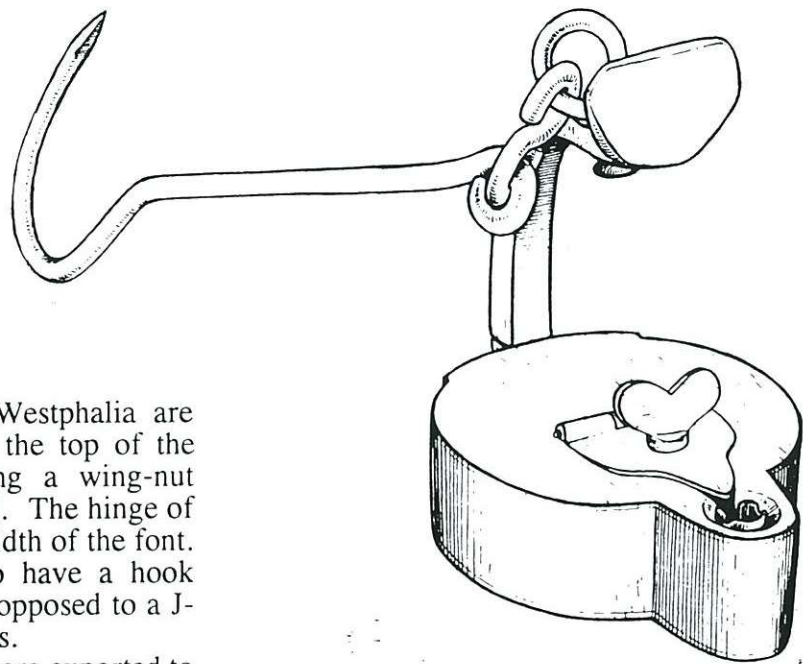


FROG LAMPS



PART II

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WESTPHALIAN FROGS

Most frog lamps from Westphalia are characterized by a small lid in the top of the font. The lid is opened using a wing-nut connected to a latch under the lid. The hinge of the lid traverses about half the width of the font. Westphalian lamps also tend to have a hook shaped like a question mark, as opposed to a J-shaped hook on the Hessen lamps.

Westphalian-style frogs were exported to America and are the most common type found here.

Figure 20. Apparently an inexpensive economy model, this frog has only a crudely formed iron shield and no markings of any kind. The absence of rivets or solder on the shield proves, at least, that it did not have a brass cover plate at one time. However, the simplicity and common design of this frog make it among the least valuable types.

Figure 21. Erhard Reusch Frog. Reusch frogs are among the few German frogs whose maker is definitely known. The shield shape as shown here is characteristic, as is the two-holed latch handle resembling a gull or bird of some type. The Reusch family of Daaden also manufactured carbide lamps and coffee grinders. An excellent book on the Reusch lamps entitled A. E. Reusch, Daaden, written by Henner Schardt and Heinz Zander, was published in 1989. (Schardt's address is Malscheider Weg 28, Struthutten, D-5908 Neunkirchen 3, Germany.)

