

THE UNDERGROUND LAMP POST

- MINERS WERE THE FIRST ECOLOGISTS -



Vol. VI, No. 4

Spring, 1995

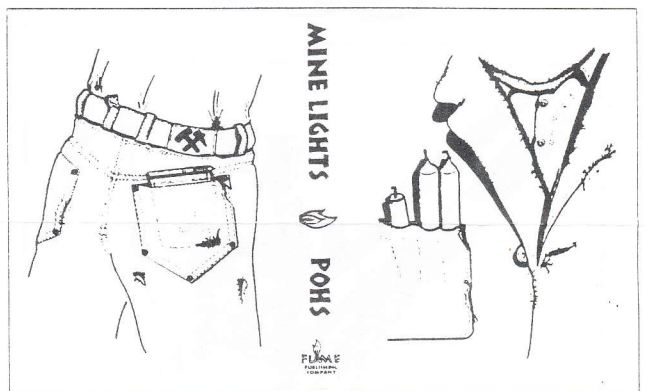
The Underground Lamp Post, devoted to old mine lamps, carbides, and candleholders. Mini-editor: Henry Pohs, 4537 Quitman St., Denver, Colorado, 80212

HOORAY . . . THE BOOK IS FINALLY DONE . . . HALLELUIA . . . PRAISE THE LORD!

Finally, after so many frustrating delays, our "big new book," as it has come to be known, is now available from our Flame Publishing Company. A description and specifications are on page five of this issue of the Lamp Post and an order form and instructions are on page six.

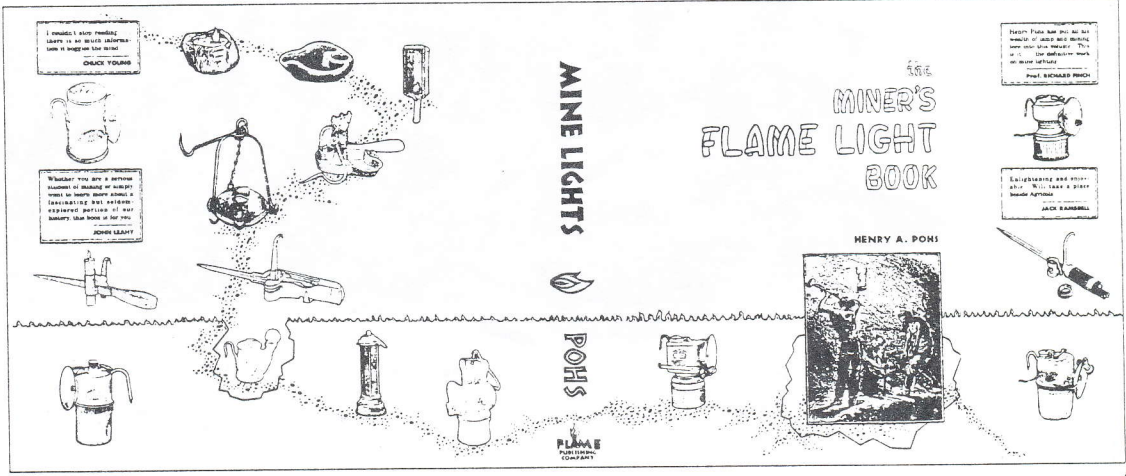
Most of our readers know of the slow genesis of this book, but there is another dimension . . . the philosophy behind the form and content of the book. We always were aware of the limited interest in the subject of old mine lights and that commercial publishers would be more interested in quantity than in perceived quality. However, we were convinced that once the manuscript was written and all the photos and illustrations were assembled, which took some 30-plus years, the book should be made available for the many who had expressed interest and encouragement. When this finally resulted in 3700-plus illustrations to complement the 250,000-word text, we still wanted everyone to enjoy it all. By doing all the production work ourselves including book design, page layout with computer software, specialized graphics, proofreading, indexing and final production of the full-page linotronic film negatives, we suspect that our 3625-plus computer hours have saved over \$100,000 in publishing costs. It took us over two years of work at that computer!

