

Unusual Husson Oil Wick Lamps

by Dave Johnson

Almost every collector of mine lighting is familiar with the HUSSON brand of miners' oilwick lamps, these were produced by the Knippenberg Mfg. Co. of Oshkosh, Wisconsin, later bought out by Oshkosh Metal Products Co., which produced the Oshkosh carbide lamp. The signature feature of Husson lamps is the copper tipped spout found on most Husson models.

Husson produced two series of lamps, those with numbered models and those with letter models. The Husson catalog listed and illustrated their Husson 2, 4, 5, and 6 models, along with the six optional hook varieties, their detachable stick and their line of candleholders. The catalog did not list their Husson 1, 3, 12, 20 or 22 (peglamp) lamps, or the A, AA, B and BB models.

Unknown to most collectors is the fact that there are two distinctly different No. 3 lamps that look nothing alike. The first of these is a common looking lamp that is 2 1/16" tall to the top of the cap and measures 1 1/16" in diameter at the base. The bottom has the usual stamping:



Husson No. 3 (first variety)



Husson No. 3 (second variety)

HUSSON MINERS LAMP
PAT. 11-17-03
NO. 3
THE KNIPPENBURG MFG. CO.
OSHKOSH, WIS.

Unlike the vast majority of Husson lamps seen today this No. 3 does not have the copper spout tip and has an inner and outer spout.

The second Husson No. 3 is an unusually wide squat lamp that is 2 9/16" tall to the top of its wide threaded lid. It is 2 5/16" in diameter at the base. The lid is 1 5/8" in diameter. The particular example pictured here has the two or double wire hook option.

MINER'S SUNSHINE

BRIGHTEST AND CLEANEST LIGHT FOR
MINER'S USE

Office of
STATE INSPECTOR
OF MINES

INDIANAPOLIS.
Aug. 2, 1905

STANDARD OIL COMPANY

DEAR SIRs--Concerning Miner's Sunshine will say I have always advocated its use in our mines. My reason for this is that it produces a better light and comparatively no smoke at all. In making our rounds of inspection I find of late that considerably more of the Sunshine is used now than in former years and I would like very much to see the time when it takes the place of oil entirely in the mines. Have also instructed my assistants (who agree with me that the Sunshine is better than oil) to recommend its use. Yours very truly,

JAMES EPPERSON, Inspector of Mines.

ABSOLUTELY NO WASTE EVERY OUNCE IS BURNED

Manufactured by STANDARD OIL COMPANY



MINER'S SUNSHINE



BRIGHTEST AND
CLEANEST LIGHT
A MINER CAN USE

Office of
STATE INSPECTOR OF MINES
Room 110 State House
INDIANAPOLIS



MARCH 22, 1910.

STANDARD OIL COMPANY:

Gentlemen:—Some two years ago I gave you a recommendation on Miner's Sunshine, stating at that time I had always advocated its use in our mines and that my reason for this was it produced better light and comparatively no smoke at all.

I am pleased to state that my views regarding this product are the same today, if not even stronger than they were at the time I gave you the recommendation referred to and, furthermore, in making our rounds of inspection I find practically every mine of any consequence using Miner's Sunshine.

It is my desire and I should like very much to see the time when Miner's Sunshine takes the place of oil entirely in the mines.

You may rest assured that not only myself, but my deputies (who agree with me that Sunshine is better than oil) will take pleasure in recommending its use, fully believing that in so doing we are aiding a good cause.

Yours very respectfully,

(Sgd.) JAMES EPPERSON,
Inspector of Mines.

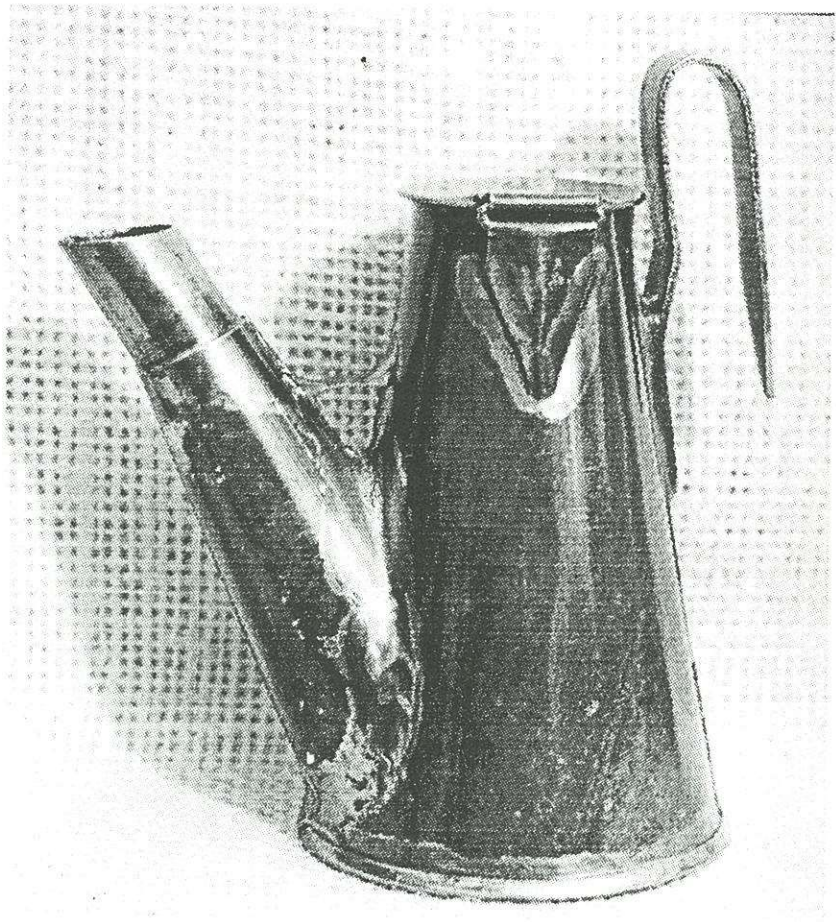
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The Husson No. 12, previously unreported in any publication, is the largest of the Husson lamp models, measuring 3 ½" to the top of its lid while the No. 6 measures only 2 ⅞" tall. Its base is 2 ⅝" in diameter, same as the second No. 3 model. It uses the same cap as the 2, 4, 5, and 6. A feature unique to this model is a flat stock horizontal spout brace between the font and spout that is difficult to see in the photo. I had no idea that this Husson model existed until I recently added this example to my collection.

The No. 20 Husson is the same as the No. 22 Husson peglamp but without the peg that allowed the No. 22 to be inserted in the thimble of a miner's candlestick. It has a copper bracket soldered to the cap to allow a candlestick spike to be inserted, like the No. 22, the No. 20 has no hook. It has a copper wire loop heat transfer system unlike other Husson models. The lamp measures 2 ⅝" tall to



Husson No. 12



Husson No. 20

the top of the cap, not including the copper bracket. The threaded cap is 1 ½" in diameter and is not interchangeable with the No. 3. The base is 2 5/16" in diameter, same as the 3 and 12.

The No. 20 is rarer than the No. 22 peg lamp, which is a rare lamp in its own right. Of equal rarity with the No. 22 peg lamp is the No. 3 lamp. The most common of all Husson lamps is the No. 6. Any model having double hooks is rarer than the single or spade hook options. The spade hooks were most commonly used in the Lake Superior copper and iron mines. I have a 1908 photo taken at a Michigan iron mine and every one of the 50 plus miners shown has a Husson No. 6, many with the removable spikes.