

Fairy Lamp Club



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NEWSLETTER

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CLUB NEWS

WEBPAGE UPDATES

Cosmetic Changes

I have made a few cosmetic changes to our Club's home page. The most obvious is a small section from an 1891 issue of an *Illustrated London News* fairy lamp advertisement.

These advertisements continue to amaze me in their detail and accuracy. Clarke must have been a very detail-focused individual in designing his advertisements. He surely must have driven his illustrator "nutty" with details.

Paypal Renewals

I have added options for "US & Foreign Membership Renewal" to the Paypal payment button. Hopefully, this will make it a little easier for those who wish to renew their membership by Paypal. This is especially useful for our foreign members who often send money orders or cash.

Updates to Webb Burmese Decorations

The section on Webb Burmese decorations has been updated to reflect the changes to the design name "Prunus" to Hawthorn. I have also added new images to the recently identified Periwinkle and Moth design. The next design names we need to come to closure on is "Forget-Me-Not" and "Woodbine" which are still under study. I think we can reach consensus on these two design names with a little more discussion and research.

Updates to Royal Worcester Table

Some time ago I received information from the Worcester Porcelain Museum¹ in London. This new information adds significantly to the information we have already collected in the table of Royal Worcester Cricklite stands and fairy lamp bases. In addition, this infor-

¹ www.worcesterporcelainmuseum.org

mation includes model numbers related to candelabras and oil lamp fonts.²

In reviewing the information from the museum, you will find notations related to the source of information, i.e. "Photo in Shapes File." Now, the obvious task for one of our members is to contact the museum and get copies of the photos for our database. Anyone up for this task?

MEMBER DIRECTORY AND NEWSLETTER INDEX

Typically, the February issue of the newsletter includes either a Member Directory or the Newsletter Index. They have been published and distributed in alternating years as a convenience to our members. As a time and cost saving measure, I have decided to discontinue including them with the February issue. These documents will still, however, be available.

The Newsletter Index is always available on our website.³ It is updated with each issue of the newsletter and is always current. It is in Adobe PDF format and is easily printable for those who prefer a hardcopy. Also since the Newsletter Index is included in the website's Search Tool, finding a particular topic is much easier to do on-line. For those without access to our website, just drop me a note and I will be happy to mail you a copy.

The Member Directory⁴ is not available on-line. It is updated every two years and, until now, has been published only in hardcopy. The most current directory will be 2010.

² The Royal Worcester Table is located in the section titled "Manufacturers of Samuel Clarke's Fairy Lamps"

³ www.fairy-lamp.com/Fairylamp/Newsletter_Index.pdf

⁴ The Member Directory is available only to current members of the Fairy Lamp Club and may not be used for solicitation or promotion. Only those members who have given permission will be listed in the directory.

If you find the Member Directory useful, just drop me a note and I will send you a copy, either by e-mail formatted in PDF or a hard copy by snail-mail. The Member Directory will, however, not be in a "booklet" format like past publications. It will simply be tabulated and formatted for an 8.5" x 11" page.

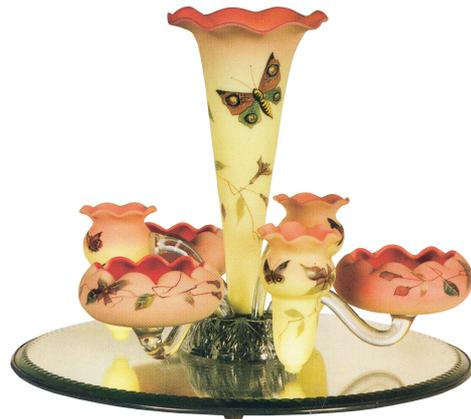
FROM OUR MEMBERS

WEBB BURMESE DECORATION - PERIWINKLE WITH MOTH REDUX by Jim

In a recent issue of the Fairy Lamp Club Newsletter⁵ I discussed the "discovery" of the Webb/Barbe decoration Periwinkle and Moth. At the time of the article only two examples had been identified. Both examples were on fairy lamps. I asked for additional examples from our readers but none came forward. I am pleased to report that another example has been found.

