

THE UNDERGROUND LAMP POST



- MINERS WERE THE FIRST ECOLOGISTS -

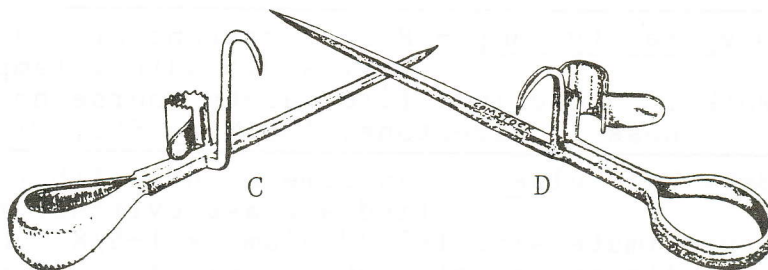
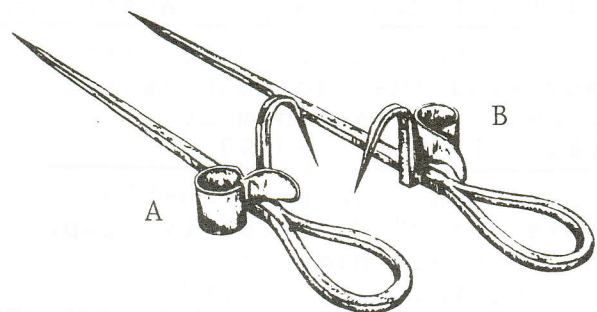
Vol. VI, No. 5

Fall, 1995

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



Candlestick - Center-line candlesticks with the candle thimble on the center line of the shaft are far less common than the conventional miner's candlesticks with the candle thimble on the side. The unmarked candlestick illustrated above recently appeared in a private collection. The stick is heavily rusted and pitted, yet still retains suitable temper. The shaft is formed from approximately 0.375 in. (9.53 mm) square stock; 1.5 in. (38.1 mm) diameter loop; 4.5 in. (114.3 mm) long; 0.125 in. (3.18 mm) diameter wire thimble x 1.125 in. (28.58 mm) tall.



Which "Hand" - Inquiries continue . . . the question still stays with us . . . what is a "right hand" or a "left hand" miner's candlestick? Everyone seems to have their own opinion because there are no conventional terms . . . no absolute reference authority. The closest we can get to convention is to say, "Hold the candlestick by the handle with the shaft pointing away from the person." Then one must specify either right or left for either the thimble or the hook. Refer to the illustrations above and the table below to clarify the position of the thimble (1) and the hook (2). So much for convention.

But, look what happens to column (3) due to the actual design of each candlestick . . . the operating hand and thumb for A and B follow the position of the hook while the operating hand for C and D do not follow the hook position due to the configuration of the thimble and thumb piece.

Conclusion: When using the terms "right hand" and "left hand" to describe a candlestick, we must distinguish which feature we are defining, the hook or the thimble. And, then we can also add "right" or "left" for the hand-thumb operational feature. Given the convention of pointing the shaft away from the person, the rest, agree or disagree, is opinion.

	THIMBLE (1)	HOOK (2)	(3) Which hand to open?
A	L	R	R
B	R	L	L
C	L	R	R
D	R	L	R

Another new book - We have received from France an excellent 144-page book which features beautiful color photographs of mostly French and English flame safety lamps. Les Lamps des Mine by Michel C. Dupont is printed in French but, most conveniently, has English translation for the photos and illustrations. Fully 70% of the lamps in the more than 230 color photographs are from rarely seen private collections. The book is 9.5 in. (241.3 mm) x 12.75 in. (323.85 mm) in size; softbound but we believe that there are hardbound copies. ISBN number is 2-909570-10. For more information contact:

Michel Dupont, 2 Place Albert Londres, 75013 Paris, France or
Edi Lorie Recto, 72 Cours Fauriel, 42100 St-Etienne, France

Grubenlampen 4 - Just received . . . an announcement flyer for 4. Intern. Grubenlampen Sammlertreffen (Mine Lamp Collector's Meeting) in Wilsndorf, Germany, Saturday, June 1, 1996. Some U. S. collectors have attended this show/sales/trade convention in previous years. For more information contact:

Zander-Schardt, Auf den Hof 1, 57520 Emmerzhausen, Germany
Phone: 02743-2709

Australian lamps - Graham McCrohon writes that he is sitting on a fair bit of swapping material, lamps, etc. Anyone interested should send for a list:

Graham McCrohon, 8A Robey Crescent, Coal Point 2283, N S W, Australia

Davy safety lamp - Ross Firestone writes that he would like to acquire a Davy style safety lamp, any kind just so long as it works, to use in a fire safety course he teaches. Contact him at:

Ross F. Firestone, 188 Mary St., Winnetka, Illinois, 60093

Baby Wolf glass - Can someone help Albert Hockel? He has been unable to find a glass cylinder for his "Baby" Wolf safety lamp; approximate size 1-5/8" diam. x 1-5/8" high. Contact him at:

Albert Hockel, 4503 Bonnie Ave., Springdale, Arkansas, 72762

Baldwin carbide cap lamps - Charles Frase writes that he has always been intrigued by the many variations of early Baldwin cap lamps. He has an unmarked version Baldwin-type that has many differences from the usual "The Baldwin Lamp". The unmarked lamp has these differences: tank size; water door size and hinge direction; tank threads - 4 verses 3; different radius on the base at the gasket. The measured size differences are tabulated as follows in millimeters:

Feature on lamp	Unmarked lamp	"The Baldwin" lamp	"The Baldwin Lamp"
Tank top diameter	55	54	53
Pinch above threads	31	29	30
Right below threads	39	37	37
Base diameter	51	52	51
Top height - top of dome to gasket skirt	57	55	53
Base height	45	44	44
Water door hole - diameter	18	20	20

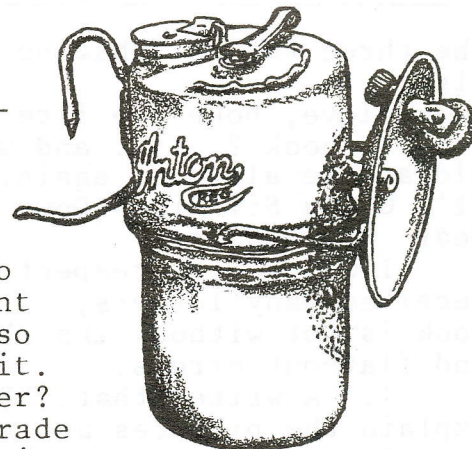
Write to: Charles Frase, 1015 Noelton Lane, Nashville, Tennessee, 37204

Blowlamps and soldering irons - Philippe Touillet is anxious to correspond with American collectors of blowlamps and soldering irons . . . trade information, catalog copies and even lamps.

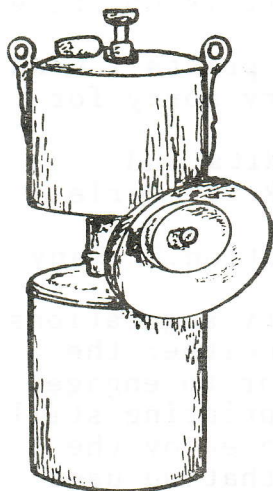
Write to: Philippe Touillet, 1817 Chemin de Provence, 06510 Gattieres, France. Phone 93291816.

Lamp-A-Lert - Errol Christman, recognized as the dean of U. S. miner's light collectors, has been more than kind and hospitable at his home near Grass Valley, California. In addition to sharing his knowledge about collecting and miner's lights, he has hosted many large group meetings at his collecting base, a museum in itself. After one of these meetings some time ago, one of Errol's favorite carbide cap lamps, illustrated at the right, was discovered to be missing. Thought to be one-of-a-kind in current collections, the ANTON brass carbide cap lamp is so recognizable that no one else would dare display it. So, why would someone try to hide it from its owner? The ANTON, with its distinctive raised, cursive trade mark, is all brass, 3.5 in. (88.9 mm) tall, 2.125 in. (53.98 mm) in diameter, and has a 2.5 in. (63.5 mm) diameter reflector with soldered wire braces. Anyone who might ever see this lamp or know of its location is urged to notify Errol at:

Mr. Errol Christman, P.O. Box 313, Cedar Ridge, California, 95924
Phone: 916-273-3268



Another all-brass lamp - The unmarked, all-brass carbide hand lamp illustrated at the left has been spotted in a display case at the Mining and Railroad Museum in Helper, Utah. The unique feature is the double brass reflectors, function unknown. The lamp looks to be approximately 6.0 in. (152.4 mm) tall and 2.75 in. (69.85 mm) in diameter. The lamp looks well-made, but could be one of those mysterious home-made items. Can anyone add any information for our readers?