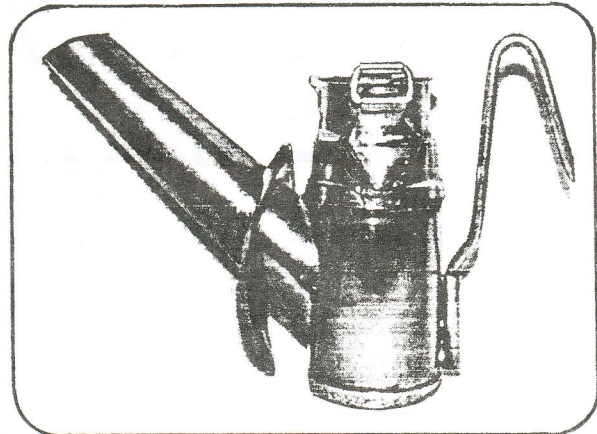
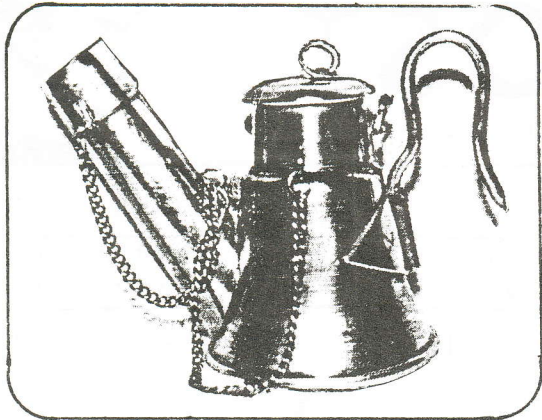
With computer rental, proof print costs, final film negative expenses, plus the printing and binding costs, we still have a home-mortgage-size loan to pay off. We must now complete the publishing process by selling enough books by ourselves to pay it all off. Please tell your friends. Thank you all.



Above - A reduced copy of the back, spine and front hard cover of the new book. Colors: orange figures and lettering on denim cloth. Size: approximately 11.25 in. (285.75 mm) x 17.5 in. (444.5 mm).

Right - A reduced copy of the paper dust cover for the new book. It is shown here unfolded. Colors are: yellow top; red bottom; black figures; red title lettering. Size is approximately 11.25 in. (285.75 mm) x 27.0 in. (685.8 mm).





LAMP-A-LERT - The merchants are always with us. The two oil wick cap lamps shown at the left have been widely publicized as "unique," as "one-of-a-kind," as the "finest examples ever seen," and have appeared in several journals and catalogs. They are, indeed, fine examples of workmanship. The work, however, is in modern factories which turn out thousands of these non-unique items. The third illustration below tells another part of the story. It is from a current souvenir catalog which offers hundreds of reproductions and specially designed items.

When produced in quantity, the laws of supply and demand should hold down prices. For the whole story and a current catalog, write to: MOUNTAIN IMAGES, 1477 Lone Pine Road, Marianna, Pennsylvania, 15345. Tell them that, "You saw it in the Lamp Post."

This brings up the term "fake" which is so often loosely used in collecting circles to describe something which has been recently made or manufactured. The colloquial dictionary definition of "fake" is . . . a counterfeit or imitation presented as genuine with fraudulent intent. There is no fraud here . . . these items

758 Die Stassfurter Kugel 762 wird wegen der besonders harmonisch wirkenden Wand-Kombination serienmäßig, ohne Preisaufschlag, mit dem rechts abgebildeten S-Wandhaken **758** geliefert.

1362 Öllampe STASSFURTER KUGEL aus dem Salzbergbau, 10 cm hoch, Form in einem Stück absolut dicht und mit 650 g extra schwer gegossen.

1338 RIESENBERGERS-HÄCKELMINI, 40 cm lang, massiv Messing poliert, Häckelblatt handpoliert, mit 2 S-Wandhaken komplett, als Wanddekoration und als repräsentative und stützrechte Aufhängung für bis zu 5 kleine Grubenlampen geeignet.

