

# Fairy Lamp Club



Issue LXX

NEWSLETTER

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## CLUB NEWS

### Fairy Lamp Club to be Dissolved

I can not tell you the number of times I have gone back and forth on my decision to wind down the Club and Newsletter. Every time I get a note of disappointment it is usually matched with words of appreciation and understanding. So, my plans remain the same. I will continue to produce a quarterly Newsletter until the membership dwindles to a few remaining members. When that time comes, I will refund any unused portion of their membership.

I am encourage by a slight increase in registrations on the Fairy Lamp Forum<sup>1</sup>. Hopefully, this Forum will gain in popularity and collectors will begin to participate in the discussions more often.

I have continued to add articles to the Forum, most of which are form prior publications, but I will post new articles there as well. I would encourage everyone to do the same. It would

<sup>1</sup> [www.fairylampforum.com](http://www.fairylampforum.com)

<sup>2</sup> FL-LXV-4 *A Different Clarke Lamp Cup?* by Brian

certainly be a shame if we were to stop learning and sharing information, simply because I have discontinued the newsletter.

## FROM OUR MEMBERS

### Not A Different Clarke Lamp Cup?

by Brian

Oh, the things you find when you are not looking.

As I was preparing for a presentation on fairy



*Figure 1 - Showing embossed patent on bottom*

lamps I came across an interesting find. In the November 2012 newsletter<sup>2</sup> I wrote an article questioning the existence of a different Clarke lamp cup which is described in the U. S. Patent 352296 from November 9, 1886. It was shown to have three projections on the

inside edge of the cup which would be on the inside surface of the shade. In this article I asked if anyone had such a cup, or had seen one of these elusive creatures. Now, before you go thinking I found one, that is not the case. What I did find however was a clear



*Figure 2 - Showing Clarke wording without the patent information*

glass molded lamp cup with embossing on the inside bottom surface that reads:

**FAIRY LAMP PATENT**  
**Nov 9, 1886**  
**352296**  
**AMERICAN PATENT**

This lamp cup has no indication that it was manufactured for Clarke until you look the patent number up.

This lamp cup is very similar to other lamp



*Figure 3 - Showing difference in thickness in edge detail.*

cups from the outside that you would find in

most collections. The lamp cup I will be using as a reference is embossed on the inside bottom surface with:

**S. CLARKE**  
**PATENT**  
**TRADE MARK**  
**FAIRY**

I am sure that if many collectors looked in their collection, they could find an example of this second lamp cup.

With these two lamp cups side by side, I noticed some small differences. The first thing I looked for were the three projections that are shown in the original patent drawings. The three projections are not in the cup and as nothing has been broken off, never were cast into the glass. After looking these two cups over, the biggest variation I did notice is in the pedaled edge.



*Figure 4 - Showing difference in size of edge detail and dome shoulder difference.*

The cup marked with the patent number has smaller and thinner petals as can be seen in the Figure 3 photo. They are about half as thick and protrude out from the sides only half as far as the Clarke marked cup.

The inside of the cup has a couple differences from the other more well-known example, but these are not unique to this cup. The first is that the horizontal flanges used to let the air

in under the dome edge are located higher up on the inside making the glass thicker around the top of the recessed area and only letting the lamp dome sit  $5/16$ " below the top edge while the other cup the dome edge sits  $15/32$ " below the top surface shown in Figure 4. The other difference is that there are two shoulders for a shade to rest on. The outer shoulder is much narrower than the lower section and would only support a shade with the outside diameter of  $3-1/8$ " and holding it very near the top edge of the lamp cup with only  $9/64$ " coverage to the top edge as shown in Figure 4 on the left.

Now, I am not saying that the lamp cup in this article with the patent number cast into the bottom proves the cup shown in the original patent drawings was ever made. It's just the opposite. Personally I still think the lamp cup in the patent drawings was produced for a short time in small numbers. I think this because when most patent applications were filed, they also were required to deliver an actual example or model of the item being submitted for patenting. With the patent drawings, and the lamp cup example with the number embossed in the bottom varying so much, it would seem unlikely that the discrepancies would not have been fixed in the original patent drawings. The following discrepancies: the beading around the top edge, never having the three projections (described in the last article), the double shoulder for holding the dome, and the pedaled edge around the exterior, not being in the drawings, would have made the patent drawings wrong. Not only would the drawings have been wrong, but the verbiage would have also been inadequate for legal action using the U. S. patent number 352296.