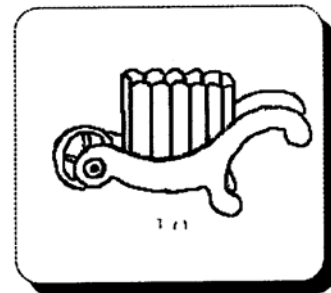




Salty Comments

No. 40

Facts and Opinion about Open Salt Collecting



During our last research trip to the Corning Museum Library we looked up the National Glass Company. This was a short-lived combine that merged 19 independent companies in an effort to end the fierce competition that existed in the 1890's. National put out an export catalog in 1902 that has survived. It shows their product line by plant, so that we can see which salts each of the companies made at the time. This let us trace the ancestry of several we had not found previously, and also uncovered pictures of salts we didn't know existed.

National Glass was formed in early 1899 by merging 19 independent glass makers. Their catalog lists everything from tableware and lighting to druggists sundries and opal novelties. They advertised that their glass was available "plain, colors, cut, etched, decorated and engraved". One of the firms joining the combine was the Rochester Tumbler Co., the largest tumbler plant in the world. Their portion of the catalog shows over 1000 different shapes and sizes. They made about 1,000,000 drinking glasses and mugs per week when they were operating at capacity. This works out to just under 1 glass per year for every man, woman and child in the U.S. at the time, from just one firm. Looking back on the days when our children were growing up, this doesn't seem unreasonable.

The history of National Glass sounds like a struggle from beginning to end. It took over a year of negotiating before they were officially organized in November 1899. From the beginning there seems to have been disagreements among the management. They started closing or selling plants within a year. By the end of 1901, all the original plant managers had been replaced. Turnovers within top management were frequent. By December 1907, when National declared bankruptcy, only 6 of the original plants were still operating, and only McKee, Beatty-Brady and their newly-built plant in Cambridge, Ohio were profitable.

The firms that joined National Glass included familiar names like Central, Indiana Tumbler and Goblet (Greentown) and McKee, and 7 that we had never heard of before. Their sections of the catalog gave us some new insight into the sources of our dishes, and also uncovered several shapes that we had never seen before. The ones we have chosen to discuss in this issue are from the Royal, Riverside and Ohio Flint sections of the National catalog. We have also included salts from an earlier A.J. Beatty Co. catalog, since they were a predecessor of Beatty-Brady. The McKee section included many open salts shown in Salty Comments #30 and 31, and two we had never seen before. We have added these two as well.

The Royal Glass Co. was founded in 1898, joined National in 1899, and burned in 1903. Their catalog section shows 8 open salts. Three of these - a ribbed oval, and two rectangular -- are shapes that were made by other companies (Fig. 1,5,6). We doubt if we ever can tell which ones are really theirs. The remaining 5 are readily identified. We have seen only the smaller of the oval ones with the "cut log" type pattern (Fig. 7,8) The oval one with the diamond pattern sides comes in amber and blue as well as clear (Fig. 2). The pair with the oval bullseye sides look very much like the Greentown THOUSAND EYE BAND pattern (H&J 2071). We thought they were Greentown until we saw them in the Royal line. The patterns are identical, but the Greentown version of the small one is much taller than the Royal salt.

The Riverside Glass Co. was started in 1879, producing quantities of kerosene lamps as well as tableware. They joined National in 1899, and stopped production after the 1907 bankruptcy. Like Royal, the catalog labels say "Large Salt" or "Small Salt" - only numbers to tell one from the other. The large oval salt appears to be 5" long, if the catalog drawings are to scale. We don't remember seeing a big one in this shape. The two with block pattern sides are available in clear, and we also have the smaller one in pink. The round salt with the swirl prism sides resembles a small one we have, but the swirl is in the reverse direction. The catalog