1262 COLORADO-KOPFSCHELLE UM 1880 in Nordamerika gebrauchte Hüllampe für Ölbrand, extra lange Dochtstange mit Tropfmanschette und Breitdocht, Höhe 10 cm, 150 g

1062 ENGLISCHE KOPFSCHELLE UM 1890 aus Northumberland, 10 cm hoch, Breitdocht, Verschluss-Kappe an Kette mit Dochtstift, wechsell. die Lampennummer

1162 geschlossen

1162 MANSFELDER DOBEL-KOPFSCHELLE UM 1900, Nachbau eines berühmten und typischen Vorkriegsmodells der zur Ölrückgewinnung weiterentwickelten Hüllampe mit 2 Tapfen, Trichter, Dochtstange und Zink-Filter, Trichterhöhe 9 cm, 160 g, Dochtstift an Kette, Docht, Beschreibung

862 Öllampe RHEINISCHE HANDSCHELLE, 950 g

1263 MITTELDEUTSCHER ÖLFROSCH - einem bekannten Original aus dem Bochumer Bergbaumuseum in allen Details sorgfältig nachgebildet, kostbare handgeflochtene Draht-Kette, Größe 11 cm, 500 g

962 Öllampe SÄCHSISCHE ZEHRLAMPE ca. 1100 g

1109 TÖNNCHEN-KARBIDLAMPE UM 1920 (Hülllampe), beruhteste kleine Karbidlampe, Brenndauer 3-4 Stunden Flügelschrauben-Bogenverschluss, regulierbare Wasserzufuhr, aufsteckbarer Reflektor 6,3 mm ø, Orig. Brenner, Höhe ohne Haken 16 cm, Trichter 8 cm, 500 g

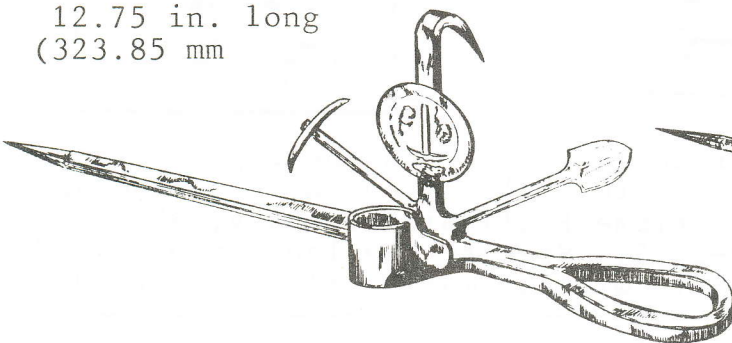
Für die Wanddekoration der im Bild vorgestellten berühmten Kopf- und Handlampen in kleiner Original-Größe, die die Sammlung historischer und funktionsfähiger Grubenlampen aus handgebräutetem Messing abrunden, paßt der S-Haken (Modell **758** zu DM 3,-) oder das Riesenbergs-Häckel Mini Modell **1338**.

are presented for just what they are . . . souvenirs. No claim is made for antique or ancient usage. So, we can appreciate them as excellent modern reproductions, each worthy of, 1) whatever value any individual collector may assign to them, or, 2) the choice of the "antiques only" collector who would choose to ignore them. They would become a "fake" when one individual would misrepresent one of these items to another as an antique, aged artifact and would conclude a sale at a high value based on that misrepresentation.

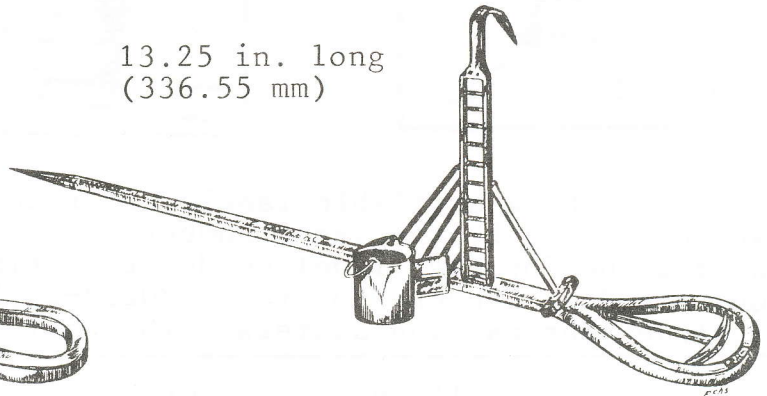
The two candlesticks shown below are good examples of these concepts. The stick on the left is quite a bit more cruder than the other . . . fire cut iron, ground edges and a stamped, copper pan. Made by both Charlie Moody in Central City, Colorado, and Russel Flaherty in Nederland, Colorado, this example brought about \$4.00 from the tourist trade in 1950-1960. Try to find one now! Inflated prices are paid by even the serious collector who wishes to have an example of a modern reproduction in his collection.

