

# Fairy Lamp Club

ISSUE XXXIX

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2006

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## CLUB NEWS

### SECOND YEAR INVITATION by Connie

The National Association of Aladdin Lamp Collectors, Inc.<sup>1</sup> has again invited two members of the Fairy Lamp Club to attend their 17<sup>th</sup> International Lamp Show and Sale at Columbia, Missouri on August 4 thru 6, 2006. Other Clubs who usually attend are: The Rushlight Club, Night Light (Miniature Lamp Collectors), The International Coleman Collectors, Inc., The Historic Lighting

Society of Canada, The Historic Lighting Guild from the UK, and the International Guild of Lamp Researchers.



On Friday, August 4, there is a lamp show for members of the Aladdin Association from noon to 5 PM. On Saturday, August 5, the Aladdin Lamp Show is open to the public from 9 AM to 3 PM at the Columbia Expo Center located at the Holiday Inn Select. If you collect oil lamps, you really do not want to miss this show.

The Fairy Lamp Club will have a booth to display or sell Fairy Lamp items including lamps and reference materials. My husband, John, and I will represent the Club at the booth with help from Jim and Pat Sapp. We are provided the booth at no cost in return for an hour presentation on Fairy Lamps on Friday.

Fairy Lamp Club members are welcome to come to the Lamp Show on Saturday, August 5. It would be nice to see some of you there and maybe have dinner together. Please make plans to attend and keep us company.

John, Jim and I had a good time last year answering questions and talking to people as they came into the show. We sold some books and could have sold some of the

<sup>1</sup> [www.aladdincollectors.org/LampShow.asp](http://www.aladdincollectors.org/LampShow.asp)

lamps we brought with us, but they were only for display.

**SECOND FAIRY LAMP CLUB MEETING** by Connie and Jim

It has been a year since our first Fairy Lamp Club meeting in New Bedford, Massachusetts.<sup>2</sup> At our inaugural meeting, many expressed an interest in having another Club meeting in two years. While no definite plans were made, we agreed to seriously consider another meeting.

Planning a Club meeting takes at least a year, so now is the time to begin planning. The first question is, of course, how many of our members are interested in attending a meeting next year around the middle of May? The location is still to be decided; however, there was strong interest in having the meeting in Toledo, Ohio. Toledo has the only Lithophane Museum<sup>3</sup> in the world. Toledo also has a nice Art Museum<sup>4</sup> and a new Glass Museum<sup>5</sup> is scheduled to open this summer. In addition, Toledo is more centrally located than the east coast.

If you have another suggestion for a place to meet, please let us know. We are trying to pick a place that has something of interest to as many members as possible.

Before serious planning can take place, we would like to have a straw poll of those who plan to attend. We would like a minimum of 40 people to attend so that we can spread the cost among more members. The cost of the first meeting was artificially low because of the generosity of Louis St. Aubin. We expect the cost to be somewhat higher for this meeting. Of course, we do not know what the cost will be but we will make every effort to keep it as low as possible.

<sup>2</sup> FL-XXXVI-3

<sup>3</sup> The Blair Lithophane Museum, FL-XXX-5

<sup>4</sup> [www.toledomuseum.org](http://www.toledomuseum.org)

<sup>5</sup> [www.toledomuseum.org/GlassCenter\\_main.htm](http://www.toledomuseum.org/GlassCenter_main.htm)

If you are interested in attending the next Club meeting, please let Jim know as soon as possible. We know it is a year away and a lot can happen in the mean time, but please let us know if you would like to come. This is a great opportunity to meet fellow fairy lamp collectors and share our knowledge and experiences. We want to see you at the meeting!!

**OUR VERY FIRST CLUB VISITORS** by Jim and Pat

If you recall, Pat and I extended an open invitation to Club members to stop by for a visit anytime they happen to be in the Denver area. Colorado is a great place to visit and having the opportunity to "talk fairy lamps" is an added bonus. Of course, having a chance to meet Club members, perhaps for the first time, is a real treat for us.

