

THE SURPRISING TORONTO LIGHT KING CENTRE-DRAFT LAMP

by Peter Brickell

I became interested in centre draft kerosene lamps as soon as I was aware they existed several years ago. I have since collected a very modest array of such lamps. I met an interesting gentleman on the web who sourced, manufactured, and sold centre draft lamp and heater wicks for pretty much every such device known (Miles Stairs/www.milesstair.com or www.wickshoppe.com). Over time we exchanged links to lamps that we thought the other person should have when we saw them up for sale. One day in the summer of 2014 Miles sent me a link to a “must have” lamp for a Canadian resident in Toronto. This was something neither I nor he had never heard of called a “Toronto Light King” lamp. We knew this was its name since it was embossed on the top of the font!

In the end the lamp was purchased from Ebay minus a flame spreader, chimney, as was learned later, likely a draft moderating mesh cone for the inner wick tube. After a thorough cleaning by Miles, the lamp arrived back home in Toronto some 130 years after it was made here. It now resides only about 10 blocks from where it first saw the light of day!

I feel that it is an important Canadian lamp because at present (August 2018), only four confirmed examples are known to exist in captivity. Two are located in Canada: the one in the my own collection and one in an Ontario heritage museum⁴. Two others are in the hands of an American collector specialising in centre draft lamps. All four are somewhat different and appear to show a range of production models from the Toronto company.

What Is The Toronto Light King Lamp?

The Toronto Light King company appears to have marketed lamps under two brand names – The Toronto Light King Lamp and The Wizard Lamp. At this time it is not clear exactly which features were associated with each lamp and whether there was any consistent difference between them. They may have simply been marketing versions of the same basic lamp.

The Toronto Light King Lamp (Fig.1, cover?) is a No.2 size centre draft lamp which uses a ca. 1.55” diameter tubular wick and was made in both table lamp and hanging lamp styles (Figs. 1,2,3). It used a trumpet-shaped disk flame spreader^{1,2} (Figs. 3,4) which could be lowered to seal off the end of the wick tubes and extinguish the flame by depressing a lever on the side of the burner (Fig.5).

The lamp is a safety lamp design with an air gap between the wick tubes and the font itself (Fig.6) to reduce fuel temperature in the font. At that time kerosene quality was unregulated and much of it contained highly flammable and cheaper gasoline as an adulterant. It is now assumed that the lamps were originally fitted with an inverted cone, brass mesh, draft moderating device which fitted inside the inner wick tube to reduce flicker¹ (Fig.22). Like the flame spreaders, these loose parts have never been found on extant lamps. The overall height of the author's specimen is 13"(33 cm) to the top of the gallery cone and has a font diameter of 5-3/4"(14.6 cm). The lamps were intended to use a standard 3" fitter flat wick chimney as a selling feature which was touted in a contemporary broadside (Fig. 2).

The Toronto Light King also incorporated a fuel level indicator consisting of a small pin which is raised by a float when the font is nearly full - to aid in spill-free filling one presumes.

Variation Amongst Toronto Light King Models

The cover? shows the lamp from the author's collection. It is a plain table lamp with a clear raised stamping "Toronto Light King Lamp Co." on the upper surface of the font. The original nickel plating was mostly lost exposing considerable amounts of underlying brass. Most known lamps have been found in similar condition suggesting that the original plating was not particularly well applied. After considerable deliberation on my part this lamp was replated by Mayfair Plating of Toronto with bright nickel (a modern nickel plating process) which turned out to closely match the original plating when it was placed side by side with an unrestored lamp (Fig.7). As can be seen in the photo the lamp has been restored to full working condition with a new flame spreader manufactured in the author's shop and will soon have a draft moderating cone made by Dickson Stauffer.

The second and third lamps I became aware of are shown on page 438 of Bill Courter's book "Center Draft Kerosene Lamps"³ and at least one of these is in the collection of Dick Stauffer. The first is a table lamp with the same raised lettering as the author's example (Fig.3). The second is a table lamp with no stamping on the font and with a slightly different font shape which is identical to the hanging lamp in the contemporary broadsheet (Figs.2 and 8). The more rounded font style of these lamps may represent the Wizard variant of the Toronto Light King Lamp, but at present there is no hard evidence to confirm this hypothesis. The broadsheet uses only the name Wizard Lamp but in fact shows both the boxy and rounded font styles on close examination.

