

MOSSY COMMENTS - #10

For several years we have wondered about the anvils in our collection. There are several different ones, and little by little we've been finding bits of information which add to the picture. At the March OSCAR meeting we purchased another one which we think is old and which gives us enough more information to put something down on paper.

The first anvil we know of was patented in 1887, and assigned to the Windsor Glass Co. We have seen several copies of this over the years. The patent calls it a "Toothpick Holder", but since this was the era of novelty salts it could have been used for sodium chloride by an intelligent housewife. Its distinctive features include a hollow horn, and a FINECUT type pattern on the sides. As far as we know, this has never been reproduced.

The next one to come along was called an "Anvil Salt", by the Co-Operative Flint Glass Co. It appears in their 1910 catalog, and is shown on Page 18 of Heacock and Johnson. This has a solid horn, and has a small DAISY AND BUTTON pattern on it with 4 buttons in the top row of each side. We have one in amber and another in white. Mosser reproduced this in the 1970's and called it an "Anvil Toothpick". There are enough differences in the pattern to convince us they had a mold made for the purpose and did not revive the Co-Operative Flint Glass Co. one. The easiest difference for us to check is in the horn. The old one has the tip end upturned slightly, whole the repro goes straight out along the top. You can feel this even more clearly than you can see it. Some of the Mosser ones are marked with their "M", but we're sure they made some unmarked like they do with most of their items.

During the 1970's, L.G. Wright made an "Anvil Ash Tray", which is the same size and shape but has a large DAISY AND BUTTON pattern on it. There are only two buttons on each side. This comes in many colors, and the picture in H&J (#868) is probably one of his.

The final anvil in this series is a copy of the Wright one made in Korea for A.A. Imports. It appears in their 1976 catalog as one of a "set of 6 spectacular famous salt dips", which also includes a wheelbarrow, cradle, frog, carriage and spittoon. Their anvil is so close to the Wright one that we have to compare any new find with known samples to be sure of its identification.

An anvil has been a popular shape for novelty dishes in the past, so there may be other companies who made them that we have not discovered. At least two of the sources have been smart enough to call them salts, however, so we are confident that they all belong in our collection.

If you have any salt-size anvils that don't match these, we'd love to hear about them.



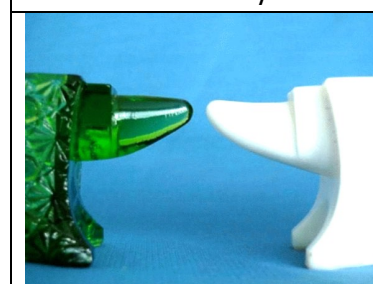
*Windsor Glass
Toothpick*



*Co-Operative Flint
Salt*



Mosser Toothpick



*Mosser - Co-Op Flint
Confrontation*



*Wright Ash Tray or
A.A. Imports Salt Dip*