

The Pocahontas by Ted Bobrink

The Pocahontas is one of two known cap lamp brands whose name relates to the American Indian. While Universal Lamp Company was advertising the Arrow cap lamp, Shanklin Manufacturing countered with the Pocahontas. The manufacture and distribution of the Pocahontas was evidently short-lived as less than ten of these lamps are known to exist in collections.

The name Pocahontas is elegantly stamped across the top of the lamp. The other unique feature of the lamp is the small reflector brace that is permanently attached to the reflector with a rivet. The reflector is affixed to the gas tube with a conventional wing nut. Two patent dates, 11-26-14 and 9-19-16 are stamped in the top of the lamp to the right of the water door. These dates are identical to those on the two-date Guy's Dropper cap lamp.

The bottom and hat brace are conventional Guy's Dropper designs. The bottom is stamped "Manuf'd by Shanklin Mfg. Co., Springfield, Ill., USA" in incuse (recessed) lettering. Evidently, the Pocahontas was not supplied with a unique base, but with standard Guy's Dropper bottoms.

For those of you who are fortunate enough to own this rare lamp, we would appreciate hearing about any variations in your specimens. Did it come in a nickel plated version? Is the clip-in brace the only known type or did it also come with a soldered brace? We would also love to receive any advertising you may have for this lamp, especially if the date is known.

Type: Cap
Material: Brass
Rarity: Very rare, less than 10 known
Owner: Jim Steinberg

