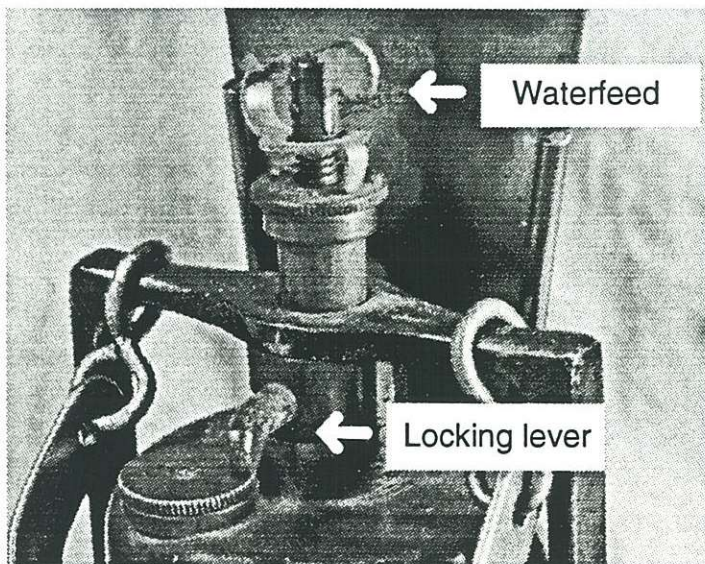
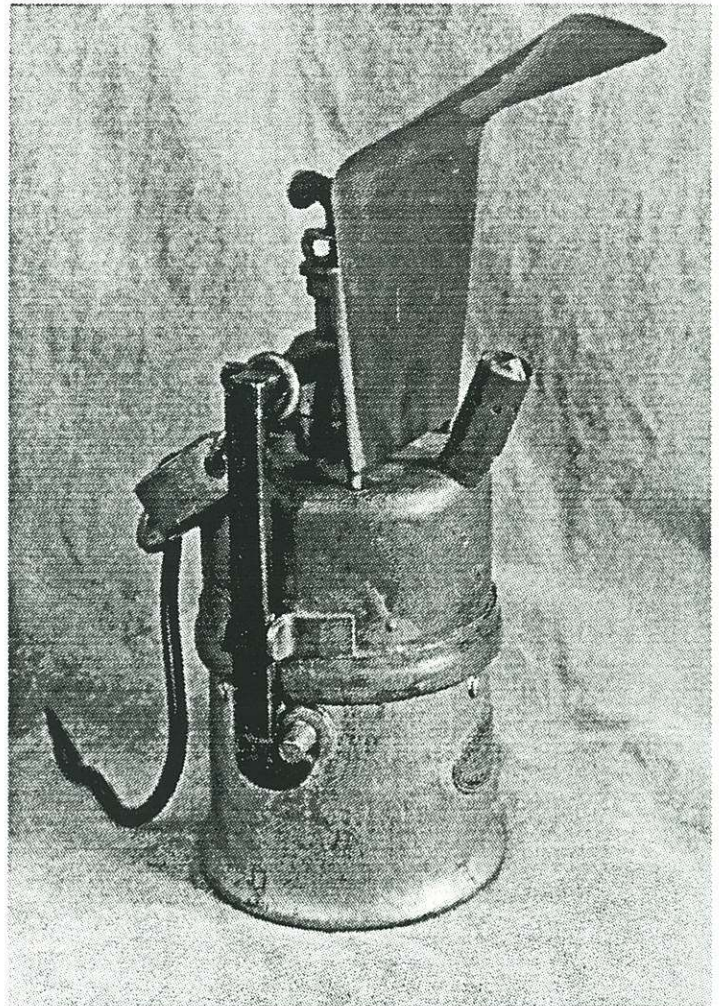


