

The Macy Lamp

The small brass lamp used in the pinning ceremony has been at Macy since the early 60's. Kit Hammett, Director of Macy at the time, purchased the lamp and incorporated it into the ceremony, as we know it.

Kit tells us that she searched a long time for an appropriate lamp, including making some trips to marketplaces in Greece and other European countries. But the lamp we use today, that continues to be meaningful to each of us, was purchased and she knew it was "Just Right". Small enough to use in any setting, it burns brightly when it is lit. As a centerpiece and focal point for all pinning ceremonies, we are reminded of the words used in the first ceremony of 1926, "this lamp is a symbol of this place".

Other lamps have appeared and some former Macy staff have collections of the small lamps.

A small white china lamp is seen on my many desk and bookshelves of some of those associated with Macy in the early 80's. A consultant working with development plans found these in Pennsylvania and purchased the last 200. After that, the mold was broken and these too are collector's items.



The Macy Pin

The Macy pin, the smallest bronze lamp, has been given to all who participate in a training or an event at Macy, since the very first event in 1926. The symbol, the lamp of learning, is not unique to Macy: however, for Girl Scouts, it symbolizes two things: the formal learning that takes place and that intangible but most important, "Macy Magic".

Today, the pin is never sold to its recipients, but given to participants during their first Macy experience. Thus, Macy alumni know that when they see another person wearing the familiar lamp, they have shared a very special experience.

Elin Lindberg, one of the first staff members to be associated with Macy, tells this story about the first pin.

"Mrs. Rippin and I were working late one evening, about two weeks before the opening, when she said, 'Linnie, we need a camp pin. What shall it be? Ah! A symbol of the camp- The Lamp of Knowledge. You get it made right away. Have it so we can sell it for 75 cents, no more.' Linnie, with a pencil and paper in hand, stopped in at a movie on the way home from the office and made a sketch of the Lamp of Knowledge. (Remember this was always on the screen in connection with feature pictures.) The next morning, the Tree Metallic Company had the design and an order for 1,000 pins. In two weeks the delivery was made. We have a pin without any red tape or committee action."

When Dean Sarah Louise Arnold presented the pin at the conference, she said: "The pin is a symbol of this place. The Lamp Pin of Knowledge, which stands for light and truth. The light that is a lamp to our path and teaches us to follow the true way, the truth that makes us free, the knowledge that our heart hunger for."

The pin has changed very little over 85+ years of its existence. The first one was about two inches long and was inscribed with the initials CEM for Camp Edith Macy. This later became MACY. In 1951, it was made silver in observance of Macy's 25th birthday and in 1976 it was gold for the 50th birthday. Sometime in the 60's it was made smaller as we know the pin today.



Edith Macy Pinning Ceremony

Chorus: Rise up, O flame,
By thy light glowing
Show to us beauty,
Vision and Joy.

This is the lamp of Love from it are these two rays:

First – be kind, for kindness is the basis of true friendship.

Second – be generous, both of heart and hand – for in sharing we receive much.

This is the lamp of Wisdom from it are these two rays:

First –be patient, for the wise have learned that all clouds pass.

Second- be understanding, for those who know should understand.

This is the lamp of Courage from it are these two rays:

First –be brave, in all the little things and the rest will come easily.

Second – be hopeful, for the heart that hopes, has courage to do.

This is the lamp of Truth from it are these two rays:

First- be honest with yourself and others, for trust and integrity are the foundations of groups living.

Second –be fair, for fairness is a necessity, so that all people may be valued.

This is the lamp of Duty from it are these two rays:

First – be thorough, for a half- done task is not worth doing.

Second –be cheerful, for a light heart makes all work play.

Chorus: Rise up, O flame,
By thy light glowing
Show to us beauty,
Vision and Joy.

Pinning Ceremony Closing at Great Hall

As our ceremony comes to an end,
We find ourselves among new friends.
And in the beauty of this Great Hall,
We feel the building enfold us all.

Through the candles flickering light,
We see these windows shinning bright.
There's Daisy, Edith, Kit, Jane and Lou,
Looking down with love on me and you.

These stones gathered from fences on the property,
Can be symbolic foundations for you and for me.
The mortar holding all these stones together,
Can cement the changes that we weather.

From floor, to wall, to ceiling-what we see
Gorgeous woods each from area tree.
The majesty of every one,
Shows their worth when they were done.

From the window, stone, mortar, and wood
Each share with us the Great Hall's good.
So Girl Scouts, as you exit through this door,
Continue with our future-to nurture evermore.

-Daralene A. Jones



Song for Macy Pinning Ceremony

Rise Up Oh Flame

Rise Up oh flame, by thy light glowing.
Show to us beauty, vision and joy.

One Little Candle

It is better to light just one little candle than to stumble in the dark.
Better far that you little candle – all you need is a tiny spark.
If we all said a prayer that the world would be free,
A wonderful dawn of a new day we'd see.
And if everyone lit just one little candle,
What a bright world it would be.

When E'er You Make a Promise

When e'er you make a promise, consider well its importance.
And when made, engrave it upon your heart.