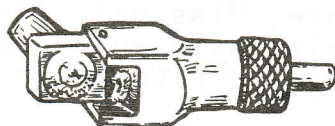
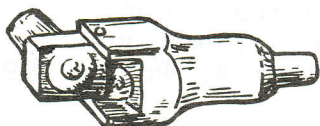


Powder flask - Among several photos submitted by Larry Click is the one at the right of a FANNON'S Safety Powder Flask. The galvanized tin flask is 8.5 in. (215.9 mm) tall and 6.5 in. (165.1 mm) in diameter. The holding handle has a thumb push-lever to open the top and a slip-on cap, probably

sized for powder measurement. Larry would like to know more about this flask. He also has a wants list and a trading list. Larry Click, 1021 No. Jefferson Street, Arlington, Virginia, 22205, phone 703-241-3748.



Bruner tip cleaners - Larry Click's photos also included a photo (subjects too small to xerox clearly) of two burner tip cleaners as illustrated below. One, lower left, looks like the SHANCO combination burner tip and cleaner wire which was supposed to take carbon deposits out of the tip orifice. The unit replaced the conventional tip. When the tip needed cleaning, the cleaner, with its plunger and wire, was swiveled over the burner orifice and in line with the hole. Depressing the small plunger advanced the attached spring-loaded wire into the orifice to clean it. Of course, the flame had to be relit. The unit at the left lacks the knurled retainer of the SHANCO unit. How was it manufactured?



Letters to the Mini-editor - William Allen White, the Kansas newspaperman beloved for his homespun wisdom, once listed the three things "that no one can do to the entire satisfaction of anyone else:

"Make love, poke the fire and run a newspaper." . . . a newsletter ?
 . . . a book ? . . . and who knows what else? I am now relearning that old adage all over again. So, in the words of the 1940s Ink Spots tune "I'm Gonna Sit Right Down and Write Myself a Letter."

Dear Mini-Editor,

I write with respect to my new book published last August. I have received many letters; I am thankful for all of the kind comments. The book is not without its share of typos, mistakes, opinions, assumptions and flat-out errors.

1. A writes that, "B got credit for some of mine. But I never did explain the pictures and sketches very well."

2. C writes that, "A few of my pictures were of others' lamps."

3. At least five pictures which were properly placed in my paper proofs were switched when the computer made the linotronic negatives for the printer. My computer mentor has no explanation for this.

4. Writers have inquired: Q. How many pictures, illustrations, etc., were retouched? A. All of them. Q. Why are some pictures fuzzy? A. That is what people sent me over the years . . . fuzzy photos, polaroids, xerox copies and some of my poor photos; the computer scanner is not nice to the color red in photos.

5. I was dismayed to be advised that some of the xerox prints I used were probably made from issues of Eureka! magazine. I am very sorry for that and have tried to apologize to those concerned.

6. I overlooked a major (to me) name in my Special Credits and Acknowledgement essays. This cannot be corrected for Allan R. Steuerle is now deceased.

7. Two correspondents question the term "private collection." Many world-wide publications use the term regularly.

In all of this some names have been called and some hasty suggestions have been made. These words have been forgiven, for I have neither the time, nor the inclination, nor the space to play name games or to engage in spitting contests. I have heard of books in their tenth printing still undergoing corrections. I hope that readers will continue to enjoy the new book and I wish that all of us could rediscover the fun that we used to find in passing on information to others about miner's flame lights.

lb:fl

Henry A. Pohs

National Museum of Coal Mining - Dr. C. T. Ledvina of Northeastern Illinois University in Chicago has sent information about the new National Museum of Coal Mining now being established. Anyone interested can write for information and a brochure . . . be assured that contributions are welcome:

The National Museum of Coal Mining, 69 Park Lane, Golf, Illinois 60029

Thank you - This issue of the Lamp Post brings a very special message of "thank you" to the many, many readers who have made phone calls and have sent encouraging letters this fall for both the new book and for this newsletter. Such outstanding support is more than appreciated. We also continue to be grateful to all who have sent information and postage to compliment the benevolent printing in Tennessee. The blue envelopes are from Denver. We thank readers for postage from the following locations: California, Nevada, Kansas, Germany, Arkansas, Colorado, New Mexico, Washington, Tennessee, Delaware, Missouri, Idaho, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Florida, Georgia, Canada, Wisconsin and Virginia. Thank you.