Recently, while researching another topic, I came across the Periwinkle decoration on what could also be a fairy lamp epergne.

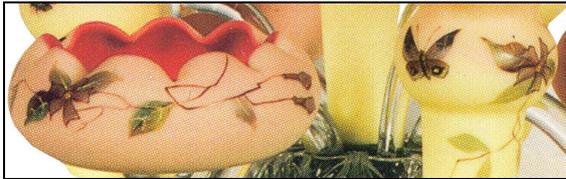
This third example was found in the *Mt. Washington Art Glass and Webb Burmese – Identification and Value Guide* by Betty B. Sisk.⁶



⁵ *Webb Burmese Decoration - Periwinkle with Moth* FL-LI-8, May 2009

⁶ This book is an excellent illustrated reference on Mt. Washington and Thomas Webb Burmese. It is available through Amazon booksellers for as little as \$20. Hurry while supplies last.

This extraordinary example of a Webb Burmese epergne clearly shows the Periwinkle and Moth decoration on all the Burmese parts. It would be interesting to know if any of these pieces are acid stamped with the Thomas Webb & Sons trademark or the Clarke trademark. Unless we can locate the owner, however, we will never know.



While the Periwinkle design appears to be fairly consistent among all the parts, the designs of the moths are completely different from one another.



I do not believe this difference in the designs is simply a "whim" of the artist. I think they are different to provide additional interest in the design.

If you recall from the previous newsletter, the two examples of this pattern also had different moth designs.



Interestingly, neither of these two moth designs matches any of the moths on the epergne. Since the design of the moth is a variable, could it be that the two fairy lamps previously identified were originally part of this epergne? That is certainly a possibility.



While possible, there is no documentation that this epergne was ever used for fairy lamps. (A photo simulation)

Or, was this epergne even designed for fairy lamps? Perhaps, but without documentation, we will never know for sure.

BARE BURSLEM by Brian

This article is about a Clarke model 297 Doulton Burslem fairy lamp base. An example of this base has been shown as U-317 with its painted multicolor floral décor with gold tassels and three gold wedge-shaped feet.

The reason this lamp base is being discussed is because this example is not decorated like R-474 thru R-482, U-317 and U-318. "This is one of twelve Doulton tassel designs for fairy lamp bases".⁷



⁷ *Fairy Lamps – Elegance in Candle Lighting* by Ruf & Ruf, pg. 139

I have noticed that the tapestry textured is not the same on all the examples I have seen. What are common, however, are the single and double tassels with cord design around the edges. This variation in design is to be expected, as the Letters Patent 1,476, March 27, 1882 from Great Britain and U.S. Patent No. 314,002, March 17, 1885⁸ is only for the "Ornamenting China and Earthen Ware and other Pottery" where the use of textile fabrics, such as lace, is impressed into the surface of the mold or clay to the depth required. After the clay was pressed into the mold in the ordinary way, it would leave the pattern behind after the item was finished. Later Doulton also received a British Registered Number of 99929 and 99930 which can be found on several of the pieces noted in their descriptions. This style of base doesn't allow for any room for these markings since the pattern covers the entire bottom of the piece similar to R-480. With this type of design, it doesn't tell us if the piece left the factory unpainted, or if the paint was somehow removed at a later time.



The pieces that have the Rd. No. 99929 or 99930 place their production after early 1888. As I don't have access to any Registry Numbers, I have no idea what the claims are for the filing.

⁸ The complete text of the US Patent No. 314,002, "Ornamenting China and Earthen Ware and other Pottery" is available on-line at www.fairy-lamp.com/Fairylamp/Doulton_314002.pdf



The inside of the ribbed shoulder candle cup is marked with the common "S. Clarke's Patent Trade Mark Fairy" in black. This mark is under the glaze, and gives no clues about the missing colored paint. The inside surfaces of the flower bowl and candle cup are glazed as are the three wedge shaped feet. Now the question becomes, are there other bare Burslem pieces out there?

