

# View from the Salt Box - #48

At the National Convention in California, Sarah Kawakami had an interesting display of the Anniversary Salts from all the clubs. The Anniversary Salt idea originated with the New England club in 1983, their fifth year, and there is an interesting story in these salts since then.

The NESOSC Fifth Anniversary Salt was made by the Hew Hampshire Pewterers, from pewter of course. These were made by hand, one at a time. It is hard to find one for sale today, since only enough were made to fill advance orders. It has NESOSC engraved on the side and the New Hampshire Pewterers mark on the bottom, along with the initials of the workmen who made it and the years 1978 and 1983. The salts are scarce today – Sarah discovered that when she needed to buy one to complete her display.

Soon after 1983, the club decided to develop a logo. The job was given to an industrial designer, and the drawing shown at the right was selected. This is still their official logo. The salt shown in it did not exist – the shape was created by the designer based on salts she had seen. It most closely resembles the DEWDROP AND STAR master, but there are numerous differences. Stationery was made up with the new logo, and rubber stamps were created to print it.

When the time came for a Tenth Anniversary Salt, (1988), the Executive Board decided it would be nice to have one that looked like the logo. We undertook the task of getting one made. The logical place to go was the Wetzel Glass Co. in Ohio. Bob Wetzel had stopped pressing glass by then, but he was a master mold maker and had some old molds which could be reworked. The first thing he wanted was a set of drawings, however. Recalling our days in Mechanical Drawing back in college, we went to work. The dimensions were a guess based on what we thought would look good, and we produced elevation, side and top views just like we had been taught. Bob gave us a quote of \$900 for the job, and the Board said to go ahead.

After a few months, Bob completed the mold and sent a wax casting from it for approval. It looked great, and it was approved at the next Board meeting. The salt had “N.E.S.O.S.C. 1978 – 1988” inside. The mark was put on the plunger so it could be changed easily in future years. The wax model was seen by more than 10 people, but nobody noticed that the letter “C” was backwards. The picture at the right shows how it looked. We took the mold to Summit Art Glass who made about 300 copies in cobalt blue. When they arrived the error was discovered, but it was too late.

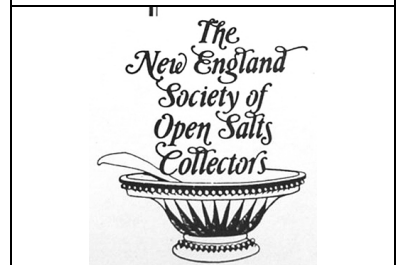
Since then, the New England Anniversary Salt has been made in red by Mosser (1993) and emerald green by Gillinder (1998). The mold has been passed from President to President, and will be good long after the we're gone. All that needs changing for another anniversary is one date on the plunger. The backwards “C” was corrected in 1993.



1983 Salt



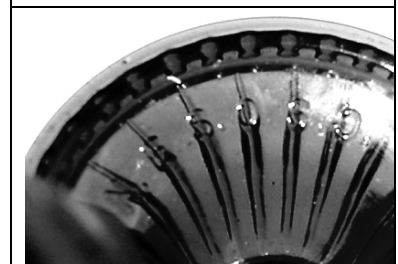
1983 Salt Mark



Logo



1988 Salt



Backwards “C”