The fourth and final lamp was found via an internet entry for a museum collection by Dick Stauffer who passed it on to me. A quick call to the Wellington County Museum⁴ and a few emailed photos confirmed that they in fact had a genuine

Toronto Light King lamp in their storage area. This specimen is table lamp identical the author's except for the presence of a decorative metal band covering the chine in the middle of the font (Fig.9) and a slightly different gallery design (Fig. 19). In addition, this lamp has less distinct raised lettering on its font suggesting a double strike of the die that made it (Fig.10).

Known History of the Toronto Light King Company

What do we know about the existence, manufacturing activity, and sales effort of the Toronto Light King Lamp Co. (TLKC)? Luckily there is a paper trail of advertisements and notices in the Canadian press which gives us some clues as to the active dates of the company.

The first reference found so far for the TLKC is Sept. 5, 1885 advertising for salesmen to take the lamp on commission (Fig.11). This advertisement lists 139 Yonge Street as the company address. This building was known as The Arcade and was opened in 1884 claiming to be Canada's first retail mall ⁵. The next information known cast dark clouds on the business and lists the commercial auction of 35 dozen Toronto Light King lamps , presumably the stock of the TLKC (Fig.12). The fate of the original Toronto Light King Company was confirmed by a notice in the Manitoba Daily Free Press on Dec.2, 1885 announcing the closure of the business and disappearance of it's proprietor, a certain A. Worms (Fig.13). One can only presume that news travelled slowly west from Toronto in those days since this date is some weeks after the auction had been announced. We find a light on the horizon (pun intended!) with the Dec. 17, 1885 announcement of the company being under new ownership and selling the same product line (Fig.14).

The TLKC appeared to enter a period of some stability through to the third quarter of 1887 where the paper trail ends. In January of 1886 we see an ad⁶ boasting –10,000 sold last year- , a somewhat suspect number since the company presumably only began business in December of the year before perhaps with a stock of some 400 lamps! The paucity of extant examples of these lamps rather suggests that they were not manufactured in very large quantities. In January of 1887 ads are found with a description of a "Wizard Lamp" with heater attachment⁷ . By April of 1887 we see more elaborate ads (Fig.15) listing not only the lamps, but cooking attachments and other brass goods.

The broadsheet advertisement previously reproduced by Dave Broughton in the fall 2017 Font and Flame, and is again reproduced here (Fig.2). This shows two engravings of the two slightly different lamp font designs known to exist and both stand and hanging lamps are shown. On close examination the hanging lamp is obviously the Toronto Light King design but now only the "Wizard Lamp" name is used in conjunction with both. It also states that several other finishes apart from

nickel are now available at premium prices. The last known advertisement discovered from the company is a repeat of an earlier ad and was published on July 15, 1887⁸. Curiously, there is a trade journal entry on September 2, 1887 mentioning a move to substantially enlarged premises due to a large increase in work being done by the company (Fig.16). Interestingly in addition to the TLK and Wizard Lamps being produced, it also lists among its products a “Matthew’s Student Lamp” about which the author has no knowledge. This is the last we hear of the Toronto Light King Co., at least as far as present research has determined. This 1887 trade publication indicated that later that year the company’s wares would be exhibited at the Dominion and Industrial Exhibition (later to become the Canadian National Exhibition). Additionally, a contemporary Toronto Trade Directory entry for the company proclaimed: “Our Goods were awarded FIRST PRIZE at Toronto Exhibition, 1886.” However no record of the Toronto Light King Company having exhibited lamps during these years exists in the CNE archives⁹. One has to wonder if this is yet another example of 19th century creative advertising copy!

The Company’s Location

One of the unresolved questions to date is exactly where in the city of Toronto were the Light King lamps manufactured or assembled. The first address given is The Arcade building at 139 Yonge Street. From a review of the plans of the building when it opened the year before (1884, TLKC was not listed as an original tenant) it does not appear that there could have been a substantial factory or industrial installation in the building as it was mostly small retail spaces⁵. Unless the operation started on a very small scale in a basement storage room or in the back of a storefront, it seems that the lamps from this period (approximately 420 per the auction announcement in November of 1885), must have been produced at some other location.

