

FROG LAMPS

PART III

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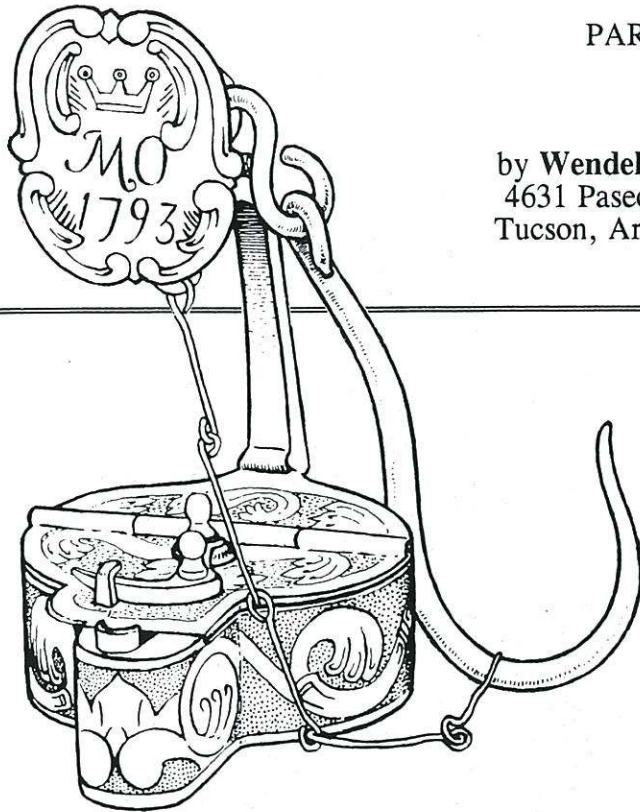


Figure 38. The lid style suggests that this is a Hessen frog, though the shield shape is unusual and the hook shaft has an uncharacteristic backward bend. The lamp is all brass and carries intricately engraved floral designs, a royal crown, and the date 1793. (Formerly in the Howard Stone collection, listed as a brass betty)

HESSEN FROGS

Frog lamps from the region of Hessen are characterized by a large, semi-circular lid comprising approximately half of the top face of the font. The lid hinge runs the full width of the font, and may be secured by a cross-bar or by a flat-lying hook which fits into an eyelet. The hook is most commonly J-shaped, without the extra bend in the middle of the shaft which is typical of Westphalian frogs. Furthermore, the hook shaft is usually embellished by two or three incised or raised bands.

Some Hessen frogs, particularly the plain, inexpensive, unornamented models, were exported to America. And some were probably made in the Hessen style but outside of Hessen.

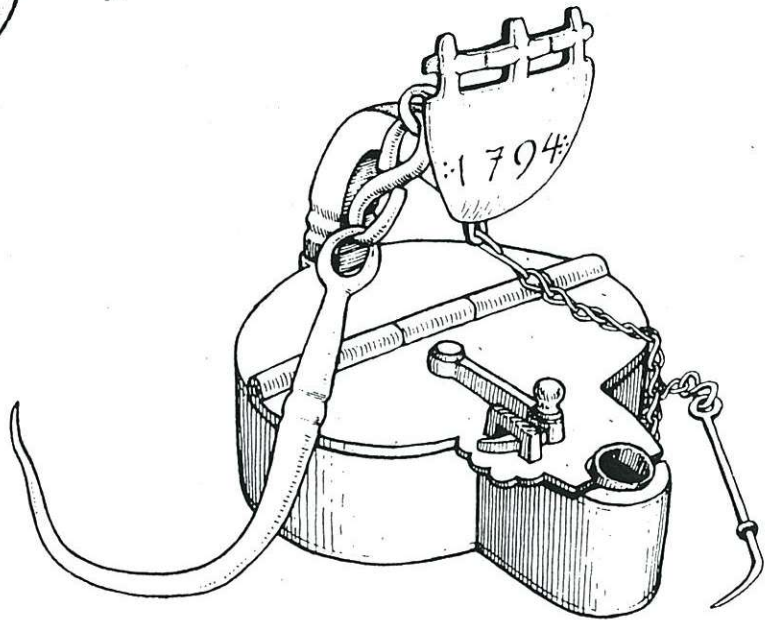


Figure 39. Kreuzschild Frog. The lamp above and the previous example are the earliest known dated frog lamps of Hessen design. The three crosses atop the *Kreuzschild* have dividing lines inscribed in the brass to separate the crosses, a feature unknown on later examples. (Collection of the Mining Museum, Freiberg)



Miners at Prayer at La Vieille-Montagne before descending the Shaft.

