

If one name could be synonymous with open salt collecting, then sure as there are glass salts and silver salts, that name would be Berg.

Ed and Kay Berg brought more to our hobby than a love of open salts. They brought a steadfast desire to learn as much as they could about each and every object: its age, maker, look-alikes, and rarity. They shared a passion for knowledge and a gift for research, as well as a willingness to invest their time and money in the pursuit of both.

The Bergs traveled from their home in Delaware to museums and libraries throughout the mid-Atlantic states and beyond to discover facts and dispel fictions about open salts. Because they condensed their research into enjoyable, easily digestible articles, many of us learned what we hadn't even realized we needed to know: pattern names and numbers, production dates, colorways, and more. The articles, quaintly titled "View from the Saltbox" and "Salty Comments," individually represent fun facts, sometimes even entertainment. Many of us remember the anticipation of receiving that envelope postmarked Newark, DE. What topic would they have tackled this time? What rare salt might we find hiding in our collections? Collectively, the articles by Ed and Kay Berg represent perhaps the greatest body of research on open salt dishes, an unrivaled base of knowledge for the salt collecting community.

The Bergs were generous to a fault. They opened their home and their hearts to collectors of all levels. They did not discriminate between those who collected Tiffanys and Daums and those who collected Boyd or St. Clair. All salts were a worthy pursuit in their minds! Any collector travelling through Delaware was always encouraged to drop in. "Just give us a call to make sure we are there," Ed would say with a smile. The always gracious Kay not only allowed you to paw through the collection, she served you homemade cookies and fresh squeezed lemonade while you did it!

It's impossible to fathom how many letters and inquiries Ed answered by hand back in the days before computers and the internet or how many special requests they received from collectors wanting to add a particular salt to their cabinet. Kind. Patient. Fair. Generous to a fault.

In his later years, following the untimely loss of Kay, Ed Berg gave the couple's entire base of research to be published on the Open Salt Collectors website, where it continues to serve as a fountain of information and a wealth of inspiration to collectors old and new.