of an inch. Appears to be straight grain all around. Has a thin CP marking that is neither on top or the side. The only other markings are on the left side: Charatan's Make Shape number 58. Which I think

London England

Special S

Charatan calls a Newmarket. Looks to fit the characteristics of a preLane pipe. Any comments, suggestions or history would be appreciated. Thanks, Hoppes















<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/charatan-experts-needed.71012/#post-35966155>

- [Jul 29, 2019](#)

The Newmarket was designed to be a "faithful reproduction" in briar of the classic English clay pipe. Here's a trade advertisement from March 1949 that will tell you more about the Newmarket (both normal and small). Although the text doesn't say that the Newmarket is a new shape, the fact that it had an advertisement to itself strongly implies that it was recently introduced by Charatan.

THE "Newmarket" by
CHARATAN

• *Manufacturers of Pipes of Distinction
 since 1863*

NEARLY A CENTURY OF BRITISH CRAFTSMANSHIP



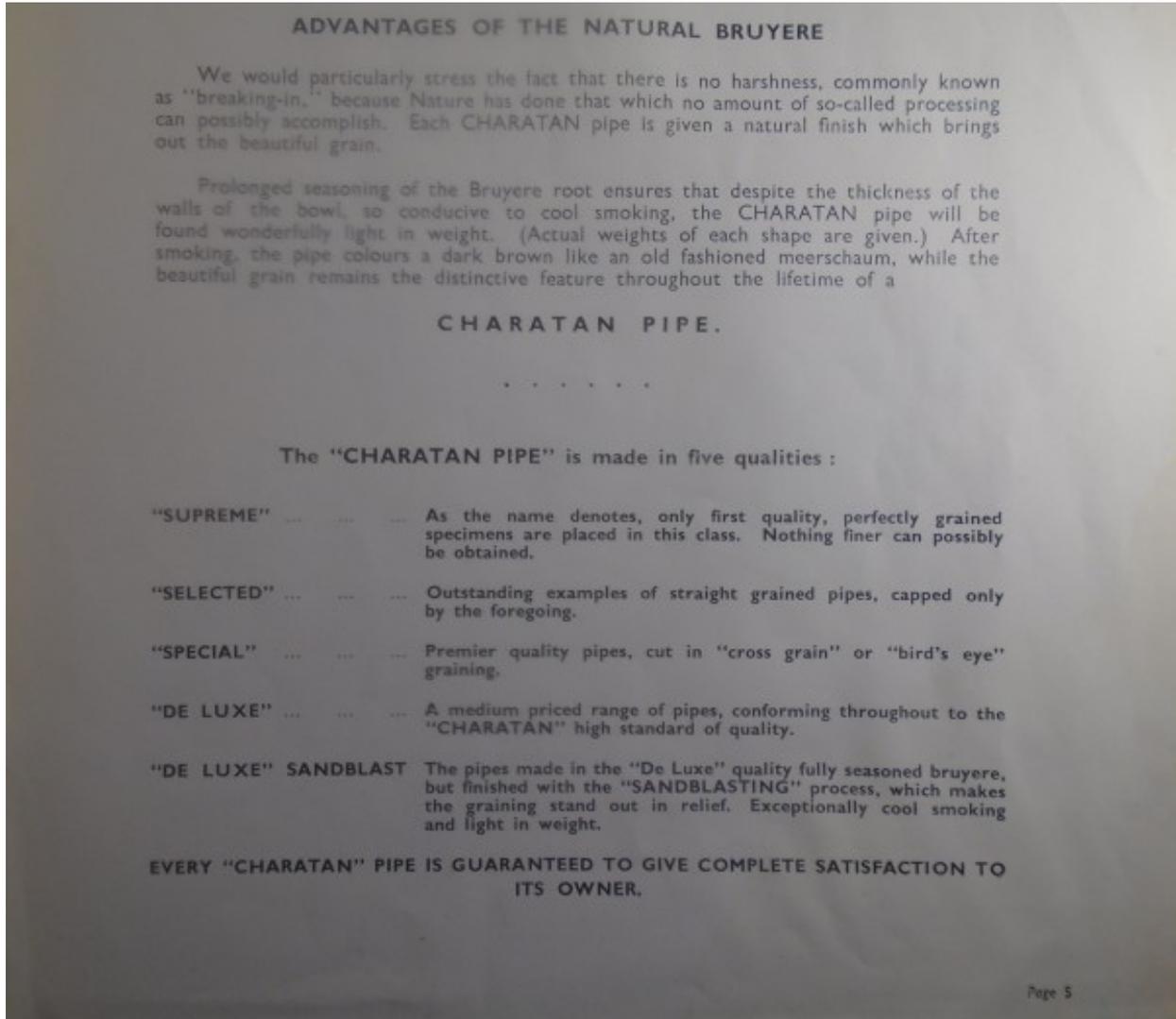
We're proud of our Shape No. 58—the "Newmarket"—because it's old world without being old-fashioned. The "Newmarket" is a faithful reproduction in finest matured bruyère root of the English Clay you'd have seen smoked by the "bucks" of a century ago. Those earlier smokers certainly knew all about pipe design, and now CHARATAN'S have pleasure in bringing the modern pipesmoker all the smoking comfort of a more leisurely age. The "Newmarket" is elegant without appearing ostentatious. Its tall chimney-like bowl combines cool, sweet, smoking, with the maximum economy of tobacco. The graceful curve of the stem minimises leverage on the teeth, and if we said it was as light as a feather we'd be exaggerating—but it weighs less than an ounce all the same! We're making the "Newmarket" (and its little brother, Shape 57, the "Small Newmarket") in the following qualities—only trouble is, we can't turn the darn things out fast enough! (AND we make dozens of other equally attractive shapes).

- De LUXE Quality (natural cross grain)
- SPECIAL Quality (perfect specimens of natural cross (flame) grain)
- SELECTED Quality (natural straight grain)
- SUPREME Quality (natural straight grain—nothing finer can possibly be obtained)

Send for Illustrated Catalogue and List of Export Prices

CHARATAN PIPES, LTD.
 49 WHITCOMB STREET, LEICESTER SQUARE
 LONDON, W.C.2

- [Jul 29, 2019](#)



Thanks jguss, I have never seen that illustration before. I do know that Reuben Charatan used to select all the straight grain blocks from the bags of briar and turn these by hand. The other blocks would be turned on a bowl-turning machine into their relative catalogue shapes. What interests me is in the 1949 description of the Charatan qualities they describe the Special as 'Cross (flame) grain'. I imagine that they may be referring to straight grain ones which did not quite make the Selected grade but which were turned by hand by Reuben or Dan Tennyson.

In the 1951 description it says that the Special grade only comes in cross grain.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/charatan-experts-needed.71012/#post-35966995>

- [Aug 1, 2019](#)

I am wondering whether this Special quality was marked 'S' because it was a straight grain as opposed to cross grain. This may be an early example of Charatan grade which is a little higher than the norm. It may have been down-graded from a Selected quality due to the small flaw on the shank near the word 'Make'. Years later, Charatan did the same thing with the Supreme quality and Supreme S. In the 1930s there was a grade called 'Super' which, at one time was stamped Super and then it was simply stamped 'S' under the Charatan nomenclature. The mouthpiece was also stamped with a single 'S' rather than Cp. So they had this stamp die handy!

Another way of dating an 'earlier' Charatan to a 'later' one is by the catalogue-shape number stamping. Originally, (Reuben told Barry Jones) when Charatan started to stamp shape numbers on the pipes he had individual stamp dies from 0 – 9. So, in order to stamp this Newmarket 58 he would need to stamp a 5 and then stamp an 8 next to it – as neatly as possible. These early stampings can show that the numbers have been stamped individually as one would be a bit higher/lower etc. In the late 1940s (I am not sure of the year) Reuben bought a 'stamp die holder' which could hold two stamp dies (or three?) at the same time in order for the shape numbers to be more in line and neater when pressed onto the shank. Then finally in the 1950s he bought a stamp die for each catalogue shape.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/charatan-experts-needed.71012/#post-35967143>

- [Aug 1, 2019](#)

It looks like to me that the top of the 8 tilts in towards the 5 a bit compared to the vertical line of the 5. Also looks like the 8 may be a hair higher than the 5. Would seem to indicate that the two numbers were stamped separately.

I thought so too.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/charatan-292-dating-help.71718/#post-35978705>

- [Sep 9, 2019](#)

I just won this pipe last night. I love it in the seller's pics (below), but it's my first Charatan, and I'm not sure what I've got coming or whether I made a good buy. It was kind of an impulse buy done way too late at night. I read [Ferrara's dating guide](#), which seems very straightforward. Is it considered accurate/authoritative? If I read Ferrara correctly, his guide puts this pipe in the late Reuben era (after pipes imported to America started to get the Lane symbol, but before Lane bought the company, 1955-60). Two questions:

1. Ferrara (or his translator) says, "The CP logo is finer than in following eras." I've compared with photos of Lane-era pipes, and I can't tell what's "fine" and what's not. They don't seem to be very consistent. Is the logo here "fine" or "thick"?