Carbide Hand Lamps with the “Bloch”-Lock

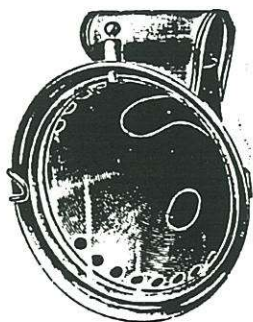
Manfred Stutzer and David Thorpe

Friemann & Wolf of Zwickau, Saxony, was the only maker of hand lamps with Bloch-Locking System (Bloch'scher Drehkeilverschluss). The inventor Bloch was a locksmith from Holzappel, Germany. The lamps were introduced to the market around 1900. It is believed, that due to their rather complicated construction and higher price, not many lamps were sold. They were used in specific ore mining areas of Germany, particularly in the Hesse iron ore mines. A few found their way into the American market, and were badged with the “Wolf Safety Lamp of America, New York, U.S.A.” brass label. Today the Bloch-Locking lamp is very rare and is one of the most sought after hand lamps. The model shown in the photograph on this page originally belonged to Domingo Anglada who operated the U.S. division of Wolf. His collection of fine Wolf examples and prototypes was eventually obtained by George Bayles. The next owner was Errol Christman. It is now in the collection of Dave Thorpe.

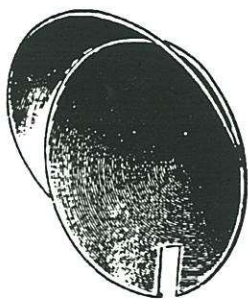
The locking mechanism is a nicely engineered brass piece that sits atop the lamp. A short lever actuates a cam that draws two iron sidearms up to clamp the lamp tightly together. The waterfeed with its delicate lever runs through the center of the lock itself, making a compact and very practical unit.



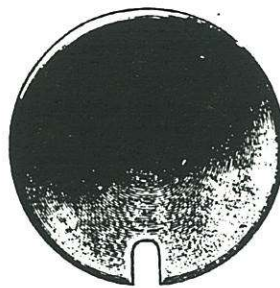
The lamp could be fitted with different reflectors, the buyer had to specify which one he wanted.



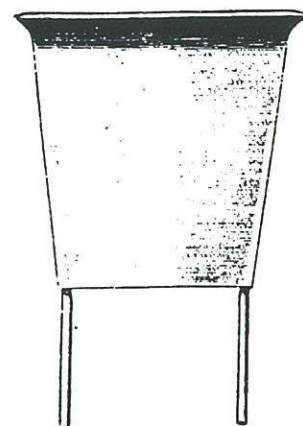
Luna
Reflector with
glass door



Lubito
Reflector with
hood for wet
mine conditions.

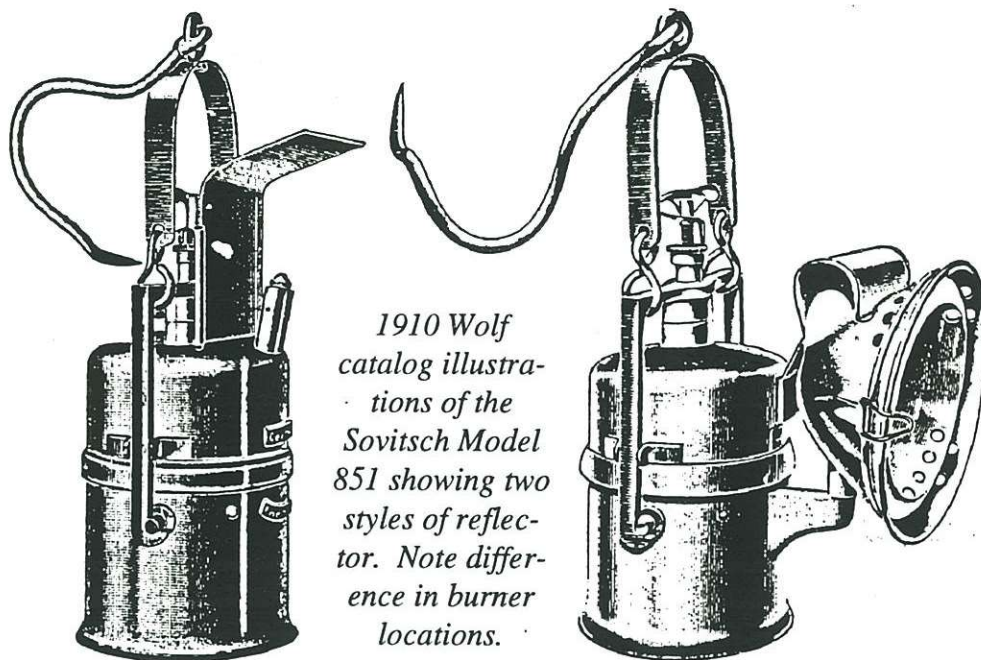


Lubari
Conventional reflec-
tor.



