

## A New Style of Imperial Carbide Cap Lamp

by Len Gaska

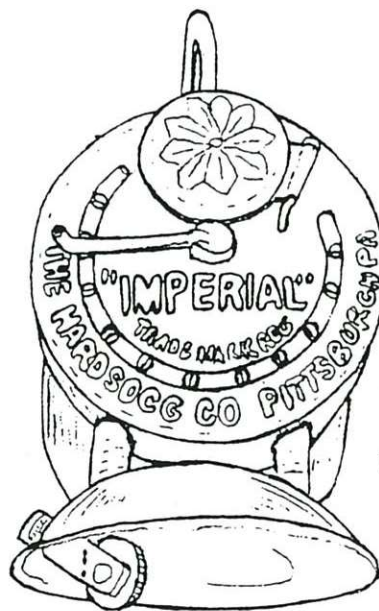
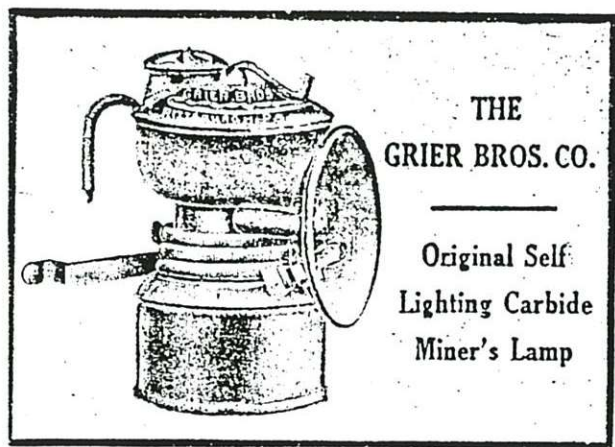
It is unusual when collectors discover two new styles of cap lamps of the same manufacturer within a year. Particularly when they represent radically different styles than previously known models. In the MAC, Issue 1, Fall 1988, we reported the existence of a "Premier" cap lamp from the Martin Hardsocg Company. The "Premier" was very similar in appearance to the horizontal Grier cap lamp. Now we are pleased to present a new style of "Imperial" cap lamp, also from the Martin Hardsocg Company.

The Imperial pictured below was found with a Baldwin bottom and with the hat braces broken off. Remnants of the braces show that the brace was 1/4" wide. The top of the lamp is strikingly similar to the familiar Grier Bros. model 96, illustrated below from an original lamp box end.

The Imperial is nickel plated with a 2 1/4" reflector. Grier and Gee-Bee bottoms do not fit on this lamp, but Gem bottoms do. Besides the lettering, the water adjustment click-stops are quite different than those found on Griers, Gee-Bees, and Gems. Those three lamps have integral click stops that are stamped into the top of the lamp. On the Imperial, the click-stops are indented into a wire which is soldered to the top of the lamp.

The best known style of Imperial is identical in appearance to the well-known Justrite X-Ray cap lamp, with the exception of the markings on the very bottom of the lamp. See Wendell Wilson's lamp bottom guide in this issue.

There is no doubt that Grier Bros., or its successor, Gem Manufacturing, manufactured the Imperial cap lamp. Grier Bros. produced carbide cap lamps from 1911 to 1924 when it sold its equipment to the Gem Manufacturing Company. We are left with at least one mystery regarding the Martin Hardsocg Company. Who manufactured the X-Ray style Imperial?



### References:

1. American Carbide Lamps, Greg Clemmer.
2. Mining Artifact Collector, Issue 1, 1988.

Type: Cap  
Material: Nickel plated brass  
Rarity: Possibly unique  
Owner: Len Gaska