

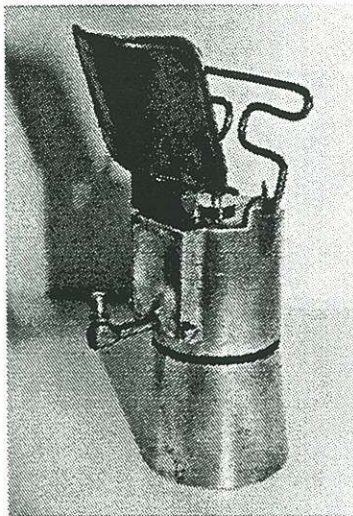
Cast Aluminum Lamps of England

Dave Johnson, Manfred Stutzer, Peter Appleton, and Mick Corbridge present information on an increasingly popular collectible: hand lamps of cast aluminum construction. This topic is further subspecialized to those of English manufacture.

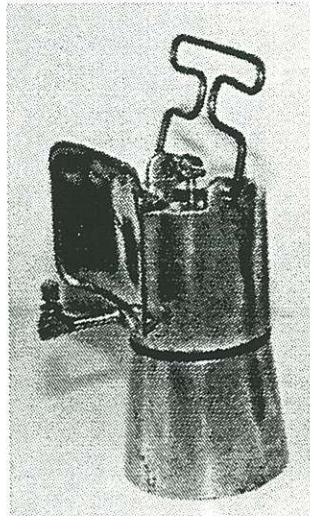
Thorn & Hoddle

by Mick Corbridge

I wanted to follow up on the short article in the last issue of *EUREKA!* on Thorn & Hoddle cast aluminum lamps, and to report a recent find relating to these lamps. The photos below show the same lamp that is in the article. It can be seen that the hinged reflector can be flipped up. With the reflector swung up you can make out two extra unused screws at the bottom of each side of the cast reflector.



Reflector flipped up.



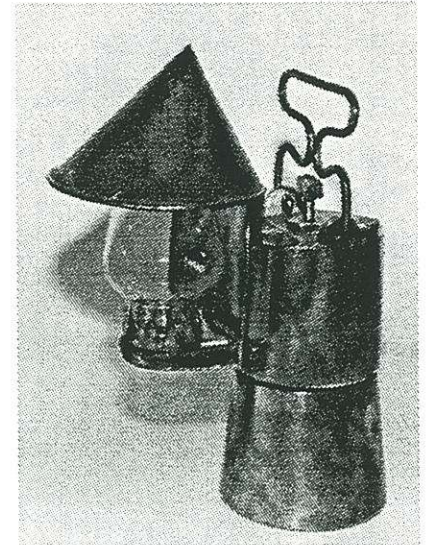
Reflector flipped down.

The use of these has been a bit of a mystery to me until recently. Whilst at the Wilnsdorf lamp fair last June, I met a French collector who had recently picked up yet another Thorn & Hoddle lamp in Liege. The upper right photo shows this lamp, (which I did manage to purchase from him), and as the lamp is a complete version of an obvious third version of this patent, you can see that the mystery screws hold a base support for the addition of a glass globe attachment. The 2 screws at the top of the cast reflector now not only hold the large tin plate reflector, but in this option now also hold the tin conical chimney hood.

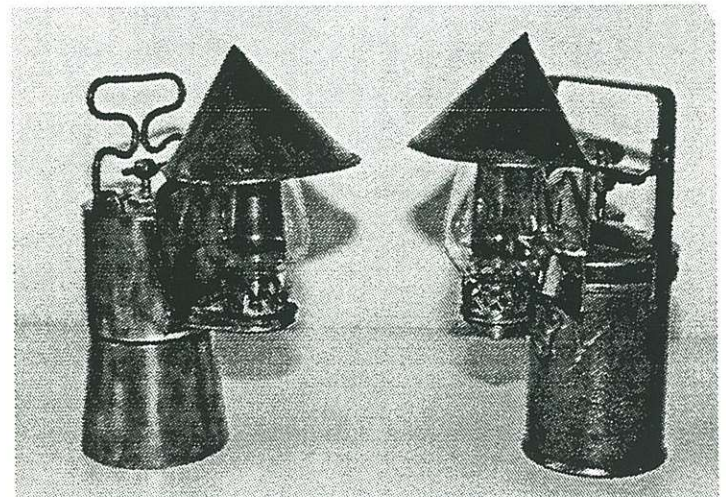
To me this is an interesting addition, as previously I only knew of Leeds Premier Lamps who manufactured a design similar to this.

