

Fairy Lamp Club



ISSUE XLIX

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2008

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CLUB NEWS

THANKS TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS

As I have indicated many times before, this is your newsletter.

I am very pleased that the majority of articles in this issue were provided by other members of our Club. It is through the contributions of others that make this newsletter so informative. Thanks and appreciation goes to all who contributed to this issue. I look forward to even greater participation from our members in the future.

FROM OUR MEMBERS

GRAB THE BRASS RING by Brian

In the August 2008 newsletter was an article that discussed the brass bands that are often found around the base of Cricklite shades.¹ After looking around for several years and grabbing every one I could find so that I could complete the shades I have, I started to notice a difference. I have noticed that these brass shade bases were created using two different methods.

First a little background information, for the most part the outside shape and size on Cricklite shades are constant, and the thickness of the glass varied toward the inside. It is this constant which allows these rings to be added to the shades (or so I thought). The rings that I have seen have been made from a flat piece of brass that is textured and has the "Cricklite" name embossed into it.



The ends are where the difference occurs. On several examples I have, both ends have been brought together and fused with a small dot of brass and solder on the outside surface fixing the brass ring to that diameter only.



¹ FL-XLVIII-9 Metal Fittings

The inside of the same ring has been ground to an even surface as not to damage the glass shade, or to have a point of pressure that would crack the shade.



The other style I have seen is where the ends of the flat piece of brass have two slots and one tab cut into them. This tab and slot system would have allowed for faster production since it didn't need to be as accurate and time consuming as soldering the ends together would have been.

A worker would only need the shade to roll the brass around and slide the tab through the first slot and back out the second. Pull the tab tightly and bend it over to secure.

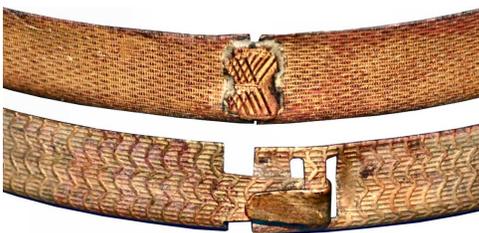


This would end the need to grind and smooth the inside surface also. This could allow for variation in manufacturing as more shades were being produced.



I would guess that the tab and slot system was used last or at least after the solder and brass dot for those time saving reasons.

The next difference is in the texture of the brass rings.



There are some rings with a simple knurling texture that is just like crosshatch. The other texture looks more like fish scales and horizontal lines cast into the brass rather than stamped like the other style.

I think the purpose of this metal feature on the Cricklite domes is easy to see. With many of the Cricklite shades being very thin, they would have a tendency to chip and break with being used every night like Mr. Clarke was hoping for. The addition of a brass ring around the base would reduce these problems making a much happier clientele.

METAL FITTINGS REVISITED by Brian

After reading the August 2008 newsletter article about the metal fittings, I decided to do a follow up on some of the pieces. This article will further describe the smoke dome that fits onto the top of the Cricklite shades as well as discuss the possible function and purpose.

First I will cover the description of the piece.

The piece I was able to look at is 1.88 inches tall overall and has a large diameter of 2.08 inches.



This piece is either cast or stamped as there are no seams that would allow for it to be made flat and rolled up. There is a fair amount of punching that went into the piece after it was formed or cast. All the prongs are made by removing the material between them. As on the piece I handled, they vary in width and length depending on how well the

punch operator ran the machine. The triangles at the top of the prongs are also punched one at a time trying to center them in the main portion of each prong. The diamonds at the points of the prongs were added the same way with as much attention to detail and accuracy.



Just above the prongs are three tabs that are bent inward to prevent the piece from sliding all the way down and making the vent holes not function correctly.



The top was fabricated from an arched piece of mica² that was rolled into a point. Once this was done, two small holes were punched through and a brass split pin was inserted and opened to prevent the mica from flattening out. Once this mica was complete, it was placed on the top and all the club shaped prongs around the top were folded over to prevent it from falling off of the metal piece.

² Aluminum silicate mineral common in igneous and metamorphic rocks, characteristically splitting into flexible sheets.

