



# Salty Observations

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You certainly have heard about the beautiful new book on open salts by Sandy Jzyk and Nina Robertson. It was published last fall, and shows thousands of salts in full color, along with information about each and an estimated price. It was produced by the Schiffer Publishing Co., and is available from most dealers who sell books relating to antiques. Our collection was used for some of the pictures in it, and the story of how they got there is quite interesting.

In the Spring of 2001, Sandy called and asked if she and Nina could take pictures of our salts for a new book. We were glad to accommodate her, so a July date was set for the big picture shoot. She and Nina came down two days ahead of time, and spent the better part of both days selecting what they wanted for the pictures and putting them in trays – tea trays, cafeteria trays, cardboard trays – anything that might be available to hold them. We created as many flat surfaces as possible for storing the trays. Needless to say, our big dining room and living room were both filled to capacity!

On Wednesday morning the photographer arrived and went to work. She set up in the front hall with a small stage and lights on it from all directions. One by one, Sandy brought the trays to the stage and the salts were set up for one or more pictures. As soon as the official shot was made, we moved in and took a corresponding one with our digital camera. These “back-up” shots were invaluable when it came time to provide information for the write-ups. At the end of the day we had about 230 pictures on our camera, and almost all of the salts in the trays had been used. The photographer said goodbye, but the work for Sandy and Nina was just beginning.

On Thursday, Kay spent most of the day putting the salts back on the shelves. Some of them are still not in the proper place!

In the ensuing months, Sandy and Nina visited 4 or 5 more places and had a similar “shoot” with other peoples’ collections. Then the hard work began. Every picture needed a description of the each salt including any marks, its maker if known, dimensions, and an approximate value. We provided what we knew about our dishes, but some of this was modified later when experts looked at the pictures. Finally the work was done, and Sandy said, “Never again!”.

When the book came out we anxiously went through it. We found over 170 of our pictures had made it into the final printing. We saw many of our other salts there too, most often alongside several like them of a different color or with similar ones that made us drool. We have decided there are a lot we wish were in our collection, but we ought to resign ourselves to enjoying what we have (most of the time).

Sandy and Nina deserve a great deal of credit for the book they have created. It does not overlap the H&J book very much – two thirds of our salts shown in it have no H&J number. It adds to the available information about the source and value of our dishes, and it extends the resources we have for communicating with other collectors. If you don’t have a copy, at least borrow one so you can see what you are missing. We know you will enjoy it.



*Small Part of Salts for Pictures*



*Kay, Photographer, Sandy*



*One of Our Pictures – Salt at Top  
Left is Reading “Salty Comments”.  
A Gift from Keith Tucker*