

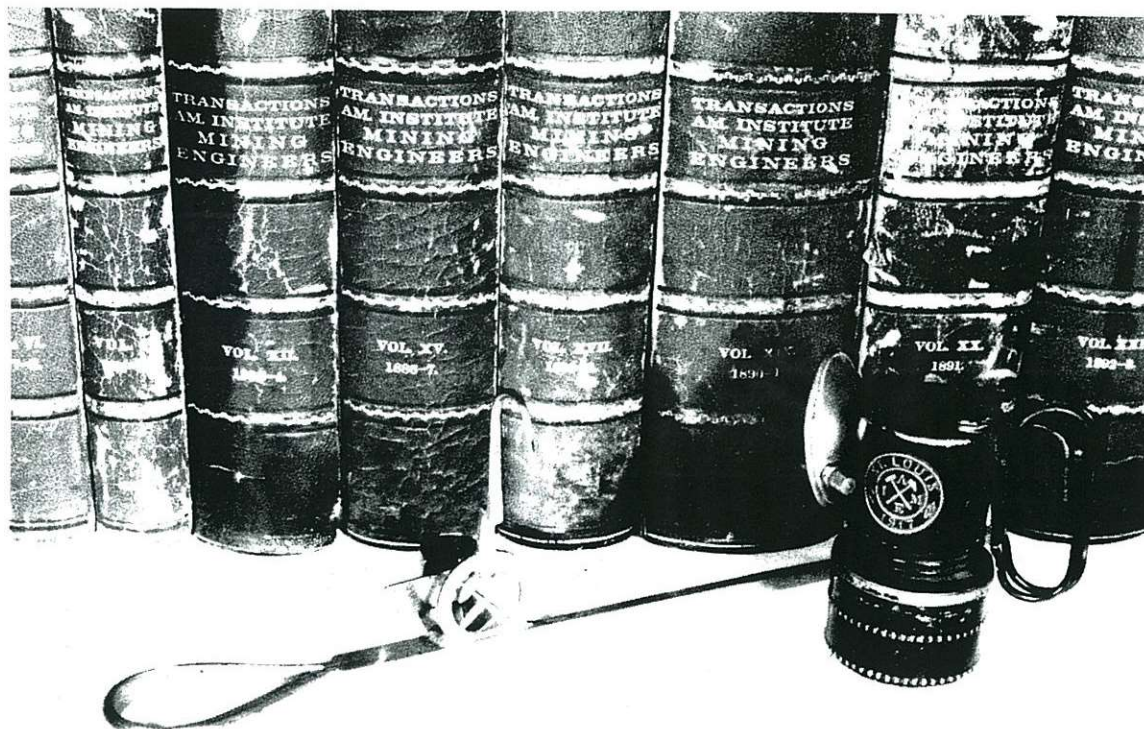
# ITEMS FROM THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF MINING AND METALLURGICAL ENGINEERS

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The American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers (AIME) was founded on May 16, 1871, in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. The purpose of the twenty-two founders was to further the knowledge of the members in mining and metallurgy. The AIME began publishing its *Transactions* in 1873. These volumes contained papers written by experts in their respective fields. The bulletin of the AIME was started in 1905, initially as a bi-monthly publication, but eventually as a monthly. In 1919, the bulletin was replaced by the magazine: *Mining and Metallurgy*.



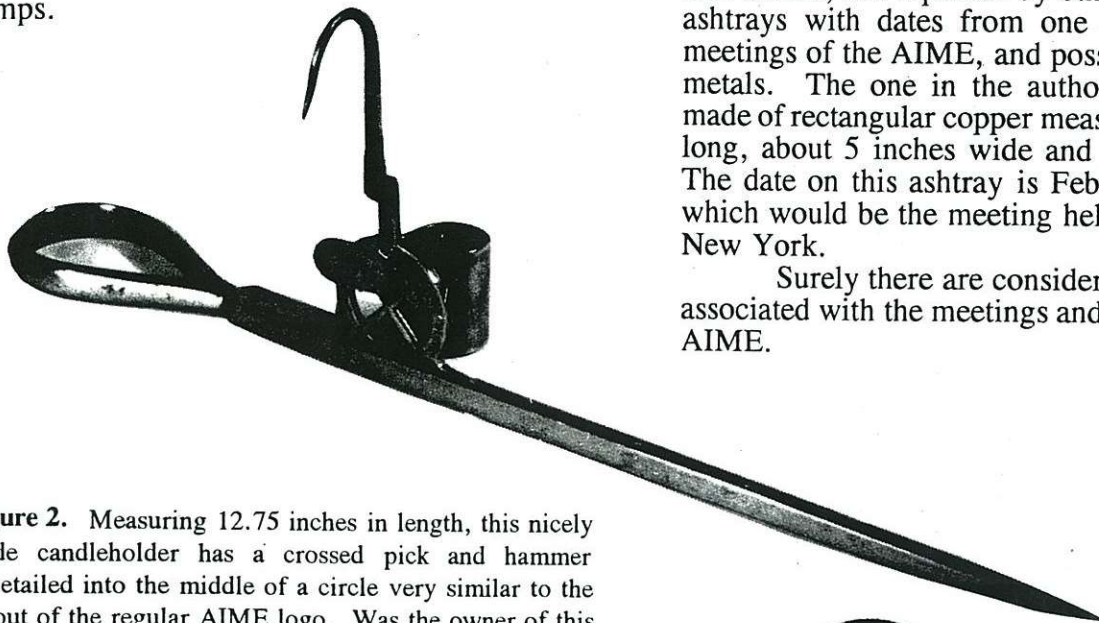
**Figure 1.** Perhaps the most well known AIME collectible is the Brite-Lite carbide lamp that commemorated the 115th meeting in October of 1917 in St. Louis, Missouri. While the Brite-Lite itself is not an extremely rare lamp, the version with the AIME tag on it has only a few examples known at this time. This lamp is 3.75 inches tall to the top of the water tank. It is a superintendents' style lamp equipped with a hat hook and folding hand handles. The AIME tag on the side of the water tank is 1.125 inches in diameter. (Author's collection)



