

FOSTORIA GLASS COMPANY FAIRY LAMPS by Gary

The Fostoria Glass Company was founded in 1887 in Fostoria, Ohio. They closed their doors almost 100 years later while located in Moundsville, West Virginia. Fostoria made several lamps and candle holders including full-size and miniature lamps, saucer candles, and finger candles. I am aware of only one fairy lamp that Fostoria actually called fairy and that is the Victoria pattern number 183, which Fostoria patented around 1888.¹ It was called a Fairy Light and not fairy lamp. (Figure 1)



Figure 1 Fairy Light, Victoria Pattern Number 183. Only two colors of this lamp have been documented, R-151 in an opaque pink and a red with a satin finish. Each of these examples has a frosted clear lamp cup with six air holes around the rim. 4.375" h. x 3.675" diameter.

After the turn of the century, approximately 1909, Fostoria produced several lines of short candlesticks to which they added a chimney and a lamp base and called them Candle Lamps. (Figure 2)



Figure 2 Fostoria catalog showing Candle Lamp with optional pegged or flat lamp base, shade, and candle lamp pot.

The lamp base was available with or without a peg bottom. Without the peg, the lamp base was simply the complete lamp. The lamp base with a peg, when inserted into a candlestick, the candlestick served as the bottom of the lamp. The completed lamp, regardless of style, also came with the candle lamp pot.



Figure 3 Fostoria's pattern number 2545 – Flame. Complete lamp is shown with 2-inch number 2545 candlestick, Number 26 Candle Lamp Chimney and lamp base, and Candle Lamp Pot.

The line number for Fostoria's version of the Cricklite is 26. The line number of 2545 was given to the pattern of the candlestick shown in Figure 3 and it is called Flame.

¹ 1888 catalog page shows R-151 as #183 Cascade Pattern Fairy Light - in crystal (plain or etched) or rose dome on crystal base. 1904 catalog shows #183 as Victoria Pattern Fairy Light with same options.

The Flame line was produced c1938-1950's² Fostoria even offered ornate pierced silver shades – some with fringe – for them and advertised them as "very safe and tip-over proof" on a 2-3" candlestick. (Figure 4)



Figure 4 left to right - Number 1639 Candle lamp with spearhead prisms, shade, and candle \$2 each, \$3.75 pair. Number 1490 Candle lamp with fringed shade and candle \$1.50 each, \$2.75 pair. Actual example on unidentified candlestick. Each 13 ½" tall.



Figure 5 left to right. Number 26 Candle Lamp on American pattern number 2056 candlestick. Number 26 Candle Lamp in Colonial Design with Carving Number 5 with number 2545 2-inch "Flame" Candlestick.

The Number 26 lamp base and chimney was used on a few other lines, e.g., the American and the Colony Lines. Actually, the peg on the lamp base fits all of the 3-inch candlesticks in every line. (Figure 5) The candle lamp pot — very similar to Clarke's smooth candle cup but unmarked — is often difficult to find.

All graphic illustrations are from original Fostoria catalogs. Lloyd, Nan, Bob, and Pat contributed photographic examples. A follow-on to this article, including additional catalog references will be provided in the November issue of the newsletter. Jim.

² The No. 26 and No. 26-1 with Flame candlestick base was illustrated in 1910 Fostoria catalog.