

VIEW FROM THE SALT BOX - #13

Many collectors want to find out more about the salts in their collection. We are often asked where we find our information, and what reference sources are available. We put together a list of the best sources we know of for the 1988 National Convention. Many present OSCAR members were not at the Convention, so we think it is worth repeating the list. The sources are still valid today, and we have not found any major new ones that need to be added. We hope this list will encourage you to visit your libraries, and find out more about the dishes you have, especially any marked ones.

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REFERENCES FOR OPEN SALT RESEARCH

Following is a list of useful sources of information on your open salts. Remember that you don't always have to buy a book to use it. A good public library will have a few of these, but they can also get you many more through the inter-library loan program. If you want a gold mine of books on old glass, spend a day or more at the Corning Museum (library open Monday to Friday), or try a public library in a large city in glass country, such as Toledo, Ohio.

BOOKS ABOUT OPEN SALTS

- * SALT DISHES by Clark W. Brown - The earliest specialized book, published in 1937. Has recently been reissued, but the pictures have lost some of their detail. No information about the source of the dishes. Valuable to establish that a particular shape of salt was made before 1937.
- * SUPPLEMENT TO SALT DISHES by Clark W. Brown - More of the same. This book is not currently in print.
- * PRESSED GLASS SALT DISHES OF THE LACY PERIOD 1835-1850 by L.W. and D.B. Neal. The definitive work among lacy salt collectors. Finely-detailed full-size drawings of about 465 lacy salts. Has name of maker and scarcity information. Not available in bookstores, but Dorothy Neal was selling them for \$75 each recently.
- * OPEN SALTS ILLUSTRATED by Alan B. and Helen B. Smith - A series of 10 books published during the period 1972-84. About 7500 dishes pictured, excellent photography, occasional information about source or age of the dishes. Not all books still in print. A price guide has recently been issued by Mimi Rudnick (Salt Lady Antiques) covering the entire set.
- * 5000 OPEN SALTS by William Heacock and Patricia Johnson - The easiest book to use for researching open salts. Excellent photography. Much information (sometimes speculative) about the source and age of the dishes. Good bibliography on p. 298-300. A price guide comes with it, giving 1982 values. An update to this guide is expected in October 1988.
- * THE HANDBOOK OF GORHAM OPEN SALT DISHES by George and Carolyn Tompkins - The newest book on open salts, it is a definitive work on the subject. George worked for Gorham for many years and had access to their archives in preparing it. Contains detailed photos of over 450 silver and plated salts along with information on the markings and sizes. George reports that he is still finding Gorham salts that aren't in the book, however. Price guide available.
- * GLASS SALT SHAKERS by Arthur G. Peterson - The subject sounds like heresy, but the book gives a fascinating history of salt, and open salt dish patterns can be picked up readily from the shakers that matched them.

BOOKS ON MARKS

- * KOVEL'S NEW DICTIONARY OF MARKS - POTTERY AND PORCELAIN by Ralph and Terry Kovel - Recently issued. Has the most information of any single book we know on this topic, but many other books contain marks not in here. If you want to buy just one book on porcelain marks, this is it. If you want to cover the field, you will need every book on the subject you can find, because each seems to have marks that no other book does.
- * ENCYCLOPEDIA OF BRITISH POTTERY AND PORCELAIN MARKS by Geoffrey A. Godden - The first place to look for information about British ceramic marks. Comprehensive and detailed, it is the only book you will need if you collect just British china. Copyright 1964, but still in print.

BOOKS ON MARKS (continued)

- * ENCYCLOPEDIA OF AMERICAN SILVER MANUFACTURERS by Dorothy T. Rainwater - The most comprehensive work on the subject we have seen. Gives marks and history of the companies involved. The first book to try for a silver mark. Still available.
- * INTERNATIONAL HALLMARKS ON SILVER, originally published in French by Tardy and translated 1981.
- * GLASS SIGNATURES, TRADEMARKS AND TRADE NAMES by Anne Geffken Pullin - Has a worldwide collection of about 2000 marks, including all but the one you are looking for. Best reference on the topic we are aware of.
- * 400 TRADEMARKS ON GLASS by Arthur G. Peterson - A well-illustrated book of glass marks registered with the U.S. Patent Office before 1915.