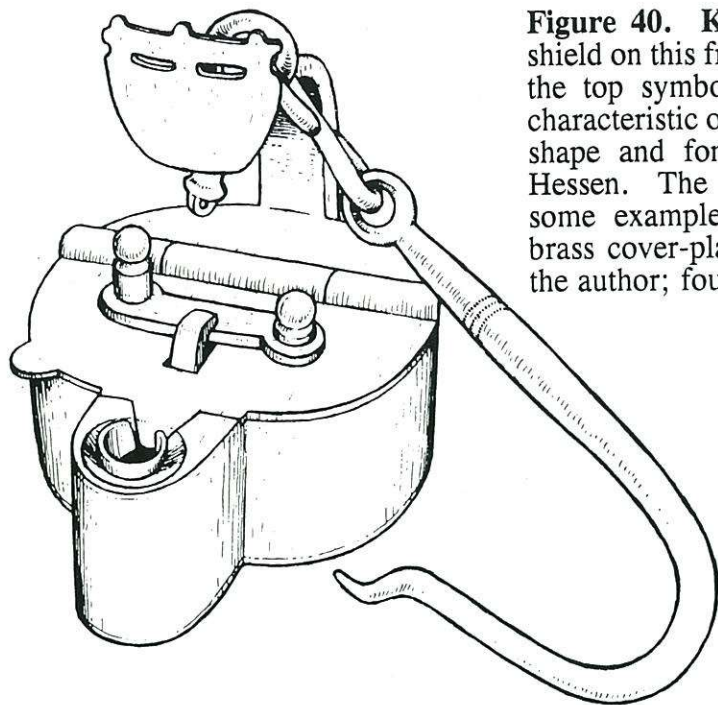


Figure 40. Kreuzschild Frog. The peculiar shield on this frog carries three linked crosses on the top symbolizing the Holy Trinity, and is characteristic of some Hessen models. The hook shape and font lid are also characteristically Hessen. The shield is unmarked iron, though some examples have a marked or unmarked brass cover-plate on the shield. (Collection of the author; found in the U.S.)

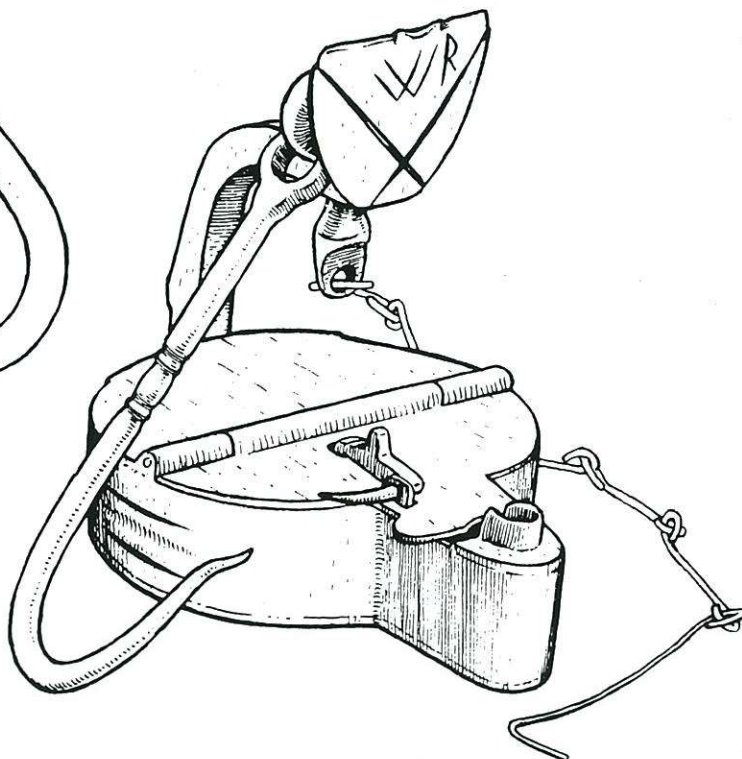


Figure 41. The lid and hook shapes mark this as a Hessen frog. The iron shield indicates that it is a rather early example, perhaps 1770-1830. It is rather small as frogs go (8.5 cm tall), and carries the owner's initials "WR" on the shield. (Collection of the author; found in the U.S.)