SALTS FROM SOME SMALLER COMPANIES

Fig. No..	Catalog Number	Catalog Name and Description	H&J No.	Smith No.*
		<u>ROYAL GLASS WORKS</u>		
1	18/1	Small Salt (Oval, ribbed sides)		475-6-2
2	18/2	Small Salt (Oval, diamond pattern sides)	2696	24-4-2
3	18/37	Small Salt (Round, oval bullseye sides)		270-5-1
4	18/37	Large Salt (Round, oval bullseye sides)		
5,6	18/54	Large Salt, Small Salt (Rectangular, indefinite bottom)		
7,8	18/130	Large Salt, Small Salt (Oval, CUT LOG type pattern)	2700	19-1-3
		<u>RIVERSIDE GLASS WORKS</u>		
9	15/145	Large Salt (Oval, panel and rib sides)		
10,11	15/267	Large Salt, Small Salt (Block pattern sides and bottom)	570	124-5-1
12	15/0348	Large Salt (Swirl prisms on sides)		
		<u>OHIO FLINT GLASS WORKS</u>		
13	14/123	Individual Salt (WESTON pattern)	3049	
14	14/129	Individual Salt (JOSEPHINE'S FAN pattern)	2532	198-5-1
15,16	14/868	Table Salt, Individual Salt (ADA pattern)	2663	18-1-2
		<u>A. J. BEATTY COMPANY</u>		
17		ORINOCO Ware (Low version)		
18		ORINOCO Ware (Pedestal version)		
19		No. 100 Ware Square Individual Salt (Open HOBNAIL pattern)	197	9-2-1
20		No. 100 Ware Round Individual Salt (Open HOBNAIL pattern)	198	483-5-1
21,22		No. 87 Opalescent Ware, Table and Individual Salt (BEATTY RIB pattern)	196	96-3-3
		<u>CANTON GLASS WORKS</u>		
23	2/3	Paint Cup		
		<u>McKEE GLASS WORKS</u>		
24	12/009	Large Salt, Square (Pattern glass, name unknown)		
25	12/009	Large Salt, Round (Pattern glass, name unknown)		

* Smith references are Plate-Row-Number

SALTS FROM SOME SMALLER COMPANIES



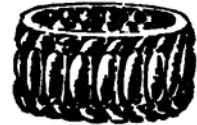
1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10



11



12



13



14



15



16



17



18



19



20



21



22



23



24



25

picture suggests the dish is about 5" in diameter, which we think is large for a salt. If we have seen one in the past, we probably dismissed it as a sponge cup.

Ohio Flint Glass started business in 1891 with a plant in Bowling Green, Ohio. They moved to Dunkirk, Indiana in 1893, operating there until the plant burned in 1895. In 1899 they built a new plant in Lancaster, Ohio, and soon after they joined National. Three open salt designs are assigned to them in the National catalog. The ADA pattern is one they originated in 1897. Two sizes are shown - the Table Salt and the Individual Salt. We have the latter, but have never seen the larger one. The other two patterns came from Robinson Glass, a company founded in 1893 but idled since 1896 by labor troubles. They joined National, but their factory was never reopened. The first of their patterns assigned to Ohio Flint was JOSEPHINE'S FAN, called #129 Ware in the National catalog. The second was the WESTON pattern, called #123 Ware, which appears in H&J but which we have never seen for sale. This is one you can hunt for; it seems to be scarce. The ADA and JOSEPHINE'S FAN patterns were later transferred to Cambridge Glass, which probably accounts for them being more plentiful.

Ohio Flint originated another design which has open salts - the CHIPPENDALE pattern. The pedestal salts with CHIPPENDALE handles and Krystol in the bottom (H&J #3542) were patented by them in February 1907. Unfortunately they didn't make them for long, because the National Glass bankruptcy shut them down later that year. The CHIPPENDALE and Krystol patents were sold to Jefferson Glass, so most of the salts of this type are probably theirs. They are not shown in the National Glass catalog we found, for some unknown reason.



CHIPPENDALE

The Beatty-Brady section showed no salts, but it led us to the A.J. Beatty Glass Co., their predecessor. They made the well-known BEATTY RIB salt in Table and Individual sizes. Their catalog also shows a square and a round salt with opalescent hobnails. We have seen 3 of these designs in opalescent blue as well as opalescent clear, but have never seen the Table size. The two other Beatty salts we found were their ORINOCO ware, which has swirling flutes on the sides. This was part of a set of pattern glass, but we have never seen one. Another design to look for!

The McKee section of the National catalog had a glass pattern with 2 salts we also have never seen. They have pillars around the sides, almost like a fence, and several rows of buttons around the bottom. We can't find the pattern in any of our pattern glass books, but the National catalog shows it as an extensive set of tableware. These are shown in Figures 24 and 25.

Our final find was a dish we have had in the collection for years and have always wondered about - Figure 23. It seemed small for a salt, but we hesitated to give it up. We found it in the Canton Glass Works section as part of a line of apothecary glass. It is listed as a paint cup, along with two other paint cups which could easily be used for salt. All three have rounded bottoms inside, with no corners which could be hard to clean. We hate to admit it isn't an open salt, but will probably move it to the "we slipped again" section of the cabinets.

We hope that you can identify some of your open salts from this research. Many are not in our salt books, so they may be new to most collectors. And if you happen to find two of the WESTON, ORINOCO or the Figure 24 & 25 McKee salts, we'd be interested in buying one.

Ed Berg
401 Nottingham Rd., Newark, DE 19711

March 1993

References: "5000 Open Salts" by William Heacock and Patricia Johnson
Ten books, "Open Salts Illustrated", by Alan B. and Helen B. Smith
"Pressed Glass in America", by John and Elizabeth Welker
"Collector's Encyclopedia of Pattern Glass", by Mollie Helen McCain
1902 National Glass Company Export Catalog