In the photo below, the Leeds Premier is shown beside the Thorn & Hoddle. Among several collectors that I have corresponded with regarding the Premier version of this lamp

was Tony Moon who I knew has early Premier catalogs in his collection. Unfortunately this iron lamp does not appear to be listed in any catalogs that I have managed to get copies of, and so the name and model type for this lamp is still unknown to me. I know some American

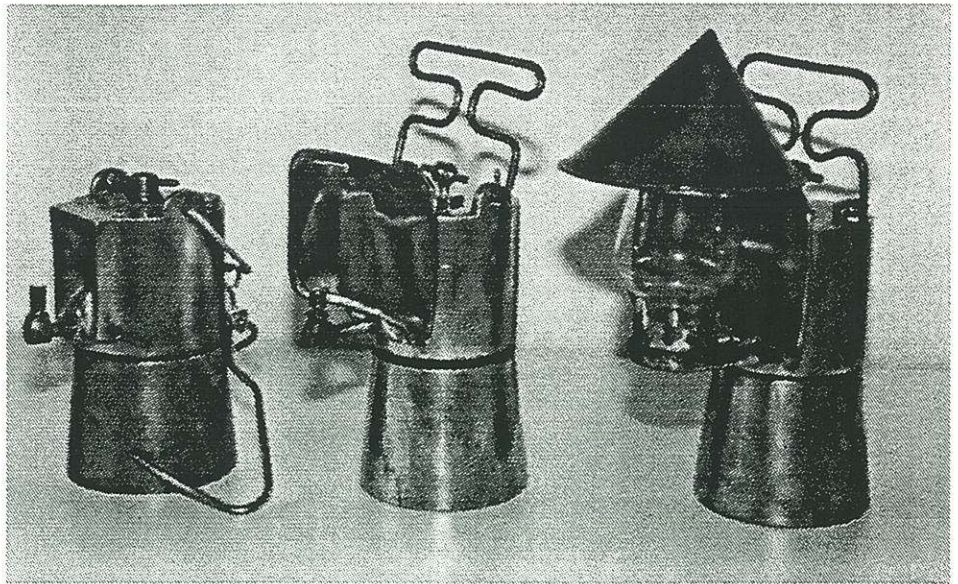


Third version of Thorn & Hoddle lamp, with chimney.



Thorn & Hoddle lamp (left) compared to a similar lamp made by Premier (right).

collectors call it the 'Crestella' lamp, but this name is the company logo name that appears on many models of Premier lamps . The last photo shows my three versions of the Thorn & Hoddle lamp, including the lamp without an attached reflector.



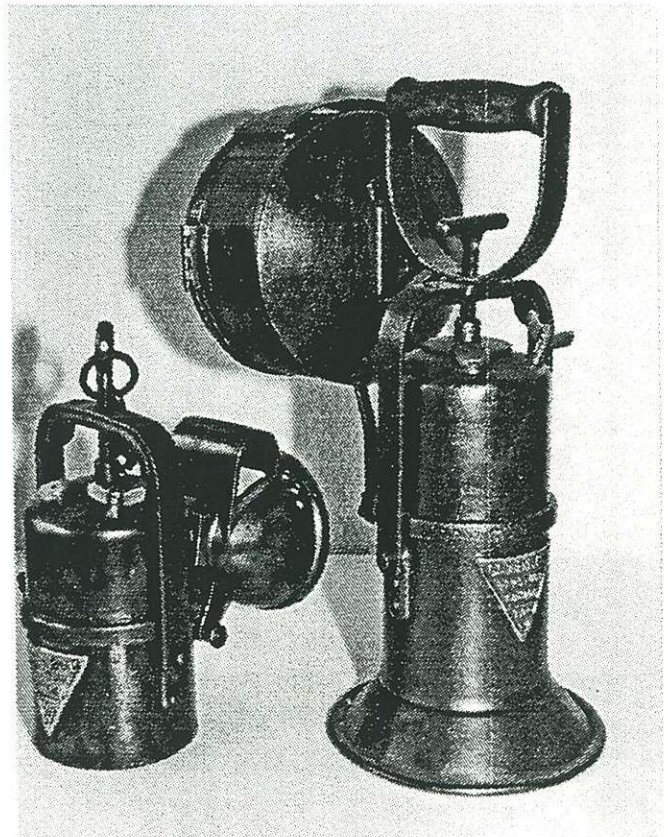
All three versions of the Thorn & Hoddle lamp are shown in line-up.

