



Fairy Lamp Club

ISSUE LX

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2011

IN THIS ISSUE

Club News

Undocumented Fairy Lamp Book.....	1
Club Member Publishes Article on Fairy Lamps	2
Collectors Weekly – Increasing Our On-line Presence.....	2

From Our Members

Joint Lamp Club Meeting Report	3
C'est les "petites choses" dans la vie (It's the "little things" in life)	4
Unusual Webb Burmese Logos – Dye Stamp	6
Unusual Webb Burmese Decorations – Part III	7

Classified Ads	10
-----------------------------	----

Membership Information	12
-------------------------------------	----

Undocumented Pages 118 & 119

CLUB NEWS

UNDOCUMENTED FAIRY LAMP BOOK

Sales of the newly published *Undocumented Fairy Lamp* book have been very good. While profit on this book is very small, it is nice to know that members enjoy their collections enough to invest in a "coffee table" book to spark discussion about fairy lamps with their friends.

To simplify the ordering process, I have eliminated the hardback version in favor of the paperback edition. This provides our members a little better value and reduces some of the complexity and expense of ordering two different versions.

I have had a few sales of the *Glass Collections Across the Country* by members who are planning their summer vacations. Even though this is a small booklet, a \$7 price is a small investment to help plan your trip.

So, is there another book in the works? Perhaps so.

As you know, the Fairy Lamp Club Newsletters are "information rich." I, along with many of our members, have strived to provide useful information in each issue of the newsletter. With over 15 years under our belt the newsletters have become an invaluable reference aid to our members. A quick review of the "Newsletter Index"¹ will attest to how successful we have been.

With that in mind, I am considering consolidating and reprinting the most important of these articles into a single published volume. Needless to say, this could be a monumental task considering the sheer volume of photographs and complexity of reformatting the articles. In addition, there will be cost and copyright issues to consider.

So, stay tuned, as the jury is still out on this little project.

¹ www.fairy-lamp.com/Fairylamp/Newsletter_Index.pdf

CLUB MEMBER PUBLISHES ARTICLE ON FAIRY LAMPS



I really appreciate it when one of our members takes the time to publish an article about fairy lamps. This type of promotion is invaluable to our Club.

Recently, one of our long-time members published an article in *Victorian Homes*.² This bi-monthly periodical is dedicated to the history, restoration and decoration of Victorian homes. Considering that fairy lamps were decorative as well as useful, an article illustrating their uses in Victorian-era homes seems appropriate for this publication.

The article titled "*Fairest of Them All*" was written by April Bottecher,³ a Fairy Lamp Club member since 2006. The article includes professional photography by Mark Tanner and arrangements by April Bottecher and Rebecca Ittner.

There are several photographs within the article illustrating a broad range of styles, colors, and designs from a cross-section of fairy lamp manufacturers.

I was alerted to this article well in advance of its publication. To be honest, I had forgotten all about it until a new member joined our Club citing this article as the reason they joined. The article had only been "on the street" for a day or so! Within the next ten days I received three more new members, each using the Paypal button on our website to join. I would not be surprised if more

² www.victorianhomesmag.com

³ April Lanza Boettcher is an avid collector, often using her cherished pieces in her work as an art director for film. Founding director of California's Garfield Heights Landmark District, she is also a long time preservationist. (Source: *Victorian Homes*)

new members join our Club as a result of this article.

A very special "Thank you!" goes to April for taking time to promote not only her collection of fairy lamps but also for promoting our Club and helping to find the "closet collectors" who may not have heard of us.

For those who may not subscribe to *Victorian Homes* and would like a copy of the article for their files, the article is in the August 2011 issue, Volume 30, Issue 4. You may obtain a copy by contacting the Editor, Hillary Black, (714) 939-9991 ext 1959, or by e-mail to hblack@beckett.com for information on how to obtain a copy.

