

# FROG LAMPS

## PART IV

by Wendell E. Wilson  
4631 Paseo Tubutama  
Tucson, Arizona 85715



Figure 48. The Austro-Hungarian Empire as it existed from 1871 to 1914.

### AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN FROGS

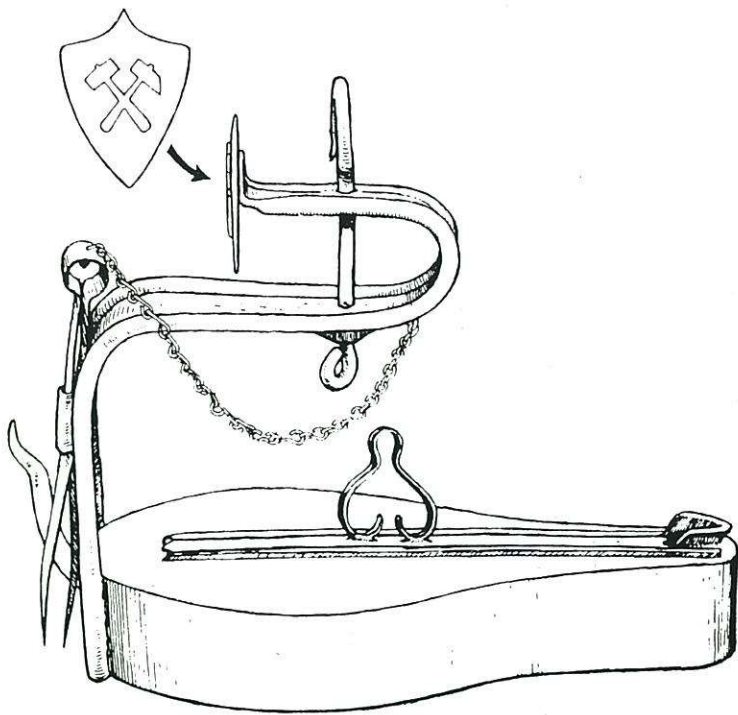
Frog lamps from the Austro-Hungarian Empire (which included Bohemia) are easy to recognize because of their larger size and elongated font. Whereas the font on German frog lamps is typically 9 or 10 cm long from front to back, the Austro-Hungarian fonts can be twice that size.

Differentiating the regions within Austria-Hungary is much more difficult and prone to error. In general it is thought that the lamps from Steiermark, Austria, are characterized by a recumbent bail, a bail which folds back on itself at the top end. Bohemian frogs are thought to be similar in appearance but without a recumbent bail. Hungarian frogs are thought to have a screw set in the sliding font lid for tightening the

lid in place. But there are sufficient known exceptions to suggest that perhaps this is not a reliable basis for distinguishing between the regions.

Another feature distinguishing Austro-Hungarian lamps from their German counterparts is that the *Schlagel und Eisen*, the crossed mallet and gad, are raised on the shield rather than incised (if present at all). Another typical though not universal feature is a full loop in the shaft of the hook. Finally, Austro-Hungarian frogs are very likely to have tweezers on a chain for pulling up the wick, whereas this feature is almost unknown in German lamps.

