

SALTY COMMENTS #15
(Facts and Opinion on Open Salt Collecting)

About 3 years ago we wrote about open salts that were currently in production. The picture has changed since then, especially with the Westmoreland and Imperial Glass Companies shutting down. The latter closing not only redistributed the Imperial molds, but also released Cambridge molds that were bought about 30 years earlier. As a result, many more open salts are being made today. Any serious collector needs to keep abreast of this, if only to avoid buying a new salt at an old salt price.

The number of these current salts makes it advisable to cover this subject in two parts. This issue will be part 1. We will discuss the salts available from Summit Art Glass, who has "the largest selection of salt dips available today", to quote their catalog. We think we will cover the remaining contemporary salts next issue, although it may take 2 more batches once we count how many there really are.

Summit Art Glass is a small business owned and operated by Russell and JoAnn Vogelsong. It was originally a marketing operation, selling a large variety of pressed glass dishes by mail and from a showroom attached to the Vogelsong house near Mogadore, Ohio. They owned many molds, but had them run by glass manufacturing companies. In 1984, they decided to make the glass themselves, and opened their factory in Ravenna, Ohio.

When Westmoreland and Imperial closed, Russ had the opportunity to bid on their old molds. He could not afford to buy the thousands available, but he did buy as many open salt molds as he could find. This has given him the opportunity to produce some of the shapes that have not been made for many years, as well as some that we had not seen before. He has run nearly all of the salt dip molds he acquired, most in a variety of colors, in the hopes that they will be attractive to collectors. We have a listing of many of his colors, but this is not complete. Any collector trying to get a complete set of Summit open salts in all the colors will be searching for about 200 different dishes. They should cost \$3-6 retail, which means an investment of \$750-1000. This is not too bad for an open salt collection - we know of no collector who has found 200 different and colorful old salts for anywhere near this amount of money.

There is no single way to tell the difference between a Summit dish and an old one. In most cases, Summit has made only a few shapes in crystal, so any clear one is probably old. Some of the colors, especially cobalt, are exactly like the old. Before you pay a high price for any "old" cobalt dish that is also on the Summit list, be sure that there is a way to tell the difference. The dealer may swear it is not current production, but sometimes the dealer can be fooled. What we will try to do with this writeup is to identify the Summit dishes for you so you can be smarter than the dealer.

The following information is keyed to the attached list and illustrations. It includes a few items which are not truly salts (like the DAISY AND BUTTON shoe), but which are found in many open salt collections. The colors are listed, where space permits. We do identify all the ones that we know have been made in crystal. The Summit mark, where used, is a V in a circle.

1. Hen on Nest This is a trifle larger than most others, and has the Summit V on both the nest and the lid.
2. "I Took The Tour" This one was used as a gift to people visiting the Summit operation. It has the words, "I took the tour at Summit Art Glass 1986" embossed inside the bowl.
3. Lion Head This is an original Summit mold dating many years back. The idea is taken from the old LION pattern, but a dish of this shape was never made previously. Always has the Summit mark.
4. Rabbit on Nest This is close to the Boyd rabbit, but the ears are higher. Summit has made this for many years. Marked V inside the nest and RV on the rabbit.

