

Fairy Lamp Club

ISSUE LXIV

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2012

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CLUB NEWS

LAST REMINDER FOR THE OCTOBER COMBINED LIGHTING LAMP CLUBS' MEETING

by Connie



All the information about the October meeting is now on the Fairy Lamp Club's web-

site.¹ I am looking forward to seeing fairy lamp collectors in Dearborn.

The registration form is part of the information on the Club's website. You will have to print this page, fill it out, and send it to me with your check prior to October 3rd. Hotel reservations must be made by September 26, 2012.

I originally stated that the registration fee was \$80.00. Due to unexpected expenses, it had to be raised to \$85.00.

There is time for our members to get together for dinner on Thursday and/or Friday evenings. You can add this information to your Registration Form if you are interested. With this information I can make a reservation.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at: connie.scott57@att.net. You can also attach any questions you have to the registration form.

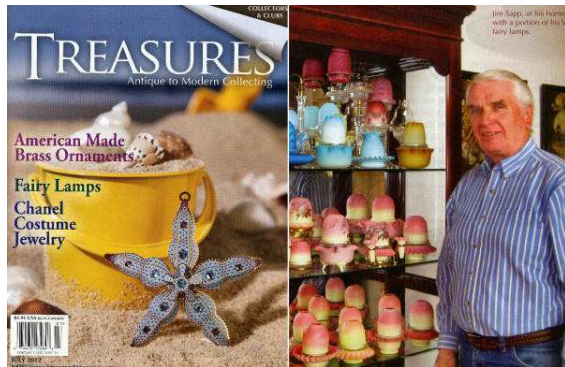
Looking forward to seeing old and new Fairy Lamp Collectors!! Four years is a long time!

TREASURES MAGAZINE by Jim

Some time ago I was contacted by a writer for *Treasures – Antique to Modern Collecting*² magazine to participate in an article about collecting fairy lamps. Of course, I welcomed the opportunity to talk about fairy lamps and to promote our Club.

¹ www.fairylampclub.com

² www.treasuresmagazine.com



The article was titled "*A Bright and Beautiful Quest - The history and acquisition of fairy lamps is Jim Sapp's fiery passion*" was published in the July 2012 issue.³

When I agreed to the interview, I assumed the focus of the article would be on fairy lamps. Instead, the article focused on my collection and how I became interested in what many may consider an unusual hobby. While not quite what I expected, the article does raise the exposure level of our "fiery passion." This, in the long run, is a good thing.

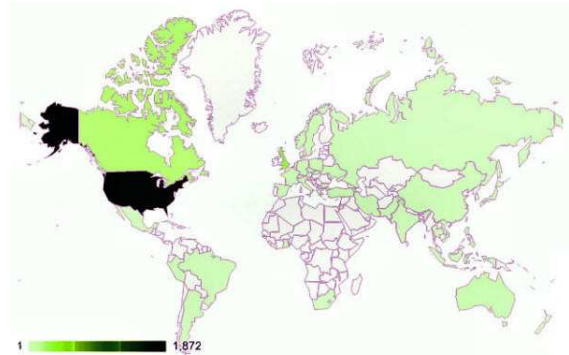
As expected, I have already received several inquiries as a result of the article and several new members have joined our Club.

WEBSITE TRACKING REPORTS by Jim

While boring information to many, I continue to track the number of visitors to our website. For me, it is important to know how many visitors there are and where they are coming from. While we enjoy world-wide exposure, it is the exposure in the US that is most significant.

In the latest report, January – June 2012, every state was represented with the highest concentrations from California, Texas, and Florida with very strong representation from the New England states.

³ www.treasuresmagazine.com/treasures/feature_articles/july_2012/a-bright--beautiful-quest



While the majority of website visitors are from the US, we have visitors from all over the world – nearly fifty countries – with the strongest representation from Canada, England, Australia, and New Zealand. In addition, there is also surprisingly good representation from Germany, France, and Spain.

I have stopped producing monthly reports. Instead, I will only produce semi-annual reports for those few who may be interested. The latest report, January – June 2012,⁴ provides visitor statistics for The Fairy Lamp Club, The Fairy Lamp Forum, and a special report for only the Fairy Lamps for Sale webpage.

