

Mt. Washington Peppermint Stick Pattern  
by Denise Lonergan

I have two shelves of Mt. Washington salts. They are all the typical shape, and most are decorated with various floral designs. Recently, it was my good fortune to acquire a lovely open salt. The seller, Jim Watson, an expert on Mt. Washington glass, informed me that it was a piece of Mt. Washington in the Peppermint Stick pattern. This salt in no way resembles the other Mt. Washington salts in my collection. I had never seen the pattern before, so I researched online and found an auction for a compote with some information about the Peppermint Stick pattern that was produced in the 1880s.

Jim, a member of NESOSC and a presenter who has spoken at NESOSC meetings on Cambridge swans and Amberina and at the NOSC Convention in Newport on Cambridge swans, has purchased several pieces of this little-known Mt. Washington pattern for his wife, Cathy. Jim and Cathy were gracious enough to invite me to their home to photograph the pieces in this article.

Jim mentioned that the salt I purchased is pictured in *5000 Open Salts* by Heacock and Johnson. I found the salt on Page 31, #151. Heacock and Johnson identify it as European glass, and describe it on Page 107 as, "Frosted crystal with unusual red border decoration, circa 1915, Foreign, 2 ½" round." Is my new acquisition Mt. Washington or "Foreign"?

The Watsons have an exact duplicate of the salt I have, only theirs is in a holder made by Reed and Barton. Several of the Watsons' pieces are in holders manufactured in New England. Jim believes that because the metal holders of the pieces in this pattern that he has acquired were manufactured in the United States, the glass is indeed Mt. Washington and not European, as Heacock and Johnson stated. Furthermore, the glass from which these pieces were crafted looks and feels very similar to that of lamp shades, frosted on the outside and shiny on the inside, and Mt. Washington did manufacture glass lamp shades.

Jim and Cathy Watson, my cousin and NESOSC President Maria Martell and I diligently searched through books, articles and auction catalogues in an effort to find more information on this pattern and to hopefully find the salt pictured. The only information Jim found was in *The Collector's Encyclopedia of American Art Glass* by John A. Shuman III. An excerpt follows.

***Peppermint Stick – Mount Washington***

*This little known clear crystal glass has a flint quality, is acidized on the exterior and shiny on the interior. An outer lip of applied rosaria cut in a picket fence design appears on all examples; some wide-diametered objects have a 24 pointed star cut on their bases. Examples may also be found with additional cutting (scarce); some attractive specimens are set in quadruple holders. Forms likely to be discovered are bowls, creamers and sugars. This glass was never signed.*

Three pieces are photographed and the caption reads, "Three examples of Mount Washington's Peppermint Stick, cranberry ribbon edges with Picket Fence cutting, each is acidized, two have additional cutting, all are in quadruple-plated holders... ." Unfortunately, none of the items pictured was the open salt.

At any rate, with all due respect to William Heacock and Patricia Johnson, I have placed my salt in the cabinet with my other Mt. Washington glass salts. If anyone has information that will definitively identify it, please enlighten me, although comparing it with other pieces that have been identified as Peppermint Stick prompt me to state that it is so with at least some measure of confidence.

I hope other salt collectors are as fortunate as I was to find a salt in the Peppermint Stick pattern. Even if it turns out that this is a "Foreign" salt, it will remain in my Mt. Washington collection. I'm granting amnesty.

