

SALTY COMMENTS #28

(Facts and Opinion on Open Salt Collecting)

When we think of the Central Glass Company, we associate them with three salts - the dog and "cart" (more like an open box), the barouche and the stove. The first two of these are not uncommon but are expensive. The third is rare and very high-priced if you ever find it. Dogs and carriages must have been more popular than stoves in the late 19th century, so that more of them were made.

When we started to investigate Central Glass, we were surprised to find how many different open salts they listed. There are catalogs dating back to about 1876 with about 40 different designs, including both individual and master sizes. Many illustrations showed styles that were also made by other companies, but a few were salts we have never seen. Now we have more shapes to search for - there seems to be no end to the hunting.

Central Glass was founded in 1863 in Wheeling, WV by a group of dissatisfied men from Barnes, Hobbs & Co. They bought the East Wheeling Distillery and Pork Packing House and built their first furnace. The Company was originally Oesterling and Hall, but it reorganized and adopted the Central Glass Co. name in 1867. By 1880 they were one of the two biggest glass factories in the US. We don't know how much they made, but the other of the two, the Rochester (PA) Tumbler Co., had 1200 employees and shipped about 75,000 dozen glasses per week. Central joined the U.S. Glass Co. in 1891, but their factory was dismantled in the 1893 depression. A new group bought what was left in 1895 and reopened the business under the old Central Glass name. The factory subsequently burned and was rebuilt, closed in 1902 because of foreign competition, reopened in 1904 and stayed in business until 1939. When they finally closed their building was razed and their molds sold to Imperial.

From the catalogs available we could not find evidence that any new designs were introduced between 1885 and 1925. This is the era when most new patterns had shakers, and the existing designs were evidently good enough for the times. The 1925 catalog shows 5 new shapes and none of the original ones. It is unclear what happened to the old molds, but they may have gone for scrap during World War I.

Only one of the old Central salts is marked. This is the stove, which has a stylized CGCo. embossed on the back of the oven. The same monogram appears on the front of one old catalog. In 1919 they bought the Krystol trademark from the Jefferson Glass Co., and 2 of the salts in their 1925 catalog have this mark. We have not seen any other references to marks by them. They were in a commodity business with no need for product identification. The bulk of their production - tumblers and mugs - certainly fits this classification.

Central made several of their salts in color as well as crystal. We know of the dog cart in amber, blue and vaseline. The barouche is found in amber, blue and clear. Other colors may exist, but we have not seen them or found documentary evidence of them.

To our knowledge only one open salt unique to Central Glass has been reproduced - the barouche. L.G. Wright made a larger version of this in a variety of colors sometime during the past 30 years. The rest of the Central salts are definitely 19th century designs, except for the 5 shown in the 1925 catalog.

You probably will want to go through your collection and see how many Central Glass salts you own. We did that, and found there were more missing than we expected. Their #830 appeared in the 1880 catalog with a large "QUIT MAKING" stamped on the illustration. We have never seen the shape - it may have been unpopular in its time, and none have survived. Perhaps you can be lucky and find one of these some day - we hope you do.

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References: "Encyclopedia of Pressed Glass in America" by John & Elizabeth Welker
Catalogs with estimated dates of 1876, 1881 and 1925

SALTS BY CENTRAL GLASS COMPANY

Fig. No.	Their No.	Approx. Year**	Description	Smith No.	H&J No.
1	140***	1870	Pedestal, master, CABBAGE ROSE pattern	345-4-1	3529
2	177,197	1876	Round, diamond faceted, indiv. & master*		
3	178,194	1876	Round, zippered belt around middle, indiv. & master	12-2-1	2525
4	179	1876	Square, round bowl, fine dia. pt. or waffle bottom*		
5	180,195	1876	OCTAGON style, indiv. & master*		
6	181	1876	Oval, master, OAK WREATH pattern		2725
7	182	1876	Oval, master, ribbed sides		
8	183	1876	Oval, master, STIPPLED PANEL pattern		
9	184	1876	Round, master, slanting honeycomb sides		
10	185	1876	Round, master, slanting prism sides		
11	186	1876	Oval, plain slanting sides, fine waffle bottom*		
12	187	1876	Oval, master, ribbed lower sides		3521
13	188	1876	Pedestal, 9 panels, scalloped rim		
14	189	1876	Pedestal, master, STIPPLED SWAG pattern	345-5-3	3845
15	190	1876	Pedestal, master, STIPPLED BOWL pattern	467-5-2	3589
16	191	1876	Pedestal, master, OAK WREATH pattern		
17	193	1876	Heavy master, thumbprints and flutes		
18	196	1876	Oblong master, oval rope bottom		
19	278	1876	Oval, fluted collar base		
20	302,301	1876	Round, heavy, plain convex sides, indiv. & master*		
21	321	1876	Oblong, shallow oval bowl		
22	401	1876	Oblong, 8 sides, deeper bowl*		
23	439	1876	PANEL WITH DIAMOND POINT pattern, indiv. & master	6-5-3	2526
24	230	1880	PANEL RIB & SHELL pattern, indiv. & master	122-3-3	2778
25	545	1880	Caster set, 2 open bowls, 2 bottles, mustard jar		
26	572	1880	Square, ribbed sides and rim, indiv. & master	12-4-1	2742
27	597	1880	Individual size, oblong*		
28	775	1880	Round, individual, PRESSED DIAMOND pattern		548
29	810	1880	Round, CANE BAND pattern, indiv. & master	477-4-1	2577
30	822	1880	Stove salt		473
31	830	1880	Round, indiv., marked QUIT MAKING in 1880 catalog		
32	860	1880	Dog with block pattern box	44-4-3	3405
33	876	1880	Round, STAR GALAXY pattern, indiv. & master	117-1-2	2566
34	877	1880	Round, RIBBED BAND pattern, indiv. & master		
35	896	1880	Double, shell bowls, metal handle		
36	16	1885	Barouche		417
37	T784	1925	6-panel pedestal, chippendale handles, Krystol	16-4-1	3542
38	T785	1925	Heavy, individual, 6 curved sides*		
38	T786	1925	T785 with all faces polished*		
39	T787	1925	Panelled individual, pedestal, plain*		
40	T788	1925	6-panel celery dip, marked Krystol		2868