5. Rose salt We are unsure of the origin of this little dish, but it looks like an old design. It has a band of roses around the rim, which gives it the name. Have never seen an old one. Unmarked.
6. DAISY & BUTTON Shoe Many others make one like this, and since the Summit one is unmarked there is no easy way to distinguish it. Early Summit production had the Joe St. Clair signature still in it, but recent ones are unmarked.
7. CAPRICE pattern Cambridge sold this dish as a nut cup, ash tray and open salt. It was unmarked. Early Summit production was also unmarked, but this salt and all others from Cambridge molds now have a tiny dot embossed on the center of the bottom or inside the center of the bowl.
8. CAPRICE pattern (square) Sold as a nut dish by Cambridge, but listed as a salt Summit. Has the embossed dot in the middle of the bottom.
9. CAPRICE pattern (square, double) Made in the same mold as #8, but with a plunger that makes 2 compartments in it. Has the dot on the bottom.
10. Four-toed Nut Cup Cambridge made this with a flared rim and sold it as a nut cup. Summit does not flare the rim, and sells it as an open salt. Their initial production was unmarked; later dishes have the dot on the bottom.
11. MOUNT VERNON pattern Made first by Cambridge, marked C in a triangle. Imperial bought the mold and made some, at first without removing the C mark. Summit dishes are unmarked. Look for the C if you want to find an old one.
12. Shell, plain back Cambridge pattern, made first with no marks but now has a dot in the bottom of the bowl.
13. Shell, card-holder back Same shape as #12, but has a place card holder on the back of the dish. Now has dot inside bottom of bowl.
14. STRATFORD pattern - Same mold as #11, but different cap ring which makes a different shape rim. Summit owns the ring for this, but has not used it yet.
15. Anaheim pedestal Simple dish with 10 panels around the bowl. Imperial embossed "ANAHEIM 1969" and their IG mark on the bottom to make dishes for a carnival glass convention. Initial Summit production left the mark intact, but now a V has been added to it.
16. Anaheim pedestal crimped Same as #15, but the rim has been crimped after pressing. Same markings.
17. AZALEA pattern Originally made by Imperial covered with gold, sometimes with the rim flared out. No marks on either the Imperial or Summit dishes we have seen, but the gold ones are definitely Imperial.
18. Basket, double Originally sold as an open salt or a holder for shakers. The original was made in milk glass and crystal, and Summit has not yet made either of these colors. No marks.
19. Round, zipper sides No marks by either Imperial or Summit. No way to tell the difference, unless more information on colors comes to light.
20. Buzz star sides Similar to salts in the book, but not quite the same. No marks, but not yet made in crystal by Summit.
21. Duck Similar to the old Vallerysthal duck, Westmoreland made these in several colors. Original Westmoreland that we have seen is unmarked; Summit duck has a WG on the bottom.
22. ENGLISH HOBNAIL pedestal Original Westmoreland we have seen is unmarked. Summit dishes have a WG under the foot. L.E. Smith makes a similar one, but the rim row of diamonds has no "X" on them like the diamonds on the rest of the dish.
23. ENGLISH HOBNAIL pattern, low Many firms make this design, marked and unmarked. Early Summit production was unmarked; recent dishes have their V mark on the bottom inside.

24. Euchre salts The heart, 4-lobed, 5-lobed, 6-point star and hexagon dishes
25,26 are being made unmarked in a variety of colors. So far none have been made in
27,28 crystal. The mold for the 3-lobed dish was damaged; it has not been
used by Summit to date.
29. I.O.U. salt This dish got its name because a tag with these letters on it
was found with the mold in the Westmoreland warehouse. We have never seen an
old dish like this, although there may be a listing in an old catalog somewhere.
Produced by Summit only in color; if you find a crystal one you have an old
rarity.
30. LACY DAISY pattern Westmoreland first made this in crystal and green as part
of a child's berry set. Later they made it in milk glass and a different green
and sold them as open salts. The mold that Summit has matches the re-issue, but
has a WG hidden in the center of the bottom. Old Westmoreland dishes we have
seen do not have the WG. It may take a lens to find the mark, but it's there.
31. LOTUS pattern Made in many colors by both Westmoreland and Summit. The
colors may differentiate, but we do not have enough data to tell. Unmarked
during the first year, the dish now has the Summit V on the inside bottom.
32. Tiny thumbprints This dish is shown in the Cooperative Flint Glass Co. and
Paden City Glass catalogs, as well as Westmoreland. No marks on any of them
as far as we know. Summit products are unmarked, but none in crystal yet.
33. V salt This shows up in both Westmoreland and Paden City catalogs. No marks
to distinguish the Summit product, but theirs are fire polished so the mold
flash is missing. Any with sharp teeth on the rim are probably old. None
made in crystal yet.
34. Zipper & notched prism sides No marks to distinguish old from new. Old
ones probably not made in color; any colorful ones with fire polishing are
probably Summit.
35. 8-Panelled pedestal Similar shapes made by many glass companies, old and
current. Crystal ones are probably old. Summit's are unmarked and colorful.
36. 8-sided tub Like the Westmoreland, but the handles have V-shaped notches
in them for a spoon rest. Have not seen a Westmoreland one with such notches.
Crystal ones are probably old.
37. Hexagon, star sides Like the old Cambridge glass one that Mosser now makes,
except the stars are larger and fill the entire side. No marks.

This information should let you second-guess any misinformed dealers that you
run across. We have made a practice of getting one of each shape (not of each color)
for comparison of new versus old. It makes things more interesting, and it also adds
color to the shelves without a great deal of expense. We have a few of the shapes and
colors in our stock for resale - those that we think will be most attractive to other
collectors - but we do not try to keep a full line on hand. If you want a more
complete selection of this kind of dish, we suggest Peggy Bonzi, 21969 S. Burwood,
Escalon, CA 95320, or better yet, drop in to the Summit factory in Ravenna, Ohio.
Russ and JoAnn will be glad to see you and will give you a tour of their glassmaking
operation. They also have a large selection of open salts for sale in the showroom
area. If you are really lucky, you might see the New England Salt Society 10th
anniversary salt being made - Summit has agreed to handle the production.

