

MOSSY COMMENTS - #9

Our interest in pepper shakers that match open salts started with the Heisey set shown at the right. It appears in their catalogs, and we saw a real live one at the Heisey Museum. That was about 15 years ago, and we've yet to find one for sale. In the interim we've collected a number of matched sets, most of which are uncommon. Were still hunting for the Heisey one, though.

The first type of open salt with pepper set is the kind where the shaker is made to sit on the salt when it is not in use. The only common one like this is the cloisonné pair, which comes in a variety of colors and designs. Some are old, some seem new, and we haven't learned how to tell them apart. The one closest to the Heisey is by Westmoreland. Ed Bowman found a pair of these and we grabbed one when he decided to sell it. It is interesting because the shaker has 6 sides, while the salt has 8. We have several china pairs of this type. Our first finds were the beehive and the one with roses on the shaker. Our two latest acquisitions are the square one marked Noritake Nippon and the unmarked owl on a nest.

We have two glass sets where the shaker sits in a recess on the side of the open salt. The first is by Imperial in their CAPE COD pattern. The second is cut glass with no hint as to the maker. There also is a silver box with a bamboo design on the sides that holds both a salt and a shaker.

When it comes to separate but matching pieces, we have found several interesting sets. Perhaps the most intriguing is the china nut and bolt set. Yes, the "bolt" has holes in the top for the pepper to come out. The Viking boat with powder horn shaker comes in several colors of celluloid, like the one shown, and also in silver. The silver plated water lily salt is not uncommon, but the shaker that goes with it is rare. The pagoda salt and pepper match nicely, but the china liner in the salt doesn't fit very well. The cloisonné sets have counterparts in silver, silver plate and pewter, but the shaker doesn't fit very well on the open salt.

Last of all we have the silver plated stand holding an open salt and a pepper shaker. It's the latest word in elegant dining. Kay uses it on my tray every morning that she brings me my breakfast in bed.

Ed Berg

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<i>Heisey Set</i>	<i>Cloisonné Set</i>	<i>Westmoreland Set</i>
		
<i>Beehive Set</i>	<i>Roses on Shaker</i>	<i>Square Nippon</i>
		
<i>Owl Set</i>	<i>Imperial CAPE COD</i>	<i>Cut Glass Set</i>
		
<i>Nut & Bolt Set</i>	<i>Viking Set</i>	<i>Water Lily Set</i>
		
<i>Pagoda Set</i>	<i>Sterling Set</i>	<i>Silver Plate Set</i>
		
<i>Pewter Set</i>		<i>Breakfast Set</i>