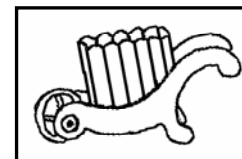


Salty Comments

Facts and Opinion about Open Salt Collecting



Number 85

December 2003

Bits and Pieces

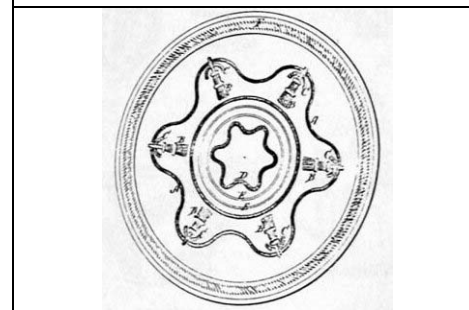
When we heard that a new comprehensive book has been published about the Central Glass Company, we were excited. It was advertised as having lots of old catalog information and lots of salts pictures. Since Central was one of the more prolific makers of open salts, we anticipated we could learn about some we hadn't heard of. We bought the book (see references), and, sorry to say, we were disappointed. It's a very nice volume, but they list only 2 salt shapes not covered in Salty Comments #28. The first of these is the LEAF AND RIB pattern. We have seen the salts in clear and the usual colors (vaseline, blue, amber) but didn't realize that they were made by Central.

The second "new" salt they list is the CORD AND TASSEL pattern. We have doubts about this one. The book doesn't show a picture of it, just lists "Salt" among the shapes. The Jenks and Luna book (see references) shows the pattern, but lists "Salt Shaker" as a shape. We also believe the pattern really belongs to the Labelle Glass Co. A patent was issued in July 1872, to A.W. Baggs (patents are always issued to individuals, never to companies). Mr. Baggs was employed by Central, but left them in 1872 to become General Manager of Labelle. There are no Central catalogs which show this pattern – it is included in the book only because Baggs once worked there, as far as we can figure out. We've never seen an open salt of this design – keep your eyes open for one, just in case it really exists.

We've found several catalogs in our research at the Corning Museum Library which have a few salts in them. The first is from the Dorflinger Co. about 1900. They operated in Hawley, PA and specialized in cut glass. Their catalog pictures two different shapes, each available in Table and Individual size, and with either the "40", RENAISSANCE or MARLBORO cutting. We have the latter two cuttings in individual sizes, picture at the right. The catalog shows only the Horseradish Pot with the "40" cutting, and our picture of it is rather dark. We hope to find more detail on this one, and to find Table salts for the collection to match our Individuals



