

OLD ENGLISH FAIRY NIGHT LIGHT ADVERTISEMENT by Jim & John

The Old English Night Lights distributed by Faroy in the 1950-60's are well known by many fairy lamp collectors. They have been documented in our Club's newsletter and website¹ and yet continue to be a source of confusion for many new collectors. Until now, however, we have not seen any advertisements for them.



John provided me an original advertisement from a September 1959 issue of *Antiques*. It does not mention Faroy specifically but does mention the Candles of the Month Club that was identified on the original fairy lamp box.

This advertisement, which incorrectly states that they were made — "from original molds used by the Clarkes about 1844" — also indicates that a Pyramid candle is included with each lamp. The candles are also well known and are made of paraffin instead of the earlier tallow candles. In addition, these candles have a crimped paper bottom instead on the earlier plaster bases.



¹ FL-VIII-2, 1998 and www.fairylamp.com/Fairylamp/Faroy.html

The shade is easily recognized by the tapered and ground top opening instead of the polished and flat opening of earlier versions. They came in a variety of colors as noted in the advertisements and came with clear or matching colored lamp cups.



The lamp cups are also easily recognized by the "stick-figure" Clarke trademark but are almost identical in every other way.

It is fortuitous that John provided this advertisement at this time as reproductions of fairy lamps continue to crop up.

Recently, Louis in the UK, sent me a fairy-size lamp cup in cobalt blue. It was unmarked but, except for the "feel," it was very similar to Clarke's lamp cups. I do not know the origin of this cup. Ken in Australia, however, has reported many reproduction fairy lamps are available in Hong Kong. Perhaps this cup is one of them.

In addition, Bob recently alerted me to the "Nova Lamps" distributed by Serv-U, an online restaurant supplier.²



- Complete Lamp Set includes 6 lamps and matching fuel cells.

² www.servu-online.com/PDFFiles/Catalog/Product-PDFs/pg165%202004%20catalog.pdf

- Two piece 4 ½ h. glass lamps with crisp mini-diamond pattern that diffuses light.
- Available (In-stock) in Clear only.
- Uses 36 hour disposable fuel cells.
- Nova replacement tops and bases are also available. Sold individually

I have not seen examples of these lamps but they are not likely to confuse experienced collectors. They may however, as time passes, be a source of confusion for new collectors and uninformed dealers.

While contemporary fairy lamps are plentiful and make excellent collections, we have not been overwhelmed with reproductions of early fairy lamps. They exist, however, and in addition to the diamond point fairy lamps, there are several others, including Italian Burmese fairy lamps from the 1970's.

Perhaps it is time (past time probably) to document the true reproduction (not contemporary) fairy lamps that copy early production styles. This sounds like a worthy "project" for someone to sign-up for.