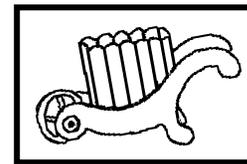


Salty Comments



Facts and Opinion about Open Salt Collecting

Number 71

May 2000

New Martinsville/Viking, Beatty, Aetna

One of our older grandsons works for a contracting firm. Just recently he has been sent with a crew to West Virginia to do an environmental cleanup job. When we asked him about it, he said it was in New Martinsville. It turns out the job is cleaning out the old New Martinsville/Viking/Dalzell-Viking plant. This was the first we heard of it, but evidently the firm went bankrupt and the glass business at that location didn't make it to the 21st century.

The New Martinsville Glass Company was founded in 1901, initially making bar and restaurant glass. They had a bad fire in 1904, and in 1907 another fire during a flood completely destroyed the plant. They rebuilt once more, and continued in business until 1937. At that time they declared bankruptcy, and the plant was purchased by a group of investors from Connecticut. The new business was in turn bought by one of the partners in 1944, and its name was changed to Viking Glass Co. Around 1990 Viking fell on hard times and was purchased by one of the Dalzell family. This family has been in the glass business since 1883, when the first Dalzell Bros. & Gilmore plant was started in Wellsburg, WV. The Dalzell name evidently worked no magic with Viking, however, because the New Martinsville, WV plant is gone for good.

The earliest New Martinsville catalog that we found with open salts was dated 1917. There were 7 of them. The first one is their #11, the common faceted one that other companies called Cincinnati. This shape showed up in all the catalogs we saw, so it must have been popular. It was revived just before Christmas 1985 when a colored version was put out, including red and green ones. We have one of these with the original Viking sticker. This re-issue has a flat bottom, though we suspect the original design had a star there. The second one is #12, the shallow celery dip that H&J thinks is foreign. This comes in a variety of colors and was continued into the 1920's. The third is the only pattern glass one they made, as far as we know. It is their FLORENE pattern, and went with a set of tableware. This salt appears in later catalogs without the accompanying pitchers etc. The fourth 1917 salt is another common shape, which several companies made. It is their #15, an oval shape with ribs and panels around the sides. We have no clue on how to tell the New Martinsville ones from others like it.

	
<i>#11 Faceted</i>	<i>Viking Sticker</i>
	
<i>#12 Celery Dip</i>	<i>#720 FLORENE Pattern</i>
	
<i>#15 Panels and Ribs</i>	

(2)

The fifth salt is a puzzle. - New Martinsville's #10 Individual Square.. The drawing shows it with sloping sides and a square bowl for the salt. We don't remember ever seeing one anywhere. We may have overlooked one of them, since we have a tendency to turn up our noses at plain square ones. Now we'll have to look more closely.

The sixth and seventh salts are from molds that New Martinsville bought from Higbee, who went out of business about 1917. The salts are what Higbee called the HOMESTEAD pattern, and can be found with the Higbee bee in the bottom. When New Martinsville got the mold they would have removed the bee, so unmarked ones might be theirs. They called them the Star salts, #512 and #513. The individual size appears in catalogs through 1940, but the table size does not show up after 1920.

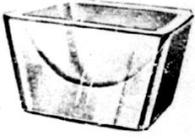
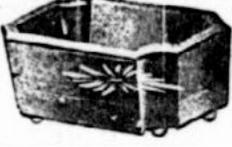
New Martinsville's 1920 catalog added three salts to the previous line. Their #112 Oval is an oblong shape with 8 flat sides, and our copy is polished on all the faces. This shape is simple enough that other companies might have duplicated it. The second addition is their #120, an even more common one. It appears in catalogs through 1949, which helps explain why there are so many of them around.

It is the same salt that the Diamond Crystal Company offered as a premium in 1946 (Salt and silver plated spoon for \$1.00 plus 2 seals from boxes of salt). The third salt, #113, is rectangular. We can't tell much from the picture, but it seems to have a rope bottom. This is another basic shape made by many glass companies, It is interesting that

after 1920 the dishes are called Salt Dips, even though they are shown with glass spoons in them.

In 1940 the firm had become Viking, and the catalog shows only 4 salts. These are the faceted one (#11), the "oval" one (#112), the square one (#120), and the small Star salt (#521). By 1949, only #11, #112 and #120 remained.

There are other "salts" that New Martinsville sold which can be found in many collections. First are the salve jars, like #312 shown at the right. Some other companies called these "pomade jars", which is the same kind of thing. There are a number of these, and all are characterized by a ring of clear glass above the body of the "salt". This lets the purchaser mount a metal ring on the rim or put a metal cover on top. There is no reason that they couldn't be used for salt when empty, however, because they are attractive and go well with any genuine salts that might be on the table. The second is the Cupid and Psyche intaglio, which appears in one of the catalogs as an ash tray. Although there is no date on this particular catalog, it must have been issued after 1924, when the intaglio process was invented.