2. Ferrara also says Reuben-era pipes can be identified by "Absence of the letter X on the shape

code engraved on the shank (for ex. 2502 and not 2502X)" and "Absence of letters DC after the shape number (for ex. 2502 and not 2505DC)". Does that mean that the letters *could* be absent on pre-1960 pipes (i.e. some had them, and some didn't), or that any pipe that doesn't have the letters and isn't a comfort stem *must* be pre-1960?

I'm sure there's a hundred other things I'm overlooking. Thanks in advance for any help!

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/charatan-292-dating-help.71718/#post-35979388>

- [Sep 11, 2019](#)

I would date it around 1967 as I think Barry told me that this was when he remembers the shape nos include the size (group no.) in front of the shape number. i.e. this shape no. 92 had a 2 stamped in front of it to denote it was a group 2 (fairly small). I

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/charatan-292-dating-help.71718/#post-35979391>

- [Sep 11, 2019](#)

...(some error uploading what I wanted to say) It is one of the first though because soon after this date they moved the stamping from this part of the shank to the reverse side. This was partly due to giving some room in case a silver mount was added to the pipe which usually occurred after the pipe was stamped. Another reason for changing the position of this stamp was that the stamping machine they used then would sometimes crack the shank at this point as it is weaker than stamping it elsewhere on the shank.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/anyone-know-this-charatan-shape.71708/#post-35978520>

- [Sep 9, 2019](#)

Hello All,

Calling Ken Barnes!!!! Trying to find out more about another ebay acquisition. I'm pretty sure this is obviously a Lane era pipe, but I can't find anything out about the shape. It is a Distinction Deluxe and has an "Extra Large" stamp. It is rather a large pipe, and has some dandy straight grain, and some neat birdseye on the rim. The pipe and it's nomenclature are in damn good condition, but I can't find any shape nomenclature anywhere on it other than "Extra large" (cursive script lettering) over the "MADE BY HAND" stamp. The other side just reads "CHARATAN'S MAKE" over "LONDON. ENGLAND" over "DISTINCTION" over "DELUXE" and has the Lane "L" in a circle to the left. It also has the intersecting CP on the stem as well as a Reg'd No. that begins in "203....." and appears to be six digits on the stems other side. The pipe is about 6 and 3/8 in length and the bowl is 2 and 1/8th tall with a chamber diameter of 7/8. I

have scoured google trying to find another example with no success. Any help would be much appreciated! Thanks!



<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/anyone-know-this-charatan-shape.71708/#post-35979457>

- [Sep 11, 2019](#)

Hello alaskanpiper. That is a lovely looking Charatan. This piece is a 'freehand' i.e. not a catalogued shape - hence the Handmade (hand-turned) stamp and no shape number. The Distinction quality was for mostly freehand Charatan pipes with nice straight grain with one or two sandspots or very small flaws in or on the bowl or shank. Yes, this pipe will show its true orange two-tone finish when cleaned up a little. The background stain of this pipe is actually dark green and I think the top coat is 'English Tan' which, when burnt into the briar correctly and properly colour-blended gives a lovely orange finish. The DC mouthpiece, which looks original, was first used from late 1964 - early 1965. The stamp De Luxe used to 'up-grade' a certain quality (in this case a Distinction) was not used after 1967 as far as I am aware. I think that the De Luxe Distinction here is indicating a gorgeous example of a Distinction i.e. a notch up from the Distinction quality, usually due to the fine grain. I would date this piece to 1965 to

1966. I do know that Joan Nicholson created this shape after it was turned as this is her style of work - lovely grained piece and well preserved for a pipe made 53 + years ago. I am always learning and if anyone else has any thoughts I would love to learn more.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/anyone-know-this-charatan-shape.71708/#post-35979473>

- [Sep 11, 2019](#)

It's a pleasure. It is not that I am so knowledgeable around Charatan Pipes, if I don't know I simply 'phone Barry Jones

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/charatan-size-and-shapes-observation-question.73080/#post-36013690>









hey are out there. I have a several Charatan that are classic shapes and without the bothersome and ironically named double comfort stems. I picked this Supreme up a few years ago for \$100.00. Cleaned it up a little, but never have smoked it, not sure why, perhaps I didn't want to be disappointed if it didn't live up to the promise. Too often I find the most beautiful pipes are seldom the best smoking...

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/charatan-size-and-shapes-observation-question.73080/#post-36015909>

- [Nov 19, 2019](#)

This is from the 1951 catalogue. It shows this shape 12. The stamping may be a little smaller in those days and the shape number stamped near the fit continued until about 1963 I think - not sure? I am pretty certain that this was a Reuben era piece and I reckon this was, at the time, the highest quality they made. The 102 is larger than this one and the 42 was the Giant Billiard

A SELECTION OF ORTHODOX MODELS IN "STRAIGHT GRAIN"



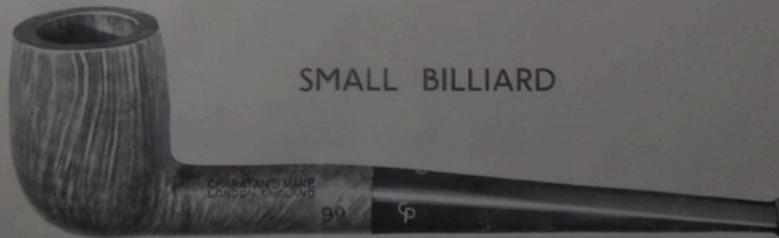
LARGE BILLIARD

Shape	12—As illustrated...	Length	5½ in. (14 cm.)	Weight	1½ oz. (40 grams)
"	180—Size Smaller	"	5¼ in. (13.3 cm.)	"	1¼ oz. (36 grams)
"	102—Size Larger	"	5½ in. (13.3 cm.)	"	1½ oz. (48 grams)



MEDIUM BILLIARD

Shape	14—As illustrated...	Length	5 in. (12.7 cm.)	Weight	1 oz. (32 grams)
"	140—Same size, but Longer	"	5½ in. (14.6 cm.)	"	1¼ oz. (34 grams)
"	1400—Same size Extra Long	"	6½ in. (15.9 cm.)	"	1½ oz. (36 grams)



SMALL BILLIARD

Shape	99—As illustrated...	Length	5½ in. (14 cm.)	Weight	¾ oz. (30 grams)
"	990—Same size but Shorter	"	5 in. (12.7 cm.)	"	⅝ oz. (28 grams)
"	199—Same size but Longer	"	6 in. (15.2 cm.)	"	1 oz. (32 grams)

Each pipe (except Giant pipes) can be supplied in ANY quality (see page 5 and Price List).

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/charatan-size-and-shapes-observation-question.73080/#post-36015919>

- [Nov 19, 2019](#)

Shape 42 (not the greatest pictures). The pipe with the sterling band (covering the shape number) and replacement stem is a Selected; it's grp 3 in size.





<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/charatan-size-and-shapes-observation-question.73080/#post-36016167>

- [Nov 20, 2019](#)

[dmcmtk said:](#)

“Shape 42 (not the greatest pictures). The pipe with the sterling band (covering the shape number) and replacement stem is a Selected; it's grp 3 in size.”

The shape 42 was a rare shape at that time as the size of block needed was hard to come by and the difficulty in getting these large pipes clean.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/help-charatan-make-distinction-im-confused.73339/page-2#post-36021562>

- [Nov 29, 2019](#)

Finished the restore. Here are the AFTER photos:











<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/help-charatan-make-distinction-im-confused.73339/page-2#post-36021729>

- [Nov 29, 2019](#)

I can see the faint outline of the Cp logo. The Cp was heat pressed over white tape and if the pipe has been in a warm place for some time, the vulcanite expands and 'pushes itself back' to before it was stamped or nearly.

I love the orange finish of the Distinction quality and I reckon this one is from somewhere between 1972 and 1975. Lovely looking pipe.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/charatans-make-dating.73532/#post-36026942>

- [Dec 7, 2019](#)

Another pipe I picked up at an Antique store a few years back. It appears to be from the Lane period but from the info I've read, none of the pipes during that period had tapered stems. Maybe the stem is a replacement even though it has the CP markings. I did find a model 33 "Bell Dublin" in a 1951 catalogue but it was a straight grain. Any ideas on when it was made and an estimate on current value. Thanks for any info.









