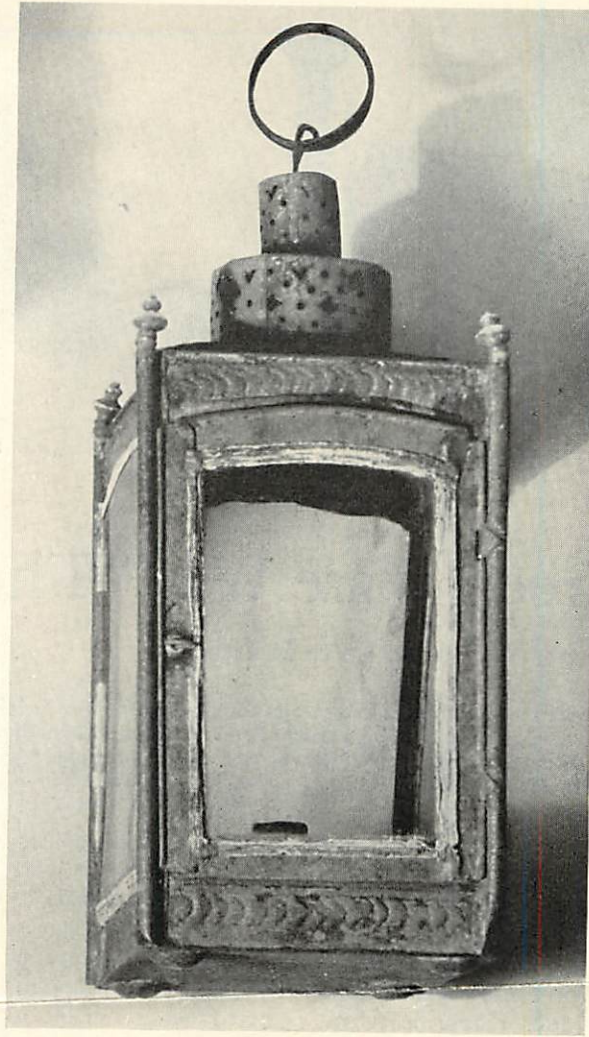
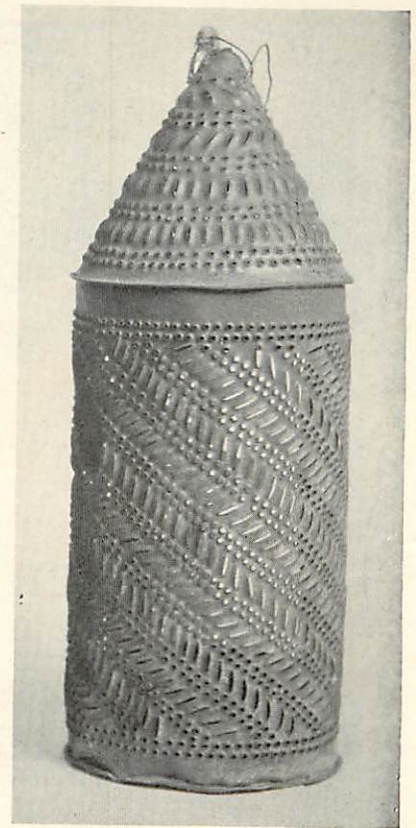


SO-CALLED PAUL REVERE LANTERN
Such products of the local tinsmith required no glass, yet were reasonably windproof, and gave some light



PAUL REVERE'S LANTERN
Said to be one of the lanterns hung in Christ Church tower to signal the departure of the British troops for Lexington and Concord, April 18, 1775



SO-CALLED PAUL REVERE LANTERN
The feeble gleam from such a source could hardly have carried from Boston to Charlestown, where Revere waited

Paul Revere's Lantern

ON THE night of April 18, 1775, some eight hundred of the British troops then occupying the city of Boston were secretly withdrawn from their barracks, and sent, under cover of darkness, on a march through Lexington and Concord. Their purpose may have been to apprehend John Hancock and Samuel Adams, who had retired to Lexington in order to escape arrest; again, it may have been to seize the military stores that the Colonials were reported to have gathered at Concord.

The secret invasion, however, quickly lost its secrecy. No sooner had the British shown signs of activity, than William Dawes was dispatched to Lexington to warn Hancock and Adams of their new danger. Meanwhile, Paul Revere arranged with a friend to hang a signal high in the Christ Church tower should the British soldiers begin moving from the city, and then crossed by boat from Boston to Charlestown. The agreement was fulfilled. Watching from the Charlestown shore, Revere presently descried lights winking from the Boston belfry. A moment later he was on horseback and hurrying along the proposed British line of march to inform the inhabitants of an unwelcome visitation. So Paul Revere and his lanterns became famous.

Among trusting souls it appears to be a matter of common belief that the lanterns that admonished the alert Revere to be up and galloping were cylindrical affairs of tin with conical tops,

pierced above and round about with tiny apertures, and in general more closely resembling cheese graters than sources of illumination. Indeed, contraptions of this kind are almost always called "Paul Revere lanterns," although no one of them yields more than enough light to guide a farmer from his house to the barn and back again on a moonless night.

Under such circumstances, ANTIQUES feels rather specially privileged to reproduce the portrait of what is reputed to be an actual Paul Revere lantern — lately exhibited in a glass-covered niche in the new building of the Concord Antiquarian Society at Concord, Massachusetts. How this important trophy was acquired, or on what evidence its authenticity is accepted, ANTIQUES does not know. It is, nevertheless, an obviously efficient utensil, quite capable of serving as a beacon. Furthermore, it is gratifyingly good to look upon, with its tooled edges, its pierced two-storied chimney, its turned finials on the four corner posts, its remaining vestiges of lacquer. So dignified and handsome a piece of tinware may well have played an heroic rôle.

In picturing this historic object, ANTIQUES places beside it two of the familiar pretenders to the same family name. Both are owned by the Archæological and Historical Society of Ohio. No other device for illuminating casts such alluring patterns of light and shadow.