



Drip Points

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Just a “Hemingray Oddity”





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Battery Rest Insulator or Hemingray Oddity ... Where do I start?

Let's go back to December 1975 to an article that appeared in *Crown Jewels of the Wire* entitled "Something Different In Hemingray."

This article was written by Sandra and Glenn Drummond of Alabama. If you have not read this article, it is certainly worth finding an old copy and reading it. Sandra gets the actual credit for their "Hemingray Oddity FIND," and Sandra described the find by saying ... "You've got to see this to believe it." Sandra had just discovered one of the first Hemingray oddities, if not the first one.

We can now fast-forward to October 2013 when I received an email from a very excited Shaun Kotlarsky. He was excited because he had just acquired a piece he had "ALWAYS wanted" ... and it is referred to as a HEMINGRAY Oddity too. Shaun felt that this piece was a NEW Battery Rest - as did many others in the insulator collecting community. They thought this piece should have a CD number assigned to it.

H-U-M ... H-U-M ... Now I am thinking to myself ... "I wonder how many of these things are out there"? Can it be proved that this object really is a Battery Rest Insulator? ... I could NOT find anything that "PROVES" that it is a Battery Rest Insulator... and there must be proof in order to warrant the assignment of a new CD number

I started making some inquires and gathering information to document any information that I could find pertaining to how this object was used.

After conferring with Dario Dimare (now owner of the CD numbering system), it was determined that there just is NOT ENOUGH information at this time to confirm or to deny that this piece was used as a



By Charles Irons

BATTERY REST INSULATOR.

As the November 2013 Mid-Ohio Insulator Show was quickly approaching, it seemed like a good idea to put-out a request on "ICON" (Insulators Collectors on the Net). We needed to find answers to questions, like how many of these HEMINGRAY items were out there ... either in collections and/or just out-there ... and who owns them. Maybe we should try to get everyone that has one to bring it to the Mid-Ohio show so that we could see them all together in one place for an actual comparison.

Information trickled in for a couple of weeks with some outstanding leads. I was now able to contact the owners of these oddities to see if they were planning to attend the 2013 SPRINGFIELD Show. If they were planning to attend, I asked if they would bring their HEMINGRAY piece(s) with them so that we could measure and photograph them and then compare their oddity beside the others. All of the owners were more than happy to support this effort.

At this point in time, six of these objects have been located and verified and five have been photographed. They are all embossed (F-Skirt) HEMINGRAY, (R-Skirt) PATENT MAY 2 1893 (which just happens to be the patent date for drip points). Four of the five objects examined are very-very similar in dimensions and in color (aqua).

Five of the items measure approximately 6" in diameter and approximately 1 7/8" thick. All have a hole in the base that is 1 inch in diameter and about 1/2 inch



deep. All five have drip points like the ones found on some of the CD-257s, very big and sharp. The base extends about a ¼ inch below the drip points and the top on all examples show none to various stages of very slight wear.

One of the five examples stood out more than the others because it had a thickness of three inches and the hole in the base was one inch in diameter, and ¾ inch deep, and the color was a dark aqua. Surprisingly, this example has what I will call a four inch diameter "extended" base and is indented on the top ⅜ inch.

One unique feature of the HEMINGRAY object in Rick Soller's collection is the embossing which is Embossed (Front) HEMINGRAY (Rear) PATENTT MAYY2218833 "HEMINGRAY" over "HEMINGRAY" and "PATENT MAY 2 1883" over PATENT MAY 2 1883

Other interesting facts that surfaced during this inquiry are ...

- All of these HEMINGRAY items came from the Mid-West area.
- The HEMINGRAY name reads correctly when the drip points face down.
- They sit on a base ... not the drip points.
- Two sizes are known to exist. Are there other sizes waiting to be discovered?
- With all the research that has been done on HEMINGRAY, nothing has been brought forward as to documentation on the use of this oddity, i.e., catalogs, journals, advertisements, etc. that would



support the use of these items.

I would like to thank all the collectors that helped with this research and comparison. They took the time to bring their finds to the Mid-Ohio Show for Show and Tell. I would also like to thank all those that could not physically attend the show, but willingly found a way to get their find(s) to the Mid-Ohio show for the comparison (to be scrutinized by Shaun and myself). We really appreciated all their efforts and it was good that the insulator community was able to compare these pieces "all together in ONE location."

Special Thanks go out to ... Dennis and Jeanne Weber, Bill and Jill Meier, Shaun Kotlarsky, Rick Soller, Jim Crandall (sent insulator to the show via Bob Stahr), Sandra Drummond (sent the measurements of her Hemingray Oddity to the show via myself), and last but not least, thanks to Glenn Drummond for his continued support in the research that goes on within the insulator hobby.

This article would not be complete without recognizing, Shaun Kotlarsky, the photographer that gave of his time and talent in taking the pictures for this article. We had made a deal in the beginning ... I was to get the information together for the article and Shaun was to take the photographs. He kept his end of the deal and did a great job. Thanks Shaun.

After reading this article, if you find that you have any additional information on this oddity ... please contact Shaun or myself.

"It Is What It Is" ... and in this case "It Is a Hemingray ODDITY."

Photos by: Shaun Kotlarsky