<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/charatans-make-dating.73532/#post-36028222>

- [Dec 9, 2019](#)

This, in my opinion is an early one. I think Barry told me that in 1967, after some discussion he had with my father, for various reasons they changed the shape numbers to include the size of the shape and this 33 became a 333 X (at that time). In the catalogue, which I am looking at,

and from around 1967 I think, This pipe came in a group 3 (size 3) only and was fitted with a saddle mouthpiece hence the X. In this brochure, there are certain shapes which were fitted with DC mouthpieces so the Catalogue is post November 1964. In the 1951 catalogue the Bell Dublin came in 2 sizes 33 & 32 which was a size smaller. These were fitted with a taper mouthpiece (similar to this one). I think that this one was made between 1961-64 . Please do not take my word on this, it is a gut feeling rather than factual. I am learning each day and would be interested in other Charatan collectors' views.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/charatan-experts-what-do-i-have.75301/#post-36078959>

- [Feb 22, 2020](#)

EDIT: Fixed Capitalization in Title (See Rule 9) - Bob

Bought this from a gentleman in England. Was advertised as a pipe coming from Fredk Tranter, The Pipe Shop, Bath but was also marked as a Charatan's Make "Free Hand Relief." It does not have a Lane stamp and seems to be an older Charatan. I realize that several pipe makers created pipes for Fredl Tranter but usually didn't mark their own name on the pipe. Searching various sites don't seem to indicate when the Free hand relief models started or ended. Any help or suggestions would be valuable. Should be fascinating to restore. Quite a unique shape and finish. Will add pictures when done. Thanks, Hoppes













<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/charatan-experts-what-do-i-have.75301/#post-36079224>

- [Feb 23, 2020](#)

Here is an example of a Rough. Doesn't show in my horrid photo but it is front "x" out pipe era of pipes Dunhill sold after they took over. Sold them at a discount w/o warranty is what I understand. No DC bit, I rescued it from a local shop probably close to 20 years ago.
Mike S.



<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/charatan-experts-what-do-i-have.75301/#post-36079558>

- [Feb 24, 2020](#)

[mikestanley said:](#)

Here is an example of a Rough. Doesn't show in my horrid photo but it is front "x" out pipe era of pipes Dunhill sold after they took over. Sold them at a discount w/o warranty is what I understand. No DC bit, I rescued it from a local shop probably close to 20 years ago.

Mike S.

I think that this Charatan deep relief Lovat that you have here is typically from the early 1960s. The X stamp is an indicator that it is fitted with a saddle mouthpiece, unless you are saying that there are numerous Xs which cover the whole name? I would need to look at the stamping to gain a better perspective though.

As for the question of "Apprentice pieces" at Charatan, I can say that this is not the case. A new employee at the Charatan factory would start on one stage of the multitude of stages of production and after having shadowed someone who was proficient at that stage of making, he or she would start working on pipes at that stage. The four qualities of bowls produced at Charatan were graded as 1st quality was Charatan, 2nd quality was Ben Wade, 3rd quality was Mountbatten and the forth quality was Commodore. I know this because I did the grading of the bowls for a couple of months during my apprenticeship there (1975). Obviously a Mountbatten quality would be sold under numerous names and the same for the Commodore quality.

As for the straight Countryman, this is interesting because this shape (made by Dan Tennyson and Barry Jones) was very challenging to make because the neck of the bent shape was so difficult to shape. This could not be done on a sanding wheel so they made some files to be able to get in the neck without 'destroying' the formed rim of the bowl. So a straight one was far

easier to make. I have never seen a stright one before and I don't know the date of this one and also it is quite rare when Charatan stamped the shop's name on their pipes.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/charatan-experts-what-do-i-have.75301/page-2#post-36087732>

- [Mar 7, 2020](#)

This straight Countryman is a lovely looking, craggy blasted pipe and, looking at it now, I think it is an old one from the 1960s. On this link, someone asked when the first freehands were produced at Charatan. Well, last week I visited Barry Jones and he has allowed me to 'clean up' the first ever freehand that he finished in 1961 and which Reuben said he could have - it does have one or two small sandspots on it. Prior to this, I think Reuben, Dan & Barry were making FH pipes that were 'free-hand' orthodox models. The next week Reuben asked Barry to stop turning the orthodox classical shapes and concentrate on making the first 12 freehand pieces for the Charatan shop in Whitcomb Street for Mr Lewington, who was the manager there. Reuben had already taken this one to show Mr Lewington and he had immediately ordered 24 pieces. I feel really honored to be asked to clean up the mouthpiece a little and to handle it. Barry did re-fit this pipe with one of the first DC mouthpieces three years later. I will take a photo or two of it soon and post it here.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/the-worst-british-pipes-to-date.74585/#post-36088229>

- [Mar 8, 2020](#)

The Charatan shape 44 is the Giant Bent. If these numbers are stamped near the shank it is an old one definitely before 1967. Another date indicator is the size of the Charatans Make London England. The stamping was considerably smaller in the early to mid 1950s and no apostrophe between the n and s of 'Charatans' and no dot between London and England. I can post a 'picture' of one from 1951 if you like?

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/the-worst-british-pipes-to-date.74585/#post-36088363>

- [Mar 8, 2020](#)

[kenbarnes said:](#)

The Charatan shape 44 is the Giant Bent. If these numbers are stamped near the shank it is an old one definitely before 1967. Another date indicator is the size of the Charatans Make London England. The stamping was considerably smaller in the early to mid 1950s and no apostrophe between the n and s of 'Charatans' and no dot between London and England.

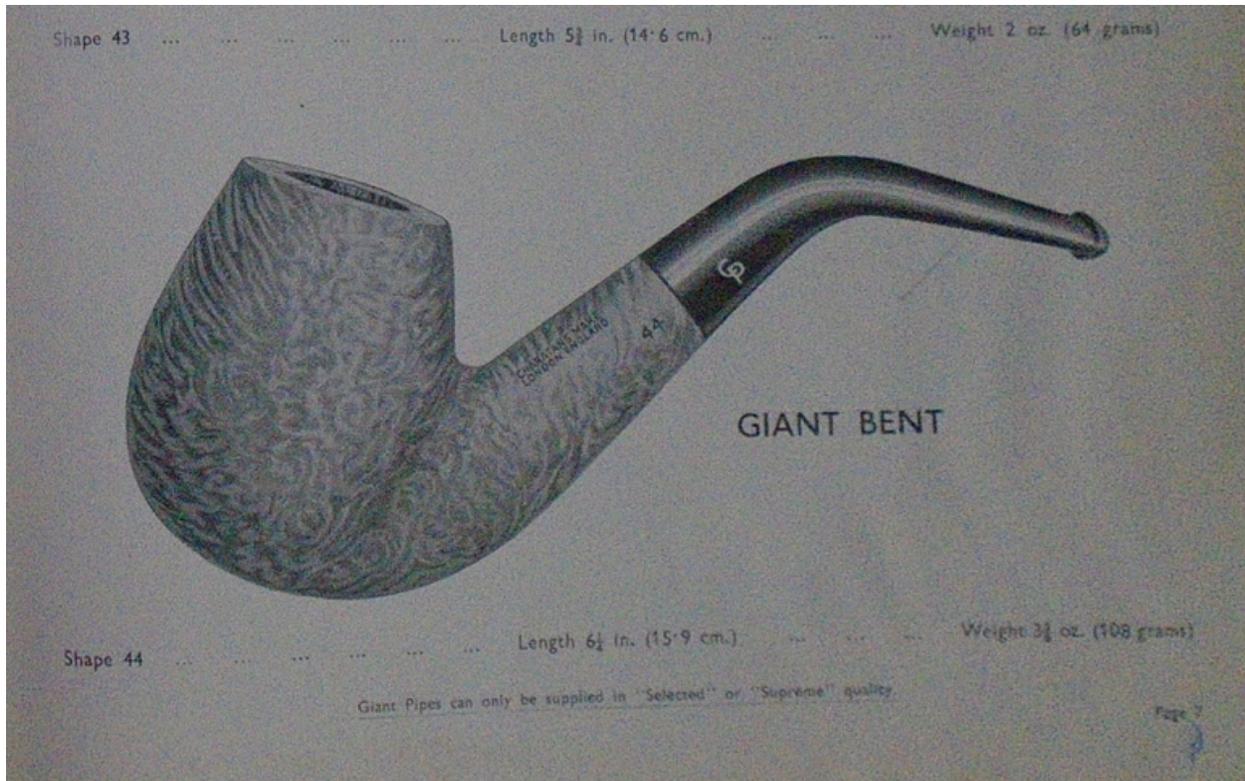
I can post a 'picture' of one from 1951 if you like?

Oh that is a very helpful bit of information! Thank you sir. Here's a photo of the 44.





