

Report on the 2017 Mid-East Lighting Collector's Meet & Lamp Show, Richmond, Indiana

The annual Mid-East Lighting Meet and Lamp Show took place October 23rd - 28th 2017 at the Richmond, Indiana, Holiday Inn. The new facility had ample room for the vendor tables. On Saturday evening, the dinner and seminar, at the hotel, was well attended.

Room shopping and trading began early in the week as serious collectors tried to be the first to view the items for sale.

On Saturday the lamp show was open from 9 am to 3 pm with the public invited to attend.

Among the wide variety of items available was a box of four, Brown's metal top chimneys, patent 34733, March 25, 1862. (If you have occasion to handle these chimneys, don't pick them up by the metal top as it can come off unexpectedly.) Other interesting items offered at the show included a later-model "side-wound" Hitchcock lamp, corresponding to the R. Hitchcock patent no. 620130, of Feb. 28, 1899; a Hoyt font with a metal centennial-bell base and a bracket lamp with a match-holder wall bracket and an unusual hook-on font holder.



Mid-East Meet Saturday Lamp Show



Hitchcock Side-Wound Lamp



Centennial Bell Hoyt Font



Bracket Lamp: Hook-On Font Holder, Match-Holder Bracket



Ad for Brown's Metal Top Chimney
Circa 1870, from the
James M. Nichols Catalog, plate 28

Kirk Womack's Saturday evening seminar was both interesting and unusual. The subject was the operation of the spring-driven fan mechanism in the Hitchcock lamp. Kirk gave a slide presentation showing the disassembly, cleaning and reassembly of the Hitchcock spring-driven fan "motor".

Working along with the slides, Kirk removed the Hitchcock fan assembly from a lamp, disassembled it, reassembled it, and finally after putting it back in the lamp, he wound the mechanism and lit the burner.



Kirk Womack Burning Reassembled Hitchcock Lamp

Additional Information:

The bracket lamp with hook-on font basket and match-holder wall bracket described above, corresponds to patent No. 268952, issued Dec. 12, 1882 to Joseph Simpson of Columbus, Ohio, for a "Lamp Bracket and Match Box Combined." The patent describes the arrangement being suited for font rings or baskets and suggests the bracket may be adapted to hold other ornamental articles such as flower-pots, flower-baskets and bird cages.