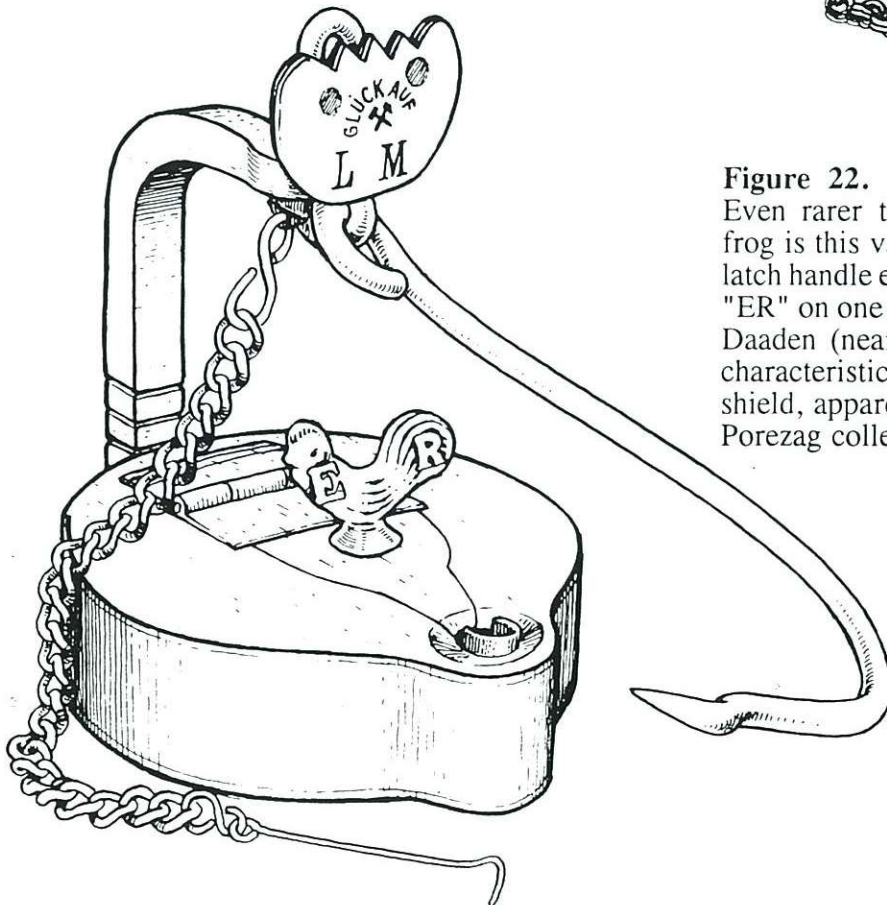
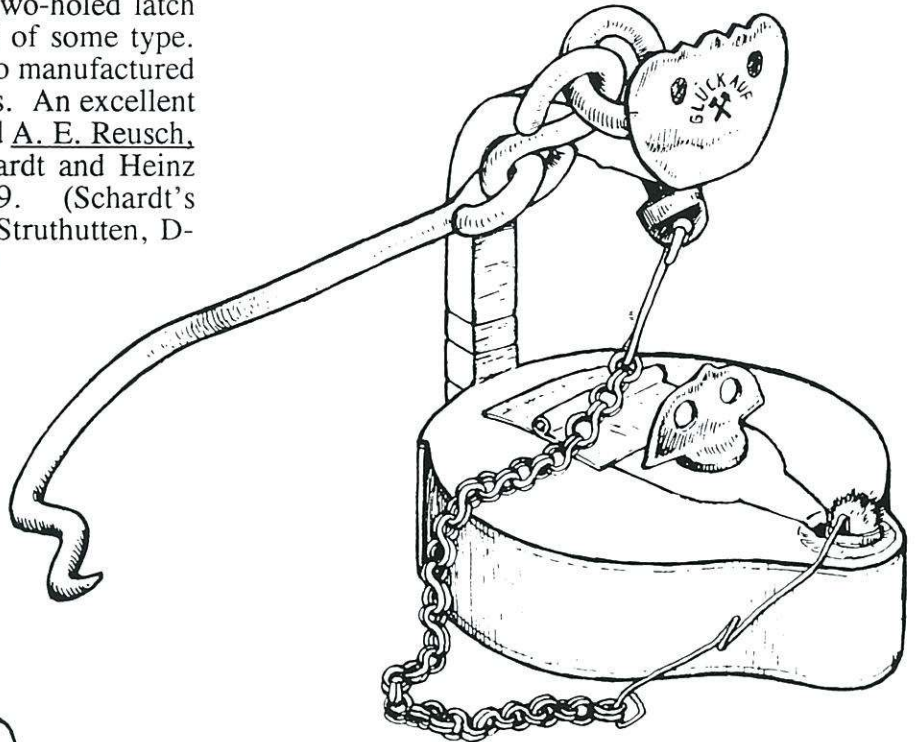


Figure 22. Erhard Reusch Rooster Frog. Even rarer than the previously shown Reusch frog is this variety which carries a brass rooster latch handle emblazoned with the maker's initials "ER" on one side and a "D" for his hometown of Daaden (near Siegen) on the other side. Also characteristic is the single-dot umlaut on the shield, apparently due to a broken die. (Karsten Porezag collection)

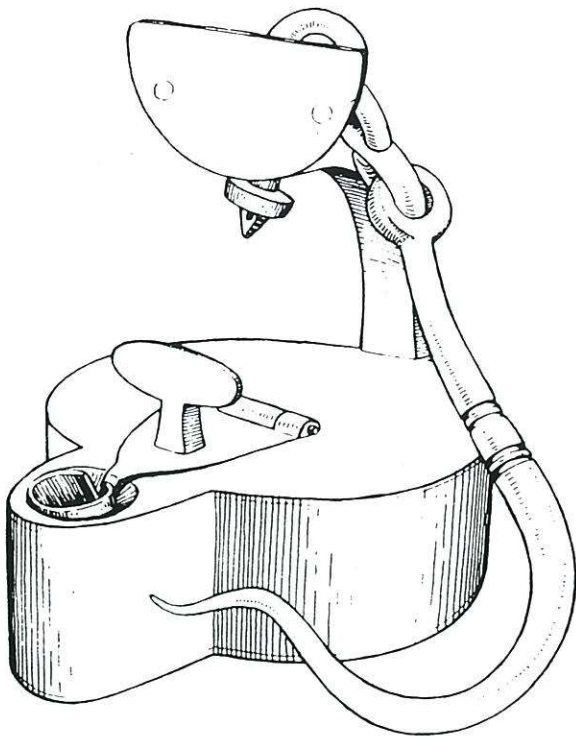


Figure 23. The interesting feature of this frog is the unusual shape of the latch handle. Otherwise the lamp is of common design. The brass shield plate is unmarked. . . perhaps the lamp was never sold. It shows no evidence of wear at the typical points: the bail ring, the S ring and the hook eyelet. This example was found in the U. S.

