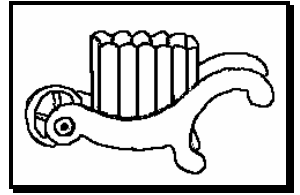


# Salty Comments

*Facts and Opinion about Open Salt Collecting*



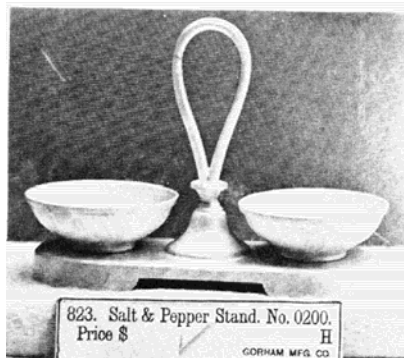
Number 56

November 1996

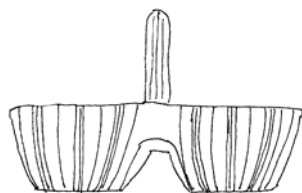
## Twice As Nice

If you want to narrow the scope of your open salt collecting you could do worse than limiting it to doubles. They are moderately available, prices are generally reasonable, and you have less competition from other collectors who would rather use the space on their shelves for 2 or 3 individual ones. They cover the range from silver through china to colored and lacy glass so there will be plenty of variety. They can make a very attractive collection, though we have yet to find anyone who has really focused their collection on them.

The first question many collectors ask is how they were used. Some have guessed that they were placed between two people at the table with one side for each, or that two different kinds of salt were served, or that one side was used for dipping and the other for sprinkling. Certainly these are legitimate ways of using them, but we think the 19th century people served salt in one bowl and pepper in the other. We have several facts to back up this idea. Doubles are being used in restaurants in Europe today for salt and pepper, one friend reported. When he visited Hungary, however, the two condiments were salt and paprika. Another friend grew up in Czechoslovakia before World War II and said one of his jobs in his father's restaurant was to fill the doubles on the tables with salt and pepper at the start of



each meal. In the old American glass catalogs we have seen a few doubles labeled "Salt & Pepper". George and Carolyn Tompkins in their book on Gorham Silver Salts show several original Gorham photos of doubles labeled "Salt & Pepper Stand". We have a metal double with a lid on each side, one engraved "S" and the other "P". The "P" can go two ways – pepper or paprika. Granted that the French catalogs and the Heacock & Johnson book call the doubles "Salieres" or salts, we still think that the salt and pepper combination was the most common use for two bowls in the same piece of tableware.



*Figure 2*  
*Heisey Twin Salt*



*Figure 3*  
*Co-Op Flint Twin Salt*

The most common type of double salt has two simple bowls with a vertical handle between them. The Heisey salt shown in Figure 2 is an example. The Co-Operative Flint Glass Co. made one that is almost identical. You can tell the difference by the number of rays in the bottom of each bowl – 14 for Heisey; 12 for the other. A second simple design from the Co-Op Flint 1910 catalog is in Figure 3. Note that their caption calls it a "Table Salt", which implies that it was not used at each place setting.

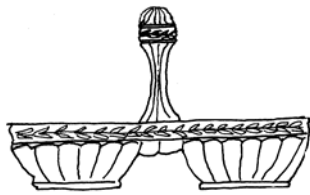


Figure 4  
Leaf Decorations



Figure 5  
Wire Handle Attached

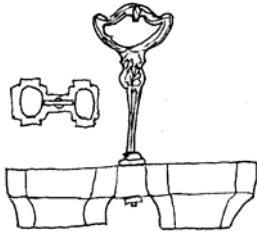


Figure 6  
Sandwich Double

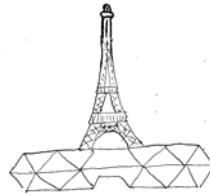


Figure 7  
Eiffel Tower Double

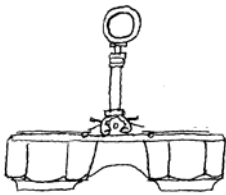


Figure 8  
Flip-Your-Lid Double



Figure 9  
Silver Toothpick Salt

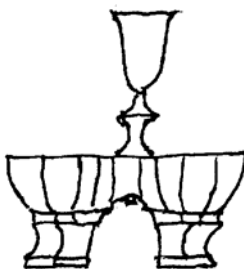


Figure 10  
Brass Handle Toothpick

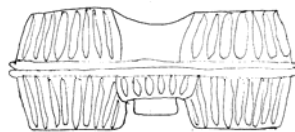


Figure 11  
Pivoting Top

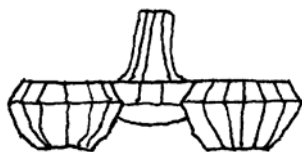


Figure 12  
New Double Salt



Figure 13  
Blown Ruby Knife Rest

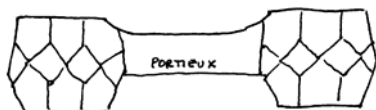


Figure 14 - Portieux Mark

The simple style of double can be prettied up to look much nicer. An example of one decorated with leaves is shown in Figure 4