As Jim indicated in the first article, "It would serve to keep insects, such as moths, from getting inside the shade". This would be a real benefit when the lamps were in use. We have a tendency to think about modern living when talking about what something could have been used for. When a moth gets in the house today and flies about, we chase it down and get it back outside as quickly as possible, but in the 1880's and the lack of window screens, insects I am sure flew around every light source. This little feature would keep them out of the fire.

Another reason for its existence would be to act as a smoke bell. A smoke bell was used when a burning candle or lamp was placed close to either a ceiling or a book shelf of some kind, to prevent the heat from damaging the finish by dissipating the direct heat source, and also preventing the discoloring of the surface with soot from the burning candle.

All the holes and perforations would still let out any heat that built up with the candle burning, and by not being made from steel, would not heat up against the glass or a shade.



As on the cover of the candle box, the smoke cover sticks above the shade just enough to see the point of the mica.

MADE IN THE SHADE by Brian

This is the third article written in response to the August 2008 newsletter article about metal fittings. This article will cover the

brass ring that slides over the top of the Cricklite shade that is in question as being a shade holder.



The article notes that Clarke commissioned shades to be made for his lamps, which is true. However, there were many more shade makers creating them for many markets. Several miniature oil lamps use a similar shaped shade holder that was integral to the design.³ Many of these shades did not have a built in frame as on some Clarke designs.

The shades I am using in this article are authentic to the era. They are of an embroidered design over fabric with sections of mica on the inside with beaded fringe and are of standard size. If these shades were used on a Cricklite dome, the top of the dome would protrude. This would also allow the shade to become hot while being in direct contact with the glass.



By placing the brass collar on the top of the dome, the delicate fabric or paper shade is held away from the hot glass and would allow air to travel between the glass and shade. It would also raise the shade to a

³ Examples are illustrated *Miniature Lamps II* by Ruth Smith, figures 389 - 391.

height seen in many advertisements showing shades on Clarke lamps.



The brass collar fits nicely into the top opening of many of this style shade. This is shown in the photo taken looking into the inside of the shade with the collar placed inside.

As I mentioned earlier, by raising the shade up and allowing air to circulate it would make the lamp safer to have lit around the house. It also hides more of the plain glass dome and candle cup base.



With the shade examples I am using in these photos, you can see in the difference in shade placement with the brass collar (on the right) and without (on the left). The beaded fringe (which is a typical length on many of these shades) is lifted up so it clears the brass arms of the typical Clarke Cricklite lamp bracket. This also only allows a little of the chimney style dome to show above the shade and still give ample cover for the flame. By raising the shade just a little bit, the area covered by the down cast light is dramatically increased. With the use of a standard this would cast the candle glow downward onto the surface of the dining ta-

ble (as seen in several advertisements) or onto the parlor floor.

CLARKE'S FOOD WARMER AND THE PANNIKIN - PART I by Jim

I have wanted to write about Clarke's food warmer for some time. It is without a doubt the most frequently asked question – "What is this thing?"

Originally, I considered this to be a simple article with a brief explanation that I could use to answer all those who inquired about them. The more information I collected, however, the more I grew to appreciate its long history and the role it played in making the name "Clarke" the most recognized name in fairy lamps. A simple explanation just would not do. A more in-depth article was needed.

For many of us, Clarke's food warmer is often incorrectly referred to as a "Pannikin." It is an object of mixed interest – either you love them or you hate them. There are few without an opinion when it comes to this unusual device.

Exactly what is a Pannikin?

Almost every reference defines Pannikin as: a noun \pa-ni-kən\ pan + -nikin (as in cannikin) "a small pan or cup (*usually made of tin*). It is a British term dating back to 1823.⁴



⁴ www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/pannikin

In the case of Clarke's food warmer, the "Pannikin" is the pottery cup used to hold the food or beverage.

The term "food warmer" refers to the complete device which includes the Pannikin, nursery hand lamp, tin stand and separate water reservoir.



The following photo illustrates the relative sizes of three of the four known sizes of food warmers (three shown on the left). The fourth food warmer shown in this photo is a different design but is well documented.⁵ I will highlight the features of this unique food warmer a little later.



Photo: *Fairy Lamps* by Ruf & Ruf, Appendix B, pg. 230

⁵ A complete description of each of these food warmers is available in *Fairy Lamps* by Ruf, Appendix B.