ACID ETCHED PATENT by Brian

When I started contemplating this article, I had hoped that it would have been longer and would have uncovered some secrets. From the first sentence, you can probably discern that it isn't what occurred. I was looking at a lamp that I purchased several years ago and looked more closely at the acid etched information on the bottom. I wondered where the information would lead.

The lamp in question is not referenced in the Fairy Lamp book by Ruf & Ruf and has not made the undocumented list as of yet. The lamp in this article is a crystal standard that a footed base with alternating length ray cuts on the underside. It has a narrow smooth waist support that holds the bulbous bottomed twisted column. It narrows and ends at two wide rings just below the brass fitting for the brass support arms.



I remember this base had an acid mark on the bottom that I had not looked at in some time. Looking at the under side of the base, I noticed the mark was a larger acid etched mark directly in the center than I had remembered. After moving the base around so the lighting was just right, it was easily read. The acid mark is as follows:

**U.S. PATENT
N^o 896275
18TH AUGUST 1908**

**ENGLISH PATENT
28456
DECEMBER
1907**



Now the interesting thing about this mark is the word usage "ENGLISH PATENT" since there is no such a thing. Is this referring to an English Registry number or a British Patent number? What is in that patent? Both

English Registry and British Patents are very different, and this number does not match either of these options. Maybe some of our friends from across the pond can clear up some of this.

Both 1907 and 1908 are near the end of using candles for light. Oil and gas lighting was becoming more popular as was electric lighting. "This was the beginning of the end for Samuel Clarke's enterprise."⁹ Was this a last ditch attempt at something and why put this patent number on a lamp base?



Did this base originally hold one of the adjustable chimney tops patented by Samuel Birdsey Clarke and Henry Clarke?¹⁰ Another mystery waiting to be solved.

A VISIT TO CRICKLEWOOD AND CHILD'S HILL by Jim

These two towns should be well known to the collectors of Victorian fairy lamps. They are, of course, synonymous with Samuel Clarke, the Pyramid Light Works, and his fairy lamps. Aside from name recognition, we have documented very little about these two historic towns. Thanks to the Internet

⁹ *Fairy Lamps – Elegance in Candle Lighting* by Ruf & Ruf, pg. 14

¹⁰ Samuel Birdsey Clarke and Henry Clarke were the sons of Samuel Clarke, FL-LII-9

and old British Ordnance Survey Maps, we can now shed a little light on these two towns during the time Clarke and his Pyramid Light Works were located there.

Cricklewood

Cricklewood lays claim to being the inspiration for Clarke's trade name "Cricklite," which Clarke applied to register on June 25, 1889.¹¹ Of course, we do not know for sure if that was, in fact, the genesis of "Cricklite," but the combination of names is pretty convincing circumstantial evidence.

History

Cricklewood lies in a valley between five hills – Shoot-up Hill, Child's Hill, Hendon, Dollis and Dudden Hills. The name was given by the Saxons, meaning "wood with uneven outline" and was first recorded in 1295 in its Normanised version of "Le Crickeldwode."

As early as 1294, there was a small settlement at the junction of Cricklewood Lane and the Edgware Road. By 1321 this small settlement was being called Cricklewood. By the 1750s the Crown coach service was established for travelers and by the 1800s there a handful of cottages, including the Crown Inn known for its "pleasure gardens."



(Crown Inn rebuilt in 1889¹²)

¹¹ *Antique Glass and China*, Geoffrey A. Godden, pg. 86.