The candlestick on the right, however, is a fine example of more than a modern blacksmith's expertise. A one-of-a-kind treasure, it was also made about 1950 by E. G. Lawrence, then mayor of Nederland, Colorado, and a former machinist at the Wolf Tongue Mine near Nederland. Most collectors would offer a premium value to add this prize to their collection of authentic candlesticks. Here again, supply (only one ever made) and demand would raise the value.

12.75 in. long
(323.85 mm)



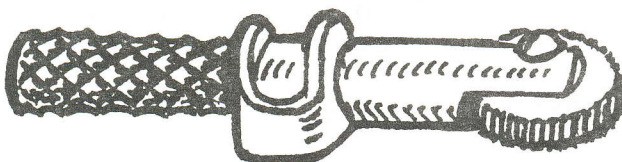
13.25 in. long
(336.55 mm)



Neither of these candleholders should be called "fakes." Aren't they indeed "real"? They simply are what they are . . . new or old . . . good or bad examples of an old time smith or a modern model maker. After all, it is each collector's own choice what he/she wants in his/her collection and how much value any item is worth.

Another new book- Tony Oldham has sent the following notice. New mining book from Germany: Offenes Grubengeleucht des Sauerlandes by Dr. Walter Tanke, 1994. 114 pp, 116 illus, SB describes the Cuckoo, Frog and Garnet mining lamps made in the Sauerland region of Germany. This is a picture book of open flame, oil and carbide lamps to which I have added a few words in English. Available from Tony Oldham, Rhychydwr, Crymych, Dyfed, SA41 3RB, United Kingdom. Price \$20.00 post free. Tony is a reliable book dealer.

Wants list - Wayne Owens, Rt 2, Box 9, Haysi, Virginia, 24256, writes as follows: I would like to know where I may obtain a price guide or catalog listing carbide lamps. Any help would be appreciated. I also need help finding a good metal squib box for my personal collection.



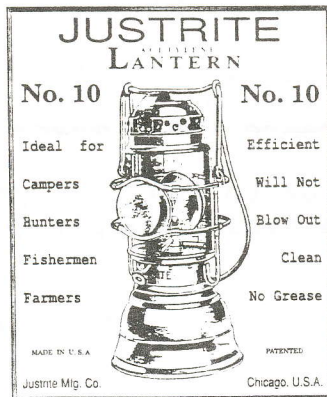
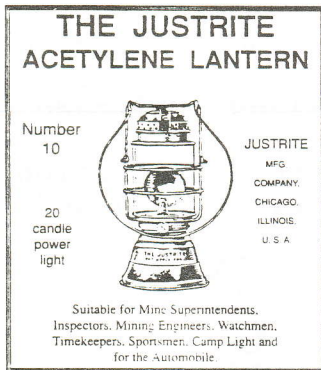
Editor - Your mini-editor needs a flint lighter unit as shown here to fit out a PATHFINDER carbide cap lamp. Write to the address on the masthead or call 303-455-3922 any time. Many thanks.

Labels for Justrite Tins - Read this carefully! Authentic, modern, computer-enhanced, REPRODUCTION labels for Justrite carbide engineer's lantern tins are now available for a small consideration. Very few of the original paper lables on these Justrite tin containers have survived the decades . . . poor paper, water, poor glue, humidity, rust, no protection. So, why not brighten up your Justrite tins with new labels?