This photo also shows how each stand was "adjusted" to accommodate the various sizes of Pannikin. The base is the same on each size food warmer and the legs were adjusted to fit the size of the water cup and Pannikin. Also in the photo, third from the left, there is no handled brass holder for the shade. Is it missing? Perhaps – perhaps not. I will discuss that a little latter.

Clarke's Pannikin came in four sizes: No. 1 - ½ pint, No. 2 - ¾ pint, No. 3 - 1 pint, and No. 4 - 1½ pints.⁶ While documentation exists that identifies four sizes of Pannikin, most advertisements and catalog prices only include three sizes, Numbers 1, 2, and 3. The largest size, No. 4 1½ pint is rarely advertised and, to the best of my knowledge, no one has any in their collection. It is not clear if this size was a late entry to the line or an early option that was discontinued.

It is important to note that "pint" refers to the British measure, or about 20 ounces, compared to the U.S. pint, 16 ounces.

U.S. and British Patents and British Registration Dates

From a simple beginning Clarke grew into a thriving candle manufacturing business. If it were not for Clarke's creative development of devices to use his candles, however, I doubt that many would even remember who he was.

It was in 1857 that Clarke patented his first night light hand lamp, later to become known as "The Burglars Horror" and "Pyramid Nursery Lamp."

In Clarke's original patent description for the hand lamp, shown below, he clearly explains the purpose of the shallow porcelain candle cup was to hold water and he suggests that the handled brass tray could be used with or without a domed shade or porcelain cup.



September 29, 1857- Patent No 2505

CLARKE, Samuel. - Improvements in apparatus for burning "night lights and mortars." A tray with raised sides and a handle is made of such size as to conveniently admit into the middle of it a small dish containing water. A night light encased in paper or other material is placed in the dish. The sides serve as a gallery for a glass chimney which is cylindrical and "made with a comparatively small hole at the domed top." In the sides "and within the glass" are numerous small air holes.

If the night light is made without a cover, the dish is dispensed with, and a glass for the reception of the night light is placed in the middle of the tray.

Samuel Clarke's patent for his first night light hand lamp was a modest beginning to what was to be known as a "fairy lamp" some thirty years later.

It was this simple hand lamp that became the heat source for Clarke's "Pyramid" Nursery Lamp Food Warmer.

⁶ Advertisement for Clarke's New and Improved Food Warmer, *Clarke's Fairy Lamps* by Dorothy Tibbetts.



As indicated in this advertisement,⁷ Clarke's "Pyramid" Nursery Lamp and Food Warmer were patented in England on December 27, 1883, Patent Number 5877.⁸

It is important to note, however, that Clarke's "Pyramid" Nursery Lamp Food Warmer was introduced much earlier than the British patent date indicated in the ad.

MOSCOW EXHIBITION, 1872.
 1ST AWARD—FIRST GRAND SILVER MEDAL TO SAMUEL CLARKE, LONDON, FOR HIS PATENT PYRAMID NIGHT LAMP FOOD WARMER.
 2ND AWARD—FIRST GRAND SILVER MEDAL TO SAMUEL CLARKE, LONDON, FOR HIS PATENT PYRAMID NIGHT LIGHTS.
 PRIZE MEDAL AWARDED, LONDON 1873.
 Prize Medal Awarded at the Paris Exposition, 1867.
SAMUEL CLARKE'S
PYRAMID NURSERY LAMPS & FOOD WARMERS.

In this advertisement dated July 3, 1881 from an unknown periodical, Clarke promotes several awards he received for the "Pyramid" Nursery Lamp and Food Warmer. The awards were:

PARIS EXPOSITION – 1867⁹

- Prize Medal Awarded

⁷ Considered to be from the Illustrated London News, c. 1890.

⁸ I have made several efforts to locate this patent at the Intellectual Property Office (IPO) in the UK but without success.

⁹ Universal Exposition, April 1 - November 3, 1867; 41 countries participated with 52,000 exhibitors. www.expo2000.de/expo2000.