¹² Image source: www.barnet.gov.uk

These so-called "Pleasure Gardens" sprung up around London in the 18th century, attracting patrons of all classes with their open-air atmosphere and cheap admission. Here orchestras played, fountains splashed, ladies could walk unaccompanied, colored lights covered the walkways,¹³ and sometimes firework displays were held. They also provided a place for drinking tea and having pleasant conversation.¹⁴

The Midland Railway's Child's Hill Station (later Cricklewood Station) opened in 1868. Cricklewood, however, only fully became a modern industrial and suburban district in the 1930s. By the 1960s Cricklewood's industry began to decline and many of the sustaining industries moved away or closed.

Child's Hill

Child's Hill is the location of Clarke's Pyramid Light Works. The term "Light," of course, refers to Samuel Clarke's only real product – candles. No "fairy lamps" were manufactured there or anywhere else by Clarke. The genesis of the term "Pyramid" is more vague. Perhaps it has its origin from the "cone-shape" that holds the wick at the top of the candle.

History

The settlement at Child's Hill is certainly medieval; it possibly was the 10th century settlement Codenhleawe ("Cowhouse"). The earliest known use of the place named Child's Hill is in 1593. The name is probably taken from a family of the same name who held land in the 14th century.

Child's Hill was a center for brick and tile manufacturing during the second half of the 18th century, supplying materials for the building industry. Being more than 259 feet

¹³ Could these walkways covered with colored lights have been the inspiration for Clarke's fairy lamps?

¹⁴ www.umich.edu/~ece/student_projects/mass_entertainment/page14.html

above sea level, Child's Hill is visible for miles around. From 1808 to 1847 there was an optical telegraph station¹⁵ on the hill.

By the 1870s a number of laundries were servicing much of West London. Clothes washed in London were thought to be susceptible to waterborne diseases, such as cholera and typhoid. Child's Hill, then still in the countryside, was supplied by a series of small streams.

The opening of Child's Hill Railway Station in 1868 led to an increase in population, and the subsequent overcrowding reduced Child's Hill into a "very low place" with cock-fighting, drunkenness, and vice.

Note: I know very little about the process of making tallow for candles. The rendering of animal fat, however, would seem to be an undesirable place to work or even to live near. To quote another author "...the tallow candle trade was perceived as a very low class activity, involving dead animals and unpleasant smells." It sounds like Child's Hill was the perfect setting to establish the Pyramid Light Works.

Samuel Clarke established the Pyramid Light Works in Child's Hill during 1885.¹⁶ It was the first of several factories that eventually settled at Child's Hill. It was, however, the arrival of the trams and tubes between 1906 and 1924 that promoted the greatest growth. This was two fold as it provided not only a means of commuting for people living in the area into central London, but also provided reasonable transportation for workers to come into the area.

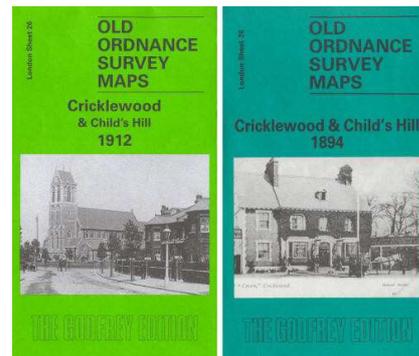
So, with that bit of history, exactly where are Cricklewood and Child's Hill?

¹⁵ A system of conveying information by means of visual signals, using towers with pivoting shutters, also known as blades or paddles.

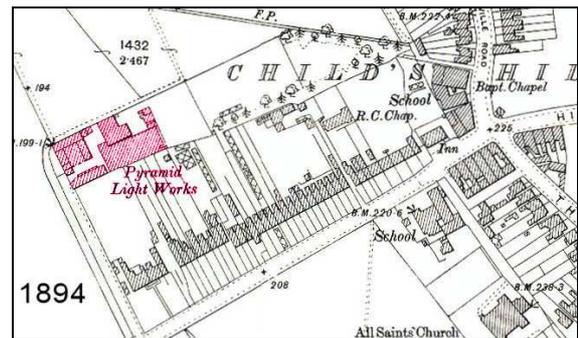
¹⁶ www.brent-heritage.co.uk/cricklewood.htm

Old Ordnance Survey Maps

In the process of researching this article I came across Alan Godfrey Maps¹⁷ – a British company specializing in the reproduction of historical maps. Many of the maps are from very detailed defense maps produced by the British Ordnance Survey.¹⁸ They offered two maps of the area that I needed – Cricklewood and Child's Hill, editions 1894 and 1912.