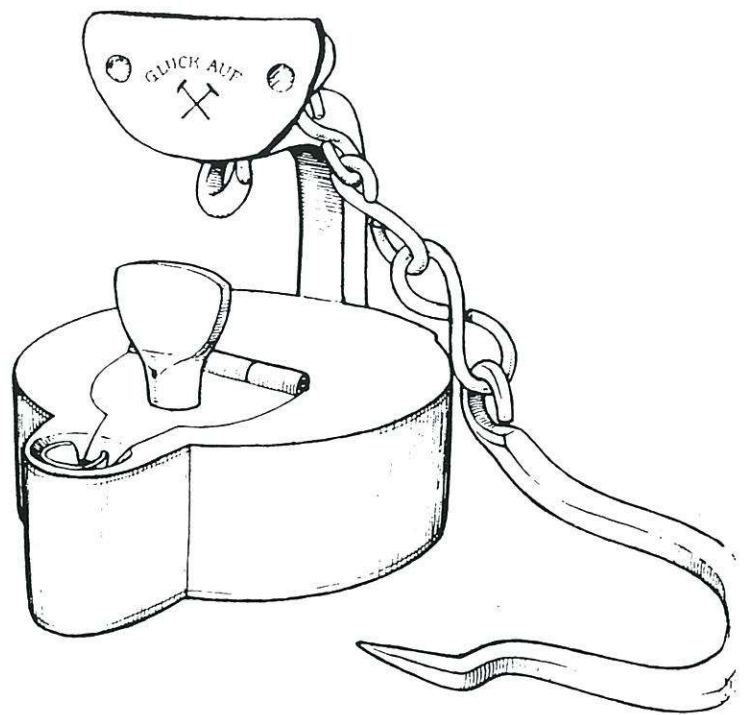


Figure 24. Surveyor's Frog. Supposedly the extra links on the hook assure a perfectly straight hang for surveying purposes. Personally I have doubts about the actual utility of this feature for surveying. Nonetheless, it is an interesting lamp with nicely hand-forged hook and triangular latch handle. Only the shield is in brass.

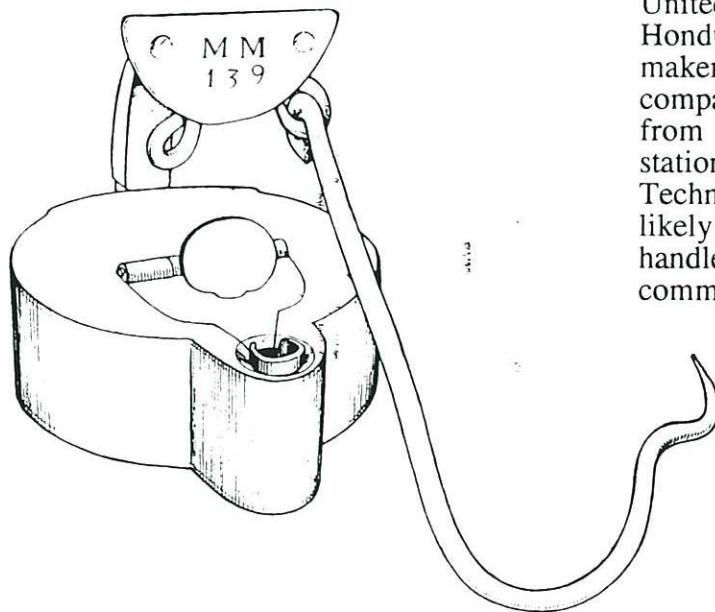


Figure 25. Honduran Frog. Frog lamps were used more extensively in Mexico and Central America, for some reason, than they were in the United States. This common style was used in Honduras, probably ordered from a German maker by a Honduras-based German mining company. All such frogs thus far brought back from Honduras by a geologist-lamp collector stationed there (Dr. Richard Finch, Tennessee Technological University) carry two letters, most likely initials, and a number. The circular latch handle on this one is unusual . . . most are the common heart shape. (Henry Pohs collection)

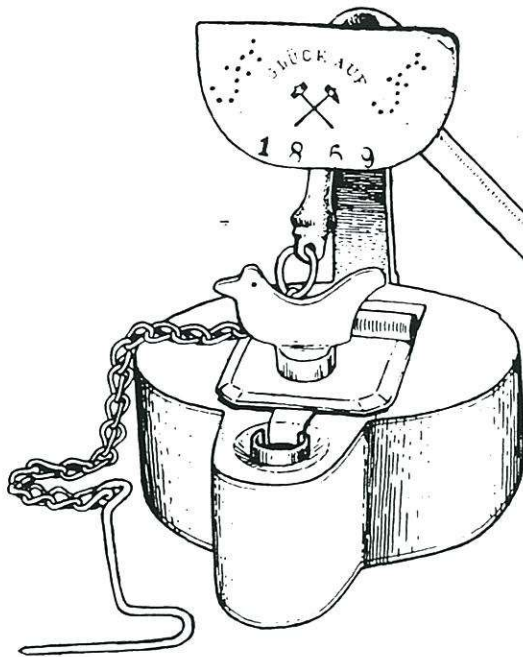


Figure 26. Rooster Frog. The rooster on this interesting frog is flat rather than sculpted in three dimensions. The font lid plate is brass, as is the shield. The shield is filled with markings: the miner's initials "F F," the date "1869," and the usual "GLÜCK AUF" and crossed hammers. The pick and chain are probably replacements.