<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/the-worst-british-pipes-to-date.74585/#post-36088804>



<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/the-worst-british-pipes-to-date.74585/#post-36088812>

- [Mar 9, 2020](#)

I am pretty sure that yours was made by Reuben Charatan. Why? because of the bend on the mouthpiece. I am sure this pipe is pre 1962. Reuben hated making bents with taper mouthpieces, especially the larger ones like this, as they used to take so long to warm up and since Reuben died, the curve on the bent pipes became more graceful. The photo I have included is from the 1951 catalogue and after the mid 1960s the stamping became larger. This is the shape that Barry used to make the Cup and Saucer shapes from in the 1960s. It is a rare pipe! I have never seen one. They stopped making this giant in mid 1960s I think.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/the-worst-british-pipes-to-date.74585/page-2#post-36116324>

- [Apr 21, 2020](#)

Hello Kottan,

I cannot answer your question. This has given me the opportunity to look through all my Frederick & Reuben Charatan pipes and later ones from 1964 onwards. I see from the 1951 catalogue that some of the pipes that are illustrated have no apostrophe although some do. I have a very rare smooth Countryman Selected here - probably one of the first made from the mid 1950s and this has an apostrophe and a dot but the dot is 'tall' nearly as tall as the apostrophe. I have an Underboar here with a dash between London and England. The 1965-66 brochure shows the pipes are stamped with apostrophe and dot. I think that they may have had a few stamps which were slightly different, some more worn than others. I know that when we worked at Upshall, Barry never 'threw a stamp away' the old ones were always kept in case... I have also noticed that the Giant Billiard illustrated in the 1951 Charatan Catalogue is actually a pipe from Reuben's father (pre 1910) because it is stamped **London. Eng.** .

You may find some other information here:

http://brbpipe.ru/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/T-shop_1-2011-12_56-69_3.pdf

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/the-worst-british-pipes-to-date.74585/page-2#post-36123064>

- [May 3, 2020](#)

Many thanks Ken, for your kind response and pardon me for the (very) delayed answer. I don't speak Russian but some pictures in the linked article gave me a little new hope of solving the mystery of the missing dot on Charatan pipes' nomenclature. Among the example images are a few which exactly display my described problem. Of course, that is nothing special but interestingly the dot seems absent only on lower grade pipes like Perfections, Belvederes or Specials. I wrote an email to Roman Bokov and asked him for further information and if his article is also available in English, but he hasn't answered yet.

Perhaps the dot was not stamped on lower grades since Dunhill bought Charatan until they altered the CP logo in 1980. (I have no Charatans with the newer logo, so I can't say anything about their markings).

The last week I purchased a "Charatan's Make Perfection Made By Hand" on ebay and again my dating problem occurs





<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/the-worst-british-pipes-to-date.74585/page-2#post-36123892>

- [May 4, 2020](#)

This Charatan Perfection is from the 1970s probably 1974-5. When Herman Lane was asked where he wanted the 'L' to be stamped on the shank his answer was 'it doesn't matter where, as long as all Charatans coming to the USA have one'. So, Leslie Rand who was in charge of dispatching the orders to the US stamped the 'L' wherever he saw a small spot, flaw or imperfection, no matter where it was on the shank. This is an example of Leslie's work! There

was a joke at Charatans that when some small flaws were discovered on a Charatan shank it was said 'get Leslie to stamp an 'L' on that one and send it to Lane'. There are one or two pipes out there with more than one 'L' on the shank when Leslie got a bit carried away when he saw a couple of sandspots on the shank!

At one time there was a dot between the J and U of the James Upshall mouthpiece logo. I think this was from the first stamp die we ordered in 1978, Then the dot disappeared. I think Barry thought it looked better without and found a way of removing it from the die. (very fine work!)

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/the-worst-british-pipes-to-date.74585/page-2#post-36125379>

- [May 7, 2020](#)

Each time I read your posts, Ken, I have a pleasant feeling because you associate factual infos with your personal experiences in a very entertaining way. Besides the year of manufacture I had never thought to get even told the name of the guy who stamped the Lane logo on this pipe. Albeit, I wondered, if there was a rule where on the shank Herman Lane's circled L was placed. Ok, that follows the "Leslie Rand inspiration" and is less important for dating a Charatan pipe.

In another thread you talk about some wrong statements you have read in various articles on Charatan, and of course I now consider if all or which dating informations must be corrected. I have a...

CHARATAN'S MAKE

LONDON.ENGLAND

EXECUTIVE

MADE BY HAND

IN

City of London (in script font)

£ (in circle)

To figure out, when this pipe was made, I used the article of Fabio Ferrara, especially the excerpted parts below. If he is right and I don't misunderstand him, my Charatan could be one of the rare ones from 1965. What do you think, Ken?

Quotes from Pipedia, Fabio Ferrara: 'Dating of Charatans'

[...] c) The engraving 'MADE BY HAND (in caps) -IN-City of London' in three lines identifies pipes made between 1965 and 1966. The engraving in script font 'Made by Hand -In-City of London' on three lines identifies pipes made between 1966 and 1979. [...]

Identification of a fourth era pipe (Second Lane era, 1965-76)

[...] 5) Presence of the writing "MADE BY HAND – IN – City of London" on 3 lines with the first line all capitals (only for 6 months in 1965 and so, it makes those pipes quite rare) then, from 1966 to 1979 the 'Made by Hand' as been converted on a lower case script font "Made by Hand -In- City of London". [...]





<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/the-worst-british-pipes-to-date.74585/page-2#post-36126684>

- [May 9, 2020](#)

Yes, I am sure this is an early one as they have used the old Made by hand stamp with the new scripted city of London stamp - is that the 'L' stamp on the 'bowl'? I have never seen that before! This may have been one of the first that were 'L' stamped. I do not know when the 'L' was first introduced - I can ask Barry the next time I speak with him.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/the-worst-british-pipes-to-date.74585/page-2#post-36127484>

- [May 10, 2020](#)

The DC mouthpiece was first used in November 1964.

I will ask Barry about when the '£' stamp was first used. I am pretty sure he will not know the exact year but he will know whether it was after Reuben's death or a year before he bought his first Austin Mini or whether it was when the factory was in Vine Street or Mansell Street etc - so approximately. Perhaps someone has information Jon Guss?

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/the-worst-british-pipes-to-date.74585/page-2#post-36127555>

- [May 10, 2020](#)

[kenbarnes said:](#)

The DC mouthpiece was first used in November 1964.

I will ask Barry about when the '£' stamp was first used. I am pretty sure he will not know the exact year but he will know whether it was after Reuben's death or a year before he bought his first Austin Mini or whether it was when the factory was in Vine Street or Mansell Street etc - so approximately. Perhaps someone has information Jon Guss?

Hi Ken,

I know that Tad Gage in his article (linked by Kottan in another thread) said this about the introduction of the £:

When he [Herman Lane] became exclusive distributor, Lane and Charatan agreed to have the distinctive script "L" stamped on every pipe sent to the United States.

Tad places the granting of the exclusive distributorship at 1955, and that's consistent with other documentation I've seen, notably 1) a Lane Ltd credit report dated October 28, 1957 that included this sentence: *Reportedly [Lane Ltd] is sole distributor of Charatan pipes in this*

country; and 2) an initial appearance of Charatan pipes under Lane's name in the 1957 edition of the RTDA Almanac.

Taking all that together, if Herman Lane's recollection is accurate (the Gage article was based on his interview with Lane) the introduction of the stamp would be mid-fifties.

I can shoot Tad an email if you like to see if he has anything else in his notes on this subject, but suspect Barry might be a better bet if he was at the company in 1955 or so.

Jon

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/the-worst-british-pipes-to-date.74585/page-2#post-36142315>

- [Jun 4, 2020](#)

[kenbarnes said:](#)

I will ask Barry about when the '£' stamp was first used.

Hello Ken,

did Barry recall the year since the Charatans made for the US market have been stamped with Lane's logo £, or did he perhaps knew if this stamp was already used when he started his career at Charatan in 1959?

I will combine this post with another question. Three weeks ago I bought a used Charatan which is a mystery to me. It was advertised as 'a nice pipe bearing a rare shape number'. In seller's mind this number was '3'. Indeed, a '3' is stamped on the right side of the shank but nothing else although the stem is DC. In fact there is no shape number 3 in any Charatan shape chart.

The pipe is a thick walled pot with a slim shank but none of the known pots i.e. Pot Royal (655DC, 2655DC), Chubby Pot (149DC, 348DC), Outsized Pot (148DC) or Bevelled Top Pot (4148DC).

I think, if it was a freehand it would have been stamped with 'Made By Hand' or 'F.H' and the '3' could indicate the group size but this is not the case. The size is Dunhill 5. ???







<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/the-worst-british-pipes-to-date.74585/page-2#post-36142381>

- [Jun 4, 2020](#)

Hello Kottan

Yes, Barry did say that the 'L' stamp was used in 1960 if not before. I thought it was later. He said that when Herman Lane made his visits to the factory, he would select pipes that he wanted for the US and get Reuben to stamp the 'L' stamp on each one (to make sure he got sent these pipes and not some other ones). I don't know if, at that time, he took the stamp back to the US with him! Obviously, in the past, he had selected some pipes that he did not receive or he thought he did not select and this was the initial reason for having the 'L' stamp.

I learn something new each day!

