

OPEN SALT COLLECTORS

NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

Issue #21 Fall 2011



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Mary K. admiring her award!

2011 Outstanding Achievement Award

One of the highlights of the closing banquet at the convention is the announcement of the winner of the Open Salt Collector's Outstanding Achievement Award. The presentation this year was done by Sue Sawyer, Vice President of OSC. Here are her comments: "Good evening, It is my privilege to present to you tonight the 2011 recipient of the OSC Outstanding Achievement Award. This year's award recipient has served as club president, contributed to

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Save The Date!

13th National Open Salt Convention, May 2 - 5, 2013

In Newport, Rhode Island

Hosted By NESOSC

Editor's Notes:

Another wonderful convention has come and gone and a good time was definitely had by all. Many thanks to Donna Wolfe, Convention Chairperson for OSCAR, and her committee for the wonderful job they did. The Torch was passed to the New England club and you can read about their preliminary plans for the 2013 Convention in this newsletter. Mark the date now on your calendar, though, so you can join in the fun!

Congratulations to Sarah Kawakami on her election as President of Open Salt Collectors. She and her fellow officers have their work cut out for them!

Sorry this newsletter is a little late in coming to you; we'll definitely be back on schedule for the Spring 2012 issue. My personal thanks go to those who sent me their photos from the convention, especially Jim Wrenn and Sarah Kawakami.

On a subject related to this newsletter, please note the article on page 17 by Judy Johnson on the change in how subscriptions will be handled in the future. We are encouraging everyone who has a good Internet connection to switch from receiving their newsletter via the post office to receiving it via email. This is a win-win situation for all as the reader saves a third off the subscription cost and OSC saves the cost of printing and mailing. Please consider this when you resubscribe.

Also, if you have any suggestions for this newsletter, whether for future articles, format changes or something in between, please contact me with your thoughts (rcelser@aol.com).

Lastly, my personal thanks to my step-son, Christien Carroll, for his invaluable assistance with this issue.

Thanks,
Rod Elser

President's Message:

I would like to thank everyone for their support in electing me as President of OSC. I am undertaking a large amount of responsibilities and looking forward to the next two years. I need to thank Debi for all she did for OSC while she was President. Serving with me this term will be Diane Wittik, Vice President; Sue Sawyer, Secretary; Judy Johnson, Treasurer; Jeff Kornbau, Web Master; and Rod Elser, Editor of the National Newsletter.

At the OSC Board Meeting held during convention, it was felt that OSC's main task is the Newsletter and in that it is not really "dues" that are being collected but rather subscription fees. In light of this, we decided to make a change in how these subscription fees are collected. Effective immediately, all money for subscription fees will go directly to the OSC Treasurer and will no longer be collected through the individual clubs. Subscription monies are due by January 31st. There is a separate notice by OSC Treasurer Judy Johnson in this Newsletter so please read it carefully and contact either Judy or the President of your regional club if you have any questions. We also hope to move from 2 to 3 issues per year, but due to the constantly increasing costs for both printing and postage, we are encouraging subscribers to opt for electronic rather than postal distribution. Note that despite the increasing costs, the subscription rate is staying the same this year.

Another change that was suggested and is being implemented both for the Newsletter and on our web site is that only first names and last initials will be used in photo captions whenever individuals are noted. This is being done for your privacy since these photos have at times been copied and turned up on other web sites.

During these next two years I want to have full and open communications so if you have any concerns or comments please email me (hgsalts@earthlink.net). Together let's strive to make OSC even better than before!

Sarah

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While we encourage the dissemination of information about open salt collecting, we like to know in advance when and where material originally appearing in the National Newsletter will be used. Please contact the Editor (rcelser@aol.com) if you would like to reprint anything from this newsletter. When the publication occurs, we also ask that a copy of it be sent to the Editor for our archives.

The National Newsletter is the official publication of Open Salt Collectors (OSC), a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting and encouraging the study, collecting and preservation of open salts. This is done through the publication of a national newsletter, maintaining an informational web site, promoting membership in open salt collecting clubs, publishing informational and educational articles in collector publications and through other means as may be appropriate from time to time. The current officers of OSC are: Sarah Kawakami, President; Diane Wittik, Vice President; Sue Sawyer, Secretary; Judy Johnson, Treasurer; and Jeff Kornbau, Web Master.

The National Newsletter of Open Salt Collectors currently is published twice per year but we hope to increase this to three issues per year. The subscription rate is \$15/year by mail or \$10/year by email. A subscription form is located on the OSC web site (www.opensalts.info) and copies of back issues can also be purchased there.

Outstanding Achievement Award

continued

the National Newsletter, and acts as a self-appointed ambassador for open salt collecting. This is a person who always goes the extra mile to promote our hobby and will assist in any “salty” project and do whatever is needed.

The 2011 recipient is a wealth of information which is freely shared through the chat board, newsletters and at shows. This person has been known to say, “I’ll talk salts to anyone who will stand still long enough.”

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my honor and pleasure to present to you the 2011 OSC Outstanding Achievement Award recipientMary Kern!

It is my understanding that Mary wasn’t able to make it to the convention, so is there someone who would accept these tokens of our appreciation in her behalf and deliver them to her with our sincere congratulations?

Editor’s Note: Wilfred Cohen volunteered to carry the award back to California and then personally delivered it—together with everyone’s congratulations—to Mary. Thanks Wilf!



Blue Milk Glass Double Bow Tie Salt

Mary Kern notes that Al Diamond is looking for any information on his newly acquired Baby Blue milk glass double bow tie open salt. It is quite different from the Susaki Crystal black double salt from Japan. The blue one is an inch longer at 4 1/2” and 1/2” wider at 2”. The center is also different: the black one has a bump in the center area while this blue one has an indent. If you have one, or have any information on this blue double bow tie, please let us know.



PASSING THE TORCH!

The final ceremony at each convention is the formal “passing of the torch” from the president of the current host club to the president of the club hosting the next convention. At the closing of the 12th National Open Salt Convention, the torch was passed from Sherry Diamond, President of Open Salt Collectors Atlantic Region (OSCAR) to Maria Martel, President of New England Society of Open Salt Collectors (NESOSC). Maria noted that she and her committee have already been hard at work with the planning for the next convention and that a date and a location have already been determined. The 13th National Open Salt Convention (NOSC) will be held May 2 – 5, 2013 in Newport, Rhode Island! Newport was recently named by Good Morning America as one of the 10 Most Beautiful Places in America. We will be staying at the Newport Harbor Hotel and Marina; you can visit their web site www.newporthotel.com for a virtual tour. Convention details will be made available as plans are finalized, but for now, mark the date on your calendar and we hope to see you there!

DOULTON OPEN SALTS *by Elaine Cooper*

Doulton open salts are found designated as Doulton Lambeth, Doulton Burslem and Royal Doulton. Lambeth is the area of London in which the original Doulton Co. was located and all stoneware items were made here from 1854 to the closing of the factory in 1956. Burslem is the area in northern England now called Stoke-on-Trent. Earthenware and bone china open salts were made here starting in 1877. Doulton & Co. was awarded the royal warrant in late 1901 so from 1902 they were known as Royal Doulton. It is easy to become fascinated by the story of the development of Royal Doulton. John Doulton began his career with a seven-year apprenticeship at the age of 12. He worked 74 hours in a 6-day week. He would become a very prolific thrower of pots and even after he owned the company and his time was devoted elsewhere, he often threw pots just to relax. That is rather hard to imagine because the wheel had to be turned using foot power. His son, Henry, joined the company in 1835 at the age of 15. By the age of 30 he had become the driving force in the company. Henry hired his first artist, Charles Tinworth, in 1867. The second artist, hired in 1871, was Hannah Barlow. Both of these artists did distinctive work and are highly collected today. The hiring of a woman was very unusual in those days, but by 1881 he had 229 women artists working along with 20 male artists. Henry Doulton was an unusual man and was the first potter to receive a Knighthood in 1877.