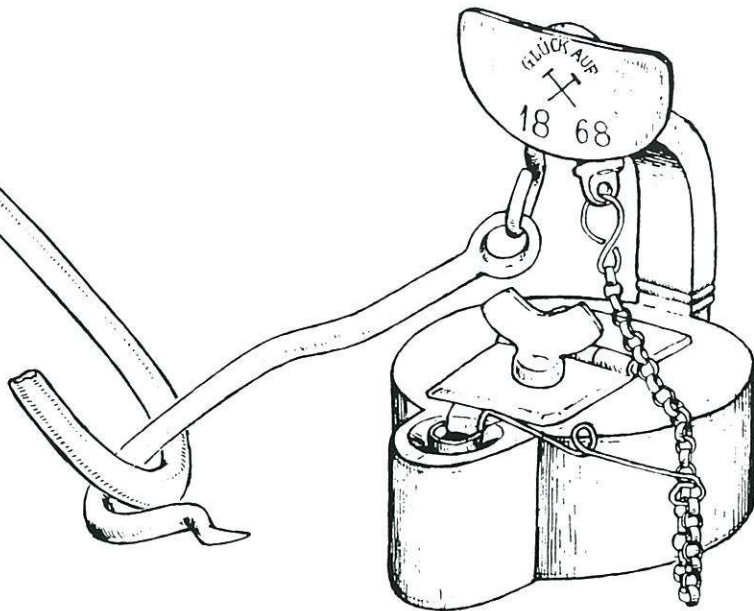


Figure 27. This attractive example is typically Westphalian in design except for the unusual U-shaped latch handle. The rectangular brass font door is a late innovation found on frogs of the latter third of the 19th century. (Karsten Porezag collection)

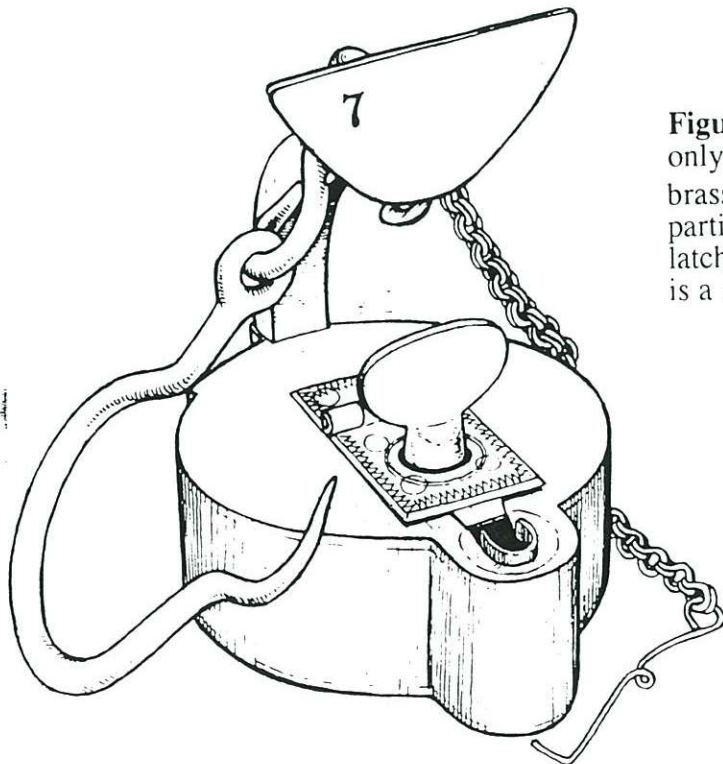


Figure 28. The over-sized brass shield marked only with the number "7," and the engraved brass lid plate with copper rivets make this a particularly attractive frog. The oval-shaped latch handle is unusual as well, though the chain is a replacement.

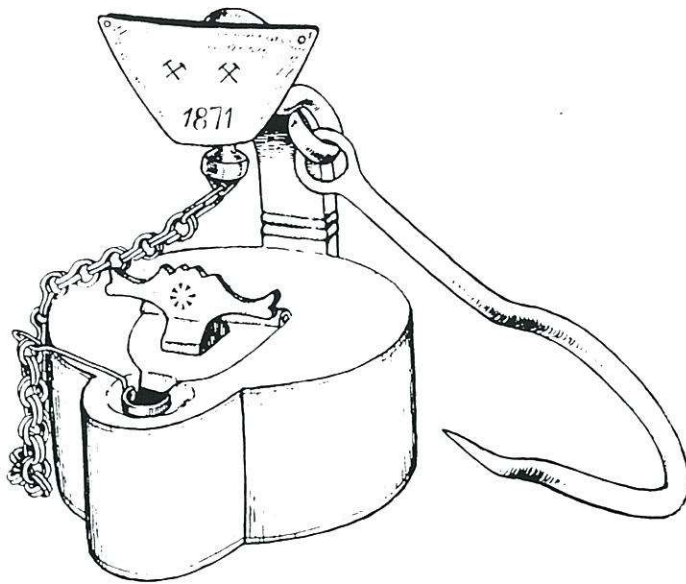


Figure 29. Crocodile Frog. The name for this frog derives from the unusual shape of the latch handle which vaguely resembles a crocodile's head. The two sets of crossed hammers on the shield are unusual. The chain is a replacement. Probably made near Nassau or Bad Ems. Though this example was found in Germany, crocodile frogs have been found in the United States. (Karsten Porezag collection)