Generally, I think Charatan group sizes were larger than Dunhill and this is a Belvedere group 3 'Freeshape'. It may be a large group 3 but they also bore in mind the height of the bowl. Incidentally, there may be a hairline crack in the shank on the side where the group size is.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/the-worst-british-pipes-to-date.74585/page-4#post-36232399>

- [Nov 9, 2020](#)

I will introduce to you one of my 'new' Charatans.

It came with a dottle still inside the bowl as can be seen in the seller's picture. (1st. pic below).

It's a freehand, looks like a long kind of Canadian with a forward canted bowl.

The following markings are all on the right side of the shank.

Charatan's Make over London. England over Special over S, FH near the stem with the CP- logo. (In the meantime I refreshed it with 'Crayola', many thanks [@kenbarnes](#) for this hint).

No Lane £ so probably the pipe was sold first in Europa though it now came from the US. The FH stamp was introduced in 1957 as far as I know, but when did Charatan use the S stamp on Special grades?. I'd assume this pipe was made between 1957 and the early 1960s. Please correct me if I'm totally wrong.









<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/the-worst-british-pipes-to-date.74585/page-4#post-36233649>

- [Nov 12, 2020](#)

I got the impression that, originally, Herman Lane had an 'S' stamp die made in the U.S. so any decent looking pipe (a notch better than the grade) he would add an S under the grade and sell it for more money. I think this was originally applied to Supremes and then 100, 200 etc stamps were added. Originally, these were not grades from the Charatan factory they were 'add-ons' after they arrived in the U.S. and the pipes were re-selected. I can see that this S was not stamped at the same time as the original stamps and looks 'different'.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/the-worst-british-pipes-to-date.74585/page-4#post-36243230>

- [Nov 25, 2020](#)

This beautiful Charatan Zulu (60) sandblast arrived this morning and I set to work this evening after arriving home to clean it up, although it didn't require too much effort.



CHARATAN'S
ENGLAND'S OLDEST PIPEMAKERS

ESTABLISHED AS PIPEMAKERS IN THE YEAR 1863

10, JERMYN STREET,
PICCADILLY,
LONDON, S.W. 1

Head Office:—
49, WHITCOMB STREET,
LEICESTER SQUARE,
LONDON, W.C. 2

83, DUKE STREET,
GROSVENOR SQUARE,
LONDON, W. 1





<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/the-worst-british-pipes-to-date.74585/page-5#post-36243640>

- [Nov 26, 2020](#)

The De Luxe quality was around in the early 1960s - I will check with Barry the approximate date they stopped this quality - possibly just after Reuben's death March 1962? I will also ask him when they opened Jermyn Street and when they closed the Grosvenor Square shop.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/frederick-charatan-pipes.75852/#post-36094932>

- [Mar 18, 2020](#)

I am aware that the pipes made by Frederick Charatan are very rare, but do some collectors have them?

I tried to find pictures, but the only picture I found was on Pipedia.

Maybe some of you have pictures of this era Charatan pipes?
Any other additional interesting info would be appreciated as well.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/frederick-charatan-pipes.75852/#post-36094941>

- [Mar 18, 2020](#)

Yes, they are super rare. This is my only one. It is in such good condition,



possibly because it was in a fitted case for years. The stamping is Charatans Make (no apostrophe after the n) then under this London. Eng. Lovely small pipe (Dunhill group 2 or 3)



<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/frederick-charatan-pipes.75852/#post-36094961>

- [Mar 18, 2020](#)

No, no shape numbers in this era. I can imagine this being turned by hand on a treadle lathe and then using sharkskin as the abrasive rather than sandpaper!

Here is one which is later possibly 1910-1915 (very early Reuben era). The stamping is Charatan's Make London - Eng. This logo is the only one I have ever seen and may well have been a proto-type.



<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/frederick-charatan-pipes.75852/#post-36094989>

- [Mar 18, 2020](#)

"I wasn't meaning the shape numbers, but the actual shape of the pipe itself"

This is a handmade Cutty shape. In those days the shapes tended to keep to the previous era of clay pipes.

No, I have never seen a picture of Frederick Charatan

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/the-difference-in-colour-of-aged-briar.76231/#post-36105388>

- [Apr 3, 2020](#)

EDIT: Fixed Capitalization in Title (See Rule 9) - Bob

This photo shows the colour of the shavings from the tobacco chamber of a plateau block that was in the show room at the Charatan factory in 1972. As well as being darker in colour it is also harder wood. The lighter colour is newer plateau from Tuscany that I have naturally dried for

two years. The wood is so much softer and more enjoyable to work with. When I finish these two pieces, I will post some pics before they are stained.



<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/the-difference-in-colour-of-aged-briar.76231/page-2#post-36110141>

- [Apr 10, 2020](#)

These two pipes have been sanded and mopped in exactly the same way and are now ready for fitting and finishing. The old dark briar bowl was incredibly hard to sandpaper and heavier than a standard Billiard shape of that size. I notice that the chamber-drill has left burn marks in the tobacco chamber. The lighter one is high-grade plateau from Tuscany which was a joy to sand. I must say that there is a vast difference in the quality of the briar!







<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/charatans-make-483dc-perfection-question.76737/#post-36119915>

- [Apr 27, 2020](#)

Working on some more estate pipes and the first one up is this Charatan's Make 483DC. Unlike the other Charatan's Make pipes I have, this one doesn't have the L inside a circle like the Lane Era Charatans. Hopefully Ken Burns will see this and provide what information he can.







<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/charatans-make-483dc-perfection-question.76737/#post-36119926>

- [Apr 27, 2020](#)

Hello pappymac

whilst Ken 'Burns' with passion for pipes & pipe-making my name is actually Barnes
This 483 DC (The Cavalier) has, at some point, had the mouthpiece replaced. In the 1960s Herman Lane realised that a Charatan pipe he was replacing for a customer in New York was actually not sold through him. Many US smokers were coming to London and buying their Charatans as the prices were substantially less. In this case the smoker bought the pipe in London and expected Herman Lane to replace it, when in fact it was the factory or shop's responsibility to replace it. So Herman decided to stamp all Charatans he bought for the US market with the 'L' stamp. From that point, all pipes ordered for the US market were stamped L so he could differentiate whether it was his responsibility to replace a pipe or someone else's. This system also worked well the other way around when customers insisted that they bought a pipe from the shop in Jermyn Street when it had an 'L' stamp.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/charatans-make-483dc-perfection-question.76737/#post-36120018>

- [Apr 27, 2020](#)

[donjgiles said:](#)

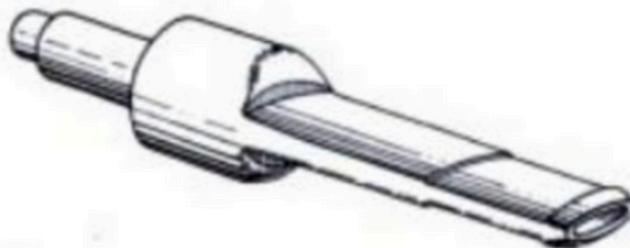
From Pipedia

Charatan records indicate the DC (Double Comfort) bit was introduced in the 50's, but some report seeing them in earlier production. Still others indicate they were introduced by Lane in 1960.

Don, I've often wondered about the source of the various statements dating the DC. The only thing I've seen in black and white puts it a number of years later, and I'd appreciate any documentation to the contrary. Perhaps Ken could chime in on this one, and offer insight on the degree to which the introduction of the DC predated the application for patent protection. Certainly stems with 203573 stamped on them can't have been created and sold before the number was issued.

Jon

203,573
MOUTH PIECE FOR A SMOKER'S PIPE
William Alan Williamson Barling, London, England, as-
signor to F. Charatan & Son Limited, London, Eng-
land, a company of Great Britain
Filed Apr. 5, 1965, Ser. No. 84,598
Claims priority, application Great Britain Nov. 11, 1964
Term of patent 14 years
(Cl. D85—8)



<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/charatans-make-483dc-perfection-question.76737/#post-36121866>

- [Apr 30, 2020](#)

[jguss said:](#)

Don, I've often wondered about the source of the various statements dating the DC. The only thing I've seen in black and white puts it a number of years later, and I'd appreciate any documentation to the contrary. Perhaps Ken could chime in on this one, and offer insight on the degree to which the introduction of the DC predated the application for patent protection. Certainly stems with 203573 stamped on them can't have been created and sold before the number was issued.

Jon

A few weeks ago, I was privileged to clean up the very first Charatan 'Freeshape' that was made at Charatan by Barry Jones when he was 17 years old. The pipe was really admired by Reuben and it became the game-changer for Charatan,. Barry started working for Reuben Charatan in 1959 when he was 15, this pipe was made in 1961. Barry said that the DC mouthpiece it has was fitted in 1964 (possibly early 1964) which was in the first batch that came to the factory. Barry recalls William Williamson-Barling (double-barrelled surname), who worked at Charatan after Reuben's death and after the sale of Barling, came with Dennis Marshall and a few other pipe-makers from the Barling factory in early 1963. The design of the Double Comfort mouthpiece was one of his first assignments. I did meet William Williamson-Barling once in 1967 when I went to the factory for the first time (I was 13).