As soon as we hear of the company being under new management in December, we see references to a new address – 53 Richmond Street East. This address continues to be used until the final notice of relocation in 1887. It is easy to assume that the rejuvenated company expanded to a proper production facility after the take over and gave up the 139 Yonge street retail space, perhaps since it was an expensive location. However, one document has been found that casts doubt on the relocation idea and that is the broadsheet advertisement previously discussed (Fig.2). So far it is the only document found which lists both addresses with the Richmond location listed only as “factory”. This very comprehensive advertisement is doubly troubling to our TLKC investigation as it is completely undated. However, the very comprehensive list of product options and the cuts shown in it of two different lamp designs lead to the supposition it may have been produced quite late in the lifetime of the TLKC, after it had become thoroughly established and was using the “Wizard” brand name. Unless further documents are found to shed more light on the locations used by this

company and for what purpose, it will remain uncertain as to where they carried out their retail, trade and manufacturing business. It also seems likely that no matter where the Toronto Light King lamp was produced in the city of Toronto, that a considerable amount of sales must have been for export south of the border, given that three of the four extant lamps have been found in the United States.

To date only three names have been identified with the Toronto Light King Company. The first is the aforementioned insolvent "A. Worms" who is listed as "proprietor" of the TLKC in the 1885 bankruptcy notice (Fig.13) and not heard from again. With the announcement of the concern continuing under new management later that year, we see "Chas. E. Thorne" listed as "manager" (Fig.14). Finally, in the late 1887 relocation notice we see the name of Charles M. Green associated with the company apparently in the role of owner (Fig.16).

Where Did the Toronto Light King Lamp Originate?

With the forgoing information and extant lamps in hand, the question remains as to whether the Toronto Light King Lamp and its derivatives were designed and manufactured solely in Canada or were the product of a large American lamp house and re-branded. This was a time when centre draft lamps using disk-type flame spreaders were becoming outdated by the recent introduction of the Rochester Lamp in 1884-5, which used a thimble-type flame spreader described in the Henkle patents (Courter, p.336). The Liverpool disk flame spreader, as it was known, had originated in the pre-kerosene era and so rapidly became obsolete during these years after the Rochester came on the scene.

To try and resolve this question of the Toronto Light King origins, it is necessary to review the documented lamps of the era which appear to share common components with the Toronto Light King. At the present time the most comprehensive single modern source of information on kerosene centre draft lamps that the author has discovered is Bill Courter's "Center Draft Kerosene Lamps 1884-1940"³. Page references cited here are from the author's 2008 print edition. The images are reproduced with Dr. Courter's kind permission.

Courter has a short description of the Toronto Light King lamp on page 438 with photos of two different specimens, but states that he has no knowledge of the company at the time the book was published. He only speculates that the lamp might have been made by Bristol Brass and Clock Co. (p.104).

One of the more striking features of the TLK is its rather boxy font with the enlarged centre band. This font can be found in Courter's book on a lamp made by The St. Louis Electric Lamp Co. (pp.356-357) in the form of the Marsh Electric Lamp (Fig. 17).

As Courter shows and discusses (p.104), the rather unique gallery of the TLK lamp appears on the Bristol Electric Lamp nos. 100 and 120 (Fig.18). However it is important to remember that two slightly different galleries have been found on extant TLK lamps (Fig.19).

Another "piece" of the TLK found amongst the American lamps is in the Meriden Bronze "Liberty Lamp" (p.225, Fig. 20). The stem of the TLK table lamps appear to be very similar to that of the Liberty, although without the two lamps side by side, it is impossible to know if they were made from the same mold or form.

Perhaps the most important lamp for comparison with the Toronto Light King is the Holmes, Booth, and Hayden "Star Lamp" (p.171, Fig. 21). This was brought to the author's attention by Dick Stauffer who, apart from being extremely knowledgeable concerning centre draft lamps, has in his collection examples of both the Toronto Light King and the HB&H Star. Although the shape of the Star Lamp font is very different from the Toronto Light King, he has confirmed that the burner and draft tube arrangement including the flame spreader lowering mechanism of the two lamps are identical and can be interchanged freely. Furthermore I note that the gallery of the stand lamp is identical to the second pattern of TLK gallery seen in extant lamps (compare that in Fig. 21 to the gallery on the left in Fig.19). The two lamp burners in Dick Stauffer's collection (Star and TLK) are so definitively identical, that he and I have felt confident using an extant Star Lamp flame spreader's dimensions to specify the fabrication of new TLK flame spreaders. Unfortunately none of the extant TLK lamps have been found with flame spreaders.