COLLECTORS WEEKLY – INCREASING OUR ON-LINE PRESENCE

Some time ago I posted several examples of fairy lamps in the "Show and Tell" section of *Collectors Weekly*.⁴ At the time I was interested in any additional information on a selection of Bohemian fairy lamps. As a result I managed to glean a little bit of information from experts in the field. I also made a few new "e-friends" in the process.

Collectors Weekly

The Best of Vintage and Antiques

The *Collectors Weekly* website has a huge following, primarily because of the diversity of the topics they cover. Sadly, a large following of fairy lamp collectors is not among their followers. In fact, until I joined no information on fairy lamps could be found. That situation, however, was about to be corrected.

I have begun posting "snippets" from my collection. Each posting allows for four images and ample space for text. I prepare four images of similar fairy lamps and provide a brief description of what they are. I have re-

⁴ www.collectorsweekly.com

ceived a few positive comments from each posting; most are simply related to comments like "Thanks for sharing." That is the very purpose of my efforts – sharing information to promote our interests.

I am using the *Collectors Weekly* website to raise the level of awareness of Victorian-era fairy lamps and, hopefully, entice other collectors to join our Club by including a link to our website with each posting.

I think each of our members has an opportunity to promote our Club. If you buy or sell fairy lamps, use those occasions to ask, "Have you heard about the Fairy Lamp Club?" Or, for those "keyboard geeks" do as I have done and begin posting samples from your fairy lamp collection on the *Collectors Weekly* website, but do not forget to include a link to our website when you write your narrative.

If you would like to see my postings, the following link will take you right to them:

www.collectorsweekly.com/user/IMASapp

FROM OUR MEMBERS

JOINT LAMP CLUB MEETING REPORT – by Connie

A joint meeting of the Historical Lighting Society of Canada (HLSC)⁵ and the Night Light Club⁶ was held on April 29 to May 1, 2011 at Corning, New York. Highlights of the program included:

- Presentation by Jane Shadel Spillman, Curator of American Glass on the Corning Museum's Lighting Collection
- Tours of the Corning Museum of Glass⁷ and/or Rockwell Museum of Western Art⁸

⁵ www.historical-lighting.org

⁶ www.nightlightclub.org

⁷ www.cmog.org

⁸ www.rockwellmuseum.org

- Presentation by Bob Culver, President of the Night Light Club on the history of Patent Night Lamps
- Show & Tell, Lamp Auction, Room Sales and Banquet

John and I arrived at Corning Thursday afternoon. On Friday we went to the Krakow Research Library with Helen and Graham Pullen. Had a good time finding information about Fairy Lamps. Bob Culver was also in the Library. Friday evening, Jane Shadel Spillman, Curator of American Glass, showed pictures and spoke about the lamps at Corning.

On Saturday morning we toured the Corning Glass Museum. We found most of the lamps talked about at the Friday meeting. We also found two fairy lamps in the Corning collection.



Lunch was served at the Hotel. Activities for the afternoon listed in the program took most of the afternoon. Several familiar faces at the meeting were: Frank and Karen McWright, Dale Petty, Ian McCullough, Richard Miller, Helen and Graham Pullen, and Bob Culver.

The evening banquet brought the meeting to a close. Plans to have another meeting in October, 2012 at the Ford Museum⁹, Dear-

⁹ www.hfmgv.org

born, Michigan were discussed. An invitation will be sent to the Fairy Lamp Club to participate in the meeting. I received an e-mail about the 2012 meeting today. It would be nice to have the members of the Fairy Lamp Club participating with this active group.

C'EST LES "PETITES CHOSES" DANS LA VIE
(*It's the "little things" in life...*) by John

An auctioneer in my area calls me in when he contracts to sell a "really good" house full of antiques, so that I can write the descriptions, lists for advertisements, and cataloging for his auction. More often than not, they are estates, and other than the auctioneer, I am usually the first person to go through the entire house, including cupboards, closets, drawers, attic, basement, boxes – literally everything. I always say it is just like a treasure hunt because I never know what I might find. It is also not surprising anymore, to find the best things in the back of a storage cupboard or in the basement.

In all these years, I have yet to find one Victorian fairy lamp in any of these houses!