I have found a few inconsistencies regarding 'eras' and other Charatan info on Pipedia and elsewhere and one article by Ivy Ryan is, in my opinion, dubious. I have just read that this has been noted by Pipedia. I have also seen information like 'the factory moved to Grosvenor Street' which Barry and I cannot work out. Possibly someone got this from the factory Charatan owned called Grosvenor Pipes which was in Georgiana Street, Camden Town, London? Grosvenor Pipes was the small factory/workshop where I worked when I was 17. This was where the bulk of the Ben Wade machinery was housed after the Leeds factory was closed and it was where the fitting was carried out for all the pipes that Charatan produced.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/charatans-make-483dc-perfection-question.76737/#post-36122489>

- [May 1, 2020](#)

[jguss said:](#)

Thank you for your response. As always, your firsthand account provides valuable insight into what actually happened at the company. I read this as consistent with the Nov 1964 date of the DC patent application, and pretty compelling evidence that the statements that the DC was introduced years earlier are without foundation.

Jon

My father told me that the DC mouthpiece was Herman Lane's idea, which he had during, what I call, the 'Esther era'. Recently, Barry recounted the day Reuben died in early 1962. During the lunch hour, Reuben was working at his sanding wheel when he had a heart attack and died. Barry was playing darts in the cafeteria upstairs. He was called and came down stairs. He went

to the office and phoned the doctor and then Mr Lewington, the manager at the Charatan shop in Whitcomb Street. Esther Charatan just happened to be at the shop at the time and immediately took a taxi to the factory . She was so 'rushed' that she forgot to pay the taxi driver and Barry went down and paid him with his own money! That afternoon Barry and Johnny Mahoney were wondering whether they come to work in the morning and telephoned Mr Lewington. He said they need to carry on as normal. When I knew Mr Lewington between 1967-1970 (approx) he was in charge of the accounts at the factory. Such a lovely man, a true gentle man and very loyal to Charatan. Charatan made a long-shanked Bulldog shape called Lewington to commemorate him. When Barry told me this story 8 weeks ago, I thought 'what a great way to die - at his sanding bench, making pipes'.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/charatans-make-483dc-perfection-question.76737/#post-36123153>

- [May 3, 2020](#)

[kenbarnes said:](#)

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Ken, what a terrific story. Sad, but honestly also inspirational. And a good illustration of the value of direct oral testimony. It provides the "color" generally lacking in more formal recountings of events. As an illustration, below is the trade obit printed in *Tobacco* after Reuben died. Facts yes, color no. Best, Jon

Those we have lost

One of the Old School

THE briar pipe industry suffered a grievous loss with the sudden death on March 9 of **Mr. Reuben Charatan**, managing director of F. Charatan & Son Ltd., a position he had held since his return in 1918 from active service with the 5th Canadian Mounted Rifles at the end of World War I. During World War II he served in the Home Guard at Finchley, London, and at Horsham, Sussex.



Reuben Charatan

Equally at home behind the workbench or the board table, he was a craftsman in his own right, and one of the old school who took a keen interest in creating pipe fashions that were 'different'.

He was a founder member and an assistant of the Worshipful Company of Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Blenders, and was keenly interested in the affairs of the Portsoken Ward Club, holding the office of president of the Ward Club in 1955.

Mr. Reuben Charatan will be greatly missed by many friends in the trade.

* * *

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/calling-ken-barnes-calling-ken-barnes-highly-unusual-charatan-supreme-info-request.77050/#post-36129413>

- [May 13, 2020](#)

This specimen is memorably different for **any** pipe. For a conservative company like Charatan it might be unique. (Made to commemorate the Queen's Tulip Parade or something similar.)

Produced during the Lane era, I'm hoping that Ken was in the shop when it passed through.

BTW --- It's stamped Extra Large but is only average in size. 37 grams, 5 7/8" long.







<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/calling-ken-barnes-calling-ken-barnes-highly-unusual-charatan-supreme-info-request.77050/#post-36131188>

- [May 16, 2020](#)

[georged said:](#)

"This specimen is memorably different for **any** pipe. For a conservative company like Charatan it might be unique. (Made to commemorate the Queen's Tulip Parade or something similar.)

Produced during the Lane era, I'm hoping that Ken was in the shop when it passed through.

BTW --- It's stamped Extra Large but is only average in size. 37 grams, 5 7/8" long."

This one was fashioned by Joan Nicholson, She first started working for Reuben in 1954 or 55 and she trained up Barry Jones in 1960 in the art of sandpapering and shaping the pipes. In 1975 I spent 6 months under her supervision and I must say that some of the stuff she produced was spectacular. I am interested in how this mouthpiece was bent (curved). It looks like an early Charatan because there is no 'glide' in the curve of the mouthpiece, it has been heated and 'bent' right up near the saddle part and the rest of the mouthpiece is pretty straight. I think it was made around 1966 because I understand from Barry that the 'Made By Hand' stamp was changed to script at about this time to blend in better with the other scripted lettering (in this case *Extra Large*) and later *Made in the City of London*. I am sure there are one or two Charatan Collectors out there that may be able to shed more light on this one.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/calling-ken-barnes-calling-ken-barnes-highly-unusual-charatan-supreme-info-request.77050/#post-36131344>

- [May 16, 2020](#)

Any thoughts on the Superme Block Mr. [@kenbarnes](#) ? here are a couple more pics.



<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/calling-ken-barnes-calling-ken-barnes-highly-unusual-charatan-supreme-info-request.77050/#post-36131422>

- [May 17, 2020](#)

[Saintwilliam said:](#)

Any thoughts on the Superme Block Mr. @kenbarnes ? here are a couple more pics. I think this could have been shaped by either Joan or Barry. In my opinion, I think this may also be from the mid 1960s. Was the original mouthpiece a standard saddle or a Double Comfort mouthpiece?

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/interesting-completed-ebay-auctions-british-pipes.60196/page-39#post-36176470>

- [Aug 8, 2020](#)
-
- [Add bookmark](#)
- [#769](#)

[ssjones said:](#)

“You are right, but I've just never seen that kind of price on almost any Peterson.

My XL90 Supreme only has that kind of birdseye on one side. No gold band, but 1/3 the cost (unsmoked, from Mark Irwin's book, he keeps asking if I want to sell it back to him - no!).”

Sometimes even lower graded pipes have amazing birdseye.

Last year I won this Charatan Dublin Bevedere (\$139).



<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/interesting-completed-ebay-auctions-british-pipes.60196/page-39#post-36176641>

- [Aug 9, 2020](#)

i've seen no flaws or sandpits on this pipe and have no idea how Charatan did their grading. In the 1951 Catalogue Crossgrain/birdseye is assigned to the Special grade. I have the impression that Charatan mainly focused on straight grain (and birdseye on the rim). We should ask Ken Barnes about the grading system.... Rarity, Belvedere, Perfection, Special, Distinction, Distinction Deluxe, After Hours, Executive, Executive Extra Large, Selected, Selected Extra Large, Supreme, Supreme S, Supreme 100, Supreme 150, Supreme 200, Supreme 250, Supreme 300, Coronation, Royal Achievement, Crown Achievement, Summa Cum Laude.... not to forget the sandblasts, freehands (FH) and the size groups (1 - 4) whereby the grading becomes still more complicated. E.g. a Belvedere group 4 is higher graded than a Special group1. Obviously doesn't the grain pattern matter that much in this case. How can a human being differentiate all this?

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/interesting-completed-ebay-auctions-british-pipes.60196/page-40#post-36177082>

- [Aug 10, 2020](#)

[georged said:](#)

"Yeah, the whole Charatan "blizzard of grades" thing was Herman's doing, according to Basil Sullivan, anyway. (What John Loring was to Dunhill, Basil was to Charatan).

The sad bit, if you don't care for elaborate/ostentatious grading schemes, anyway, is that it isn't the makers pushing them on the public, but that buyers *demand* them. I've known any number of carvers who started out intending to follow the "my name and date and nothing else" nomenclature route, but gave in after a while rather than piss everyone off *in addition* to losing money.

The same brain thing that makes some people collectors in the first place will not rest until all that *can* be categorized has *been* categorized; and those who are concerned with the social status that that owning luxury goods confers like heirarchies as a way to keep score. i.e. "Mine cost more than yours."

My father was in the middle of this and I am sure that it impacted on his health. The main supplier of briar to Charatan was Otto Braun and the quality of plateau briar coming from Greece (and other sawmills in Italy) at times was really questionable. Sometimes the areas where they were digging simply did not yield the finest, most beautiful blocks and I am sure that politics and pressure from other manufacturers onto Otto Braun was in the mix. There was a definite issue around consistency coupled with the fact that Herman Lane was screaming for more high grades and 'phoning my father at all times of the night, at home, demanding more straight grains. Dennis Marshall & Maureen (I have forgotten her surname) jointly graded the straight grains and sales was also a pressure put on my father. Then, after 1973 quite a few of the Plateau shipments that Charatan received were exceptional, sensational - so, from one extreme to the other.