These maps are extremely detailed showing property boundaries, houses, street names, and individual rail lines.¹⁹ Space does not permit me to show the maps side by side but, needless to say, there was significant growth between 1894 and 1912. To my surprise, Clarke's Pyramid Light Works was shown on both maps at Child's Hill.



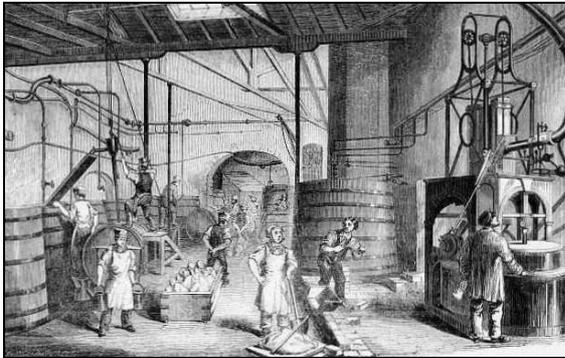
Clarke's Pyramid Light Works, 1894

¹⁷ www.alangodfreymaps.co.uk

¹⁸ The origin of the Ordnance Survey is to be found in operations between 1747 and 1755 for the production of a military map of the Highlands of Scotland. The Ordnance Survey became a separate department of the British government in 1841.

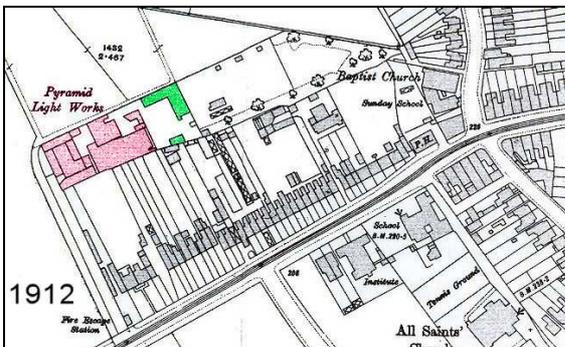
¹⁹ Original scale was at 1:2500 but reproduced at a scale of 1:4340 (approx. 15" to a mile)

The Pyramid Light Works appears to be a complex of structures, some larger than others. I suspect that the tallow processing areas were kept separate for the Pyramid Light candle production, finishing, and packing areas.



Steam fat boiling section of the Prices Candle Company, Illustrated London News, December 8, 1849. Clearly, this is the "nasty" part of the tallow candle making process.

It is interesting to note the complexity and size of this operation. It must have employed dozens of workers if not more. With exception of a few enlarged buildings, the two maps show little change in the plant in eighteen years.



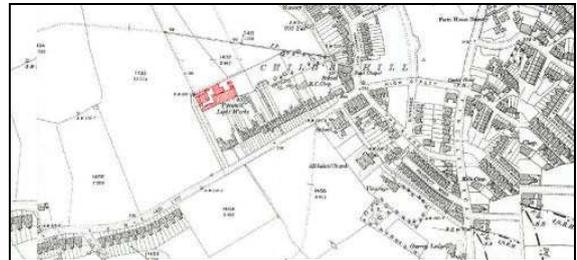
Clarke's Pyramid Light Works, 1912

There is, however, a large building (shown in green) to the east of the plant that may be a new structure associated with the Pyramid Light Works.

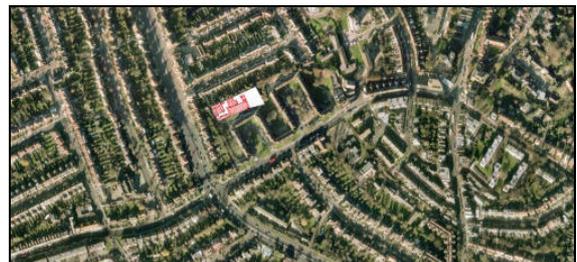
So what does Child's Hill look like today?

