

Fancy Oil Wicks

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The two fancy brass oilwicks pictured here were found in Pennsylvania and spent many years in the collection of John Coons before I acquired them recently. Both lamps are constructed totally of brass and are highly decorated in relief.

The first lamp features a twist pattern on the front and a screw cap with a serrated edge grip and machined threads. The lamp is 2" tall to the top of the cap and the base of the front is 1 3/8" in diameter. The single spout is 2 7/16" long and is uniquely attached to the front halfway between the top and bottom. Most spouts are attached with their base near the base of the lamp, while a few are attached just below the collar and are known as high-spouts.

The second lamp features a very unusual relief pattern on the front. The lamp is 1 5/8" tall to the top of the cap. The cap is depressed in the center and has machined threads. The spout is 2 1/8" in length with a rolled end. The base of the front is 1 3/16" in diameter.

Both lamps are fine examples of the craft of tinsmithing. Lamps decorated to this extent are unusual and would have taken a fair amount of time and effort.