Lloyd and Nan have enjoyed collecting fairy lamps for many years and have made countless contributions to the Club through well documented and researched articles. They have become an invaluable resource to our Club members and we are all indebted to them for their support.



We met Lloyd and Nan for the first time at our inaugural Club meeting last year. We did not, however, have the time to really get to know one another during the meeting. Perhaps, that is a good thing because Lloyd and Nan made plans to visit us while visiting relatives in Texas and Colorado. Needless to say, we were honored to have them visit.

The time was brief but we made the best of it. We shared countless stories about our collecting experiences and discussed fairy lamps until we could not stay awake any longer. And, we may have had a meal or two together along the way. Oh my, I am still sore from sitting around the dinner table.

All good things, however, must eventually end. We sent them on their way with a hug and a wish to see them both again real soon.

I had not planned to write this article. But, what a better way to thank Lloyd and Nan for their visit and to encourage others to do the same.

Thanks Lloyd and Nan. We really enjoyed your visit and look forward to our next visit together.

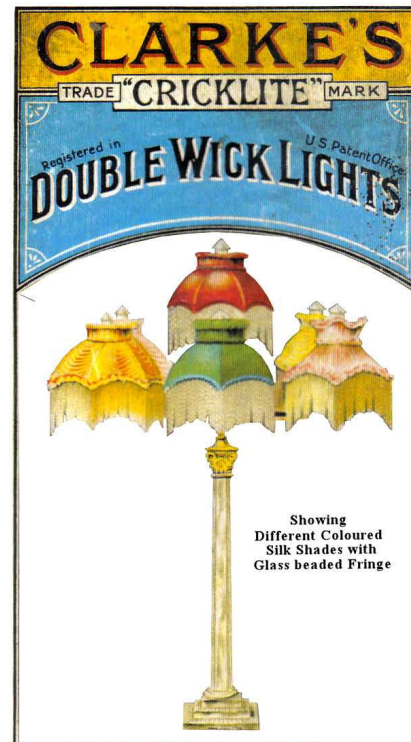
#### FROM OUR MEMBERS

##### SILK CRICKLITE SHADES by Connie

I just received two handmade pale blue silk shades from Graham and Helen in England. I ordered these shades, sight unseen, about three months ago and I am thrilled with the results.



Graham and Helen have previously had shades made and these can be seen on their website at [www.fairylamps.co.uk](http://www.fairylamps.co.uk) on various Royal Worcester Cricklite stands. The design of the new and old shades was taken from the advertisement shown below.



The original shade can be seen to the right side and the new shade is top center in red.



The new shades are less complicated to make and therefore more economical to buy.



If you are interested in having Cricklite shades made, contact Graham and Helen by e-mail at [graham.pullen@btopenworld.com](mailto:graham.pullen@btopenworld.com).

#### **CRICKLITE CHIMNEY CAP** by Jim

While preparing Connie's article on Silk Cricklite Shades, I noticed something in the advertisement that I had not seen before — a Cricklite chimney cap!



At the top of each Cricklite chimney was a "pyramid-shaped" fitting. I had not noticed it before and wondered what it was. Since Clarke apparently insisted that the drawings used in his advertisements were accurate in every detail, this "thing" was for real and not just an "artist's whimsy." So, the hunt began to find out what it was.

I have a rather extensive photo library of fairy lamps. It is rare that I am not able, after some searching, to find just the image I need. And, sure enough, I found what I was looking for.



This Cricklite shade was sold on eBay in 2003. It shows an unusual metal fitting on the top of the glass Cricklite shade. The primary purpose is unknown. It could be purely decorative or it could have been used to help dissipate the heat. In either case, since it was illustrated in Clarke's advertisement, it was probably commissioned by Clarke for his Cricklite shades and not an "after market" addition.

I do not know who owns this fitting or if anyone has others like it. If you have one, please let me know if the fitting is stamped "Clarke." It would be a rare occurrence if Clarke did not insist on marking items he commissioned for manufacture.

#### **HIGHEST UNDER BIDDERS IN THE WORLD!**

by A Pair of Disappointed Members

I recently attended the Cyr Auction<sup>6</sup> in Maine which had a number of really nice fairy lamps up for auction. I was going to bid on a number of pieces both for myself and for an overseas friend.

Well, the auction did not start well.

My first bid was for a fairy-size Burmese Woodbine decorated dome on an Ivy base. I bid to \$800 and was outbid.

My next bid was on a 16" Royal Worcester Lady in blush playing a lyre. I kept my hand raised until the bid reached \$4750 and then was outbid.

I bid on another 10 items as the under bidder. My only comment is that all lamps went for high prices.

Later in the auction I purchased a table and the auctioneer commented that a fairy lamp would have looked nice on it. Rubbing salt into the already gaping wound.

Well, as they say, all is fair in love and war and, of course, auctions!

<sup>6</sup> [www.cyrauction.com](http://www.cyrauction.com)

**CYR FAIRY LAMP AUCTION** by Jim

The above article from a pair of disappointed members certainly got my attention. Like many of you, I follow auctions closely, not necessarily as a bidder but as a "market watcher." Understanding the "real market value" is often more important than what is referred to as "book value."

Regardless of the source, however, book values and auction results are "guidelines" and should be used with caution. Like published price guides, auctions are plagued with their own set of variables. The most common is, of course, competition among bidders. Without a competitive audience, real values will not be achieved. Too much competition, however, often results in hammer prices well above actual value. That, however, is the way of auctions. The Cyr fairy lamp auction is no exception.

The fairy lamps at the Cyr auction were from the collection of Betty and Brian P. Gibbons, MD. Dr. Brian Gibbons passed away 10 years ago. The fairy lamps in his collection were purchased over a thirty-year period prior to his passing away.

With the help of the staff at Cyr Auction Company, I have obtained most of the fairy lamp prices realized during their Victoriana auction held during April 2006. The prices listed do not include the buyer's premium or reflect the condition of the lamps.

The fairy lamp auction results are:



From L to R: \$4500, \$2250, \$4500



From L to R: \$700, \$900, \$800



From L to R: \$150, \$900, \$175, \$1400, \$175



From L to R: \$4750, \$5000, \$4750



From L to R: \$475, \$225, \$200, \$1200 on a Taylor & Tunnicliff base (not shown).



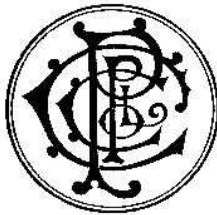
From L to R: \$275, \$200, \$300, \$200, \$400, \$725.



From L to R: \$125, \$400, \$195, \$425, \$175, \$275 on a Wee lamp cup (not shown), \$750

**PRICE'S PATENT CANDLE COMPANY** by Jim

As many of you know, George and Samuel Clarke were well known candle makers in the United Kingdom. In 1844 George Miller Clarke applied to the British Patent Office in London for a patent on an "improvement in night lights." In 1857 Samuel Clarke received another patent for improvements under the same patent classification.<sup>7</sup> Samuel Clarke continued making candles until he sold his company to the Price's Patent Candle Company in 1910. Had Samuel Clarke not been a marketing genius and developed the "fairy lamp," I suspect his company's legacy would have gone unnoticed after the sale of his company to Price's. Instead, Clarke's legacy lives on as the most recognized name in fairy lamps.



*Price's Patent Candle Company, Limited company logo from 1907 – 1908 price list.*

Price's Patent Candle Company continued marketing Clarke's candles and some of his fairy lamps for a period of time after 1910.



<sup>7</sup> *Fairy Lamps Evening's Glow of Yesteryear*, by Amelia E. MacSwiggan

This is evident by several examples of Clarke's Pyramid Night Light boxes bearing the phrases, "Now Price's Patent Candle Company" and "Manufactured by Price's Patent Candle Company, Limited."

The Price's Patent Candle Company, after a long and diverse history of owners and product lines, is still in business today and continues to be one of the England's most well known candle manufacturers.

Recently, I came across two documents that provide interesting details about Price's long history of candle making.

The first document is the history of the company as told by the Price's Patent Candle Company. This is an extremely detailed historical account of the company's development of their candle products from the earliest beginnings to today. It is an interesting account filled with the complexities and competition within the candle making industry. With the exception of a couple bits of information, this historical account is much too complex and detailed to relay here. I have, however, included it on our Club's website for anyone to review.<sup>8</sup>

The second historical account of the Price's Patent Candle Company was provided by Graham in the UK. This historical information was included in a 1984 issue of the *New Collecting Lines* magazine. The article was titled: *Few Hold a Candle to Them* by Roy Morgan — a title that would hardly get the attention of fairy lamp collectors. It did, however, document, in layman's terms, the colorful history of the Price's Patent Candle Company along with several advertisements and drawings of the company's factory and trademark. I have reproduced excerpts from the article for everyone's benefit.

<sup>8</sup> [www.fairy-lamp.com/Fairylamp/Prices\\_History.html](http://www.fairy-lamp.com/Fairylamp/Prices_History.html)



The following are excerpts with minor editorial changes, additions from other sources and supplemental graphics from:

### **Few Hold a Candle to Them**

by Roy Morgan, *New Collecting Lines*, 1984

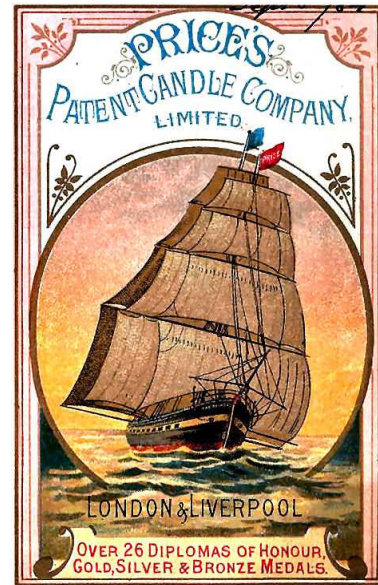
The company is well known to most post-card collectors, all bottle buffs, enamel ad addicts, trade card fanciers and ephemera folk will also be familiar with the name.

Even the 1984 every housewife will probably know about the candles, night lights and related products produced by Price's Patent Candle Company.

This long established concern, founded in 1830 and still very much in business, issued a multitude of wares, and consequently a very wide range of product-linked packaging, advertising and other promotional material this and last century (and particularly in Victorian and Edwardian times). There are Price's bottles, candle lanterns, trade cards, advertising postcards, show cards, enamel signs and all sorts of paperwork carrying the firm's familiar sailing ship trade mark.



*Trade cards of the types in their "Battle Scenes" series, a shaped type, in the form of their sailing ship trade mark. The trade mark was said to have been copied from a menu in 1864 by the company chairman while he was lunching with W. H. Smith, founder of today's retail chain by the same name.*



*1884 advertisement showing Price's sailing ship trademark. (Source: British Library<sup>9</sup>)*

The initial beginnings of the Price's Patent Candle Company were started by William Wilson and Benjamin Lancaster over 150 years ago.

William Wilson (b. 1772) was a son of the family which once owned the Wilsontown Ironworks in Lanarkshire. The ironworks folded in 1808 and the Wilson family went broke. In 1812 William moved to London to try a change of career. He joined up with Benjamin Lancaster to become a broker in the Russian tallow<sup>10</sup> trade.

In 1830 the London partnership purchased James Soames' patent for processing coconut oil — separating the solid and liquid constituents by hydraulic pressure. The liquid was used to make lamp oil, and the solid fatty material was found to be an ideal tallow substitute.

They built a factory at Battersea to handle large scale coconut pressing, and named their operation "E. Price & Co." (One of the

<sup>9</sup> [www.bl.uk](http://www.bl.uk)

<sup>10</sup> A mixture of animal fat refined for use in candles

partner's aunts was named Price though she did not play any part in this venture.)



*The remaining portions of the Battersea Belmont works are shown in brown. Many of these buildings have been converted to flats and condos. The far right hand two-story building, however, is Price's wholesale & retail shop open to the public to buy their candles. Source: Graham Pullen*

Lancaster soon sold his interest in the firm, and the company was subsequently renamed "Edward Price & Co."

The company manufactured and marketed very good quality candles. These candles were usually made from stearic acid<sup>11</sup> and the fat from coconut oil and held a special plaited wick (that had been patented in France). Because of their popularity, they were much copied by competitors.

*Note: It was around this time that George Clarke applied for patents on a certain "improvement in night lights." Do you think Clarke was one of the companies that copied Price's products?*

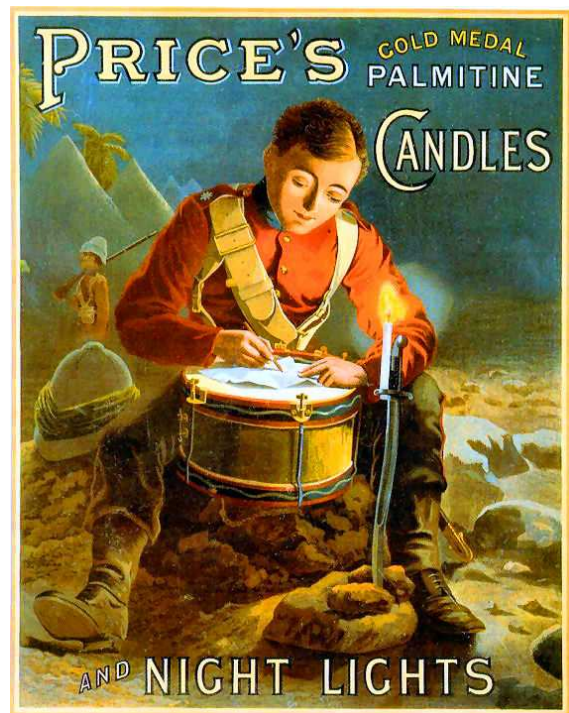
In May 1847 it was decided to convert the business into a public company, and Price's Patent Candle Company came into being. William Wilson was company chairman and his sons, J. P. Wilson and G. F. Wilson, were managing directors.

By 1849 over 700 people were employed by the Price's Patent Candle Company.

<sup>11</sup> Saturated fatty acids that come from many animal and vegetable fats and oils. It is a waxy solid used for making candles and soaps. From the Greek word *stear*, which means *tallow*.



The company had a display at the Great Exhibition of 1851<sup>12</sup> and developed strong trading links with certain French firms. This resulted in an increased demand for their brand of cloth oil. Expansion was necessary — so in 1853 a new factory was opened near Liverpool at Bromborough, Birkenhead close to the company's existing warehouse at River Street Wharf, Liverpool.



During the Crimean War (1854-1856)<sup>13</sup> the company supplied stoves and candle lanterns

<sup>12</sup> Also known as The Great Exhibition at the Crystal Palace – [www.victorianstation.com/palace.html](http://www.victorianstation.com/palace.html)

<sup>13</sup> United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland along with several allies fought against Imperial Russia. The majority of the conflict took place on the Crimean peninsula in the Black Sea.



to the troops — the stoves could burn cakes of pressed coconut oil and were used for warmth and cooking.

Price's went Limited in 1857 and also started to import crude petroleum from Burma. Making maximum use of their steam distillation methods, they were now involved in the manufacture of lubricating oils, burning oils, and paraffin wax (for candles and night lights). They also branched out later into soap production.

Company founder William Wilson died in 1860. Eleven years later Price's foreman John Hodges patented a brand new and safer way to produce paraffin wax. The refinery at Battersea was enlarged and within a few years Price's became the world's largest paraffin supplier.