I had similar issues with high grade Upshalls although I think I managed to main better consistency. At first, I used to take it as an insult that the sawmills weren't giving me what I wanted. After I spent some time at the Arta Company in Greece, I soon realized the difficulties that saw mills faced and from then on I did not take it so personally!

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/bought-my-first-charatan-estate-pipe.78853/#post-36185958>





<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/bought-my-first-charatan-estate-pipe.78853/#post-36187117>

- [Aug 29, 2020](#)

Yes, nice piece with the original mouthpiece. You can remove the wax, I normally use alcohol to clean the outside of the bowl and mouthpiece. This can also help clean the stamping on the shank and make it crisper. I would then rub the Cp logo with a white Crayola wax 🧊 on and wipe off the excess just like Reuben used to do!

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/bought-my-first-charatan-estate-pipe.78853/page-2#post-36187217>

- [Aug 29, 2020](#)

kottan said "Ken, which kind of alcohol do you use for it, ethanol or isopropyl and how much %? I wonder if the alcohol would dissolve the stain?. "

I still have some industrial alcohol here from the Tilshead factory (strictly speaking I do need a license for it) but I don't drink it!

Yes, it will take off a little stain but in this case it would take off loads of other stuff as well. The De Luxe finishing was one coat of light tan spirit stain burnt in and then one more coat applied and wiped off. Then the pipe was stripped of the stain using pumice and a felt wheel so the stain served as a background stain used just to highlight the grain.

Crayola was used on all Charatan logos until they bought a stamping machine (after Reuben had died) using a roll of white correction type tape which the heated stamp die would press into the vulcanite. All Upshall logos were done with Crayola. Barry said it lasted longer than the tape method. It can be tricky to do at first, you really need to 'work the wax in' and wipe it off in a certain way and sometimes go over it again two or three times. Reuben got Barry to do this job when he first started at Charatan in 1959 aged 15. I still have the Crayola white and gold wax sticks from the 1980s that I found when I visited the empty Upshall factory in 2018 in a draw along with other stuff from my past which had been untouched since 1989!

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/bought-my-first-charatan-estate-pipe.78853/page-2#post-36187230>

- [Aug 29, 2020](#)

[orlandofurioso said:](#)

Is the quality of Crayola as it used to be ? Guess not

I bought a box a few years ago - the box looks the same!

I will try the old and the new when I get the opportunity and report back to you.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/bought-my-first-charatan-estate-pipe.78853/page-2#post-36187501>

- [Aug 29, 2020](#)

[kenbarnes said:](#)

No, I have never seen it. I think I tried it on one Tilshead once - cannot remember now. Are the 'stamps' engraved or stamped by hand (pressed into the wood)?

I have seen some early French and English pipes from the 1920s which had the stamps filled in with white or gold wax I think Oppenheimer used to do it. It certainly would be interesting to see a photo of this Tilshead pipe.

These are the seller's photos...





<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/bought-my-first-charatan-estate-pipe.78853/page-2#post-36187584>

- [Aug 29, 2020](#)

I agree with georged, this has been done by the seller to 'spiff things up'. I am pretty sure you can remove it by possibly using a pin and picking out the paste from each letter - very therapeutic.

I love the pipe - this is either a Barry creation or could be a Stan Haney (Charatan craftsman) creation. Barry told me that Stan came to work with him at Tilshead for a time in the 1990s.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/bought-my-first-charatan-estate-pipe.78853/page-2#post-36187608>

- [Aug 30, 2020](#)

Would this be a good place to ask about my Charatan? I didn't realize that Charatan were a big deal until reading this thread.

A friend and I saw this estate pipe in a pipe store in Coeur d'Alene, and he told me to buy it. I didn't. 9 months later, I took a detour on the way to Vancouver and bought the pipe which was still there! As you can see, I haven't treated it right, and since the stem broke, I haven't smoked it. I need to gather up all my broken stem pipes and bite the bullet and get them fixed.





<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/bought-my-first-charatan-estate-pipe.78853/page-3#post-36187652>



No DC or X



No £



2 lines



DSC_0214~2.JPG

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/bought-my-first-charatan-estate-pipe.78853/page-3#post-36188075>

[rajangan said:](#)

This is a Charatan Salisbury shape in a group 3 (373). Judging from the depth etc of the sandblasting it looks like it is from around 1967. It does need some TLC and the mouthpiece would need replacing. The mouthpiece was a little longer than in the photo. This brochure came out in approximately 1965. In 1967 the shape numbers included the size which became the first numeral - so this shape became a 373 (group 3). You can see the shape on the third row down.

ED PIPES



			
GILPIN 81DC	BENT 11DC	NEWMARKET 58	ZULU 63X
			
OUTSIZE LUMBERMAN 492	DIAMOND BILLIARD 101DC	OUTSIZE BENT 211	LARGE BILLIARD 12X
			
BENT POT 81DC	OUTSIZE BILLIARD 629	SALISBURY 73X	MEDIUM LUMBERMAN 6184
			
NEW PANEL BILLIARD 652DC	BANKER 651X	SKATER 654DC	POT ROYAL 655DC

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<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/dating-a-charatan-pipe.79354/#post-36202660>

- [Sep 25, 2020](#)

Can anyone help date this Charatan pipe?

It is stamped: "HENLEY" "140" and on the other side "CHARATAN'S MAKE LONDON ENGLAND"

DELUXE".

It doesn't have a double comfort stem so I think it is pre-1961







<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/dating-a-charatan-pipe.79354/#post-36202866>

- [Sep 25, 2020](#)

Hi mycroftholmes.

what you could do is measure the overall length of the pipe and weigh it (preferably in cms and grams). That could be a useful start in trying to work out when it was made.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/dating-a-charatan-pipe.79354/#post-36203167>

- [Sep 26, 2020](#)

[kenbarnes said:](#)

“Hi mycroftholmes.

what you could do is measure the overall length of the pipe and weigh it (preferably in cms and grams). That could be a useful start in trying to work out when it was made.”

Pipe dimensions:

Length: 15cm

Bowl height: 4.5cm

Bowl diameter: 19mm

Weight: 30g

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/dating-a-charatan-pipe.79354/#post-36203168>

- [Sep 26, 2020](#)

Here are pictures of the pipe box





<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/dating-a-charatan-pipe.79354/#post-36203190>

- [Sep 26, 2020](#)

Here are the dimensions for the 140 from 1951. Reuben Charatan was known to be quite exact of the lengths of his catalogue shapes. Now I have seen the original box, I am fairly certain that this piece is from the late 1950s. I think Jon Guss may have some more info relating to when Charatan acquired their various Charatan shops namely Panton Street, Jermyn Street, Grosvenor Street and Whitcomb Street. Charatan used to include these shops on the box. I think Barry first started his apprenticeship with Reuben in Vine Street. I will ask him next time I speak when the Minorities factory was in use and possibly approximate dates that the other shops opened (and closed). This is another way of dating the pipe.

Yes Jensen, I am sure that Henley was the name of the shop that the pipe was supplied to. The aspects I am not sure about are the mouthpiece, the small flaws I see on the bowl of this Deluxe (unusual) and the character of the Charatan's make London, England stamp.

A SELECTION OF ORTHODOX MODELS IN "STRAIGHT GRAIN"



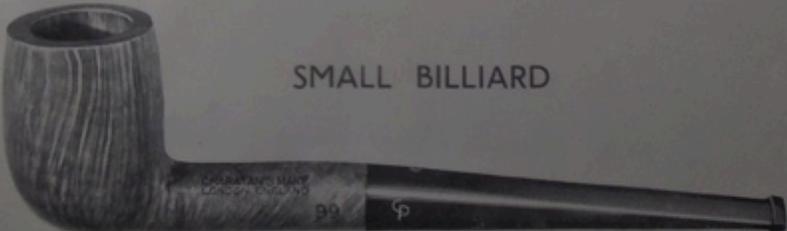
LARGE BILLIARD

Shape 12—As illustrated...	Length 5½ in. (14 cm.)	Weight 1½ oz. (40 grams)
.. 180—Size Smaller	.. 5¼ in. (13.3 cm.)	.. 1¼ oz. (36 grams)
.. 102—Size Larger	.. 5½ in. (13.3 cm.)	.. 1½ oz. (48 grams)



MEDIUM BILLIARD

Shape 14—As illustrated...	Length 5 in. (12.7 cm.)	Weight 1 oz. (32 grams)
.. 140—Same size, but Longer	.. 5½ in. (14.6 cm.)	.. 1¼ oz. (34 grams)
.. 1400—Same size Extra Long	.. 6½ in. (15.9 cm.)	.. 1½ oz. (36 grams)



SMALL BILLIARD

Shape 99—As illustrated...	Length 5½ in. (14 cm.)	Weight 1¼ oz. (30 grams)
.. 990—Same size but Shorter	.. 5 in. (12.7 cm.)	.. 1 oz. (28 grams)
.. 199—Same size but Longer	.. 6 in. (15.2 cm.)	.. 1 oz. (32 grams)

Each pipe (except Giant pipes) can be supplied in ANY quality (see page 5 and Price List).

