

MOSSY COMMENTS - #16

While we routinely turn up our nose when we see a shaker collection, we sometimes weaken if there is a pepper shaker paired with a matching open salt. So far all of these have been individual size – the kind used in front of each place setting. We have a variety, and have not found anyone who knows much about them. Maybe we should start a branch of the Open Salt Society which would specialize in these sets.

The glass set we have is a rare one by Westmoreland. The salt itself is not scarce, but the shaker so often got separated or broken that we know of only one other complete set. The salt has 8 sides and the pepper 6 which is unusual, but that's the way it shows in the catalog.

We have several metal sets. The sterling one is marked Black, Starr and Frost along with the word "sterling".. The water lily pair are both marked Rogers Smith & Co., but the salt says West Meriden, Conn., while the pepper says New Haven. We wonder if there were 2 sets that got mixed up or whether one factory made the shakers and the other the salts. We have a cloisonné set, which is not uncommon, and a pewter set which is engraved with flowers and marked "China".

The majority of our sets are china, and there is quite a variety in shape and origin. The square salt with the pepper on top is Noritake Nippon. The set with the ruffled rim and the green set are both home decorated. Painting china was quite fashionable for ladies in the early 1900's, and these sets are signed. The green one has only initials – A.C.S., but the other one has the artist's full name – Anna Whitney.

The two remaining china ones are a beehive with a bee on top of the shaker, marked Occupied Japan, and a nut and bolt set. The bolt has a stopper in the bottom for filling and holes in the top for the pepper to come out.

We hope you have found one or more of these sets in you salt hunting. They are not very plentiful, but they will not set you back as much as a Steuben or Tiffany salt would. We believe they make nice additions to any open salt collection.

		
<p><i>Westmoreland Set</i></p>	 <p><i>Sterling Set, Water Lily Set</i></p>	
		
<p><i>Cloisonné</i></p>	<p><i>Pewter</i></p>	<p><i>Noritake Nippon</i></p>
		
<p><i>Anna Whitney</i></p>	<p><i>A.C.S.</i></p>	
		
<p><i>Beehive</i></p>	<p><i>China Nut & Bolt</i></p>	