

THE COLEMAN LANTERN COLLECTOR

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COLEMAN LANTERN NEWS
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Gas, heat, light, pressure, valves, pumps... just heaven in a box!

Welcome to the first (and only) issue of **The Collector!** And the stories of Coleman Lanterns and the folks that collect them!

BREATHING NEW LIFE INTO AMERICAN CLASSICS

LANTERN IS CANVAS FOR ARTIST STEVE SHELDON

I met my Coleman mentor, Steve Sheldon on eBay when I ran across one of his restored lanterns. As a hobby, he collected, then cleaned up vintage lanterns and sent them back into the world... He sold his lanterns on a weekly basis, but sadly, he has closed up shop. Great guy.

DATING YOUR LANTERN

If you're like me, I'm sure you will be looking at many Coleman lanterns, whether it's a flea market, yard sale or thrift shop! So hopefully this will help you better understand the dating code system Coleman used over the years. Before 1950, Coleman used a different system -

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A LEGEND IS BORN - THE COLEMAN MODEL 200'S

The 1951 Christmas Lantern was the first 200A and the first model with a Coleman decal. The 2nd 200A was also a limited model. It had a Black-band, red hood & tank, with a black painted steel collar/frame rest. Production started February 1952 and ended -

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1962 "Burgandy" 200A restored by Steve Sheldon



Hard to find, Burgundy lanterns



A 1951 "Christmas Model"

The 1951 "Christmas Model" is the first of the 200A lanterns - It has green founts and red ventilators

THE COLEMAN LANTERN COLLECTOR

DATING YOUR LANTERN ~ CONTINUED ~

DATING YOUR LANTERN

On the earliest lanterns, the number on the left is the year and the number on the right, will be the month. It can seem confusing, but it's not... Next, (what you need) is just the basic knowledge of which lantern models were made in the span of various years. Here's an Example; you can find the same numbers - 5 7 on many different Lanterns. If it's a Quick-Lite Lantern, it would mean July 1925... That is because the Quick-Lite's were made in the 20s! However, the same number (5 7) on a 242 or 242A, would indicate that the lantern was made in July 1935 - since production of that 242A was in the 1930's. Finally, 5 7 on a 242B or 242C would indicate that it was made in July 1945. 242B's were the early to mid 1940's, and followed by the 242C, which wrapped up the 1940's and ended somewhere around 1949 or 1950.

Now, somewhere about 1948 or 1954 they did a little change-up on the date codes, The new numbers stamped were in reverse order with the month on the left side, and the year on the right side, except it was not a single digit code any more. Example June 1950 would simply read 6 50 This process continued to the current years and includes all 200A's.

Early single-mantle lanterns were the 242, 242A in the 1930's, 242B & 242C were the 1940s up to 1950. I believe in 1950, they came out with the 200 single mantle nickel plated tank, which continued for only a year or so made in the USA the nickel fount model continued throughout the 1960s but they were produced only in Canada. They also started painting them red sometime later in the 60's.

How Many Are Enough?

MORE ABOUT COLLECTING LANTERNS

When I was a kid, my folks took me and my sister on our first camping trip to Yosemite National Park. It was 1964. My dad just purchased a Coleman 425C Camp stove and a brand new 220F Lantern. I still have both and a few years ago I thought it would be fun to find another 220F Lantern like the one I had since my first camping trip. Little did I know what this would start.

When I found my second 220F Lantern on ebay I realized that some of these lanterns were selling for quite a bit more than I thought they would. I thought if I ever found a good lantern, I would clean it up and sell it on ebay!

Only one problem: Once I found a lantern in a garage sale, brought it home and fixed it up, I couldn't sell it. It was too nice. I decided that I needed to keep it and eventually found another, then another... Each time intending to sell it, or at least that's what I told myself (and my wife).

Then dozens of lanterns later, my sweet wife said... "NO MORE LANTERNS!" But it was too late, I had the bug and now have ... well who's counting?



Some 200A Lanterns from my Collection.



The Date Code on a Coleman 242C indicates that this Lantern was made in April of 1947



1958 Canadian 200A



A LEGEND IS BORN ~ CONTINUED ~

MORE ABOUT THE 200A LANTERNS

In 1951, Coleman produced its first 200A Lantern. This is known as the famous "Christmas Lantern."