* - This shape was also made by other companies. We do not know how to distinguish the Central Glass version.

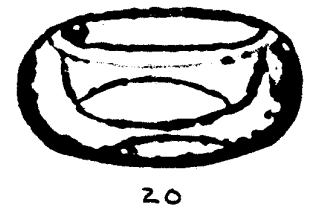
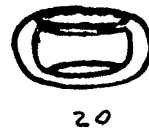
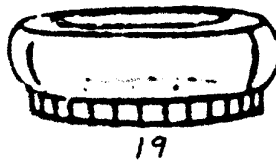
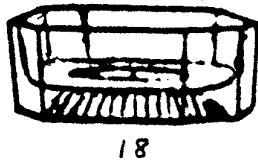
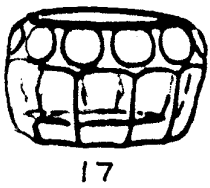
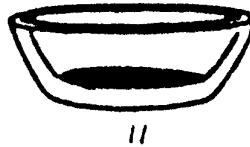
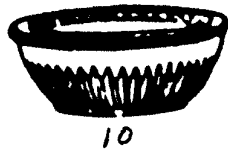
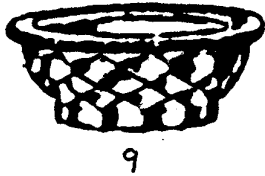
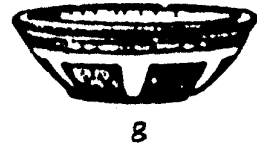
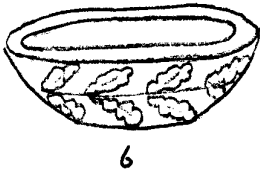
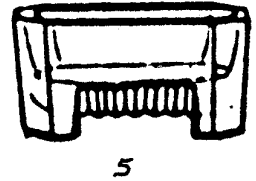
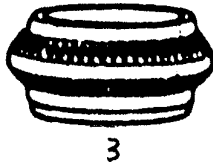
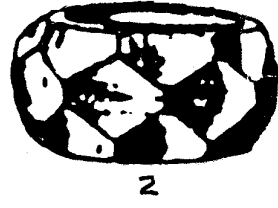
** - Approximate year of earliest appearance in the catalogs we found

*** - Also shown in a later catalog as #192

"Smith No." refers to a series of 10 books, "Open Salts Illustrated", by Alan and Helen Smith. "H&J No." refers to the book "5000 Open Salts Illustrated" by William Heacock and Patricia Johnson.

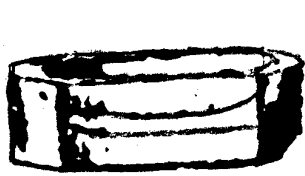
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OPEN SALTS BY CENTRAL GLASS CO.

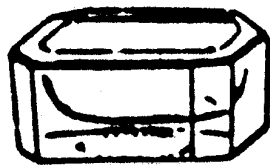


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OPEN SALTS BY CENTRAL GLASS CO.
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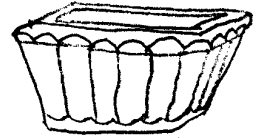
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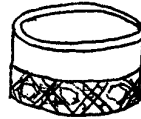
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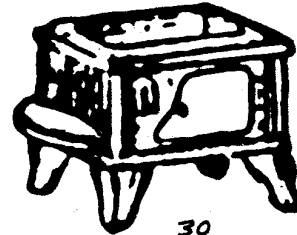
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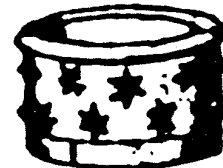
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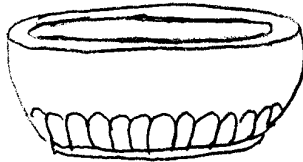
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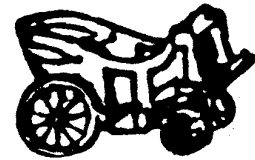
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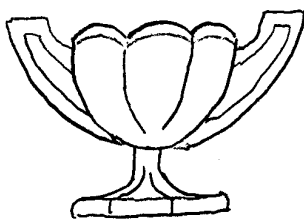
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