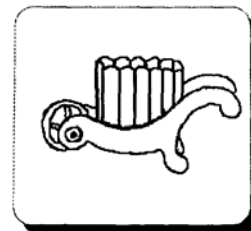




Salty Comments

No.48

Facts and Opinion about Open Salt Collecting



When we hunted for salts by the Richards and Hartley Glass Co., we thought there would be no surprises. Many of their dishes were what we expected, but we made one major discovery that even pattern glass collectors didn't know about. We also saw more covered salts in their catalog than we had seen in one place before.

In 1865, Joseph Richards and William T. Hartley withdrew from the Bryce, Richards Glass Co. to form their own firm. They bought land in Pittsburgh between Pride and Marion Streets, names which they would use for glass patterns later. About 15 years later they moved to Tarentum, PA, to take advantage of natural gas available there. They became part of the U.S. Glass combine in 1891, and the factory was selected for closure 2 years later. The original owners bought it back, though the molds stayed with U.S. Glass, and resumed operations as the Tarentum Glass Co. The output shifted gradually away from tableware to lamp globes and shades. The plant was destroyed by fire in 1918 and was never rebuilt.

In looking for Richards and Hartley salts, we found material from catalogs in the 1870's, 1888 and 1891. The latter 2 sources showed the same dishes, as far as open salts were concerned. Since Tarentum Glass was a continuation of the original firm, we looked for their salts also, but found only one. All but two of the salts we found are listed and illustrated on the next two pages. The exceptions are a square individual salt and an OCTAGON salt - the oblong bowl with stubby legs at the ends. Both of these were made by so many firms that we are unable to tell who made which one. There is one interesting detail about their OCTAGON salt, however. In the earlier catalog it was titled "Hex. Foot. Salt", and the drawing looks like the ends are pointed instead of flat. In the later catalogs the label has been changed to "OCT. Ft. Salt", but the same drawing is used. If any one has ever seen an OCTAGON salt with pointed ends, like the drawing shows, we'd love to hear about it.



The first two salts on the list, the MAY FLOWER ones, were a real discovery. Careful study of the pictures and that of the corresponding wine goblet leaves no doubt that they are LILY OF THE VALLEY pattern. This design has been attributed to Sandwich, but Barlow and Kaiser do not recognize it as such. As far as we know, this is the first time a definite source for the pattern has been found. A second surprise was seeing two configurations for the salt. The first is covered, with three legs and a protrusion (what else can you call it) on the bottom of the bowl. Some people have guessed this design was a horseradish jar, but the old catalog plainly labels it as a covered salt. Right beside it is the conventional pedestal master with the same pattern.

The PRIDE pattern (Fig. 3) is what we now call LEAF AND DART. We were surprised to see the cover on it. We have a copy without the cover, but the original is not shown that way. Guess we need to hunt for a lid.

The ELLIPSE salts in Figures 4 and 5 were part of a pattern set, but again the design was also made by others. The R&H catalog shows a covered footed salt and two sizes of flat-bottom ones. We have 3 sizes in the collection, along with 2 sizes of white ones. The flat-bottom ones were also made by Challinor Taylor, who were located next door to the R&H plant. Since both firms were part of U.S. Glass after 1891, Challinor Taylor may have shared the molds or obtained them after the merger.

The PRISM covered salt (Fig. 6) looks familiar, but we're not sure we have ever seen one. The smaller individual size (Fig. 7) is not uncommon - there is one in our collection.

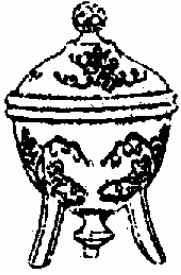
SALTS BY RICHARDS AND HARTLEY

Fig. No.	Richards & Hartley Name (Current Common Name)	Master /Indiv.	Year(s)	H&J No.	Smith No.
1	MAY FLOWER Salt and Cover	M	1870-9	4653	400-2-3
2	MAY FLOWER Salt (LILY OF THE VALLEY pattern)	M			
3	PRIDE Salt and Cover (LEAF AND DART pattern)	M	1870-9	3525	345-4-3
4	ELLIPSE - Salt and Cover	M	1870-9		
5	- Heavy Salt, Ind. Salt	M,I		2500	297-2-2
6	Prism Salt and Cover	M	1870-9		
7	Prism Individual	I	1870-9	2527	6-1-3
8	Shell Salt and Cover	M	1870-9	3560	345-1-3
9	Hexagon Salt		1870-9		398-4-1
10	Empire Salt - (2 sizes)	M I	1870-9	3667 2943	10-4-3
11	COBB Ind. Salt (ZIPPER pattern)	I	1888	2803	75-5-3
12	PEERLESS - Salt & Cover	M	1875		
13	(LADY HAMILTON pattern) - Ind. Salt	I		2954	16-1-1
14	LOOP AND DART pattern	M	1869-85		344-4-2
15	TWO PANEL pattern, master and individual sizes	M,I	1880?	564	36-6-3
16	Pillar and Diamond Salt	M	1888		406-3-2
17	Webster Salt	M	1888		
18	Star Salt	M	1888		
19	Diamond Oval Salt	M	1888		
20	Cog Salt	I	1888	2589	476-5-3
21	Bird	I	1888	3755	462-5-1

