

Collectable Miners

by Manfred Stutzer

While not true mining artifacts, statues depicting miners are highly collectable and sought by many collectors. These miner statues were produced in many forms in Europe and the United States from the mid-1800's to the present. Statues depicting miners have been produced in bronze, pot-metal, pewter, ceramic, plaster and wood. The most sought after pieces by collectors are the painted wooden European pieces from the mid-1800's and the bronze pieces of any age. Utah sculptor Gary Prazen has produced a series of lifelike action miners over the last decade that capture the essence of his subjects.

Many European miner statues feature ceremonial uniforms and, like statues from the United States, depict miners with lamps - safety, carbide, oil wick, blend, and frog, as well as with various tools.

Some European miner statues were produced in pairs, one depicting a male miner with a pick and lamp, and one depicting a female "coal woman" with a shovel. Some statues made in the U.S. were produced as liquor bottles.

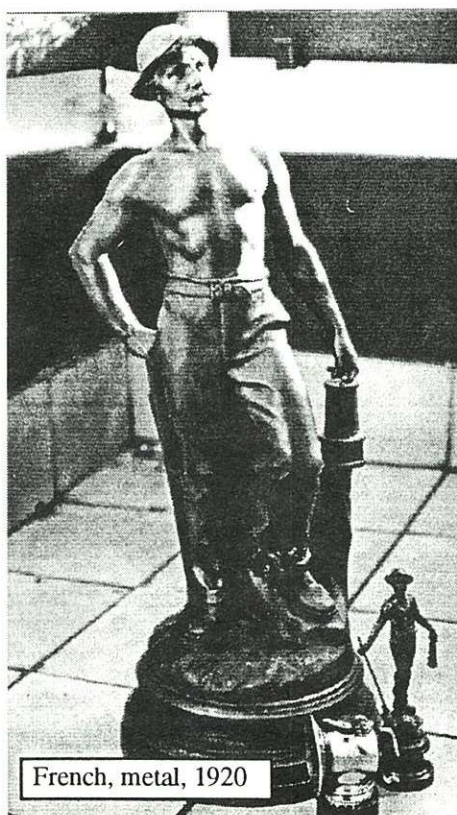
Due to the relative rarity of these statues, they seem to command a premium price, especially the bronze pieces, both old and new. The pieces pictured here are a relatively small sampling of the variety of statues available to collectors.



Saxony, wood, 1885



Saxony, wood, 1890



French, metal, 1920

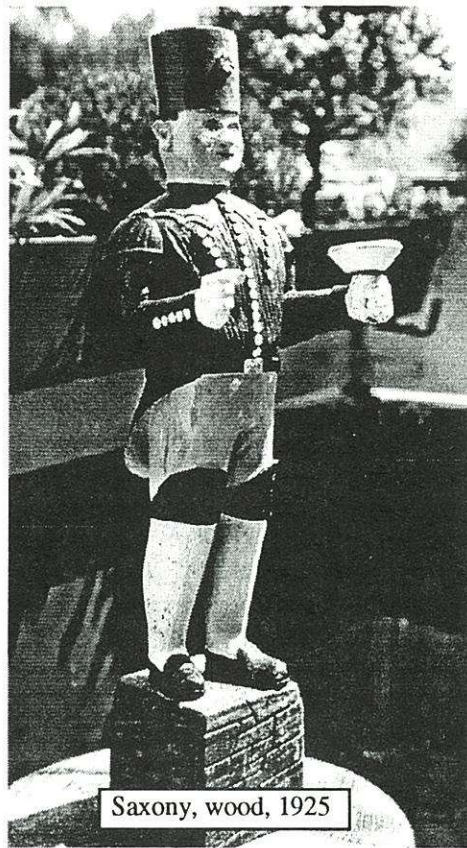


U.S.A.,
liquor
bottle,
1980

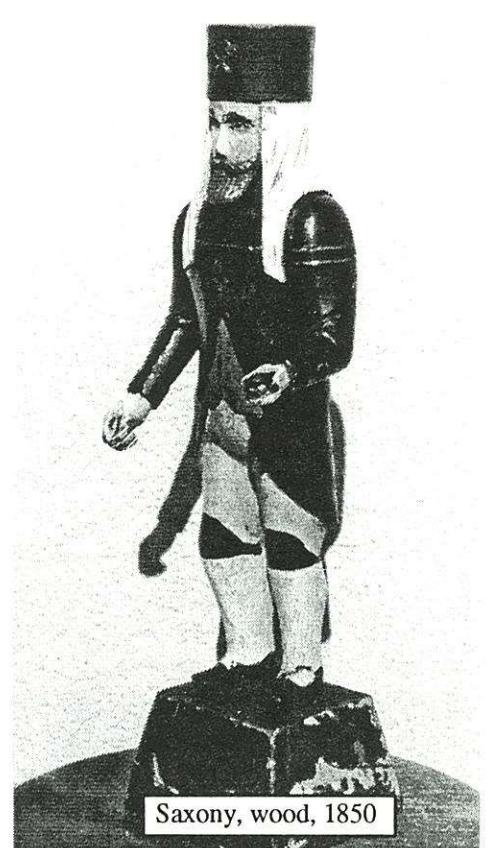
OLD TIME
COAL MINER



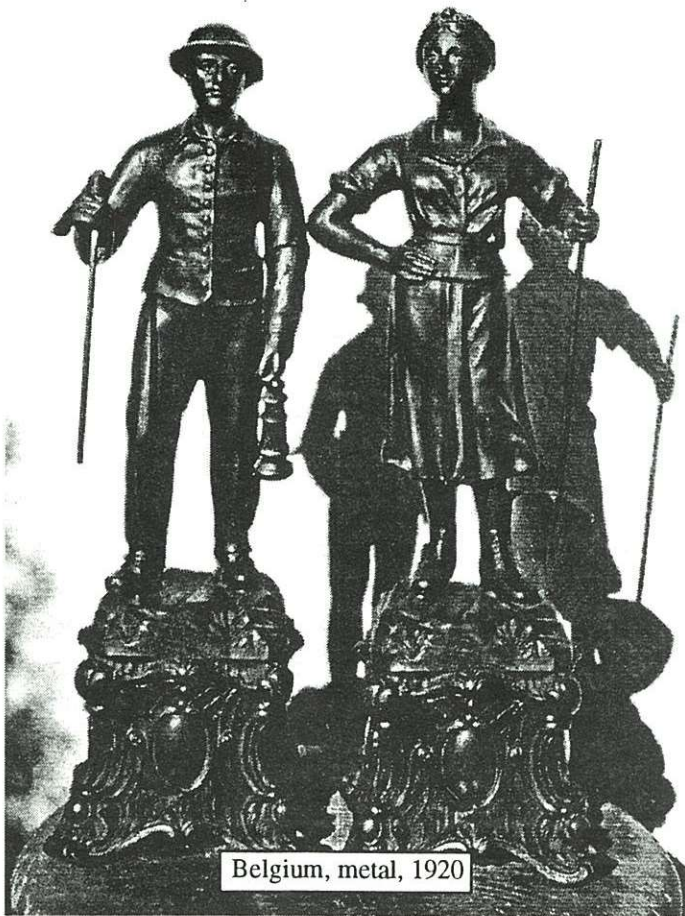
Saxony, wood, 1925



Saxony, wood, 1925



Saxony, wood, 1850



Belgium, metal, 1920



Saxony, metal, 1910