For easy reference, I posted the link to the website reports in the "Announcement" section of the Fairy Lamp Forum.⁵

FROM OUR MEMBERS

CHRISTMAS TREE FAIRY LAMP - ONE OF THESE THINGS IS NOT LIKE THE OTHER. ONE OF THESE THINGS IS NOT QUITE THE SAME. by John

Being a collector not only of fairy lamps, but of antique Christmas items, I was thrilled to recently acquire a second fairy-size Clarke bisque Christmas tree fairy lamp shade. It was even more interesting, when I had them side-by-side, to discover that there are sig-

⁴ www.fairy-lamp.com/Website_Reports/Fairy_Lamp_Club_and_Newsletter.pdf

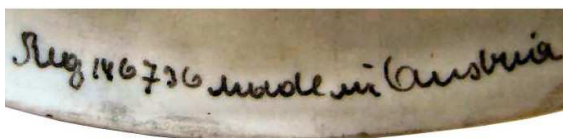
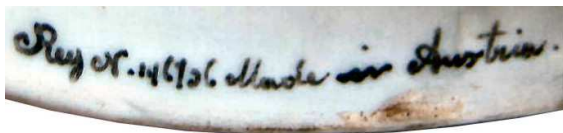
⁵ www.fairylampforum.com

nificant differences between the two molds from which they were manufactured.



The basic design is the same, with a fairly open tree, set in a "picket fence" base⁶ and the trees are decorated with a representation of hanging Clarke fairy lamps, such as R-773.

The "shades" on the lamps are composed of small faceted colored glass jewels set in holes pierced in the bisque to allow the candlelight to shine through. There are 12 jewels set in each tree, however they are distributed differently. The trunk is very prominent on the one, but there are two lamps hanging directly in front of the tree trunk on the second one. The second shade also features groups of one, three, or four molded "holly" berries, painted red, here and there among the pine boughs. Both shades have dark green painted borders on the top and bottom rims, and gold luster detailing.



⁶ A fenced Christmas "Putz" or garden was popular under the tree in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Each shade is hand painted inside the bottom rim with the text "Reg N. 146736⁷ Made in Austria", but the handwriting is definitely done by two different people, and the "N." for "Number" was omitted on the second shade.



I believe that the design with the berries and the jewels over the trunk is a stronger design, and suggest that the differences were improvements made to the original mold.



R-486, pyramid size dome embossed and decorated with two Christmas trees, drilled with multi-colored jewels inserted to resemble ornaments. Reg No 196726⁸ and Made in Austria written inside dome.

⁷ Rd No. 146726 was registered by Samuel Clarke, March 28, 1890

⁸ Reg No. 196726 was registered in August 1892

I don't have a pyramid-size Christmas tree shade (Remind me to ask Santa for one...) to compare with the fairy size, but from the photo of R-486, the smaller version has eight jewels on each tree, including two lamps in front of the tree trunk, but no berries.

Despite the motif on these shades, I have not seen any evidence that fairy lamps were actually used to illuminate Christmas trees. Small candles, float lamp cups, and a patented oil lamp were used on Christmas trees in the 19th century, but the Clarke lamps would be much heavier than the other options and it would be difficult to suspend them from the tree without causing a fire on the branches above the lamps.

Editor Note:

John's article is very interesting and opens the door to new discoveries and unexplained mysteries, i.e. "Are there really different Registered Design numbers for the "Christmas Tree" design.

The following is a reference to the "Christmas Tree design" introduced late in 1891 from the Pottery Gazette of January 1892:

Among the fancy stocks this season may be seen the latest novelty in jeweled fairy lamps. An opaque lamp has holes drilled in it, in which are inserted varicolored glass diamonds. One has a Christmas-tree painted on in raised enamel, the jewels lighting up the tree after the manner of the old fashioned colored candles. Then we have another pattern bearing a painted peacock. The eyes of his tail feathers sparkle and glitter with colored diamond-like brilliancy. The effect produced is simply charming.⁹

⁹ Advertisement included in *Antique Glass and China* by Geoffrey A. Godden, 1966. Chapter Nine, *Glass Fairy Lights*

CLARKE LAMP MODEL 019 by Brian

As the search for authentic and accurate fairy lamps continues, it is always nice to be able to reference a lamp with a given model number. This article is about a lamp I recently purchased out of Virginia. Actually it is not a lamp, as much as it is a lamp holder. Each time I find a Clarke item in the States, I still wonder when and how it arrived and for what reason it came to this side of the pond. Was it purchased new here in the States, or brought over with an immigrant at a later date as a personal item? In this case, I also wonder where did the lamps that were purchased with it go, and who held on to this item for so long as an incomplete collectable? The item that I purchased is a Clarke lamp Model 019.

