

View from the Salt Box - #40

Nina Robertson made a fascinating discovery last September. Some of us have a “salt” in our collection. like the one on the right It is shown in Smith Book 1, and is marked “MAGIC Pat’d Sept. 2, 1917” on the bottom. We understand the inventor intended it to hold lemons for squeezing, not for serving salt. Nina showed it to a friend who collects reamers, which is what collectors call the things I was taught to call “lemon squeezers”. At first he was indifferent, but the next day he was excited. It seems that there is a matching reamer for this, and our “salt” is called a reamer cap. It is much scarcer than the reamer itself, and has a price guide value of \$60.00. And to think that we’ve been looking down on it as just another salt “wannabe”!

This is a good example of how open salt collecting intersects with other collecting interests. Often the other collectors set the value of what we want. Several examples come to mind. We were lucky to buy an Indiana Tumbler and Goblet Co.(Greentown) master size THOUSAND EYE BAND salt in chocolate glass at the Chicago Convention. The cost was high because the market for chocolate glass is set by what Greentown collectors are willing to pay. There was an ordinary shaped celery tray salt in the Internet Ebay auction in September that went for \$216.39. It had a picture of a Kewpie on the front, and “Copyright Rose O’Neill Wilson Kewpie” on the back. If you want a piece of Kewpie china, you have to compete with the Kewpie collectors. We didn’t try.

Glass in popular patterns has many people looking for it, which runs up the price. The FROSTED LION (\$250.00 for the master salt) and LIBERTY BELL (\$45.00 or more for the individual size) come to mind. Scarce salts from old glass factories that have collector organizations will be expensive, like the Heisey cobalt REVERE pattern which costs about \$150 when you can find it.

For china salts, French faience is another example. We have several with no mark or an unidentified mark on the bottom. A similar one with “Quimper” on the bottom will be priced at 5 times the cost of those which are unmarked or have unfamiliar marks..

The bottom line is that we all compete for the special salts, not only among ourselves, but with people whose collecting interests overlap ours. This is bad because it makes our salts cost more, but it’s good because it makes our salts worth more. We don’t have to buy the expensive ones, but if one of them is real special and would look nice in the collection, we might grin and bear it when we hear the price. That’s what happened to us in Chicago.

Ed Berg

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*Reamer Cap
Smith 52-1-2*



*THOUSAND EYE BAND
H&J 2071*



*FROSTED LION
Smith 396-5-3
Coddington 4-2-1*



Heisey REVERE



French Faience