C. S. Milne

by Mick Corbridge

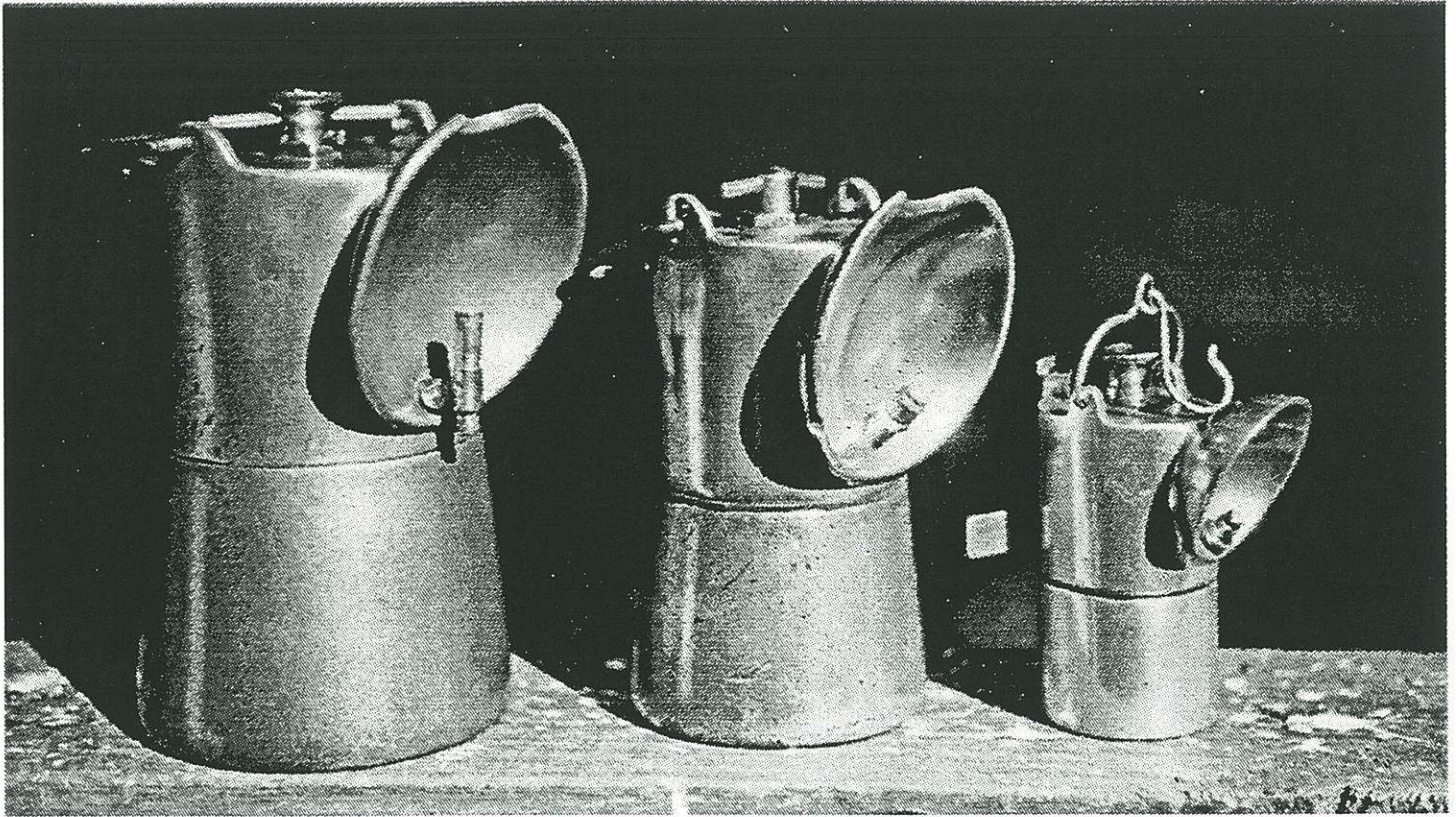
The photo below shows another English lamp which has a one-piece cast reflector hood . It is a type H1 lamp manufactured by C.S. Milne of Deptford, London. The hood which is supported on a brass bracket and locked by a thumb-screw bar at the base of the reflector is cast from, some type of aluminum.

