

Fairy Lamp Club



ISSUE XLV

NEWSLETTER

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CLUB NEWS

2008 Fairy Lamp Club Meeting

At our previous meeting in Toledo, Ohio, we agreed to explore the possibility of combining our next meeting with the Night Light – A Club for Miniature Lamp Collectors.¹ Bob Culver, President, Night Light and valued member of the Fairy Lamp Club, has informed me that the proposal was well received by their members at their annual meeting in September.

¹ www.nightlightclub.org

The Night Light meets annually, generally in the fall. Their meetings are typically held in the eastern half of the country and scheduled to coincide with a major attraction or event. While the details of their 2008 meeting are being worked out, Bob has offered several possibilities to consider. They include:

- New York to include a visit to the Gillinder Glass Factory & Museum,² Port Jervis, New York, near the NY, PA, NJ intersection.
- Williamsport, Pennsylvania, to coincide with an auction at Roan's Inc. This location is also convenient for a side trip to the Corning Glass Museum.
- Marietta, Ohio, to include a final visit to the Fenton factory was being considered but, due to the closure of the factory, it may not be possible.

Do any of these venues sound good to you? Are there any other ideas or suggestions?

As you can see, much is still up in the air regarding the location of the fall 2008 meeting. As you all know, however, it is important to make and finalize plans early so that arrangements can be made and members can make plans to attend.

With that in mind, please let me know if you are agreeable to a combined meeting with the Night Light and if you have any other suggestions for locations.

² www.gillinderglassstore.com

Burmese Sale

As many of our on-line members know, I, along with long time member Ken, have been promoting the sale of an extensive collection of Burmese in Australia. While I provided the means to "get the word out," it was Ken's idea to offer this collection to our members prior to it going to auction.

This collection of Burmese included many "high end" Burmese fairy lamps along with other rare Thomas Webb and Mount Washington Burmese pieces. While several of the items did not sell, many of our members were very successful in making their offers.

Of the twenty-three items sold, all but five items went to our Club members with \$59,550 in total sales. Needless to say, their collections have been greatly enhanced with their purchases. Congratulations to one and all!

On behalf of all who participated in this sale, both successful and unsuccessful bidders, I offer our sincerest appreciation and gratitude to Ken for offering this collection to our members.

Membership Renewals

As you may know, I send out a membership renewal notice and application prior to your renewal date. The renewal date, unlike many clubs that are based on a calendar year, is determined by the month you joined the Club. What you may not know is that I send out "one last issue" beyond the renewal date. If the renewal is received, the renewal date is extended one year from the date the renewal was due, not the date of payment. Confused yet?

I only bring this up to further explain how renewal dates are calculated and explain why you may receive yet another "renewal notice" only six months after you renewed your membership, should your renewal be "overdue" when received.

Many members continue to renew their membership by check. If that is convenient for you, that is fine with me. For those who have enrolled in Paypal, however, I do not mind accepting a Paypal renewal. Paypal does charge me a small fee but I do not mind absorbing that cost for the convenience.

Foreign renewals are generally made by Paypal. Some members, however, send cash. While it would make me nervous to send cash in the mail, I have not encountered any problems in over ten years. For some foreign members, sending a money order is their best or only option. If a money order is sent, please make sure the amount is in US dollars, not foreign currency. Unless, of course, the US dollar dramatically increases in value. ☺

2008 FAIRY LAMP CLUB DIRECTORY

If you recall, I publish an updated Fairy Lamp Club Membership Directory and Newsletter Index in alternating years. With that in mind, the next updated Membership Directory will be published in February 2008.

The directory will include only those members who have given me permission to publish their contact information and only the specific information they have authorized me to publish.

Please drop me a note if you are not sure if you are to be included in the membership directory or not. In addition, please let me know if you need to update your phone number or e-mail address. While I am on the subject of e-mail addresses.....

Periodically, I broadcast an e-mail message to our membership and invariably I get several returned e-mails back as being "undeliverable." I usually resend the e-mail to each address to make sure my "broadcast" message was not being blocked as spam. When it returns a second time, I delete the address from our Club's e-mail address book. If you have not received an e-mail

from me in several months, chances are that I do not have a current e-mail address for you. If you are in doubt, send me an e-mail at jimsapp7@msn.com and I will confirm your e-mail address for you.

FROM OUR MEMBERS

UPDATE TO AA IMPORTING COMPANY
by Jim and Lloyd

In the August issue of the newsletter I wrote an article based on contemporary AA Importing catalogs submitted by Lloyd, a long time member and contributor. In that article I overlooked some important information that Lloyd had provided with the catalog prints. To set the record straight and to correct some misinformation, please add the following to the article.³

The earliest AA Importing catalog showing the Burmese fairy lamp (BU-407) is from a 1970 catalog as indicated in the article. The diamond point pyramid fairy lamps in deep cobalt blue (BG/B1601) and crystal clear (BG/CL601) were also from the 1970 catalog. The other pyramid diamond point (PG/1644) colors, cobalt blue, amber, and crystal referenced in the article were from a 1975 AA Importing catalog.

The catalog page illustrating the cut overlay products, including the red and blue overlay fairy lamps (CO/280 and CO/285 respectively), are from a 1985 AA Importing catalog.

The catalog page illustrating the cut lattice crystal fairy lamp (#9034) is from a 1999 AA Importing catalog.

While the dates of these catalogs may not necessarily indicate the first year of production, they give a more realistic time frame of their introduction.

Finally, I failed to include additional pages from the 1999 and 2002 AA Importing catalogs.



While these catalog pages do not show any fairy lamps, they do show three brass column candlesticks.



These candlesticks are very similar to Clarke's brass Corinthian Cricklite standards illustrated in R-719 and in the following 1898 Cricklite advertisement.

³ AA Importing Company, FL-XLIV-6, August 2007



It is hard to imagine that these candlesticks from AA Importing would fool an experienced fairy lamp collector; it is not, however, these collectors we worry about.

My apologies to Lloyd and our members for overlooking this important information.

Finally, Lloyd has uncovered new information on the Viking Glimmer Lights. Stay tuned; I am sure Lloyd will submit an article that even I can not mess up.

BATTERY LIGHTS – FINALLY A SOLUTION
by Jim

As any fairy lamp collector will tell you, it is extremely risky to use modern tea lights to light your fairy lamps. Those that could not resist the temptation have paid a high price by cracking the shade. Now, at long last, we have a viable solution for those who wish to use their fairy lamps in the way they were intended. But, first a little background.



Those who have been members for a long time will recall my first feeble attempt to fabricate a battery light.⁴ While it worked for fairy-size lamps, it was too large for a pyramid-size lamp. In addition, it was expensive and awkward to make. Yet, it laid the foundation for what was to come.



Use indoors or out—these "candles" can't be blown out...won't leave soot on walls.

Next came the battery-operated tea light. They were small, inexpensive, and readily available. They were also very dim and produced a yellow light that ruined the color in the fairy lamps. A big disappointment to everyone who wanted to light their lamps. Now, at long last, comes "Go-LED."



⁴ "Light Your Lamps" FL-XI-2, May 1999

The Go-LED battery-operated light is a perfect solution to safely lighting your fairy lamps. Below are a few of the features:

- **It is very small.** At 1.75" diameter it fits both the fairy and pyramid-size lamp cups. It is probably still too large for a Wee-size lamp cup.
- **It is very bright.** The small LED bulb is very bright and produces a "near white" light. The light is a little on the blue side but it does not effect the color of the fairy lamps to any significant degree.
- **It is battery operated.** The battery is reported to last 170 hours. The battery is sealed within the case and cannot be removed. I was concerned about not being able to replace the battery but, I suspect the battery would cost more than another complete light.
- **They have an on/off switch.** The case is the switch. A simple twist turns the light on and off. There are no tiny "micro switches" to deal with.
- **It is readily available.** The light can be found at Micro Center, Target, and Radio Shack. There may be other stores that I am not aware of.
- **They are inexpensive.** The lights are available in both 2 and 4-packs. A 2-pack runs \$2.99 and a 4-pack runs \$4.99.
- **The specs.** The manufacturer is Brinkmann Corporation,⁵ Go-LED model number 809-3052-1.

Anticipating that our members would be interested in these lights, I contacted Brinkmann in hopes of getting a quantity price break. Unfortunately, however, my idea of a quantity purchase was a little different than theirs. They would only offer a discount if I ordered 50 cases (2400 lights) or more. Even then it only brought the price per light down 25 cents.

⁵ www.brinkmann.net

So, with all the boring details out of the way, how do the work?



This photo does not begin to show how beautiful the lamps are when lit. Even the clear Clarke lamp cups add their own special brilliance. It is easy to see why fairy lamps were so popular in an era when oil lamps were the norm.

The lamps that showed their color well were the Burmese and lamps that are cased in white. The clear colored lamps did not do as well, although they are still very attractive.



I would never consider putting a candle in a lithophane fairy lamp. A battery light, however, is a different story. Can you imagine what a treat this must have been for a child's bedroom?



The straight-sided pyramid-size lamp cups have the smallest space for the candle. The Go-LED lights fit very well and, of course, provide more than ample light for the pyramid shade, even in normal room lighting.

Well, that is enough for now — go "light your lamps."

CZECH GLASS CATALOG by Lloyd with contributions by Jim

I have received several catalogs purchased thru eBay with fairy lamp information. The most interesting is from the West Virginia Museum of American Glass, Ltd.,⁶ Monograph #59, *Czech Glass Catalog Featuring Kralik Glassworks and Others*, evidently the catalog of a Bohemian wholesale glass exporter (possibly Hosch?).

This catalog is a reprint of a rare catalog from WVMAG's collection originally issued by an unidentified Bohemian wholesale glass exporter in the years prior to World War I. It documents 196 decors and 233 vases, as well as many epergnes, water sets and pitchers. At least three of pages can be attributed to the Kralik Glassworks.

One of the catalog pages illustrates ten fairy lamps similar to some in the Hosch catalog found previously.



While there is no direct attribution to Kralik Glassworks, the use of floral appliqué, glass types, and general design are very similar to other Kralik products. The following shows the fairy lamp designs a little clearer along with their purchase numbers.



Included with each catalog page is a description of each item. The English translation from German for the fairy lamps is:

Night Lamps with Employment

Purchase Number:

- C 175.....pink, white marble, satin
- C 176.....blue, white marble, satin
- C 177.....violet shaded, flower
- C 178.....green shaded, flower
- C 179.....pink, white opal
- C 180.....orange, white opal
- C 181.....crystal, satin, flower
- C 182.....crystal, satin, flower
- C 183.....orange, white opal
- C 184.....aqua, white opal

⁶ wvmag.bglances.com

Shown below is a lamp, U-351, we got last September, undoubtedly Kralik, and a vase we found in Williamstown, West Virginia, when we visited the Fenton factory after the Fairy Lamp Club meeting in Toledo, Ohio. The monograph illustrates over 50 Kralik vases of which are similar in shape and decor to this one.



MORE POSSIBLE KRALIK CANDLE LAMPS by Jim

While researching Kralik Glassworks, I came across some information that you may find interesting and, perhaps, informative.

First and foremost is the research done by Robert and Deborah Truitt in their book *Collectable Bohemian Glass, 1880-1940*. The long, albeit complex, history of the Kralik Glassworks is well documented in the chapter, *Kralik*, pgs. 78-79. The chapter also includes several examples of Kralik glassware. The preceding chapter, *Hosch*, pgs. 72-77, shows several pages from the Hosch catalog which includes many pieces possibly produced by Kralik. This reference book is a "must have" to appreciate and better understand Bohemian glass companies and the products they produced.

Equally significant is a website: *Verre D'Art - Bohemian, Czech, English, and Continen-*

*tal & U.S. Glass including Art Nouveau & Art Deco Glass.*⁷

The *Verre D'Art* website is rich in detailed photographs of glass attributed to numerous glass manufactures around the world, including Kralik Glassworks. While you may find some of the attributions in several sections suspicious, this website is a good one to have on your "favorites list." Keep in mind: a single attribution without documentation is, in my humble opinion, an "opinion." But, I digress.

The section titled "*Kralik*" contains several different types of glass that remind me of fairy lamps that we know very little about. While I can not make positive attribution to Kralik, the similarities are very persuasive. I will let you be the judge.



This vase, identified as Kralik Spatter Glass is very distinctive, in particular the applied clear "rocket ship feet."⁸ This same treatment is seen on the following pyramid-size fairy lamp.

⁷ www.home.earthlink.net/~verredart1/glass

⁸ The term "rocket ship feet" was obtained from the Verre D'Art website.



