



Salty Observations

No. 2

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When we hunt new salts for our collection, we always look closely for any damage. If we find some, we often choose not to buy the salt – but not always. There are times when damage is acceptable if the price is right.

The best example of this is our powder blue Lafayette Boat by Sandwich. We bought this at a glass and bottle show – a bottle digger had found it. We were happy to have it for \$20.00. Kay did a lot of scrubbing to get the dirt off, but it looks great on the shelf when the bow is turned inwards.

Another example of a damaged salt we are happy to have is the Henry Clay lacy from Sandwich. We keep it on its side, both to show the bottom and to hide the fact that three of the feet are missing. This was not an inexpensive buy, but where have you seen one of these for sale at any price? Another one in the same category is the Stiegel type in emerald green. It has been repaired – and it shows – but it is rare in that color.

Two metal ones in this category are a silver holder with cobalt liner and an old pewter one. The former has an obvious repair on one end and one leg that does not match, but it has London 1785 marks. The pewter one has been corroded and has a hole in the bottom of the bowl. When it was used over 100 years ago, most like it were melted down to recover the metal. We would like to find out why it survived – there must be a story there.

You probably have seen the FROSTED LION salt mentioned among the expensive pattern glass. It is valued at \$250 the last time we looked. When we found one at a glass show for \$40, we were happy to get it, even though it leans to one side.

Many years ago we found a porcelain lady with two baskets at a low price. We thought we had a real bargain until we looked her up in the books and found that both baskets should have handles. The places where the missing handle connected have been expertly hidden. The price reflected this, but our “bargain” wasn’t that anymore.

One “damaged” salt that we were happy to find is the Bird on Branch with the branch end missing – not enough glass was put in the mold when they pressed it. We spotted it at the Mosser Glass gift shop, and the clerk told us she’d get a better one from their stock. We quickly explained that the mold underfill was what we were after, and we were happy to pay full price “as is”.

Finally, we have a damaged salt with sentimental value. We found this in a mall in Upstate New York, in the booth of Willie Gloss, son of Wilma Gloss Gunther. She is the lady that Mimi Rudnick commemorated in her Wilma Gunther Award at NESOSC. Willie was there at the time, and told us it came from Wilma’s collection. We value it for just that reason in spite of the big piece out of the foot.

We hope that you have a number of damaged salts in your collection that you treasure as much as we do these.

Ed Berg



Lafayette Boat



Henry Clay

Emerald “Stiegel”



London 1785

Old Pewter



Leaning LION

Handle Missing



Mold Underfill

Wilma Gunther’s

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