

Benzine Safety Lamps of Europe

by Werner Horning

Benzine, also known as naphtha, was the latest fuel to be used in safety lamps. Similar to cigarette-lighter fluid, not only was it safe, but it provided greater illuminating power with less smoke compared to the earlier vegetable oil mixes. The most notable of the benzine lamps was the Wolf brand which saw world-wide use. The largest variety of safety lamps were produced in Europe. The following represents one author's impressive collection of European benzine safety lamps.

Class of Lamp:

Benzene Safety Lamp /BL 10/
111

Place/Country of Origin:

Hoppecke, Brilon/Westf.,
Germany

Manufacturer:

Dominit Werke GmbH

Material: Middle part and enclosure for dynamo igniter of brass. Other parts iron.

Measures:

Height: 295 mm

Diameter: 83 mm

Length of Hook: 132 mm

Year of Production: ca.1955

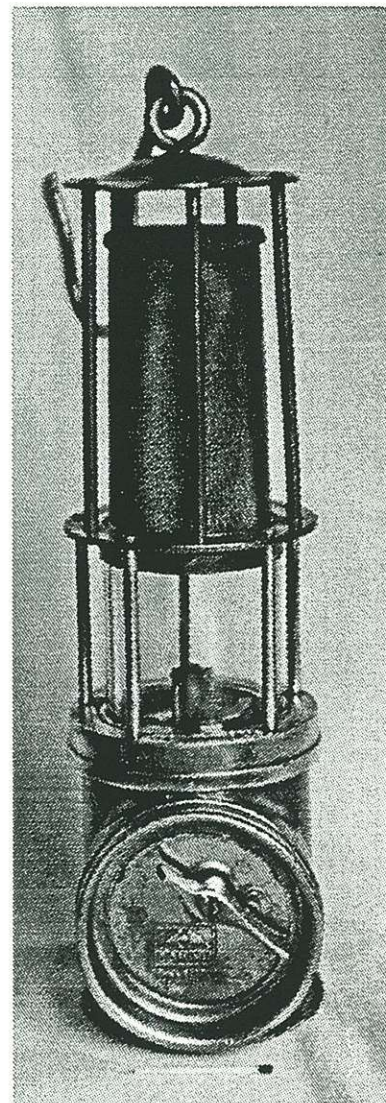
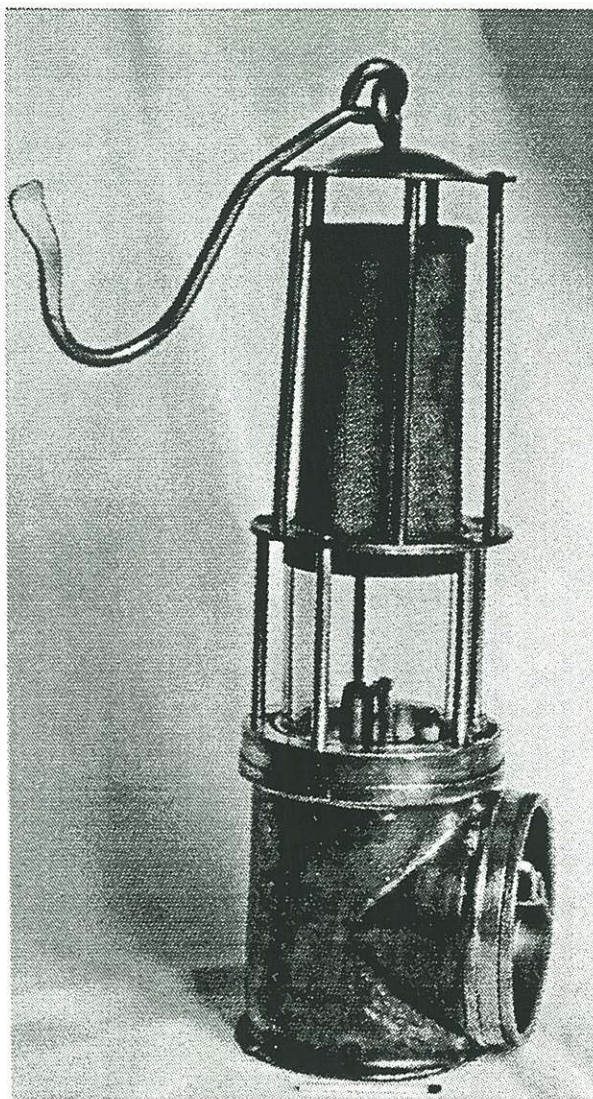
Feature of Construction:

Upper air inlet. Round wick.

Double gauzes. Seippels' magnetic locking anchor EM".

Dynamo igniter with stiff toggle and return spring. Fixed ignition holder. Dynamo locking device is secured by a hollow screw.

