

General Electric Novalux form 6 street luminaire with reflector and glass cover

AUTHOR

TIME AND PLACE OF CREATION

Time:

1915 - 1920

TECHNICAL DATA

Dimensions:

height: 600 mm

OTHER

MIM 2236/IV/327

KEYWORDS

oświetlenie, elektrotechnika, ulica

DESCRIPTION

Streetlighting has accompanied city dwellers from the moment when electricity was used for lighting. The luminaire presented here was made by the General Electric Company from the USA, established in 1890 by the inventor and designer Thomas Alva Edison. The interesting features of this model that contributed to its popularity, are: a modular design allowing the device to be adapted to the specific conditions of where it is installed; lenses improving light dispersion; an autotransformer that, if the lightbulb fails, protects other luminaires on the same circuit from voltage surges that would result in them burning or being damaged; the possibility of adjusting its position, which allowed different types of light bulbs to be used. Other important characteristics of this model include the use of corrosion-resistant copper and bronze alloys in corrosion-prone components, which significantly extended the life of the luminaire. The housing was designed to enable its quick and easy removal, and no tools were needed to replace a light source thanks to the clamp holding the lens in place. From the very beginning of its operation, GE has been in the business of a broad range of applications of electricity in daily life and industry. The company still exists today as an international, multi-industry corporation. Interesting fact:



initially, before incandescent light sources became widespread in streetlighting, arc lamps were used, based on the same housing and with an electric arc between electrodes that emitted the light. References: General Electric (GE). Novalux Form 6 Street Light With No. 87 Light Carrara Globe, Willis Lamm website, http://www.kbrhorse.net/streetlights/ge_6_8701.html (Accessed: 10.05.2021) “Thomas Edison” entry, official GE website, <https://www.ge.com/about-us/history/thomas-edison>, (Access 9.05.2021).