The next variety of glass double is one where a separate handle is mounted on two glass bowls. The simple wire-handle type is shown in Figure 5, but the handles can get much more elaborate than that. Figure 6 shows top and side views of one with a Britannia metal handle held in place with a nut under the center part. The glass portion of this is shown in Barlow & Kaiser's book on Sandwich Glass. An even fancier handle is the gold-plated Eiffel Tower in Figure 7. This particular salt has a colored picture in the bottom of each bowl, protected by a thin disk of glass. It was sold as a souvenir at the Paris World's Fair around the turn of the century. The most imaginative one we have is shown in Figure 8. It has silver-plated lids that flip open when you push down on the ring at the top of the handle.

Double salts are sometimes combined with other functions. The most common variation is to have a toothpick holder for the handle. A silver version of this type is in Figure 9 and a brass version in Figure 10. The first is marked 800, so it is probably Continental silver. We have no hint of the origin of the second one. The better-known two-part double with the pivoting top is shown in Figure 11. This is all glass, and holds the toothpicks lying down. The top rotates to reveal the salt and pepper bowls underneath. It is held on with a rubber ring which is brittle with age and can break easily.

The next one, Figure 12, is all glass with the toothpick in the handle. It is new - we bought it from a glass wholesale shop with the sticker "Garando Origine Tcheco-slovaque" (Italian guarantee that it came from Czechoslovakia?)

Another combination is the double salt with a knife rest. Two are shown in Figures 13 and 14. The first is beautiful blown ruby glass and the second is pressed, with "Portieux" embossed on the center part.

Sometimes a double is combined with a mustard pot to make a condiment set or with bottles to make a caster set, but that is a subject for another study.



Figure 15  
French Hens



Figure 16  
Rooster Handle



Figure 17  
Polynesian Motif

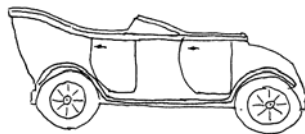


Figure 18  
Touring Car Double

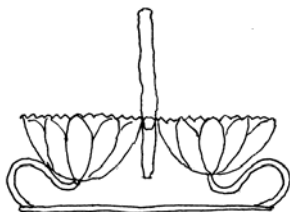


Figure 19  
Double Water Lily

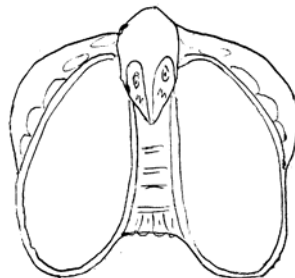


Figure 20  
Porcelain Lobster



Figure 21  
Silver Donkey

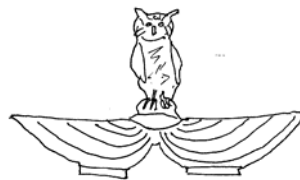


Figure 22  
Gold-plated Owl

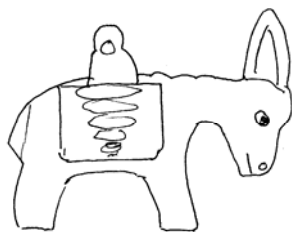


Figure 23  
Occupied Japan  
Donkey



Figure 24  
Faience Goat

The more elaborate doubles are figural ones. Some of the glass ones come in color as well as clear, and we think most of them date back to the “Victorian Novelty” days in the latter part of the 19th century. The double with the 2 facing hens, Figure 15, is French and has SV embossed in it. The rooster in Figure 16 is a light peach color and unknown origin. The double in Figure 17 is also peach color and has a Polynesian man for a handle. We have two of the touring cars, Figure 18, which are also European. One is clear glass and is embossed “Portieux” underneath, and the other is blue and marked “Oullins”, Both marks are names of towns in France. The designs are similar, but the details are not. The most interesting difference is that the doors have handles in opposite positions. On the Oullins one the handles are at the front of the door instead of the rear, where we find them today.

