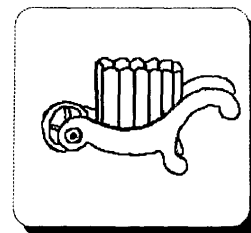




Salty Comments

No.52

Facts and Opinion about Open Salt Collecting



In this issue we will cover three different glass companies. They made lots of glass tableware, but we found relatively few open salts in their lists.

The oldest catalog of the three was about 1876, from the O'Hara Glass Co. This firm was originally Wallace, Lyons & Co., founded in Pittsburgh in 1849. The company was a major producer and won first prize for pressed glassware at the 1867 Paris Exposition. Their name was changed to O'Hara about 1875, and they became part of the U.S. Glass Co. when it was founded in 1891. Their plant, called Factory L, survived until 1893 when U.S. Glass closed it and sold the site.

The salts made by O'Hara include one surprise - a small horseshoe. We saw this before in the Adams catalog, and included it with other Adams salts in Salty Comments #36. The Adams catalog was dated 1881, so this O'Hara illustration beats it by about 5 years. We can't tell who copied whom, but both companies were in Pittsburgh and Adams may have borrowed the design or even the mold to go with their GOOD LUCK line of pattern glass. The owners might have been on good enough terms with each other for such a thing to happen. Now we will have to look carefully at every horseshoe to see if we can find any small differences to indicate that 2 different molds existed.

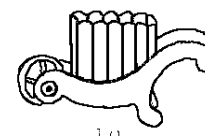


One of the O'Hara salts is the CINCINNATI type with faceted sides which so many of the old glass companies produced. Theirs looks different in the drawings, however - note the horizontal lines between the diamond panels on the sides. All the similar designs from other companies have the points of the diamonds touching as far as we have seen. We think this feature makes the O'Hara version of this common shape different and identifiable.



The second old catalog we found was from the Challinor, Taylor Co. about 1981. They were located in Tarentum, PA, which is about a dozen miles northeast of Pittsburgh. When they started in 1875 they had the largest glass furnace ever built. They were famous for their marble glass - what we now call slag glass - which is a blend of a color with white to give a striated effect like natural marble. They too joined the U.S. Glass combine in 1891 as Factory C. Two years later they had a disastrous fire which destroyed the plant completely. It was never rebuilt.

Challinor, Taylor also had a surprise for us in their catalog. We thought the "Barrow Salt", which we use in our masthead, was made by Adams. It is definitely shown in an old Adams catalog, but it also appears on a page of novelty items in an undated Challinor catalog. Again we don't know what to make of the situation - one company probably copied the other, but we can't be sure. There are not enough of these wheelbarrows around for us to check for two different molds. We'll just have to attribute the salt to both firms until we can get more information.



Another surprise was seeing the COBB salt from the Richards & Hartley 1888 catalog showing up in the 1891 Challinor, Taylor list. The former company had only the individual size with a

(cont'd on p. 4)

(2)

SALTS BY O'HARA

Fig. No.	O'Hara Name (Alternate Name by Others)	Master/ Indiv.	Year(s)	H&J No.	Smith No.
1	No. 3	M/I	1876	3690	466-4-2
2	No. 4	M	1876		
3	No. 15	M	1876		
4	No. 17 (Cincinnati)	I	1876	2908	
5	No. 99 (GOOD LUCK pattern)	I	1876	3741	53-4-2


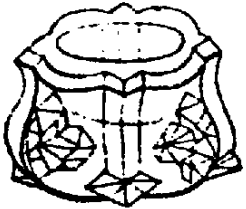




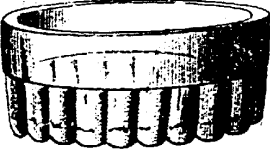

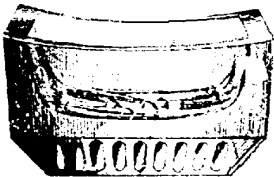


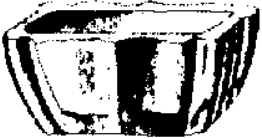




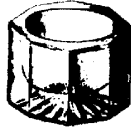




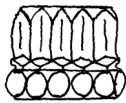

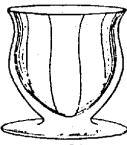

SALTS BY CHALLINOR TAYLOR

Fig. No.	Challinor Taylor Name (Alternate Name by Others)	Master /Indiv.	Year(s)	H&J No.	Smith No.
6	No. 6 Diamond	M	1891		
7	No. 7 Pillar Oval	M	1891		407-1-2
8	No. 8 Pillar Round	M	1891		
9	No. 10 Table (COBB salt, master size)	M	1891		
10	No. 11 Individual (COBB salt, individual size)	I	1891	2803	75-5-3
11	No. 5 Bath	M?	1891		