MOSCOW EXPOSITION – 1872¹⁰

- First Grand Silver Medal for his Patent Pyramid Night Light Food Warmer
- First Grand Silver Medal for his Patent Pyramid Night Lights

LONDON EXPOSITION – 1873¹¹

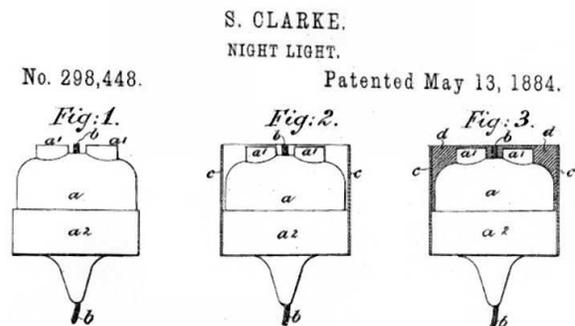
- Prize Medal Awarded

There are other awards, but these are among the earliest.

In the same ad that mentioned the British patent date, there was also a reference to an American patent number 298,448 dated May 13, 1884. This U.S. patent is a little easier to research. There is, however, a problem.

Clarke U.S. Patent 298,448 – Night Light

This U.S. patent number is assigned to Clarke's improved candle, or night light.



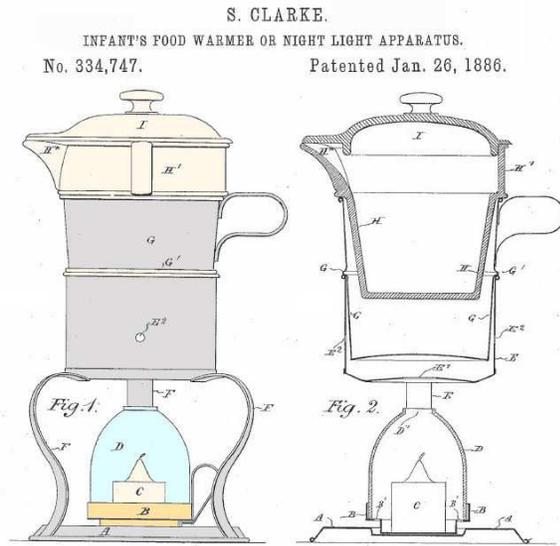
There is no reference to Clarke's "Pyramid" Nursery Lamp, Food Warmer, or even a Pannikin. But, let's not give up too soon.

While searching for other U.S. Clarke patents, I discovered the patent for the Pannikin, patent number 399,742, March 19, 1889 and the Food Warmer, patent number 334,747, January 26, 1886. It is interesting to note that this "improved" Pannikin was patented over three years after the food warmer was patented in the U.S.

¹⁰ Polytechnic Exhibition – May 30 – to the end of 1872. www.russianmuseums.info

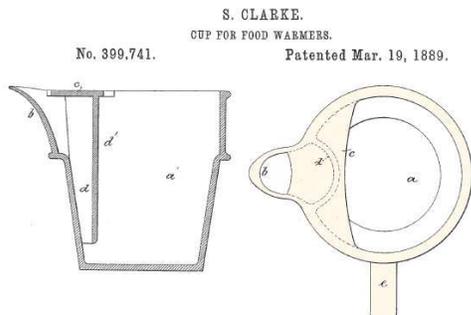
¹¹ Third Annual International Exhibition, April 14 - October 31, 1873. www.calisto.slv.vic.gov.au

Clarke U.S. Patent 334747 – Infant's Food Warmer or Night Light Apparatus



This patent drawing shows Clarke's food warmer just about as we know it today. It includes all the principle components; the stand supporting the hot air chamber, the water reservoir that fits on top of and within the hot air chamber, the earthenware cup and lid (Pannikin), and of course, the handled night lamp with glass dome and a pyramid candle. The only component that appears to be missing is the handle for the stand that is attached to the hot air chamber. An oversight that was probably quickly remedied the first time it was put to use.

Clarke U.S. Patent 399741 – Cup for Food Warmers



In the description of this cup Clarke explains the purpose of the design:

"The object of my invention is to form cups of this kind in such a manner that food may be readily be poured out or drunk up from them without spilling, and also in such manner that any grease or scum floating on the surface may be stopped back and retained within the cup."

This is an interesting description in that it refers to drinking from the cup. That explains why the handle is 90 degrees from the spout. It is also interesting that the cup is designed for a right-handed person and does not include a separate lid. The lid, with a minor modification, would be added later.



