

Funke's Indestructible Lamp

by Dave Thorpe

The Indestructible name is most often associated with a cast aluminum oil-wick lamp that was made by the American Safety Lamp and Mine Supply Co. of Scranton, PA. They have neither the Indestructible name nor the company name stamped into the lamp, rather they are known as "Indestructible" from advertisements.

Yet there was another Indestructible lamp made of sheet metal that was manufactured by A. H. Funke of New York. The image below is from a 1902 Miller Supply Catalog of Huntington, WV. The lamp shown is stamped with both the Indestructible name as well as the maker. The text tells us that the lamp was made more indestructible by adding a reinforcing bar along the spout. Such a lamp has been found by John Leahy as is shown here.

INDESTRUCTIBLE MINE LAMP.

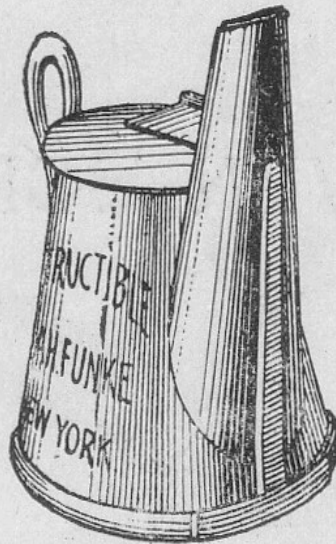


Fig. 1012.



Funke's Indestructible lamp, John Leahy collection. Note the reinforcing bar that is an inverted "T".

Is reinforced with a steel shoe along the spout, and around the bottom, to receive the oft repeated blows given by the miner, when knocking up the wick.

This constant knocking causes the ordinary lamp soon to leak around the spout, and become useless. Our steel shoe receives all this shock without damage, causing the lamp to last indefinitely. Made with either hinged cover or screw top.