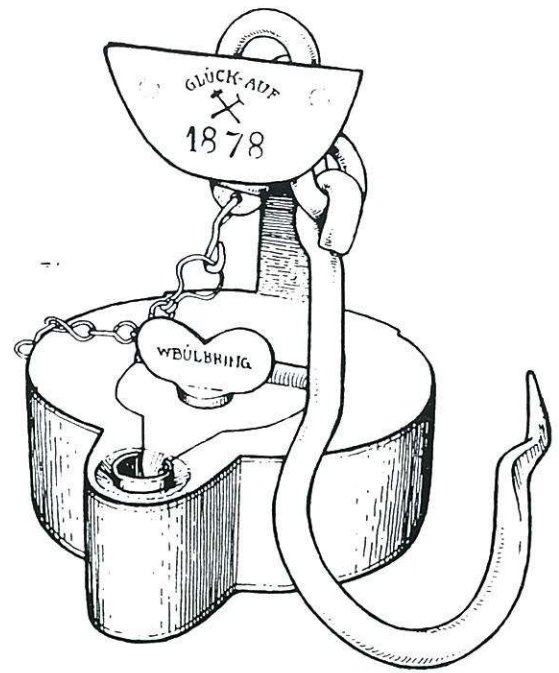


Figure 30. Bülbring Frog. As mentioned previously, few frog lamps are signed by the maker. The example shown here is stamped with the name "W BÜLBRING." Examples stamped "R BÜLBRING" and "C BÜLBRING"

are also known. Unfortunately nothing has yet been discovered about the Bülbring family, or where they lived (there is indirect evidence that they were located near Hanover). But they did date their frogs in most cases, and produced at least two models: the one shown here, and a similar model with rectangular brass font door. Details of the "GLÜCK AUF" stamp can serve to identify Bulbring frogs if the name on the latch handle is not legible; note particularly the large left foot or serif on the A, the spiked serif on the L, and the shape of the K. The frog is iron, with a brass shield. This example was found in the United States.

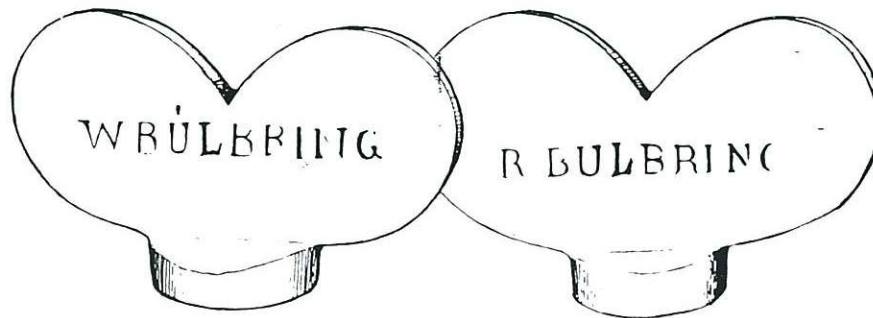


Figure 31. Detail of stamping on two Bülbring frogs.