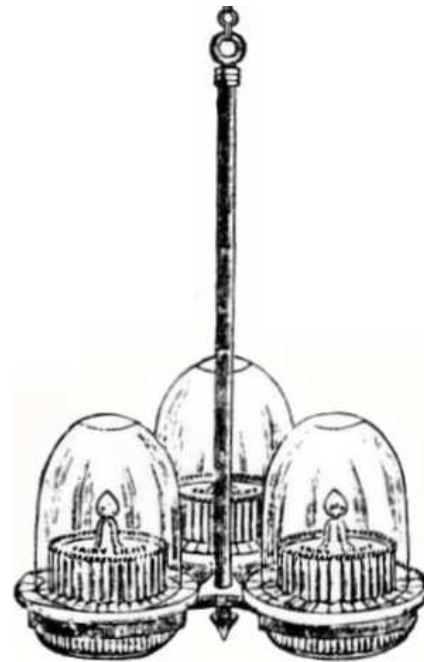


Figure 1 – Clarke Model 019 from advertisement

As I said, this is not a lamp per say, but a 3 Light Pendent made from several brass pieces. The pendent is designed to hold three Fairy Lamps with Clarke glass lamp cups.



Figure 2 – Clarke Model 019 with three Verrie Morie' (Nailsea-type shades)

The shades could be of any design, but the advertisements with this lamp shown have three clear domes. Once the domes are removed the three bases remain in the brass rings. The bases are very close together when sitting in the fixture. The advertisement image gives the illusion that the bases are separated by enough distance to allow you to see into the center.



Figure 3 – Clarke Model 019 with shades removed

With the Clarke glass lamp cups removed you can see the structure of the fixture. The

very bottom of the piece has a pointed finial below a solid brass triangle of sorts that supports each of the three brass rings.



Figure 4 – Clarke Model 019 with glass cups removed

Just above this area on the brass tube is stamped "SAMUEL CLARKE TRADE FAIRY MARK U.S. PAT. APL'D FOR".



Figure 1 - SAMUEL CLARKE TRADE FAIRY MARK U.S. PAT APL'D FOR

The application for the patent was filed in the United States on December 14, 1885 and it was issued on November 9, 1886 with the US Patent number 352,296. This same design was granted letters of Patent in England on September 23, 1885 with No. 11,353; in France on December 4, 1885 with No. 172,717; in Germany on December 5, 1885 with No. 36,679; in Belgium on December 7, 1885 with No. 71,120; and in Austria on

May 3, 1886 with No. 36/795. Since the mark on the piece says "U.S. PAT. APL'D FOR" it must have been made before November 9, 1886, but what I don't know is whether the mark on the fixture was ever changed to just "U.S. PATENTED." I also find it interesting that even with all the other patents for the same thing in different countries, why are not those patents included on the piece. Why just worry about the U.S. Patent? Or, were the items stamped differently based on which country they were being shipped to? In the Patent, it talks about how the chandelier can be taken apart to facilitate packing the item.

At the top of the brass tube is a hanger loop by which to suspend it. The loop is a solid cast brass eyelet with three ribs where it is soldered to the tube. The overall height of the 3 Light Pendent is 11.25" or 286mm.



Figure 6 - Eyelet for hanging

When I first received the brass fixture it was covered in years of tarnish and dirt. So much so, that it was hard to read the embossing. I debated over cleaning the brass for several days, but this is one of the few times I could not stand to have the brass fixture remain as found. With a little elbow grease and time I was able to bring the brass fixture back to the point of looking new again. Once I find three matching shades

and extra bases, I am sure the 3 Light Pendent will find a new home in my collection.

UNUSUAL DQMOP FAIRY LAMP by Brian

Not too long ago there was a question brought up on the Fairy Lamp Forum¹⁰ about a lamp that was recently sold at auction on eBay.