Another interesting lamp that I have not seen any other example of is shown below next to its sister lamp. It is the C. S. Milne, type H5 - which has a tin plate hood with a wire grid flame protector across the front.



Allen-Liversidge Portable Acetylene Co. Ltd.

by Manfred Stutzer/Ludwigshafen, Peter Appleton/Wigston and David Johnson/Louisville



Three models of the "A.L." (Allen Liversidge) are shown. (Dave Johnson collection)

Over the years there have been several reports of early aluminum carbide lamps with the reflector cast as an integral part of the body. Similar lamps owned by collector friends had occupied us in seemingly endless speculation about their origin and make. As there appeared to be so many theories, none of which convinced us, we determined to try to find out more and reach some plausible conclusion.

The lamp I was most reminded of is in fact to be found in the Science Museum Collection/London. It has not been on public display for some time, however, it did appear in M. Dupont's book, *Des Lumieres dans la Nuit* (Lights in the Night), as being produced by a British firm in 1910. The Museum using what little information we had was not able to find any computer reference

as to where such a lamp was being stored in the reserve collection. There was no alternative but an extensive and time consuming manual search of the hard copy relating to Mining Lamps.

Luckily at about this point Mr. Dupont was able to send Peter a copy of the notes he made at the time he was researching for his book, which included the inventory number. However, when the Museum records were cross-checked they provided no more information. In fact the only information on file came from a single small card that at some time had accompanied the lamp when on display. But it did confirm the date, the maker and significantly that there were at least two sizes of the lamp. The smaller of the two being featured.

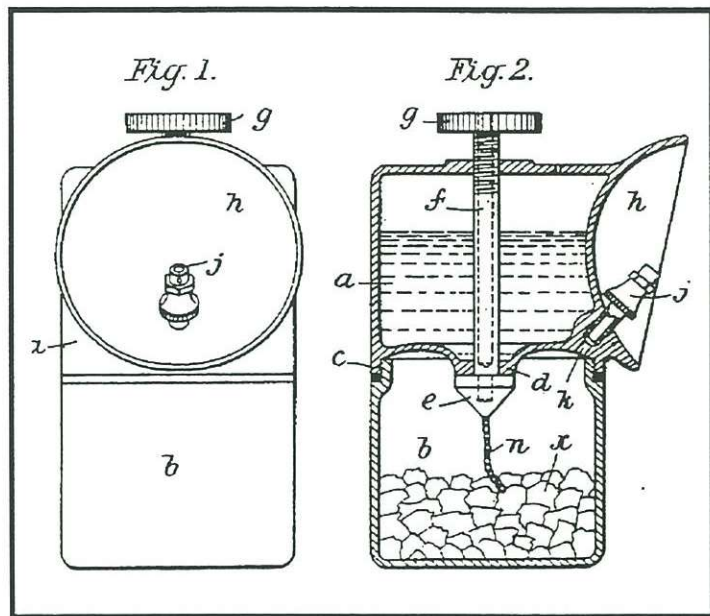
**Inscription of the small museum's card:
Acetylene Lamp Presented By Allen Liversidge Ltd.,
Inv. 1913-692**

This lamp is made of aluminum and is similar design to the larger (No. 15) made by the same firm. It is intended for the use of the miner rather than officials and inspectors. Spare carbide must be taken underground by the miner in order to replenish the lamp when necessary as this size only holds sufficient carbide for two or three hours light. Extra water can usually be obtained underground without trouble.