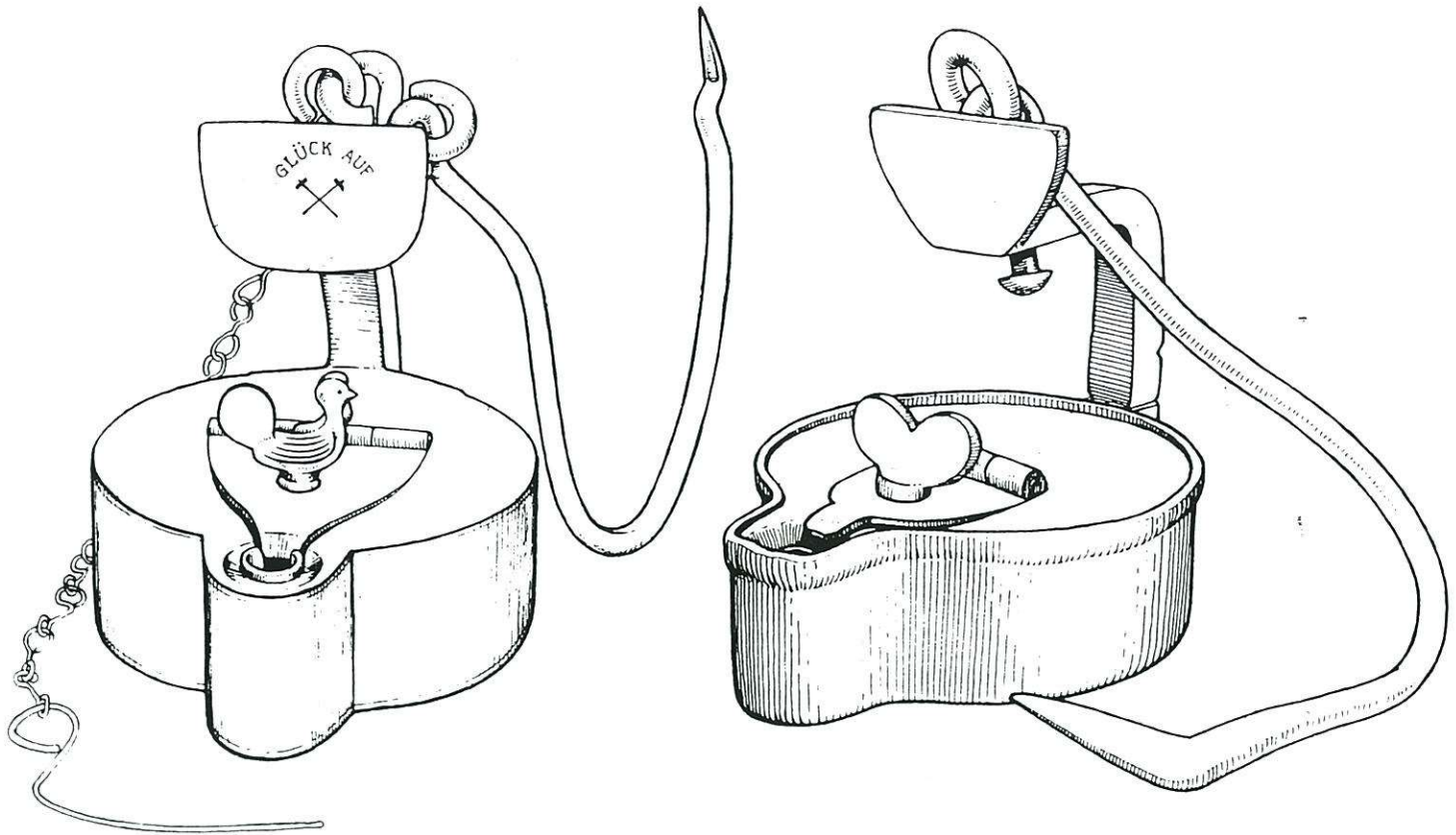


Figure 32. Rooster Frog. This frog carries a brass rooster clearly different from that of a Seippel frog. In addition, the shield is nearly square in shape, the hook is very large, and the pointed pick is on the right instead of the left. This particular example, though most likely of German manufacture, was brought to the United States in 1880 by an Austrian miner, Alaysius Gutfelder, and subsequently passed down to his descendants. Iron body, brass shield. (Colorado School of Mines collection)

Figure 33. Die-Cast Frog by Friemann und Wolf (Zwickau in Saxony). Most frogs (except the open-font variety) have a font constructed from three pieces (top, bottom, sides) which are brazed or soldered together. The example pictured here, however, has a two-piece font. The bottom and sides were created from one piece of sheet steel by pressing it into a mold under high pressure. Then the top was dropped in and the edges crimped around it. The bail is cast in one piece with the plain iron shield, rather than being forged from square stock.

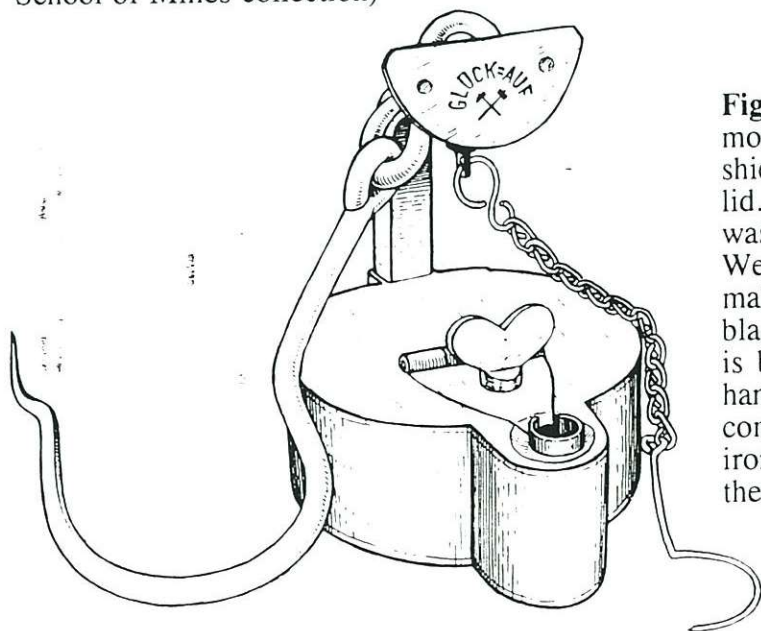


Figure 34. Seippel-Type Frog. This is the most common style of frog lamp: semi-circular shield, heart-shaped latch handle and small font lid. The most prolific manufacturer of this type was the firm of Wilhelm Seippel in Bochum, Westphalia, founded in 1858. Many other makers, from large companies to small-town blacksmiths, made this type as well. The shield is brass, as are the wick pick chain and latch handle, though the latter two parts are just as common in iron. The font, bail and hook are iron. The addition of a year date or initials on the shield is also common with this type.