From the Star Lamp association came an interesting technical side note. All of us who have tried to light either a TLK or Star Lamp found the flames to be full of spikes and also flickering. Heinz Baumann of the Rushlight Club, who is considered an expert in the field of burners using disk-type flame spreaders, advised me that this was likely a result of too much air flow through the centre draft tube and he had suggested inserting some sort of obstruction or screen inside the draft tube to reduce the air flow. This worked to some extent, but was not entirely satisfactory and begged the question "Did TLK lamps flicker and did people just accept this in exchange for the greater light output compared with flat wick lamps?" However it seemed unlikely that consumers would have tolerated this state of affairs. It has recently come to light that one of the Star Lamps had an inverted cone of brass mesh inside the top of the draft tube just below the top of the wick tubes (Fig.22). Upon trying this mesh cone in Dick Stauffer's various TLK and Star lamps, he found that the flame spikes and instability disappeared. So it seems probable that the Toronto Light King lamps originally came with a draft-moderating mesh cone as well. However as these are loose parts, like the flame spreaders which are very commonly lost, it does not seem improbable that none would have remained with the lamps over the intervening 130 years. As a result of this discovery, replacement mesh cones have been designed and made for several of the extant Toronto Light King lamps.

Returning to the question of the production of the Toronto Light King Lamp, we have evidence that a number of contemporary lamps made by different and competing manufacturers shared specific components. However, we have yet to uncover evidence of a whole lamp made by another manufacturer which is the same as the Toronto Light King.

An initial review of available US and Canadian lighting patents has not provided definitive evidence of the origin of the TLK burner or font design. Only US Patent 322,599 (July 21, 1885) lays claim to any part of the TLK lamp as we have found them. This patent by Hiram Hayden of Hayden, Booth and Holmes (maker of the Star Lamp) describes the design and manufacturing of the trumpet-shaped flame spreader found on the Star lamp (and presumed to have been used on the TLK). Secondly, it describes a mechanism for lowering the flame spreader using a movable centre post in order to extinguish the flame and so reduce the amount of objectionable odours generated when it was extinguished.

The mechanism described by this patent is not actually found on any Star or TLK lamps and it appears to have been designed for a side draft burner rather than the centre draft ones used on these lamps. However, it seems reasonable to assume that the simpler push down plunger found on actual lamp specimens was a production modification of this patent in order to reduce manufacturing costs or perhaps to improve reliability.

So we have patent evidence of HB&H having designed the flame spreader and a lowering mechanism used on the TLK and other US lamps, but we as yet have not uncovered a patent describing the overall TLK lamp design such as has been found for the Star lamp body design (US patents D16,078 and 320,476 of May 5 and June 23, 1885 respectively).

To summarize, we can say it is highly probable that Holmes, Booth, and Hayden developed the burner and accessory parts found on the TLK and some other US lamps, but there is no evidence that the whole lamp itself was ever designed or manufactured by this company.

In light of the information presented above I propose two possible scenarios for the origin and manufacture the TLK. I hope that information will surface in the future proving one or the other or even another explanation of the lamp's production.

Perhaps the most probable scenario is that the Toronto Light King Company purchased various components for their lamp from different American manufacturers, stamped or had them stamped with their name on the top half of the font, and assembled a unique lamp from these varied components. Thus the TLKC could have produced products that would now be labelled "Assembled in

Canada” or “Canadian Designed”! In this case the plant at 53 Richmond may only have been an assembly plant rather than a fabrication facility.

Another possibility is that the original TLKC designed and fabricated the lamps in Toronto, although perhaps “borrowing” some ideas from extant American Lamps such as the HBH Star. It is worth remembering that mutual US-Canada patent protection did not come into force until some years after this. If this is how the TLK business unfolded, the matter of many other TLK components appearing in a varied array of US lamps remains.

However, we know that molds and patterns were very high value items in the brass manufacturing industry and one could imagine that if the TLKC closed its door for good about 1887, then the patterns and molds as well as any remaining parts inventory made from them would have been auctioned off. Perhaps a number of different US lamp makers bid on the remains of the TLKC and went home with different molds and patterns which they then used in their own lamps. It is difficult to confirm or deny this explanation since almost all the lamps sporting similar components to the TLK appear to have been produced, or come into production, during roughly the same dates as the TLKC is known to have been operating – 1885 to 1887. For example Courter lists the St. Louis Electric Co. as 1885-1892 and the HBH Star Lamp as 1885 to 1886. The Meriden Liberty Lamp is dated considerably later (1898-1900), so similarities to the TLK may be coincidental.

