

Fairy Lamp Club



ISSUE XLIV

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2007

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CLUB NEWS

ALADDIN KNIGHTS GATHERING IN NASHVILLE, TN — FIRST WEEKEND IN AUGUST
by Connie and John

John and I had a good trip to Nashville, arriving in three days. We registered at the Mar-

riott on Wednesday afternoon and oriented ourselves to the area. On Thursday we took a tour around Nashville and went to President Andrew Jackson's house, "The Hermitage." It looked much as it was when Jackson lived in the house. The next stop was Belle Meade Plantation, an 18th century mansion that was the pride of a famous stud farm.

On Friday morning we went to a talk about searching for US Patents, with an emphasis on lamps and a little on searching for British Patents. The Lamp Show started at 11 am and went to 7 pm. We hurried and cleared our table to store all our things securely. The rest of the evening we spent at The Grand Ole Opry.

The Saturday Lamp Show went from 9 am to 4 pm. I gave my talk from 9:30 to 10:30. This year I spoke about some of the companies that made fairy lamps in the United States as Fostoria, Fenton, L.G. Wright, Westmoreland and Viking. I learned a lot preparing for this talk. I had support and help from several Fairy Lamp Club members including Lloyd Graham, Lorraine Kniefel, and Jan and Jon Nelson. We had more questions this year than before. We even saw a couple of things I spoke about at the show and bought a couple of things.

This year's lamp show was larger than last year, but it was in two rooms. We saw many people carrying packages out of the show. We also had more people at our table asking questions. We sold books and I sold a couple of lamps. We were tired at the end of the day but were happy to have been there.

ADOBE PDF FORMAT TO COMPLIMENTARY MEMBERS

In the last issue of the newsletter I discussed ways to offset the recent increase in US postal rates. The most obvious area to cut expenses was to review the number of complimentary members. After a careful review, however, it was difficult to eliminate any of these members. Their contributions in the past and the potential for future information was simply too valuable. Instead, I have decided on another approach to cut expenses and continue to maintain contact with those members who have contributed so much to our Club.

The solution was simple — provide a copy of the Club's newsletter to our complimentary members on-line using Adobe.pdf format.¹

As you may know, Adobe provides a free "reader" for this format and most computer systems come with the Adobe.pdf reader already installed.

After each issue of the newsletter is published and mailed to our members, I will send a link to our complimentary members that will give them access to the Adobe.pdf version of the newsletter. This "softcopy version" will be identical to the paper copy. If they choose, they can also print or save the Adobe.pdf version to their computer for future reference. This Adobe.pdf version will only be available on-line for a short period of time and an "archive" of newsletters will not be maintained.

By now, some members are considering their own "cost cutting" measures by asking, "How do I become a complimentary member?" A very good question, indeed.

As you might imagine, the time and effort necessary to produce a quarterly newsletter

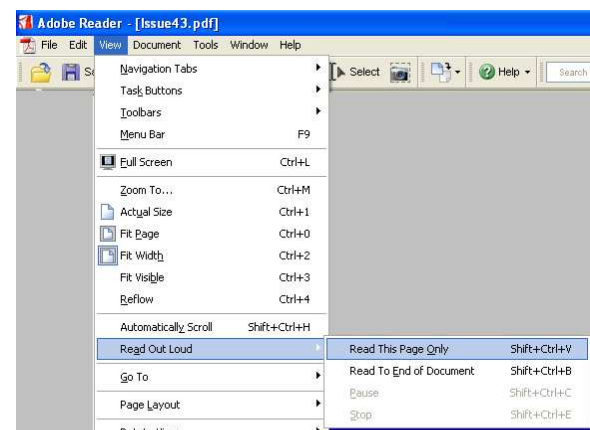
¹ This format requires a proprietary reader from Adobe. A free version of the Adobe reader can be downloaded from their website at www.adobe.com

is not a trivial endeavor. With that level of effort in mind, I am not considering offering a no-cost or reduced-cost "PDF Only Membership."

FOR THE GEEKS AMONG US – DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that you can read Adobe.pdf files out loud? No, not you, your computer.

Located under the "View" tab in the latest version of the Adobe reader there is a "Read Out Loud" selection.



Just bring up your Adobe.pdf document, select "Read Out Loud", and sit back and relax while your computer reads it to you. The computer voice has much to be desired and is lacking in emotion. But, for those who are into "multi-tasking" you just may find it useful. My, my...what will they think of next?

FENTON ART GLASS PLANS FOR CLOSURE

Since many of our members collect contemporary fairy lamps, the following press release from Fenton Art Glass Company² is of utmost importance.

August 9, 2007

The Fenton Art Glass Company announced today that it would cease its operations over the next few months.

² www.fentonartglass.com

"This decision was difficult," company President George W. Fenton said. "Since the announcement in June regarding our efforts toward financial restructuring, we took many steps in our efforts to continue the company's operations and the tradition of glass-making. Ultimately, those efforts were not successful."

"After discussions with our largest creditor, we agreed on an orderly plan to wind down our business," Fenton said. "We want to pay off as much of our debt as possible before we cease operations altogether, and this plan allows us to do that. We met with our employees today, and we expect to continue some level of glass production and glass decorating to fill orders for our products. About 22 employees will be let go immediately, and there will be others in the coming weeks as we move toward closure."

"We want to thank those in the local community for their support," Fenton said, "and we want to thank our larger customer community across the nation. Most of all, we want to thank all of the current and past employees of Fenton Art Glass who have been part of the Fenton tradition of glassmaking."

The Fenton Gift Shop will remain open, and its management will be exploring ways to continue to offer visitors and tourists the glassmaking experience.

Founded in 1905, Fenton Art Glass is known worldwide for its handmade colored art glass. Fenton Art Glass currently employs about 150 people.

The Fenton Art Glass Company was founded by Frank L. Fenton and his brother John W. Fenton in an old glass factory building in Martins Ferry, Ohio. They began by painting decorations on glass blanks made by other glass manufacturers. Soon, being unable to get the glass they needed, they decided to produce their own glass. The first glass from the new Fenton factory in

Williamstown, West Virginia, was made on January 2, 1907.³

This is indeed a sad decision for many Fenton collectors! As one of our members lamented, "Something decent has been lost."

FROM OUR MEMBERS

FAIRY LAMP CONVENTION by Graham and Helen

While this seems awhile ago, I thought I would just like to drop a note to say how much Helen and I enjoyed meeting old and new friends at the Fairy Lamp Club meeting in Toledo, Ohio. Well done to those who organized the event, especially Connie and John. Without their hard work the event would not have taken place.

JWELED BRASS FAIRY LAMPS - WHICH CAME FIRST? by John

No, not the age old question of the chicken or the egg, we are talking about the brass or the glass!

Shown in the photos is an embossed spun brass fairy lamp cup that mimics details of a standard Clarke pressed glass fairy size cup.



³ Excerpt from: www.fentonartglass.com/history

The brass cup measures 4 1/8" diameter at the shoulder and 1 1/2" high. It has two smooth levels where a shade could sit. They measure 3" and 3 3/8" in diameter.

It is made in two parts: the cup with a wide flat shoulder that has 12 vent holes in it, and the upper rim. The two parts are crimped together under the rim. This example hangs by 3 chains attached to the outer rim through small holes. Without the chains, it could easily have been made as a table lamp.

The similarities to Clarke's glass lamp cup are too much to be coincidence. From the bottom up:

- they have the same table ring
- vertical ribs to the side of the cup (32 ribs on the brass, 34 on the glass)
- broad flat shoulder with scalloped edge (32 scallops on the brass, 34 on the glass. The scallops are embossed on the shoulder of the brass, having an actual circular rim where the 2 parts are crimped together)
- fine beaded edge on the vertical lip

The only major differences are that the brass cup has smooth shade rims and therefore does not follow the Clarke patent, and also the brass cup is unmarked.



This base was found with a white milk glass shade that is encased in ormolu filigree that is studded with colored jewels. The shade has a smooth bottom rim without any air notches, but the vent holes in the base would have solved that problem.

This obviously follows the Clarke design, but if this base was made for Clarke we would expect it to be marked.

Editorial Comment:

Like so many of us, John has a passion for all types of fairy lamps. He is especially fond, however, of the jeweled brass variety. Over the years John has developed an extensive collection of this type of fairy lamp. Many of these lamps we have already seen in Ruf's book or in the Undocumented Fairy Lamp photo album. The varieties, however, seem to be endless with different variations being discovered on a regular basis. With that in mind, I have dedicated the two new pages of Undocumented Fairy Lamps to the jeweled brass variety from John's collection.

Thank you John, for all your contributions.

FAIRY LAMP WITH ACORN DECORATION

by Jim

Recently, one of our members acquired a very unusual fairy lamp with an applied frosted glass decoration consisting of oak leaves and a pair of acorns. In addition, the matching diamond quilted base had an applied frosted base with a deep pie crust rim – similar to a "glass doily." Both features are very unusual and, until now, rarely seen.

I had planned to simply add this fairy lamp to the Undocumented Fairy Lamp photo album but, being intrigued by the design, I thought we would try to learn more about it.



This fairy lamp was discussed at our Club's meeting in May. No one had ever seen another like it and no one was able to offer any new information with the exception of, "It looks to be Bohemian."

For now, I would agree with the Bohemian attribution. Many European and British companies produced similar glass appliqué with all types of fruit, berries, and of course acorns. These acorns, however, are uniquely designed with what appears to be a "pressed shape" rather than a "hand-formed" shape so typical of other similar designs.

The most distinctive feature, aside from the applied "doily foot," is the acorn decoration. This decoration could very well lead us to a more definitive attribution.

The lamp stands about 6.5 inches tall and is 4.5 inches in diameter at the base. The quilted pattern is similar to cut velvet with a raised diamond section. The shade has three

"square-cut" vents in the lower rim. The overall finish is frosted.



This vase, found on eBay, has the same acorn decoration and "according to the seller" is attributed to Stevens & Williams. Of course, many items are attributed to Stevens & Williams without any supporting documentation or evidence. That said, there is a possibility that the manufacturer of this vase and the fairy lamp could be the same but probably not British as the seller suggests.



Aside from the color, the decorations appear to be very similar. But, as we know, being similar does not necessarily mean they are from the same manufacturer as many manufacturers produced similar, if not identical, wares.

To add to the mystery, this same applied pattern has been found on several other shapes and in other colors.



So, my friends, let's do a little research and see if we can pin down the attribution of this unusual fairy lamp.

A.A. IMPORTING COMPANY by Jim and Lloyd

No too long ago, Lloyd sent me a few pages from a 1970 A.A. Importing Catalog showing a few well known contemporary fairy lamps. Well, they are well known to many of our members but, to anyone just beginning their collection, some of these lamps may present a bit of confusion as to their vintage. So, with that in mind, I thought it would be helpful to discuss some of the fairy lamps shown in their catalog. But, first, a little history about the company.

A.A. Importing Company, Inc. was founded in 1934 by A.A. Gralnick in the Gas Light Square area in St. Louis, MO. It began as a distributor for kerosene lamp parts and accessories. Prior to and after World War II, A.A. Importing was heavily involved in the importation of fine crystal and art glass, as well as fine porcelain from Europe. The company became famous for its fine selection of art glass and accessories for the antique trader as well as replacement parts. That was the beginning of building a strong foundation for A.A. Importing in the antique reproduction business.

