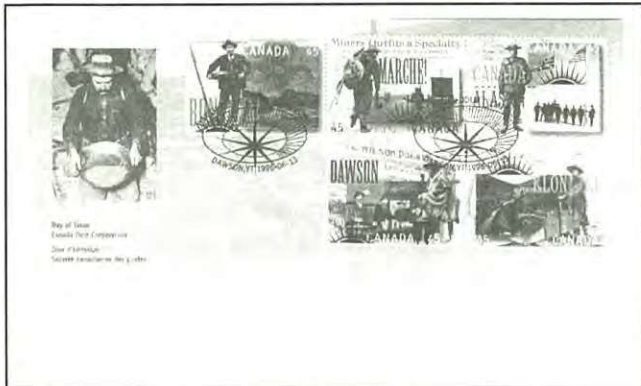


# THE MINING SUMMARY

## WHAT'S NEW IN COLLECTING

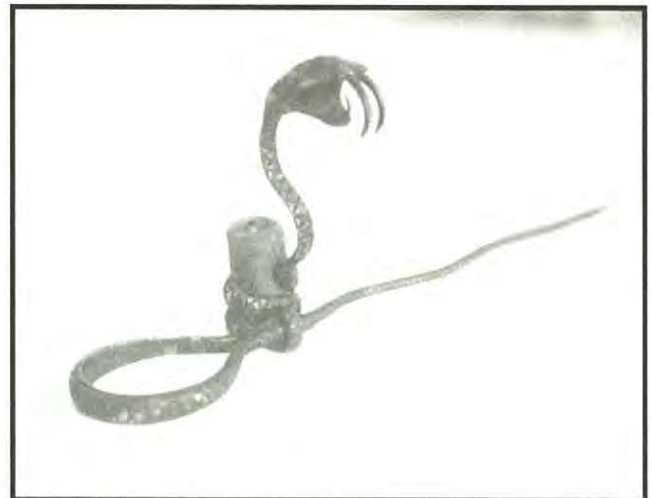
### First Day Cover - Dawson, YT



This is a first day cover from Dawson, Yukon Territory, June 13, 1996, commemorating the Klondike gold rush. These stamps illustrate the various aspects of life among those who took part in the last great rush. They are very attractive with vivid color and a sun's corona in each one. Look for more items such as this throughout the year as the celebrations come to a climax this summer. (Courtesy Udo Matern - actual size 4.375" x 7.5")

### A Candlestick with Teeth

I'm not sure if this candlestick would qualify as fancy-maybe just interesting. This stick was submitted by Deric English, it is 9 inches long and 4 inches high and bears a likeness to old Mr. Noshoulders who doesn't need one of these when he goes underground.



### ETNA CAP TIN

Another cap tin has been discovered that appears not to have been previously described. Not to be confused with the Aetna cap tin, this cap tin top was found on the surface in an old mining district in Nevada. According to an article by Mark Bohannon in the spring 1990 edition of the "Mining Artifact Collector" Etna caps were manufactured by the Tonite Powder Company of California. The company was active between 1880 and 1885 which would be consistent with the age of the workings where the tin was found (Illustration by Andy Martin - actual diameter 2 inches).



The Tonite Powder Company had the first plant to commercially produce nitrocellulose for use as an explosive. Unfortunately the safety of this compound is dependent on great care taken during the purification process. The stability of this explosive was always in question and competitors were quick to advertise this fact. Dry nitrocellulose is actually very sensitive to impact, friction, heat and spark and is almost comparable to mercury fulminate in sensitivity. It is interesting to note the recommendation in the following ad to use the explosive as a torch while underground; hopefully a transition from conflagration to detonation didn't occur.