By 1900 Price's was producing 130 differently named and specified sizes of candles, any one of which could in theory be manufactured in 60 different permutations of material, color and hardness. Candles were created for every conceivable need: carriage candles, piano candles, dining-room candles, bedroom candles, servants' bedroom candles (that only lasted 30 minutes) photographic darkroom candles, "The Burglar's Horror!" nightlight, and candles for coal miners, navies, engineers and emigration ships.<sup>14</sup>

*(Note: The above paragraph suggests that Price's was manufacturing Clarke's candles before the sale of his company in 1910).*

Around the turn of the century the company had a workforce of 1750 at Battersea and Bromborough.

A price list for 1907 - 1908 confirms the company was now involved in supplying a huge range of candles for church use, fancy

candles, and candles for exportation. They were also selling night lights, lighting tapers, soaps, petroleum jelly, gas engine oil, lubricating and other oils, paraffin in blocks, and horticultural sundries.

During the closing decades of the 19th century and the 1900-1914 periods, the company made use of numerous methods of advertising signs including enamel signs for their night lights.



*Enameled advertising sign showing their "Child's Night Lights" acquired by Price in 1849*

Captain Scott took hundreds of Price's candles with him on his 1911 expedition to the South Pole. Before embarking on his final journey he told the company, "I am glad to inform you that the candles to this expedition have proved quite satisfactory. They have been used extensively in the hut and by sled parties. You will be interested to learn that they burn satisfactorily at 70° F below zero." (Stearine candles were preferred as these could be eaten if necessary.)

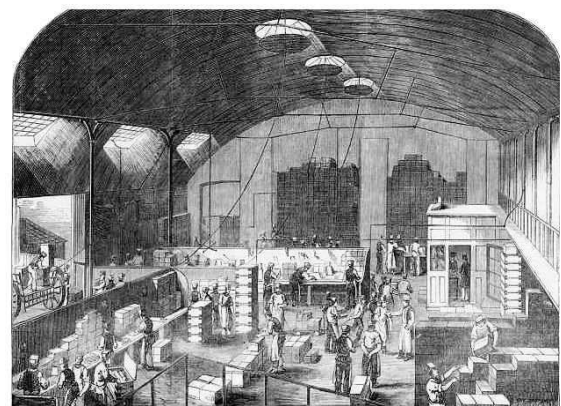
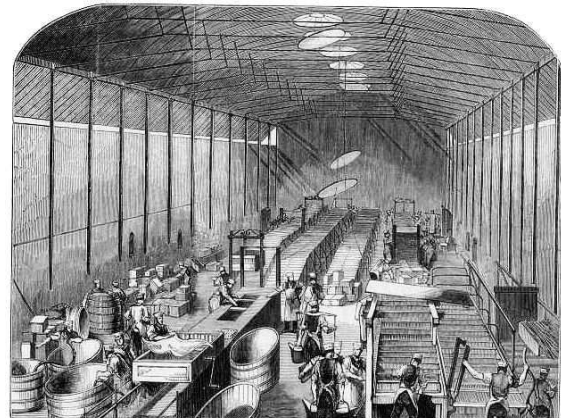
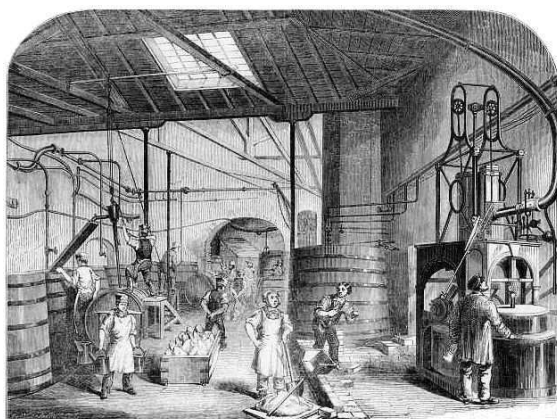
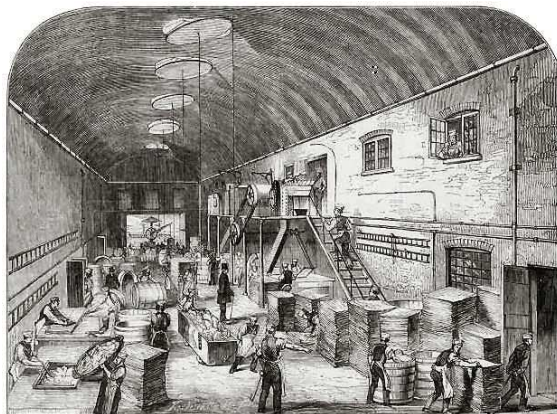
After World War I the fatty acid side of the business was confined to Bromborough, and the Battersea plant concentrated on candles and lubricants.