Last year, the auctioneer told me he had a household that was very "unusual". I did not know what to expect, and was surprised to find a very nice mid-20th century ranch house that was furnished and filled in the French Empire style. Much of the furniture was carved and gilded. Gilt mirrored floor screens in the corners of many rooms. Hand-painted porcelains and Dresden figures were everywhere. The master bedroom contained an ornate ormolu bed with cast filigree panels and a pagoda-shaped canopy frame that had a Dresden china cherub suspended from the pinnacle.

I kept expecting Marie Antoinette to come around a corner at any minute! You get the picture.



Imagine my delight when I went into the living room and saw this large Blackamoor¹⁰ fairy lamp centerpiece! Of cast metal with a painted finish, on a turned brass base, it stands 13.75" tall. He's carrying two buckets, which could be used for flowers or to hold nuts/sweetmeats, and the fairy-size fairy lamp rests in a frame strapped to his back with twisted wire "rope". The framework is somewhat like the baskets that are worn in France for picking grapes. There was a modern, pale green diamond point shade resting in the fairy-size base.

After taking the buckets and fairy lamp off and turning it over for inspection, I noticed that the finish under the brass base didn't look "right", and there were hex nuts and washers painted gold. Red flags started going up that maybe this wasn't as old as it first appeared. Close inspection on the back showed that it is marked "PETITES CHOSES"¹¹ in small letters in relief below the waist. The pressed glass fairy lamp base is also molded with the same wording, so at least there was no doubt that the figure was meant to hold the fairy lamp.

¹⁰ Blackamoor figures are stylized depictions of black Africans used in sculpture, jewelry, armorial designs and decorative art.

¹¹ Other Newsletter references to Petites Choses include FL-XX-5, 8 and FL-XXIII-10



"Petites choses" translates from French as "little things". I did some research prior to the auction (and, I did ultimately buy the figure at the auction) and discovered that the Petites Choses company was/is in Chicago, and may have been in business as far back as the 1940s and remained in business at least into the 1980s, producing "reproductions of European style" figures and decorative objects. The majority of their pieces that I've been able to find online are metal, often featuring animals: monkeys, rabbits, birds, and are often candleholders or hold small clear glass trumpet shaped vases.



The Blackamoor figures were made both male and female versions and in two sizes, mine being the larger one. The same figure was also made carrying several models of birdcages in his hands and including one on

his back in place of the fairy lamp. I have also seen him carrying a twisted wire "rope" holding a series of the glass trumpet vases. I have yet to locate another fairy lamp version.

The Fairy Lamp Club website¹² shows a contemporary pressed 2-piece frosted artichoke lamp that has "Petites Choses" in the mold. It could not be confused with an antique lamp. A 3-part lamp with red glass base and shade, with floral enamel decoration and the same clear base as in my centerpiece has been located. A covered dish in the shape of a house was also found online that is marked in the mold "PETITE CHOSSES CHICAGO 1979 ITALY". So there are at least a few examples of glassware that was made for the Petites Choses company.



Gold foil labels are known on some of the metal work. The labels are circular with a red stylized pineapple design, and read: "PETITES CHOSSES / MADE IN USA" or "© PETITES CHOSSES U.S.A." I do not know if the company is still in business or not. I have been unable to locate any current information.

Even though the centerpiece is relatively modern, it is an interesting addition to a fairy lamp collection. If you did not know better, it could very easily pass for a Victorian piece. I show it with a teal diamond point shade, but still don't know what shade the company sold with it.

My quest continues for a Victorian fairy lamp among the estates that I work on, but it

¹² www.fairylampclub.com

is the "petites choses" in life that keep it interesting!

Editor Note: Although very little information is known about Petite Chooses, there are small references to the company in FL-XX-4,5,8 and FL-XXIII-10. In addition, U-165 is a very similar Blackamoor design with provisions to hold a pyramid-size fairy lamp.