Finally, in the Illustrated Official Journal the patent number 27,308 for the year 1912 was found under the class 75(I) Burners. The Patent Office located the GB Patent 27,308 and provided Peter with a copy of the patent.

A.D. 1912 Nov. 27. No. 27,308.

ALLEN & others' COMPLETE SPECIFICATION.



The patent was given to **Thomas Gaskell Allen**, Engineer and **Allen-P.B. Liversidge Portable Acetylene Company Limited**, Manufacturers, of 106, Victoria Street, Westminster, London (see copy of the patent No.

27,308, right). The patent drawing does not illustrate the bail and hanging hook found on all three of the known lamp variations.

A number of other Acetylene light manufacturers already were established at 106, Victoria Street, London. The Allen-Liversidge Company owned all shares of **The Imperial Light Co./London** with a working capital of GBP 500,000.

The Allen-Liversidge Co. was registered as a Limited venture up to 1913. No further reference to the company has been found until they are taken over by **The British Oxygen Group** in 1933.

It appeared Allen Liversidge were probably affected by the shrinking market, already in decline when electric lamps were introduced.

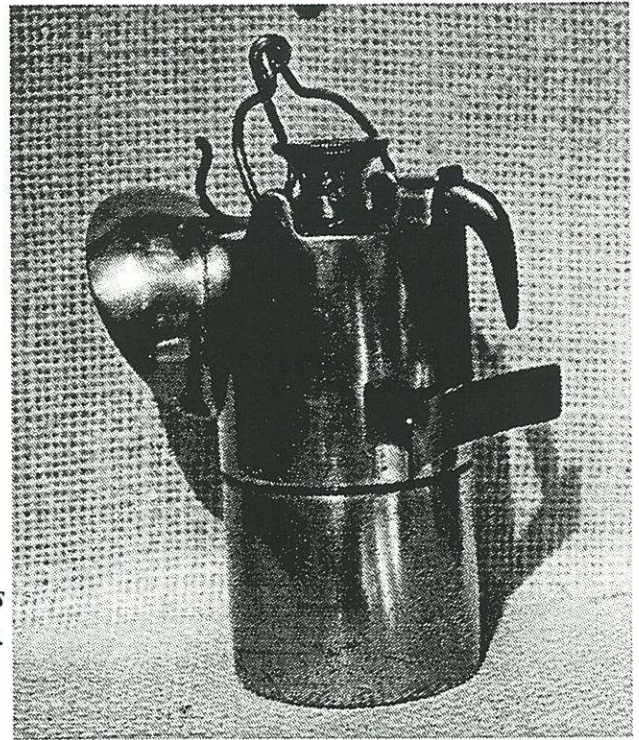
Carbide lamp collectors who have AL-Lamps in their collections, especially the small carbide cap lamp, can be proud of their rare lamps. In Europe and also in England itself, not many collectors own AL-Lamps. These lamps are of very high manufacturing quality.

The bail and hanging hook, as well as the cap hook and brace are brass on the cap lamp. The cap hook is an unusual thick round piece that is threaded to fit a socket cast into the top of the water chamber. It is of thick round stock that gradually tapers to a point after making a 90 degree turn out the back of the lamp, a truly unique style of hook unlike any found on American cap lamps. The cap brace is flat stock brass curved to merely rest against the cap rather than gripping it like many American lamps do.