"Has anyone seen anything like this before? Any ideas as to origin, vintage, maker?"

Because this lamp, or one like it, had not been documented in print prior to this auction, the question seemed very reasonable to me. The description that was attached to the auction read as follows:

We are happy to offer you for your consideration a Thomas Webb Peach Blow Mother of Pearl Cased Satin Fairy Lamp in the diamond quilted pattern. This lovely lamp has a ruffled rim on both the shade and the base and appears to be a bit larger than a lot of fairy lamps. Thomas Webb began producing glass in the 1850's, and by 1870 was famous for the cased satin glass with the diamond quilted pattern.

- *Size: Base 11" rim to rim, top is 8" tall x 6 1/4" at widest tapering to 4" at top*
- *Weight: 3 lbs 2 oz*
- *Maker: Thomas Webb*
- *Marks: na*
- *Condition: There are no cracks or chips on either piece. The base does have quite a few factory blemishes on the inside surface. They appear as small glass pieces adhered to the surface. See photos.*

The auction ended bringing the seller a total of \$461.00. Because we do not know what the seller originally paid for the piece and when it was purchased. Its only speculation

¹⁰ www.fairylampforum.com

about whether or not this can be considered a successful sale.



Figure 2 – Photo of the lamp from the eBay auction

I watched the auction as an interested party, but with no intension of bidding. Why might you ask? Because I have one. The lamp I have has been in the collection for around 12 to 15 years. I do not remember where it was purchased, or the price that was paid (guess I should have written some stuff down when I was younger).



Figure 3 – Similar lamp from my personal collection

Looking at the sizes given in the auction, my example is very close in size and weight. These similarities make me think that the lamps were manufactured by the same company and about the same time.

The description and dimensions seem a bit large for the typical fairy lamp. However when placed next to a common chimney-style lamp it does not seem that large.



Figure 4 – Shown in comparison to R-250

It was also suggested that this shade could have come from a miniature oil lamp as they are similar in shape.



Figure 5 - Example of a similar oil lamp shade from "Miniature Lamps" by Frank and Ruth Smith.

When the fairy lamp in question is placed next to one of these oil lamp shades, you notice that there is a very large size discrepancy. In addition, the weight alone would

prevent it from being used as an oil lamp shade.



Figure 6 – Size shown in comparison to an Oil Lamp Shade

The base is a large round flat dish with an upward fluted and ruffled rim. The shade or chimney sits on the bottom surface. With the ruffled edge on the bottom of the shade, the air would have no problem entering around the base allowing the candle to burn.



Figure 7 - Showing the interior and exterior of the base and ruffled rim of the shade.

There is no depression on the inside surface where a candle or candle cup would have been placed. I do not think that the absence of an indentation does not eliminate the possibility that there was a candle holder cup used below the shade.

The lamp itself has no markings as to who the manufacturer was, but the glass is of the highest quality. All the air traps are very

close in size unlike many of the newer lamps where the air traps change shape from the stretching process on the glass. In addition, the base and shade have the same ruffled and fluted rim edged in opaque glass.



Figure 8 - Size shown in comparison to R-208

I understand that this article has no answers for the question asked at the beginning. But, I will say the vintage is old and was produced by a high quality manufacture such as Thomas Webb. If I would have realized that this lamp was missing from the publications I would have submitted it to be included in the Undocumented Fairy Lamp section of the newsletter sooner.

FUSEE LAMP – CLARKE'S FIRST FOOD WARMER, C. 1855 - PATENT 2803 by Jim

As a courtesy to a few scholars in the field of Victorian-era art glass and lighting, I send them a complimentary copy of the Fairy Lamp Newsletter. The reason is simple; I wish to share what we have learned with them in hopes that they can contribute their knowledge with us. To be honest, I rarely get additional information back in return. However, the last complimentary issue produced invaluable information related to Clarke's "Fusee Candle Cooking Lamp" – the actual UK patent number.¹¹ Until now, I was aware this device was patented by Clarke but I did not know the actual patent number.

¹¹ The patent number information was provided by a member of the Rushlight Club.

While I was not able to locate the original patent document, I was able to find two references that describe the device in some detail.