Many open salts found today have a date impressed on the bottom. Henry Doulton thought that was a good idea and from about 1875 to 1886 the date was impressed on the stoneware pieces—at least I have pieces with that range of dates. It was stopped because retailers complained to Mr. Doulton that they found it difficult to sell 'old stock'. Unfortunately for us, Doulton listened and stopped the practice of impressing the date made. Doulton made many types of ware but perhaps did not make open salts in every type of ware. The wares in which I have found open salts are: Hunting ware, Faience, Impasto, Silicon, Gilt Circle, Chine, Copper Ware, Egyptian, Kingsware and Flambe.

Stoneware requires just one firing in the kiln, so all work was completed on the pieces before they went to the kiln. Initially, the stoneware was salt glazed. The salt was thrown into the kilns during the firing process and the pieces inside took on a shiny finish. Hunting ware was made for many years by all potters in England from about 1800 and by Doulton until the

Lambeth factory closed in 1956. Hunting ware has applied reliefs of windmills, gents sitting with foaming mugs of ale, trees, hounds and/or horsemen.

They come in a great variety of size and shape and can make a great collection of just this one ware. (Plate 19)



Faience ware made by Doulton is not like the French tin-glazed majolica but it is beautifully painted in lovely colors. I have only one Doulton faience open salt which

is the only one I have ever seen. Doulton produced this ware from 1873 to 1914.

Impasto ware is decorated with thinned clay, called slip, with color added. This slip is still thick enough that it appears in relief on the body. This technique is also called pate-sur-pate and items were produced with this technique from 1879 to 1914.



Silicon ware carries a special rectangular impressed mark which states "Doulton Silicon Lambeth. This is in a rectangle with each corner indented. The coloring



is a matte terra-cotta and often has applied reliefs or a mosaic design. Silicon ware was produced from 1880 to 1932 with the exception of the World War I years, 1914–1917. It was in Silicon ware that Royal Doulton produced the bears and baboon designed by Harry Simeon c. 1900.

Gilt Circle ware is quite available today. It was produced from 1880 to 1908 and again in limited production from 1920 to 1928. Some pieces are edged in cobalt blue and others in a teal-like green. Some have a bit of design, like tabs, added.



Chine ware is marked with a distinctive logo which says “Doulton Slater’s Patent”. Production began in 1885 and after 1891, “England” was added to the logo. John Slater was Burslem’s manager and they patented this process which consisted of embedding dampened lace into unfired clay. When it was baked in the kiln the lace was burnt off but the design stayed on the body. Design was both painted onto the body and/or reliefs applied.



When I wrote the book, “Doulton Open Salts, Lambeth, Burslem, Royal” I had never seen a Copper Ware open salt. Shortly after its publication, another salt collector bought one on eBay and decided he didn’t



want it so sold it to me. It isn’t the most attractive open salt I have ever seen but I love it because I know it is quite rare. Copper Ware proved to be very popular and it was produced at Lambeth from

1887 to 1914. The pieces were painted with a copper luster and the design included rivets, seams, dents and sometimes even verdigris.

Egyptian ware, produced from 1890–1914, was usually Egyptian motifs applied to stoneware. After Tutankhamen’s grave was discovered in 1922, Royal Doulton produced Egyptian ware in 1924, not in stoneware, but in silicon ware. These had a black background with gold motifs.



Kingsware, produced from 1898 into the late 1930’s, is a lovely dark brown with designs in soft colors. Kingsware has the design painted into the embossed design on the inside of the mold before the slip is poured into the mold. There is just one firing and the color is fused into the body.



Flambe is a patented process which was Doulton’s attempt to replicate the Chinese red glaze. The color is usually a true red; however, I recently saw an open salt shaped like the one pictured here, only slightly larger, and it was a true orange color. It bore the Doulton Flambe logo. I have never seen another piece of Flambe that is orange. Flambe pieces usually carry a premium price and open salts are very rare.



I don’t usually discuss prices of Doulton pieces, however, I recently obtained a piece done by Charles Tinworth. The person selling it on eBay had no idea what the piece was except she knew it was marked

Doulton Lambeth and it was described as a cute little boy playing a musical instrument with a small bowl



beside him. She had several photographs of the piece. When I saw the first picture I thought it was a Tinworth and then another photograph showed his initials and confirmed it. I don't always bid early, but decided I would bid early on the day it closed. I really wanted this salt! I put in a bid of \$1,000 and immediately I was the high bidder at \$769. I thought my maximum would never hold, so I upped it to \$2,000. I kept watching it and the price went up a bit so I thought I had better up my bid to \$2,500. It didn't take long for me to worry whether that was even enough, so I went in and took my bid to \$3,000—remembering that I had been offered a very different little boy by Tinworth a few years before for \$4,000 and had declined it. As it came nearer to the auction's end time, the price was close to \$1,000 and I hoped I would get it around that price. However, just a few seconds before it closed the screen began to change and then it showed I had won the piece for \$2,550! The sniper had come in at \$2,500 and \$2,550 was the next bid required. That was close to the highest price I had ever paid for a Doulton but I love the little guy and this picture is the first one I have shown of him.

One other story about price in which you may be interested is about the one I have pictured on the cover of my book. I was in London and visited a store that I knew specialized in Doulton pieces. When I visited she had no open salts but said she did come across them occasionally and to leave my name and phone number,

which I did. One morning about a year and half later, in California, I was awakened by a phone call. It was the shopkeeper in London and she described a lovely piece by a famous Doulton artist. It sounded wonderful and I asked the price. It was \$1,200 and I had never paid that much for a salt so I thanked her profusely and said I thought I would pass on it. She quickly said that was ok but if and when I ever saw it, I would be sick I had passed it up. I then changed my mind and am so glad I did. I was offered a piece very much like it while my book was in production but the price was twice what I had paid!

Books regarding Doulton ware show very few pictures of open salts. I assume this is because they are so small that they seem insignificant. They are difficult to find without the help of a dealer or bidding on eBay. The variety of Doulton open salts, however, make them very much worth the quest.



*Elaine is a long-time resident of Southern California and a long-time member of Open Salt Seekers of the West (OSSOTW), Southern Chapter. The above article is a summary of the presentation she made at the 12th National Open Salt Convention. She is the author of **Doulton Open Salts**, a wonderful reference book for anyone interested in either open salts or items produced by Doulton. The hardcover book, which has nearly 200 photos of Doulton salts, is available for \$40 plus \$3 media mail shipping or \$4.95 priority mail shipping (California residents need to add \$3.50 sales tax). Orders can be sent directly to Elaine at P.O. Box 665, Desert Hot Springs, CA 92240.*

Editor's Note: All but two of the photos included with this article are from Elaine's book and were taken by and the property of Jim Wrenn. Thanks to Jim for letting us use them here!

ASK MARY by Mary Kern

A super congratulations to the new Board Members. Also many thanks to those that attended the convention and shared your excitement and fun with us through pictures and e-mails. Now - On to some drooling.....

We ended the last issue with a question of whether you were a “Buncher or a Spreader” . . . Come to find out, most of you are both. A stack here, a blend there and a combo in the corner. As you know, my usual comments always wind up with some mention of how Your salts should actually be in My cabinets, so let’s just throw it out there right now I want them all. Coveting of salts is not a sin or a mental disorder; it is basically a simple fact of my life!

Jane Koble said she would like to spread things out a bit, but has a limited amount of room. Having seen Jane and Phil’s vast collection, I know that if she spread all of her pretties out, there would be no room for Wendy (their cat) let alone them. . . .



Though I am showing just one picture from Lisa Tiedeman that indicates she is a spreader, trust me, she can bunch with the best of them. Not that she has to, though, as Craig not only made the set of wooden teeth George Washington was sporting at the recent convention dinner party given by the best dressed hostess Scarlet O’Hara, but he does a dandy job on the making of cabinets as well.



Gary Nelson, our newsletter editor for both clubs in the west, puts his collection in the bunching category. He can claim that there is just not enough room to do otherwise, but having them together allows him to miss some on a quick glance—thus demanding time to really stand and admire.



I have always considered Joan Feasler to be one of my primo authorities on Art Glass. After looking at some of her pictures, I am sure you will agree. She combines her many loves in her displays and some shelves are bunched and some are spread out—I am still waiting for her to go on vacation so I can come “doggie sit” for her. . . .dust her salts, make room for more. . . .



There is no question that Kent Hudson is a buncher. It did not work Kent! Even bunched I have several on my “grab and go” list.



