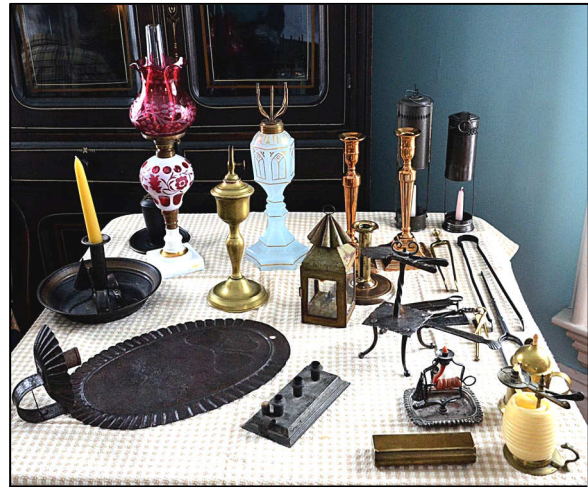


# Report on the Rushlight Regional Meeting February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019, West Chicago, Illinois

Eighteen Rushlight members gathered at the home of Keith Letsche in West Chicago for the annual, regional Club meeting. Some members who usually attend this meet didn't come since the weather forecast indicated bad driving conditions. As usual, everyone brought something to share for lunch such as a salad, beverage or dessert. After an excellent lunch, we began the main event; the show and tell session.



Above are Many of the Show & Tell Items



Wax Jack (left), Bougie Box (right)

Chuck Leib intended to present information on wax jacks and bougie boxes but his flight to Chicago was cancelled and he instead emailed material to be printed locally and handed out. He then called mid afternoon to discuss this subject and to answer questions from the group via speakerphone. Wax jacks are various open forms of coiled candles which date from the mid 1600's on and bougie boxes, which enclose the coiled candle, date from the mid 1700's onward.

Both were used to close documents before the use of envelopes and, when an impression was made in the hot wax, to provide a "seal" of authority or authenticity. Don Schoenly brought several wax jack examples and he demonstrated the use of a wax jack. The telephone Q&A session worked quite well.



Don Schoenly Shows Use of a Wax Jack

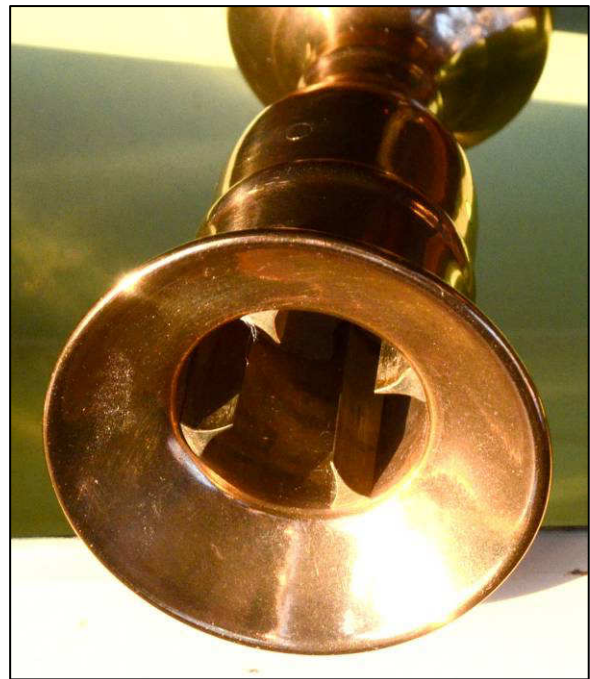
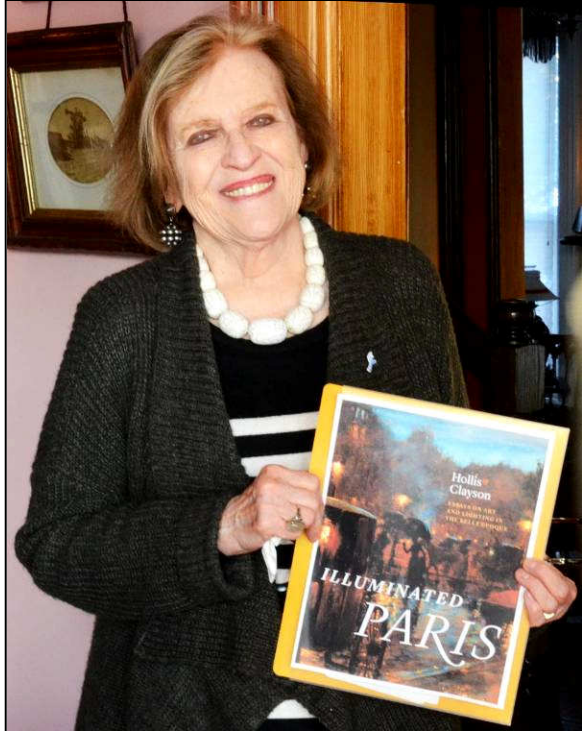


Ember Tongs and Pocket Steel/Ember Tongs

Don also showed an assortment of ember tongs and pipe smokers' tools including a pocket steel with ember tongs and a hinged, brass, pocket smoking kit (image right) which held a pipe, tobacco and matches.



John Shallcross brought a pair of heavy brass candlesticks made by Edward Kendric, London. The candle sockets had 4 vertical fins to hold the candles. They had ejectors that were notched to clear the fins. Patented by John Richmond in 1784, the underside of the bases were marked “PATENT K”.



John Richmond's 1874 Patent Candle Socket

Hollis Clayson showed a preview copy of her upcoming book “*Illuminated Paris*” which discusses how artists responded to the lighting transition from gas lights to electrical illumination. The book is available for pre-order and will be released this May.



Eleventh Annual Midwest Regional Rushlight Club Meeting, West Chicago, Illinois