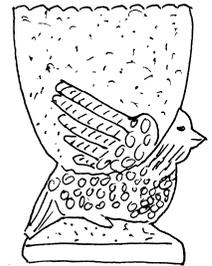


VIEW FROM THE SALT BOX - #34

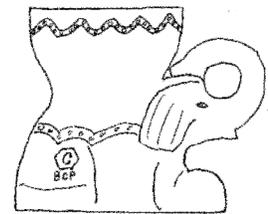
The other day we came across some information that Judy Laccasa sent us four years ago which deserves to be passed on. (*Editor's Note: It's about time!*) Most of us have seen the "salts" pictured at the right for sale at some flea market or antique shop. We always wondered what they were and where they came from, ever since we saw a bin full of the stork type in a gift shop in Jacksonville, FL in the early-1980's. At the time we already had one in our collection that we had found at a flea market. We had also seen the other three versions for sale, one at a time and not by the bin-full. Judy bought hers in 1979, and soon after saw this picture in a mail order catalog. She wrote the company but they would only say the dishes were made in Taiwan and could be used as egg cups, or holders for candles, toothpicks or flowers.. Our guess is they were made for A.A. Imports, who is in the "Repro-From Abroad" business.



Confusing the issue is a blue chick supporting a similar shaped bowl on its back shown in the second picture. This a first cousin to the stork and its relatives, but the glass looks much older. The chick is covered with the remains of gold paint that has been around for a good many years. We've got no data except that we bought it in 1990 from a reliable antique dealer we know. One mark of her reliability is that she didn't say it was a salt, but let us decide that for ourselves. We liked it for a number of reasons, so we bought it, hoping that some day we could learn more about it..



Both the chick and the stork look awkward when you put an egg in them because the bowl is too small. Maybe the eggs we buy are too large, but they are the size that you would want to serve at the breakfast table. The bowls remind us of another "salt" we bought at a fairgrounds show in 1990, shown in the last picture. It is a milky blue, and we have since seen several other colors, mostly of the slag variety. It has a mysterious "C" in a hexagon mark, with the letters BOP underneath. Three years later we read in the Glass Collector's Digest that this was a paperweight and paper clip holder, advertised by Craig Glass Art Collectibles in the Glass Review October 1980. It looks like an original mold – at least we've never seen one of these shapes that looks old. More material for the "It Would Make A Nice Salt" group.



Shapes from the animal kingdom have been the basis for many interesting salt-size dishes. This started in the late 1800's as what Ruth Webb Lee calls "Victorian Novelties" in her book, "Victorian Glass". Some were actually listed as salts in the manufacturer's catalogs – the U.S. Glass "Just Out" salt and the McKee "Bird with Seed" come readily to mind. In our collection we take a broad view of such dishes. If we like them, and if they are the right size, we will get one. We won't be willing to pay a high price unless we are sure it is old, but we are willing to find a place on our shelves for little figural shapes like this. The manufacturer was making open salts, even if his thinking was too restricted to realize it.