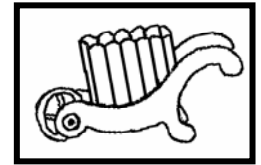


# Salty Comments

*Facts and Opinion about Open Salt Collecting*



Number 72

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## Stop to See the Roses

We had a lot of nice feedback about the issue we devoted to flowers on salts. If you remember, we limited it to identifiable flowers, roses not included. Because so many people enjoyed it, we thought we had better finish the task and cover open salts with roses on them. We hoped we could find enough to fill an issue of Salty Comments.

We went to work pulling salts with roses from the shelves. The glass ones were limited – only 8 of them according to the descriptions in our data base. I went after those, and let Kay find the others. Before I realized it, the big dining room table was getting crowded. The problem with the china salts was choosing which ones, not finding enough. Without a doubt, roses were the favorite flower for decorating china salts during the first half of last century. We chose a representative group of the china shapes to cover, but there are almost as many more that we can't fit in.

We'll take the smaller group first – the glass salts. Here the flower decoration is molded in when it is made. The oldest ones are pattern glass from about 100 years ago – the CABBAGE ROSE goblet shape made by Central Glass (1870's) and the ROSE SPRIG sleigh with the 1886 patent date by Campbell, Jones. Next we have included the one called AZALEA by Imperial because it was originally called WILD ROSE WREATH by U.S. Glass. The mold for this one is now owned by Summit Art Glass, who is making it in a variety of colors. Summit has made two other salts with roses, both individual size. The flat-bottomed one is a modified Imperial Glass shape they call ROSE LATTICE. Three roses have been superimposed on the original zipper pattern. The small one with 3 legs is called their ROSE SALT and has roses embossed on the sides. The mold is an original by Al Botson, and was on loan to Summit for a short time.

We have 2 intaglio shapes with a rose on the bottom. The one with pointed ends comes either in a holder or with an engraved glass disk mounted on one side (shown in the picture). The intaglio with rounded ends has raised diamonds on the rim. We haven't identified the maker of either one.

<i>CABBAGE ROSE Pattern</i>	<i>ROSE SPRIG Sleigh</i>	
<i>Wild Rose Wreath</i>	<i>Summit's Rose Lattice</i>	
<i>Summit's Rose Salt</i>	<i>Pointed Ends Intaglio</i>	<i>Rounded Ends Intaglio</i>

(2)

When we came to the china section, we found roses blooming everywhere. They seemed to be most popular in Germany, where they showed up as applied flowers as well as painted ones. Examples include a swan, a basket with birds on the rim, and even a dog on a basket cover with a rose beside her. (A male dog wouldn't be caught dead posing with a flower!). These are just marked "Germany", no makers mark. We have two marked with the Ernst Bohne anchor – a delicate eggshell with applied flowers and a double basket with a ring handle. Other German ones include one trencher with a crossed swords mark which may or may not be Meissen. Other factories copied this mark, and we need the advice of an expert before accepting this salt as genuine Meissen.

The less spectacular German salts in individual size also use lots of roses. Two have a tiny flower in each panel of the side – the pedestal one and the 6-sided one shown. Each are marked only "Germany". and are fine porcelain. The roses on the pedestal one are hand painted because you can see slight differences in the brush strokes from one rose to the next. We are in awe of the talent it must take to do such fine work, and of the patience required to paint the same thing over and over again in a china factory. The roses on the 6-sided one are decals, because the flowers are identical. The two other German salts we have chosen are the side-handled dish marked R S Germany (Reinhold Schlegelmilch) and the low rectangular one marked Bavaria with a lollipop-like shape we can't find in our books on porcelain marks.

Two of the salts we chose for our rose garden are from Czechoslovakia. Both are marked Czecho-Slovakia, a hyphenated version of the name that must have been used in the 1920's, soon after the country was created. Both have company marks as well, which we have been unable to identify.

