

First Generation Wolf Lamps

by Dave Johnson

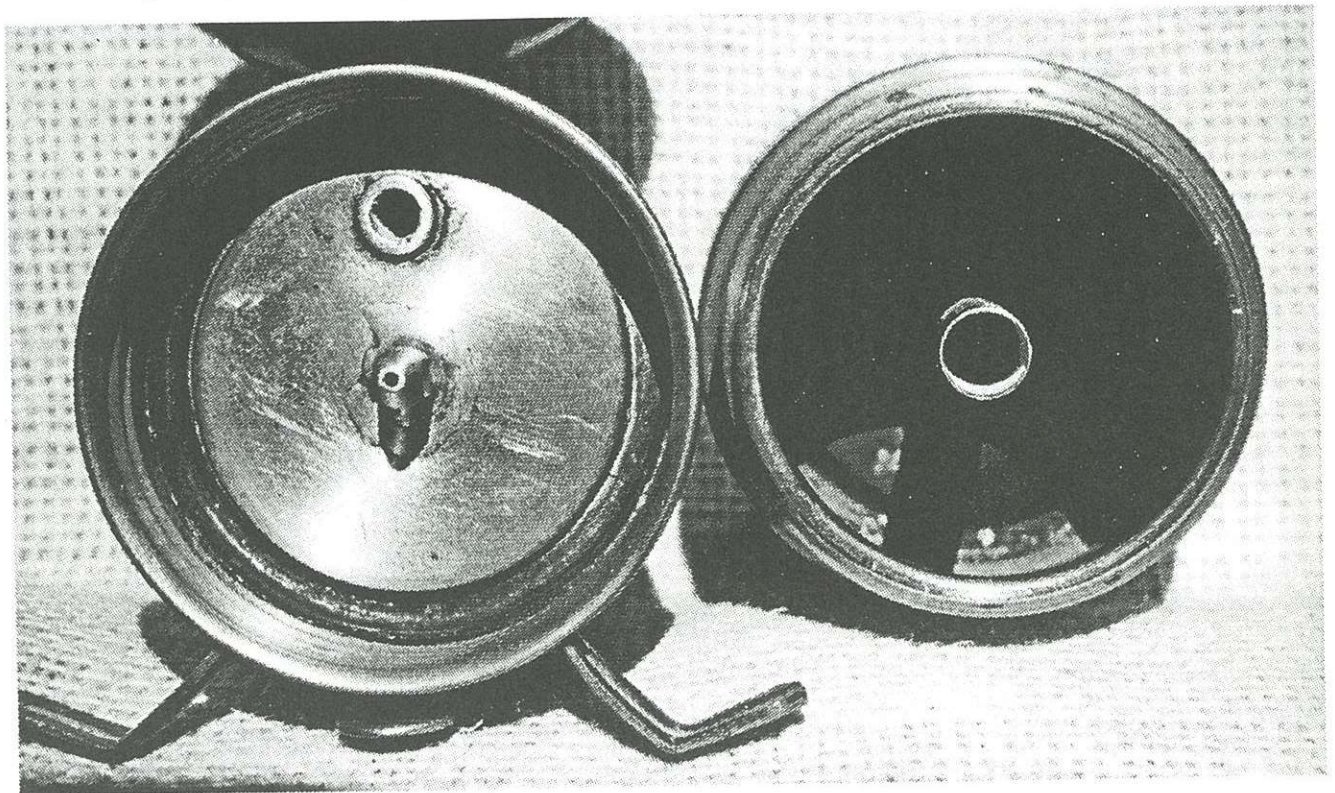
The first Wolf carbide cap lamp sold in America was the Wolf Model 911a. This lamp was initially marketed by the Wolf Safety Lamp Co. of America, Inc., a subsidiary of the Friemann and Wolf Co. of Zwickau Germany.