THE CHRISTMAS LANTERNS

It had a green painted tank (fount) with a red hood (ventilator). Its basic style was the same as the 200 - same size fount, same exact burner tray, with the small holes punched out... this was a limited production item which started in the early to mid months. Let's say, March or April of 1951 and ran toward the end of 1951. This was also when they placed the first decals on the tanks, {special note} 1951, 1952, 1953, were the first and only years, where they placed the decal low on the bottom rim. In 1954, they moved them up to the center! Also, some of the 1951 models had the decal and some months did not! I'm not sure why this was but it can be a very collectible item!

The 2nd 200A was also a limited model. It had a Black-band, red ventilator & fount, with a black painted steel collar/frame rest, Production started February 1952 and ended in April 1953. In 1953, they also changed the decal to the yellow border... this decal remained on all 200's until late 1961 when the decal went borderless. The borderless decal models are my favorites.

The only other significant change in the sixties happened in September 1961. Coleman had a very large batch of hoods ordered but they came out in the wrong color. The color was a much deeper darker red. So rather than send them back at a great expense, Coleman adjusted the paint color and came out with what collectors refer to as the "Burgundy Lanterns". The adjusted paint color used on the fount matched the ventilator and the entire lantern was a "burgundy" colored lantern. I'm sure employees had no idea what a collectible item they were creating!

More about the 200A



Lanterns from my Collection ('57 202, '63 200A, '48 242C, '63 200A, & Christmas Lantern)



1953 "Black Band 200A"



1962 "Burgundy 200A"

ALL ABOUT BURGUNDY

Extremely valuable, the "Burgundy Lanterns" coincided with the end of the yellow border decal. All the hard core collectors go crazy over true Burgundy Lanterns if they are in nice condition, I have a friend that sold 9/1961 lantern (which was the very first month) brand new in the box. It closed out at \$1,020. I have seen Burgundy Lanterns go for as much as \$1,200 on ebay. The amounts of money bidders are willing to fork out for a \$12.00 lantern is just crazy. The burgundy lantern has the same decal as my 1963's (shown above). From what I've learned, the true Burgundy's were from September, 1961 to April 1962. Then as the months past, towards the latter part of 1962, the red slowly was changing and any lantern going through October 1962 were not the true burgundy's, but were still in the family - a darker shade of red. By 1963 the color was back to the standard red.

More about the 200A

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DECAL CHANGES

The only other significant change prior to sixties was the change from the yellow border decal to the borderless decal of in 1961.

MORE ABOUT THE 200A CHANGES

In mid 1964 they came out with the next change, It was the end of the red background decal & reversed the color order to the white decal with red print, also it was the ending of the tall hoods. So remember, just like 1961, 1964 was another split year, which meant you could find 2 different decals and two different hoods in the same year. August 1961 had the red 200A with the yellow border, then September 1961 red decal with burgundy color tank. Not much to report for several years, other than about 1970 they stopped putting the trade-mark "blue dots" of enamel around the hole on the top of the vent. Early 1971 or 1972 came the next change. The Gold-bond Lanterns, The mustard yellow lanterns were a big hit with blue chip stamps people, at the time, but it was a color that basically flopped, and wouldn't you know it? The collectors go crazy for them as well. The Gold Lanterns go for really big dollars on eBay. The Gold-bonds, Burgundy's & 202's as well as the Christmas Lanterns can all bring really big money.

YELLOW GOLD BOND MODELS

the yellow gold bonds were very short lived. Maybe two years at best, with the 220, 200A, stove, heater, and ice chests. Personally, I think they are ugly...but they sure bring in the bacon! All three of which can bring in very big money if in great condition!

END OF THE LINE

The only last thing I can think of...with the ending of the 200A was the green 200A, which came out around 1982 or so. It too was short lived, only a couple years, I believe around 1980 or so was the last 200a made...but I can't say for sure."



THE PROFESSIONAL MODELS

In the mid fifty's Coleman came out with another model single mantel Lantern: The 202 Professional. Basically same style & size as the 200A but this came with a nickel tank & tall green ventilator hood, porcelain burners and other upgrades. The last years of the 202 had the smaller hoods before the end of the 202 model run. The 202 models are very valuable but all of the vintage 200A lanterns are valuable specifically, The Burgundy, the Christmas Lantern and the 202's and are extremely collectable. 202's are harder to find items in pristine condition. It's hard to say what the most valuable of the three lanterns are. The 202 - I've only seen one new in the box and it sold for over \$1,000.00 and I recently bid (unsuccessfully) on a first year Burgundy that went for \$1,200.00 What can I say, "the one that got away!" plus I was just not going to pay that much for a \$12 lantern!