

Wolf Carbide Lamp from Poland

by Dave Johnson

The well-known firm of Friemann & Wolf manufactured their mine lamps at facilities other than their headquarters in Zwickau, Saxony, Germany. Among their production facilities was a plant in Katowice, Poland. Katowice is located in the coal producing region of Upper Silesia. Prior to World War II there were German and Polish portions of Upper Silesia. Katowice was located just two kilometers from the German border with Poland. After World War II all of Upper Silesia became part of Poland.

Wolf lamps with the oval Katowice tags are rarer than other lamps and date to the 1920s. The beautiful brass carbide hand lamp with a Wolf Katowice tag pictured here has a unique deep-dish threaded reflector unlike most lamps of this style which have a reflector that slides onto a bracket, and is usually missing. This absolutely mint lamp measures 5 1/4" tall to the top of the water chamber and is 3 7/8" in diameter at the base. The reflector is 4 3/8" in diameter and 1 3/4" deep.



Side and rear views of Polish Wolf hand lamp.

Also of interest is a unique tip cleaner that came attached to this lamp. It is made of machined brass and screws together to protect the wire brush when not in use (see photo). This tip cleaner is covered in machined knurling and is more substantially made than any American tip cleaner. The brush portion screws out of the holder which stays attached to the lamp to prevent loss, a very interesting lamp accessory.



Thanks to Detlev Seel for the Katowice information.