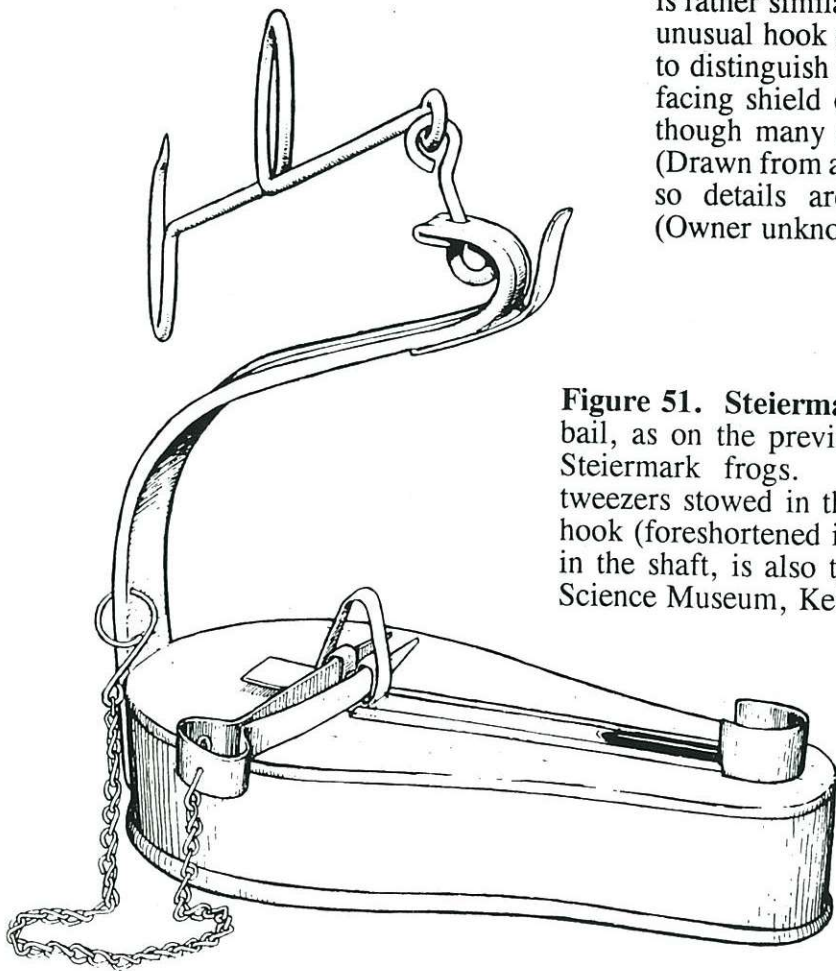
For some reason, hardly any Austro-Hungarian frog lamps were exported to the United States or brought along by immigrants.



**Figure 49. Steiermark Frog.** The style pictured, with sliding front door and backward-facing shield, is characteristic of examples from Steiermark, Austria. This one is all brass. (Owner unknown)



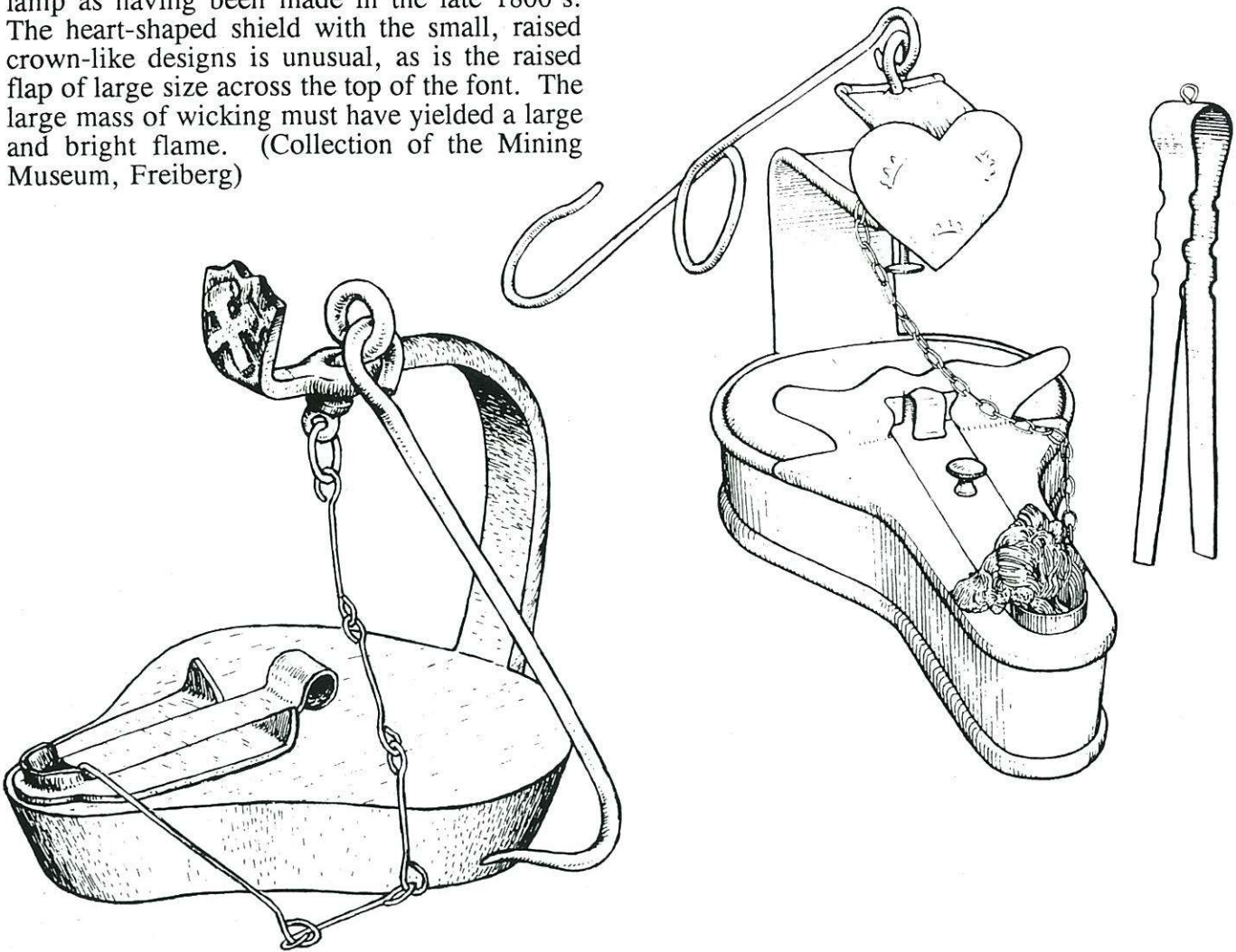
**Figure 50. Steiermark Frog.** This example, made by Franz Grebenz, Trefail, in Steiermark, is rather similar to the previous illustration. The unusual hook and the bands about the front serve to distinguish it. It may have carried a reverse-facing shield originally, which is now missing, though many similar examples have no shield. (Drawn from another drawing, not a photograph, so details are less reliable.) Late 1800's. (Owner unknown)



