

FAIRY LAMP CLUB NEWSLETTER
ISSUER XXX FEBRUARY 2004

**ROYAL WORCESTER CRICKLITE
STANDS** by Helen, Graham, Connie & Jim

The last issue of the newsletter included an article on an 1898 Clarke advertisement in the *Pears Christmas Annual*. The advertisement illustrated four Royal Worcester Cricklite stands. Two examples we were aware of; the others were undocumented.

With help from Helen, Graham, and Connie, I now have much more information to pass along and much better photos for you to fully appreciate these incredible works of art.

Helen and Graham were first to respond to the article to let me know they were the "proud owners" of the Royal Worcester vase illustrated in U-229. I have already replaced the on-line undocumented image with the one they provided.¹

For those members without access to the Internet, I have included it here for your convenience. This printed image, however, does not begin to capture the incredible detail. You really need to see the on-line image to be able to fully appreciate the detail.



In addition, Helen and Graham indicated they also have a matching pair of the "Cairo Water

Carriers." The male figure is illustrated in R-715 and the female figure is illustrated, undecorated, in the Clarke's Royal Worcester advertisement. Both of Helen and Graham's figures are fully decorated.



It is interesting to note that these figures are decorated differently than the figure illustrated in R-715 and, of course, the undecorated versions illustrated in the 1898 *Pears Christmas Annual* advertisement.



Helen and Graham have made efforts to research the Royal Worcester Cricklites by contacting the curator of The Museum of Royal Worcester Porcelain, Worcester, England.

In response to their inquiry the curator replied:

¹ www.fairy-lamp.com/Fairylamp/U-229.jpg

I have done some searching though the records to see if there are any references to Clarke's Cricklites. I have found nothing in the Directors minutes, but maybe that is not so surprising. During the 1880's and 1890's this type of rich and expensive item would have been made by Royal Worcester to special order. Department stores and specialist retailing was a growing business, as luxury goods became available to a wider audience.

Clarke from the 1880's onwards, would have commissioned Royal Worcester to convert and produce some of their standard shapes as Cricklites. He would then have chosen the shapes from the range available and he would also have chosen the type (and cost) of the decoration. Shapes that were designed as candelabra would have been relatively easy to adapt as the candle sconces were often made of brass. Worcester made oil, candle and electric lamps for other retailers too.

Are you familiar with Henry Sandon's book *Royal Worcester Porcelain—1862 to the Present Day*? It lists all the different shapes produced and although he does not indicate all the shapes that had been converted, some are listed as Cricklites. Almost any vase shape could be produced as a lamp and therefore it is possible that hundreds of different lamps were made.

The curator goes on to say that the museum is trying to compile a photographic record of all the pattern shapes produced by Royal Worcester but, as you might imagine, this is a gargantuan task!

Almost immediately after receiving Helen and Graham's note, I received a note from Connie. She also has the female version of the Cairo Water Carrier and it is also stamped model #1890, which was recorded by Royal

Worcester in 1896.² Connie's, however, is decorated differently.



This version is decorated with a finely detailed floral decoration along the bottom of the gown. While different, it would appear that is the companion to R-715, shown on the right.



It is almost impossible to make a comparison of two dissimilar photos, however, it would appear that these two bases were designed and decorated as a pair or as part of a "series." It would be nice to get these two "water

² *Royal Worcester Porcelain - 1862 to the Present Day*, Henry Sandon, London, Reprinted 1984.

"carriers" together for a group photo and comparison.

Connie also provided another photo of the Greek Water Carrier, a.k.a. "The Lady."



This model is very similar to R-730³ but is decorated differently. Could it be that there is a "mate" to this design waiting to be found?

To answer that question I only had to review Helen and Graham's collection. While I was unable to find a male version of the Greek Water Carrier," I did find a good companion.



This design is similar to Connie's version of the Greek Water Carrier and R-730. It is also a "left-handed" version of R-732. Were they intended to be a pair? Or, do these figures represent a "series" designed to satisfy the interests of Royal Worcester Porcelain collectors? I suspect the same was true in the 1890's, as it is today when it comes to collector's passions.

While we have learned a lot about the Royal Worcester Porcelain Cricklite stands, I suspect there are many more designs to be identified, and much more to learn. To help consolidate this information, I have developed a webpage to host the data. A link to the webpage, "Royal Worcester Cricklite Stands", can be found on our Club's homepage. It is, of course, in the early stages of development and that is where you can help. Just click on the link and you will find all the information we have gathered so far. There are plenty of gaps to be filled and corrections to make, so let us get busy. ☺

³ The description of R-730 is described on the inside title page of *Fairy Lamps –Elegance in Candle Lighting*, Ruf & Ruf and is illustrated on the front jacket cover.