

# The Liberty Lamp

by Jim Steinberg

Of all the Oil and Sunshine lamps in my collection, that which I enjoy most is C.L. Anton's "Liberty" lamp. This lamp is of the Sunshine variety and stands about 2 inches tall at the filler door and about 2 3/4 inches tall to the top of the double spout. The "LIBERTY" lamp possesses one of the most elegant incuse stampings of all oil/sunshine lamps.

The lamp illustrated here is a miner's face lamp, however the existence of the "LIBERTY" in a driver's lamp has been reported.

First impressions can be deceiving, and this lamp is no exception. Your initial glance at this lamp will likely tell you that the artwork is a representation of the "STATUE OF LIBERTY". The designer of the stamp however, took considerable artistic license, which in fact adds interest to the lamp.



*Brass Liberty lamp from Ted Bobrink collection*

Consider:

1. Lady Liberty is holding in her right hand, not the famous torch, but instead, another miner's oil/sunshine lamp.

2. Resting in her left arm is an American flag with 11 stripes and 12 stars, the staff being gripped in her left hand. LOOK AGAIN! Does her left hand look strange? Sure enough, it is a right hand. This lady liberty has 2 right hands and no left hand.

The text below the artistic fancy of this lamp reads:

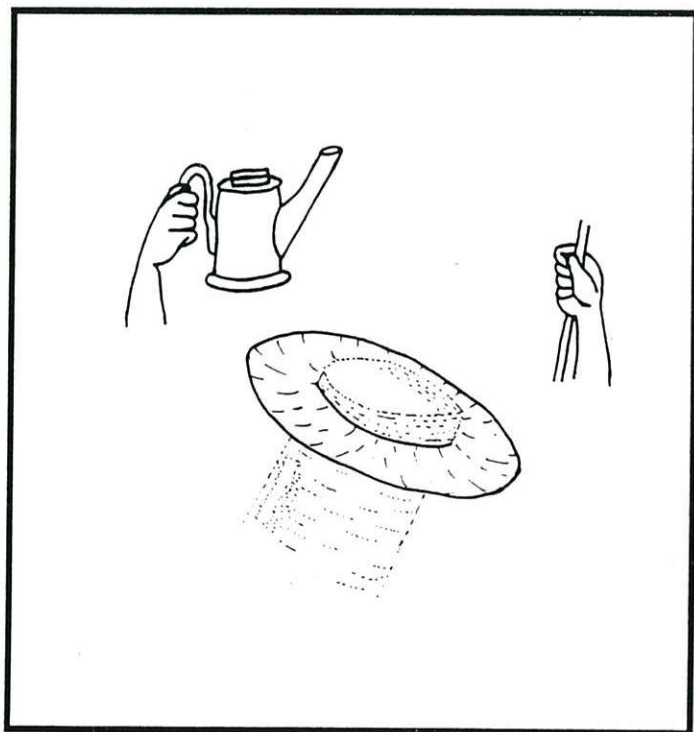
LIBERTY

C.L. ANTON

MFG'R & PATENTEE

MONONGAHELA CITY

WASHINGTON CO. PA.



Most "LIBERTY" lamps are constructed of the tin usually associated with sunshine lamps but, are also found in brass and an example partly in copper is known. Some of these lamps also bear a drip collar on the spout of the lamp. Among all the lamps of the prolific Anton family, the "LIBERTY" surely deserves a place of prominence in every oil lamp enthusiast's collection.