Dominit Werke



Inscription:

DOMINIT
Type BL 10/111

Class of Lamp: Benzine Safety Lamp

Place and Country of Origin: Zwickau/Saxony, Germany

Manufacturer: Friemann & Wolf

Material: Ring screw and lower pillars of brass. All other parts of iron.

Measures:

Height: 258 mm

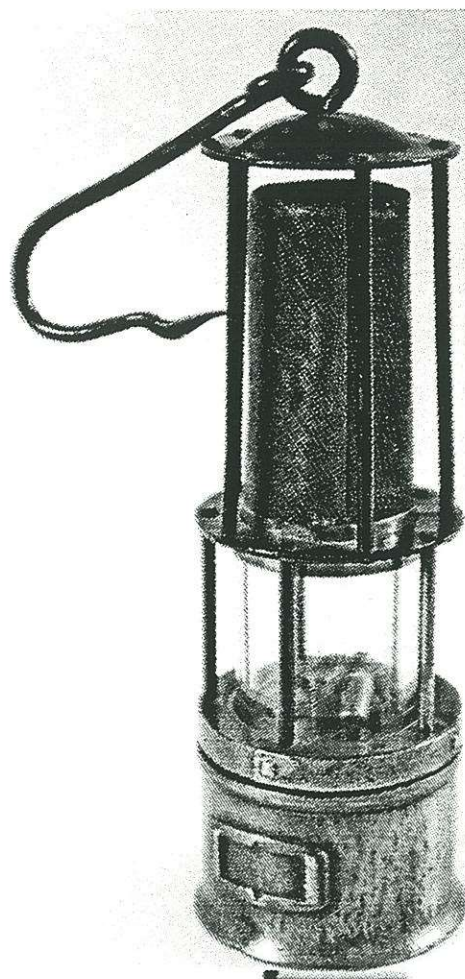
Diameter: 88 mm

Length of Hook: 132 mm

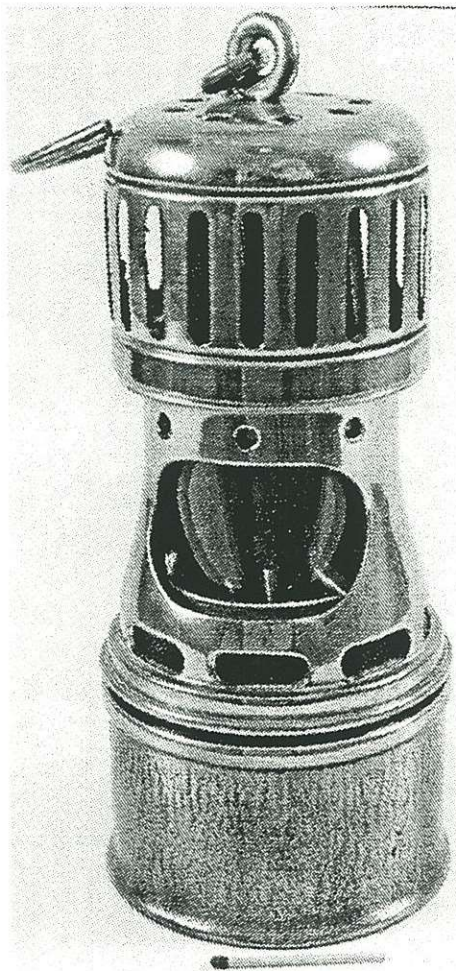
Year of Production: ca. 1910

Feature of Construction: Upper air inlet. Round wick. Vertical flint igniter (Model 1910). Magnetic lock with cover plate of steel. Double gauzes.

Friemann & Wolf



Friemann & Wolf



Class of Lamp:

Benzine Safety Lamp

(Design: Westphalian Davy)

Place and Country of Origin:

Zwickau/Saxony, Germany

Manufacturer: Friemann & Wolf

Material: Font and hook of iron. All other parts of brass.

Measures:

Height: 220 mm

Diameter: 95 mm

Length of Hook: 78 mm

Year of Production: ca. 1900

Feature of Construction: Font with flat wick and flint igniter. Lower air inlet by sieve ring. Cylindrical glass protected by bonnet with a window and screwed by a ring. Short gauze. Covering plate with bore holes. Round hook. No locking device.

Class of Lamp: Benzine Safety Lamp Nr. 403

Place of Origin: Zwickau/Saxony, Germany

Manufacturer: Friemann & Wolf

Material: Middle ring and locking device of brass. All other parts of iron.