More on contemporary salts next time.

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OPEN SALTS BY SUMMIT ART GLASSORIGINAL SUMMIT MOLDS

<u>Picture</u>	<u>H&J No.</u>	<u>Smith No.</u>	<u>Size* (in.)</u>	<u>Marks</u>	<u>Colors**</u>
<u>No.</u>	<u>(shape only)</u>				
1 Hen on nest			2-1/2 l.	V both pts.	CO
2 I Took The Tour			2-1/2 d.	Slogan	CO
3 Lion Head	3829		3 d.	V	BG,CO,XL
4 Rabbit on nest	1002	310-5-1	2-1/2 l.	V, RV	10 incl. XL
5 Rose salt (origin uncertain)			1-5/8 d.		CO

JOE ST. CLAIR MOLD

6 Daisy and button shoe	851	46-1-2	3-1/4 l.		16
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CAMBRIDGE GLASS CO. MOLDS

7 CAPRICE pattern round	448	307-4-1	2 d.	dot, some IG	11
8 CAPRICE pattern square		361-2-2	3 l.	dot	AG,CO,MG,RD,SB,SG
9 CAPRICE pattern square double			3 l.	dot	SG,SB
10 Four-toed nut cup	(627)		1-3/4 h.	dot	AG,CO,MG,RB,SB
11 MOUNT VERNON pattern	821	80-5-3	4-3/8 l.		RB +?
12 Shell, plain back	1235		2-3/4 l.	dot inside	BM,CO,MG,OM,RD,SB
13 Shell, card holder back	1237		2-3/4 l.	dot inside	?
14 STRATFORD pattern		80-5-1	4-3/8 l.	None made so far	

IMPERIAL GLASS CO. MOLDS

15 ANAHEIM pedestal	866	205-1-1	2-1/8 h.	V recently	CO,RD
16 ANAHEIM pedestal, crimped			2-1/8 h.		CO
17 AZALEA pattern	153		2-3/4 h.		AB,CO
18 Basket, double	p.18	263-5-3	4 l.		AB,CO,CI
19 Round, zipper sides	911	21-2-3	1-3/4 d.		AB,AG,CO,OM

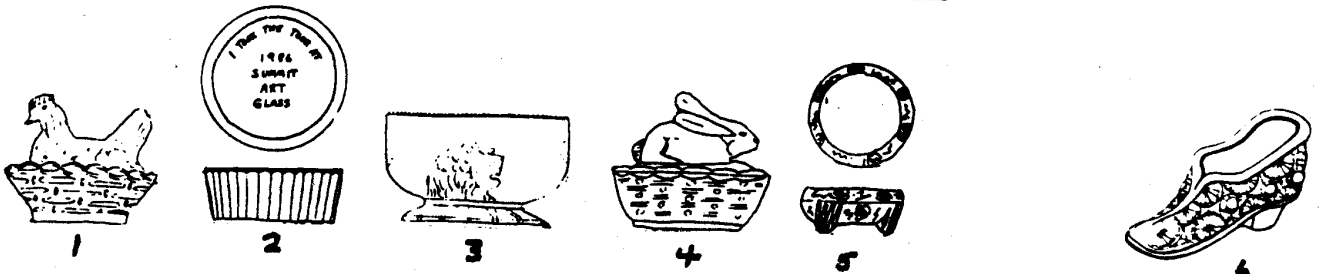
WESTMORELAND MOLDS

20 Buzz star sides			1-5/8 d.		CI,CO,RD
21 Duck	1019	190-3-3	5-1/4 l.	WG	15 incl. XL
22 ENGLISH HOBNAIL pedestal	865	17-4-2	3-1/8 l.	WG	AB,CO,MG,MK,OM,SB
23 ENGLISH HOBNAIL, low round	515	36-3-3	1-3/4 d.	V recently	7
24 EUCHRE salts - heart	3022	7-4-2	1-3/4 l.		AB,BL,BS,CO,RD,SG
25 4-lobed	3020	7-2-3	1-3/4 l.		AB,BL,BS,CO,RD,SG
26 5-lobed	3021	7-3-3	1-3/4 l.		AB,BL,BS,CO,RD,SG
27 6-pt. star	3027	7-4-1	1-3/4 l.		AB,BL,BS,CO,RD,SG
28 hexagon	3025	7-4-3	1-3/4 l.		AB,BL,BS,CO,RD,SG
29 I.O.U. salt			2-1/4 l.		CO
30 LACY DAISY pattern	351	37-3-1	2-1/4 d.	WG	AB,AG,CO
31 LOTUS pattern	522	37-1-2	1-3/4 d.	V recently	14
32 Tiny thumbprint	2551	37-4-3	1-3/4 d.		AB,AZ,BM,CO,MK
33 V salt	886	11-3-3	1-3/4 d.		8
34 Zippers & notched prism sides	2558	475-3-2	1-3/4 d.		CI,CO
35 8-panelled pedestal	2957	467-3-1	1-3/4 h.		AB,AZ,BM,CO,SB
36 8-sided tub	2847	13-2-3	1-3/4 d.		CO
37 Hexagon, star sides	514		1-5/8 w.		CO