BOOKS ON SPECIFIC FACTORIES

Factory catalogs are the most reliable source of information about old open salts, but they have several hundred other dishes for every salt you will see. Books with extensive information are currently in print on Fostoria, Heisey, Cambridge, McKee and Duncan glassware. Less comprehensive books are available on Indiana Tumbler and Goblet Co. (Greentown), Paden City, New Martinsville, Duncan and Miller and Findlay. The bibliography in 5000 OPEN SALTS, mentioned earlier, lists the titles and authors of most of these books. They are worth studying, but we suggest you borrow a copy from a library before deciding to buy.

The Corning Museum Library recently made all their old glass company catalog pages available for copying on microfiche, and these are on sale by a commercial firm. The cost is high (over \$5000 for the set), but if you are serious about glass research, you should look for them locally or visit Corning.

BOOKS ON SILVER

- * HENNELL SILVER SALT CELLARS 1736-1876 - A British book, printed in 1987 and recommended by Patti Johnson. We haven't seen it yet, but you should look for a copy if you are collecting silver salts.
- * THE BOOK OF OLD SILVER by Seymour B. Wyler.
- * A DICTIONARY OF AMERICAN SILVER, PEWTER AND SILVER PLATE by Ralph and Terry Kovel.

BOOKS ON EARLY GLASS

- * AMERICAN GLASS by George P. and Helen McKearin - A classic in the field covering American glass up to about 1850. The best source of pictures and information on early pattern molded and mold blown dishes. Still in print.
- * SANDWICH GLASS by Ruth Webb Lee - Ruth is the lady who started the Early American glass collecting movement. This book is one of the classics in the field, and has recently been reprinted. Many illustrations, including a number of lacy salts.
- * AMERICAN GLASS from the pages of ANTIQUES MAGAZINE - A compilation of articles on glass published in the magazine between 1922 and 1974. Originally issued as 2 volumes, it has recently been combined into a single book. One of the standard reference works on early glass. Contains several good pictures of early blown and pressed salts.

BOOKS ON PATTERN GLASS

- * EARLY AMERICAN PRESSED GLASS by Ruth Webb Lee - The first book on the subject, and still being reprinted. A standard reference book with extensive illustrations.
- * EARLY AMERICAN PATTERN GLASS by Alice Hulett Metz (2 volumes) - Another standard reference for identifying patterns. Information on maker where known, and pictures of about 1500 different patterns, mostly goblets. We believe it is still in print.
- * TWO HUNDRED PATTERN GLASS PITCHERS by Minnie Watson Kamm (9 volumes, each with 200 patterns) - Shows each pattern on a pitcher, tells about alternate names of the patterns, cites some of the shapes that were made in the pattern and gives the maker when known. Some of the books show copies of old catalog pages. The set has recently been reprinted.
- * A COMPLETE GUIDE TO PATTERN GLASS by Bob H. Batty - We haven't caught up with this one yet, but Patti Johnson has recommended it highly.
- * THE COLLECTOR'S ENCYCLOPEDIA OF PATTERN GLASS by Mollie Helen McCain - Probably the one book to have if you're having only one. Sketches of over 2000 patterns, mostly on pitchers and goblets. Classified by pattern type, and indexed by name, so you can sometimes come close to the right page the first time. Other books require you to know the name first, or to hunt through every picture until you match the design. Still in print.
- * PRICE GUIDE TO PATTERN GLASS by Dori Miles and Robert W. Miller - Covers about 2000 patterns, giving a picture of one dish of each and a list of prices of the various shapes that the pattern comes in. Not many salts shown, but a lot of patterns. Recently published.

