

Union Carbide Sign

by Jim Van Fleet

We have a report of an amazing find out of Pennsylvania. The Union Carbide sign shown below was stored away by a private collector from eastern PA for many years. His collection was sold this summer in a series of auctions, and the sign was sold one Saturday in August. I was unable to attend the auction, but I did track this rare item to its present owner.

The search itself was a lesson in the ways of antique dealers: the day after

it was bought at auction, it passed through the hands of four different dealers (none of whom thought to contact yours truly)! It then wandered out of state, and by Thursday of the same week was in the hands of a serious collector. The lucky owner graciously provided this photograph.

The editors know of no other example of this sign. The stylized depiction of a Baldwin cap lamp, worn by a tough looking miner, and the early style Union Carbide can shown

here make this sign a real treasure! It has an "L" shaped flange next to the miner's head, for mounting on a wall, and shows the same miner and carbide can "reversed" on the other side. The "L" also bears the name of the sign manufacturers, "American Art Sign Co., Brooklyn, NY."

Now all of these clues should allow someone to do their homework and put a date to this item, but we believe it to be from about 1915.