* - Longest dimension; w=wide, l=long, h=high, d=diameter

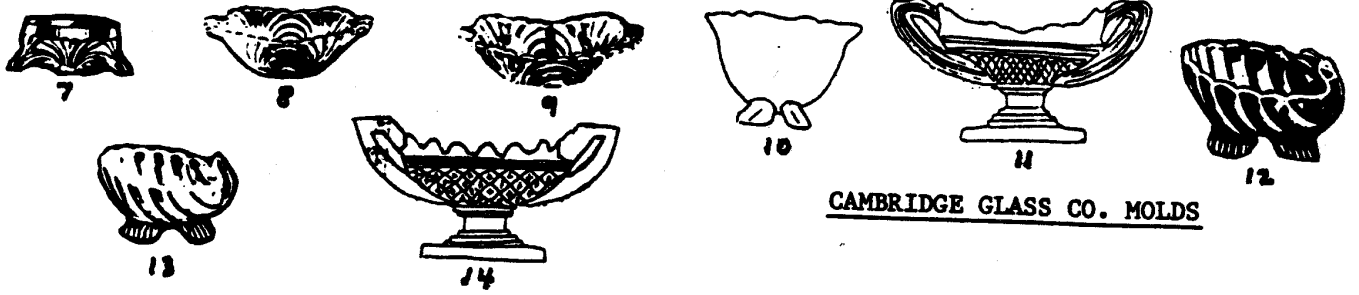
** - Known colors: AB= amberina, AG= apple green, AZ= azurite, BG= blue green, BL= black, BM= blue milk, BS= blue smoke, CI= cobalt irridescent, CO= cobalt, MG= morning glory, MK= milk, OM= opalescent milky white, RB= rubina, RD= red, SB= sky blue, SG= sahara gold, XL= crystal, number of colors given if more than 6

OPEN SALTS BY SUMMIT ART GLASS



ORIGINAL SUMMIT MOLDS

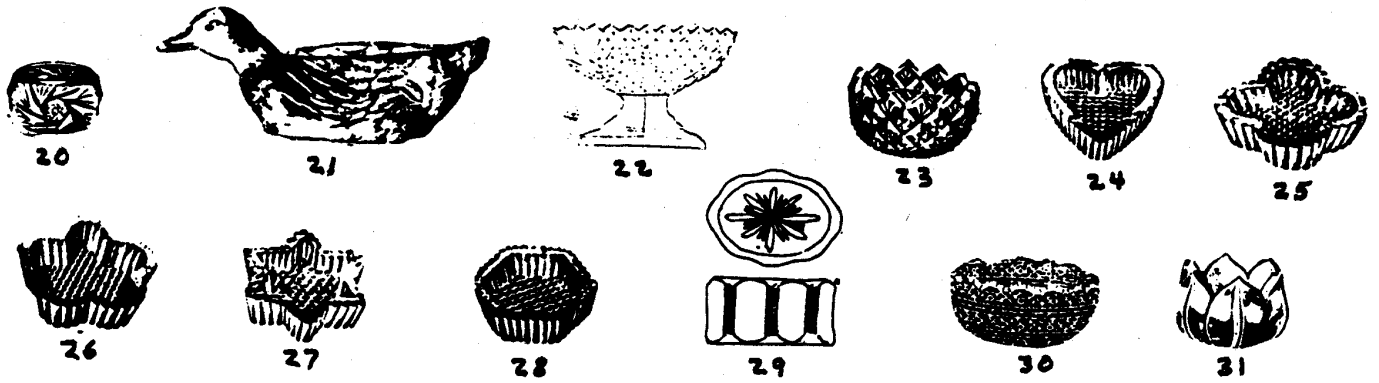
JOE ST. CLAIR MOLD



CAMBRIDGE GLASS CO. MOLDS



IMPERIAL GLASS CO. MOLDS



WESTMORELAND MOLDS

