

SOME RECENT REPRODUCTIONS

by Wendell E. Wilson
Tucson, Arizona

Back in *MAC* #15 I wrote a brief note in the "Notes from the Editor" section about "Modern-made lamps" being offered in the attractive catalog of Rupert Höll's company, *Mineralienecke Clausthal* (Postfach 1108, D-3392 Clausthal-Zellerfeld, Germany). These items are made for sale to the professional mining community, as presentation pieces, office decor and so on.

Unfortunately (?) for the collector, many of the lamps and lamp reproductions in the catalog are so beautifully made that even experts have a hard time telling them from their real old-time counterparts. A recent article in another publication pictured two oil-wick lamps that are dead ringers for items in the Höll catalog, but are described in the text as authentically old (the writer apparently having been unaware that such

reproductions are being made). Had I not seen the *Mineralienecke Clausthal* catalog, I'm sure I would have been fooled myself. Consequently it seems prudent to show our readers pictures of a few more items from the catalog, as a forewarning against buying or trading for some of these repros as if they were antiques.

Figure 1, top left, shows a beautifully crafted reproduction of a 3 1/2 inch English oil-wick lamp with a spout cap and chain (note the crossed hammers on the spout cap). This kind was originally used in the Northumberland mines around 1890. The repro, which is all in "patinaed" (artificially tarnished) brass, sell for about \$16.

Figure 2, bottom left, shows a reproduction of what the catalog calls a "Colorado" oil-wick cap lamp of the milk can shape, said originally to date to around 1880. I'd say it more closely resembles a shielded Trethaway of the 1900-1930 period. It is all "patinaed" brass, measures 4 inches tall and weighs about 5.3 ounces. Price: about \$16. (These two lamps are the models recently mis-reported as being antique.)

