

MINATURE SAFETY LAMPS

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Most of us are fascinated by miniature or small examples of lamps. The high prices paid for the tiny oil wick and Baby Wolf safety lamps is the direct result of high demand for these items, none of which are particularly rare.

Over the years I have made a point of looking for and buying miniature safety lamps. Six different lamps from my collection are illustrated. I believe that all of them are from Europe, although five of them were purchased in the United States. I also believe that none of them were made for use in a mine; they are gifts, souvenirs, or maybe salesman's samples. All are very well made with three having adjustable wicks, but none have relighters or locks. Two are prominently marked with the maker's name and are probably promotional advertising from lamp manufacturers (salesman's samples!). The lamp in Figure 3 is wired with a light bulb instead of a wick. The wiring is plastic coated indicating that the item is post World War II.

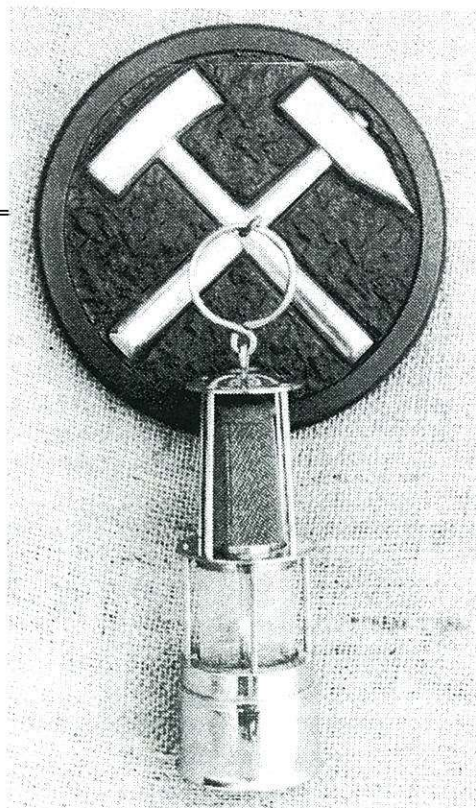


Figure 2. Lamp with carved anthracite plaque. The lamp is 6 1/4 inches high and is marked "Bochum July 1957."

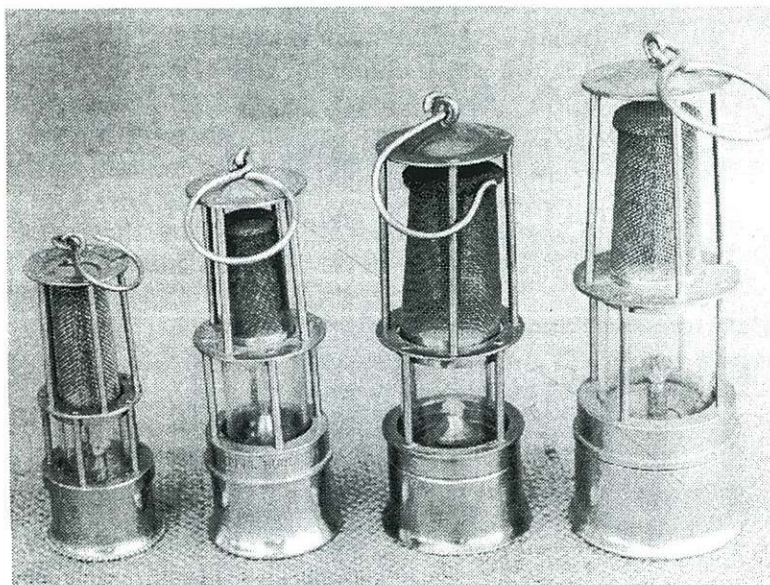


Figure 1. Four miniature lamps. From left to right: 4 1/2 inches high, marked CAMILLE CORNIL GILLY; 5 1/4 inches high, marked WILHELM SEIPPEL BOCHUM I. WESTFALEN; 5 3/4 inches high, unmarked; 6 1/2 inches high, unmarked. All heights do not include the hook.

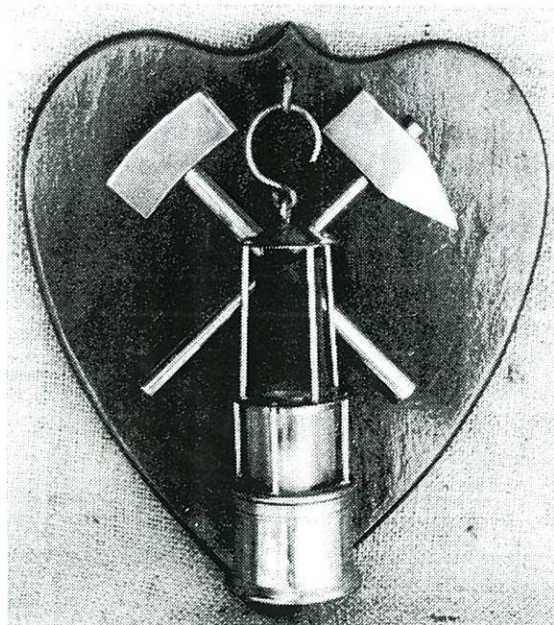


Figure 3. Lamp with wooden shield. The lamp is 6 3/4 inches high with plate from H & M Van De Sand Lamp Manufacturer, Bochum.