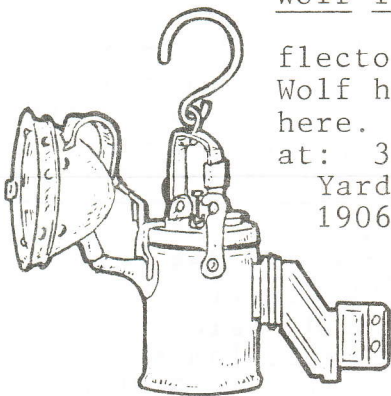
Label No. 10
Lamp: ● Justrite No. 10
● No lens
Label 6 in. (152.4 mm)
x 7 in. (177.8 mm)

Label No. 1010
Lamp; ● Justrite No. 10
● Bulls eye lens
Label 6 in. (152.4 mm)
x 7.5 in. (190.5 mm)

Label No. 12
Lamp: ● Justrite No. 12
● Bulls eye lens
● Internal igniter
Label 6 in. (152.4 mm)
x 8 in. (203.2 mm)



The three available labels are reduced in size in the reproductions above. Order by the label numbers (10,1010 or 12) from the top line above. Send \$5.00 for each label needed to: Flame Publishing Company, 4537 Quitman St., Denver, Colorado, 80212-2535. Specify the label number and include your mailing address. The labls will be mailed flat, postpaid USPS.



Wolf lens - Arthur Hahn needs a reflector-lens unit for a Wolf hand lamp as shown here. Write or call him at: 38 Sutphin Pines, Yardley, Pennsylvania, 19067. (h) 251-295-8036 (w) 215-752-2845. This drawing was taken from a catalog illustration. The real thing may be hard to find.

Annual meetings - John Coons hosted the annual meeting (26th annual by our count) of the Colorado-Denver-Mid-west-Mountain area lamp and mine "things" collectors last January. John is always a great host and we publically thank him. Friends from as far as Lead, So. Dak. were in attendance. They will hold their 2nd annual Convention August 25-27 in Lead. Write Kristi Schillinger, 610 W. Addie, Lead, SD, 57754 for info.

Thank you - Again this issue of the Lamp Post is the result of the kindness and thoughtfulness of many readers. We continue to be very grateful to all who have sent information and postage to complement the benevolent printing in Tennessee. This time we thank readers from the following locations: Wyoming, Virginia, Kentucky, West Virginia, Colorado, Washington, Canada, Missouri, Switzerland, Arkansas, Arizona, Illinois, California, Germany, Florida, Utah, Texas, France, Belgium, Nevada and Kansas. Thank you all so very much.

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AUGUST, 1995

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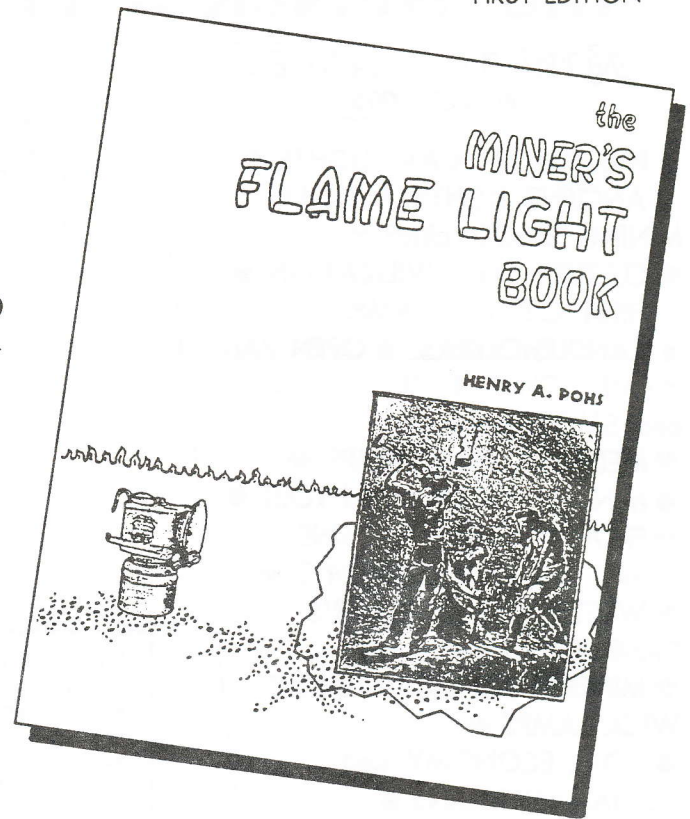
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