

VIEW FROM THE SALT BOX - #16

One shape that is found in most open salt collections is the GRAPE LEAF pattern. It is listed in the Fostoria book, which says it was made from 1935 to 1942. There 8 different pieces including a candy jar, salad or mayonaise plate, 5 dishes for relish, preserves, etc., and our salt which they called an individual almond. Since it is just the right shape, we are sure that some people used it for an open salt, and that the Fostoria Sales Department was just narrow-minded.

According to the book the set came in clear and in 3 colors - Regal Blue (we call it Cobalt), Burgundy, (we call it Amethyst) and Empire Green (we call it Emerald Green). The colors are shown on other tableware in one of the few colored pictures. We have all 4 of these in our collection. We think someone said there is a red one, but we're not sure. We know that the book does not list it, and that we've never seen it.

The GRAPE LEAF shape was also made by L.E. Smith Glass Co. at a later date. They show it in a 1957 catalog on a page titled "Inexpensive Novelties", all in milk glass. They have the decency to list it as a salt, though it is also offered as a nut dish further on. We're not sure when they first made it, only that it was advertised in 1957. It is also available in clear as well as white, and we have one in a marigold carnival color. This latter one matches Smith plate 33-5-3 exactly, though the writeup that goes with the picture says it is flashed cranberry. We think the writeup is wrong, and that the "cranberry flashing" is a misinterpretation of the photograph.

We have seen both the Fostoria and Smith versions with their original paper labels more than once. The most striking difference between them is in the feet. The Fostoria ones are described as "berry shaped", while the Smith are "jelly mold". We show sketches of each here - use your own words to describe them. The shape of the leaf is slightly different too, but are hard to describe. It is best to get one of each and compare them.

We like to think that we have all the grape leaf colors there are, but we have been wrong before. If anyone has seen a red one or a real cranberry flashed one, we would like to hear about it. Better yet, if there are two of either, we'd like to buy one. In the meantime, if you can get each of the colors described above, you will have a very nice and possibly a complete collection.

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SMITH
FOOT



FOSTORIA
FOOT