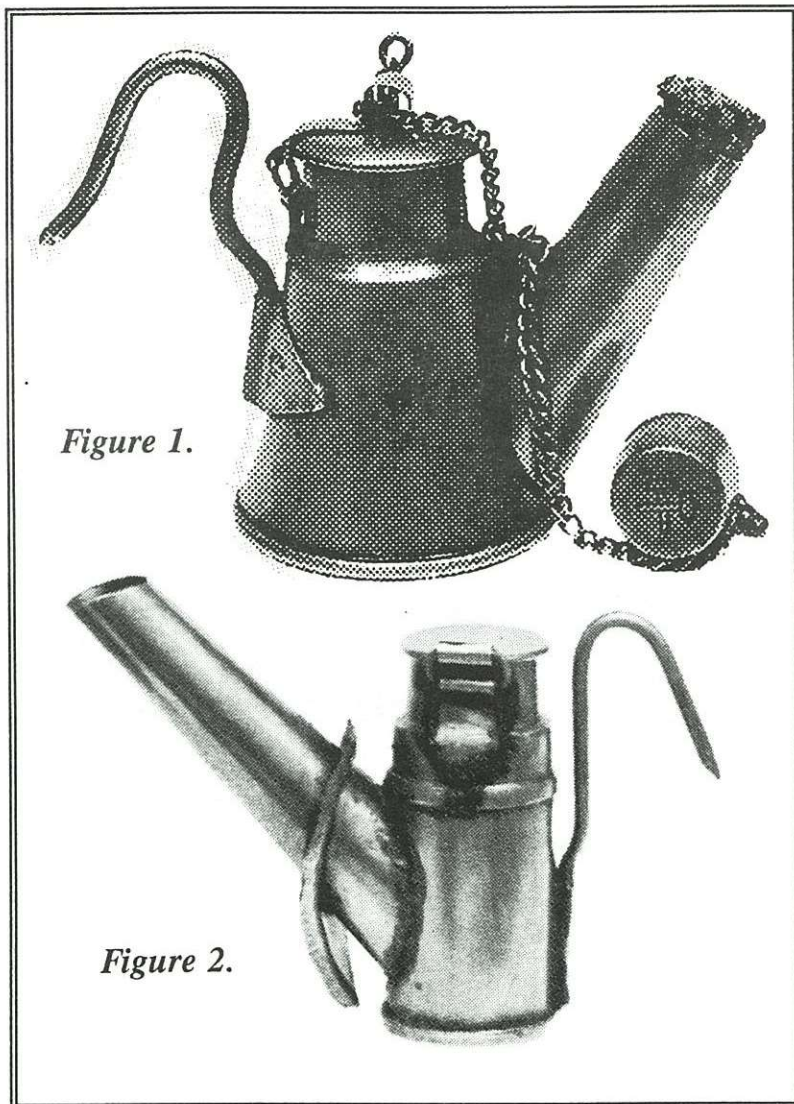


Figure 1.

Figure 2.

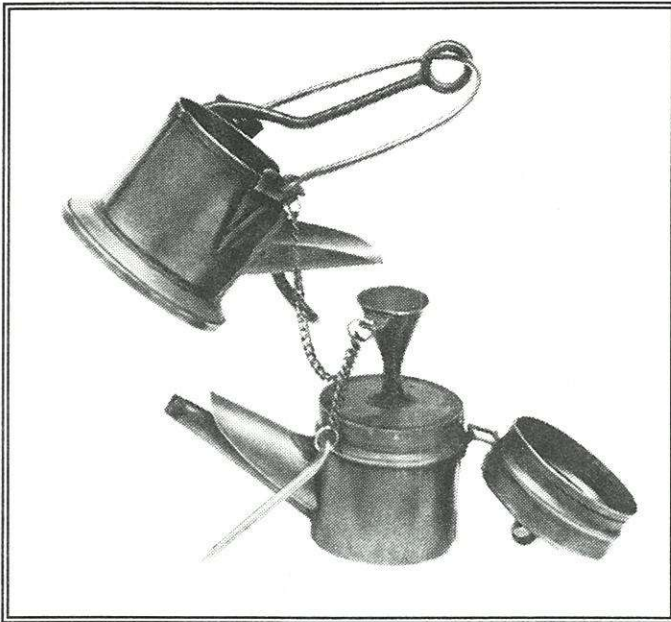


Figure 3 above shows a reproduction of a rare Mansfeld (Germany) "double shell" oil lamp, all in "patinaed" brass, after a model made around 1900. It measures 3 1/2 inches tall and weighs 5.6 ounces. Price: about \$20.