Figurals can be found in other materials besides glass. We have a silver plate double water lily with a Rogers Smith & Co. mark dating to 1862-77 (Figure 19). The handle is shaped like 2 crossed sticks. The porcelain one in Figure 20 is a lobster(?) holding 2 oval sea shells. He is a grayish color, and is marked “Pate de Limoges”. The silver donkey or burro (Figure 21) has “800 MK” marked in the two baskets on his sides. These also have gold wash, which indicates to us that they were intended for salt and not toothpicks. The gold-plated double with the owl handle is rather crudely done, and we are sure that the base metal is cast zinc or some other inexpensive metal

There are a number of pottery doubles in open salt collections. The donkey in Figure 23 has 2 baskets on his back and is marked Occupied Japan. This identifies him as about 50 years old. We have seen other donkeys marked “Italy” which may be current manufacture.

The goat in Figure 24 has marks that we have been unable to identify, but the decorations definitely look like French faience ware.

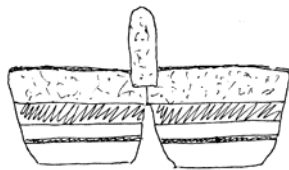


Figure 25  
Quimper Double

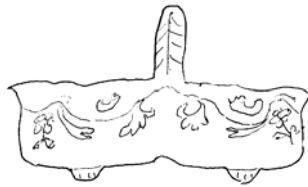


Figure 26  
Dinan Double



Figure 27  
French Peasant

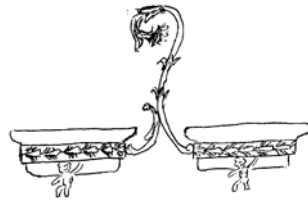


Figure 28  
Onyx Bowl Double

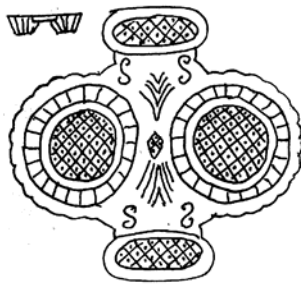


Figure 29  
Tab-Handle Double

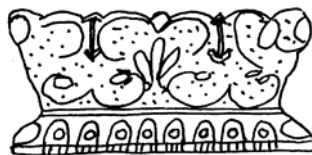


Figure 30  
Divided Lacy Salt

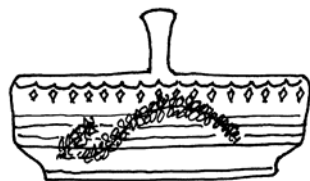


Figure 31  
Porcelain Divided Salt

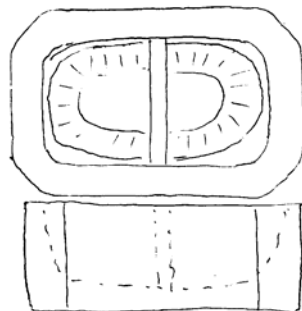


Figure 32  
Divided Glass Salt

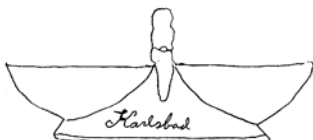


Figure 33  
Karlsbad Souvenir



Figure 34  
Marseille Fish

The faience pottery salts we see most often are those by Quimper. There are double swans and double shoes shown in the books. We have a Quimper salt that is a different style (Figure 25). It has 2 round bowls and a loop handle, with yellow and black decoration. It is marked Henriot Quimper France, and we have yet to identify its age. Other faience includes a marked double from the city of Dinan, France (Figure 26) and a pair of French peasant figures holding baskets. The man from this pair is shown in Figure 27.

We have one double with onyx bowls, sitting in a silver frame with cupid supports. We think it is Italian, but have nothing that will let us be sure.

There are two other styles of doubles that deserve mention. The first is glass with a flat top and tab handles out the sides. One of these shown in Figure 29 was patented by Campbell Jones in 1889. The second style is either glass or porcelain with a divider in the center of the bowl. There are a number of lacies like this, which tells us that divided salts were used before 1850. Figure 30 is a side view of one of these, Neal DI-15. You can't see the divider because it does not show above the top. The heavy porcelain one in Figure 31 has a higher divider which projects up for use as a handle. It has a mark by Carl Knoll in Austria which dates 1916-18.

Figure 32 shows a simple glass salt with a divided bowl. It is easy to make - the factory just buys an inexpensive plunger for the regular mold. The one shown is pink glass, age and origin unknown.

We have seen pedestal-type masters with a divider in the bowl. One we remember was blue milk glass, on a blue milk glass tray with 8 matching egg cups around it. Spectacular!

Some of the doubles, were sold as souvenir pieces for people visiting resorts and similar places. We show two which seem to be in this category. The first is marked Karlsbad (Figure 33) and is white with 2 oval shell-like bowls and a ring handle. It is trimmed in gold but has no other coloring. The second, Figure 34, is a porcelain figural of two fish with their tails entwined. They are iridescent yellow, and have two Marseille scenes in color on the sides. There is a Porcellaines de France mark on the bottom which we have yet to identify.