Page 10

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/charatan-%E2%80%99Cup-and-saucer%E2%80%9D-pipe.79237/#post-36198246>

- [Sep 18, 2020](#)

I have been revisiting pipes that I have not smoked in some time.

One of these is a Charatan "Cup and Saucer". Rather large, Group 5 size. From published information, it would have been made sometime between 1966-1979.

Supposedly there was no shape number associated with these. But after taking it out I noticed the '2' stamped on the right hand side of the shank. It's a Special, so middle of the road grade. I was wondering what the 2 stamping might denote...







<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/charatan-%E2%80%99Ccup-and-saucer%E2%80%99D-pipe.79237/#post-36205618>

Hi craig61a

I think this Charatan freehand was made between 1967-1975. I think this 'City of London' script made its appearance around 1967 or possibly 1968? The earlier pieces were stamped Made By Hand on the reverse side. If the grain on the front side was similar to the grain on the reverse side then this pipe would have been graded as an 'Executive'. On 'Free shapes' i.e. not catalogue machine-turned shapes, the number 2 would denote the size of the pipe as different sizes commanded different prices.

Nice pipe which was turned by either Barry Jones or Stan Haney and shaped by Joan Nicholson.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/interesting-completed-ebay-auctions-british-pipes.60196/page-43#post-36209001>

- [Oct 5, 2020](#)

Talking about Charatan Logos, this one is from my collection and is the only one I have ever seen (FC in a circle). I think this one is one from about 1908-09 - the final years of Frederick's reign! I have a couple of other Frederick Charatan era pieces with no logos.



<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/interesting-completed-ebay-auctions-british-pipes.60196/page-43#post-36217169>

- [Oct 18, 2020](#)

My favourite Non-seller on ebay

[Collectible Unsmoked Tobacco Pipes for sale | eBay](#)

Get the best deals on Collectible Unsmoked Tobacco Pipes when you shop the largest online selection at eBay.com. Free shipping on many items | Browse your favorite brands | affordable prices.

www.ebay.com

On the other hand you can get a NOS Crown Achievement (2 grades above the Achievement) for less money...



[Charatan Charatan's Make Crown Achievement Lane Era 9k Gold Unsmoked Pipe | eBay](#)
Lane era; L stamp. Block letter stamp, "Made by hand."
www.ebay.com

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/interesting-completed-ebay-auctions-british-pipes.60196/page-43#post-36217175>

- [Oct 18, 2020](#)

My 'gut feeling' is that the first one, the Achievement, was made during the Dunhill era (after 1976). The shape looks more Danish and not like Joan's work nor Stan or Barry's work from the 1960s or 1970 -1976. Additionally, the grain on this one looks more like a fine Executive or Selected. Furthermore, Charatan 'never' stamped anything on the bowl of the pipe - only on the shank and mouthpiece.

I think that the second one is a Charatan Crown Achievement from the late 60s - mid 1970s.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/interesting-completed-ebay-auctions-british-pipes.60196/page-44#post-36217179>

- [Oct 18, 2020](#)

[orlandofurioso said:](#)

Hi Ken

Is it worth the \$828,00 ?

Actually, on closer inspection, I think that the Crown Achievement is an early one, before the scripted '*City of London*' stamp was introduced (i.e. Made by Hand) and after the DC mouthpiece was first used. So about 1965-66? I do not know what the prices are for early Crown Achievements - they are pretty rare. I am sure there are some serious Charatan collectors on this forum who have more experiences. I do know that a lovely Billiard Crown Achievement sold on ebay 2 years ago for \$12,000.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/interesting-completed-ebay-auctions-british-pipes.60196/page-44#post-36217181>

- [Oct 18, 2020](#)

[orlandofurioso said:](#)

Does the made by hand stamp not indicate a pre 1965 pipe ?

Which picture shows the bowl stamp ?

Does it? Yes, that sounds about right, I will ask Barry to verify that too. The DC was first used in Nov 1964 so most probably an early 1965 piece!

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/interesting-completed-ebay-auctions-british-pipes.60196/page-45#post-36219069>

- [Oct 20, 2020](#)

Unsmoked Charatan Supreme



[Charatan Charatan's Make Supreme S300 Vintage Unsmoked Pipe | eBay](#)

Check condition and photos for details.

www.ebay.com

- [Oct 20, 2020](#)
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Unsmoked Charatan Supreme



[Charatan Charatan's Make Supreme S300 Vintage Unsmoked Pipe | eBay](#)

Check condition and photos for details.

www.ebay.com

Unsmoked Charatan Coronation



[Charatan Coronation Vintage Unsmoked Handmade Pipe | eBay](#)

All script stamp, "Made by hand in City of London. Check condition and photos for details. www.ebay.com

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/interesting-completed-ebay-auctions-british-pipes.60196/page-45#post-36221323>

- [Oct 23, 2020](#)

I think that some of these pipes were bought from Lionel Melindi who owned the store called De La Concha on Avenue of The Americas (6th Avenue). I remember Lionel well, he loved Charatan and Upshall pipes.

These Charatan straight grains are so rare and when I worked at the Charatan factory I recall that at the end of a typical week there was a tray or sometimes two trays of high-grade pipes like this – possibly 10 pieces from the several hundred turned.

Since I started selling pipes in the Charatan shop, Jermyn Street in 1971 and later making pipes at the Charatan factory, I learnt that top quality straight grains were the easiest pipes to 'sell'. In fact, no selling required.

Working at Upshall/Tilshead, at times, when money was short and I needed to pay the taxman or pay the workers their wages etc, I would pick out ten or so gorgeous plateau blocks from the

shelf, cut them, Barry would turn, fit and finish them and I would drive up to London on a Saturday morning and ration them out to the ten or so shops that we supplied – cash in the bank!

In six months, I reach retirement age and recently I went onto the UK Government website to see what state pension I will receive. They have details of all my 'wage slips' since 1968. I do not want to look at them as this could bring up so many feelings at once which may be quite overwhelming!

I do remember my first wage at Charatan was £7 a week. This was working in the cellars of the Charatan factory when I was 13 years old (1968), My task was to help load the sacks of briar blocks stored there into the lift and take it up to the turning department. I also emptied the contents of split briar sacks and put them in new sacks. Handling briar for the first time and I was keen to learn.

I do remember Barry talking with Stan one day saying how lucky they were to get paid for doing something they really enjoy.

The pipes here with very tapered tobacco chambers were turned by Stan Haney and the others by Barry Jones or Dan Tennyson.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/interesting-completed-ebay-auctions-british-pipes.60196/page-48#post-36249253>

- [Dec 5, 2020](#)

Butt ugly ?



[Seltene Charatan's Make Original, M Elliott geschnitzt figürlichen COA, unsmoked, Onkel Ben | eBay](#)

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/interesting-completed-ebay-auctions-british-pipes.60196/page-48#post-36249530>

- [Dec 5, 2020](#)

[pere grinus said:](#)

“Hmm... the likeness reminds me a of a little LBJ, (36th US president for our international brothers and sisters).”

I really dislike this kind of pipe - especially with Charatan stamped on it. This one was made post 1977 (Dunhill era) whilst John Barber was still with the firm. In my opinion, pure kitsch.

<https://pipesmagazine.com/forums/threads/interesting-completed-ebay-auctions-british-pipes.60196/page-48#post-36249843>

- [Dec 6, 2020](#)

[orlandofurioso said:](#)

“It is less than kitsch. When over the top , kitsch can turn into something with an agreeable identity (if you take my meaning) .

This almost looks obscene.

I cherish a few Brasenose pipes carved by Colin Lunn and Comoy's.
Much better nose carving”

I remember looking at Paul Bentley's (Astleys) extremely rare collection of carved meerschaums. Incidentally, Paul, whilst running the Astley's shop, had also worked on the rostrum at Sothebys. He showed me the best indicator he uses to differentiate between a very good carved meerschaum and the absolute finest carved meerschaum. He showed me one of a carved head of a Victorian woman and said 'if you look at the nose, you can see that under the nostrils how polished this part is'. It was beautifully polished and in fact, all the recesses of the 'cut marks' of the carving were polished incredibly well so no cut marks were visible. It was breath-taking - I was blown away. He said this was his most valuable antique meerschaum. He also showed me his ceramic pipe made by Picasso.

By saying this Charatan, in my opinion, is kitsch, I do not want to offend anyone who likes this type of 'quality' carving. I am just saddened to witness the downward trend Charatan was taking after the Dunhill takeover. Rather than using the word kitsch, I would call it 'cheap junk'. Tyrolean pipe carvers' work was, in general, much better quality.