UNUSUAL WEBB BURMESE LOGOS – DYE STAMP by Jim

Thomas Webb used various methods to mark his Burmese products. The most commonly found method is the circular acid stamp. Of course, this is the most common mark because it is permanent, although difficult to see at times. The other methods include a paper label and a dye stamp.

It is extremely rare to find a piece of Webb Burmese with the original paper label. I am sure that Victorian-era shoppers do as we do today – remove the label as soon as we get our purchases home. Equally rare is the dye stamp. The term "dye stamp" is an arbitrary term. It could just as easily be call an "ink stamp" much like the ink pad stamps in use today.

Until now, only two examples of the dye/ink stamp have been reported. One was on the rim of a pyramid-size Burmese shade.¹³ The stamp was very faint and very small (1/16"

¹³ FL-XXX-8 Unusual Burmese Fairy Lamp Acid Mark — A Follow-up

high letters). The stamp includes both Webb and Clarke trademarks. It read: "CLARKE'S PATENT TRADE 'FAIRY' MARK" and "QUEEN'S BURMESE PATENT."

The second example was reportedly found on the inside of a Burmese fairy lamp base.¹⁴ Again, the lettering was very faint and very small. The stamp read: "CLARKE'S PATENT TRADE 'FAIRY' MARK." There was no reference to Webb in this marking, but I would not be surprised that this piece also had a Webb trademark dye stamp at one time. Perhaps it was on the bottom and was either wash or worn off over time. This is a good time to remind you that these dye/ink stamps are not permanent and will easily wash off. If you are lucky enough to discover one of these stamps on your Burmese ware, be sure to protect it. In my judgment, it has significant historical value.

Now, to the real purpose of this article – a third example of the Webb dye stamp has been discovered.

Recently, a Burmese three-piece fairy lamp was offered for auction on eBay. It was similar to R-662 (Clarke model 167). The shade and quadrafold base were decorated in what appeared to be the Hawthorn pattern.



¹⁴ FL-XXXII-6 Unusual Clarke Burmese Logos

Unfortunately, the hand-painted design appears to be a modern application similar to the many examples previously reported.¹⁵

Putting aside the "defacement" of an antique fairy lamp, this turned out to be a great discovery – another example of a Webb dye stamp trademark!



This stamp is located on the bottom of the Burmese quadrafold base. Even though this image has been enhanced to bring out the detail, it is perhaps the best example found to date. Was there a Clarke dye stamp trademark on the interior as reported earlier? We will never know but I suspect there was at one time. Or, is it still there only so faint it goes unnoticed? If you are the new owner of this fairy lamp, would you please check carefully for the dye stamp and report back to us.

UNUSUAL WEBB BURMESE DECORATIONS – PART III by Jim

This is a continuation of the article *Unusual Webb Burmese Decorations – Part II*, Issue LVIX, page 6. You may want to review Part II to put this article in proper context.

Part II of this article reviewed a few seldom seen Webb/ Barbe designs commonly found on Burmese fairy lamps including Moss

¹⁵ FL-LVI-5 *Webb Decorations – Original and not so original*

Rose, Periwinkle, and a few others yet to be identified. Some designs like the "Palmer Cox Brownies" remain a mystery. It also included several designs which are probably one of a kind modern decorations.

The following examples continue to illustrate unusual decorations – some are obvious examples of modern applications but others will likely remain a mystery as to what they are.



Simulated Hawthorn Design

When I first saw this decoration, I thought it was a Fenton fairy light. However, the lamp is an antique Webb Burmese fairy lamp with what appears to be a modern decoration. The decoration is similar, but very different, than the recent modern enamel decorations discussed earlier.¹⁶ The decoration appears to copy the Webb/ Barbe Hawthorn design but, as you can see, it is quite different.

¹⁶ FL-LIX-5 *Webb Decorations – Original and not so original*



Red Poppy

This design, "Red Poppy," was offered for auction several years ago. It was one of three fairy lamps being sold as a single lot. Since the design had never been seen before and it was a "collection" of three fairy lamps with the same unusual decoration, I was naturally suspicious. I was relatively certain the decoration was not a Webb/ Barbe decoration and probably a modern application by an unknown artist.¹⁷

For years I have wondered about this decoration. Could it be an authentic, but rare, Webb/ Barbe decoration? I have collected some conflicting circumstantial evidence that does not solve the mystery but is interesting none the less.