Lubes
Overhanging reflector
for wet mine condi-
tions.

Early mining photographs suggest that the overhanging reflector (the Lubes model) was very popular with miners. It is reminiscent of Baldwin's cap lamp with the wet mine reflector. The first Bloch-Lamps were produced in 3 different sizes and were offered in both brass and steel. In the 1908 Friemann & Wolf sales catalog, three model numbers are mentioned:



*1910 Wolf
catalog illustra-
tions of the
Sovitsch Model
851 showing two
styles of reflec-
tor. Note differ-
ence in burner
locations.*

Model 851 Soritsch Height: 280mm
(Size 1) Weight: 1.29 kg
Burning time: 10-12 hours

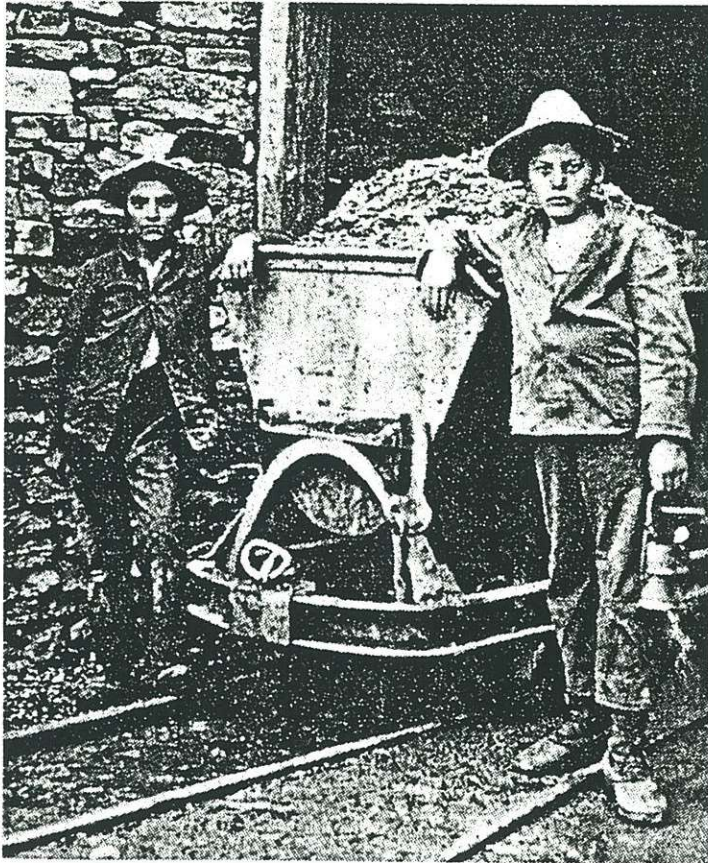
Model 853 Sowitz Height: 240 mm
(Size 2) Weight: 1.09 kg
Burning time: 7-8 hours