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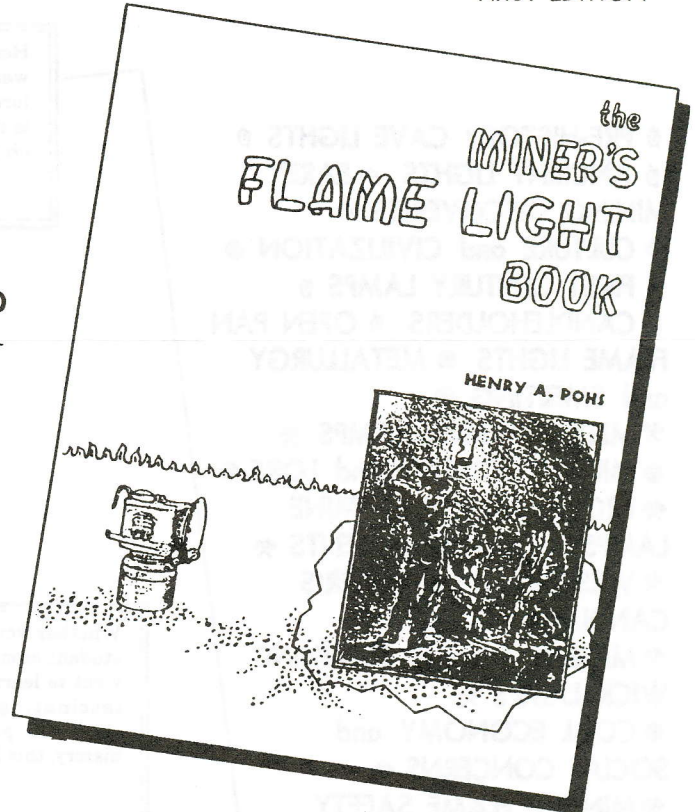
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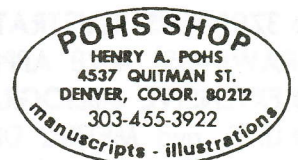
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May we send information to a friend?



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Enlightening and enjoyable. Will take a place beside Agricola.

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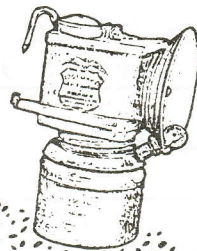
the MINER'S FLAME LIGHT BOOK

HENRY A. POHS



Whether you are a serious student of mining or simply want to learn more about a fascinating but seldom-explored portion of our history, this book is for you.

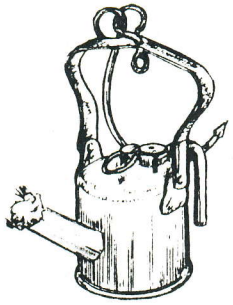
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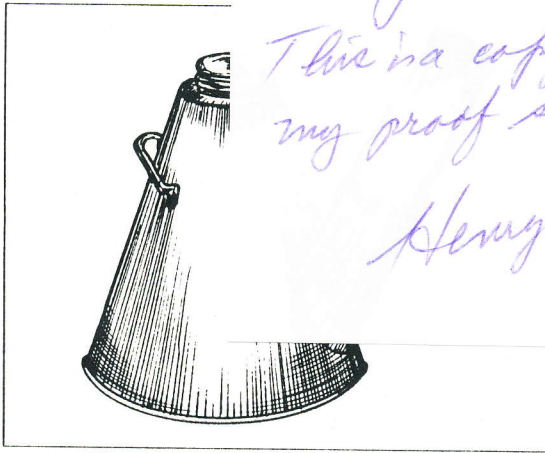
I couldn't stop reading . . . there is so much information it boggles the mind.

CHUCK YOUNG

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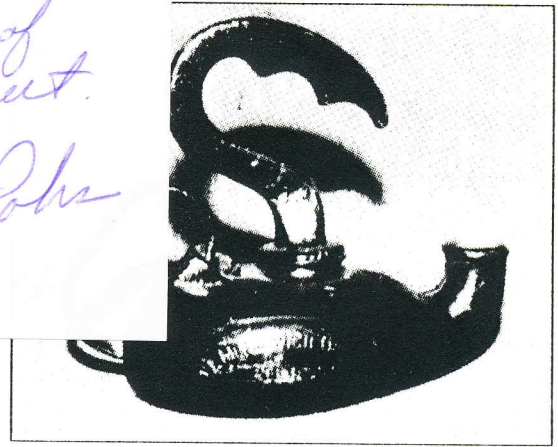


Oil wick lamp made from the water reservoir top of a DEWAR carbide hand lamp. Tony Moon collection.