<sup>14</sup> A history of Price's Patent Candle Company - [www.prices-candles.co.uk/history/Historydetailwithyears.htm](http://www.prices-candles.co.uk/history/Historydetailwithyears.htm)

In 1936 the Bromborough works became a totally separate company (it is now part of the Unilever Group). A Price's offshoot, Price's Lubricants Ltd., was launched in 1937 and, in 1953, acquired by the Shell Mix/BP empire. Their motor oil "Energol" — first introduced in 1949 became the "B.P. Energol" used by today's motorists.

That concludes the Price's historical information as reported in the article in the *New Collecting Lines* magazine.

The following are a few drawings of Price's manufacturing processes from a December 8, 1849 issue of the *Illustrated London News*. They illustrate many of the candle making processes and working environment.



Since Price's Bromborough plant was not built until 1853, these scenes may be of the Battersea Belmont works. Or, they could have been "promotional drawings" for the new plant at Bromborough. Both plants, however, have large arched-roof production halls illustrated in the drawings. Regardless of which plant they represent, making candles in the 1850's was a big business!

#### IORIO OR TEN-R-TEN GLASS by Jim

Periodically, I received a note from someone who knew the Iorio family when they operated a glass shop and showroom in Flemington, New Jersey. This family of glass makers is significant for many reasons; however, Ric Iorio, third generation glass artist, is known for his miniature oil lamps and fairy lamps.<sup>15</sup>

<sup>15</sup> Article: Iorio Furnaces FL-XXVII-6 and [www.fairy-lamp.com/Fairylamp/AntiqueIorio.html](http://www.fairy-lamp.com/Fairylamp/AntiqueIorio.html)



The Iorio family name is pronounced "Eye Oreo." I have several postcards, however, that show the family glass shop with the name spelled "IO-R-IO." It was this hyphenated spelling that prompted Mr. Mike Zemplachenko to contact me. Mike writes:

*"I personally knew the older generations of the Iorios, as well as their sons. My understanding of the hyphenated spelling of the name IORIO was that at some time (perhaps the 60's and 70's) the name was hyphenated to be pronounced "TEN - R - TEN". Thus it was often referred to as "Ten-R-Ten Glass." I am not clear when or why the hyphenated version disappeared - or for that matter if it ever really did entirely. I personally believe the name Iorio Glass was a much richer and classier signature... thereby entwining the superb quality of their glass art to their rich Italian heritage."*

This is an interesting explanation of why the family name was hyphenated.



*Iorio Glass Shop, Route 202, Flemington, N.J. has the largest collection of fine glassware in the East and specializes in hand cut and engraved glassware, reproductions in blown and pattern glass and the largest selection of Victorian lampshades and globes available anywhere.*

This postcard, possibly from the 1950's, clearly shows the "Ten-R-Ten" spelling of the company name.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

### FOR SALE

#### ***Fairy Lamp Club Newsletters and Undocumented Photo Album on CD***

This is a complete set of quarterly Fairy Lamp Club Newsletters beginning in November 1996. Each issue, except the first few, will contain approximately 12 pages of text and numerous photographs. In addition, the CD includes all the Undocumented Fairy Lamp pages. All documents are in Microsoft WORD format. \$35 plus shipping.