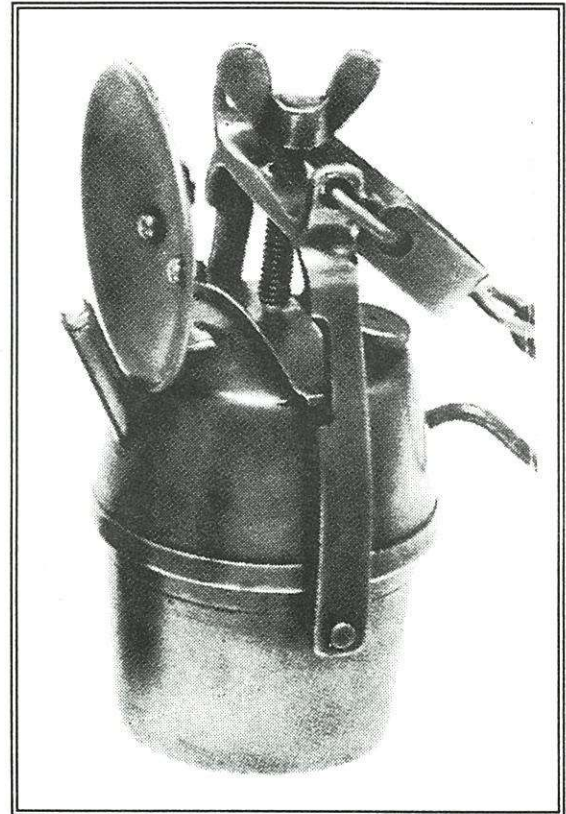


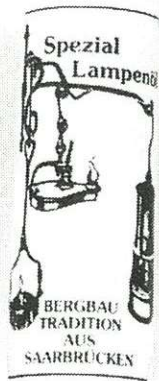
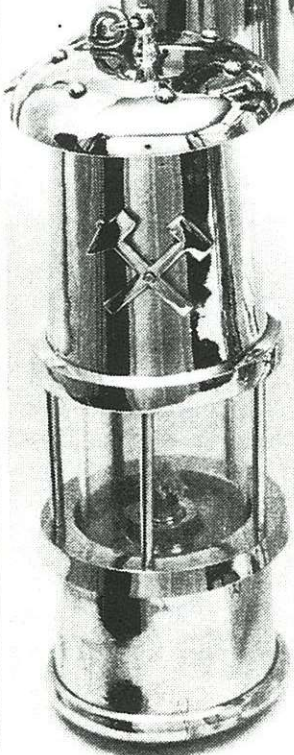
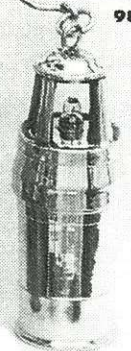
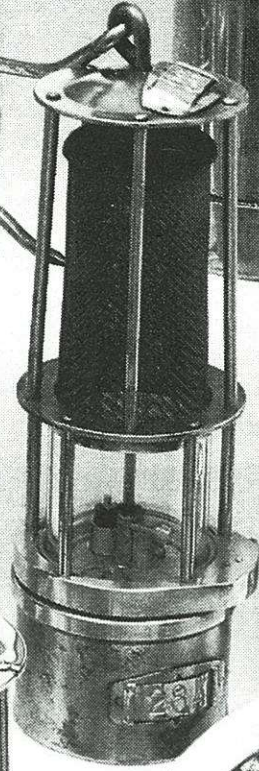
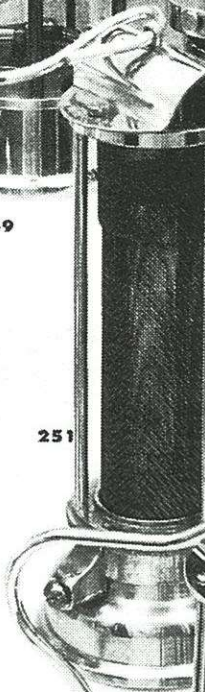
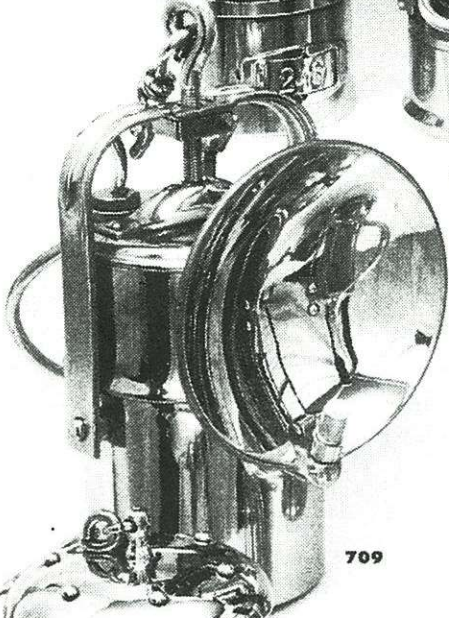
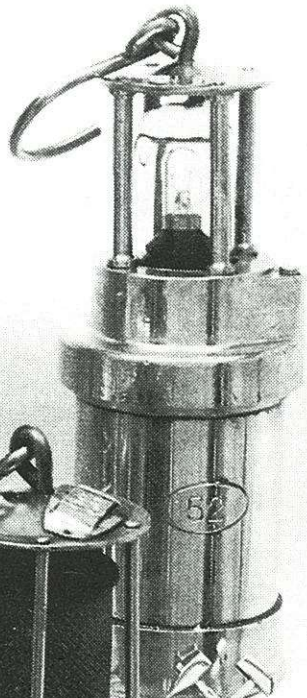
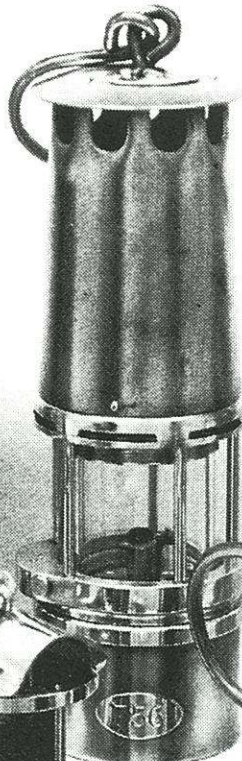
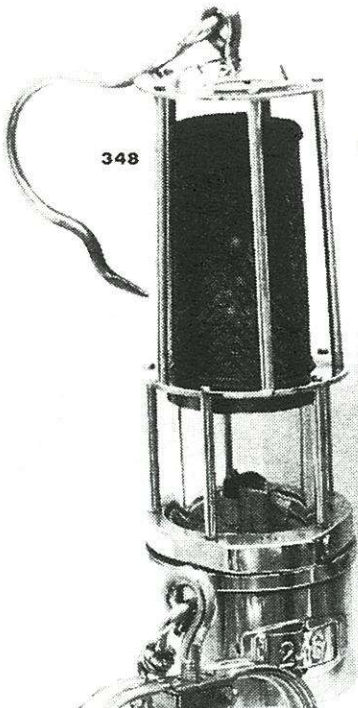
Figure 4 above shows a reproduction of a small 4-hour carbide "barrel" lamp of the kind originally made around 1910 by the firm of Friemann & Wolf in Zwickau, Saxony. It is all artificially tarnished brass, and very faithful to the original, but lacks a maker's plate. Without hook it measures 6 1/4 inches tall and weighs 17 1/2 ounces. Price: about \$35.



