

View from the Salt Box - #42

We've been reading too many murder mysteries lately. The other day we found ourselves looking at a nice heavy master salt and thinking, "What if someone were found with his skull bashed in with this?. It certainly would be a suitable weapon". Maybe we should write a story, "The Salt Dish Murder". It would certainly be a title that nobody has used before.

This line of thought led us to examine our salts to see which would be the best weapon for the killer. It would have to be a master – the individuals are not heavy enough to do an effective job. Looking around we decided that most masters would also be too light (sounds like we're experienced murderers, doesn't it). We selected 6 from our collection to consider..

The first salt, and the one that set us to thinking, is a freehand Pillar Molded master made at least 100 years ago (Figure 1). It is unusual, since the raised ribs on the sides are applied by hand. They would concentrate the force of the blow to make it even more effective. The problem is there are very few of these salts around - we've seen only one other. The killer would have trouble finding one and our detective could trace it easily.

The second choice is the Heisey EARLY PURITAN master (Figure 2). It weighs just as much (18 ounces) but lacks the protruding ribs. Maybe the corners of the sides would make up for that, but we doubt it.. It is not common, but there are enough of them for one to be handy at the time of the killing.

If we want protrusions, what better than the salt shown in Figure 3. This looks a little like a mace out of the middle ages, but it weighs only 11 ounces. Potent, but not really heavy enough for the job.

Back to the larger salts. The O'Hara #4 salt (Figure 4) weighs 16 ounces and is a better candidate. It is a strange looking thing, but not uncommon. There might be one handy when the need arose. The master with 6 bullseyes (Figure 5, 15 ounces) could also deliver a decisive blow if held properly, and could be selected for the dastardly deed.

The Sandwich Capstan salt (Figure 6, 15 ounces) is even better because it is more plentiful and thus would be harder to trace. It could be held sideways so the top edge would do the damage. Using a Sandwich salt for the murder weapon would also give the story a little more class, at least among knowledgeable glass collectors. Maybe this is the one to choose.

With a weapon selected, we need to come up with a motive for our story. What better than to steal a special one-of-a-kind salt that the dead person owns. We've heard the term before, "I'd kill to get one like that", and this could be an enactment of the wish. Now we need to invent a detective and identify the salt worth killing for so we can start writing. We can sub-title the story, "Assault With A Salt".

Like we said, we've been reading too many murder mysteries lately.

Ed Berg

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1. Pillar Molded Salt



2. EARLY PURITAN



3. Protruding Diamonds



4. O'Hara #4



5. Large Bullseyes



6. Sandwich Capstan