Joanne Brown has two shelves in a cabinet that are only for salts and one shelf of mostly blue glass with a few other materials rounding it out. She thinks she is a buncher with a definite 1/8" set apart between the salts. As with most of us, however, best laid plans occasionally go awry and some salts have escaped to the bookcases and tops of tables.



We caught Susie Proctor with most of her collection still boxed safely so that the workers laying her new hardwood floors could have elbow and knee room, but she likes to put "like with like" as she collects perfume bottles along with the salts. Fortunately Susie could get us one photo showing a dresser displaying this process. Are any of us surprised that



it would have a main theme of—what else—Butterflies???

As a last entry on the topic we started in the prior issue, Wilfred Cohen brought a beautiful salt to a club meeting and is allowing me to share it with you. He sure would like to know if any of you have a salt like it. Here is the scoop about the salt he received from a friend of his: "After some initial research I was leaning to a Boston and Sandwich Glass attribution for your open salt. I then sent an email to the curator at the Sandwich museum asking her if Sandwich produced this item and here is her response.":

"Frosted glassware with beaded or sometimes called peppermint tops was produced at the Boston & Sandwich Glass Company 1870-1887. The Mount Washington Glass Company of New Bedford also produced this type of ware. For references to this style, I refer you to Raymond E. Barlow and Joan E. Kaiser's The Glass Industry In Sandwich, Volume 5, pages 58 and 59."

Wilfred says he would offer the piece as Boston & Sandwich glass as he has found no reference in Wilson's books for this type of glass. Shards were also found in digs at Sandwich, which he now feels confirms the attribution. Shuman, on pg. 110 of his book, says Mount Washington, but Wilfred believes he is wrong. The metal on his is signed "Hartford Silver Plate Co," and on this one is "Reed and Barton." The glass is currently called "Peppermint Stick" by collectors. Any one else with a Peppermint Stick glass salt??

As I said this will be the last "Unusual or thought to be One-of-a-Kind" salt I will put in this column. It has caught on rather nicely and so any future submissions with as much information and pictures as you can offer, should be directed to Rod Elser, Editor (rcelser@aol.com). As for this column next time, Hmmmm - To polish or not to polish, To re-silver or to leave as is????????? Show me your silver. and any spare salts in your collections gladly accepted here in EggoLand!



BUY AND SELL SESSIONS AT THE 12TH NOSC by Lesley Solkoske

Twenty-six people signed up to do buy and sell at the convention. Most dealers were familiar faces, but there was one notable exception. Ruth Rudnick, Mimi Rudnick's daughter, had brought silver salts from her mother's inventory to sell.

Mimi, also known as The Salt Lady, was a member of NESOSC and a dealer in open salts in the early days of the clubs. Mimi set up at many of the large national antique shows. I remember the first time I saw her booth at the New Haven Antique Show. The entire booth had open salts! Breathtaking! In addition to her salts, she pulled out, from underneath the table, scrapbooks of the club meetings. I stayed in her booth for the entire afternoon perusing the scrapbooks and trying to decide which salt to take home! Prior to this, I had not realized there was a club. During my 25 years in the club, I have heard this story repeated many times from other collectors. She influenced more than one of us to become members and share in the fun of the meetings. Mimi figured predominately at the first National Convention in 1988, also in Williamsburg, as a speaker and as hostess of a fabulous cocktail party before the banquet. So it was very fitting to have Ruth with us with many of her mother's salts.

It was a buyers' market! Something for everyone – silver, lacies, pattern glass, art glass, china salts, old salts, new salts and everything in between. If you were looking for it, it was probably there. In the words of one first time conventioneer, "It took my breath away when I walked into that room!" But you did not have to be a greenhorn to be overwhelmed. Convention Buy and Sell is always amazing. And addicting. That's why we keep coming back for more!

Clockwise from top left:

1. Some Steuben and other salts from Bill M.
2. Some of Wilf C.'s wonderful salts for sale
3. Sarah K. helping sell salts for Nancy V.
4. Jim W. and Al D. look at Betty D.'s salts
5. Don and Nancy D. with their 'spare' salts
6. Lovely lacies for sale by Mike K.
7. Active selling at Donna W.'s table
8. Overview of Buy-Sell floor
9. Ruth R.'s silver salts
10. New England club members at Nina R.'s table
11. Connie K. at her selling table
12. Earring salts made by Craig T.
13. Elaine C., Robert R. and Jenny I. at Elaine's selling table
14. Salts on offer from Sandy



MY (ALMOST) ONE-OF-A-KIND SALT by Lesley Solkoske

I recently acquired an open salt and spoon made by a most unusual silver shop located in Wallingford, CT.

Toward the end of World War I, General Pershing cabled from France to Washington with a request for several hundred young women to work in overseas hospitals “to counteract the idleness and build morale by giving instruction in crafts to wounded and otherwise incapacitated soldiers”. Thus was the beginning of the occupational therapy profession!

One young woman who answered the call was Margaret Wheeler Robinson, a Meriden, CT native. She was well qualified as she was educated, personable and skilled in metalwork, wood carving, dressmaking and watercolors. Despite her family’s concerns, she applied and was accepted into the program and received her training in New York City. After the war she left for Asheville, NC where she became a “reconstruction aide” at Oteen Military Hospital. There she met a young soldier, William Waldo Dodge, Jr., who had contracted tuberculosis in France. William was trained as an architect and although he was interested in wood carving, Margaret introduced him to metalwork. They were eventually married in 1921 and settled in Asheville, NC. However Lt. Dodge soon had a relapse of his tuberculosis and this time was admitted to Gaylord Farm Sanatorium in Wallingford, CT.

Gaylord Farm, one of the major centers for tuberculosis treatment, was just beginning to implement crafts as part of the treatment for TB patients. The hospital consulted with several silver companies, including Wallace Silver, International Silver and Gorham Silver companies, and invested \$1000 into the Silversmith Shop. In 1922, Margaret was offered a position to develop silver work. William, working along with her, created many of the designs that were used by the patients. The shop began to flourish and by the end of the year employed 51 patients. A winged hammer was chosen as their identifying mark and was used on all their production. William was discharged in 1923, and he and Margaret returned to Asheville where they established Asheville Silversmiths and an architectural business as well.

After the Dodge’s departure, the Gaylord Silvercraft continued to thrive. Their work consisted of small items – jewelry, flatware, hollowware and small accessories – with simple designs. The most common decoration was a hammered, textured surface. They also specialized in pierced work on their

flatware. The items were sold in a small gift shop in the lobby of the hospital. There are differing accounts as to when Gaylord Silvercraft officially closed; however, sometime between 1944 and the mid 1950’s the organized shop closed although silver work was still carried out as a recreational activity for the patients

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Dedication of the Kay Berg Memorial Open Salt Showcase and the Ed & Kay Berg Open Salt Exhibit

July 23, 2011 at the West Virginia Museum of American Glass by Rod Elser

On a beautiful July day this past summer, open salt collectors met at the West Virginia Museum of American Glass in Weston, WV for a special occasion. They came together not only for a combined CASC and OSCAR meeting, but more importantly to dedicate both a new display case at the museum to the memory of Kay Berg and the open salt collection it now houses to honor both Ed and Kay Berg for their many contributions to our shared hobby.

Nina Robertson, President of CASC, began the dedication ceremony by introducing our Guest of Honor, Ed Berg, together with Ed's youngest son, John Berg, his wife Bonnie and their daughter, Lt. J.G. Amanda Berg. Nina then turned the program over to Sherry Diamond who provided both a summary of the contributions the Bergs have made to the hobby of open salt collecting as well as how we came to be here today for this dedication.



Ed B. with son, John and his daughter, Amanda, and wife Bonnie

Sherry related how it was Dick Peifer who first suggested, at the Spring, 2010 meeting that OSCAR donate \$500 to WVMAG to support their campaign to pay off their building mortgage. At OSCAR's next meeting, which coincidentally was the first combined meeting with CASC, Al Diamond reported, in Dick's absence, that this campaign had been successful. Al then suggested we—both OSCAR and CASC—consider donating additional funds to the museum for a display case to be donated in the memory of Kay Berg and that we (CASC and OSCAR) lead a campaign to fill the display case with open salts donated by collectors across the country. Positive and enthusiastic discussion regarding this took place with it being noted that the purchase of such a display case would make a wonderful use for the funds in the Kay Berg Memorial Fund held

by the national organization, Open Salt Collectors—and subsequent discussions with OSC confirmed this and the Kay Berg Memorial Fund was used to purchase the display case, the dedication of which is what brings all of us to WVMAG on this special day. Sherry then introduced Ed Bowman who spoke on behalf of MOSS (Midwest Open Salt Society).



Nina R., CASC President; Ed B., Guest of Honor; Sherry D., OSCAR President; and Ed B., MOSS Representative, all standing in front of showcase.

Biography of Ed and Kay Berg as provided in the dedication program:

Ed and Kay Berg were married for nearly 61 years and during that time raised 4 sons. They also became one of the best-known and most beloved couples within the open salt collecting community. Kay started collecting in 1980 and Ed joined her when he retired in 1982. Their collection began with some family salts that Ed's father had given them and Kay gradually added others as souvenirs from special travels. Their sister-in-law, Evelyn Berg, was salt collector as well, and while not a charter member of the New England Society of Open Salt Collectors (NESOSC), she was an early member and soon got Ed and Kay involved in that club. In 1984 they started selling salts (and purchasing collections) from the "Delaware Salt Box," and concurrently became active in researching and writing articles about open salts. The first issue of Salty Comments came out in September 1984 and the articles continued for over 20 years, culminating with issue #90 in March 2005. Numerous other articles were also written for the different club newsletters (View from the Salt Box and Mossy Comments) as well as articles for the National Newsletter when it was started.

During these “early years” Ed & Kay continued to be active in NESOSC and their enthusiasm was recognized by their selection by NESOSC to receive the annual Wilma Guenther Award in 1986. Ed became President of this club in 1990, serving two terms and was elected again in 1996 for another term. Ed and Kay were awarded Life Membership in NESOSC in 1990.

Ed and Kay were instrumental in creating Open Salt Collectors of the Atlantic Region (OSCAR) in which they became Charter Members in 1986. They were also Charter Members in Midwest Open Salt Seekers (MOSS) in 1995 and most recently, Ed became a Charter Member in the newly created Central Atlantic Salt Collectors (CASC).

On a national basis, Ed and Kay were selected at the 3rd National Open Salt Convention in 1993 to receive the prestigious Alan & Helen Smith Award (forerunner of the current Outstanding Achievement Award); and when the national Open Salt Collectors (SC) organization was created in 2003, Ed was the first Treasurer.



The Kay Berg Memorial Open Salt Showcase being admired by Diane W. and Ed B.

Ed Bowman related the impact Kay and Ed had on the creation of MOSS. It was 1982 when he purchased his first salt and he soon followed this purchase by acquiring a copy of the H&J book, which really got him hooked on open salts. Shortly after this he learned about OSCAR from Don Rabourn who he had met at a show. Ed joined OSCAR and quickly became acquainted with Ed Berg though his regular View From the Salt Box articles in the club’s newsletter and was a charter subscriber when Ed started his well-researched and informative Salty Comments series.

In about 1987 Ed Berg decided to write an article on salts made by Wetzel Glass Co. so he contacted Ed Bowman since he had purchased some of the original Wetzel salt molds for a line of “EE” salts he had started to produce. The two Eds started to communicate via

the mail and by the telephone, which eventually led to one of Ed’s molds being used to make OSCAR’s anniversary salts. They finally had the opportunity to meet in person at the Corning Convention in 1995. This was Ed Bowman’s first convention and the Berg’s took him “under their wing.” It was at this convention that several of the collectors from the Midwest started to talk about the possibility of their creating a collector’s club. Two weeks later, this same group—but including Kay and Ed Berg who drove from Delaware to Ohio to participate—came together again to continue these discussions and before the meeting was over, create MOSS. Ed and Kay continued to be regular participants in MOSS’s meetings, despite the distance, and Ed authored many Mossy Comments for the clubs new newsletter. To recognize the Bergs for their crucial support in both creating the club and during its initial years, MOSS awarded them with lifetime membership. In closing, Ed noted that no other couple has since received this recognition.

Sherry Diamond again took the podium to talk briefly on behalf of OSCAR. She noted how everyone appreciated all the many efforts Kay and Ed have made over the years—so much that she has always considered them to be the “Princess and Prince of Open Salt Collecting.”

Representing CASC, Nina Robertson related how many other collectors wanted to be present for this dedication but were unable to do so. Several sent in tributes, most of which arrived in time to include in the program. One which unfortunately wasn’t able to be included came from Lesley Solkoske; here is what Lesley wrote:

When I first joined NESOSC, I quickly learned that Ed and Kay Berg were among the superstars of the open salt world along with Mimi Rudnick, Patti Johnson and George and Carolyn Tompkins. They were certainly among the most knowledgeable collectors in the club and seemed to be able to identify and answer questions about any salt that was brought for show and tell. They were at every meeting and involved in the club activities like working on the mold for the anniversary salts or giving programs. Both played a prominent part in the success of the first convention. So it was very fitting when Ed was elected president in 1990. He was the best kind of president – knowledgeable, organized, and efficient. And he had the advantage of having a great First Lady in Kay. Always gracious to everyone, she worked quietly behind the scenes to support him in both of his NESOSC presidencies. They were a great team. I thought of them as Mr. and Mrs. NESOSC. So

it was a great shock to me when I heard that OSCAR had awarded them the OSCAR Achievement Award. I thought that they were ours! I had to come to grips with the idea that OSCAR thought they were theirs. Since that time I've come to realize that each of the clubs thought that Ed and Kay belonged to them, as they gave so much to every club. Open salt collectors from every part of the country have benefited from their friendship, their knowledge and their enthusiasm for our hobby. I personally feel very privileged to have known both Ed and Kay throughout my years in NESOSC. They were ours first!

Following this reading, Nina noted that even if Kay and Ed were the “Princess and Prince” of Open Salts for OSCAR, life members of MOSS and “belonged” to NESOSC first, that CASC really “owns” them since “we had them last—even though we lost Kay before the club was founded—and “possession is nine tenths of the law.” But regardless of which club has the best claim, Nina commented that it is wonderful that thousands of people will now be able to admire all the wonderful salts donated for display in the new Kay Berg Memorial Display Case.

At this point Rod Elser was introduced to do the dedication. He began by thanking Nina, Sherry and Al for the work they did in creating and printing the program that was distributed to all present. He also thanked all those who made a donation, whether to the Kay Berg Memorial Fund or to the museum directly with open salts for the display case. Rod then noted that this was certainly “the right idea, at the right time with the right people” for the idea of an open salt display dedicated to Kay Berg to happen so quickly.



Temporary sign for display case and exhibit.

Rod noted that he had the honor “on behalf of all open salt collectors, to formally dedicate this showcase case in memory of Kay Berg, a devoted wife,

a loving mother and grandmother, a caring friend to all who knew her, and, together with her husband Ed, a dedicated collector of open salts.” Rod continued by saying he was doubly honored to also “formally dedicate the open salt collection beautifully displayed within the showcase in honor of both Ed and Kay Berg.” Rod concluded by introducing Al Diamond for a toast.

Everyone was provided with a glass of champagne for the following toast delivered by Al Diamond:

A TOAST TO ED AND KAY

We are a group brought together by a common interest in small pieces of glass, ceramic, silver and gold, wood and pewter used to hold salt.

Ed and Kay showed us that the friendships that grow because of that common interest are at least as important as the open salts, themselves.

I can't think of a single person who doesn't like Ed or who didn't love Kay. They were always there for us, individually and collectively. Since the day Kay was introduced to NESOSC, she jumped in with both feet, for NESOSC, for OSCAR and, more importantly for any individual who needed her, and she volunteered for anything that had to be done. Ed did the same and he is still making himself available for any task needed to be accomplished.

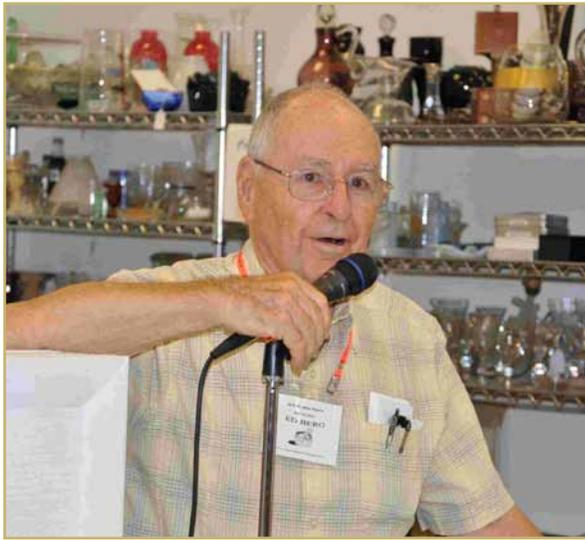
That selflessness and desire to do for others didn't distract from their enjoyment of the hobby—it added to it. And that attitude is what made many of us salting “newbies” actually join an organization, instead of continuing to collect in a vacuum like so many others. The warmth that Ed and Kay exuded as a normal habit made us all feel welcome.

Like it or not, Ed, the things you and Kay did that were common and expected to you were really uncommon and an example to us all. To this day and for as long as we allow Kay's memory to live through this Display of the salts that you both loved so much you will continue to be an example to those of us who know you and to those who will follow.

Ladies and gentlemen, let's raise our glasses to Ed and to Kay's memory. And let's all say in words what many of us have been thinking -- “I want to be just like Ed and Kay when I grow up!”

The Dedication ceremony concluded with Ed Berg providing some final thoughts and then thanking the open salt collecting community on behalf of his family.

Continued next page



Ed B. offering his thanks!

Update: As of the date of the publication of this newsletter, the Kay Berg Memorial Showcase houses a collection of almost 450 open salts, including two rare colored Mercury glass salts donated by Sarah Kawakami, a pair of Dorflinger salts donated by Fred and Lorraine Ayers and a Steuben salt donated jointly by Bill Mehlenbacher and Tom Dimitroff. Other notable donors include (in alphabetical order): Pam Atkinson; Ed Berg; Ed Bowman; Chris Brenner; Bob & Lucille Bugel; CASC; Judy Downs; Linda Drew; Rod Elser; Chick & Barb Evers; Joel Grove; Kent Hudson; Nola & Maris Jende; Mary Kern; LeeAnne Kornbau; Mike Kump; Maria Martell; NESOSC; Dick & Jackie Peifer; Nina Robertson; Jim & Judy Royer; Ruth Rudnick; Leslie Solkoske; Sherrie Tjonn; and Cheryl Wachsmuth. Sincere apologies if anyone was missed.



Rare Colored Mercury and Steuben Salts now in the Kay Berg Memorial Showcase

DISPLAYS - 2011 NATIONAL OPEN SALT CONVENTION

by Judy Johnson

A small band of hardy souls gathered at 7:00 am on Saturday (September 24) to begin assembling displays for viewing. Out came the boxes, the wrappings, and all manner of props. Soon, the results of many hours of planning and much creative thought began to appear. What a treat for the convention attendees!

The judges arrived for their "private viewing" and ballots were cast. Many thanks go to Mike and LaRae Cottrell and Diane Wittik for agreeing to perform this important task. (Your checks are in the mail!)

Shortly thereafter, the doors were opened for the masses and the ooohs and aaahs began. Deservedly so! We have many clever folks in our group who managed to have us looking at salts in different ways. You know – not crammed on dusty shelves like they are in some of our homes! Okay, in MY home at least....

The results of the voting were announced at the Saturday evening banquet, with ribbons awarded as follows:

People's Choice:

Sue Sawyer The Millinery Shop

Historical/Theme:

Sue Sawyer	The Millinery Shop	1st Place
Kent Hudson	1776 Declaration Celebration	2nd Place

Original:

Maria Martell	Cape Cod Salts	1st Place
The Ayers	Salts of the 1700's	2nd Place

Unusual:

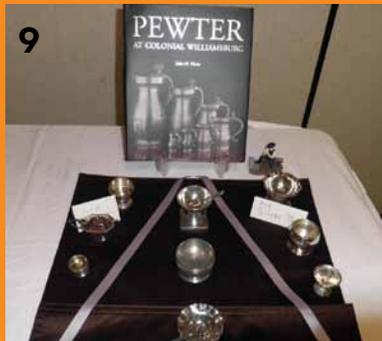
Don Rouborn	The Prints of Chintz	1st Place
Sara Kawakami	Sea Shells	2nd Place

We also had displays provided by Chris Brenner and Donna Wolfe to round out the grouping. There's lots of time for putting on those thinking caps for Newport in 2013, so we hope to see many more displays at the next convention. Thank you VERY much to everyone who participated – your contribution to the fun of Williamsburg is much appreciated!

See photos of the displays on the facing page.



1, 2. The Millinery Shop by Sue S.
3, 4. 1776 Declaration Celebration by Kent H.
5, 6. Cape Cod Salts by Maria M.
7, 8. Salts of the 1700's by Lorraine and Fred A.
9. Pewter at Colonial Williamsburg by Chris B.
10. The Prints of Chintz by Don R.
11. Sea Shells by Sara K.
12. My Greyhound Treasures by Donna W.



THE LOTTON LEGACY AND THE 2011 NOSC CONVENTION SALT

by LeeAnne Kornbau

The Lotton Art Glass Studio is considered one of the top studios in the world. The Lottons have been called the Tiffany of today,

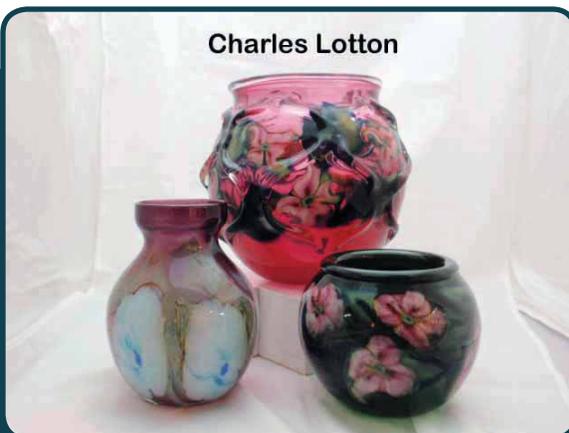
It all started back in the 1970's when Charles Lotton, one of the top hairstylists in Chicago, took a class in glass at the Art Institute. That one class changed his life. He dabbled in his garage at night melting glass, mostly old Coke bottles to hone his style. He worked for several months and eventually made enough pieces to do a show. At the end of that show he had sold well, so he signed up for the next show; and it was at the next show that a gentleman who owned a gallery

in downtown Chicago asked Charles to bring him everything that he made. Charles spent the next year taking pieces to the gallery and by the end of the year he was selling most of the pieces he made. It was at this point he decided to go into glass making fulltime. He stopped cutting hair but since he owned the salon, he still had an income that would help support his young family as he developed his new business. And so the Lotton Art Glass Studio was started!

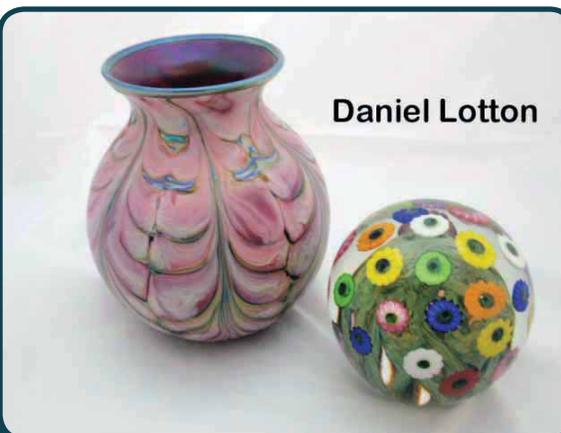
Today, Charles at age 76 is joined by two of his sons, David and Daniel, and two of his grandsons, Jeremiah and Timothy. Together with Scott Bayless,

continued next page

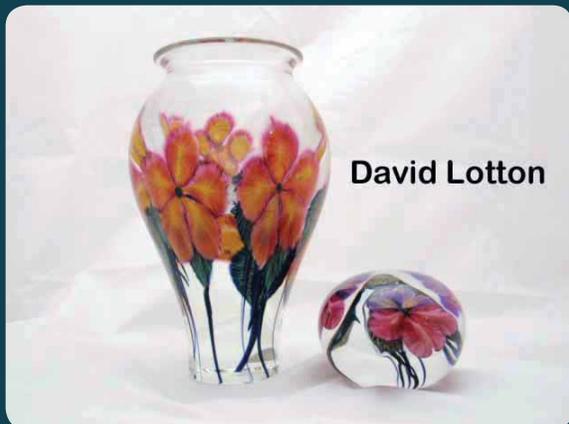
Charles Lotton



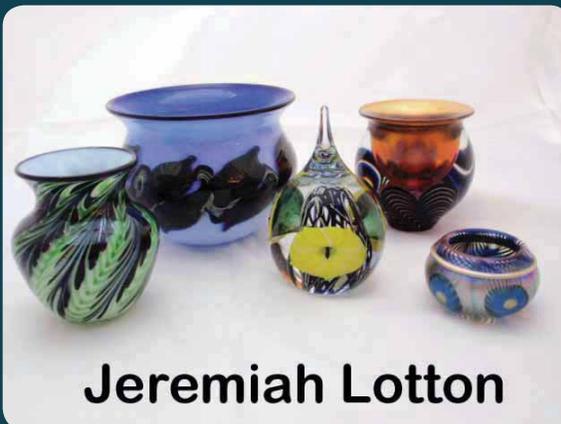
Daniel Lotton



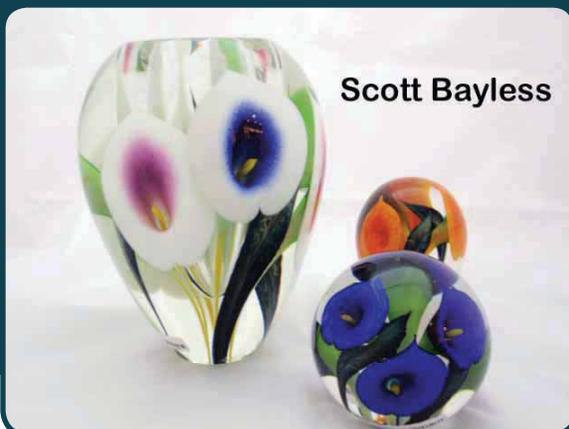
David Lotton



Jeremiah Lotton



Scott Bayless



**Jeremiah Lotton
12th Convention Salt 2011**



ONE-OF-A-KIND SALT *continued*

(note that by this time the discovery of antibiotics for tuberculosis treatment had significantly reduced patient hospitalization time).

Over the years from 1922-1944, the Gaylord Silversmiths made a total of 139 different items. There is a listing on the internet of their total production compiled from the Sanatorium's annual reports at <http://www.smpub.com/ubb/Forum1/HTML/000038.html>. Among them are listed a salt bowl and two different salt spoons. A total of 470 salt bowls were made. The spoons were offered in pairs (358 pairs made) or individually (229 made). Both styles of spoons have a hammered texture to the handle. One of the salt spoons has a pierced handle (pictured at <http://imageevent.com/bluboi/gaylord>). The other was identical except for a solid handle (pictured here). The salt bowl is very simple in design with a lightly hammered texture on the outside. Both the salt and spoons are marked with their winged hammer mark and "Sterling Hand Wrought". The dimensions of my salt are 1 7/8" diameter by 3/8" high while the spoon is 2 1/8" long.

Although my salt and spoon are not particularly old in terms of age or memorable in terms of design, they are a treasure to me because of their interesting history and how relatively few were made.

References:

Silversmithing as a Treatment for Tuberculosis: William Waldo Dodge, Jr. and the Beginnings of the Gaylord Silvercraft. W. Scott Braznell, *The Connecticut Historical Society Bulletin*, Summer/fall 1992.

Internet sites listed above.

Additional reading on William Waldo Dodge, Jr.: William Waldo Dodge: The Asheville Craftsman. Bruce Johnson, *SILVER magazine*, July-August 1994.

THE LOTTON LEGACY *continued*

the only non-family member, they are the current artists at the Lotton Studio. Charles' daughter, Rachel, does the photography for the studio. John Lotton, another son, was part of the studio until the late 1990's when he injured his shoulder—his idea of a paperweight is something that weighs 50 pounds! Jerry Herr, Charles' nephew, retired earlier this year.

Our convention salt was created by grandson Jeremiah who became a member of the studio at the age of 19. Today, at 29, Jeremiah has the talent and vision that could surpass his grandfather and father as a glass artist. Two years ago when I was doing the Sandwich Glass Museum Show, I proposed to Jeremiah that he consider making some sample salts. I told him I would send him some photos of salts, and then, before I knew it, a box arrived with 10 salts, each beautiful. This was the week of the OSCAR fall meeting in Virginia, so Jeff and I thought that this would be a great opportunity to select the next convention salt. The morning of the meeting we set the 10 salts out on display and the attendees voted for their favorite. The votes were counted and the top 5 salts were set out again after lunch and another vote was taken that afternoon to decide the final choice. The winner our convention salt was a beautiful peacock eye salt. The other 9 salts from that day were used at the convention as door prizes, speaker gifts and in the reverse auction.

Jeremiah's father, David, was the artist for the salt made for 1997 Convention which was held in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

We were very fortunate to have our salt made by Jeremiah Lotton. Each piece was individually handcrafted so while all the salts are very similar, each has its' own unique characteristics. The salts were made one at a time; they were not made "production style" in a mold. Artists like the Lottons rarely make any piece in the quantity that this salt was made in, but still each salt is truly a one-of-a-kind masterpiece. By the way, Jeremiah made 108 salts!

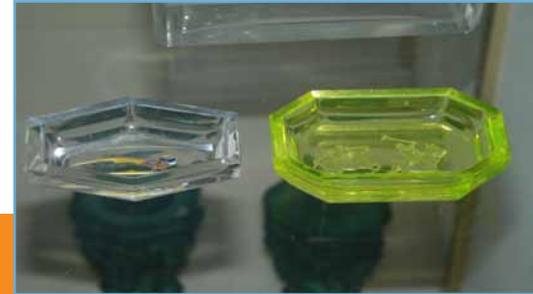
National Newsletter Subscription Changes *by Judy Johnson, OSC Treasurer*

Please note that there will be a change in the way you subscribe to the National Newsletter starting in 2012. Individuals have always been welcome to subscribe to the newsletter directly and that will continue to be true. Many of you, though, subscribe through your local salt club. We are relieving the club treasurers of that extra step and will be asking you to send your information and payments directly to the Open Salt Collectors organization (OSC). A renewal form is included with this newsletter, so please renew now while it's fresh in your mind.

If you have any questions regarding the national newsletter or the current status of your subscription, please contact Judy Johnson, OSC Treasurer, at (585) 394-2179 or by mail at 4475 Middle Cheshire Road, Canandaigua, NY 14424 or by email at opensalt@frontiernet.net.

Thank you and Happy Newsletter Reading!

THE WORLD'S BEST GLASS MUSEUM (?) by Kay Reissing



If you ever take a river cruise on the western Danube and love objects of glass, you're in for a super treat. In 2010, we left Budapest, Hungary to travel up the Danube to Germany where our final destination was Oberammergau. One of the last stops on the river was Passau, Germany. In this lovely little sub-Alpine community is the world's largest pipe-organ (18,000 pipes) and we got to hear a concert played on the instrument while we were there. But close by the cathedral that housed the organ was the Hotel Wilder Mann that contains the locally famous Passau Glass Museum. The hotel actually is right on the waterfront and our cruise ship was docked in front. We had a free afternoon and the museum offered an entrance fee discount to ship's passengers.

I had a sudden SALT adrenalin attack, but no one else on the ship seemed interested . . . the classic "what's an open salt" syndrome! The ship's personnel did not promote the exhibit, but the little they knew about the glassware excited us. So on a rainy afternoon, Ted and I paid the small fee to enter, rode an elevator to the top (5th) floor and began winding our way down through the museum. Included is the world's biggest collection of Bohemian Glass, with more than 30,000 pieces. Exhibits are mainly from the time between 1680 and 1950, including Baroque, Rococo, Empire, Art Nouveau and modern designs. The collection was put together by one man and is reported to be the largest in the world.

Examples of salts were scattered throughout the cases and we estimated there were at least 75 in the collection. Among these were French white opaline double salts, canary with opalescent applied rigaree around center cranberry rim, intaglios, dopplewand salts and many others. All of these were enjoyable, but the true beauty of the museum is the overall incredible collection.

When in this part of the world, do not miss the "world's most beautiful glass house."



This skit was performed at the closing banquet for the entertainment and great amusement of all.

Cast of Characters (in order of appearance):

Scarlet O'Hara: Judy Royer
Prissy: Sarah Kawakami
Rhett Butler: Bill Mehlenbacher
Paul Revere: Jim Royer
Pocahontas: Sandy Jzyk
George Washington: Don Rabourn
Betsy Ross: Diane Wittik
Sacagawea: Robin Grube
OSC President: Sarah Kawakami
Clara Barton: Carolyn Bugle
Santa Claus: Kent Hudson

Crew:

Narrator: Nina Robertson
Audio and Video: Dennis Koch
Costume Logistical Coordinators: Carolee & Ray Baker
Narrator: Ladies and gentlemen.... We hope you are enjoying your time here in Virginia's Historic Triangle. We hope that, between the lectures and the workshops, the buying and the selling, the auctions and the displays, you have gotten your fill of fun and fabulous open salts. But... have you gotten enough history? We think not!! And therefore we bring you tonight "A Salty History of America." And what better setting from which to share our abridged and adulterated historical review than a fine southern plantation. So close your eyes and let yourself be transported to a genteel estate, an estate built by one Gerald O'Hara (of O'Hara Glass fame, of course). He emigrated to the States from County Meath in Ireland, made his fortune, built his mansion, and called it Tara....

Cue the music.

A doorbell rings.

Scarlet (from off stage): Prissy! Prissy! You, girl! Answer the door, you!

Prissy (scampering across the stage): Yes'um, Miss Scarlet! I'm goin' as fas' as I can!"

Prissy runs to the door. Enter Rhett.

Rhett: Hello, Prissy.

Prissy: Cap'n Butler! Oh, my! Miss Scarlet! Miss Scarlet! You won't never believe who's here!

Scarlet (still offstage): If it's that scoundrel Rhett Butler, you tell him to beat it, Prissy! He's not welcome here. Not tonight. We've got a houseful of guests coming.

Rhett: Prissy, please tell Miss Scarlet that I'm not going anywhere! I know all about her little party. I know she's invited all of the most famous American salt collectors ever to live to be here tonight, and I wouldn't miss this shindig for all the tea in China. I'm not moving one inch. Why, I've a mind to join 'em!

Scarlet (enters the stage): Well! I never!

Scarlet is wearing a dress fashioned from a pair of curtains – just like in the movie – but she still has the curtains on the rod, which is stretched across her shoulders.

Rhett (eyeing Scarlet's outfit): Well, I never! Never have I seen anything to compare to that dress!

Scarlet (cooly): This old thing? It's just something I had hanging around the house.

Rhett: Hanging around the house? I can't believe it.

Prissy: Oh, you can believe it, Master Rhett.

Scarlet (Slaps Prissy harshly): I've told you, Prissy! Never say "master" again! Ever since General Ulysses S. Elser seized power, we're forced to use the term "table," instead. Do you want him to send General Sherman in to burn Atlanta... AGAIN?!

Prissy (rubbing her cheek): No, Miss Scarlet. I's sorry. I forgets sometimes.

Rhett: Scarlet, that dress has me thinking.... When you tire of wearing it as a frock, we might be able to find another use for it. Hmmm. There's some other function I can envision.... It's right on the tip of my tongue....

Scarlet (whistling past the grave yard): Another use? Why, whatever can you mean?

Rhett: Yes, that dress sure reminds me of something.... I've got it! We can use it as a tablecloth!

Scarlet: A tablecloth? (Relieved, then angry) Hey!

Rhett: Yes, a tablecloth! And we can put this new silver salt I just bought from Paul Revere right in the center of that table.

Scarlet: Oh! You have a new salt? You've seen Paul?

Rhett: I had the good fortune to meet up with Paul as I came through town this evening. When he showed me his newly smithed silver salts. I thought of you immediately, Scarlet. I knew you'd have to have one for your collection.

Scarlet warms to Rhett, reaches for the salts. Now Rhett pulls away.

Rhett: Or should I say OUR collection? (He holds the salt just beyond Scarlet's reach.) It was Paul who told me all about the big party you're throwing tonight for open salt collectors. I had to join you.

Scarlet: Well, you're no salt collector, Rhett Butler.

Rhett: I've got one! (He displays his salt with grandiose flourish.) In some circles, I think that would qualify me as a collector.

Scarlet (gets her hands on the salt at last): Let's see how it looks next to this table cloth... er... I mean DRESS! So, if you were going to throw a party for famous salt collectors, who would you invite, Rhett?

Rhett: Well, let's see now.... I think the first person on my list would have to be Paul himself.

Ding-Dong.

Scarlet: Prissy! Get the door, girl!

Enter Paul Revere on horseback

Paul: The salt collectors are coming! The salt collectors are coming! Here ye, here ye! The salt collectors are coming!

Scarlet: Of course they are! They're all invited to my party. Calm down, Paul. Prissy, fetch a mint julep for Mr. Revere. Maybe it will help the poor man relax.

Prissy: Yes, Miss Scarlet.

Scarlet: Why, Paul Revere, you're famous for alerting Colonial militia of approaching British forces. What's all this nonsense about salt collectors?

Paul: Well, ever since my midnight ride through Lexington and Concord, people have been hiring me as a professional crier.

Rhett: But you're a prosperous silversmith, Paul, as Scarlet's new salt proves.

Paul: Yes, but in this economy, one has to take work where he can get it. And some of the more competitive salt collectors... well, they pay me pretty well to ride around antique shows and warn them if I see another collector coming up an aisle. All I have to do is call out "The Salt Collectors Are Coming!" two or three times, and I'm handsomely rewarded.

Prissy hands Paul a mint julep. He takes a sip, spits it out, and makes a terrible face.

Paul: Prissy, that is without a doubt the WORST mint julep I have ever tasted.

Prissy: I'm sorry Mister Revere. I never have mastered that drink.

SLAP! (Paul slaps Prissy)

Paul: Prissy! Haven't you heard? NEVER say MASTER again! The new term is TABLE!





Scarlet: Paul, tell me more about this crying business. It sounds like easy money. And, with God as my witness, I could use some extra cash for more curtains... I mean CLOTHES. Who are some of these more competitive salt collectors?

Paul: Well, there's Pocahontas, for one.

Ding-Dong.

Enter Pocahontas

Rhett: Speak of the devil!

Pocahontas: Why Scarlet... that dress.... it just DRAPES all over you.

Scarlet (vainly): Thank you, Pocahontas. I saw it in the window, and I just had to have it!

Rhett: I never took you for a salt collector, Pocahontas. I thought you were too busy saving John Smith and helping the settlers at Jamestown.

Pocahontas: There's a funny story about saving John Smith. A lot of people seem to think the Powhatan braves were about to kill him because he was a white man infiltrating the red man's world. But, the truth be told, they were only going to bash his brains out so they could steal his open salt.

Scarlet: Well, I never!

Pocahontas: He had this lovely little blue glass salt encased in leather that he carried with him. My people coveted that cellar. They so desperately wanted it that they were willing to kill him to get it. But John Smith would not give it up.

Rhett: A man willing to die for what he loves. Admirable. But then how were you able to save him?

Pocahontas: Easy. I pulled out my smart phone and showed them those salts were a dime a dozen on eBay. And that was the end of that.

Scarlet: Amazing story, Pokie. I bet you've known lots of salt collectors in your life. Who would you say was the most obsessed?

Pocahontas: Hmmmm... The most obsessed salt collector I have known.... That's a tough one.... I guess I'd have to say George Washington.

Enter George

George: Did someone call me?

Scarlet: Why, I'll be! You are George Washington! Aren't you?

George: Well, yes I am. And I cannot tell a lie. Miss Scarlet. There is something SHADY about that frock you are wearing!

Scarlet: Shady?