	
<i>Swan</i>	<i>Basket &amp; Birds</i>
	
<i>Dog on Basket</i>	<i>Eggshell Salt</i>
	
<i>Basket Double</i>	<i>Meissen?</i>
	
<i>Pedestal Salt</i>	<i>6-Sided Salt</i>
	
<i>Side-Handle Dish</i>	<i>Low Rectangular Salt</i>
	

(3)

The Japanese were excellent painters also, and used roses on some of their salts. It's interesting that all of their salts with roses that we picked were from the Nippon era. We had read that the skill of their decorators declined after the first World War, with a corresponding decline in the use of delicate floral motifs. We chose 4 Japanese salts and all turned out to be Noritake Nippon, made before 1921. The first two are tub shapes, one with ruffled sides and the second a hexagonal shape. This latter has a yellow rose, which is not rare but is unusual. The third one is round with a shallow bowl. It copies a shape used on European salts, but has much more elaborate decorations than they do. The fourth Nippon salt is one of their high quality line, marked RC (Royal Ceramic) Nippon instead of the more usual Noritake marks. The gold bands in the design have close to a thousand closely spaced dots on them, all painted by hand. The fifth is the one with the rose on the rim, and a matching pepper shaker in the shape of a rose. This one is marked Made in Japan so it dates after 1921.

Another country that often used roses for decoration is France. We have a double that uses rose shapes for the bowls. It has a faint mark we think says "Limoges France". Other unusual shapes are the three-lobed one, an "Oyster Shell" design, a splay-footed one and a short pedestal salt which resembles nothing we can think of. We have chosen only two salts from the USA for our rose garden, but they are from two of the best of the old decorating companies – Lenox and Willets. The heart shape has the ragged rim found on so many Willets salts, and has hand painted flowers. The Lenox one is also hand painted, with decorations only on the outside. The mark on the bottom dates it as 1906-30.

	
<i>Ruffled Sided Tub</i>	<i>Hexagonal Tub</i>
	
<i>Round, Shallow Bowl</i>	<i>Royal Ceramic Nippon</i>
	
<i>Rose on Rim with Shaker</i>	<i>Rose Double</i>
	
<i>Three-Lobed Salt</i>	<i>Oyster Shell Design</i>
	
<i>Splay-Footed Salt</i>	<i>Short Pedestal Whatzit Salt</i>
	
<i>Willets Belleek Heart</i>	<i>Lenox Salt</i>

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Austria had only two salts among the ones we chose. Both were marked O&E G Royal Austria (Oscar & Edgar Guthertz). One was a small tab-handled tub with tiny flowers around it. The second was a lobed oval salt with curl handles at the end. Both have a mark that dates 1899-1918, so they are older than we are. On that basis, we'll concede they are genuine antiques.

We have one English salt in our selection. We think it is newer than the rest, It is an individual and is marked James Kent Staffordshire. It wins our contest for the most realistic rose. It helps that it is the biggest one, but it looks more like the roses we know than any of the others..

We have one dish from Italy with applied roses on the ends. It is pottery, like many Italian salts, and the roses are quite realistic.

Our unmarked salts with roses includes some unusual ones whose maker is a mystery. One has a pepper shaker sitting on top of an open salt. Another has 6 sloping sides and a bowl rounded in the bottom. The wheel barrow has a movable wheel and delicate applied flowers, but no mark. It looks German. Finally we have two spectacular doubles. The first is heavy porcelain with several roses mixed in with the other flowers. The second is a glass double on a 6-1/2" tall silver stand whose mark we have yet to decipher. It has many hand painted flowers on it including a couple of roses which qualifies it for inclusion here.

	
<i>Austrian Tub</i>	<i>Austrian, Curl Handles</i>
	
<i>English Rose Decoration</i>	<i>Italy Salt</i>
	
<i>Salt &amp; Pepper Set</i>	<i>Six-Sided Salt</i>
	
<i>Wheelbarrow Salt</i>	<i>Heavy Porcelain Double</i>
	
<i>Glass Double on Silver Stand</i>	

We hope you have enjoyed this stroll through our rose garden of salts. We expect that you may have an equally nice garden in your collection if you Stop to See The Roses.

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Credit: Information on Summit Art Glass salts developed by Ed Bowman.