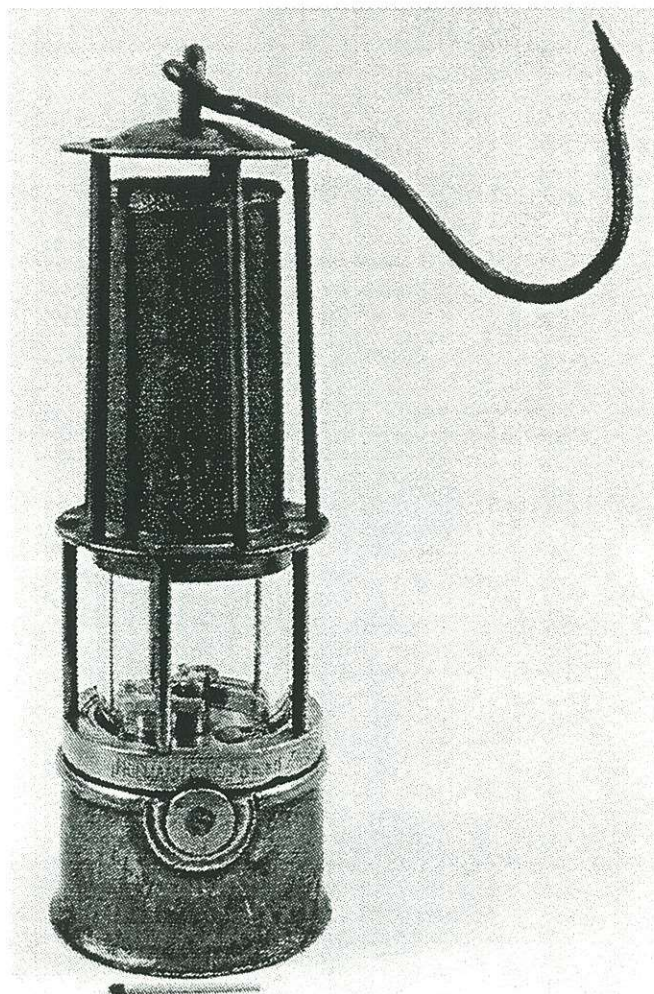
Measures: Height: 270 mm, Diameter: 84 mm, Length of hook: 140 mm

Year of Production: ~ 1895

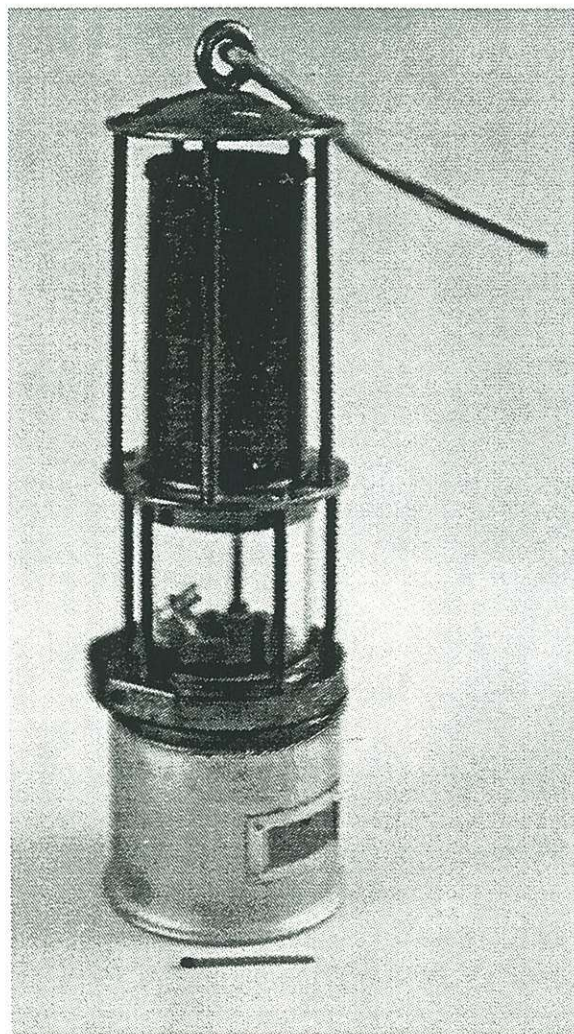
Feature of Construction: Font with locking device and friction strip igniter model 1897. Round wick. Double gauzes. Hook with peak.

Inscription: Friemann & Wolf GmbH
Zwickau / Sa.

Friemann & Wolf



Friemann & Wolf



Class of Lamp: Benzine Safety Lamp, Nr. 20502

Place and Country of Origin: Duisburg/Westf., Germany

Manufacturer: Friemann & Wolf

Material: Screwing ring, middle ring and lower pillars of brass. All other parts of iron.

Measures: Height: 280 mm, Diameter 84 mm, Length of hook: 142 mm

Year of Production: ~ 1960

Feature of Construction: Upper air inlet. Filament ignition which is fed by a dry-cell battery, and works by pulling rod. Double gauzes. Magnetic locking anchor.