LEAF AND RIB Salt



CORD & TASSEL Pattern, from Patent



Renaissance Cutting

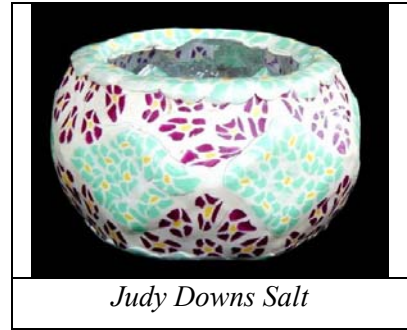


Marlboro Cutting

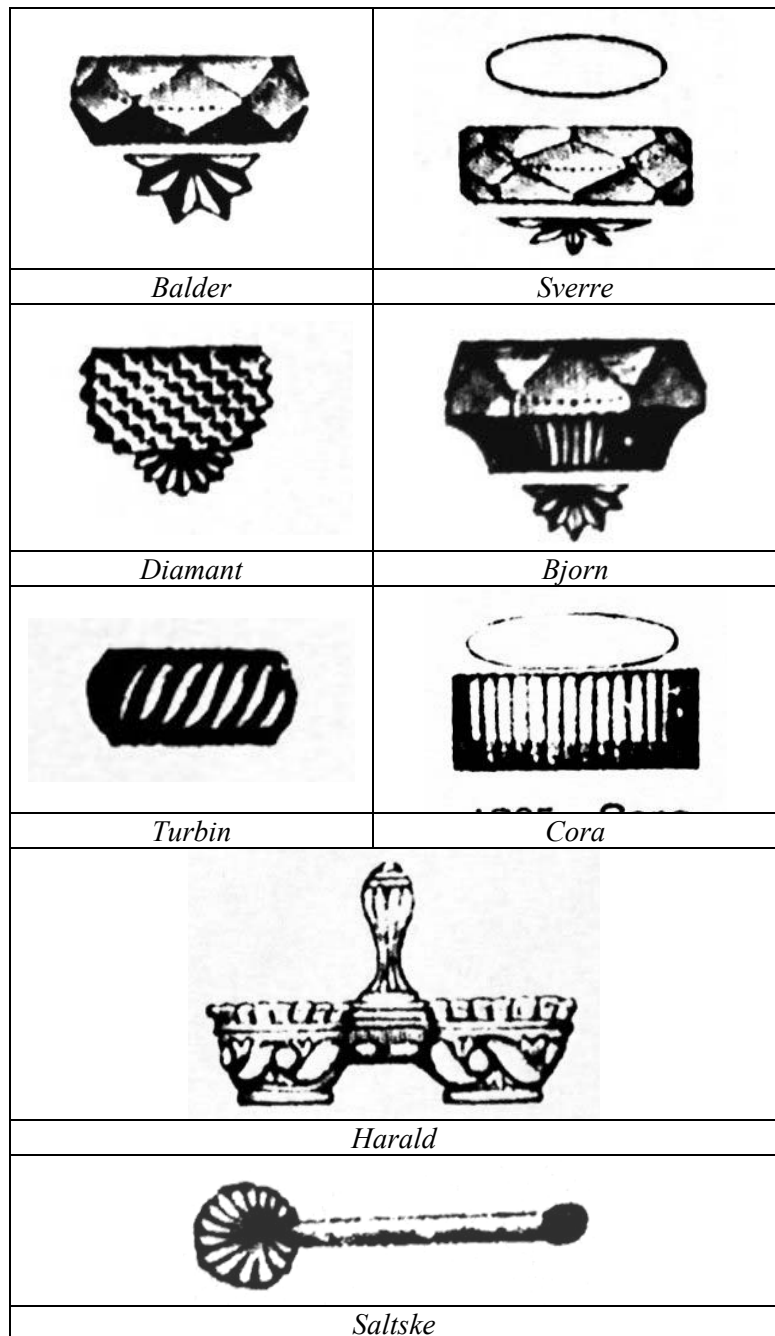
*"40"
Horseradish*

(2)

Judy Downs from Florida has found a unique way to upgrade some of the more common salt shapes. She takes plastic modeling compound (modern modeling clay) and applies it to the surface of a damaged or less desirable salt. After baking in the oven, the coating can be decorated to display your creative talents. We bought one at the National Convention to show what can be done and to illustrate a point. This particular salt would not pass through an airport scanner unchallenged. When Judy had it in her bag, it and several others showed up on the X-ray scanner so she had to unwrap them for the security people. The glass is old flint, and the lead content is high enough to make it opaque to X-rays.



We came across a catalog from the Christiania Glasmagasin dated 1916 that showed some salts. Since our Grandmother came from Christiania, Norway (now renamed Oslo), we were quite intrigued. Unfortunately we can't be sure that will be able to find any of these. The first two (Balder and Sverre) are a round and an oval faceted shape. These were made by so many glass companies that we've never been able to attribute one particular dish to its manufacturer. We have several that match in the collection, but the chances of one being Norwegian is very slim. The third shape (Diamant) has diamond point all over. It is bulbous, and higher than most of the ones like it we have seen, Maybe we'll come across one like it someday. The fourth (Bjorn) is the Facets and Ribs shape that was made by many US companies – again the product of Norway is lost in the crowd. The next, (Turbin) resembles the Riverside ROCK RIB pattern, but is not as high. The last two, Cora and Harald, are different from any we have seen before. If you have one of them, we'd be interested in hearing of it. The catalog also shows a salt spoon (saltske), presumably of glass. It is with a group of other spoons (ske) along with a couple of Toddysteters (toddy stirrers)? Our Norwegian language skills are nil.



