

Bio on Harry “Ed” Bowman

Ed was a charter member of M.O.S.S., and its Treasurer and Newsletter Editor for many years. He hosted many meetings in the famous “basement” of his home in Hartford City, IN and was often on the agenda, presenting numerous programs over the years about open salts which were both informational and entertaining. Wherever something was happening with open salt collecting, Ed was there, even serving as Treasurer for the 2007 National Convention held in Indianapolis, IN.

And, in searching through the archives, Don and Deane Rabourn found this “bio” that Ed wrote in 1997 about himself for a MOSS Newsletter: “I have been collecting salts off and on for about 12 years, slowed down the last few years before I retired, but am back up to full speed now. I started collecting salts after I purchased a neat Viking Ship similar to H&J-4258 at a garage sale. Later I went to a Steward Flea Market at the State Fairgrounds (before Antique Malls and when Flea Markets had lots of old items) and a dealer there had one like it in a case with about 300 neat little dishes. (Wish I had bought them all!) I asked him about them and he told me they were salt dips. He showed me a book called “5000 Open Salts” and some by some people named “Smith”. He told me where I could get the books and I was hooked. My wife at that time and I started collecting open salts (and a few other items) and after we had accumulated several items and several extra salts, we decided it was time to get some money out of the extras so we could buy more. We started doing shows in Indianapolis and Louisville, KY. This led us to getting new salts and little chicks from Bob Wetzel which led to our purchase of his inventory and molds when he stopped pressing glass. So we started E&E Collectibles and marked of our glass with “E.E.” After our separation, I changed the name of the business to Ed Bowman Collectibles; however, all my glass is still marked “E.E.” and continued to wholesale my glass, but I stopped collected salts. After my retirement, I started collecting again and no do retail mail order of my glass and my extra salts. I collect all kinds of salts and cute little dishes, doubles, masters, glass, china, silver, etc. I have over 2000 in my collection and about that many duplicates (including contemporaries). My main interest would be probably glass. As far as favorited I have several, but the main ones would have to be my Sandwich Eagle Neal EE-7. Because I have always wanted a Sandwich salt. Also my Tree of Life (H&J-3581) which I have wanted since starting my collection, as I think of it as a keystone for a collection. Both of these I have acquired in the last year along with several other nice salts. They are still out there, maybe not as many and they cost more. My best buy would have to be my first Viking boat as it got me started and I only paid 50 cents for it. . . . I also collect toothpick holders, opalescent glass and things that catch my fancy.”

From Keith Tucker, a fellow collector and good friend of Ed’s provide some additional information on Ed: *There are three open salts collectors in recent years who have been outstanding in researching open salts: Ed and Kay Berg and Ed Bowman. The Bergs inspired us all! At a time in many of our clubs when a “renewed” interest was needed, along came M.O.S.S. (Midwest Open Salt Society) and Mr. Ed Bowman. Ed’s attendance at scores of open salts meetings throughout the country was well known. His leadership, enthusiasm and extreme devotion spawned a M.O.S.S. Newsletter that created a new standard which other clubs worked hard to follow. As Editor of the “MOSS Memo”, more and more collectors joined M.O.S.S., some just to receive the Newsletter. Ed’s outstanding and tireless research in contemporary open salts, will, I doubt, ever be duplicated! Thank you, Ed, for adding so much knowledge and appreciation to so many grateful collectors.*