

VIEW FROM THE SALT BOX #2

BIRD-ON-A-BRANCH SALT

Thanks to Maxine Mittelstadt of Rochester, NY, we have found the difference between the "old" and the Mosser salt that features a bird on a branch beside a nest. She found a picture of an amber one in Clark W. Brown's "Supplement to Salt Dishes", his #2298. Since the book was published in 1941, long before Mosser went into business, they must have had a new mold made copying the old design.

Maxine loaned us her old bird so that we could see the differences. There are quite a few - there is no doubt that two different molds are involved. The easiest way to tell them apart is to look at the stub end of the branch. The Mosser dish has wood grain there - like the rings of a tree. The old dish has a flat surface - no sign of any grain. There are a number of other differences, but none as easy to describe in words.

Now if we could only find out who made the old one. A dealer once told us that it was Sandwich, but the Sandwich Museum has no record of any bird salts ever being made there. Someday we'll find an old catalog page that will solve the mystery.

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