As you might imagine, these two small towns have been taken over by the sprawling Lon-

don suburbs. Child's Hill looks nothing like it did in 1894.



Clarke's Pyramid Light Works, 1894



Clarke's Pyramid Light Works location, 2010



Clarke's Pyramid Light Works location, 2010



Clarke's Pyramid Light Works location, 2010

Looking closely at the aerial photograph, it appears that you can still make out the outline of the lot that once laid claim to Child's Hill first industry – Clarke's Pyramid Light Works.²⁰

²⁰ Aerial photos and street maps courtesy of Google Maps, www.google.com

It would be interesting for someone who lives near by to visit this location and see what this large building is and if there are any historical records detailing the operation of the Pyramid Light Works. Yes, this is a shameless hint to our members in the UK.



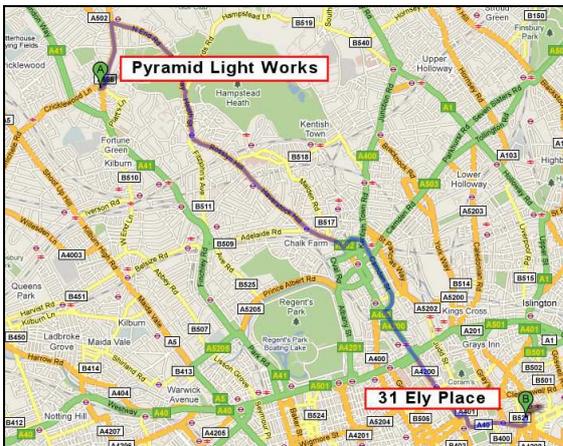
(Photo courtesy Google Maps)

If you plan to visit the location of the Pyramid Light Works, all you have to do is walk right between these two apartment buildings and you are right there. Just ring the doorbell and Samuel will be right with you. ☺

Clarke's Showroom

Now that we have pinned down the location of the Pyramid Light Works, where was Clarke's principal showroom?

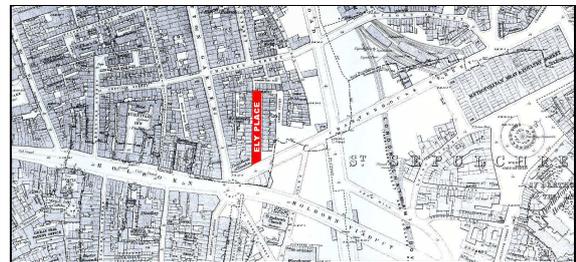
On many of Clarke's advertisements his London showroom was at 31 Ely Place, Holborn. There were other showroom locations around the world but this seems to be the only one in London, with the exception of department and specialty stores.



(Photo courtesy Google Maps)

A quick search on Google Maps reveals a location at the heart of downtown London about 5 miles (as the raven flies) from the Pyramid Light Works. It was a relatively easy commute even before the trams and tubes arrived in 1906. In addition, the showroom was less than two miles from Buckingham Palace. How convenient.

I was fairly certain I had located the correct address; however, is this the same Ely Place that was there in the 1890s? To be sure, I order another set of maps of the same era.



Clarke's Showroom at 31 Ely Place, Holborn, c. 1914

There were two maps available, one published in 1873 and another in 1914. Both show Ely Place as a dead end street with multiple shops/houses. One at 31 Ely Place was Clarke's showroom. Does the structure itself remain? It is hard to tell from here.



(Photo courtesy Google Maps)

Today this street shows that the shops/houses may have been replaced by apartments and other commercial enterprises and the street appears to be gated to control access. It would be interesting to know what is actually at 31 Ely Place today – yet another task for our members in the UK.