While I prefer positive attribution in the form of advertisements, catalogs, or design books, the uniqueness of the design of these feet make the attribution almost certain. However, you must always remember that competition was fierce in the glass industry and copying the work of others was pervasive. For now, however, I have no hesitation attributing this fairy lamp to Kralik Glassworks.



Could this be another product of Kralik Glassworks? While there are similarities, a positive attribution remains a mystery.

Kralik produced a glass type known as Verre de Soie Martelé. To translate from French to English — "Silk glass hammered." The design, however, is not unique to Kralik and was used by several other glass manufacturers.



These two examples clearly show how it got its name. Both examples, one opaque white the other clear, have the same iridescent satin finish and a very distinctive embossed "hammered" design. Have you seen this type of glass before? I think so.



This undocumented fairy lamp, U-275, has qualities very similar to the Kralik Verre de Soie Martelé glass. Is this a product of the Kralik Glassworks? You be the judge.

While many Bohemian glass companies used floral appliqué on their products, the following chimney-type fairy lamp, U-354, bears a striking resemblance to the floral ap-

pliqué shown in the Kralik catalog pages as well as the examples provided by Lloyd.



There are other examples that have similarities to Kralik but, to quote the words of Bob Truitt:

*"Many pieces of glass are very similar to glassware of known origin, but (and that's a big but) just being similar is not enough to say that a product is of a particular company. Anyone involved in the collecting of Bohemian glass is cautioned to use prudence when it comes to attribution."*⁹ Certainly, very good advice.

TEAPOT MUSEUM, TRENTON, TENNESSEE by Connie

In August, John and I left the Aladdin meeting in Nashville, Tennessee and drove about 150 miles west to the city of Trenton to see the "Teapot Museum." Many years ago at Brimfield, MA, I bought a small book called the *Rare Porcelain Veilleuses Collection of Doctor Frederick C. Freed*. Dr. Freed was a native of Trenton who practiced dentistry in New York. His brother suggested he leave the Veilleuses to the city. He donated them in 1955. They are a treasure!

Trenton is a small southern farming area. The collection is in a room in the City Hall and Police Station built in 1962. Prior to

⁹ Collectable Bohemian Glass, 1880-1940, pg.134

this new building, the teapots were in glass cases in the high school. You can look at the collection 24 hours a day! Directions are on the internet.¹⁰

The collection consists of 525 Veilleuses-theieres (night light teapots) bought by Doctor Freed and his wife on trips to Europe, Turkey, Africa, Egypt, Thailand, Singapore, Ceylon, Hong Kong and Indo-China. They are displayed in built in glass cases around a room.

Veilleuses were made in the 18th and 19th centuries. The oldest is from about 1750. Veilleuses consist of a teapot and a place for the candle or oil to burn. They are in the form of figurines or personages, animals, balloons, and other ethereal figures.



If you are in the area of Trenton, Tennessee you would have a good time and see wonderful pieces of art. You can also read about Veilleuses in *Veilleuses: A Collector's Guide: A Definitive Review of Ceramic Food and Tea Warmers, 1750-1860* by Harold Newman published in 1977 or 1987.

Editorial Comment: Additional Veilleuses are illustrated in R-450 and R-451 and in "Fairy Lamps" by McSwiggan, pgs 113-114.

¹⁰ www.teapotcollection.com

REPRODUCTION ALERT by Jim.

Most of our members would not have any difficulty distinguishing contemporary from Victorian-era fairy lamps. Most would be easily recognized, even those produced by Price and distributed by Faroy in the 1950's, as being a reproduction Clarke pyramid fairy lamp. There is, however, a new pyramid fairy lamp on the market that could easily confuse the beginning collector.



Anyone you frequents eBay in search of fairy lamps certainly has seen these. They have been showing up in eBay auctions for at least a year.

When I first noticed the fairy lamps, I did not pay too much attention to them except as a curiosity. Recently, however, I received an inquiry from a member that raised a degree of concerned. Could a beginning collector be confused into thinking these were antique Clarke fairy lamps? Hopefully not, but to be sure, a discussion is warranted.

First, let me say that I know very little about these lamps. I do not know who made them, the country of origin, or even the distributor. The following information is gleaned entirely from eBay auctions.

I have seen two predominate colors, amber and green. There may be other colors that I am not aware of. The green version appears to be cased or flashed on the inside but I can't be sure without having one to inspect.