Class of Lamp: Benzine Safety Lamp

Place and Country of Origin: Germany (typical for one district)

Manufacturer: Unknown
Igniter: FriWo ~ 1907, Nr. 1150

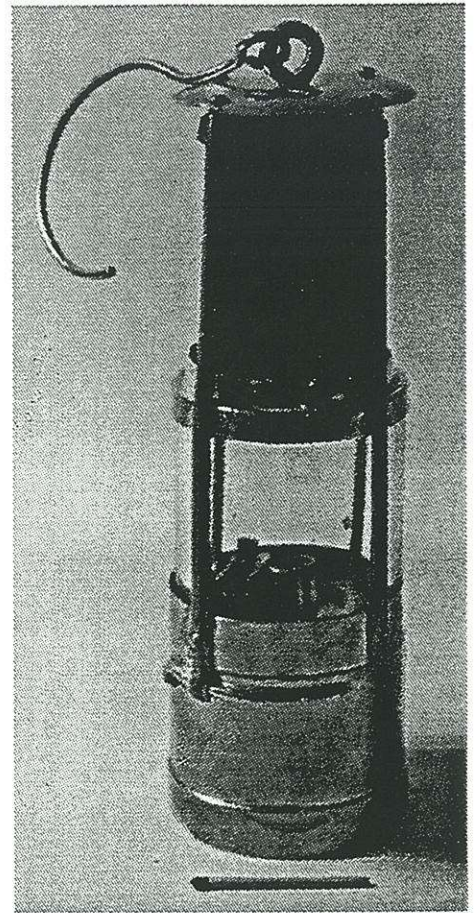
Material: Pillar of copper. All other parts brass.

Measures:
Height: 210mm
Diameter: 62 mm
Length of Hook: 95 mm

Year of Production: ~ 1907

Feature of Construction: Vessel and upper part is connected by a slide lock. Round wick. Vertical parafine friction strip igniter. 4 pillars. Double gauzes.

A small and special type for officials only.



CEAG



Class of Lamp: Benzine Safety Lamp

Place and Country of Origin: Dortmund/Wesff., Germany

Manufacturer: CEAG

Material: Upper part of iron. All other parts of brass.

Measures:
Height: 280 mm
Diameter: 82 mm
Length of Hook: 136 mm

Year of Production: ~ 1955

Feature of Construction: Upper air inlet. Round wick. Double gauzes. Seippels' magnetic locking anchor "M". Ignition holder with storage battery (Nickel cadmium).

Used at Concordia F. A.G. Mine, Dortmund/Westfalia.

Class of Lamp: Benzine Safety lamp, Nr. 3

Place and Country of Origin: Bochum-Linden/Wesff., Germany

Manufacturer: Factory of Safety Lamps C. Koch

Material: Ring screw, lower pillars and name plate of brass. All other parts of iron.

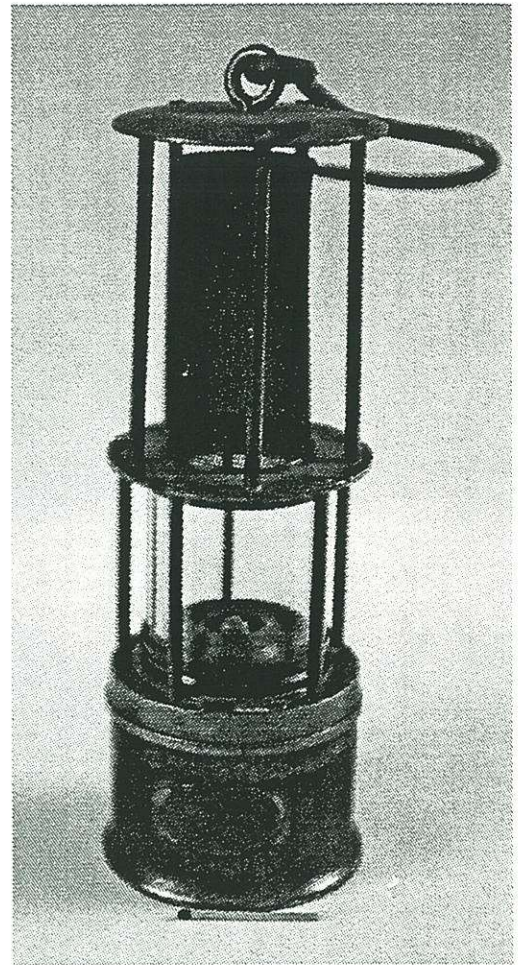
Measures: Height: 245 mm. Diameter 89 mm, Length of Hook: 155 mm

