

VIEW FROM THE SALT BOX - #7

This is a game. If you want to play it, do exactly as you are asked.
Before you read further, stop and think for a minute. Which of your salts is your "greatest find"?

In our experience, most people consider their "greatest find" as an expensive salt that they got at a bargain price. The Glass Review newspaper (which is now defunct) ran a series of "Greatest Find" articles, one a month, submitted by their readers. Almost every one was a story about a piece of glass discovered at a flea market or a garage sale that was worth 10 to 100 times the asking price. Less than half talked about what a wonderful piece of glass it was. While there is no doubt that the purchasers got great satisfaction from what they bought, we think that collectors are missing out on something if their only motivation is finding a bargain.

Suppose there was a fire, (or earthquake, if you are a Californian), and you had time to grab only one salt from your collection before escaping from the house. Which would it be? No time to think it over - just choose now. Only one! Quickly!

Now that you are safe outside, did you choose the biggest bargain in your collection? Do you wish that you could go back in and swap? Which one would you swap it for?

Now ask yourself again, what was your greatest find.

In going through this exercise ourselves, we get emotionally upset. Thinking about all the nice salts we left behind gives us problems. There are a number that may be one of a kind - no way should they be lost. There are some that are rare, which many other collectors would like to have. We dislike the thought of our salts being destroyed, when they should really belong to someone who appreciates them. And they should be appreciated for what they are, not for the fact that they are worth more or less than what we paid.

So what is our own greatest find? It varies from month to month. When we visited the joint meeting of the California clubs, it was the cut-to-clear set with mustard pot on a silver pedestal that we found in San Juan Batisto. The price we paid for that was no bargain! Later it was the Webb cameo glass salt with white acorns on a cranberry background (which we paid well over the H&J price to get). When Patti Johnson saw our collection in 1988, it was the toboggan salt from O'Hara which she had never seen before (see catalog reprint, H&J p. 16). Today it probably is the Fostoria LOUISE pattern salt, which is the only one of its kind we know of. In case of fire, however, we'd probably have to be rescued by the fire department, because we'd be standing there, trying to make up our minds.

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January 1991

P.S. Selections given do not necessarily reflect the views of the management. - Kay