Once again, I have gone to great lengths documenting aspects of Samuel Clarke that

some will undoubtedly find unrelated to the principal focus of our Club – fairy lamps. I think however, that background related information only increases the value of our collections – not so much the monetary value but in the value of knowledge. Hopefully, many will agree and contribute newly found information when you can.

For further information the following references were used in the development of this article:

- www.barnet.gov.uk/archives-hendon-childshill
- www.brentheritage.co.uk/cricklewood.htm
- www.umich.edu/~ece/student_projects/mass_entertainment/page14.html
- www.alangodfreymaps.co.uk
- www.maps.google.com/maps

FAIRY TALES

PARKING FOR FAIRIES by Jim

Before I begin, this little tale has nothing to do with fairy lamps. Instead, it highlights the parking situation in a small Colorado mining town – Alma.

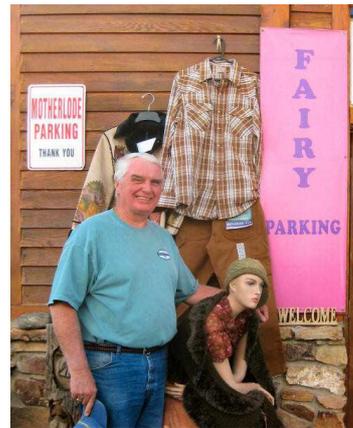
Alma is a very small historic mining town high in the mountains of Colorado.²¹ Since 1873 the town has gone through periods of boom and bust, not unlike the hundreds of mining towns throughout Colorado. Some towns have disappeared completely, some remain as "ghost towns," some are holding onto a meager rural existence, and some, like Alma, are making a comeback.

Today, Alma has a population of less than 200 mainly concentrated in the historic section of the town. Some of the population is outside of town with many newcomers settling the "sub-urbs" seeking more reasonably priced homes

²¹ Alma is at 10,578 feet elevation. It is the highest incorporated town in the US.

than can be found just on the other side of the mountain in Breckenridge.

On one of our "driveabouts" with the family, we passed through Alma and stopped for lunch at the Alma Saloon. Across the street was a small shop claiming to be the "Highest Boutique in the World." It was not the boutique that caught my eye; it was their provisions for parking.



In addition to being the "Highest Boutique in the World," I think they can also lay claim to being the most "Progressive Town in Colorado."

Well, my friends, I hope you found this little Fairy Tale as humorous as I did. If not, I will try to remain "on topic" in the future. ☺

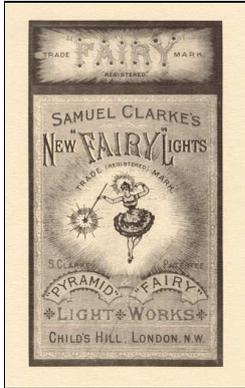
CLASSIFIED ADS

REFERENCE MATERIALS OR SALE

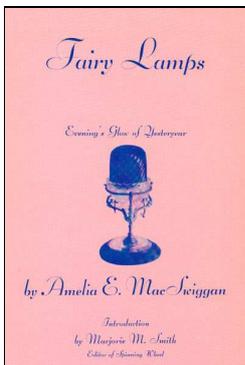


19th Century Fairy Lamps, by T. Robert Anthony. A spiral-bound reference with 18 color plates illustrating over 200 fairy lamps

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).



Fairy Lamps - Evenings Glow of Yesteryear by Amelia E. MacSwiggan. This early reference, while not as well illustrated as others, is filled with detailed information about fairy lamps and the companies that produced them. The condition is good but used. \$35 \$25 (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 three three-ring binders with a colorful cover insert. Each Newsletter volume includes a complete index of articles and numbered tabs. \$120

Pricing, including shipping to US, for individual volumes are:

Volume I	Issues 1 – 25	\$40
Volume II	Issues 26 – 50	\$50
Volume III	Issues 51 - Current	\$30



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 12-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).



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).

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 and 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 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

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.

Thanks

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this issue of the newsletter.