Year of Production: ~ 1905

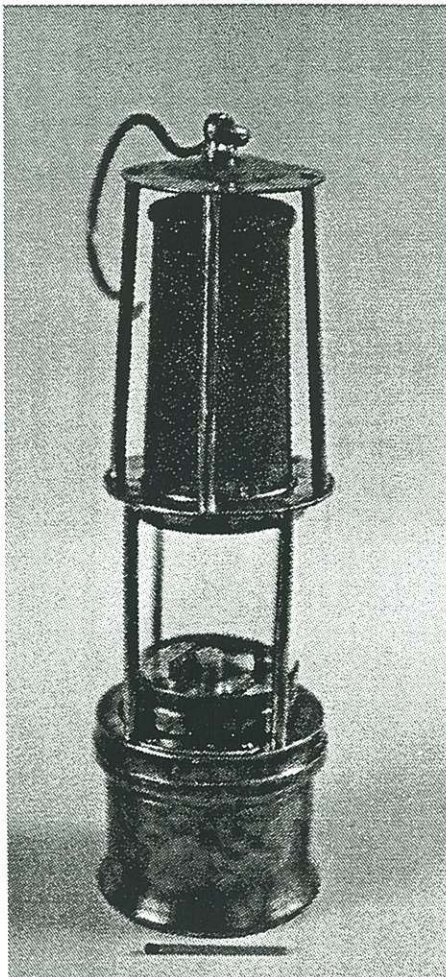
Feature of Construction: Upper air inlet. One gauze. Round wick. Paper friction strip ignition device Nr. 205/206. Magnetic lock.

Inscription:
BOCHUM-LINDENER
ZUNDWAREN
WETTERLAMPFENFABRIK
C. KOCH
LINDEN RUHR

Koch



Koch



Class of Lamp:
Benzine Safety Lamp

Place and Country of Origin:
Linden an der Ruhr, Germany

Manufacturer: Bochum-Lindener Zundwaren- und Wetterlampen Fabrik
C. Koch m.b.H.

Material: All Brass

Measures: Height: 235 mm, Diameter: 80 mm, Length of Hook: 110 mm

Year of Production: ~ 1910

Feature of Construction: Upper air inlet. Double gauzes. Round wick. Horizontal flint igniter (like a ratchet). Magnetic locking anchor. 4 pillars each.

Inscription: (on the magnetic lock cover plate) G C 35 (Gewerkschaft Carl). Vessel and upper part have imprinted number (65).

Class of Lamp: Benzine Safety Lamp

Place and Country of Origin:
Bochum/Westf., Germany

Manufacturer:
Wilhelm Seippel GmbH

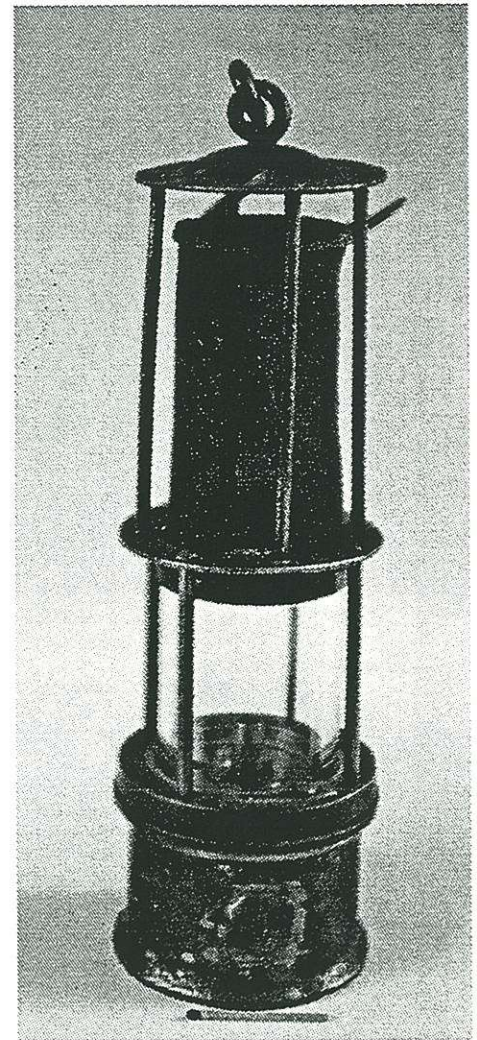
Material: Ring screw and lower pillars of brass. All other parts of iron.

Measures: Height: 265 mm, Diameter 86 mm, Length of Hook: 143 mm

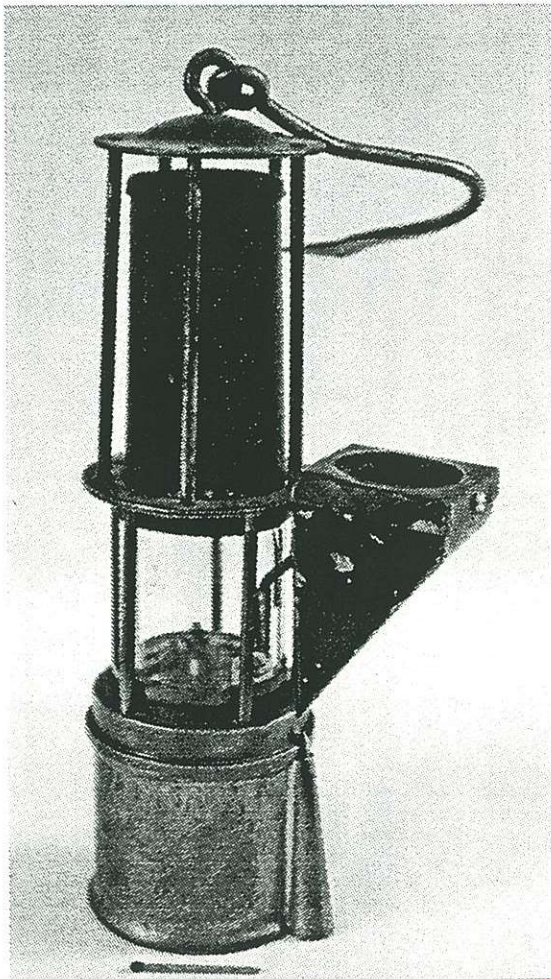
Year of Production: ~ 1915

Feature of Construction: Upper air inlet. Round wick. One gauze. Magnetic locking anchor. Horizontal flint igniter (like a ratchet) with reflector-hood in brass (missing). 4 pillars each.

Seippel



Seippel



Class of Lamp: Benzine Safety Lamp / Nr. 6 A with special inspection device used for viewing from above when lamp is suspended in pit.

Place and Country of Origin: Bochum/Westf., Germany

Manufacturer: Wilhelm Seippel

Material: Locking screw of magnalium. Ring screw of brass. All other parts of iron.

Measures: Height: 280 mm, Diameter: 81 mm, Length of Hook: 132 mm

Year of Production: ~ 1918

Feature of Construction: Lateral mirror reflector for inspection from above. Upper air inlet. Round wick. Double gauze. Stud locking device.

Class of Lamp: Benzine Safety Lamp

Place and Country of Origin: Gilly/Charlesroi, Belgium

Manufacturer: Camille Cornil / distribution (made by Friemann & Wolf)

Material: Ring screw, middle part with pillars and bonnet ring screw of brass. All other parts of iron.

Measures: Height: 280 mm, Diameter: 84 mm, Length of Hook: 75 mm

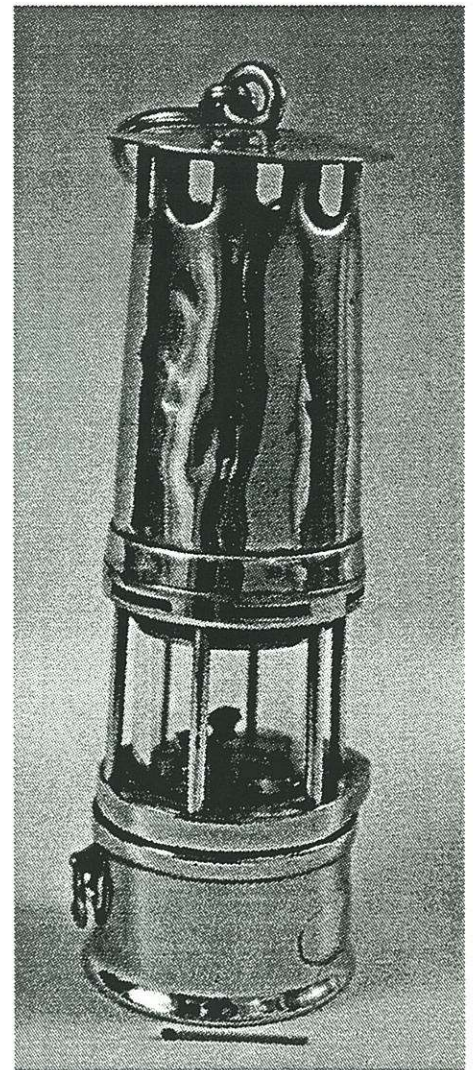
Year of Production: ~ 1910

Feature of Construction: Upper air inlet. Round wick. Vertical Parafine friction strip igniter (model FriWo 1907). Double gauzes. Bonnet unscrewable. Magnetic locking device.

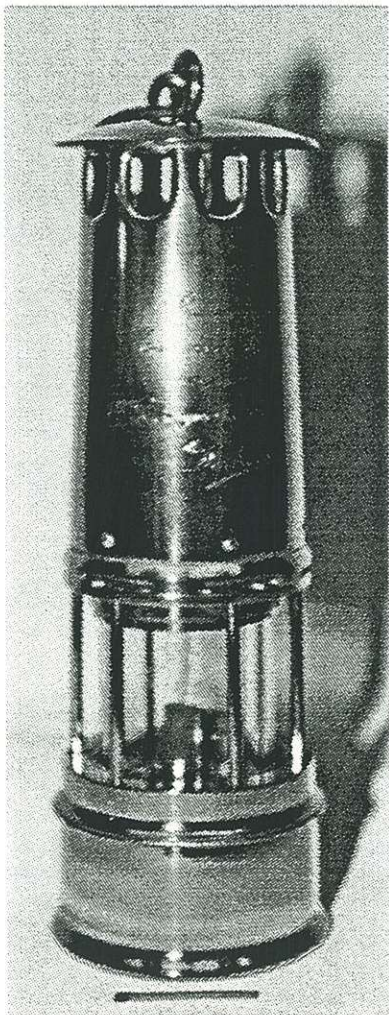
Inscription: Camille Cornil Gilly

Note: Unfortunately this lamp was chrome-plated once.

Cornil



Cornil



Class of Lamp: Benzine Safety Lamp

Place and Country of Origin: Gilly/Charlesroi, Belgium

Manufacturer: Camille Cornil / distribution (made by Friemann & Wolf)

Material: All brass

Measures: Height: 280 mm, Diameter: 84 mm, Length of Hook: 75 mm

Year of Production: ~ 1950

Feature of Construction: Upper air inlet. Flat wick. Vertical friction strip igniter (model FriWo 1907). Double gauzes. Bonnet unscrewable, not secured by locking. Without locking device.

Inscription: Souvenir of the miners of Tongres for the socialist town mayor

Class of Lamp: Benzene Safety Lamp

Place and Country of Origin: Leeds, Great Britain

Manufacturer: The Premier Lamp Engineering Co. Ud.

Material: Folded Bonnet, ring screw, middle ring and pillar of brass. All other parts of iron.

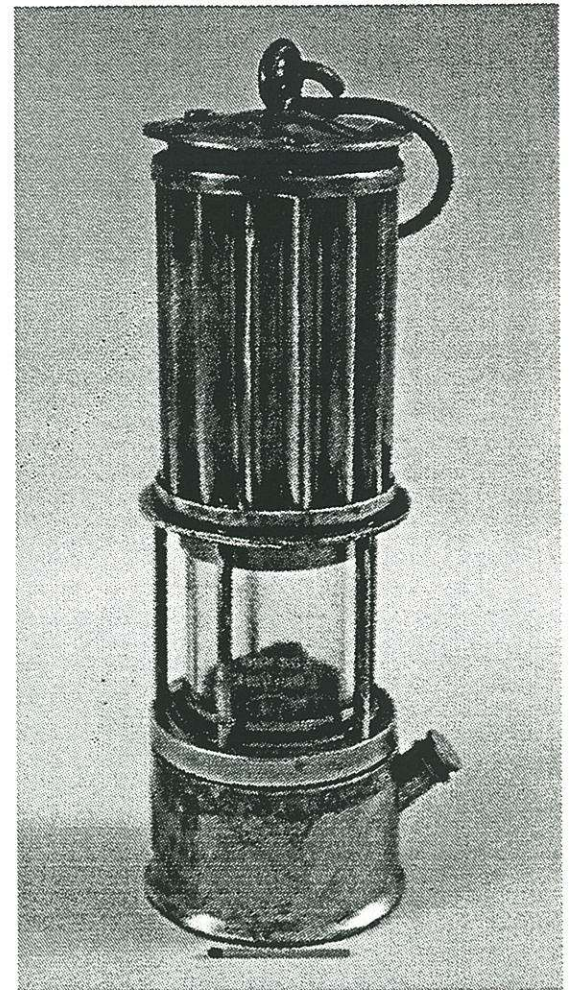
Measures: Height: 270 mm, Diameter 85 mm, Length of Hook: 80 mm

Year of Production: ~ 1910

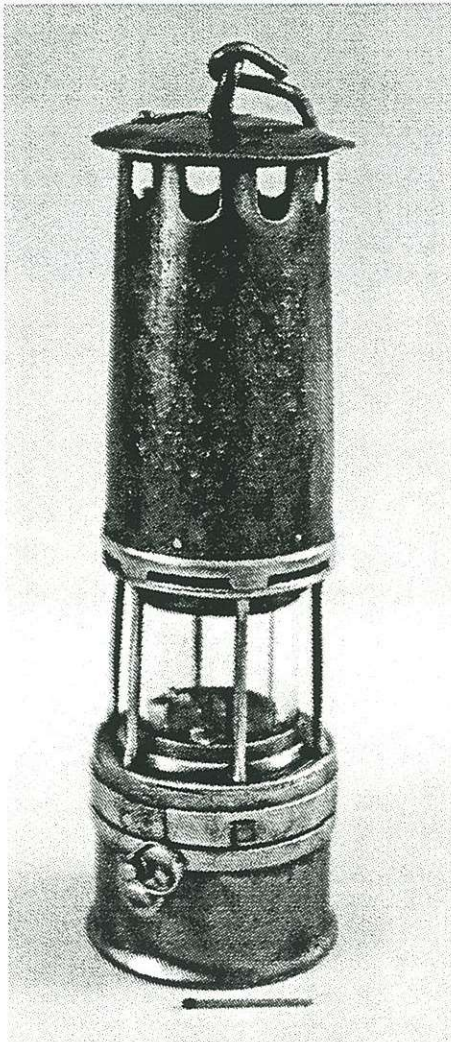
Feature of Construction: Lower air inlet through sieve. Round wick. Wick slide. Vertical flint igniter. Filling tube on one side. No locking device. Double gauzes.

Inscription:
The Premier Lamp &
Engineering Co.
Leeds
L I G
Trade Mark

Premier



Arras



Class of Lamp: Benzene Safety Lamp

Place and Country of Origin: Arras, France

Manufacturer: Arras

Material: Ring screw, middle part with pillars and bonnet ring screw of brass. All other parts of iron.

Measures: Height: 275 mm, Diameter 92 mm, Length of Hook: 80 mm

Year of Production: 1907

Feature of Construction: Lower air inlet through sieve ring. Friction strip igniter can be manipulated by lateral ring. Flat wick. Double gauzes. Magnetic locking anchor. Bonnet unscrewable.

Inscription: ARRAS

Class of Lamp: Benzine Safety Lamp (typical for one region)

Place and Country of Origin: HruschauMährisch-Ostrau, Slovakia

Manufacturer: Kubala & Co.
(Igniter of Seippel Nr. 1 00f, ~ 1900)

Material: All brass

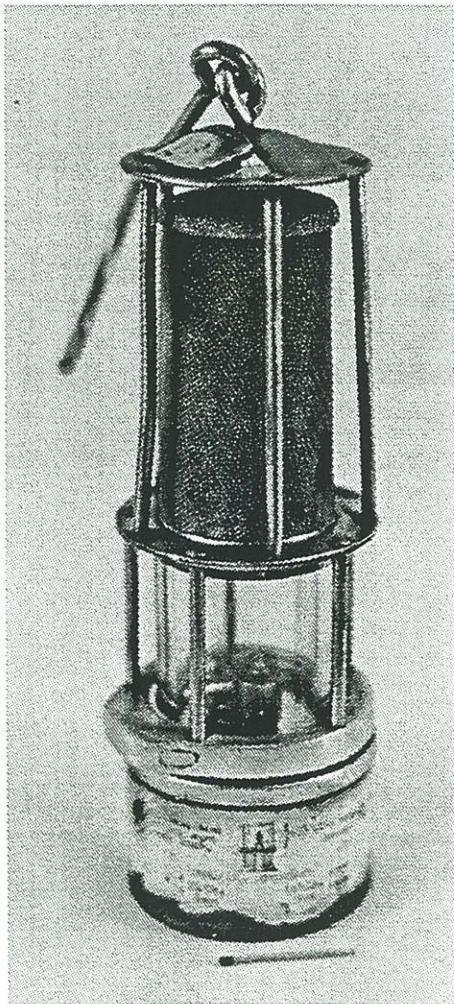
Measures: Height: 255 mm, Diameter: 73 mm, Length of Hook: 93 mm

Year of Production: ~ 1900

Feature of Construction: Conical vessel with lateral mountings for the bail. Ring to fix the glass at the outer gauze. Double gauzes. Simple hook. Clamping ring to hold the parts together.

Note: This lamp is typical for one region. Some parts were bought from Seippel such as the vertical function strip igniter, the complete round wick device and the gauzes.

Design: FnWo



Class of Lamp:
Benzine Safety Lamp

Place and Country of Origin:
CIESZYN, Poland

Manufacturer: Design: FriWo

Material: Bonnet screw device of brass. All other parts of iron.

Measures: Height: 260 mm, Diameter: 84 mm, Length of Hook: 135 mm

Year of Production: 1960

Feature of Construction: Upper air inlet. Round wick. Vertical igniter (design: FriWo 1910). Double gauzes. Magnetic locking device.

Speciality: Eva 6 (Inscription on the base how to use the lamp in case of presence of methane.)

Kubala