To sort out which of these scenarios did occur will require more accurate dating of the various models of lamps discussed here and additional patent documentation, should it exist. Until we find additional documentation with dates and perhaps other enlightening specimens of Toronto Light King Company products, the exact starting date of the TLKC and the date of their final closure, as well as the exact origins of the Toronto Light King Lamp itself, will remain clouded in the murkiness of time!

This article has attempted to present a description of a unique product sold by a Toronto company between the years of approximately 1885 to 1887 of which only four extant lamps are known with certainty to exist. It is the author’s hope that in describing what is known about these lamps, other Toronto Light King products may be uncovered and that perhaps more definitive dating information may be found. Please feel free to share any information you have about the Toronto Light King with the author (brickellnz@gmail.com).

Acknowledgements

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Baumann and Miles Stair for sharing their wealth of lighting information in their respective areas of expertise; kd Thornton for extensive research assistance, the curatorial and conservation staff at the Wellington County Museum and Archive (Hailey Johnston and Patty Whan) who not only let me see and photograph their Toronto Light King, but also showed me additional related items from their stored collection; and Dave Broughton for the reproduction of his Toronto Light King broadside and his endless patience with me getting this article together for the Font and Flame.

Notes

¹ Dickson Stauffer III, pers. comm.

² Miles Stair, pers. comm.

³ Courter, J.W., "Center Draft Kerosene Lamps 1884-1940 – Identification and Value Guide", Collector Books, Paducah, KY, 2008.

⁴ Wellington County Museum and Archives, National Historic Site, 0563 Wellington Road 18, Fergus, ON, Canada N1M 2W3, <https://www.wellington.ca/en/museum-and-archives.aspx>

⁵ "Arcade Guide and Record - Toronto Arcade, 131 to 139 Yonge St. 18 to 26 Victoria St.," 1884, https://archive.org/details/cihm_00820

⁶ Canada Presbyterian, vol. 15, no. 5, Jan. 27, 1886

⁷ Grip, vol. 28, no. 4, Jan. 22, 1887

⁸ The Educational Journal, vol. 1, no. 7, July 15, 1887

⁹ kd Thornton, pers. comm.



Maybe a cover photo if needed? "Restored Toronto Light King Lamp (1885-1887) in flame". Collection of P.C. Brickell.



Fig.1 – Decorated Toronto Light King table lamp. Collection of Wellington County Museum.

THE GREAT
 TORONTO
 WIZARD LAMP



Produces a Light Equal to the Power
 of 100 Candles.

A Light Superior to 10 ordinary Lamps.
 A more Brilliant Light than 4 Gas Jets
 Combined.

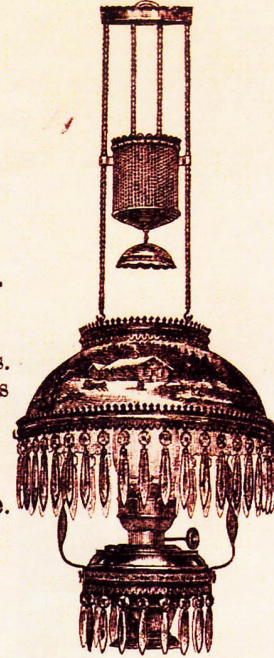
EVERY WAY SUPERIOR TO GAS.

Perfectly White and Steady Flame.

Burns Canadian as well as
 American Oil.

ADAPTED TO

Residences, Stores, Halls, Factories, Hotels & Rinks.



THE WIZARD LAMP holds 1 quart of oil, burns from 8 to 10 hours. Does not break or Smoke Chimneys. Takes the ordinary No. 2 Sun Chimney, which can be bought at any store. Does not need trimming. Each Lamp supplied with a Wick FREE. Wick will last from 6 to 8 months.

Remember the Wizard Lamp is constructed so Perfectly and Simple that it is impossible to get out of order.

The Wick is held inside of a Perforated Brass Tube by a ring which is raised and lowered by two wheels inside of the Burner, and which makes it impossible to become uneven or get out of repair, and is raised and lowered evenly every time. Also the invisible Drip Cup preventing the oil from running or overflowing. And the Indicator Pin which tells you when the Lamp is full, which prevents the oil from running over.

Every Lamp Warranted Perfect and Guaranteed not to leak.

To get best results always keep Burner and Lamp clean and free from charred wick and matches,

PRICE LIST.