The first reference is from the *Mechanics' Magazine, Specifications of Patents Recently Filed*, Saturday, August 9, 1855. It reads:

Clarke, S. *Improvements in Lanterns for affording Light and Cooking.* Dated Dec. 11, 1855 (No. 2803)

This invention consists in constructing lanterns, each with two or more candle lamps or tubes. Within the cover, and above the candle lamps or tubes, the space is arranged for receiving cooking utensils.

While short of information, this brief article did make reference to an interesting feature – "tubes." What is that?

The following article (*copied verbatim*) from *Patents for Inventions: Abridgements of Specifications*, 1873 provided more information:

A.D. 1855, December 11. – N^o 2803

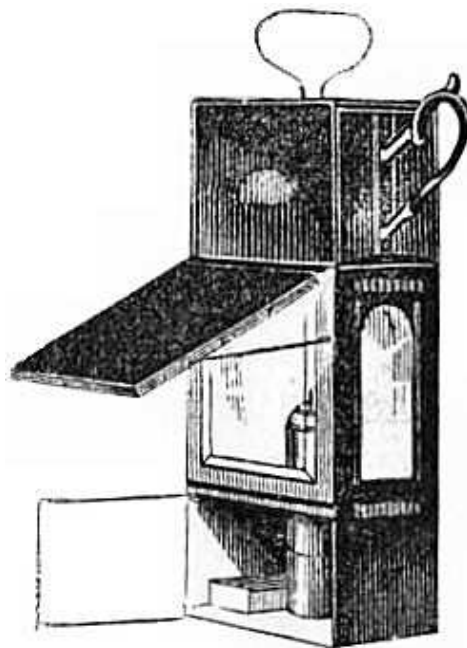
CLARKE, Samuel. – "Improvements in lanterns for affording light and for cooking."

The perforated bottom of the lantern is made with as many sockets as there are candle tubes to be used, the tubes being similar to those used in candle lamps. Above the tubes a cone descends into the lantern from the centre of the perforated plate. The cover of the lantern folds back on a hinge or joint and below the cover of the upper part of the lantern is formed suitable for receiving a vessel or pan for cooking purposes, which may be of such form as to be shut in by the cover, or may require the cover to be open. Sometimes the lantern is divided by vertical partitions into as many compartments as there are candle tubes; each partition is made of bright metal so as to serve as a reflector, and a

conical opening for each tube is to be formed in a perforated plate.

[Printed, 1s. Drawings]

In reviewing the original drawing in the advertisements, it appears that the "candle tube" is illustrated but the perforated plate and cones are not. I would assume, however, that they are located just below the food vessel and are used to either focus or distribute the heat from the candle.



At the end of the article, a reference is made to "drawings." I would really like to see these drawings to better understand the construction. However, if you have ever tried to get information from the UK Patent Office, you know that would be difficult at best. Perhaps one of our UK members could be of assistance.

CLARKE'S IMPROVED DASHBOARD LAMPS
by Jim

At the end of the article "Fusée Lamp – Clarke's First Food Warmer, c. 1855"¹², I indicated that I had learned about a "dashboard

¹² FL- LXIII-9, May 2012

lamp" produced by Clarke but I needed more time to research it. My efforts to learn more about this device have produced very little in the way of information. I did, however, manage to find an interesting advertisement in *The Lancet*, Volume I, page 114, 1855.

The advertisement reads:

Improved Dashboard Lamps, made so that they can be instantly affixed to the dashboard of any Gig,¹³ Drag,¹⁴ or other description of vehicle, and can be quickly removed and used for a hand lantern in the stable. They are adapted for burning the new Patent Fusee Carriage Candle. The appearance and effect are equal to that of a carriage lamp of superior finish, but the price being less than half. These lamps are placed within the reach of every person requiring a light when driving.

Price 12s. 6d., at any of the Lamp Dealers; and wholesale by Palmer & Company, Sutton Street, Clerkenwell; and by the Patentee, S. Clarke, 55 Albany Street, Regent's Park, London.

Once again, this advertisement illustrates that Clarke was indeed a first class entrepreneur. He clearly understood his market and made every effort to market his candles to the fullest extent possible.

A very interesting detail in the advertisement is the reference "wholesale by Palmer & Company." I find this relationship interesting in that the Palmer & Company was a direct competitor to Clarke's candle business, as indicated by the following advertisement.