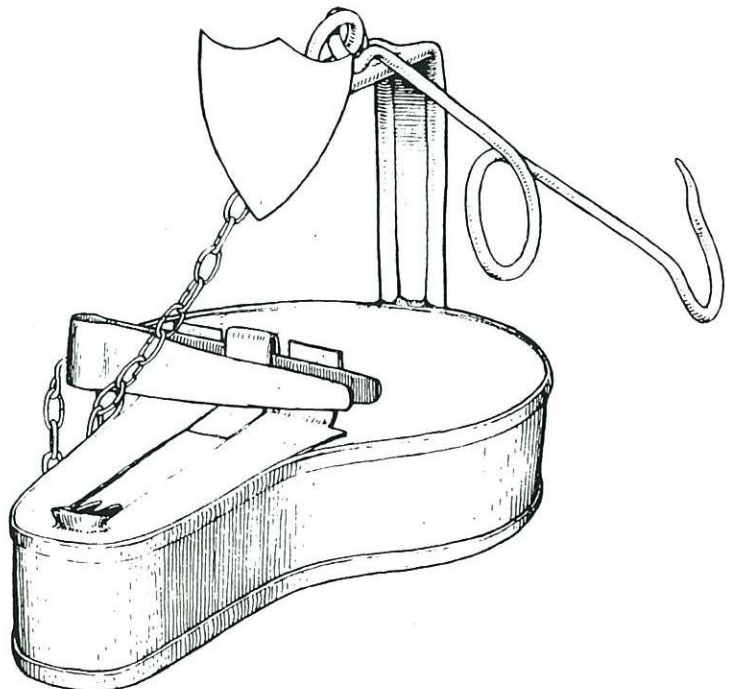
**Figure 51. Steiermark Frog.** The recumbent bail, as on the previous example, is typical of Steiermark frogs. This one has the wick tweezers stowed in the sliding latch. The long hook (foreshortened in this sketch), with a loop in the shaft, is also typical. (Collection of the Science Museum, Kensington, England)



**Figure 52. Austrian Frog.** The Mining Museum in Freiberg dates this all-brass frog lamp as having been made in the late 1800's. The heart-shaped shield with the small, raised crown-like designs is unusual, as is the raised flap of large size across the top of the font. The large mass of wicking must have yielded a large and bright flame. (Collection of the Mining Museum, Freiberg)

