

DEAR MIKE,

A COUPLE OF INTERESTING LANTERNS I THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE.

THE FIRST IS A WITH-GEAR SIMPLEX (I NOTICE YOU'D RECENTLY ACQUIRED A ARIES AND THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE THIS). IT ISNT IN BAD CONDITION EXCEPT FOR THE RATHER CORRODED BALLAST HOWEVER, THIS IS THE ORIGINAL OPEN CORE-AND-COIL "SIMPLEX-FANS-AND-BALLASTS" BALLAST THAT WAS PECULIAR TO THESE LANTERNS.

I USED TO BUY THESE SAME LANTERNS (FROM ADVANCE ELECTRICAL ON SHAFTESBURY STREET) IN THE LATE 80'S. THEY CAME AS A PACK IN A BOX WITH A WALL BRACKET AND ALWAYS A PHILIPS 26 W SOX-E LAMP. THE BOX WAS BADGED "SIMPLEX SHADOW SHIFTER SECURITY LANTERN PACK". IN 1988 THE PACK WAS £99!

INCIDENTALLY, IF EVER YOU CAN GET ANY REPLACEMENT NEW BOWLS FOR THESE I WOULD LIKE TO GET HOLD OF 4 OR 5 SPARES. TO DATE I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO TRACK ANY DOWN.

THE CURIOUS ROUND LANTERN CAME FROM SOME HOUSING DEPARTMENT COLUMNS WHICH WERE REPLACED WITH COSMO IRIDIUMS WHEN THE SURROUNDING STREET LIGHTS WERE REPLACED ON THE P.F.I.

THERE ARE 3 OR 4 MORE IF ANYONE ELSE WOULD LIKE ONE BUT I'LL HAVE TO ACT QUICKLY AS THEY PROBABLY WONT GET SAVED.

ALSO AN INTERESTING OLD G.E.C. 135/180W SOX BALLAST.

WHEN YOU'VE GOT THE TIME TRY AND GET A PHOTO OF THE PHILIPS HGS 203 (I BELIEVE THIS IS CORRECT) ON THE TOP OF THE CCTV COLUMN ON KEBLE CLOSE. (OPPOSITE CROWN DERBY BY THE HOSPITAL CAR PARK). THIS IS A PROPER "FACTORY" 125W MERCURY VERSION.

ALSO, IN THE SAME AREA, IN ARBORETUM SQUARE ON THE CENTRAL PEDESTAL IS A NICE EXAMPLE OF ONE OF THOSE (UNKNOWN MAKE?) LANTERNS SIMILAR TO THE KINGSWOOD 35W SON LANTERN.

THIS ONE HAS 125W MERCURY GEAR AND A MINI-CELL (AND A 110W MERCURY-GEAR HPS LAMP).

SEE YOU SOON,

JEREMY.