STAND LAMPS, BRASS	- - \$ 3 00	FOUNT LAMPS, BRASS	- - \$2.50
" " NICKEL	- - 3.50	" " NICKEL	- - 3.00
" " GOLD	- - 3.50	" " GOLD	- - 3.00

A special and extra discount given to the trade and Agents.

MANUFACTURED BY

TORONTO LIGHT KING LAMP COMPANY.

139 YONGE STREET

Factory—53 Richmond St. East.

TORONTO.

Costs only Half Cent an Hour for Oil.

Fig.2 – Undated broadsheet advertising the Toronto Light King Company's lamps. Image courtesy David Broughton.



Fig.3 – Toronto Light King Lamp, font or hanging style. Collection of Dickson Stauffer III. Photo by D. Stauffer.



Fig.4 – Flame spreader from Holmes, Booth and Hayden “Star” lamp which is thought to be identical to that used in the Toronto Light King. Collection of Dickson Stauffer III. Photo by D. Stauffer.



Fig. 5 – Extinguishing lever for lowering flame spreader. Collection of P.C. Brickell.



Fig.6 – Detail of air gap between the burner outer wick tube and the font.
Collection of Wellington County Museum. Photo P.C. Brickell.



Fig.7 – Comparison of modern bright nickel plating (right, author's lamp) to original Toronto Light King plating after cleaning (left, Wellington County Museum lamp). Photo P.C. Brickell.



Fig. 8 – Toronto Light King (Wizard?) table lamp from Courter, p. 438. Photo reproduced courtesy of J.W. Courter.



Fig. 9 – Detail of chine decoration from Toronto Light King lamp in the collection of the Wellington County Museum. This is to date the only decorated Toronto Light King lamp known and the only specimen originating in Canada. Photo P.C. Brickell.

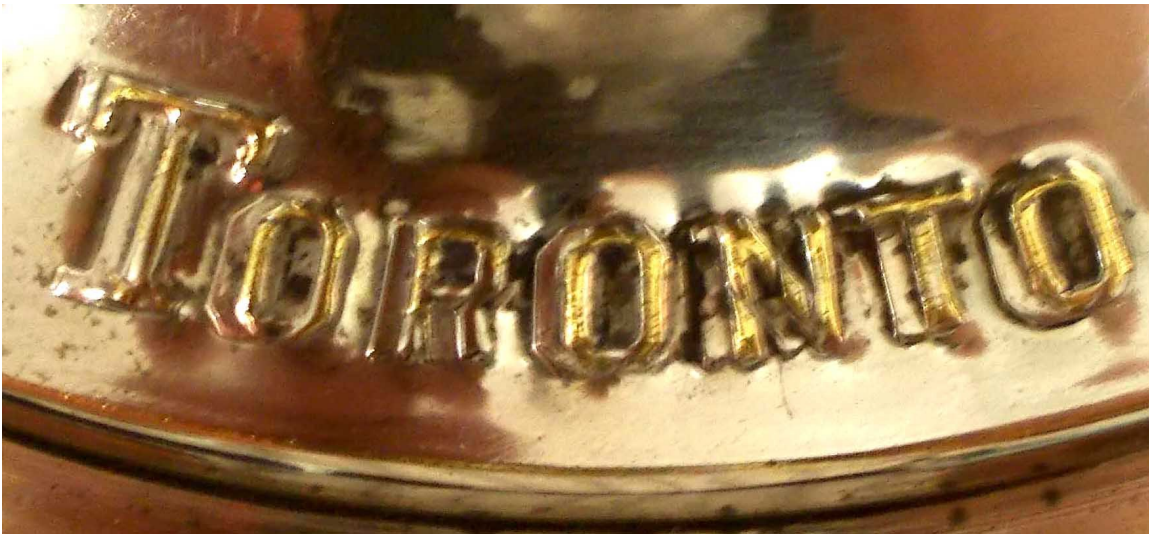


Fig. 10 – Detail of apparent double stamping of lettering on the lamp in the collection of the Wellington County Museum. Photo P.C. Brickell.

100 MEN CANVASSERS TO SELL THE
great Toronto Light King Lamps ; good
salesmen can make from \$3 to \$5 per day ; none need
apply unless men of experience. Apply Toronto
Light King Lamp Co., 139 Yonge-street, Toronto.

Fig. 11 – Advertisement, *The Globe*; Sep 5, 1885

TRADE SALE
Commences **TO-MORROW, TUESDAY** Morn-
ing at **9:30 sharp.**
At 3 p.m. will be offered, without reserve, 35 doz.
of the **TORONTO Co.'s**
LIGHT KING LAMPS.
SUCKLING, CASSIDY, & CO.,
Trade Auctioneers.

