Supplement to The Handbook of Gorham Open Salt Dishes

By George & Carolyn Tompkins

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Printing Instructions

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Introduction

At the first National Convention in 1988, I bought a Gorham salt from George and Carolyn Tompkins who told me that it was not pictured in their book, *The Handbook of Open Salt Dishes*, which had been published the year before. After its publication, they found thirty or forty other Gorham salts which had not been included, so they planned on doing a sequel. Sadly, the Tompkins never got around to publishing anything more.

Gorham salts are one of Denise's special interests. She began collecting salts about twenty years ago when her cousin Maria Martell gave her one for Christmas. That one was a beautiful Silesia, which

started her collecting china, porcelain and glass salts. One day, while antiquing in a shop that specialized in silver, she decided that she should include one silver salt in her collection. Over the years she found many wonderful silver salts in that same shop – Tiffany, Stieff, Dominick and Haff, Georg Jensen, and Gorham.

Denise obtained a copy of the Tompkins book and started to concentrate on collecting Gorham salts. Since Maria also collects Gorham salts, they often split pairs. Denise's collection has skyrocketed over the years, as has Maria's, and we have identified more than seventy salts in their collections that are not listed in the Tompkins book. Several have been pictured in the original manufacturer's catalogs from the Meriden Historical Society. We thought it would be beneficial to other open salt collectors to document these salts and to include as much identifying information as possible.

A brief history of the Gorham Company follows. Jabez Gorham was born in Providence, Rhode Island in 1792. He started an apprenticeship with Nehemiah Dodge at the age of 14. After serving for seven years, he and a few partners began making jewelry and other small items. He became known for something called "the Gorham chain." In 1831 he partnered with Henry Webster to make silver spoons which they manufactured under the name Gorham & Webster. To bolster financing, the company took on a new partner and the name was changed to Gorham, Webster & Price. In 1841, Jabez's son John joined the company, and the name was changed to Jabez Gorham and Son.

Jabez retired in 1847 and his son became the head of the business. John was a visionary and quickly realized the advantage of adding machinery to compliment the manufacture of silverware. He brought several experienced workers from England to train the Gorham employees. The company employed several silversmiths who became famous in their own right. William Christmas Codman produced designs under the name "Martele" in the late 1800's. Erik Magnussen and Thomas J. Pairpoint also worked at Gorham.

In 1850 the company name changed to Gorham & Thurber, then to Gorham & Co. in 1852. In 1868 they stopped producing coin silver (900/1000 parts silver) and adopted the sterling standard (925/1000) as well as their trademark of Lion - Anchor - G. Another source reports that

the mark was used as early as 1848 and from 1848-1865, the lion faced left instead of right.

In the early part of the 20th century, Gorham absorbed several other silver companies including Mount Vernon Co. Silversmiths, The Alvin Co., Black Starr & Frost, McChesney Company, Quaker Silver Co., Friedman Company and Graff, Washbourne & Dunn. Whiting, Kerr and Durgin silver companies were formed into a holding company, The Silversmiths Company. The Gorham Company was reorganized, and Whiting, Kerr and Durgin were each eventually moved to Providence in the 1920's.

The Gorham Company was sold to Textron in 1967. Subsequent sales were to Dansk International Designs, Brown-Forman Corp. and finally to Department 56 within the Lenox Group. In 2009 the Gorham Co. was operating under the Lenox Corporation.

In order to organize the information in the easiest form to be useful to collectors, we followed the format of the chart in the back of the Tompkins book to give as much of the same information as was available. Data includes model number, year (if available either by year mark or dated catalog), size in inches, trademark and presence of liner, gold wash and remarks. While cataloging her collection, Denise found a few discrepancies between the model numbers stamped on the bottom of her salts and those listed in Tompkins. Because of this, there may be a few salts pictured here that are in Tompkins but marked with a different model number. Though we checked each salt with the plates in Tompkins, it is possible that we missed some. If anyone has other Gorham salts that are not in Tompkins and that are not pictured in this article, please contact us. We would consider publishing an addendum.

The authors would like to thank Nina Robertson
for her contribution of the mixed metal salt.

Bibliography

1. *The Encyclopedia of American Silver Manufacturers;* Rainwater and Redfield, 4th edition 1998.

2. *The Handbook of Gorham Open Salt Dishes*; Tompkins, 1987.