BOOKS ON PRESSED GLASS

- * PRESSED GLASS IN AMERICA 1825-1925 by John and Elizabeth Welker - A monumental work on the subject, covering the history and technology, factories, the pressing process and equipment, glass men, collectors and dealers, and a listing of thousands of patterns and who made them. Recently published, destined to become a classic in its field.
- * VICTORIAN GLASS by Ruth Webb Lee - Shows a number of patterns in the first half of the book and novelty dishes in the rest. Not enough information on salts to justify buying the book, but it will be the only place you can find several of the novelty salts shown.

PRICE GUIDES ON ANTIQUES

- * WARMAN'S ANTIQUES AND THEIR PRICES edited by Harry L. Rinker - One of the most respected price guides, it contains information about various antiques and their makers as well as prices. Includes illustrations of about 300 glass patterns. Lists prices for about 130 open salts, referenced to the Smith books. Published annually.
- * SCHROEDER'S ANTIQUES PRICE GUIDE edited by Sharon & Bob Huxford - An annual volume issued widely covering a wide variety of antiques. Includes about 200 open salts, referenced to the Heacock & Johnson book.

GENERAL

- * GLASS COLLECTIONS IN MUSEUMS IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA by the Corning Museum of Glass - Over 200 pages telling what glass there is at each museum. An excellent book to review before finalizing plans for your next vacation trip.

PERIODICALS

- * THE ANTIQUE TRADER - issued weekly, covers the entire country. Mostly classified ads, but interesting articles on antiques as well. A number of open salt collectors comb this every week, so you have to act fast to buy from an ad. Has an excellent calendar of coming antique shows and auctions throughout the country.
- * GLASS REVIEW - Monthly, newsprint quality, interesting articles on glass but the only information on salts is an occasional column by Peggy Bonzi.
- * ANTIQUES AND COLLECTING, formerly HOBBIES magazine - Monthly, covers a wide range of collecting but seldom anything on open salts.
- * GLASS COLLECTOR'S DIGEST - About 1 year old, has very good articles on glass but seldom anything on salts.
- * SALTY COMMENTS - A 3-5 page newsletter about open salts and collecting them, issued 4-6 times a year by Ed Berg (address below). Covers many aspects of the hobby, and is published with or without a list of open salts for sale.

MUSEUMS

- * CORNING MUSEUM OF GLASS, Corning, NY - Certainly the top glass museum in the U.S. You can easily spend an entire day looking at the glass, watching Steuben glass being made, and visiting the nearby Rockwell Museum where fabulous quantities of early Steuben art glass are on display. Lots of salts to look at and wish you had. The Corning Museum Library is probably the best in the country for glass research, and their staff is anxious to help you find the right books for any research you want to do.
- * SANDWICH GLASS MUSEUM, Sandwich, MA - The best place to visit to see lacy glass. Quite a few lacy salts on display, though not as many as at Corning.
- * THE BENNINGTON MUSEUM, Bennington, VT - Their glass collection includes a large group of table-size open salts, but these are not always on display. Their collection of over 1200 different pattern glass goblets is impressive, to say the least.
- * THE CHRYSLER MUSEUM, Norfolk, VA - One of the major glass collections in the country. We have not been there, but have heard that they have a number of open salts in their collection, and have them on display every now and then.
- * HEISEY MUSEUM, Newark, OH - An impressive collection of glass, much in color and all impressively displayed. Most of the Heisey salts are on display there.
- * CAMBRIDGE GLASS MUSEUM, Cambridge, OH - Another display of beautiful glass, all made by the Cambridge Glass Company. Much color, but few open salts.

We have undoubtedly omitted a number of important glass or ceramic museums, probably including your favorite. The list is an excellent sample of those available, however, and if you visit them we are certain that you will not be disappointed. If you want a more complete story, consult the "Glass Collections in Museums" book mentioned earlier.

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(Opinions given are those of the writer, reflecting his biases and experiences.)