¹⁷ This fairy lamp is documented as U-286.

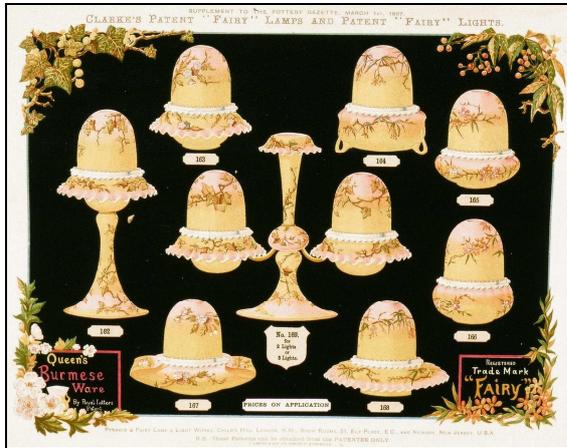


I have seen this decoration two other times at a local antique show here in Denver. Both examples were on what appeared to be antique glass ware but not Webb Burmese. One example was on a small vase (I did not have my camera with me) and the other was on a handled posy vase (rose bowl) shown above.

The decoration shown above is nearly identical to the design on the fairy lamp. It appears to be done by the same artist. On the reverse there is an additional "butterfly" decoration apparently to simulate the design commonly used in Webb/ Barbe designs. Both of these examples added to my conclusion that the decoration is modern. There is, however, some information that supports a different conclusion.

As we know Clarke was meticulous in preparing his advertisements. He made sure that the graphics were accurately detailed in every way, including the decorations. Their

detail and accuracy make them an invaluable source of information.

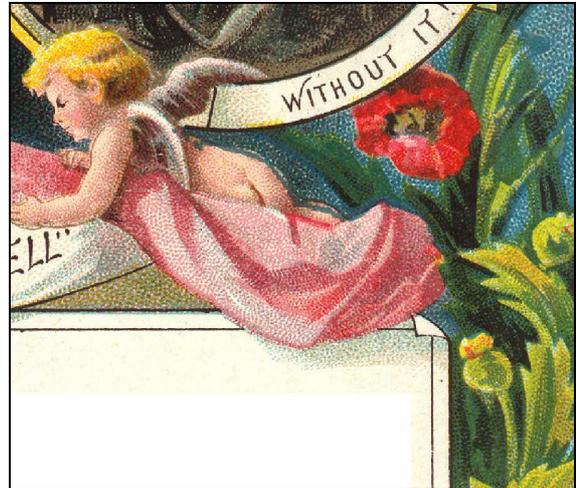


This advertisement from the *Pottery Gazette*, March, 1887, clearly illustrates the four most common decorations used on Webb Burmese – Ivy, Hawthorn, Woodbine, and Forget-Me-Not. They are accurately illustrated on the fairy lamps with more natural illustrations shown in the borders.

Recently, one of our long time members provided me an advertisement I did not have in my collection.



I had seen this advertisement before but not in sufficient detail to notice anything unusual.¹⁸ Poppies!



Clearly illustrated in the border of this advertisement are red Poppies. While the flower could be interpreted differently, the seed pods are very distinctive and add greatly to the identification. So, what does this mean?

I do not believe the Poppy was selected by accident in this advertisement. Clarke's reputation for accuracy and detail leads me to believe that the Poppy was used or, at a minimum, contemplated as a design on Webb's Burmese fairy lamps.

Is this example of a Poppy decoration on a fairy lamp an authentic Webb/ Barbe design? While I am not completely convinced that it is, I do believe that somewhere there may be an authentic Poppy decoration that has all the characteristics of a Webb/ Barbe design. Someday, someone will find it. It could be you.