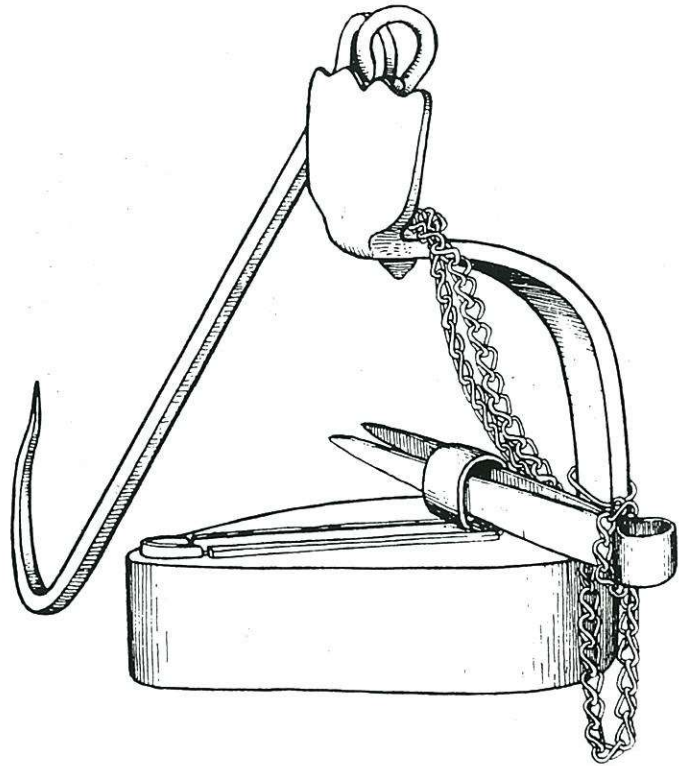
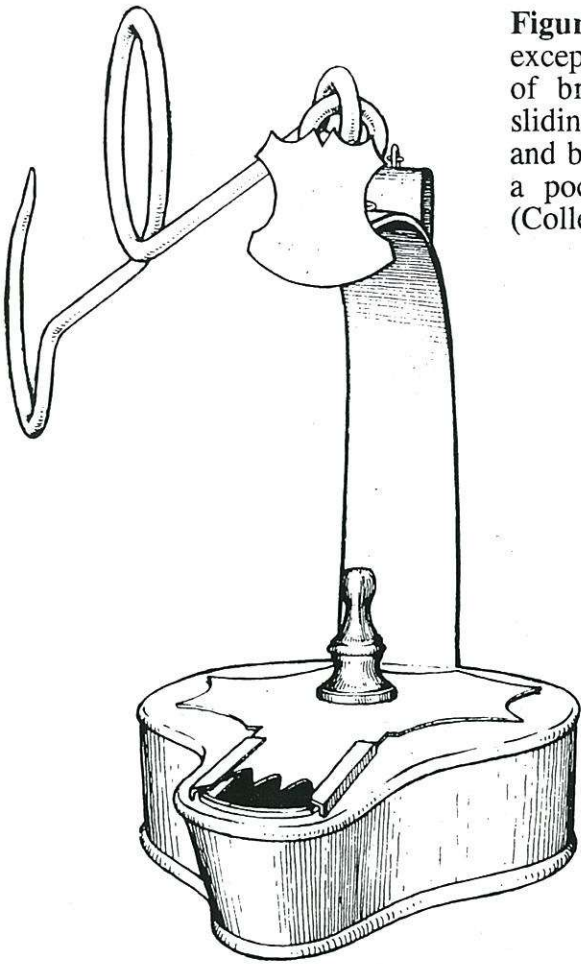


**Figure 53. Pirringer Frog.** This frog was made in Graz, Austria, and is marked "P. PIRRINGER, GRAZ." Pirringer also made a French-style lenticular lamp. The lamp shown here has the typical Austrian sliding font door and shield with raised hammers. All in iron. (Karsten Porezag collection)