#### ***Undocumented Fairy Lamp Photo Album***

This photo album of previously undocumented fairy lamps was developed from contributions of the members of the Fairy Lamp Club over a nine-year period. It is a unique document not available anywhere except through the Fairy Lamp Club. Each page contains four color images with a description and unique identifier. The collection is bound in a three-ring binder with an attractive cover insert and spine label. \$35 plus shipping.

***19th Century Fairy Lamps***, by T. Robert Anthony. A spiral-bound reference with 18 color plates illustrating over 200 fairy lamps from Anthony's personal collection. This is a very nice reference that is increasingly difficult to find. The condition is new and unused. \$25 plus shipping.

***Samuel Clarke's New Fairy Lights***, catalog reprint by T. Robert Anthony. This is a rare reprint of Clarke's original fairy lamp and Cricklite 1887/88 and 1898 catalogs. The condition is new and unused. \$35 plus shipping.

***Clarke's Fairy Lamps*** by Dorothy Tibbetts. This invaluable fairy lamp reference was first published in 1951. It is the first contemporary publication on fairy lamps. It contains a wealth of information including photos of



Dorothy Tibbett's personal collection and fairy lamp examples from Clarke's original catalogs. This book is increasingly difficult to find. The condition is good but used. \$35 plus shipping.

Place your order by sending payment to:

Jim Sapp  
P.O. Box 438  
Pine, CO 80470

PayPal payments are also accepted at no additional charge.

### REFERENCE GUIDELINES

This newsletter makes extensive use of *FAIRY LAMPS - Elegance in Candle Lighting*, by Bob & Pat Ruf, Schiffer Publishing, Ltd., 1996, in identifying fairy lamps. While this is the most complete reference book, there are others that you may also use. For consistency, we will use the following key to reference illustrations of fairy lamps. The first letter will identify the reference book followed by a plate or figure number.

For example:

**A-P3-4** Refers to T. Robert Anthony's book *19<sup>th</sup> Century Fairy Lamps*, plate 3, number 4.

**C-227** Refers to a fairy lamp number in Clarke's 1888 catalog, reprint by T. Robert Anthony catalog number 227.

**FL-XV-2** Refers to the Fairy Lamp Club Newsletter, Issue XV (15), page 2.

**H-P117-2218** Refers to the Hosch catalog, Plate 117, item 2218. In the case where the Hosch catalog plate number is unknown, the plate number will simply be "Unknown."

**R-167** Refers to Bob & Pat Ruf's book *FAIRY LAMPS-Elegance in Candle Lighting*, figure 167.

**T-PV-8** Refers to Dorothy Tibbetts' book *Clarke's Fairy-Lamps*, plate V, number 8.

**U-10** Refers to photographic examples of fairy lamps that are not shown in any of reference books. They have been assigned an undocumented reference number in the Undocumented Fairy Lamps section of the newsletter. In this example Undocumented fairy lamp number 10.

Let me know if other reference materials need to be added to the code list.

### MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

The Fairy Lamp Club is a non-profit club for collectors of Victorian and contemporary fairy lamps. The Club's quarterly newsletter is published in the months of February, May, August, and November. The purpose of the newsletter is to provide a forum for members to share information about fairy lamps with others and is greatly dependent upon the contributions of our members for its content.

To join the Fairy Lamp Club and receive the Fairy Lamp Newsletter for one year, please send \$20.00 (\$25.00 foreign) to:

**JIM SAPP**  
**P.O. BOX 438**  
**PINE, CO 80470**

E-mail:.....jimsapp7@msn.com  
Telephone:.....(303) 816-0944

**Checks must be made payable to Jim Sapp.**

PayPal payments to jimsapp7@msn.com are also accepted at no additional charge.

### Thanks

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this issue of the newsletter. The success and continued growth of this newsletter is directly attributed to your participation and support.