The bail and hook of the two hand lamps are round stock steel. Like the cap lamp, the bail is attached to two perforated ears cast into the top of the water chamber. The water valve on all three lamps are brass. Interestingly, while the smaller hand lamp has a more conventional threaded filler cap found on many hand lamps, the other two lamps have no filler cap and are filled through the hollow center of the water valve. The water adjustment knobs on the cap lamp and large hand lamp are the same except that the hand lamp has a brass rod that pierces the water adjustment knob to make it easier to turn. The water valve knobs on the large hand lamp and cap lamp

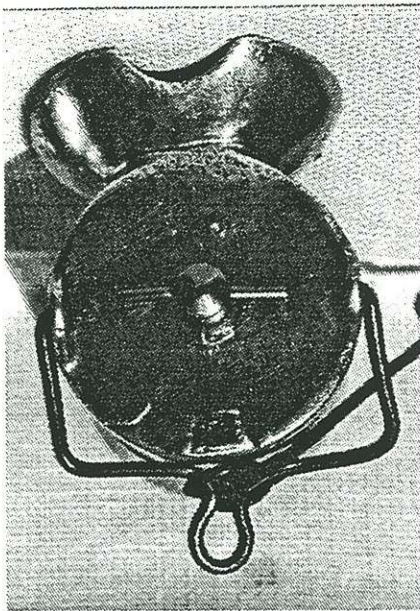
water valve knobs are the same size. The smaller hand lamp has an entirely different water adjustment knob but the actual water feed mechanisms on all three lamps are the same.

The overall shape of the hand lamps is very similar to the center Wolf shown on page 36 of the April 1996 Eureka. However, the water feed system is more primitive on the AL lamps and rather than having the Wolf name there is a raised AL cast into the top of the lamp.

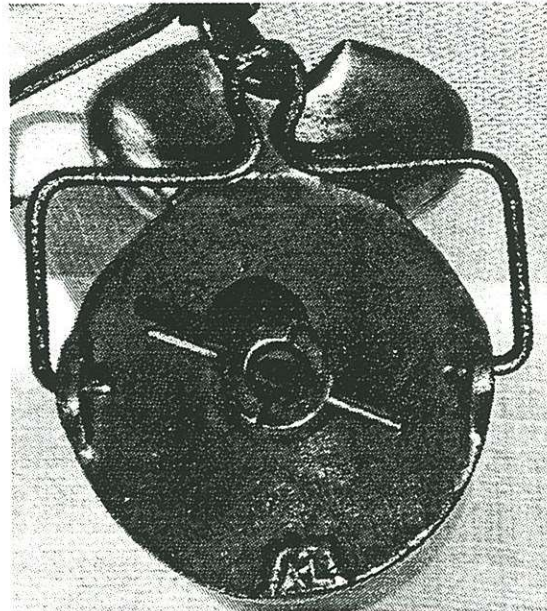


(Right) Back view of smallest AL lamp showing heavy brass hook and stout cap brace.

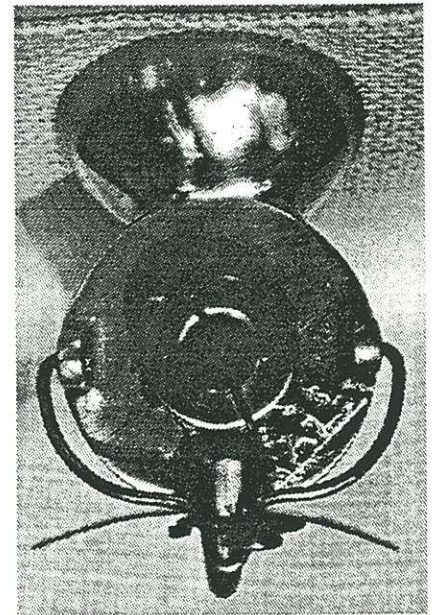
TOP STAMPINGS



Smaller hand lamp.



Large hand lamp.



Cap lamp.

MEASUREMENTS

	<u>Cap Lamp</u>	<u>Hand Lamp</u>	<u>Hand Lamp</u>
Water Chamber Diameter	2 1/8"	3 1/4"	4"
Base Diameter	2 1/8"	3 3/4"	4 5/8"
To Top of Water Chamber	3 7/8"	6 1/16"	7 1/16"
To Top of Water Valve	4 5/8"	6 3/4"	7 13/16"
Reflector Diameter	2 3/16"	3 3/4"	4"