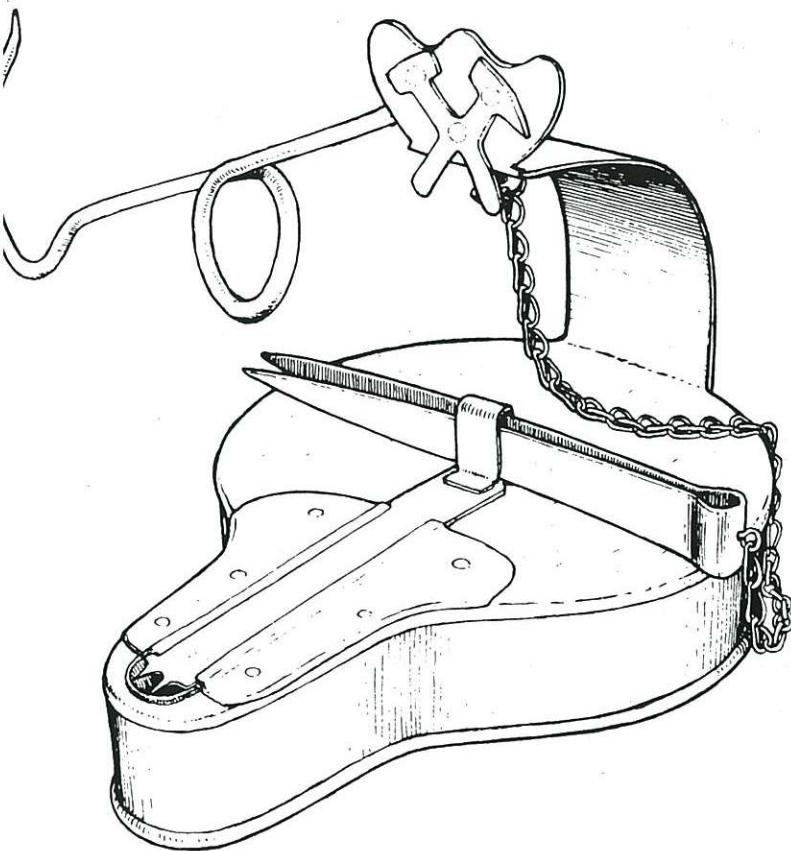


**Figure 54. Bohemian Frog.** This is a typical Czechoslovakian frog, made completely of thin tinned steel, except for the brass chain. (Collection of the author; found in the U.S.)

**Figure 55. Bohemian Parade Frog.** This exceptionally nice parade lamp is made entirely of brass, and has an interesting star-shaped sliding font door. It dates from the late 1800's and burned rape oil. Note the tweezers held in a pocket mounted on the back of the bail. (Collection of the Bochum Mining Museum)



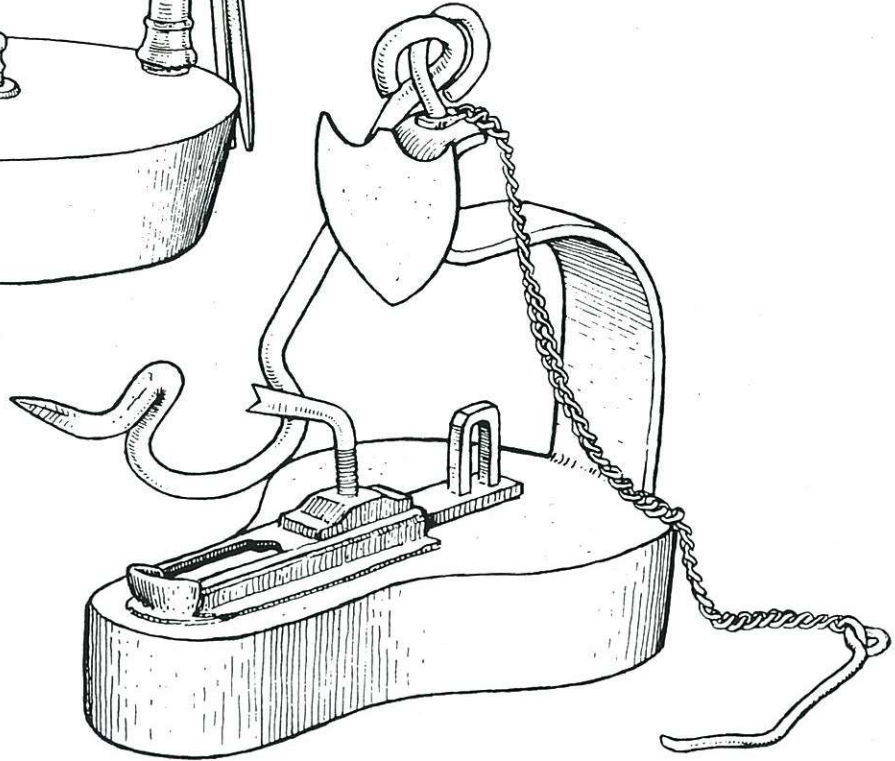
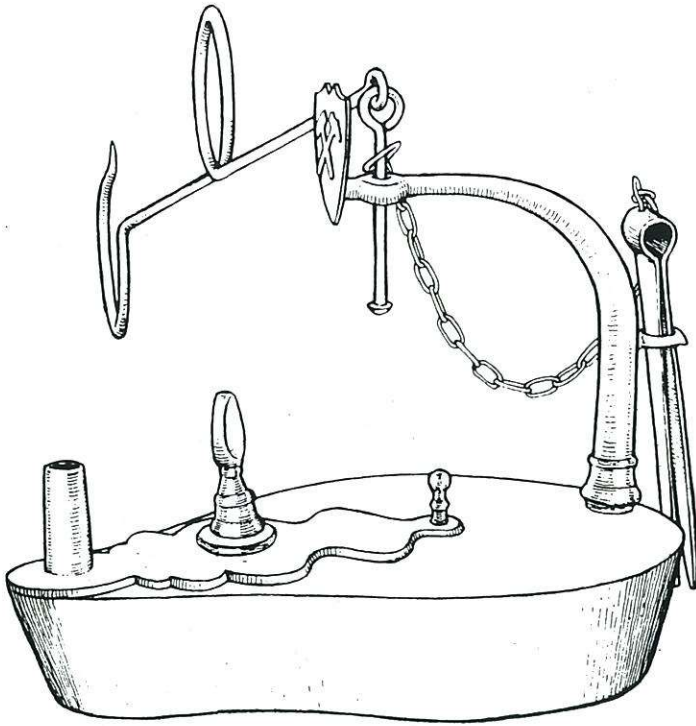
**Figure 56. Small Austrian Frog.** Not all Austrian frogs are of the large type, as evidenced by this small frog with a Steiermark-style sliding font lid with tweezer-holder. The tweezer's chain is so long that it has been looped around the base of the bail ring. Aside from some Oberharz frogs, German frogs in general do not have tweezers. (Collection of the Osterreichisches Museum für Volkskunde, Vienna)