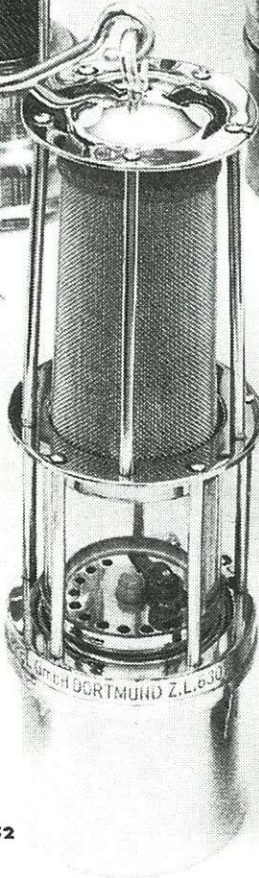
Figure 5, at left, shows the front cover of the catalog of Rupert Höll's company, *Mineralienecke Clausthal*.

Figure 6, on the next page, shows a full-page catalog illustration depicting nine beautiful safety lamps and one 8-hour carbide, all newly made. The Davy lamp (#251) is particularly nice, and precisely duplicates some models made in Pennsylvania by the Hughes Brothers and by the American Safety Lamp and Mine Supply Company. Similar Davys were made in England by Thomas & Williams.

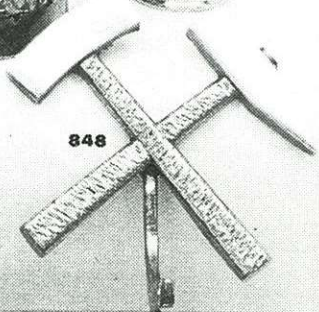
Caveat emptor! ("Buyer beware")



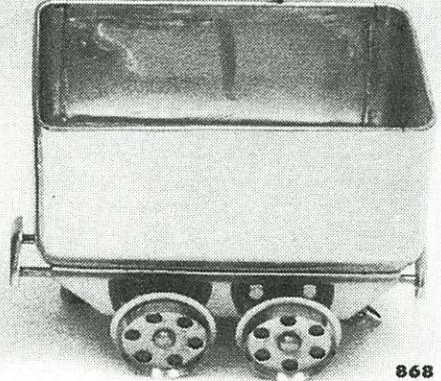
427



1052



848



868