

'Tail lamp'

Litterae parvulae enim lampas.

Ehu oculi mei infelici sunt!

You may recall that I recently occupied three days of lockdown by making a 1/8scale guard's hand lamp.

On looking at the full sized item, I had decided not to copy the letters 'L.N.E.R.' that identified it as the property of that railway company, since they scaled out at 1.5 mm high. The other day, lockdown continuing, I was feeling particularly strong so thought that I would try to make these vestigial embellishments.

When making letters for nameplates etc. my method is to fabricate, silver soldering the various elements together to create the letter in question. At 1.5 mm, I found that I couldn't cut solder fine enough. (Less is more, you understand!) After a little head scratching I reached a decision to file the end of the solder, gather a little of the detritus and mix it with some flux. This was applied to the offending joint.

A whole afternoon was devoted to the manufacture of the four letters. The L was not too onerous, but the others invited the invention of many new swear words! Eventually I had a full set of letters, and thought it would be best if they were in a box for safekeeping. Selecting my best set of surgeon's tweezers I transferred the L, N, and E, but on picking up the R - I sneezed. Imagine my happiness when the R then proved to be conspicuous by its absence!

More new swear words and a new letter made, but I've now got the first one cornered. I know that it's in the workshop somewhere!

Je parle latin 'comme une vache espagnole', and I respectfully request sick leave! *

Cross-eyed of Tibshelf.

Alan Macdonald

* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LOy2GuaP8Mo>