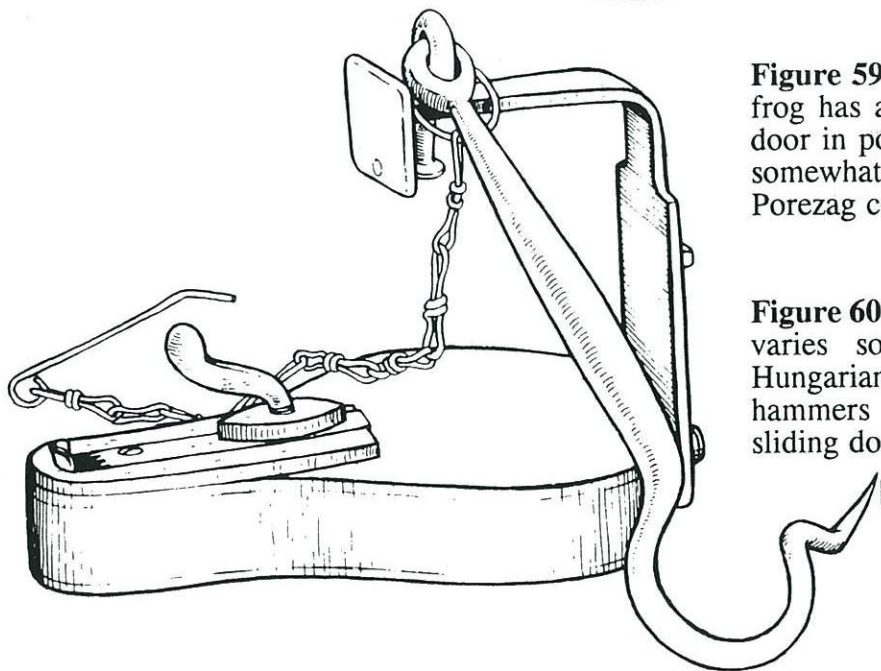
**Figure 57. Brass Bohemian Frog.** Here is a fine example of the Austro-Hungarian frog, all in brass, with tweezers and looped hook. Unusual are the *Schlagel* and *Eisen*, which are of copper and are so large that they overlap the shield. (Collection of the author; found in the U.S.)