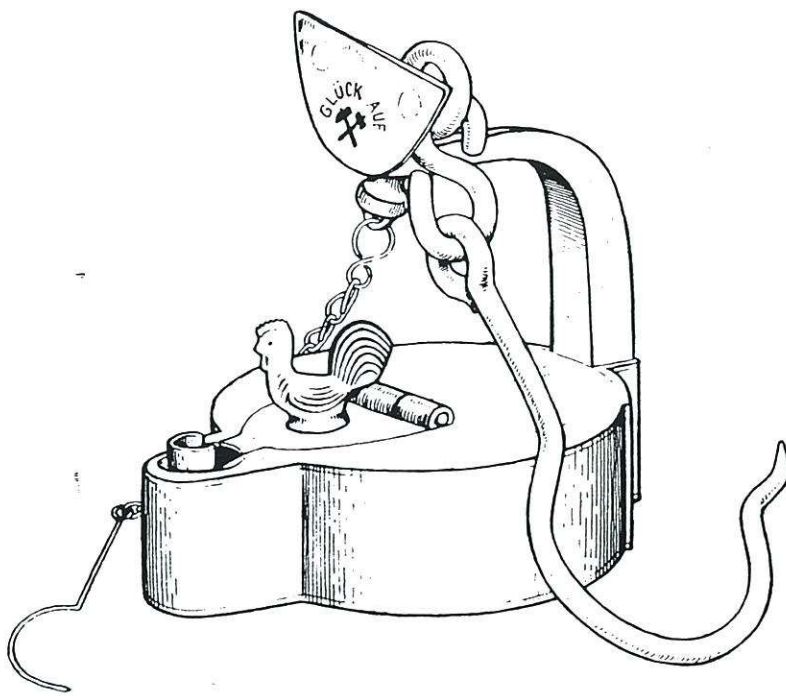


Figure 35. Wilhelm Seippel Rooster Frog. The Wilhelm Seippel company in Bochum, Westphalia, made at least two varieties of frog lamp: iron body and heart-shaped shield (model No. 32), and brass body and brass rooster-shaped latch handle (model No. 33). The sculpturing of the rooster is characteristic, and serves to distinguish a Seippel rooster frog from those of other manufacturers. Also, Seippel always placed the pointed pick (on the shield) on the left, whereas some other makers placed it in the preferred position on the right.

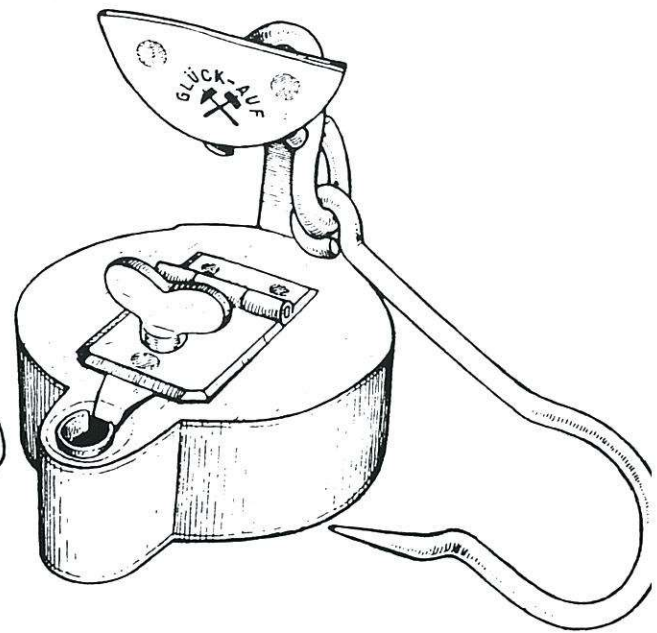


Figure 36. Seippel-Type Frog. A minor refinement also in the design of the Seippel type of frog lamp is the addition of a rectangular brass plate over the front door, as shown here.