This improved Pannikin had already received a British Registered Design Number 91241 on January 11, 1889, fifteen months prior to the granting of the U.S. patent.¹³ The "old shape" referred in the advertisement is the shape shown in Clarke's U.S. Patent 334747 – Infant's Food Warmer or Night Light Apparatus.

Clarke's Food Warmer Advertisements

There is no doubt that Clarke spared no expense when it came to advertising his products. He was indeed a marketing genius and

¹² This ad from the Pottery Gazette, January 1, 1889 clearly shows the Rd number 91241 which was not granted until January 11, 1889.

¹³ The application for the U.S. patent was filed on May 21, 1888, less than six months after the granting of the U.K. Registered Design.

his skills were generously applied to marketing his food warmers. These ads are an invaluable source of information and provide insight into the options offered to his customers and correct terminology.

The following are just a few things gleaned from various advertisements:

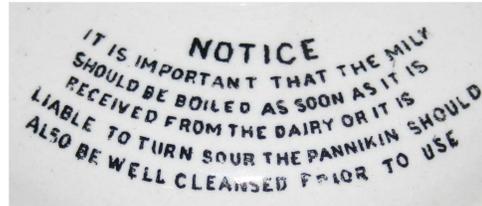
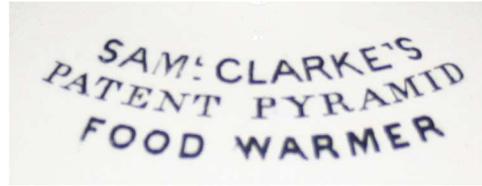
- The correct name for the food warmer is "Clarke's 'Pyramid' Nursery Lamp Food Warmer" or simply "Pyramid" Nursery Lamp.
- Replacement components, i.e. lid, porcelain Pannikin, tin Pannikin, and night lamp were sold separately.
- The food warmer was offered without the Pannikin to be used only as a means to heat water.
- The term "Pannikin" was occasionally spelled "Panakin."
- Shades for the Night Lamp (Burglar's Horror) were offered in clear, frosted, and opaline glass.
- An unknown U.S. distributor was at 25 & 27 Exchange Alley, Newark, New Jersey.
- The brass tray for the Night Light was offered in lacquered or bronzed.
- Various vaporizers were available to be used in place of the Pannikin.
- The half-pint food warmer was offered in a "cheaper quality" at a reduced cost.

Markings

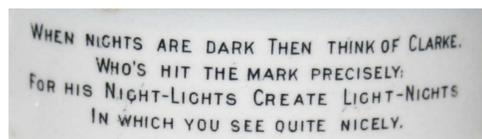
There is little doubt that Clarke's food warmer, Pannikin, nursery lamp, and pyramid night light are the most "decorated" of all of Clarke's products. They are covered with Clarke's advertisements, registered design numbers, slogans, and yes, even warning labels. The following are a few examples worth noting.

The Pannikin

The Pannikin itself has been documented containing the following labels and designs.



This label is often found on the inside of the lid and on the outside of the Pannikin. It is also found with and without the reference to the U.S. patent.



Very few Pannikins are marked with the size and price. It is interesting that Clarke would "permanently mark" his Pannikin with the price. In this case the price, 6 shillings, would have been for a complete "Clarke's Pyramid Nursery Lamp Food Warmer."

The Registered Design number — R^d 91241 is also found on Clarke's "Improved Pannikin."

Finally, on the side of the cup is a stylized version of the British Royal Family Coat of Arms.



The official British Royal Family Coat of Arms, shown below, is worthy of explanation.



On the left, the shield is supported by the English Lion. On the right it is supported by the Unicorn of Scotland.¹⁴

The coat features on the banner below the shield the motto of British Monarchs:

DIEU ET MON DROIT
(God and my right)

On the belt around the shield, known as the Order of the Garter, is the expression:

HONI SOIT QUI MAL Y PENSE
*(Evil to him who evil thinks).*¹⁵

¹⁴ The unicorn is chained because in mediaeval times a free unicorn was considered a very dangerous beast. Only a Virgin was able to tame the beast.