Model 855 Sorsum Height: 215 mm
(Size 3) Weight: .94 kg
Burning time: 5-6 hours

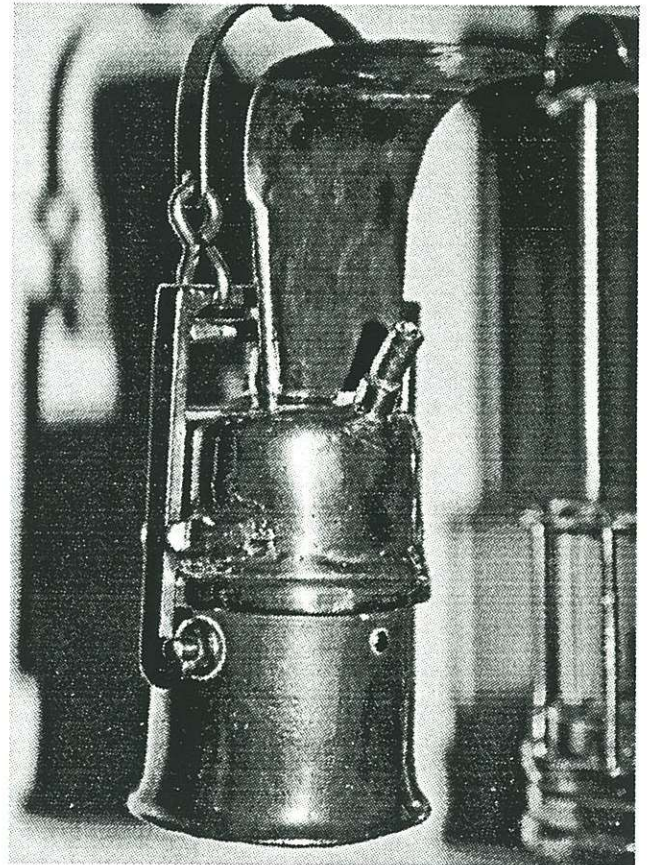
Two years later, only one model number was offered in the 1910 catalog: **Model 851 Sovitisch**. It was available in the previous three sizes plus a jumbo 310mm version that would burn 12-14 hours.



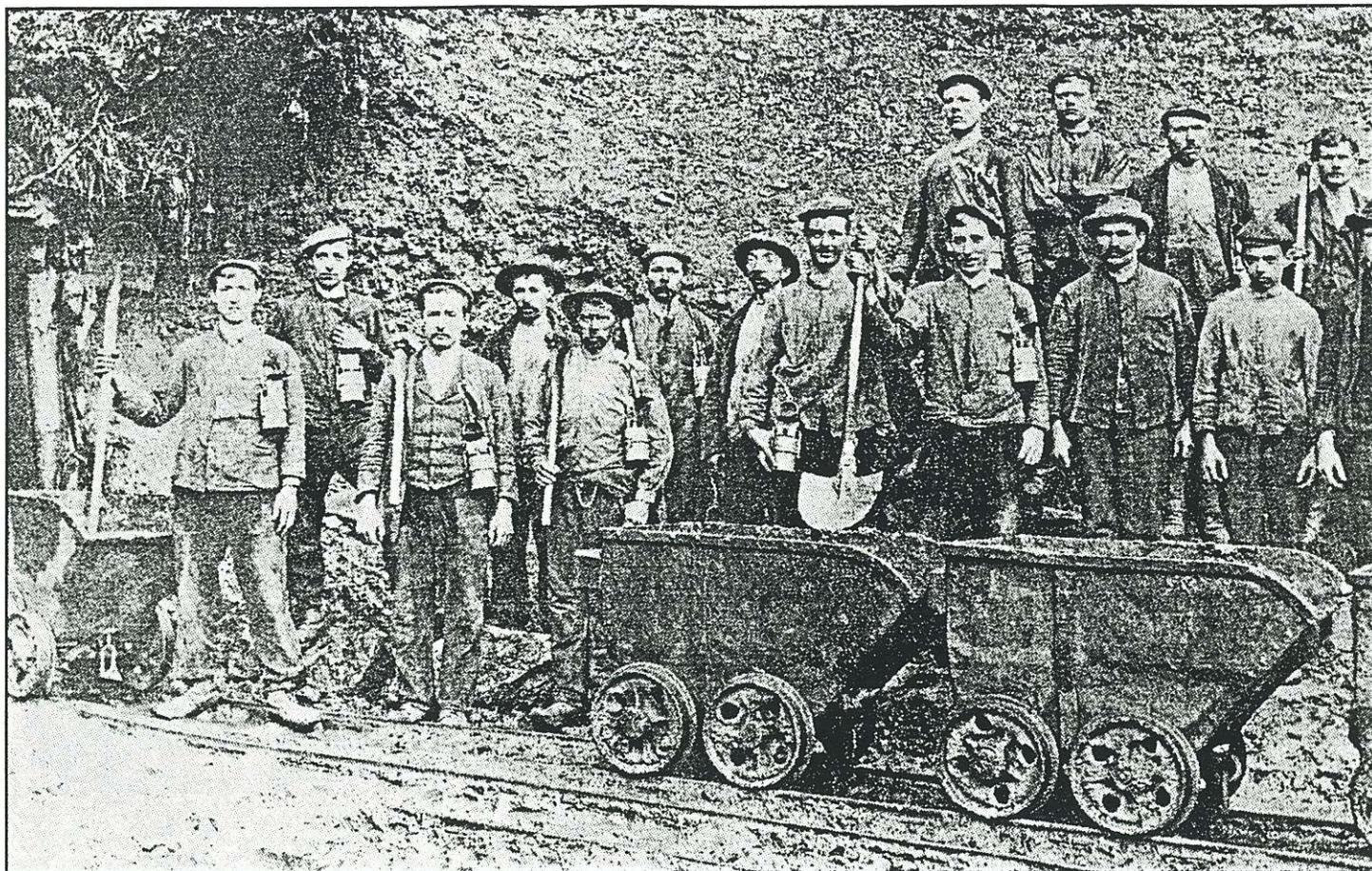
Amanda Mine, Germany, 1906.



