The Papers of Thomas A. Edison

Nier, Keith, Hochfelder, David, Carlat, Louis, Israel, Paul B., Edison, Thomas A.

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Appendix 3

Edison Lamps (1879–1881) at the Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village

The following list identifies lamps made at Menlo Park during the period of this volume which are presently located at the Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village in Dearborn, Michigan. The information in the list is derived from the museum's catalog. Lamps clearly made after March 1881 have not been included. Within each year, lamps are listed in ascending order by that institution's inventory number.

The editors have appended this list to Volume Five for several reasons. It provides a reference for the fecundity of materials, styles, and manufacturing techniques embodied in Edison's lamps of this period. Though by no means exhaustive in this respect, the list represents this variety more fully than the documents and annotation of the volume.

The historical importance of the lamp collection and its intimate connection with the work at Menlo Park also justify inclusion of this list. William Hammer, one of Edison's assistants, began preserving lamps that he found representative or particularly significant; Edison himself reportedly contributed several examples. Hammer eventually assembled more than eight hundred items from dozens of manufacturers. He meticulously organized the collection and in 1904 exhibited it at the World's Fair in St. Louis, where it was acknowledged as a comprehensive representation of the history of incandescent electric lighting. When the collection was broken up most of the lamps went to what is now the Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village. Much of the descriptive information for the items below is adapted from captions written by Hammer, but because his specific claims about various firsts cannot be authen-
ticated they are not repeated here. Additional information about the contents and history of Hammer’s collection may be found at a website maintained by Edward J. Covington: http://www.frognet.net/~ejcov/hammer.html, which also contains a reproduction of Hammer’s published article about the collection. A number of photographs taken in connection with its exhibition, several with captions legible in the display cases, are in box 88, ser. 4, WJH.

1879

29.1980.529.86. 16 candlepower lamp with brass binding posts. One of the paper horseshoe carbon filament lamps made for the December 1879 demonstration at Menlo Park. Dimensions: length, 7.625 inches; width, 3.75 inches.

29.1980.529.88. 16 candlepower lamp with paper horseshoe carbon, plain tip, round seal, platinum vise clamps, small round bulb.

1879–1880

00.4.6099. 16 candlepower lamp with bristol board filament, screw clamps and push-in base. Dimensions: length, 6.0 inches; diameter, 2.5 inches.

1880

29.1980.529.10. 8 candlepower lamp with madake bamboo filament, platinum vise clamps, flat seal, screw and ring, and wooden base.

29.1980.529.18. Tubular lamp with bast filament, bent platinum vise clamps, round inside seal.

29.1980.529.53. Reportedly one of the first madake filament lamps made at Menlo Park.

29.1980.529.60. 16 candlepower lamp which burned 1589 hours.

29.1980.529.64. Long, bulbous form of lamp globe, with madake bamboo filament; nickel vise clamps; depressed seal, and glass drawn around wire platinum lead wires.

29.1960.529.65. 32 candlepower lamp with bamboo carbon filament, and nickel clamps; made for the 1880 Menlo Park demonstration. Dimensions: length, 9.75 inches; width, 3.188 inches.

29.1980.529.68. Ground glass lamp, reportedly taken from first lot dipped in hydrofluoric acid by John Lawson.

29.1980.529.80. 16 candlepower lamp with nickel vise clamps, pressed seal, bamboo filament, and round tip.

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29.1980.529.85. 16 candlepower lamp with bamboo filament, platinum clamps, round inside seal, egg-shaped globe, and supplemental tip.


29.1980.529.110. Tubular lamp with small bamboo filament, short right angle platinum vise clamp, and round inside seal.


29.1960.529.112. Lamp with copper plated clamps, bamboo hairpin carbon filament, pressed inside seal, and round supplemental globe tip.


29.1980.529.114. 16 candlepower lamp with paper horseshoe carbon filament, platinum vise clamps, large round bulb, round inside seal, supplemental tip, and wooden base.