¹⁵ www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk

This statement supposedly originated when King Edward III was dancing with the Countess of Salisbury. Her garter slipped down to her ankle, causing those around her to respond with sniggers at her humiliation. In an act of chivalry Edward placed the garter around his own leg, saying, "Honi soit qui mal y pense", and the phrase later became the motto of the Order of the Garter.¹⁶

The shield is quartered; the first and fourth quarters are the three guardian lions of England; in the second quadrant the rampant lion of Scotland; and in the third, a harp for Ireland.

In consideration of others who have contributed to this issue, I will continue this article in the next issue of the newsletter.

FAIRY TALES

IT IS A SMALL WORLD IN THE WORLD OF FAIRY LAMPS by Jan

In the November 2007 newsletter, Jim wrote an article about a person in Australia who had recently inherited a 10-lamp Rainbow DQMOP chandelier from her grandmother. Most of you will probably remember it. It was an awesome piece to imagine hanging from one's ceiling. It took my breath away!



The sad part was, the chandelier was missing one of its lamps, and the owner was on a search for the missing pieces. I remember

¹⁶ www.en.wikipedia.org

thinking to myself how difficult it would be to find that dome, let alone the cup. I did not really give it another thought until we were at an auction in Maine this past June and saw that very dome sell for quite a bit of money to a phone bidder. We don't know who purchased it, but Jon and I did wonder if it could have possibly been that person in Australia.

At an antiques show in Chicago this past August, one of our regular dealers showed us a 1-lamp metal stand holding a cup with no dome. He thought maybe we might have use for one or both of the pieces. He said he had been holding on to the cup for quite a while in hopes of finding a dome to match it, but was ready to give it up. I had no interest in the stand and took one look at the cup and thought to myself.....You have had this for a very long time and haven't found a matching dome yet. I certainly don't want to buy it and do the same thing, and I walked away to browse the rest of the booth. Jon, meanwhile, lingered behind. I thought he was just chatting, but then he calls me back over and tells me he thinks this is the missing cup the person in Australia is looking for to complete her chandelier. I looked at him with this blank stare. I had no idea what he was talking about.

See, Jon has this special fairy lamp file in his brain that stores information like this that he refers to as needed that I do not have. But, with a little mind jogging, I did remember the article but still did not have a clear picture in my mind of the lamp pieces. But, Jon was pretty sure, so we told the dealer about it and asked him if we could pass his contact information on to this person if it turned out to be the right piece. He said that would be fine.

When we arrived home from the show, I found the newsletter that had the article. And, this cup sure looked like it could be a match! I

immediately emailed Jim about it and sent him the dealer's contact information. He said he would forward it on to Australia.

Two weeks later, we were at the Indianapolis show and see our dealer friend again. He is very excited when he sees us and proceeds to tell us that someone from Australia woke him up out of bed one night with a phone call regarding a rainbow DQMOP cup! He didn't mind, of course. She wanted him to send her a photo of the cup to see if, in fact, it was a match. He suggested he just go ahead and ship the cup so she could see it in person. If she wanted it, she could then send him payment or just ship it back to him. She agreed.

The end of October, we were at yet another show in Chicago and, of course, our favorite dealer was there. As soon as he saw us, he said he had something to show us. So, we're getting all excited thinking.... a new fairy lamp! Ha ha ha.... ☺ No, it wasn't a fairy lamp. He had photographs of the chandelier from Australia and says with a big smile, "It was a match!"



We quickly got over our disappointment and were genuinely happy that things worked out for him and this person in Australia.

Now, we are firm believers that one good deed deserves another, so we are making an appeal of our own to all members to please keep their eyes peeled for something for us.

We are looking for a pink and white Cleveland cup just like the one pictured here.



We are hoping that someone might spot this cup somewhere and remember this article. If you do, please contact us and prove once more that it is a small world in the world of fairy lamps! ☺

You can contact us at: janpino112@aol.com

Editor's Note:

As you can see, the owner of this chandelier is still in need of a rainbow DQMOP shade to complete the chandelier. Please let me know if you know of one available.

This chandelier has been identified as Clarke's model number 28 – a ten light Nacre de Pearl pendant. It was also available in rose, blue, and citron.

REFERENCE GUIDELINES

For consistency, we will use the following key to reference illustrations of fairy lamps.

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 and 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.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim".