

MOSSY COMMENTS - #1

Our editor, Ed Bowman, has encouraged us to contribute a column on open salts to each issue of the newsletter. We're going to give it a try, hoping that the appropriate inspiration will occur to suggest topics as needed. This time he has inspired us to write by sending us information we had not seen before about Imperial CANDLEWICK pattern salts. Combined with what we had already, we have tried to get a clear view of just what the Imperial Glass Company made.

The usual CANDLEWICK salt dip we think of is the one shown in a top view in Figure 1. It is round with sloping sides, about 3/4" high and 2" across, and has beads around the rim. There are two versions of this, one with 16 beads and one with 18 beads. We have never seen an explanation of which is older. About 15 years ago, while Imperial was still in business, Carol Van Norman wrote them and they couldn't tell her which one came first. If you want a complete collection, you need one of each. There is also a version with 16 gold beads on the rim which was sold as part of a Salt Dip Set, and one with ruby flashing on the bowl. These are much scarcer than any of the plain ones.

The same design was used in a slightly larger size, but we have never seen it advertised for salt. It is 2-3/4" diameter with 18 beads, and was variously advertised as a nut dish, nut cup, nut dip, ash tray and sugar dip. This is the size that the Boyd Crystal Art Glass Co. is making in color now, always with their mark on the bottom.

There is a second CANDLEWICK salt dip that Ed Bowman found for us. It is shown with a matching pepper shaker in Figure 2. The black material in it is salt – we changed the catalog photo from negative to positive to show details better, and this is what we got. It is 2-1/4" diameter and has 9 large balls around the rim. It is less common than the first type, It also was made with gold balls as part of a salt dip set according to the catalogs, but we have never seen one in real life. There is a slightly larger 11-ball version of this type too, advertised as an ash tray and also listed with gold balls as part of an ash tray set. Boyd makes these 11-ball ones in color currently, always marked.

Beside the salt in Figure 2 is a salt spoon, which we have been able to identify. It is clear glass with a ribbed bowl and a Fleur-De-Lys on the end of the handle. It is shown in Figure 3, and is listed in the Imperial advertisements as their 400/616 Salt Spoon. We got one of them with an Imperial CAPE COD salt and pepper set, so we are pretty sure of our identification. There is second spoon in their ads which is like Figure 3 but has a plain bowl. We're looking for one currently..

If you want a complete set of CANDLEWICK open salts, you will have to make room on your salt shelves for 6 dishes at least. You also may find some of the beaded rim versions with engraving on the sides or a star cut into the bottom. Your only problems will be paying for the decorated ones and finding room on the shelves for all the variations.

Ed Berg
401 Nottingham Rd., Newark, DE 19711

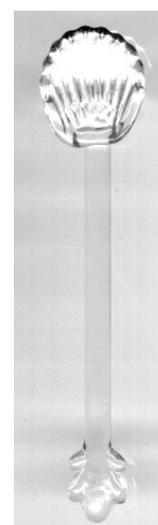
June 1997



*Figure 1
CANDLEWICK
Beaded Version*



*Figure 2
CANDLEWICK
Large Ball Version*



*Figure 3
Imperial Salt Spoon*