3. Internet *Wikipedia*.

Gorham Salts

1 20, 1894

2 38
Blue Liner

3 40, LD, Coin
Similar to 45

4 74
Spaulding-Gorham

5 142, 1880, Bowling Ball, Glass Liner, marked on cover

Gorham Salts

6 150

7 201, Whiting

8 410, 1869
Same as GM34

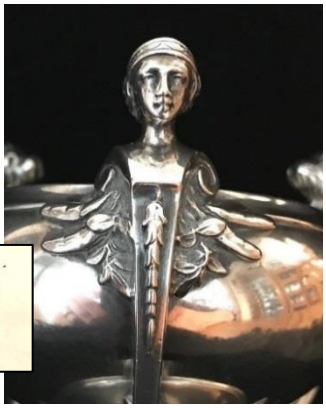
9 440, 1869
Same as GM33

Gorham Salts

10 490,

11 582

12 950



13 611

Gorham Salts

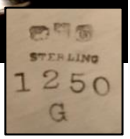
14 640

15 966, 1871

16 1060, 1871

17 1065, 1871

18 1145, 1872



19 1250, 1874

Gorham Salts

20 1420, 1877

21 1435,1877

22 1690, 1880

23 1815, 1880

24 1855

Gorham Salts

25 1660, 1881, &Other Metals

26 2000

27 2013, 1900

28 2370, 1888

29 2615, 1892

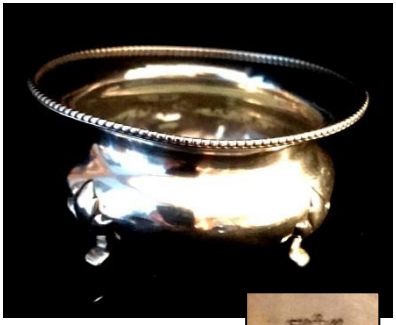
30 2630, 1891

Gorham Salts

31 2775

STERLING

32 2785, 1893



STERLING
2935

33 2935

STERLING
2950

34 2950, 1897

STERLING
2975

35 2975, 1894

Gorham Salts

36 2982

37 3045

38 3095

39 13615

40 3656

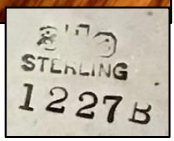
Gorham Salts

41 40037, Gorham
D in a circle
Durgan Co.

42 10A

43 786A, 1911

44 1386A, 1926



45 1227B

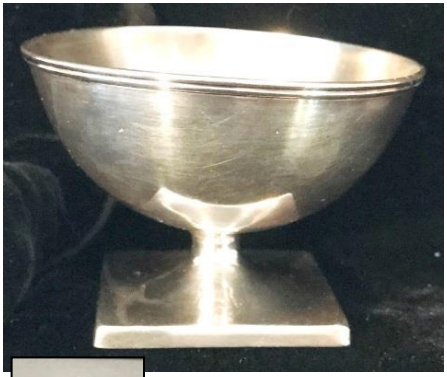
46 4F

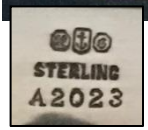
Gorham Salts

47 19F

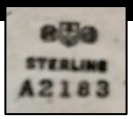
48 A765

49 A1031, 1900





50 A2023, 1900



51 A2183

Gorham Salts

52 A2966

53 A3139

54 A3185, 1898

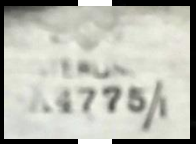
55 A3205, 1900-1910

56 A4186

Gorham Salts

57 A4387, 1873

58 A4884



59 A4775/1

60 A5864

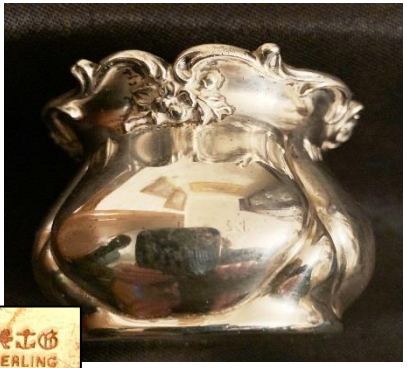
61 A6606

Gorham Salts

62 A8399

63 A9944

65 B4530/x



64 B180

66 LVL

67 O20 Variation, Silver Plate

Gorham Salts

68 O60
Silver Plate

69 O145, 1894
Silver plate

70 O175
Silver Plate

71 Coin
Unnumbered

72 Coin Unnumbered

73 Unmarked Swan

Trade Mark Column codes

LS	Lion walking to left (Sinistral)
LD	Lion walking to right (Dextral)
A	Anchor only, found on silverplate
LR	Lion on hind legs facing right (Rampant)
NTM	No trademark
1	Gorham & Thurber
2	Black, Starr, Gorham
3	Black Starr Frost Gorham
4	The Gorham Company
5	Gorham
6	Gorham & Company
7	Both Gorham G and Whiting Trademark