There are still many more unusual Burmese decoration to discuss, but they will have to wait until the next issue of the newsletter.

¹⁸ This advertisement is dated 1892 but I have another example from *The Queen – The Ladies Newspaper*, February 14, 1891.

CLASSIFIED ADS

The following are just a few of the dozens of fairy lamps being offered for sale on our website, www.fairylampclub.com, by members of our Fairy Lamp Club. If you are in the market for a fairy lamp, you better hurry as many may have already been sold.



\$575
(F-192) R-659 Blue Reverse Drape



\$300
(F-315) Owl



\$300
(F-324) Glossy Owl



\$350
(F-274) 3-Face figural



\$275
(F-303) Bisque Woman



\$275
(F-319) Bisque Woman



\$350
(F-285) Cranberry over-shot pyramid fairy lamp



\$400
(F-243) R-638 Mottled pink and white



\$600
(F-275) R-671 Burmese pyramid-size menu holder



\$750
(F-302) R567 Decorated Satin Peach Blow



\$575
(F-325) R-630 Burmese fairy lamp



\$500
(F-320) Blue satin fairy lamp in matching base



\$600
(F-203) R-546 Citron striped Cleveland pattern fairy lamp



\$1200
(F-340) R-611 Blue Cleveland fairy lamp



\$500
(F- 288) Burmese fairy lamp on quadrafold base



\$575
(F-217) R-659 Yellow satin reverse drape fairy lamp



\$550
(F-308) R-584 End of Day
fairy lamp



\$350
(F-264) R-012 Cranberry
smocked pattern



\$300
(F-240) R-013 Cranberry
overshot Crown



\$350
(F-227) Pink overshot on
T&T base



\$350
(F-262) R-431 Pink milk
glass Russian style candle
lamp



\$700 (Pair only)
R-329 & U-55 Pair
Bisque Monkey & Cat
figurals

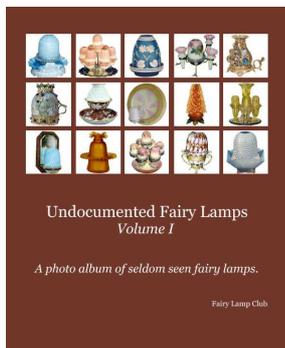


\$1000
(F-290) R-699-4 Pair-
point Puffery



\$275
(F-236) Similar to U-403 Bisque
Castle

REFERENCE MATERIALS FOR SALE



Special Offer

Published exclusively for the private use of members of the Fairy Lamp Club.

Undocumented Fairy Lamps – Volume I

This photo album of previously undocumented fairy lamps was developed from contributions of the members of the Fairy Lamp Club over a 15-year period. Volume I

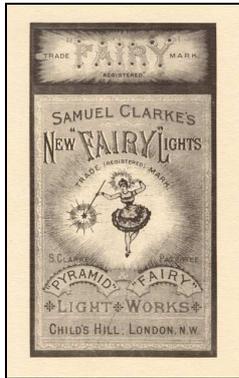
includes undocumented fairy lamps 1 – 452. (Paperback, 8"x10", 118 pages) The condition is new and unused. Please expect three to five weeks delivery. \$55 (Shipping to US included)



Fairy Lamp Club Newsletters and Undocumented Photo Album on CD

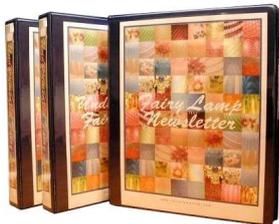
This is a complete set of quarterly Fairy Lamp Club Newsletters beginning in November 1996. Each issue, except the first

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 Adobe PDF format. \$35 (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. \$45 (shipping to US included).



Fairy Lamp Club Newsletters in three-ring 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, (shipping to US included).

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 15-year period. The collection is bound in a three-ring binder with an attractive cover insert and spine label. \$50 (shipping to US included).

Place your order by sending payment to:
 Jim Sapp, P.O. Box 438, Pine, CO 80470

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.

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. I really appreciate your support.