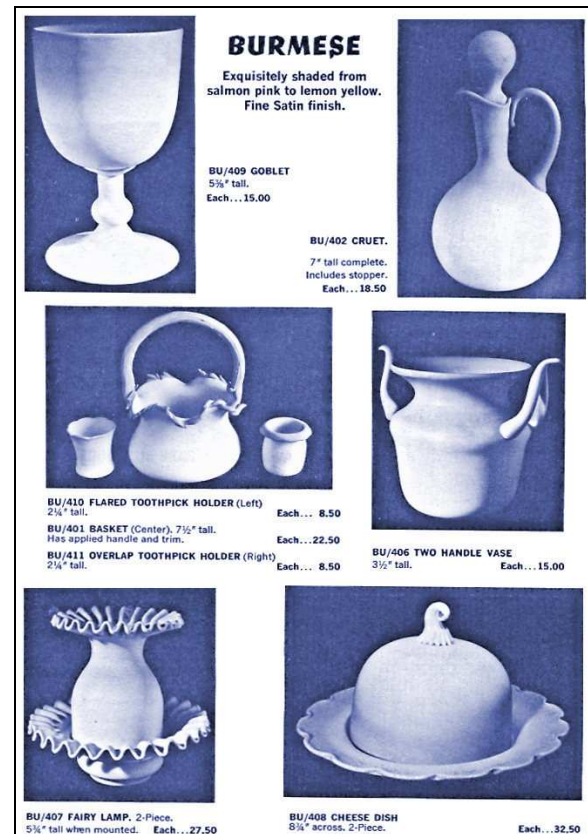
By the mid seventies, with a broad basis of porcelain, glassware, iron, brass and ceramics, A.A. Importing was the leading company in the world in the field of antique reproductions. Starting in 1974 the company took its extensive knowledge of antique and popular styles and adapted it to the manufac-

turing of small furniture items. The items that were first brought to the market included Bentwood hat racks, corner 'what-nots', marble top plant stands and round oak tables these were just some of the first's that A.A. Importing had produced.

A.A. Importing services a wide spectrum of diverse customers. The mediums of products we work in include wood, iron, porcelain, bronze, crystal as well as glassware and stained glass items.⁴

It is important to note that A.A. Importing is a wholesaler and does not deal directly with individuals.

The following are a few pages from the 1970 A.A. Importing Catalog showing several fairy lamps. I have included the full catalog page so that you can see the context these fairy lamps were marketed.



⁴ History of A.A. Importing from their website: aaimporting.com/about.html

This page illustrates R-797, A.A. Importing number BU/407 Fairy Lamp. They originally sold for \$27.50 each. This Italian Burmese Fairy Lamp has been seen with both satin and glossy finishes. It was also produced in a Millefiori-type glass.

In addition, this particular fairy lamp has been identified as "Gunderson Burmese." It has been widely reported that Gunderson Pairpoint, a successor to the Mount Washington Glass Co., produced this lamp from an old batch of Burmese glass. There is no evidence to support that this lamp was ever produced by Gunderson Pairpoint. It is generally accepted that this fairy lamp is Italian in origin. That said, this lamp is very collectable and often commands relatively high prices.

SPECIALTY ITEMS

MQ/C1410 SMALL PITCHER
6 1/2" tall. Children's features in unique color on cranberry glass. This is a special offering.
Each...10.50

Further Cranberry Mary Gregory Available After Jan. 1, 1970.

GW/2402 GERMAN MILITARY STEINS
10 1/2" tall. Lithopans in base. Fancy pewter lids. Each...15.00
6 Assorted for...81.00

CLARKE FAIRY LAMPS. 2-piece. 3 1/2" tall when mounted. Made from old molds. Marked.
PG/B1601 Deep cobalt. Each...3.50
PG/CL1601 Crystal clear. (Available after Jan. 1, 1970.) Each...3.50

SATIN GLASS ROSE BOWLS
Delicate shaded color. Fluted top, cased.
JA/P1805 Pink to white. Each...4.00
JA/B1805 Blue to white. 6 Ass't. for...21.60

IP/2500 IVORY SNUFF BOTTLES
3" tall. Various cylinder and flask shapes. No two alike. Have oriental figure designs.
Each...8.75
3 Ass't. for...23.50

JB/1110 RISQUE BUSTS
Fine detail. Delicate pastel. Per Pair...20.00

This page illustrates a common "Clarke" pyramid-size diamond point fairy lamp. A.A. Importing number PG/B1601, Deep Cobalt Blue. They originally sold for \$3.50

each. The description also states "Made from old molds." This lamp is easily recognized by the tapered and ground top opening and a "stick figure" Clarke trademark in the lamp cup. The ad further states: "A crystal clear version, PG/CL1601, is available after January 1, 1970."