Vital Statistics Table

Model #	Date	Plate No.	Height	Diameter Width	Trade Mark Code	Liner or Remarks
20	1894	1	1 1/2"	2 ¼"	LD	
38		2	1 1/8"	2 3/4"	LD	blue
40		3	1 5/8"	2 3/8"	LD	
74		4	2”	2 3/8”		blue Spaulding
142	1880	5	3 1/2"	2 1/2"	LD	clear glass
150		6	2 ½"	3 3/4"	LD	
201		7	7/8"	1 5/8"		Whiting
410	1869	8	2 1/4"	3 1/4"	LD	
440	1869	9	2 3/4"	3 1/2"	LD	GW
490		10	3 1/16"	3 1/2"	LD	
582		11	1 ¼"	2"	LD	Blue
611		13	2 3/4"	3"	LD	
640		14	2 1/2"	3 7/8"	LD	
950		12	1 5/8"	2 1/4"	4	GW
966	1871	15	3"	3 1/2"	LD	

Model #	Date	Plate No.	Height	Diameter Width	Trade Mark Code	Liner or Remarks
1060	1871	16	1 3/8"	2 1/8"	LD	
1065	1871	17	1 1/2”	2 3/8”	LD	
1145	1872	18	1 7/8"	2 1/8"	LD	GW
1250		19	1 7/8”	2 3/4”	LD	GW
1420	1877	20	1"	1 3/4"	LD	GW
1435	1877	21	1 1/2"	2 1/2"	LD	
1660	1881	25	7/8”	1 5/8"	LD	& Other Metals
1690	1880	22	2 1/8"	2"	LD	
1815		23	1"	1 5/8"	LD	
1855		24	7/8”	1 3/4”	LD	
2000		26	1"	2 5/8"	LD	
2013	1900	27	1 5/8”	2 1/4”	LD	Cobalt
2370	1888	28	1 3/4"	2 1/2"	LD	
2615	1892	29	1 1/4"	2 5/8"	LD	
2630	1891	30	1 1/2"	2 1/4"	LD	GW
2775		31	3 3/4"	3 3/8"	LS	Blue
2785	1893	32	2 1/8"	3 ½"	LD	Blue
2935		33	1 1/4"	2 3/4"	LD	
2950	1897	34	7/8"	1 3/4"	LR	
2975	1894	35	2 1/4"	2 5/8"	LD	GW
2982		36	2 1/8"	2 3/4"	LS	
3045	1896	37	2 1/8"	4"	LD	
3095		38	1 3/16"	1 5/8"	LD	
3656		40	1 1/4"	2 3/8"	7	Red
13615		39	7/8"	3/8"	LD	
40037		41	3/4"	2 3/8"	5	Durgan
10 A		42	3/4”	3"	LD	GW
786 A	1911	43	1 ½"	4 1/8”	LD	
1386 A	1926	44	1 7/8"	2 1/4"	LD	
1227 B		45	1 1/8”	2 3/4”	LD	
4 F		46	1"	2 1/8"	4	

Model #	Date	Plate No.	Height	Diameter Width	Trade Mark Code	Liner or Remarks
19 F		47	2 1/8"	3 3/16"	4	
A 765		48	1”	2 3/8”	LD	
A 1031	1900	49	1 1/2"	2 7/8"	LD	
A 2023	1900	50	1 7/8"	2 3/4"	LD	GW
A 2183		51	1 3/4"	2 3/8"	LD	GW
A 2966		52	1 1/4”	1 3/4”	LD	
A 3139		53	7/8"	1 3/4"	LD	
A 3185	1898	54	1/4"	3"	LD	
A 3205	1900-1910	55	1 5/8”	3 5/6”	LD	
A 4186		56	1 1/4"	2 5/8"	LD	
A 4387		57	1 1/8’	1 3/4”	LD	
A 4775/1		59	3"	3 1/4"	LD	Blue Green
A 4884	1904	58	1 5/8"	2 1/2"	LD	
A 5864		60	1 1/8"	2 5/8"	LD	Blue
A 6606	1913	61	1"	3 3/4"	LD	
A 8399	1922	62	1"	2 1/2" x 1 3/4"	LD	
A 9944		63	1 1/4"	2 1/4"	LD	GW
B 180	1898	64	1 1/2"	2 1/4"	LD	
B 4530/x		65	3 7/8"	2 3/8"	LD	
LVL		66	1 1/4"	1 1/2"	LD	
O20		67	3”	1 1/2”	A	
O60		68	1 3/4"	2 1/4"	A	GW
O145	1894	69	1 1/2"	2 3/8"	4	Blue
O175	1894	70	1 1/16"	1 5/16"	A	GW
None		71	1 3/4"	2 5/8"	LD	
None		72	1 1/2"	2"	LD	
None		73	2 1/2"	3 3/4"	NTM	