

Draeger Electric Mine Lamp

by Dave Johnson

The Draeger Oxygen Apparatus Co. of Pittsburgh, PA was the American distributor for the Draeger mine lamps produced in Germany. While Draeger was known, and still is known, for its' breathing apparatus used in mine rescue and equipment used in the medical field, they were one of the early firms producing electric mine lamps. According to a 1918 Draeger advertisement they produced the "only mine rescue apparatus made and assembled under one management in America by the same men who make the parts".



This cast aluminum Draeger electric hand lamp measures 7 7/8" tall, excluding the hook and the base is 2 3/4" in diameter. The glass lens is 3/4" thick at the center. It has a brass on/off knob that turns 1/4 turn for on and off. Both the threaded base and the threaded lens holder have a key lock mechanism like those found on safety lamps to keep the lamp from being opened underground. This lamp operated on a 2 volt rechargeable battery and has "2 Volt" cast in the side of the casing. Also cast into the base, next to the lock, is "Made in Germany". Obviously this lamp was made in Germany and sold in the U.S. The address on the embossed brass name tag is 422 First Ave. Pittsburgh, PA which dates this lamp to before World War I, the later address was Penn Ave & Hay St. Wilksburgh Station, Philadelphia. In my estimation this is an extremely nice example of an early cast aluminum electric handlamp.