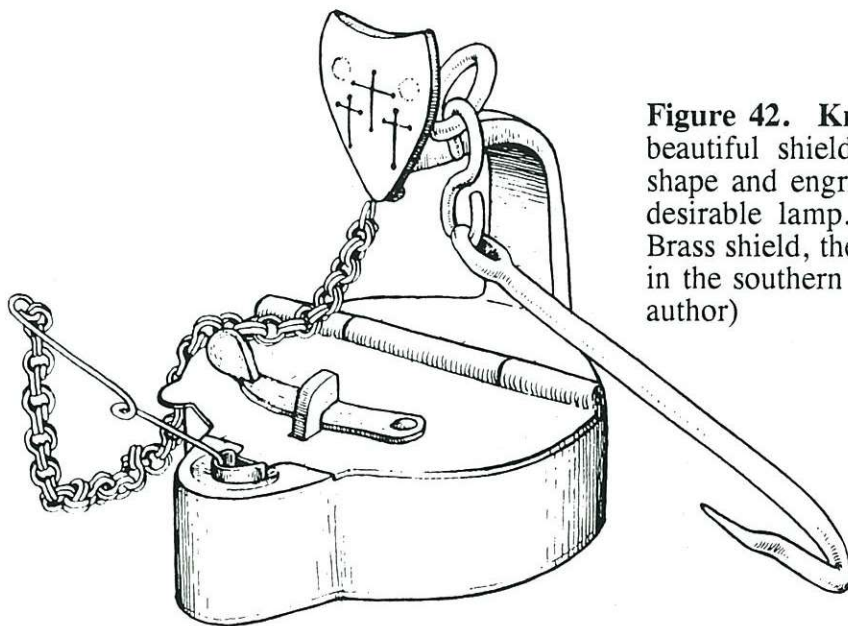


Figure 42. Kreuzschild Frog. The rare and beautiful shield on this frog, unique in both shape and engraving, makes this a particularly desirable lamp. The chain is a replacement. Brass shield, the rest is iron. The lamp was used in the southern Siegen area. (Collection of the author)

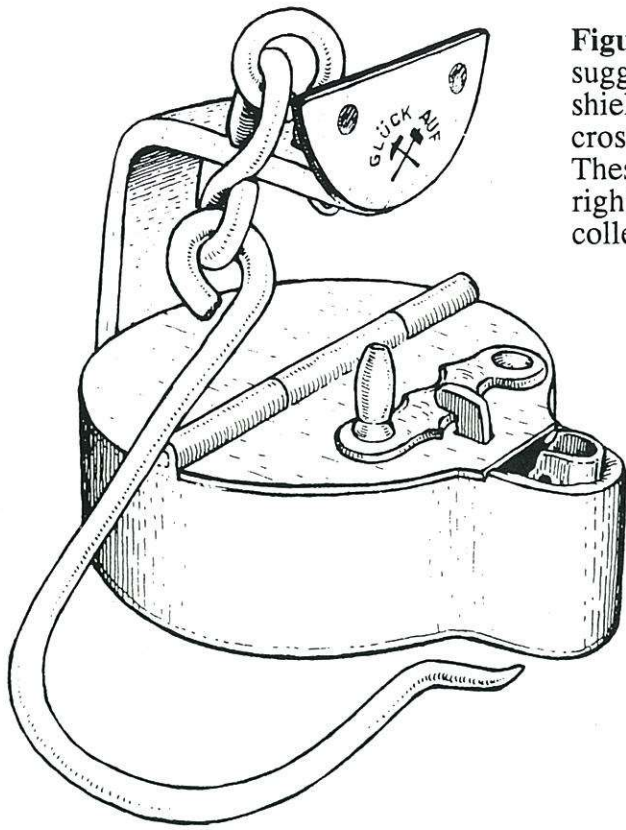


Figure 43. The hook shape and semi-circular lid suggests that this frog was made in Hessen. The shield is common enough, but the scalloped cross-bar latch is probably unique to one maker. These latches, incidentally, came in left- and right-handed versions. (Ken and Betty Roberts collection; found in the U.S.)

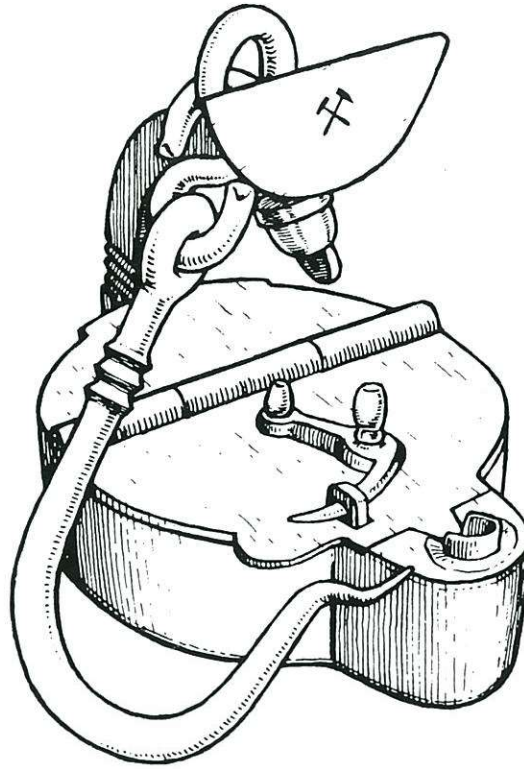


Figure 44. The lid and hook shape suggest that this is a Hessen frog. The shield is brass, marked only with a stamp of the *Schlagel* and *Eisen*. (Collection of the author; found in the U.S.)