We have two salts from U.S. Glass that we did not cover in Salty Comments 29. The first of these is their REVERSE 44 pattern, (they called it #15140 ATHENIA). The reason for the modern pattern name can be seen in the picture of the pitcher shown – it looks like there are two 4's facing each other. Our salt in this pattern has a silvery deposit (platinum?) around the top half, and is clearly marked US (entwined) on the inside bottom. The pattern is shown in an old Export catalog, though the salt itself does not appear. The pictures show a covered Bon Bon, which has to be larger than what we have. Ours does have a gallery inside the rim to support a cover, however, so maybe it was a covered salt. The second US Glass salt is the same shape as the first, but without the pattern. It has been engraved with flowers and leaves in the side panels, and has the same gallery for a cover. We wish we could find more information on these, but haven't had the good fortune to find the proper catalog yet.

We have found several salts recently that we've put in the collection because they are unusual. The first is a double with a top that holds toothpicks. This resembles the old one shown in H&J 3784, but it was made from a different mold. The top is black glass, and the bottom pink. The swiveling top is held on by a rubber ring, now quite hard and cracked from age. The bottom has an unusual design on it – something like a branching plant. Wish we knew where it came from. The second is an old master with a lemon-squeezer type pressed foot – the kind with raised prisms inside the indented bottom.. The bowl is blown and cut, and the foot is oval. We have seen a number of lemon squeezer feet, but none were oval. Since the sides of the foot are polished, the shaping could have been done by the Glass Doctor at an antique show, or it could have been done by the maker almost 200 years ago. The more common diamond-shaped feet are not large enough to be cut down to match this one, at least on the salts we have seen. Another mystery to be explored.



REVERSE 44 Pattern Detail



REVERSE 44 Salt



Engraved Salt



Old Toothpick Top



Colored Toothpick Top



Base of Colored

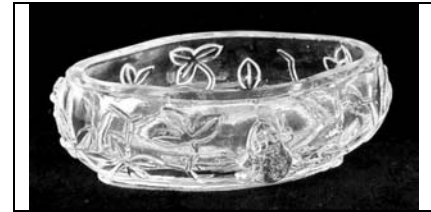


Old, with Lemon Squeezer Foot

(4)

In the toothpick holder category, there is a salt/toothpick combination that we didn't know about. The oval salt with the frogs on the sides (H&J 2726) has a toothpick holder that fits on top of it! There is a gentleman in Florida who collects glass frogs who has the toothpick top, and we have the open salt bottom. Both of us would like to find the part we are missing so we could have a complete salt/toothpick in our collection.

There is one contemporary salt you can add to your collection if you wish to visit your local Kmart store. It's in the Martha Stewart Everyday section, is called a Salt Cellar, and sells for about \$2.00. It seems that Martha always uses open salts (or open dishes that hold salt) both in her cooking and at her tables. Her company has come up with a simple dish that they are selling along with other tableware and kitchen items. She doesn't use spoons, but reaches into the salt dish with her fingers, at least when she is cooking. If Martha is a believer in open salts, she can't be all bad!



Oval, Frogs & Leaves



Martha Stewart

Lastly, we received the gift of a beautiful cobalt hand-blown salt shown at the right. It is master size and the old pedestal shape. The bottom is marked with a diamond point scribe, "Hadeland 1967". A little research shows that Hadeland is a region in Norway, and that the Hadeland Glass Works is still in business. If you have an internet connection, look in Ebay for "Hadeland" and you will find a number of glass pieces up for auction. Most were glass animals the last time we looked. A more general search shows that Hadeland is an area of Oppland County, and that the Glasverk have been around since 1712. We expect they were making bottles and window glass back then, but today they seem to be doing freehand decorative items. We've seen another salt like ours, but with white glass on the rim edge. We don't know the markings on that one.



Hadeland Salt

We hope these bits and pieces we have picked up are helpful to you when you look for open salts. None of them is extensive enough to warrant a Salty Comments all its own, but there are enough of them that one should relate to you own collection.

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References: "5000 Open Salts", by William Heacock & Patricia Johnson
"Central Glass Co., the First 30 Years 1863-1893", by Marilyn R. Hallock
"Early American Pattern Glass 1850-1910", by Bill Jenks and Jerry Luna