Young miner carrying Bloch lamp.



Bloch lamp in brass from Manfred Stutzer collection.



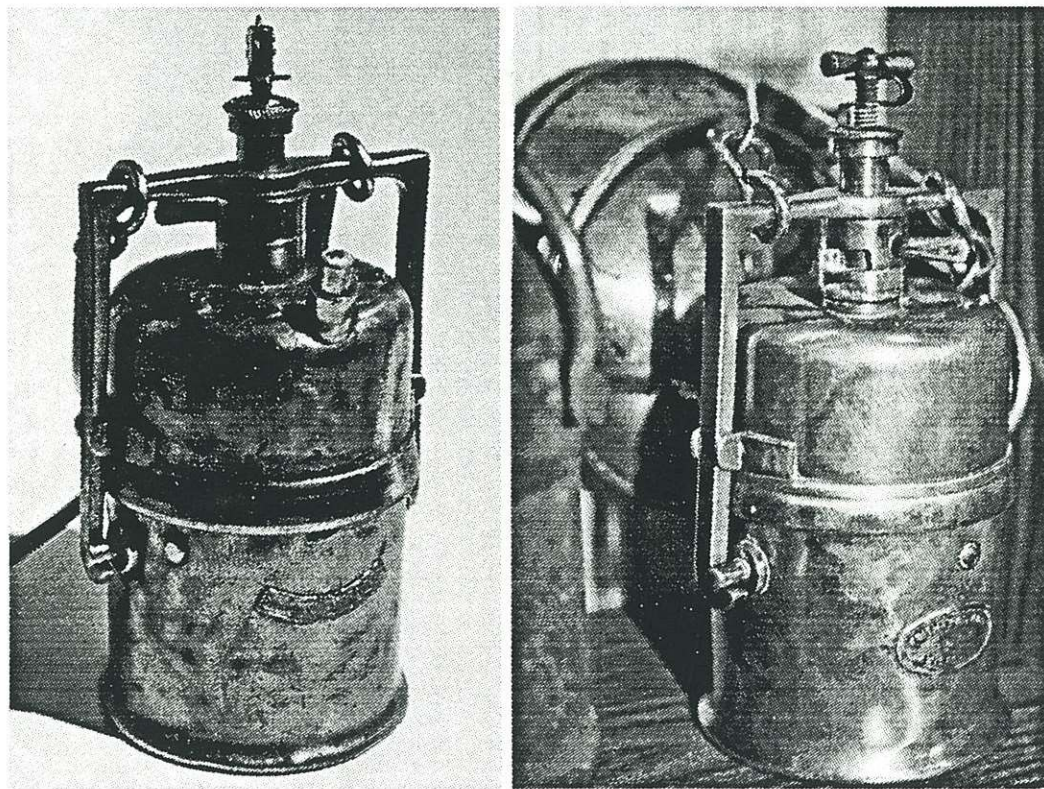
Aussicht Mine, 1910.

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Grubenlampen.



Two German Bloch lamps showing different brass labels.