Fig. 12 – Auction listing, *The Globe*; Nov 30, 1885.

In Difficulty.

A. Worms, proprietor of the Toronto Light King Lamp Company, is in difficulties and has left the city. A balliff is in possession of his place. The principal creditors are Harrison a photographer, who holds a thousand dollar chattel mortgage.

Fig. 13 – “In difficulties”, *Manitoba Free Press*, Dec. 2, 1885

The Toronto Light King Lamp Co.

SOLE MANUFACTURERS OF

THE WIZARD AND LIGHT KING

LAMPS.

The above business having changed hands, will be continued under the same name and style.

FACTORY – 53 RICHMOND-ST. EAST.

Orders solicited for all kinds of Brass Spinning and Fancy Work.

CHAS. E. THORNE, Manager.

Fig. 14 – TLKC under new management, *The Globe*, Dec. 17, 1885.

AND

The price is one dollar and fifty cents (\$1.50) for a Nickel-plated "Light King" Lamp, which gives the most powerful light of any lamp in the world. It is perfectly safe at all times, on account of the patent air chamber with which it is provided. It does not require an air-blast to extinguish it, as the Patent Extinguisher shuts off the flame at a touch of the finger. This lamp cannot be bought at wholesale any cheaper than you can buy a single one for your own use, and can be bought at this price ONLY at our salesrooms, No. 53 RICHMOND STREET EAST, TORONTO, or sent by express for 25 cents extra.

AND

For two dollars and twenty-five cents (\$2.25) you can buy from us, and ONLY FROM US, a beautiful Lamp with brass kettle and attachment for boiling water inside of five minutes, without obstructing the light in any way. Twenty-five cents extra if sent by express.

THE TORONTO

Light King Lamp and Manufacturing Co.

53 RICHMOND ST. E., TORONTO.

A full line of plaques and fancy goods in brass for holiday trade.

Fig. 15 – A full line of products advertised from the TLKC by April 15, 1887, *The Educational Journal*, Vol.1, No.1

MR. CHARLES M. GREEN, now at 53 Richmond street east, Toronto, finding his present place of business too small, has obtained the three-story and basement building on Bay street, near Front, 102 feet deep and 35 feet wide, which is being fitted for his occupancy, and which will be ready for him early in October. In addition to his present plant he will introduce a full equipment of metal spinning and other machinery, and will give employment to about 100 hands. Mr. Green succeeded to the Toronto Light King Lamp Manufacturing Co. last October, at which time he employed only five hands—at this time he employs some 40 hands. His products embrace stove urns and ornaments, stove knobs, hinge pins, foot nails, etc., carriage lamps, rim bands and carriage hardware, Light King, Wizard, and Matthews' student lamps, kerosene burners, fancy brass goods, door knobs, bell pulls, etc. There will be a fine display of these goods at the Dominion and Industrial Exhibition.

Fig. 16 – Announcement of the relocation of the TLKC from 53 Richmond St. East to the area of Bay and Front Streets in September of 1887, *The Canadian Manufacturer and Industrial World*, Vol. 13, No. 5



Fig. 17 – Marsh Electric Lamp from St. Louis Electric Lamp Co. showing the same font used by the Toronto Light King. Courter, p.356 Photo reproduced courtesy of J.W. Courter.



Fig. 18 - Bristol Electric Lamp of Bristol Brass and Clock Co. showing one of the designs of gallery found on the Toronto Light King lamps. Courter p.104. Photo reproduced courtesy of J.W. Courter.



Fig. 19 - Two different gallery designs found on Toronto Light King lamps. The one on the left is from the Wellington County Museum lamp and has the same gallery pattern as the Holmes, Booth and Hayden Star Lamp shown in Figure 21. The one on the right is from the collection of the author and appears to be the same as the Bristol Electric lamp seen in Figure 18. Note the difference in the ventilation hole pattern as well as the slots in the crown. Photo P.C. Brickell.



Fig. 20 – Meriden Bronze Co.'s Liberty Lamp showing a stem design very close to that used for the Toronto Light King table lamps. Courter, p.225. Photo reproduced courtesy of J.W. Courter.