**Figure 58. Austrian Frog.** This is a particularly fine example of an all-iron Austrian frog lamp of the latter 1800's. It has the typical hook with shaft loop and the crossed hammers on the shield. The long wick support is rather unusual, as is the cylindrical shape of the bail. (Collection of the Osterreichisches Museum für Volkskunde, Vienna)

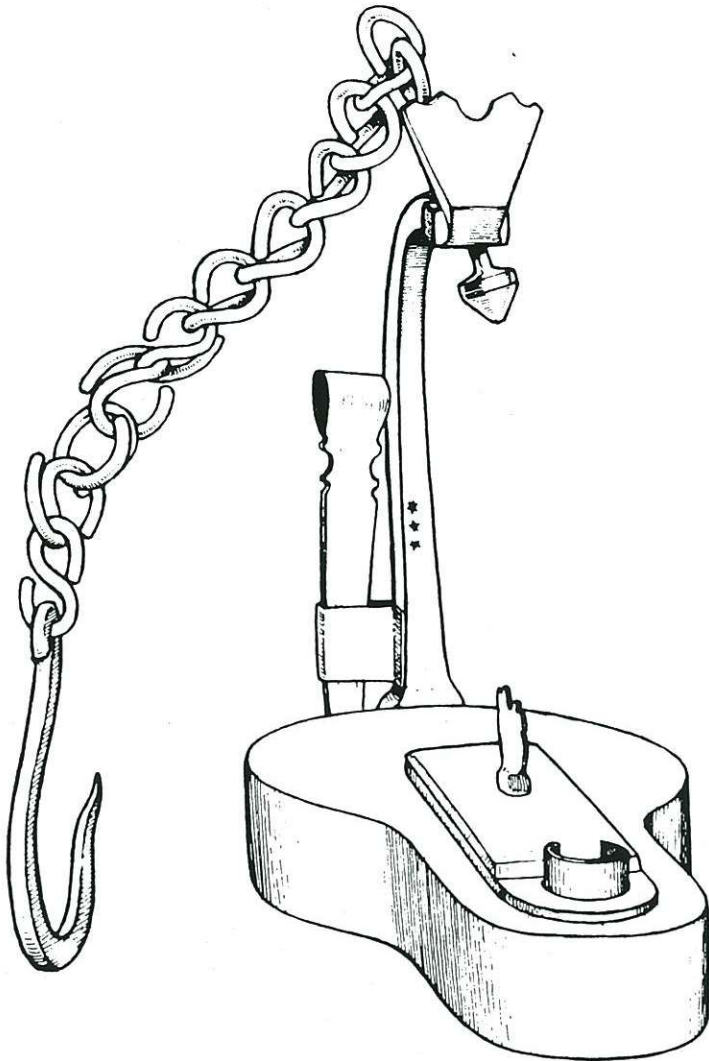
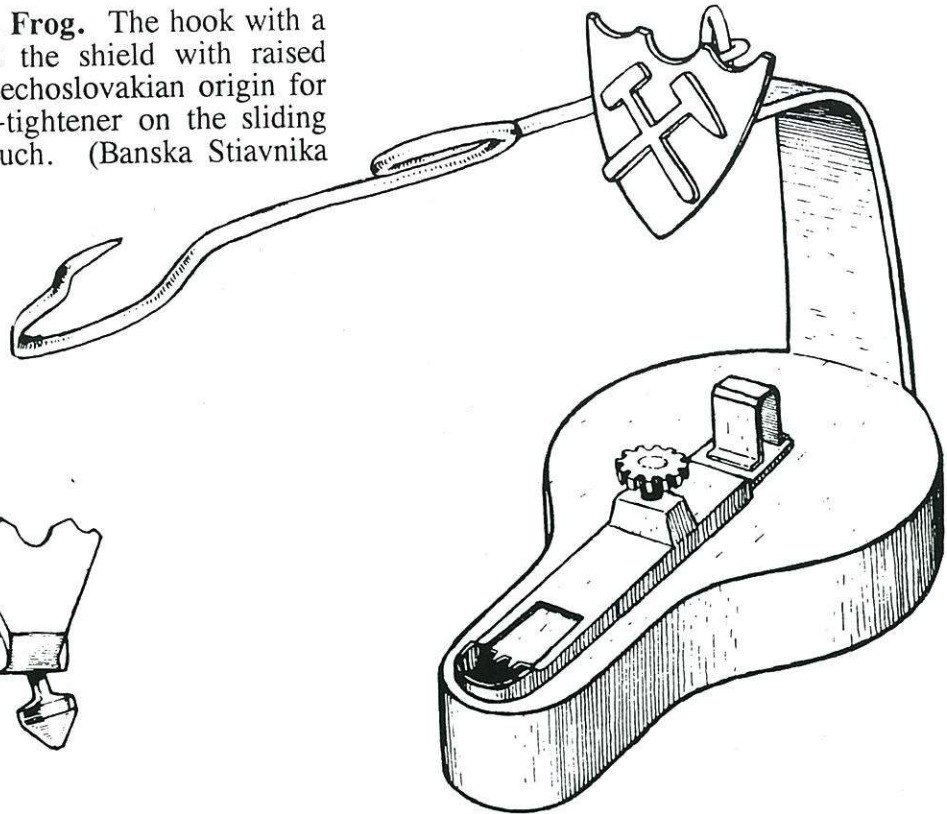