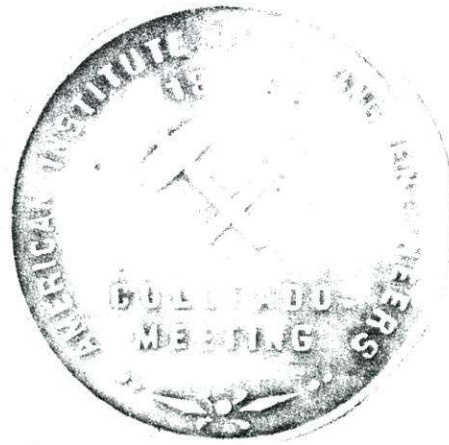
Perhaps the most famous member of the AIME was Herbert C. Hoover. Herbert Hoover was a world renowned mining engineer, who published a number of technical books including *Principles of Mining*. Together with Lou Henry Hoover, he translated Georgius Agricola's 1556 Latin mining manual *De Re Metallica* into English for the first time. He became the president of the AIME, and incidentally in case the reader has forgotten, also the thirty-first president of the United States of America.

The AIME continues to meet and publish to this day.

A number of items are known to collectors which are related to the activities of the AIME. Many of these are associated with the regular meetings of the organization. The common element in these items is the crossed pick and hammer logo of the AIME, somewhat reminiscent of the symbols so often seen on frog lamps.



**Figure 2.** Measuring 12.75 inches in length, this nicely made candleholder has a crossed pick and hammer dovetailed into the middle of a circle very similar to the layout of the regular AIME logo. Was the owner of this stick an engineer at a hard-rock mine or just a member of the AIME? (Author's collection)



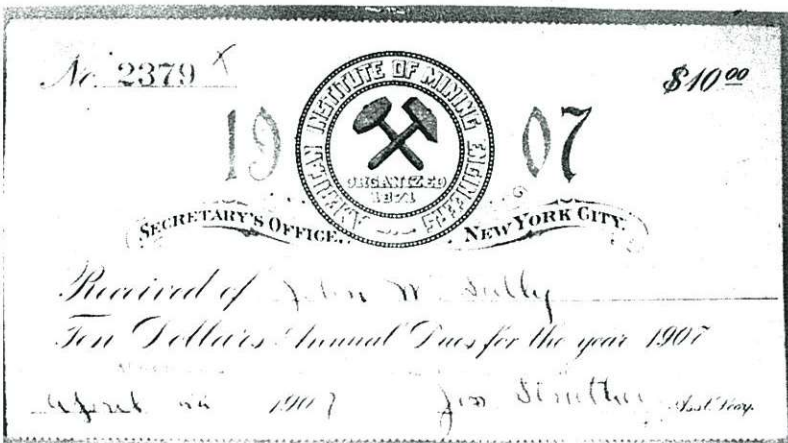
**Figure 3.** The aluminum token shown here measures one inch in diameter and is from the meeting held in Colorado in June of 1889. (Mark Bohannon collection)

Not shown, but reported by other collectors are ashtrays with dates from one or more of the meetings of the AIME, and possibly in different metals. The one in the author's collection is made of rectangular copper measuring 6.5 inches long, about 5 inches wide and .5 inches deep. The date on this ashtray is February 19, 1930, which would be the meeting held in New York, New York.

Surely there are considerable other items associated with the meetings and members of the AIME.



**Figure 4.** This lapel pin measuring .5 inches in diameter is brass on a blue enamel field. It was reportedly distributed at the Butte, Montana meeting in August of 1913. Note the design between the hammer and pick which appears to be either a derrick or some sort of headframe. (Author's collection)



**Figure 5.** The receipt shown here is self explanatory and measures 5.75 inches wide by 3 inches high. (Author's collection)