

### The Evolution of Lighthouse Lens Manufacturers

Lighthouse Lens Manufacturers						
		First	Last			
Company	In Business	Lens	Lens	Location		Comments
François Soleil Sr.	1825 - 1838	1821	1838	Chapelle St. Denis, Paris		Began working with Fresnel in 1819
François Soleil Jr.	1825 - 1852	1825	1834	35 Rue de l'Odeon, Paris, France		François Soleil's son worked on lenses then on scientific instruments
Isaac Cookson and Co.	1831 - 1845	1831	1845	South Shields, England (Newcastle)		Made first lenses for Scotland and England
Jean Jacques François	1838 - 1844	1838	1844	Chapelle St. Denis, Paris		Replaced François Soleil Sr. was Soleil Sr.'s son in law
Augustin Henry	1838 - 1854	1838	1854	247 Rue St. Honore, Paris, France		Augustin Henry did a study of lens making for Fresnel in 1838
Theodore Létourneau	1844 - 1852	1844	1852	31 Allie des Veuses, Paris, France		Replaced Jean Jacques François was François' son in law
Robert W. Swinburne and Co.	1845 - 1846	1845	1846	New Castle, England		Replaced Isaac Cookson and Co.
Chance Brothers	1848 - 1954	1851	1954	Spon Lane, Smethwick, England		Asked to make lenses by Sir D. Brewster and Alan Stevenson
Nitsche & Günther Optische Werke	1850 - 1946	1866	?	Rathenow, Germany		Made glass and lenses
Louis Sautter	1852 - 1870	1852	1870	37 Avenue Montaigne, Paris France		Replaced Létourneau
Brooklyn Flint Glass	1852 - 1864	1858	1858	Brooklyn, New York, USA		Made a very small number of pressed flint glass 6th order lenses
Henry-Lepaute	1854 - 1972	1854	1952	Rue de Rivoli, Paris		Company name changed to Henry-Lepaute in 1854
				1870 at 6 Rue Lafayette, Paris, France		
				later at Rue Vaugirard, Paris, France		
				1911 at 11 Rue Desnouettes, Paris, France		Factory and offices burned down on March 27, 1952
				1952 at Mesnil-le-Roi, France		
Barbier et Fenestre	1862 - 1887	1862	1887	82 Rue Curial, Paris, France		Started in an out building on Barbier's property
Altstädtische Optische Industrieanstalt Nitsche und Günther	1866 - 1900	1871	1875	Rathenow, Germany		Made optical glass (eyeglasses) and a few Fresnel lenses
Corning Glass	1868 - now	1915	>1936	Corning, New York		Replaced Macbeth-Evans - maker of pressed glass buoy lenses
Paul Lemonnier	1870 - 1870	none	none	Paris, France		
Sautter Lemonnier and Cie.	1870 - 1890	1870	1890	26 Avenue de Suffren, Paris, France		Sautter merged with Lemonnier
Gebr. Picht & Co.	1875? - 1900	1875?	1900	Kochstrasse 58, Rathenow, Germany		Merged with Altstädtische Optische Industrieanstalt in 1875
Japan Lighthouse Office	1877 1948	1925	1943	Yokohama, Japan		Made glass Fresnel Lenses
Frédéric Barbier	1887 - 1891	1887	1891	82 Rue Curial, Paris, France		Replaced Barbier et Fenestre (Harle also in the business)
Barbier et Bénard	1891 - 1897	1891	1897	82 Rue Curial, Paris, France		Replaced F. Barbier
Sautter, Harlé & Cie.	1890 - 1910	1890	1910	26 Avenue de Suffren, Paris, France		Replaced Sautter Lemonnier
Wilhelm Weule	1896 - now	1896	now	Im Schleeke 40, Goslar, Germany		Still making Fresnel Lenses
Barbier Bénard et Turenne	1897 - 1901	1897	1901	82 Rue Curial, Paris, France		Replaced Barbier et Bénard (Also known as F. Barbier & Cie.)
AGA	1899 - 1985	1915	1985	24 Halleflundregatan, Gothenburg, Sweden		Maker of acetylene related equipment and pressed glass lenses
BBT	1901 - 1981	1901	1965	82 Rue Curial, Paris, France		BBT became the mark of Barbier Bénard & Turenne
Macbeth-Evans	1910 - 1936	1910	1936	Pittsburgh, USA		Bought out by Corning Glass in 1936
Harlé & Cie.	1910 - 1915	1910	1915	26 Avenue de Suffren, Paris, France		Sautter's name was removed and Harlé began using just his name
Anciens Etablissements Sautter - Harlé	1915 - 1969	1915	1965	26 Avenue de Suffren, Paris, France		The firm became incorporated under the old name
Alfonso Curci e Figli	? - 1920			Nalpes, Italy		Opificio Industriale e Fonderia di Bronzo, Fabbrica Nazionale di Orologi da Torre, Fari e Fanali Lenticolari
Nippon Koki Kogyo	1919 - now	1920	now	290 Shimo Hiramai Saiwai-ku, Kawasaki, Japan		Ground prisms for glass Fresnel lenses still have prism grinders
Iida Koki	1921 - 1926?	1921	1926?	Yokohama, Japan		
Japan Lighthouse Office, later Japan Coast Guard	1925 - 1948	1925	1948	Yokohama, Japan		Made glass Fresnel lenses
Yokohama Hyoshiki	1926? - ?	1926?	?	Yokohama, Japan		Replaced Iida Koki
Taiyo Kikai Seisakusyo	1947 - now	1947	1980s	1 Nishi Hiranuma-cho Nishi-ku, Yokohama, Japan		Ground prisms for glass Fresnel lenses now make plastic lenses
Japan Coast Guard	1948 - now					
Taura Lens Factory	1948 - 1972	1948	1969	Yokosuka, Japan		Replaced Japan Lighthouse Office
Center for Experimental Laboratories - Japan	1972 - 1991	none	none	Yokohama, Japan		Replaced Taura Lens factory
Center for Experimental Laboratories - Japan	1991 - now	none	none	1156 Izumi-cho Tachikawa-shi Toyko, Japan		Replaced former Yokohama center
Kyowa Koki	1950? - ?	1950	?	Mishima-Shi Shizuoka-Ken, Japan		Merged with Nippon Koki Kogyo
Gakunan Koki	1950? - ?	1950	?	Yokohama, Japan?		Made 4th order lens in 1950
Stone-Chance	1954 - 1977	1954	1965	Crawley, England		Replaced Chance Brothers no lenses were made of glass just acrylic
Vega Industries	1972 - now	1972	now	Wellington, New Zealand		Makes small acrylic lenses and other navigation aids
Pelangji International	? - now	?	now	Lowestoft, England		Makes small acrylic lenses and other navigation aids
CIT Alcatel	1981 - now	none	none	Paris, France		Purchased BBT in 1981 and merged BBT into its business in 1984
GISMAN	1985 - now	none	none	85 Avenue de Neuilly, Paris, France		The Navigation Aids portion of CIT Alcatel - BBT becomes GISMAN
A. B. Pharos Marine	1985 - 1989	none	none	77 High Street, Brentford, England		Maker of aids to navigation, spun off from AGA
Pharos Marine - Automatic Power Inc	1989 - now	none	none	77 High Street, Brentford, England		Maker of aids to navigation, merged with Automatic Power
Carmanah	1996 - now	none	none	Victoria, British Columbia, Canada		Maker of aids to navigation mainly the LED styles