An additional ad from the same catalog illustrates a similar diamond point pyramid-size fairy lamp, A.A. Importing number PG/1644. It was also available in cobalt blue, amber, and crystal. It sold for \$2.75 each or a case of six assorted colors for \$15.

This fairy lamp is often sold and purchased as an antique Clarke fairy lamp by ill-informed dealers and collectors.

Moser produced a similar diamond point fairy lamp with a molded top opening. The lamp is also marked with the Moser trademark.

CUT OVERLAY
HAND-CUT PATTERNS ON RUBY OR DARK BLUE OVERLAY.

CO/229 RUBY OVERLAY CANDY JAR. 6 1/2 in. Each...12.50

CO/263 RUBY OVERLAY BISCUIT JAR. 9 1/2 in. Each...27.50

CO/267 BLUE OVERLAY BISCUIT JAR. 9 1/2 in. Each...27.50

CO/220 BLUE OVERLAY NIGHT SET. 7 1/2 in. tall with tumbler inverted on jug. Each...9.50

CO/221 RUBY OVERLAY NIGHT SET. 7 1/2 in. tall with tumbler inverted on jug. Each...9.50

CO/285 BLUE OVERLAY FAIRY LAMP. 4 1/2 in. tall mounted. 2-piece. Each...6.75

CO/280 RUBY OVERLAY FAIRY LAMP. 4 1/2 in. tall mounted. 2-piece. Each...6.75

CO/228 BLUE OVERLAY VASE. 11 1/2 in. Each...22.50

CO/227 RUBY OVERLAY VASE. 11 1/2 in. Each...22.50

CO/226 BLUE OVERLAY MASTER VASE. 16 in. Each...37.50

CO/225 RUBY OVERLAY MASTER VASE. 16 in. Each...37.50

"SUNBURST" PATTERN

Page

This page illustrates two fairy-size lamps in blue and red cut overlay with a matching

base; A.A. Importing numbers CO/285 and CO/280. They sold for \$6.75 each.



This page illustrates a seldom seen hand-cut crystal fairy lamp with a matching base, A.A. Importing number 9034 in a "lattice cut" pattern. It sold for \$37.50 each. This lamp has also been seen in a clear "diamond point" pattern.

All of these contemporary fairy lamps are very collectable in their own right and provide an affordable opportunity for the beginning collector. It is important, however, for the collector to fully understand what they are purchasing and to make sure they are appropriately priced. It is often advisable not to rely solely on the knowledge of an antique dealer when making a fairy lamp purchase. Your personal knowledge and advice from more experienced fairy lamp collectors is often the best resource.

FAIRY TALES

NEVER EVER LET YOUR WIFE PERSUADE YOU TO BUY NEW CARPETS!! by Graham

Helen recently decided that after living in our house since 1991 it was time to buy new carpeting though out. I tried my best to dissuade her from this idea as being the accountant I could see nothing wrong with the existing carpets, she was having none of that so new carpets were ordered.

Luckily, the carpet layers were amenable to doing it in stages. As you can imagine we decided to leave our dining room till last, as this is the room that contains wall to wall cabinets containing the majority of our fairy lamp collection.

After 2 weeks of upheaval while the other rooms were cleared, carpet laid and then put back, we approached the day when we had to start emptying the cabinets. Helen slaved every evening after work for a week removing and distributing some 450 fairy lamps around the house.



Every nook and cranny was used and I even lost the use of my wine racks to fairy lamps!!



It then took 4 hours to dismantle the cabinets with the help of a friend.



Once the new carpet was laid, then came the task of reassembling the cabinets. This was not an easy task as they did not want to go back together quite as easily as they had come apart. With only Helen's help to re-assemble what were heavy and cumbersome parts, we did quite well until the last cabinet.

Now these cabinets are about 8 feet tall and about 6 feet wide and have mirrored backs which are held in place with Velcro pads. When the mirror refused to slot into the base, I tried to lift in on my own but the backing behind the mirror flexed and the mirror separated from the backing. Luckily, "Wonder Woman Helen" grabbed the mirror before 7 years bad luck ensued.

Some 7 hours of blood, sweat and tears later, the re-assembly was complete and Helen could start putting the fairy lamps back into the cabinets. This took her the best part of sixty hours to do!





