

View from the Salt Box - #46

In our last column we showed a picture from an old patent which combined a celery vase with an open salt for dipping the celery. We didn't know if the design had ever been produced, but Sarah Kawakami from the Northern California club has found one! It is 6-1/2 inches tall, and looks quite easy to tip over. We have no idea where there might be another, but we'd love to get one.

Collecting a second item that matches an open salt can give you something more to look for when visiting shops and shows. With open salts getting scarce, this will make the hunt more interesting. The most obvious second item is a master salt matching an individual one. There are many glass masters that let you do this. We have about 50 in our collection, and we don't have all the possibilities.

If you want to go beyond open salts, you could look for pepper shakers that match one them. Dick Peifer had a very nice display of pattern glass open salt and pepper sets at a recent club meeting. Beyond glass, there are matching shakers in silver or even celluloid, like the pepperhorn that goes with the Viking boats. We have no idea how many of these salt/shaker combinations exist, but Dick's display had about a dozen, and it was very attractive.

Another possibility is to match an old open salt with a modern repro. We have set out to do this so we can tell the new from the old when we are in a dimly lit antique shop. The Wright version of the JERSEY SWIRL and PANELED THISTLE patterns are good examples of this matching. Setting the two together on our shelves highlights the difference, and often adds a bit of color.

If you want to go beyond salts and shakers, you can try tooth picks. There are many glass patterns that include one of these. We believe there are as many toothpick holders in the shops these days as there are open salts.. You will be competing with toothpick collectors, however, so prices on the scarce ones may be high.

We have a small collection of cream pitchers which match patterns on our glass salts. The collection fills a shelf in the kitchen window. There are quite a few of these pitchers available, but the shelf is full so we don't buy another unless it too cute to resist.

There are many complementary collecting possibilities we haven't mentioned. There are pattern glass shapes like celery vases, spooners, and compotes, or celery or radish dishes that match china celery dips. Before you start, however, plan which shelves you will use to show them, and think about how many salts would fit in the same place. Complementary shapes are almost as much fun to find as open salts. And remember – if you find two of the celery-vase/open salt combination we first mentioned, we'd like one.

Ed Berg

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<p>DESIGN F. O. WIRSHIP. Combined Glass Vessel. No. 10,954. Patented Dec. 10, 1878.</p>	
<p>Old Patent</p>	<p>The Real Thing</p>
<p>Riverside "Figure 8" Master & Individual</p>	
<p>Lily Pad Salt & Pepper</p>	<p>Viking Boat & Pepperhorn</p>
<p>Wright Version(left) with Old One JERSEY SWIRL & PANELED THISTLE</p>	
<p>BUTTON ARCHES Toothpick & Salt</p>	<p>WASHINGTON STATE Creamer & Salt</p>