¹³ A gig is a light, two-wheeled cart with axle springs pulled by one horse.

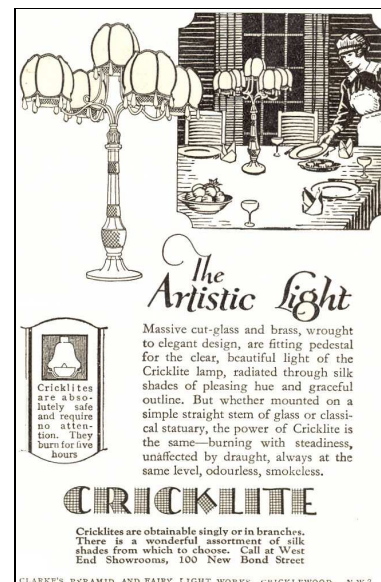
¹⁴ A park drag (or simply drag) is also known as a "private coach" owned by private individuals with seats on its top. It is usually driven by a team of four well-matched carriage horses.



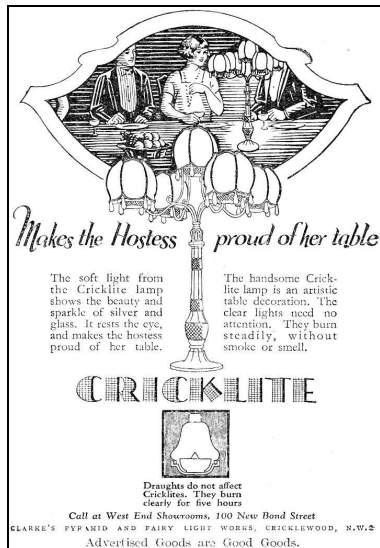
I have not researched this company yet, but I have references to them as early as the late 1830's. Perhaps I should look into this company further. Hmmm....I feel an article coming on. ☺

MODERN CRICKLITE ADVERTISEMENTS by Jim

As you know, early fairy lamp advertisements are an invaluable source of information. I collect these advertisements as eagerly as I do fairy lamps. Recently, two relatively modern advertisements came to my attention. They are both from a 1925 issue of *Good Housekeeping* – UK edition.



The first advertisement illustrates an unknown variant of Clarke's Cricklite standard with five Cricklites fitted with silk shades with pendants.



The second advertisement illustrates the same model of Cricklite standard also with five Cricklites and the same silk shades.

The date of the advertisement, 1925, is perhaps the latest advertisement we have seen for Clarke's Cricklites. The date, however, is not the most unusual feature of the advertisement.

The bottom of each advertisement reads:

*Call at West End Showrooms,
100 New Bond Street*

*Clarke's Pyramid and Fairy Light Works,
Cricklewood, N.W.2*

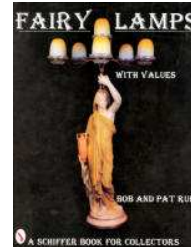
As we know, Clarke sold his company to Prices Candle Company in 1910, and they continued to sell his candles under the Clarke brand name for some time. Did they also continue to sell his fairy lamps and Cricklites under his name?

For fifteen years after the sale of his company to Price, did his candle making business also continue to bear his name, *Clarke's Pyramid and Fairy Light Works*, as indicated in the advertisement? And, what about the Showroom on New Bond Street? Did it also bear the Clarke name?

This is a confusing advertisement that poses more questions than answers.

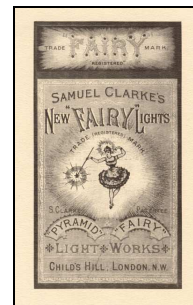
CLASSIFIED ADS

REFERENCE MATERIALS FOR SALE



Fairy Lamps - Elegance in Candle Lighting
by Bob and Pat Ruf

If you collect or deal in antique fairy lamps, this is probably the most important reference book to have in your library. 8.5 x 11 inches, 240 pages, over 800 color photographs. The condition is excellent but used. \$55



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 (Supplies are limited)



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. \$50



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. In addition, the CD includes all the Undocumented Fairy Lamp pages. All documents are in Adobe PDF format. \$35



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. The condition is new and unused. \$30

Shipping to US is included in the price of all reference materials.

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, 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. 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.

Thanks

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this issue of the newsletter. I really appreciate your support.