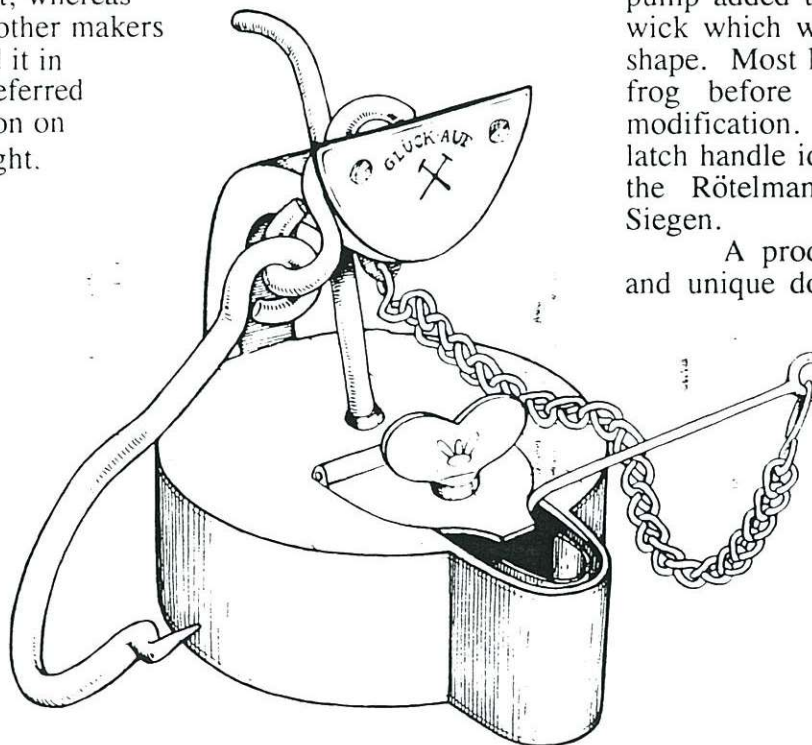


Figure 37. Rötelmann Frog with Air-feed (Luftzuführung). A better flame can be produced if a flow of air is provided from below the wick. This example has a home-made air pump added to the front, and space for a large wick which was folded into a semi-cylindrical shape. Most likely it was an ordinary model of frog before someone made this makeshift modification. The little crown stamped on the latch handle identifies this frog as one made by the Rötelmann company in Werdohl, near Siegen.

A production model frog with air-feed and unique double half-bail was originated by August Ark around 1897, though examples are extremely scarce. (Karsten Porezag collection)

NEVADA'S MANHATTAN MINING COMPANY SCRIP

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Private paper currency or scrip was issued in many parts of the U.S. during the nineteenth century, but only a handful of firms ever attempted this measure in the "hard-money" West. This was especially true throughout the silver and gold mining regions of Nevada. The few issues that did exist were at best short-lived and at worst dismal failures. Today surviving notes are generally rare with the exception of those printed for the Manhattan Silver Mining Company of Austin. While never issued, these well-executed bills are vivid reminders of a little-known conflict in Western economic history.

Austin was only 12 years old when these colorful notes were created. Discovered in May 1862 by a stage station employee chasing runaway horses, the rich silver mines of the area promoted the "Rush to Reese River" the following year. Soon the new town of Austin boasted a population of more than 2,000 people and was determined to become as famous as Virginia City.

As mining locations were discovered in central Nevada, Austin also became a supply center for outlying camps. Mills were built, schools and churches were established and the frantic days of the initial rush gave way to the steady activity of a successful mining community.

While the Comstock boom primarily drew its investors from the Pacific Coast, especially San Francisco, Austin's initial rush attracted quite a bit of Eastern capital. Nevada had been a state less than a year when New York financiers purchased the North Star, Oregon and Southern Light mines located just over the hill to the north of the town. These properties were united with other later acquisitions under the name of the Manhattan Mill and Mining Co., which in 1865 was renamed the Manhattan Silver Mining Co. of Nevada.

The "Rush to Reese River" also attracted the pioneer Virginia City banking firm of Paxton &

Thornburgh. Their Austin branch, opened in 1863, became the banking house of Paxton & Co. five years later when John A. Paxton bought out his partner.

As the Manhattan Mining Company continued to grow and prosper, buying up most of the major mines in the Reese River Mining District, it first began shipping bullion through the local express company. "This afternoon some 30 large bars of bullion from the Manhattan Co. were delivered at the office of Wells, Fargo & Co." reported the *Reese River Reveille* in 1867, "but the circumstances received no more notice from the passers than would a load of bricks. They were used to it."

Gradually the firm began to do more of its business through Paxton's bank, especially as the shrewd banker had quietly begun to purchase stock in the Manhattan Company as early as 1868. By 1872 Austin was the second largest city in Nevada when Allen A. Curtis, superintendent of the Manhattan Company, became Paxton's partner, changing the bank's name to Paxton & Curtis. So successful was this partnership that within two years they had acquired a controlling interest in the Manhattan Company, spending a reported \$500,000 in the process.

By 1875 John Paxton was a well-respected businessman and financier, although he lived full-time in California and only occasionally visited his far-flung banks and mines which stretched from Hamilton to Lida to Reno. It was Allen Curtis who really controlled the partners' eastern Nevada businesses. Besides managing the huge Manhattan Mining Company and supervising the region's most active bank, he was also elected county treasurer and town alderman.

Yet while the banking house of Paxton & Curtis was a strong, well-managed firm, it suffered from the same lack of hard coinage as did the rest of the West. From the earliest days