The 911a is the largest Wolf cap lamp of the five distinct Wolf models produced. The 911a is 4 9/16" tall to the top of the water control lever, while the "dome top" Wolf is 3 3/4" tall to the top of its water control lever and the "flat top" Wolf is only 3 3/8" tall to the top of its water lever. The base of the 911a is 2 1/2" in diameter while the "flat top" and "dome top" bases are 2 1/8" in diameter.



Wolf's first American made carbide cap lamp.

Interior of Wolf carbide cap lamp.

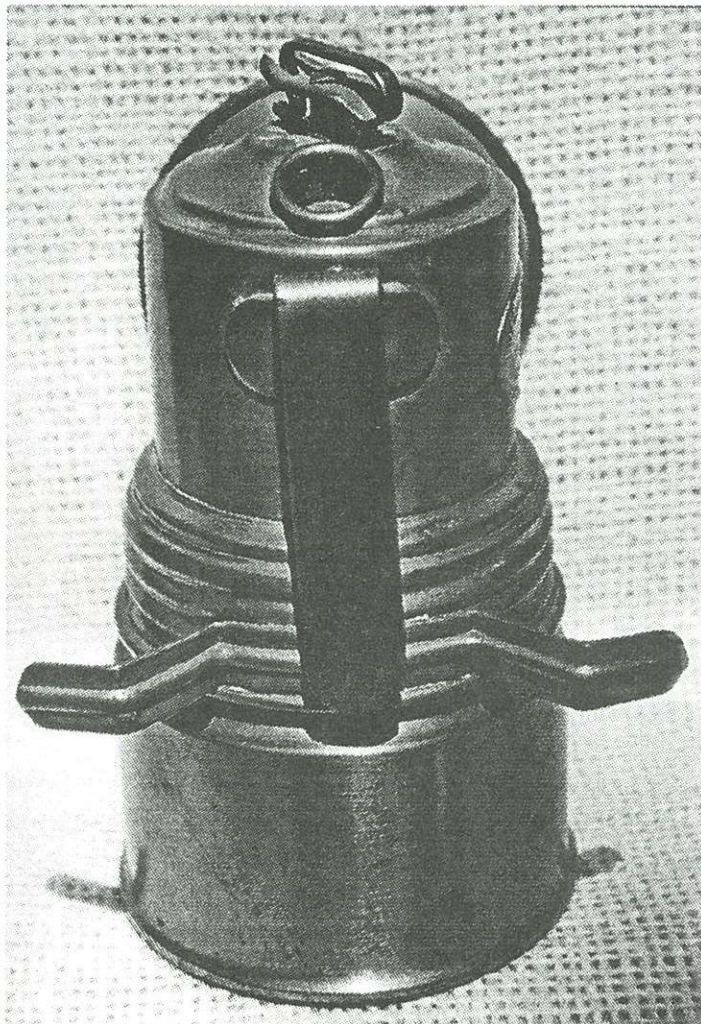


While Wolf produced five different carbide cap lamps they produced only one oil wick cap lamp. This tin-plated steel lamp was shaped differently than any other oilwick cap lamp ever produced. The lamp shared two components with the 911a carbide lamp, the Crystal Bldg. address brass nameplate and the brass cap brace. Measuring 3" in diameter and 2" high this lamp was obtained by old-time collector George Bayles from Wolf Safety Lamp Co. of America one-time Treasurer, and later owner, Domingo Anglada. Allegedly this lamp was a prototype model that was never offered for sale by Wolf. One has to wonder why Wolf would consider manufacturing an oilwick after they had introduced their carbide cap lamp. There was obviously some market for oilwicks well after the introduction of carbide cap

lamps, the last patent for an oilwick lamp was in 1915. There were 16 patents for oilwicks from 1910 to 1915, a period in which many firms began manufacturing carbide cap lamps.



Wolf's only oil wick lamp.



Comparison of the oil wick lamp and the carbide cap lamp shows the cap braces to be the same.