Figure 35  
Kate Greenaway

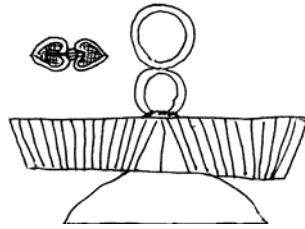


Figure 36  
Double Heart Euchre

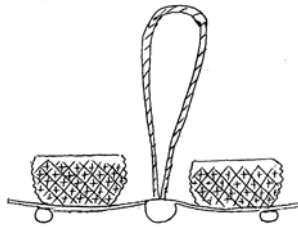


Figure 37  
Champleve Double

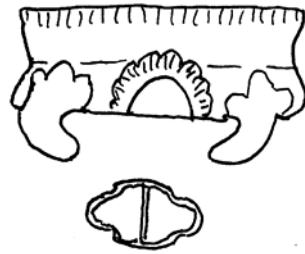


Figure 38  
Galle Double

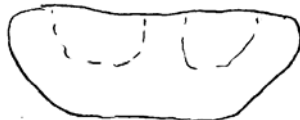


Figure 39  
Baccarat Double

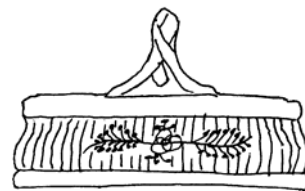


Figure 40  
Royal Copenhagen

To wind up this newsletter I would like to show some special doubles that we have found. The first may not be a salt, but it was too cute to pass up when we saw it in Mimi Rudnick's booth. It is a Kate Greenaway girl with two baskets. It is bisque, a light salmon color with gold dots. Please excuse the crude drawing - she is lots cuter than that!

Next is a double with two euchre type hearts on a mother-of-pearl shell base with a double-ring metal handle (Figure 36). The lady we got it from had bought it in London.

Most people are familiar with the French champleve enameled salts - H&J 2016-20. We found a double of this type, complete with two matching spoons. It is shown in Figure 37. We've never seen another one.

We've heard of Galle cameo glass (expensive!!) but only one Galle pottery salt. It is a double on crooked legs, blue on white decoration. It is marked Galle Nancy, and is pictured in Figure 38 showing both side and top views. For a picture of the salt see Smith 99-5-3.

Figure 39 is a lead crystal one made freehand by Baccarat. It is very heavy and has their mark on the bottom. We suspect it is not very old.

Finally we have a double marked Royal Copenhagen shown in Figure 40. It is sort of dumbbell shape viewed from above, with the usual blue on white decoration. The mark dates it as sometime after 1922.

We probably have omitted many nice doubles that you have in your collection, but we're running to six pages already! We hope the ones we have shown will help you appreciate yours even more and will give you a few to hunt for in the future. There are lots of them out there waiting for a good home. Someday you might even try serving salt and pepper in some of them at a dinner party. Just don't sneeze near one!!

Ed Berg  
401 Nottingham Rd., Newark, DE 19711

References: George & Carolyn Tompkins, "the Handbook of Gorham Open Salt Dishes"  
10 books by Allan B. & Helen B. Smith, "Open Salts Illustrated"  
William Heacock & Patricia Johnson, "5000 Open Salts"  
Raymond E. Barlow & Joan E. Kaiser, "The Glass Industry in Sandwich", vol. 1

## Book References for Salts Shown

Following are the book references we have found for the doubles shown in the writeup. Where no figure number is shown, we know of no picture like it in the books. You may want to look up the references to get a clearer idea of what they look like. Our drawings are not nearly as good as a photograph.

<b>Figure No.</b>	<b>H&amp;J No.</b>	<b>Smith No.</b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>
2		263-3-3	Heisey Twin Salt - book picture is similar
6	3814	143-3-3	Sandwich double, metal handle
7		243-1-1	Eiffel Tower souvenir piece
11	3784	243-3-2	Toothpick holder, rotating top
13	802	87-7-2	Blown knife rest salt
15	3761	90-6-3	Facing hens
16	4765	389-5-3	Rooster handle
17		460-5-1	Polynesian motif
18	3764	87-5-2	Touring car
21	4218	189-2-1	Silver donkey carrying baskets
23	1141		Pottery donkey with baskets
26	1133	184-5-1	Dinan faience double - book pictures are similar
28		456-5-2	Onyx bowls in silver frame
29	3821		Tab handle flat top double
33	1136		Porcelain souvenir, Karlsbad
39		99-5-3	Galle Nancy double