

View from the Salt Box - #24

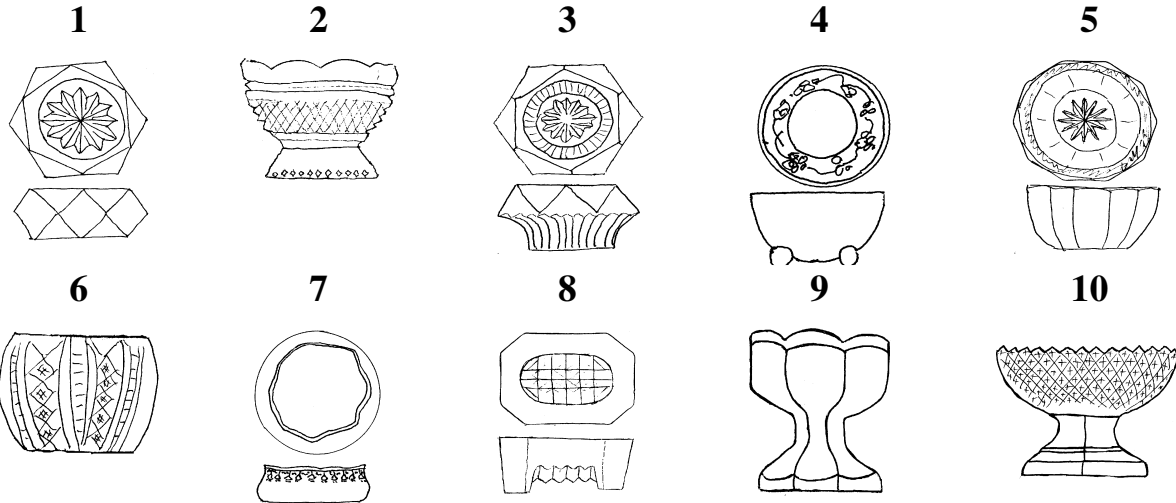
This is a pop quiz. The answers are given elsewhere in this newsletter.

As Kay and I talk about open salts, we have developed a language that lets us describe shapes with relatively few words. Many of the terms we use are the pattern names, or names that were used in old catalogs. I thought it might be interesting to see whether our words have meaning to you.

Shown below are ten salts, all rather common shapes or patterns, and the names we use. All are glass except #4 and #7, which are porcelain. Try to match one to the other.

Octagon
Mardi Gras
Low China, Ruffled Rim
Hemisphere, Ball Feet
Pedestal Colonial

Send It Back
Cincinnati
Facets and Ribs
Hartford Pattern
English Hobnail Pedestal



ANSWERS to pop quiz:

1. CINCINNATI - Many companies made these faceted salts, and several called them "Cincinnati". We have adopted the name.
2. HARTFORD - This is the pattern name used in the old Fostoria catalog and by Fostoria collectors.
3. FACETS AND RIBS - This is our own term to describe the salt - the upper sides are faceted and the lower sides have curving ribs.
4. HEMISPHERE, BALL FEET - Another descriptive term which describes the shape of these china salts.
5. SEND IT BACK - This name is an in-house joke. Once when we were unpacking a collection we were buying sight unseen, we found several of this kind.. We knew that there was no demand for them, and after the 4th or 5th one, Kay said (in jest), "Send it back!" We have called this shape by that name ever since.
6. MARDI GRAS - This is the accepted name for the Duncan & Miller #42 pattern. The picture shows the round one; there is also an oval shape.
7. LOW CHINA, RUFFLED RIM - This is our descriptive term for the common shape china salt that many companies made and many ladies decorated at home.
8. OCTAGON - This shape was made by many manufacturers, and most of them referred to it by this name.
9. PEDESTAL COLONIAL - Several companies made salts shaped like this. Duncan called their pattern "Colonial", and we have adopted the term.
10. ENGLISH HOBNAIL PEDESTAL - This is another pattern name. We add the word "pedestal" to distinguish it from the small flat-bottom salt with the same design on the sides.

SCORING - Give yourself 100 points for trying. Add 10 points for each correct answer, and subtract 1 point for each miss. Scores of 100 or more indicate that you are infected with Saltus Dippus Accumulatus disease, for which there is no known cure. Suffering can be relieved by visits to flea markets, antique shows and shops. Major relief can be found during these visits by the discovery of a scarce open salt at a bargain price.

Ed Berg

July 1995