SALT BY TARENTUM GLASS

22	HARVARD pattern (sometimes called QUIXOTE or QUIHOTE pattern)	I	1898-1912	2565	31-4-1
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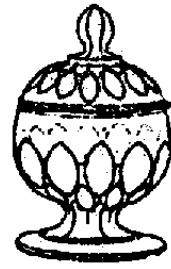
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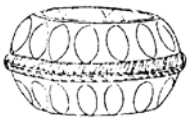
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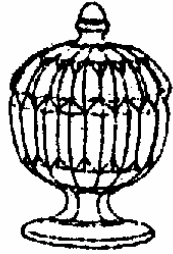
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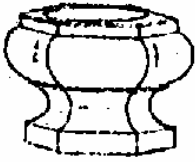
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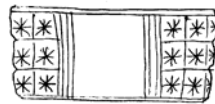
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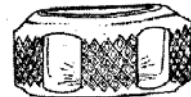
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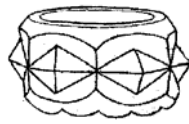
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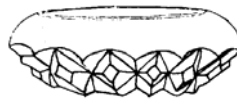
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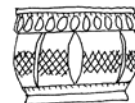
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The Shell pedestal salt (Fig. 8) is in the books, but not with the cover. It has no pattern name as far as we can discover. Perhaps the salt was the only shape made with this design, which would exclude it from being pattern glass. If you want a challenge, try to find one that still has its cover.

The Hexagon salt (Fig. 9) is one of those heavy old masters that few people collect. They are not uncommon, however - heavy old masters last a long time.

The EMPIRE salt (Fig. 10) is an unusual shape. The catalog shows it in two sizes, but we don't remember ever seeing the larger one. Another one to hunt for!

The COBB salt (Fig. 11) is part of a pattern, now called ZIPPER. The R&H catalog shows only the individual size, though we have a master size as well. Here again Challinor Taylor shows the same salt in two sizes in a later catalog - they must have inherited the molds through U.S. Glass.

The PEERLESS pattern (Fig. 12 & 13), now called LADY HAMILTON, had another surprise for us. We knew there was a master size, but did not know that it came with a lid. The catalog page shows it clearly, but does not offer it without the lid. We would be interested to hear if any collector has one complete with cover.

The LOOP AND DART WITH DIAMOND ORNAMENTS pattern (Fig. 14) was patented by R&H in 1869. The picture on the patent shows a covered salt with the diamonds on the edge of the lid. Since other companies copied the design, we're not sure whether the uncovered salt we have shown with diamonds around the top is really the Richards and Hartley version.

The TWO PANEL pattern (Fig. 15) must have been very popular because so many salts have survived. This is one that U.S. Glass must have made for a long time. Although R&H must be given credit for originating the design, most of these salts are probably not theirs.

The Pillar and Diamond salt (Fig. 16) is another heavy old master that survives for years. We have seen several of these - they are not uncommon.

The R&H Webster salt in their 1888 catalog (Fig. 17) is exactly like the PITCAIRN pattern made by King in 1875. We don't know whether they bought the mold or copied the design.

The Star salt (Fig. 18) looks familiar, but we're not sure that we have really seen one. The O'HARA DIAMOND salt made by U.S. Glass is similar but not identical. Another one to be looking for.

The Diamond Oval salt (Fig. 19) comes from a mold that has survived for years. We have this one in emerald green, made as an ash tray with "spoon rests" at each end.

The old flying bird (Fig. 21) was not on the catalog page with the open salts, but on the next page with the novelty and toothpick holders. It was labeled only "bird", with no use suggested. We could have told them it is a salt, if they had asked.

The HARVARD pattern (Fig. 22) was the only salt we know of from the Tarentum Glass Co. reincarnation of R&H. Since they soon abandoned tableware in favor of lighting fixtures, we're not surprised that this is the only one we found.

We hope that you can find some of the Richards and Hartley salts already in your collection, and that this write-up will make you interested in finding more. If you already collect covered salts, you may have the jump on the rest of us in getting a full set. We figure that we need all the lids plus 6 salts to complete ours - a job we may never finish.

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December, 1994

References: "An Encyclopedia of Pressed Glass in America", by John & Elizabeth Welker
"Tarentum Pattern Glass" by Robert Irwin Lucas
Old glass company catalogs on microfiche in the Corning Museum Library