**Figure 59. Hungarian Frog.** This Hungarian frog has a screw for clamping the sliding front door in position. The formation of the hook is somewhat unusual as well. All iron. (Karsten Porezag collection)

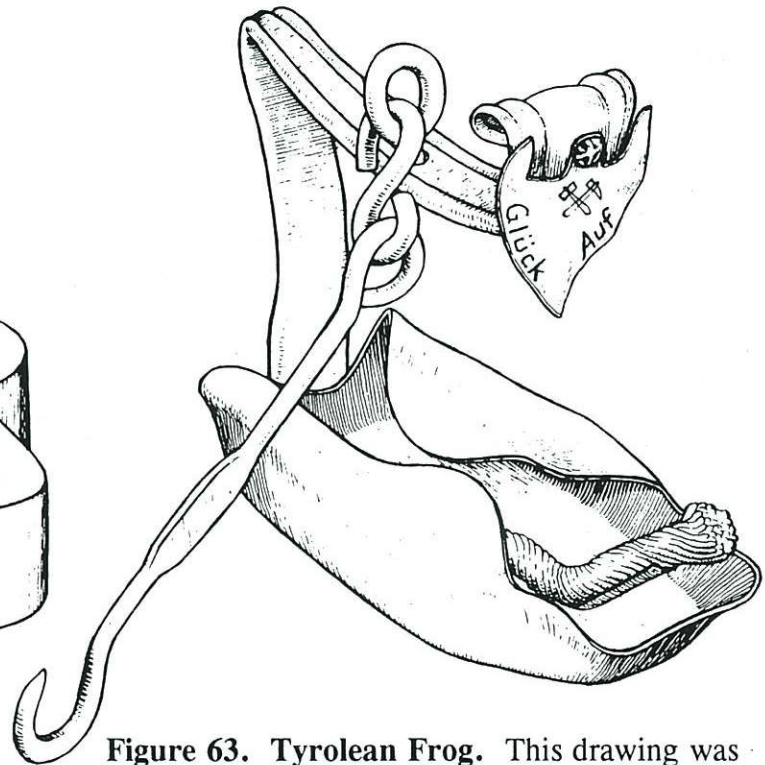


**Figure 60. Hungarian Frog.** This all-iron frog varies somewhat from the typical Austro-Hungarian design in its square shield without hammers and its unusual latch handle on the sliding door. (Karsten Porezag collection)

**Figure 61. Bohemian Frog.** The hook with a loop in the shaft and the shield with raised hammers suggest a Czechoslovakian origin for this frog. The screw-tightener on the sliding door is an unusual touch. (Banska Stiavnika Mining Museum)



**Figure 62. Austrian Frog.** Though obviously a large frog of the Austro-Hungarian type, this example has too many peculiarities for its origin to be accurately located using current knowledge. The interesting shield shape, the extremely large-link chain used to connect the hook, and several other features make this a very interesting and, as far as I know, unique lamp. (Collection of the Science Museum, Kensington, England)



**Figure 63. Tyrolean Frog.** This drawing was taken from another drawing, and so the details are not as reliable as if it had been taken from a photograph. The original illustrator referred to it as a *Schiffchen* lamp, but it has all of the features required of a frog lamp, in particular the shield (which is brass). Lamps of this type date to the early 1800's. (Owner unknown)