29.1980.529.115. 16 candlepower lamp with carbonized coconut shell clamps, large round bulb, round inside seal, and supplemental tip.

29.1980.529.116. Lamp with South American bast fiber filament, platinum vise clamps, round inside seal, round globe; tested on vacuum pump but tip not sealed off.

29.1980.529.117. Lamp with amaranth vegetable fiber filament, platina vise clamps, solid tip seal, and round inside seal.

29.1980.529.119. Lamp with monkey bast fiber filament treated with hydrocarbon vapor, small globe, round inside seal, and platina vise clamps.

29.1980.529.120. Tubular lamp with South American bast fiber filament, silver vise clamps, and round inside seal.

29.1980.529.121. 8 candlepower lamp with madake bamboo filament, platina vise clamps, flat inside seal, round tip seal, and wooden screw base.

29.1980.529.122. Lamp made for Menlo Park street lighting, with paper horseshoe filament, large globe, supplemental tip, round inside seal, and platina vise clamps.

29.1980.529.123. Lamp with South American fiber filament,
experimental small horizontal platina vise clamps, round inside seal, and small globe.

29.1980.529.124. 16 candlepower lamp with paper horseshoe filament, platina vise clamps, round inside seal, and large round globe.

29.1980.529.125. Lamp with paper horseshoe filament, platina vise clamps, round inside seal, large round globe, and supplemental tip.

29.1980.529.126. Lamp with manila hemp filament, platina vise clamps, round inside seal, large bulb, supplemental tip sealed.


29.1980.529.129. Lamp with removable filament, the inside part carrying filament and neck of globe ground to fit and luted with compound.

29.1980.529.130. Experimental arc lamp in exhausted globe with rubber stopper luted with compound.

29.1980.529.132. 8 candlepower lamp with carbonized bamboo filament, platina vise clamps, pressed inside seal, and wooden screw base.

29.1980.529.133. Lamp with bast fiber filament, platina vise clamps, round inside seal, small bulb, and supplemental tip.

29.1980.529.134. Lamp with South American fiber filament, special small platinum vise clamps set at right angles, round globe, round inside seal.

29.1980.529.136. 8 candlepower lamp with carbonized bamboo filament, platina vise clamps, pressed inside seal, and wooden screw base.

29.1980.529.139. Lamp with carbonized manila hemp filament, platina vise clamps, round inside seal, small globe, and supplemental tip.

29.1980.529.143. 8 candlepower lamp with copper plated shank, bamboo carbon filament, platinum vise clamps, pressed seal, and wood butt.

29.1980.529.145. 16 candlepower lamp with paper horseshoe filament, platinum vise clamps, round inside seal, round bulb, and supplemental tip.

29.1980.529.146. Lamp with round Japanese paper filament, platinum vise clamps, small round globe, white German glass over round inside seal, and supplemental tip.
29.1980.529.147. Lamp with pressed inside seal, bamboo filament, bulbous form of globe, and platinum vice clamps.

29.1980.529.148. 16 candlepower lamp with carbonized bamboo filament, platina clamps, pressed inside seal, round tip, and wooden base.

29.1980.529.149. 16 candlepower lamp with madake bamboo filament, nickel vise clamps, bulbous form of globe, pressed seal, and round tip.

29.1980.529.150. 16 candlepower lamp with madake bamboo hairpin filament, platinum vise clamps, pear-shaped globe, pressed inside seal, and round supplemental tip.


29.1980.529.152. 16 candlepower lamp with madake bamboo filament, platinum vise clamps, and support made of glass-covered lead wires.

29.1980.529.153. 16 candlepower lamp with nickel vise clamps, egg-shaped globe, depressed seal, glass around lead wires, and supplemental tip.


29.1980.529.181. 8 candlepower lamp with bamboo filament, copper plated clamps, flat inside seal, round tip, and wooden base with brass screw and collar.

29.1980.529.196. Paper horseshoe filament lamp used as the headlight on Edison’s electric locomotive at Menlo Park in 1880.


