The lecture describes a study of the wire frame of a lampshade, found in an abandoned house in the 9th Ward of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina devastated that area. The covering was claimed to be human skin placed on the frame at the notorious Buchenwald concentration camp during WWII by the infamous Ilse Koch. The writer was asked by Eric Gehringer, associate producer at Hoggard Films, if a study of the wire in the frame could determine when and where it was made. Hoggard Films subsequently produced a 1 hour show on the lampshade for National Geographic’s TV channel. As to where it was made, I told him that is virtually impossible to determine with any confidence for a lampshade, a commodity product. But, as to when it was made, I said that may be possible to determine, at least to a certain time frame, if there is anything unique about its manufacture. The study showed that the wire frame and the sheet steel ring which surrounded the light bulb, were not modern steels. They were heavily killed with aluminum and contained no Si. By the 1920s, it was well known that Al was a very effective deoxidizer but Si was rather weak in comparison. But, the detrimental influence of massive aluminate stringers on cold formability was not known at that time. By the late 1930s, deoxidation was conducted typically by a 4:1 addition of Mn to Si, with a smaller amount of Al (especially if the steel was to be carburized). The steels contained no incidental alloy content, so they were not melted in an electric arc furnace. The wire had a very high P and S content, suggesting it was made in an acid open hearth furnace, while the sheet steel had a very low P and S content, suggesting basic open hearth technology. The carbon and copper levels were too low to obtain using the Bessemer process, still used to some extent until ~1950. The wire surfaces were “wet drawn,” a practice used to yield a decent smooth surface, as drawing dies and the lubricants were more primitive before WWII (borax was invented in 1951). In wet drawing, the rod was soaked in a copper sulphate bath to deposit a thin layer of Cu on the wire. This practice ended in the early 1950s. All evidence indicated that the lampshade frame was made before WWII.