George: Yes, shady! It looks like it may have been made in Venice. (Aside to the audience: By the Venetian blind!)

Rhett: George! You were the first President of the United States, the father



of our country. Just when did you find the time to collect open salts?

George: I would have to say the salts found me, Captain Butler. They found their way into my heart, and I had no choice but to collect them. It all started with a beautiful treen salt that my grandfather Craig Tiedeman Washington whittled and sanded and turned by hand.

Pocahontas: Yes. Many collectors seem to have started with a salt that was handed down through their family. But I've read of your salts. The most famous are silver, cobalt glass, and Chinese export porcelain.

George: Yes. That's true. The dealers loved those fancy-schmancy ones. But I loved my grandfather's treen salt so much, Pocahontas. I loved the feel of it. That simple wooden salt made me want to have everything I owned made out of wood. Did you know I had a mouth full of perfectly healthy teeth pulled just so I could savor the glory of a fine set of wooden choppers? (Smiles at the audience and clicks his teeth once or twice.)

Scarlet: No lie?

George: No. No lie. Haven't you heard? I cannot tell a lie. In fact, I once chopped down my father's beautiful cherry tree that he had planted himself in our front yard. And do you know why? To get the wood so I could have a matching set of 12 cherry salts made for my table!

Scarlet: I have to agree with Pocahontas. That's obsessive, alright!

Ding-Dong.

Prissy: I'll get it, Master (Slap! Pocahontas slaps Prissy.)

Pocahontas: Get with the program, Prissy! We salt collectors don't say MASTER anymore.

Cast: It's TABLE!

Prissy: Aw, shucks, Miss Pocahontas.... I don't know nothin' 'bout collectin' no salters.

Enter Betsy Ross

Rhett: Why, Scarlet! Look who it is! It's Miss Betsy Ross, designer of the first American Flag and seamstress extraordinaire!

Betsy: Yes, I am a seamstress extraordinaire. But I've never seen anything quite as extra-ordin-ary as that dress, Scarlet.



Scarlet: Really? You like it! You really like it!!

Betsy: It confirms what I always suspected about you being nothing more than window dressing.

Scarlet: Gasp! Well, I NEVER!

Betsy (approaches George): Mr. President, I know you're here for this gathering of salt collectors, but I really must consult with you on the progress of the flag re-design. I'm proposing we replace all those tiresome stars with SALTS!!!!

George: Salts? Surely you jest!

Betsy: Not at all. This beautiful country is surrounded by salty seas. Our lands are graced with salt deposits. Our people are the salt of the earth. I can't think of a better iconic image to place on our flag that that of the

glorious open salt.

Rhett: I think she may be onto something there, George!

Scarlet: I like it, too!

Betsy: Heck, I've got more prototype designs than I know what to do with.

Cast: Show us! Let's see!

Betsy reveals her flag designs one at a time. Narrator holds up a large APPLAUSE sign after each flag is unfurled.

Betsy: You see, Mr. President? The people love my idea. I think we should let them vote. You are promoting a Democracy here. Aren't you?

George: Well.... Maybe. But I don't hear....

From the floor the newly elected president of OSC (whoever he or she may be) interrupts.

OSC President: Mr. President, as President of OSC, I hereby move that open salts be used as the symbol on our flag. May salts unite not just our 13 colonies, but also our 8 salt clubs!

Nina Robertson: I second that motion!

Betsy Ross: All in favor, say AYE!

Everyone: AYE!!!

Betsy: Those Opposed? (silence) Then it's unanimous, Mr. President!

Enter Sacagawea

Sacagawea: Unanimous? I think not!

Rhett: Why... It's Sacagawea, the famed Native American interpreter and guide who accompanied the Lewis and Clark Expedition!

Sacagawea: That's right. I traveled thousands of miles from North Dakota to the Pacific Ocean. I've been lionized by the Suffragettes, honored by the U.S. Mint.... I'm an icon of women's worth and independence. But before I took my first step to explore the American West, I had to haul that slacker Lewis and his bum of a partner Clark to every antique shop in the country!

Betsy Ross: You did? But why?

Sacagawea: Because those two were open salt collectors. Do you know how many open salts were sitting on the

shelves of American antique shops in 1804? (She gets up in Betsy's face.) Well? Do you?!?

Betsy: 'Fraid not.

Sacagawea: Precious few. Precious few, I tell you! We had vast territories to explore, and all those two wanted to do was go "antiquing." By the time we finished Renninger's Extravaganza in Penns Woods and Brimfield in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, my feet were killing me. THEN they wanted to start making our way to the Pacific Northwest! I'll tell you: They really soured me on salt collectors. No way do I want to see ONE open salt on our American flag, let alone 12 or 13 of them!

Rhett: But Sacagawea.... Don't you know? You've also been honored in the open salt world!

Sacagawea: I have?

Rhett: Darned tootin'! Aren't you from the Shoshone?

Sacagawea: Why, yes. I am.

Rhett: And here's a Shoshone EAPG salt. Named in your honor!

Sacagawea: Well... (blushing) Now I don't know what to say!

Paul: Just Say Yes to open salts on the American flag.

Sacagawea: Gee. Under the circumstances, OK!

Applause all around.

Enter Clara Barton

Clara: Did someone call for a nurse?

Rhett: A nurse? No. Why?

Prissy (rubbing her cheek): I called for a nurse, master!

SLAP! Rhett slaps Prissy

Prissy: And that's why.

Clara (gives Prissy a quick look): Buck up, girl. You'll be fine. Don't you know better than to use the term Master in a room full of salt collectors?

Scarlet: Why, aren't you that famous nurse... Sarah... or Farah... or...

Clara: CLARA! Clara Barton! That's me. Who are you? And what in God's name are you wearing, woman?

Scarlet: Oh, this old thing? Do you like it?

Clara: No, I don't like it. And if I ever see you wear it again, it will be CURTAINS for you!!! Trust me. I have my ways!

Sacagawea: Are you a salt collector, Clara?

Clara: Who, me? No. I tried it for a while. Loved those little dishes. I had dozens of them. Kept a few of my favorites with me all the time. But I had to give them up.

Scarlet: Give them up? But why?

Clara: There was something about them that drove the wounded soldiers crazy. I'd pull one out to show them (she pulls a cellar out of her apron and salt spills everywhere in front of her) and the next thing I knew they'd be moaning and groaning and writhing in pain. I had to give them up. It's not much fun collecting anything if you can't share your interest with friends.

Rhett: Maybe you could try collecting the dishes without any salt in them.

Clara: Well. There's an idea. I never thought of that.

Scarlet: And if you're looking for people with whom you can share your interest in salts. Well.... You've found them!

Paul begins circling the room on his horse.

Paul: One if by land, two if by sea, and on the opposite shore, my salts and me!

Rhett: Paul, what time do you have?

Paul: It's 9 o'clock, and all is well. But someone's at the door, Prissy.

Prissy: I'll get it, master! (She slaps herself!)

Enter Santa Claus

Scarlet: Santa! Really? You're not even a historical figure!

Santa: Talk about the POT calling the KETTLE black. You're not even wearing a real dress!

Scarlet: Rhett! Are you going to let him talk to me like that?

Rhett: Frankly, my dear, I don't give a salt.

Scarlet: Oh, you!!

Santa: I see I'm just in time for dinner. Shall I take a seat below the MASTER salt?

SLAP! Prissy slaps Santa

Cast: Don't say MASTER!

Santa: Oh, alright then. I'll sit below the TABLE salt!

Santa knocks a glass salt off the table while taking his seat.

Sound of shattering glass

Rhett: Oh, no. Scarlet... wasn't that your favorite Early American Pattern Glass salt?

Scarlet: Sigh. Yes. Yes, it was.

Prissy: Poor Miss Scarlet. Where will you go? What will you do?

Scarlet: I can't think about that right now. If I do, I'll go crazy. I'll think about that tomorrow.

Rhett: What a woman.

Scarlett: Oh, Rhett!

Rhett: Oh, Scarlet!

Cast: Oh brother!

The End

Judy Johnson was the Grand Prize Winner in the 12th NOSC raffle. She had her choice of three magnificent salts and chose a covered lacy (which had been generously donated by Mike Kump). Congratulations Judy!