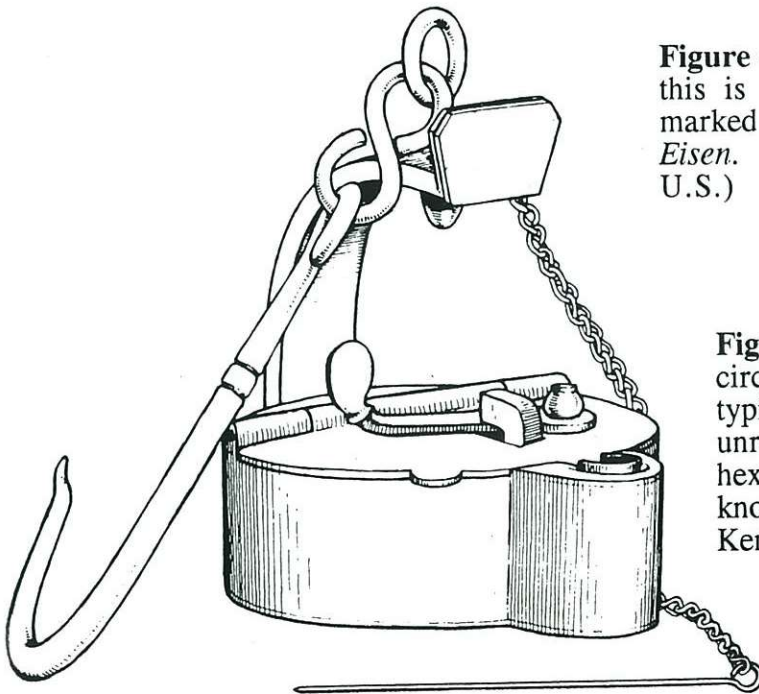


Figure 45. The hook shape and the semi-circular lid with cross-bar latch mark this as a typical Hessen style of frog. The lamp is unremarkable, except for the unmarked hexagonal shield; the only example as far as I know. (Collection of the Science Museum, Kensington, England)

Figure 46. The shield on this Hessen frog is remarkable because of the full figure of a miner, holding up his *Schlagel* and *Eisen*. The shape of the cross-bar latch handle is interesting as well. (Karsten Porezag collection)

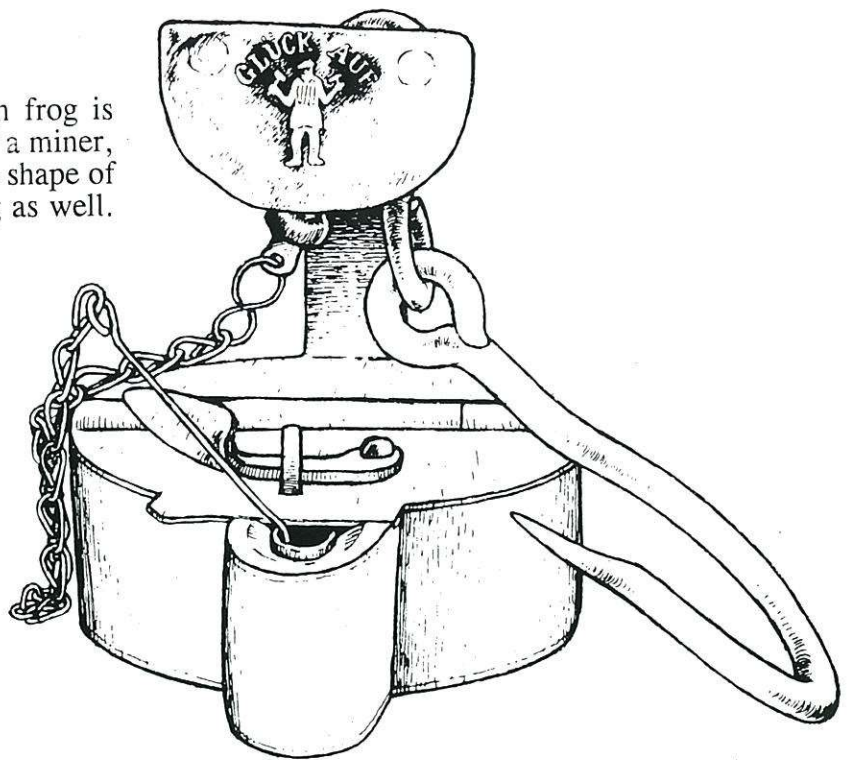


Figure 47. Wetzlar Frog. The uniquely shaped shield characterizes this as a type of frog made and used only around Wetzlar in Hessen. The shield is unmarked brass, and the cross-bar knobs are brass as well. The shields on three of the four known examples are unmarked; a fourth bears initials. (Collection of the author)