	
<i>#10 Individual Square</i>	<i>#512 Star Individual</i>
	
<i>#513 Star Table</i>	
	
<i>#112 Oval Salt Dip</i>	<i>#120 Salt Dip</i>
	
<i>#113 Salt Dip</i>	

	
<i>#312 Salve</i>	<i>Ash Tray</i>

Switching glass companies, we have a little information on salts made by A. J. Beatty. This company was founded in 1845 in Steubenville, OH. Their biggest output must have been goblets, because in the 1860's they were making more of them than all the other glass companies combined. Remember that these were hand blown, because automatic machinery had not yet been developed. Their output of tumblers in the 1880's was 350,000 a week, and this rose to 500,000 by 1892.

In 1889, Beatty moved operations to Tiffin, OH where they were promised free gas for 5 years. Like many promises, this one didn't last and by 1891 they were paying the city for their fuel. The next year they joined the U.S. Glass conglomerate. That firm went bankrupt in 1963, and operations in Tiffin have continued since then under a variety of owners.

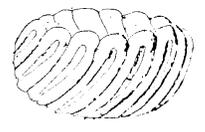
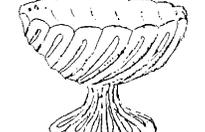
The only record we found about salts made by A.J. Beatty was in an 1880 catalog. Six of them are shown, half of which we have. The most familiar is their Opalescent Ware pattern, which we call BEATTY RIB. This has opalescent ribs on a round bowl. This came in both the individual and the table salt sizes, and the individual can be found in blue as well as clear. We once saw a similar size which lacked the rounding at the bottom – it was a cut-off toothpick. Its polished rim gave it away.

A second design is their hobnail salts, which have the hobnails spaced wide apart and usually opalescent. This was their #100 line, and the salts came in square and round configurations. They come in blue as well crystal, and there may be other colors.

Beatty's other design that included salts was their ORINOCO ware. It is pattern glass, with several other shapes matching a pedestal open salt and a low one. We don't remember ever seeing one of these. Because they resemble salts with a simple swirl pattern, we may have seen one and not recognized it. Another design to hunt for!

We are including one more salt in this issue to get it on the record. The Bird Castor Set was made by the Aetna Glass Co. in 1887, in crystal, canary (vaseline), blue and amber colors. The Pottery & Glassware Reporter wrote about it several times in the spring of that year. We have seen it with a variety of lids on the shaker and a variety of designs on the shaker sides. The sketch that came with the information about this set shows diamond point sides and a lid with a finial, like the picture on the right. Other combinations could have been sold by Aetna, but we don't know how to find out. The source of this set was found by J. Stanley Brothers, a gentleman now deceased who did a lot of glass research, made careful notes, but never published his findings. His notes are preserved in the Corning Museum Library, and are a valuable resource for people hunting information on old glass.

We hope that you have many of the salts discussed here, and that you can find the rest soon at a reasonable price. If you see an extra ORINOCO one, please let us know.

	
<i>BEATTY RIB Individual</i>	<i>BEATTY RIB Table Salt</i>
	
<i>Hobnail Round</i>	<i>Hobnail Square</i>
	
<i>ORINOCO Low</i>	<i>ORINOCO Pedestal</i>
	
<i>Bird Castor Set</i>	

Salts by New Martinsville/Viking

<u>Factory #</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>H&J #</u>	<u>Smith #</u>
10	1917-20	Individual Square Salt (square bowl)		
11	1917-85	Faceted (6 diamond facets) 1-3/4" diameter, 3/4" high	2910	2-1-1
12	1917-20	Celery Dip (shallow, scalloped edge, 3 feet) 2-1/2" diameter, 3/4" high	350	27-4-1
15	1917-20	Individual Salt (oval, panels and ribs) 2-1/4" long, 1" high	2695	2-3-1
312	1917-20	Salve (crosshatched diamonds)	2547	
512	1917-20	Star Individual Salt (Higbee mold) 2" long, 1" high	2784	1-3-2
513	1917-20	Star Table Salt (Higbee mold) 3-1/4" long, 1-1/2" high	3646	
720	1917-20	FLORENE Ware (pattern glass) 1-1/2" diameter, 7/8" high		
112	1920-49	Oval Salt Dip (oblong shape, 8 sides) 3-1/4" long, 1" high	3448	174-5-1
113	1920	Salt Dip (rectangular, (rope bottom?))		
120	1920-49	Salt Dip (square, sloping sides, round bowl) 2" square, 7/8" high	824	261-1-1

Salts by A. J. Beatty

<u>Factory #</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>H&J #</u>	<u>Smith #</u>
87	1890	Opalescent Ware Individual Salt (BEATTY RIB pattern) 2" diameter, 3/4" high	196	96-3-3
87	1890	Opalescent Ware Table Salt (BEATTY RIB pattern)		
100	1890	No. 100 Ware Round (opalescent hobnails widely spaced) 1-7/8" diameter, 7/8" high	198	483-5-1
100	1890	No. 100 Ware Square (opalescent hobnails widely spaced) 1-3/4" square, 7/8" high	197	9-2-1
	1890	ORINOCO Ware Pedestal Salt		
	1890	ORINOCO Ware Low Salt		

Castor Set by Aetna Glass

	1887	Bird Castor Set (Coddington 27-4-2) 5" high, 4" diameter base		202-2-1
--	------	--	--	---------