

NEW IS NOT ALWAYS PLENTIFUL

We used to think that contemporary open salts were something you could find at many flea markets for a few dollars each. Lately we have decided this is not really the case. Some designs are plentiful, but there are others that are like needles in haystacks.

For the past 2 months we have been looking for one of the Guernsey Glass copies of the Duncan and Miller QUARTERED BLOCK salt (H&J 579, which they call TEUTONIC). We have seen displays by over a thousand antique dealers at shows, extravaganzas, or in antique malls, and have yet to see a single one of these salts for sale. We used to think of these as "new and common" - now we have changed our tune. Guernsey Glass is nearly out of business, and their inventory of open salts was all but gone when we visited them last year. Now we're looking at our collection seriously to see if we have good examples of all their production. If we decide we need a few more, we'll have to do some serious looking.

The same sort of situation exists with Wetzel salts. Their dishes were all marked R.W. or R. Wetzel while the company was in operation. Since they sold their molds to E&E Collectables, the marks have been changed to E.E. and the few remaining RW salts are being sold off. Some of the earlier Wetzel molds have disappeared, and the dishes are already scarce, like the Holly pattern (H&J 910). We have never seen one of these for sale anywhere.

The basic lesson for collectors is still, "If you like it, buy it". The dish may be new and available today, but if you wait until another time to get it, the supply may have evaporated.

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