

**REPRODUCTION ALERT** by Jim.

Most of our members would not have any difficulty distinguishing contemporary from Victorian-era fairy lamps. Most would be easily recognized, even those produced by Price and distributed by Faroy in the 1950's, as being a reproduction Clarke pyramid fairy lamp. There is, however, a new pyramid fairy lamp on the market that could easily confuse the beginning collector.



Anyone you frequents eBay in search of fairy lamps certainly has seen these. They have been showing up in eBay auctions for at least a year.

When I first noticed the fairy lamps, I did not pay too much attention to them except as a curiosity. Recently, however, I received an inquiry from a member that raised a degree of concerned. Could a beginning collector be confused into thinking these were antique Clarke fairy lamps? Hopefully not, but to be sure, a discussion is warranted.

First, let me say that I know very little about these lamps. I do not know who made them, the country of origin, or even the distributor. The following information is gleaned entirely from eBay auctions.

I have seen two predominate colors, amber and green. There may be other colors that I am not aware of. The green version appears to be cased or flashed on the inside but I can't be sure without having one to inspect.

The amber color seems to be inconsistent, some lighter than others.



The glass appears to be very thick and heavy and has ground top and bottom surfaces typical of a belt or wheel sander. While the shade is the most obvious reproduction, the lamp cup provides the most likely source of confusion.

The clear pyramid lamp cup appears to be an exact reproduction of an original Clarke lamp cup, with a major exception — the Clarke trademark and logo.



At first glance it appears to be an authentic Clarke trademark and then the obvious sinks in.

The word "Pyramid" is spelled "PYRAMD" — a good indicator even for the beginning fairy lamp collector. There are other more subtle differences but it is not necessary to go into those right now.

The seller (appears to be the same seller going by different eBay names) of this lamp on eBay seems to be aware of what they are selling. They routinely sell reproduction

items and often use the ambiguous term "vintage" as opposed to "antique." They are also consistent in spelling out the Clarke trade name as "PYRAMD." Perhaps this is an honest attempt to provide an accurate description or, perhaps a deliberate attempt to avoid any misrepresentation.

As for eBay sales, I think they have been weak at best. Perhaps a few brought prices higher than true value but I think most buyers recognize them for what they are.

If anyone has any information on these fairy lamps, I and our members would love to hear from you.