

## View from the Salt Box -- #30

Lesley Solkoske is not only President of the New England Club but also does a lot of research on open salts. She lives in Meriden, CT, and started out looking at old Meriden Britannia catalogs of silver plated ware which she was able to find in the local Historical Society files. She has branched out to other silver companies since then, and has found a wealth of information which is not in the books most of us have. You should figure a way to publish what you have learned, Lesley!

The other day she found a 1926 catalog page from Wurtembergische Metalwarefabrik, which we loosely translate as the Wurtemberg Metalworking Co. Wurtemberg is a region in southwestern Germany, according to our World Atlas. On the page were salt shakers, pepper mills, and a set of open salts which really excited us. They are shown at the right. We have the first of them complete with spoon in our collection. It is shown without the spoon in Heacock & Johnson as #1645. We never dreamed the other five existed. Each is ceramic with a silver-plated rim, has a food shape which makes the legs and appears on the handle of a shovel-shaped matching spoon. The designs on them are Crayfish, Cherries, Pickles, Cauliflower, Radishes, and Tomatoes, going from top to bottom in the figures to the right. Ours is not marked with the country of origin, which lets us guess that they were not made to be exported. Lesley's information indicates that they were first made many years before. Since they are still found in a 1926 catalog they must have been popular. Many of them should have survived somewhere, but only a few seem to have come to this side of the Atlantic.

The idea of a complete set like this boggles our imagination. We'd love to get one, but don't think we have much chance of finding the pieces in the U.S. When is the next flight to Southwestern Germany?

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