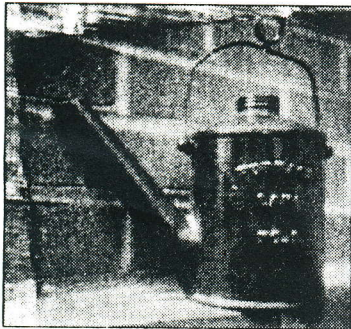


Above - Oil wick harness lamp for use with underground horses and mules. No markings; steel construction; ca. 1895. 4.75 in. (120.65 mm) tall, 3.25 in. (82.55 mm) diameter base, 1.75 in. (44.45 mm) diameter top, 5.0 in. (127.0 mm) long spout. Chuck Young collection. Illustration - H. Pohs.

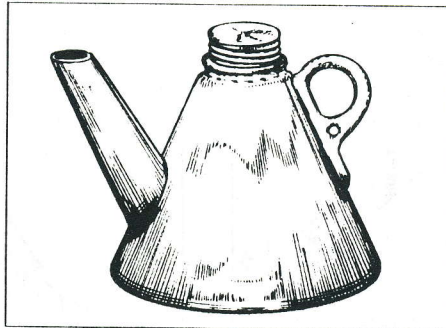
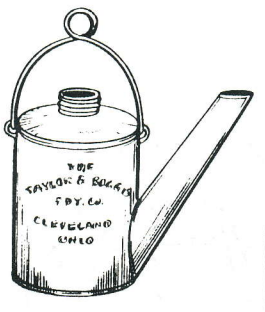
Tony
This is a copy of
my proof sheet.
Henry Pohs



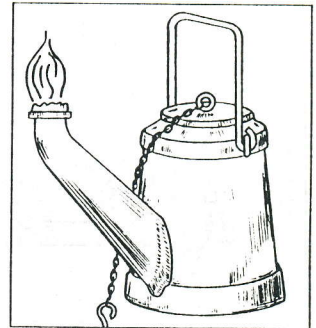
Above - Cast iron oil wick lamp from a Chilean nitrate mine. Marking: "MITROVICH HNOS IMPORTADOS IQIUQUS." The swan-necked bail-hook unscrews to serve as a fuel filler cap. The serrations under the hook allow the lamp to be tilted forward as the fuel supply is diminished. 7.0 in. (177.8 mm) tall over the hook. Pohs collection; photo - H. Pohs.



TAYLOR & BOGGIS No. 1 parting lamp; 6.0 in. (152.4 mm) tall. Both are sides shown.

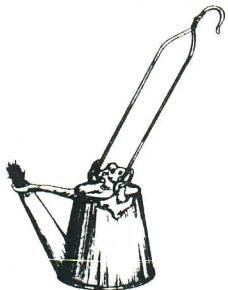


TAYLOR & BOGGIS No. 0 (sic) hand torch. 4.0 in. (101.6 mm) tall.

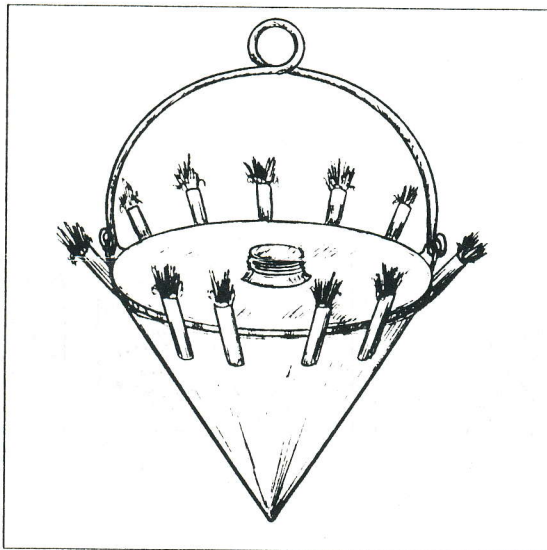


Kettle-type torch lamp; cast iron. Ca. 1850.

Below - Oil wick room or porch spout lamp; eleven spouts; no markings; ca. 1915. 10.0 in. (254.0 mm) diameter; 10.0 in. (254.0 mm) conical height. Howard Myhre collection; illustration - H. Pohs.



WALLPOLE No. 2 oil lamp; P. Wallpole, Mfr., Allegheny City, Pennsylvania. 5.0 in. (127.0 mm) tall font. Art Hebrank collection.



Below - A common American (Virginia state), large, oil wick hand lamp. Tin-plated, soldered fuel font; screw cap; large hand grip. 3.94 in. (100.0 mm) tall, 4.92 in. (125.0 mm) long, 1.57 in. (40.0 mm) wide, 5.9 in. (150.0 mm) spout length. This is an example of a simple domestic-type lamp used for underground mining. From Børkel, Des Bergmanns Geleucht. Illustration - H. Pohs.

