

Some Additional Notes on:
Oil Wick Vent Patents

The Thomas A. Black Patent

Here is another example of the rare T.A. Black patent (see EUREKA! No. 13, pg. 30). This lamp is not a fly spec variation but a new style not seen in EUREKA! before. It has several features that are different than the one previously described.



Left: previously described lamp without the patent . Center: new style lamp without the patent. Right: new style lamp with patent. All three are Trethaways.

The first difference is this lamp has the larger brass domed lid with the hinge integral to the collar. Secondly, the hook is bent much like an Anton hook. The hook brace is also different and is mounted near the base of the font. Lastly, there are no typical Trethaway stampings on the font. What is stamped on the font is the Patent date for the T.A. Black patent. This would date the lamp after the patent was issued and later than the lamp previously described in EUREKA! There is at least one other example of this style lamp that I know of.

The discovery of these two different T.A. Black patented lamps may help to date Trethaway oil wicks. Lamps with the lid brace soldered to the shoulder of the lamp were probably made prior to 1909 and lamps with the lid hinge integral to the collar were probably made after 1909. Another interesting fact is that Trethaway lamps with the twisted wire boot kick only appear

on lamps with the lid hinge integral to the collar and lamps with the disk shaped boot kick only appear on lamps with the lid hinge soldered to the shoulder of the lamp.

Stamping on the font:

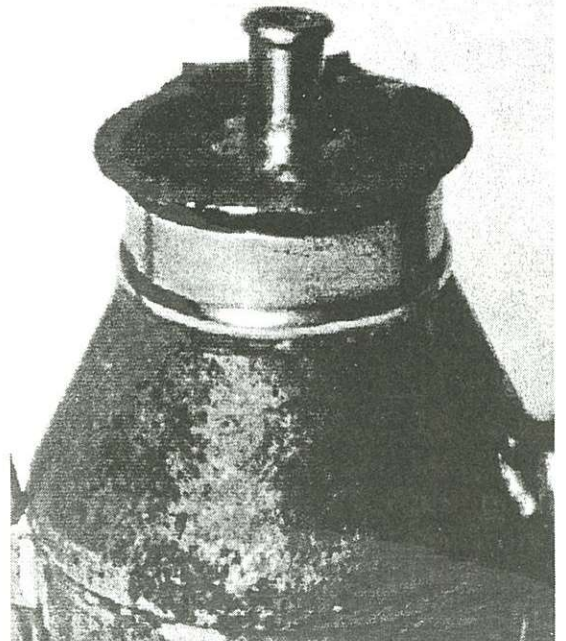
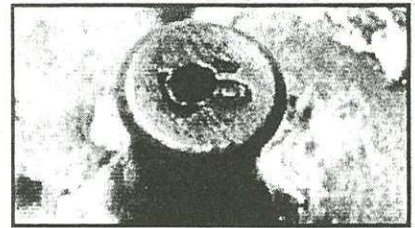
**PAT'D
DEC. 21ST 1909**

Right: picture of new lamp (note stamping on the font).



The William J. Rump Patent

In regards to the Rump patent (EUREKA! No. 23, pg. 11) seems Mr. Rump cheated in the construction of his lamp. If you check the vent tube carefully, one thing should appear obvious. The copper vent tube is a .22 caliber bullet casing. It is even stamped 'US' on the top of the tube. Using Vernier calipers, I dimensionally checked the vent tube to an unfired shell I had. They matched exactly. If you read the patent carefully, Rump states the bottom of the vent tube is notched or serrated and attached to the bottom of the lid. Taking a thin wire and probing the inside of the tube, it is smooth like the shell casing and not attached to the bottom. These small notches would certainly have clogged if made like the drawing. Having measured the picture of the previously described lamp, it too is a .22 caliber bullet casing. I don't know if it is stamped 'US' on the top or not. The 'US' stands for United States Cartridge Company of Lowell, Massachusetts. They were producing ammunition around the turn of the century. It would certainly have been cheaper for Rump to use a blank shell casing which would have cost pennies as opposed to buying dies to form the vent tube. Perhaps this is where he got the idea in the first place.





W.J. Rump Patent.



Picture of antique blank shells an dbox.

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Stamping on font of W.J. Rump patent lamp.

The Murray and O'Connor (M & O) Patent

Perhaps the strangest and least seen adaptation of the M &) patent was on the slope-sided or tea pot style lamp. The collar and lid of the Tunnessen patent and the vent mechanism of the M & O patent were pre-assembled separately then pressed down inside the font of the lamp. This was done intentionally as the bottom of the brass collar was never rolled under to connect it to the font. This may have been done to reduce its size and to appeal to those miners needing a smaller lamp. The lamp is stamped M & O on the bottom. If anyone has a really hammered M& O lamp they want to sell, let me know. I need the screw cap for the vent tube.