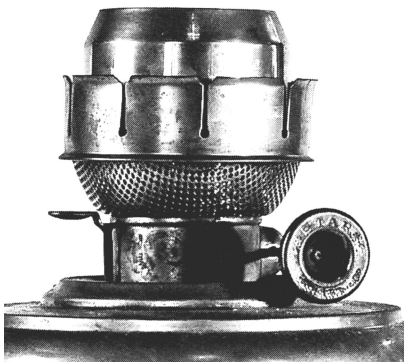


Fig.21 - Detail of Holmes, Booth and Hayden "Star Lamp". This lamp has the identical burner mechanism to that used on the Toronto Light King lamps and

shows one of the two gallery patterns seen on these lamps. Courter, p.171. Collection of Fil Graff. Photo reproduced courtesy of J.W. Courter.

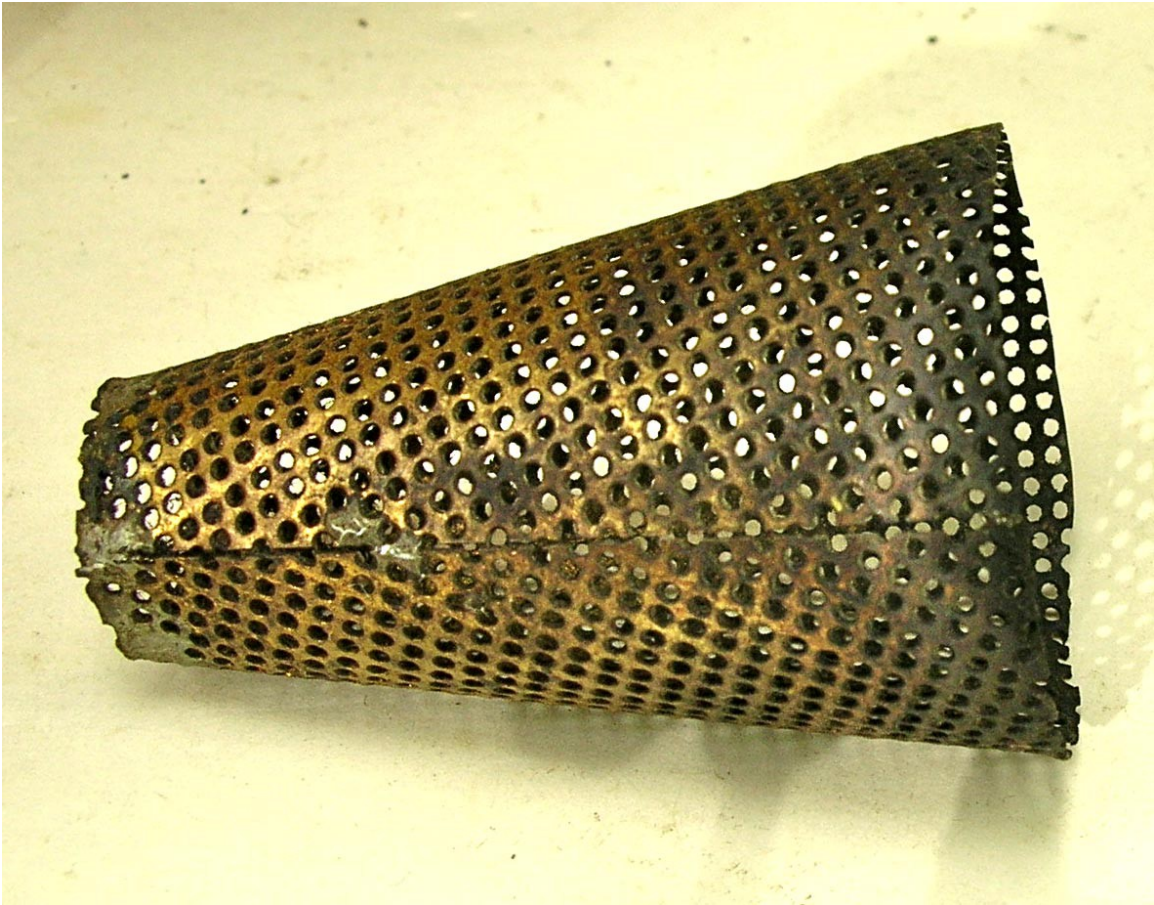


Fig. 22 – Brass mesh screen from a HB&H Star Lamp in the collection of Dickson Stauffer III. This is what is thought to have originally been used in the Toronto Light King and other lamps with the same burner to reduce spiking of the flame and flicker by controlling draft tube air flow. They were inserted large end up in the top of the inner wick tube. Photo by D. Stauffer