The amber color seems to be inconsistent, some lighter than others.



The glass appears to be very thick and heavy and has ground top and bottom surfaces typical of a belt or wheel sander. While the shade is the most obvious reproduction, the lamp cup provides the most likely source of confusion.

The clear pyramid lamp cup appears to be an exact reproduction of an original Clarke lamp cup, with a major exception — the Clarke trademark and logo.



At first glance it appears to be an authentic Clarke trademark and then the obvious sinks in.

The word "Pyramid" is spelled "PYRAMD" — a good indicator even for the beginning fairy lamp collector. There are other more subtle differences but it is not necessary to go into those right now.

The seller (appears to be the same seller going by different eBay names) of this lamp on eBay seems to be aware of what they are selling. They routinely sell reproduction items

and often use the ambiguous term "vintage" as opposed to "antique." They are also consistent in spelling out the Clarke trade name as "PYRAMD." Perhaps this is an honest attempt to provide an accurate description or, perhaps a deliberate attempt to avoid any misrepresentation.

As for eBay sales, I think they have been weak at best. Perhaps a few brought prices higher than true value but I think most buyers recognize them for what they are.

If anyone has any information on these fairy lamps, I and our members would love to hear from you.

CLASSIFIED ADS

WANTED

I often get inquiries from members and non-members who are looking for a part to complete their fairy lamps. The following recent inquiry blew me away.



Do you see anything missing in this photo? Yes, it is a 10-lamp chandelier in rainbow DQMOP with one shade and lamp cup missing. I can not imagine how one fairy lamp came to be missing but I suspect it was broken beyond repair.

The owner of this chandelier is not a fairy lamp collector. She acquired the chandelier from her Grandmother because "she always liked it." I would certainly think so!!

Needless to say, the owner is looking for someone willing to part with a matching rainbow DQMOP shade and lamp cup to complete this chandelier. I doubt that there is anyone willing to part with such a prize....but you never know.

Contact me if you are willing to help. Jim.

P.S. No, this chandelier is not for sale at any price.

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 anywhere 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 ten-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).

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.





U-349

Blue diamond quilted (cut velvet) fairy-size shade cased in white with three air notches. Shade decorated with clear frosted oak leaf and acorn appliqué typical of Welz glassworks, Bohemia. Matching lamp cup has applied clear frosted foot with deeply ruffled rim. 6.5"h. x 4.5"d. including ruffled foot.



U-350

Red/orange and yellow pyramid-size spatter glass (end-of-day) shade on matching base with four clear glass applied "rocket ship" pedestal legs typical of Kralik glassworks, Bohemia. Similar in style to U-331. Approximately 4.5"h.



U-351

Frosted clear shade with lightly embossed vertical ribs, three air vents, and flower and leaf appliqué typical of Kralik glassworks, Bohemia, c.1900. Shade rests on smooth shoulder of slightly amethyst tinted base with flared and fluted rim. Similar in design to R-184. 6.25"h. x 5.0"d.



U-352

Orange and yellow spatter glass shade with two faceted glass "jewels" mounted in ormolu frames. Shade rests in matching base with six applied blue glass feet with embossed leaf design. Dimensions are unknown.



U-353

One-piece sombrero style fairy lamp in white Nailsea glass with applied red threaded glass around the waisted and crimped shade. Bowl-shaped base has upright pie crust rim. Similar in design to R-194, U-259, and U-260. 5.625"h. x 6"d.



U-354

Deep amethyst shading to clear frosted chimney style shade with three air vents and flower and leaf appliqué typical of Kralik glass-works, Bohemia, c.1900. Shade rests in clear frosted saucer base with soft ruffled rim and polished pontil. c.1900. 6.5"h x 6.375"d.



U-355

Green frosted shade embossed with reverse draped pattern registered by Boulton Mills October 19, 1886. Shade is etched along the lower rim "Trade Mark Fairy - Rd 59136." Shade rests in clear beaded and ribbed Clarke lamp cup resting on central column of shiny finished base. 6.0"h. x 7.5"d.



U-356

Orange floral shade with crimped top opening and three rows of applied clear glass "rolled" petals. Shade rests in clear lamp cup resting on central column of matching square base with upright pie crust rim. 4.25"h. x 5.75"w.