SALTS BY BRYCE

Fig. No.	Bryce Name (Alternate Name by Others)	Master /Indiv.	Year(s)	H&J No.	Smith No.
12	O. Gee	M	1891		
13	F & S	M	1891		
14	Derby Heavy Salt (PLEAT & PANEL pattern)	M	1891		
15	French	M	1891		
16	D & P (PRISM WITH DIAMOND POINTS pattern)	M	1891	3616	275-5-3
17	No. 2 Individual Salt	I	1891		475-6-1
18	No. 5 Individual Salt	I	1891	2583	4-2-2
19	No. 6 Individual Salt	I	1891	2781	481-4-3
20	No. 900	M/I	1891	2800	
21	No. 1000 (DIAMOND QUILTED pattern)	M/I	1891	3648	33-6-2
22	PITTSBURGH pattern (PRISM & BALL pattern)	I	1891		18-1-3
23	No. 1 1½ oz. Individual Salt	I	1916		
24	No. 250 1 oz. Individual Salt	I	1916		
25	No. 575 1½ oz. Individual Salt Dip	I	1942	341	261-6-1

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 <p>No. 3</p>	 <p>No. 4</p>	 <p>No. 15</p>	 <p>No. 17</p>	
1	2	3	4	
 <p>No. 99 SALT</p>	 <p>No. 6 Diamond</p>	 <p>No. 7 Pillar Oval</p>	 <p>No. 8 Pillar Round</p>	
5	6	7	8	
 <p>No. 9 Table</p>	 <p>No. 11 Ind.</p>			
9	10	11	12	
	 <p>Dirty Heavy Salt</p>	 <p>French</p>		
13	14	15	16	
 <p>No. 17 Ind Salt</p>	 <p>No. 18 Ind Salt</p>	 <p>No. 19 Ind Salt</p>	 <p>Heavy Salt No. 900</p>	 <p>Heavy Salt No. 900</p>
17	18	19	20	21
	 <p>1-1/2 oz. Individual Salt</p>	 <p>3501 oz. Salt, Optic</p>	 <p>575-14 oz INDIVIDUAL SALT DIP</p>	
22	23	24	25	

flat rim, while Challinor had a sway-back rim master as well as the flat rim individual. Since both became part of U.S. Glass in 1891, maybe the new firm transferred the individual size mold from one plant to the other.

The Challinor Diamond salt looks exactly like one in the 1888 Sowerby catalog (see Heacock & Johnson p. 277). We don't know how to tell the difference, but we suspect that a Sowerby one would have a peacock head and an English registry mark embossed on the glass inside the bowl. Most of the English salts of this era are marked in this way.

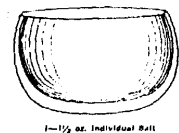
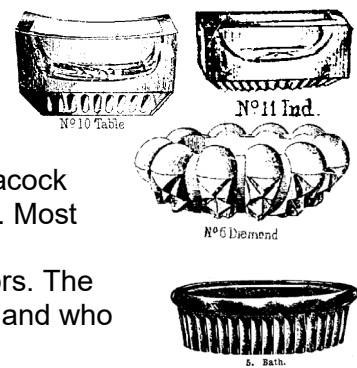
The dish we show in Figure 11, is one which can fool most collectors. The Challinor catalog lists it as a bird bath, 5" long. It certainly is the right size, and who can say that someone didn't convert it for table use when their bird died.

The third company is Bryce Bros. whose business is still with us under a different name. They started as Bryce, McKee in 1850, and the name underwent a series of changes, always with "Bryce" as part of it. They also merged with U.S. Glass in 1891, and became Factory B. Two members of the Bryce family became disillusioned with life in the big corporation and left in 1893 to form a new Bryce Bros. company. This started in Hammondville, PA, but they soon built a new plant in Mt. Pleasant, about 25 miles east of Pittsburgh. They operated it until 1948, when they sold the plant to Lenox. You can visit it today if you leave the Pennsylvania Turnpike when passing through the area. They have lots of Lenox crystal glassware in their showrooms.

In the 1891 catalog, many of the salts are common shapes. We have chosen those which we have not seen elsewhere for inclusion in this edition. The DIAMOND QUILTED pattern is interesting because the quilting design is on the inside of the bowl in both the individual and master sizes. By using a different plunger with the mold, an inexpensive change, they were able to make their No. 900 salt which lacks the quilting but has the same bottom design.

Besides the 1891 catalog from Bryce, we found 2 more recent ones with open salts. In 1916, they advertise "blown lead crystal glassware" and show 2 salt dips along with about 2500 other items, mostly tumblers and goblets. Their No. 1 1½ oz. salt is shaped like some sponge cups we have seen. Judging from the catalog it is much smaller, - we estimate about 2" across - and has thinner walls. We have never seen one, but we're looking for it now. In their 1942 catalog they still advertised hand-blown crystal glassware, and showed a salt dip along with a slightly larger almond dish with the same shape. We have seen the salt in blue, green and amber as well as in crystal.

Most of the salts made by these factories were not unusual shapes, but some of them can be distinguished from others of their day. Not all appear in the salt books we use, and not all are in our collection. As usual, this research gives more shapes to find for our collection, including several we have probably seen and ignored in the past. It should be possible to get one of each. We hope you have a lot of them in your collection already.



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December, 1995

References: "An Encyclopedia of Pressed Glass in America", by John & Elizabeth Welker
"Tarentum Pattern Glass" by Robert Irwin Lucas
Old glass company catalogs on microfiche in the Corning Museum Library
"5000 Open Salts", by William Heacock and Patricia Johnson
10 books, "Open Salts Illustrated", by Alan B. And Helen B. Smith