1881


29.1980.529.22. 16 candlepower lamp.


29.1980.529.34. Standard photometer lamp with silver clamps.

29.1980.529.42. 16 candlepower lamp with madake bamboo carbon filament, copper plated as an experiment in early 1881.

29.1980.529.51. 16 candlepower lamp with copper plated
clamps, bamboo filament, bulbous form of globe, pressed seal, round tip.

29.1980.629.54. 16 candlepower lamp with madake bamboo filament and copper plated clamps.

29.1980.529.55. 8 candlepower lamp with bamboo filament, flat seal, and silver plated clamps.


29.1980.529.118. 8 candlepower lamp with bamboo filament, copper plated clamps, flat inside seal, flat collar, plaster base, painted with shellac and paint.

29.1980.529.131. 16 candlepower lamp with bamboo filament, copper plated clamps, and flat inside seal.

29.1980.529.135. 16 candlepower lamp with madake bamboo filament, plated copper clamps, flat collar, and plaster butt.

29.1980.529.138. 16 candlepower lamp with bamboo hairpin filament and copper plated clamps.

29.1980.529.140. 16 candlepower lamp with madake bamboo filament, plated copper clamps, pressed seal, small beveled collar, and ring and screw contacts.

29.1980.529.141. 16 candlepower lamp with bamboo carbon filament, copper plated clamps, pear-shaped globe, and round supplemental tip.

29.1980.529.142. 16 candlepower lamp with madake bamboo filament, copper plated clamps, pressed seal, flat collar, and plaster screw base.


29.1980.529.158. 8 candlepower lamp with bamboo filament, copper plated clamps, and pressed inside seal.


29.1980.529.163. Lamp with flat seal, inside stem showing spiral clamp for attaching vegetable fiber filament, and platinum lead wires.

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29.1980.529.165. Experimental lamp with tubular inside part drawn up between the bamboo legs, and platina vise clamps.
29.1980.529.166. B-type (8-candlepower lamp) with bamboo filament, plated copper clamps, pressed seal, and round tip on bulbous globe.
29.1980.529.167. Lamp with bamboo spiral, copper plated clamps, supplemental copper heat radiating lugs, round seal, and small round globe. Marked “bamboo spiral lamp, Jan 1, 1881, first set”.
29.1980.529.169. 16 candlepower lamp with bamboo filament and silver vise clamps.
29.1980.529.174. 8 candlepower lamp, with bamboo hairpin carbon filaments, plated copper clamps, pressed seal, bulbous globe, round supplemental tip.
29.1980.529.176. Lamp in which “phantom shadow” of electrical carrying is apparent.
29.1980.529.178. 16 candlepower lamp with bamboo hairpin filament, platinum vise clamps, and beveled inside seal.
29.1980.529.180. 16 candlepower lamp with madake bamboo filament, copper-plated clamps, flat collar, and plaster base.
29.1980.529.182. 16 candlepower lamp with madake bamboo hairpin filament, copper plated clamps, pear-shaped globe, pressed seal, and supplemental round globe tip.
29.1980.529.183. 16 candlepower lamp with bamboo filament, copper clamps, and flat seal.
29.1980.529.188. Lamp with spiral bamboo filament, plated copper clamps, pressed inside seal, screw base, and flat plaster collar.
29.1980.529.189. 16 candlepower lamp with bamboo filament, copper plated clamps, flat seal, and plaster base with flat collar.
29.1980.529.190. Lamp with two 8-candlepower bamboo filaments in multiple copper plated clamps, pressed seal, and beveled plaster base.
29.1980.529.191. 16 candlepower lamp in wood base with beveled contact ring and screw bottom.

29.1980.529.192. 8 candlepower lamp with bamboo filament, copper plated clamps, flat seal, and wood screw base.


29.1980.529.209. 100 candlepower lamp in bottle shape, with carbonized madake bamboo filament and multiple lead wires.