All clean and back in their cabinets!!

Our new mantra is **"We are not going to do this again. We are not going to do this again!"**

Editorial Comment:

We should all be so fortunate as to have Helen and Graham's "problems." Needless to say their collection is awesome! I have often wondered how they managed to display such a vast collection. These few photographs provide the some insight into how they manage such an extensive collection.

If you wish to see more of their collection, visit their website at: www.fairylamps.co.uk.

If you have never visited their website, you are in for a real treat!

Thanks, Helen and Graham, for sharing your collection and "problems" with us!

2007 VISIT TO THE USA by Graham and Helen

As we were coming to the USA for the Fairy Lamp Club meeting in May we decided that we would like to see Jim & Patsy's new home in Colorado. We had seen all the pictures of the build, etc. and were intrigued to see it for ourselves.

So it was arranged for us to visit and stay a few days prior to the meeting. Well, their house was easy to find and I must say that the view from their living room is far better with the naked eye, than a camera's view. We were lucky that they had snow earlier in the week which made the view of the Rockies even more spectacular.



Jim and Patsy made us very welcome. I am sure Jim was on a realtor's commission as they took us to each and every new development in the surrounding thirty miles. Many of the potential lots that Jim had picked out for us on which to build our new house had some really impressive views and a head for heights was required!!

The Sapp Hotel made sure we were well fed and watered and would thoroughly recommend this Bijou Hotel to any other Club members — room discount I am sure by negotiation.

Why go on Safari when the Hotel's veranda, offers pleasant views of the setting sun over the Rockies and the gardens are regularly visited by elk, deer, fox and the occasional bear. All of this plus good company and a glass of wine. What more could a fairy lamp collector want?

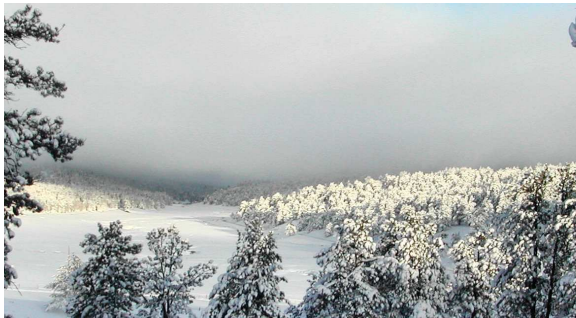
Many thanks Jim and Patsy for making us welcome in your home.

Editorial Comment:

We cannot begin to tell you what a pleasure it was for Patsy and me to have Helen and Graham visit with us for a few days. We are the ones who owe them both many thanks for taking the time to visit. What a treat!

The photo Graham took is from our great room overlooking Hidden Valley Ranch and a couple of Colorado's "fourteeners." ⁵

There are only a few patches of snow left in the mountains now but some will likely remain until the snow begins to arrive again in late September.



When we returned home from our meeting in Toledo, we were welcomed back with a fresh coating (15 inches) of new snow. Luckily, our neighbors had our driveway all plowed and waiting for our arrival. We had several snows in May, but most were only six inches or so — just a dusting by Colorado standards. ⁶

So, if anyone plans to visit the "Sapp Hotel" in any months other than June, July, or August, pack your skis! Or, if you prefer, simply bring your appetite and we will be sure to take good care of it.

⁵ Colorado has over 50 mountain peaks over 14,000 feet. www.14ers.com/photos/photos_14ers1.html

⁶ More photos of the 2007 snow season as well as many photos of life in the Colorado mountains can be found on my community website: www.MyWoodside.com.

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 (shipping to US included).

Fairy Lamp Club Newsletters in Binders

A complete set of all the back issues (quarterly since November 1996) of the Fairy Lamp Club Newsletters in two three-ring binders with a colorful cover insert and spine label. These are unique documents not available any where except through the Fairy Lamp Club. The Newsletter volume includes a complete index of articles and numbered tab pages. \$95 (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. \$43 (shipping to US included).

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. \$30 (shipping to US included).

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. \$40 (shipping to US included).

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 (domestic shipping included).

Place your order by sending payment to:

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

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 *19th 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 not for 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.

