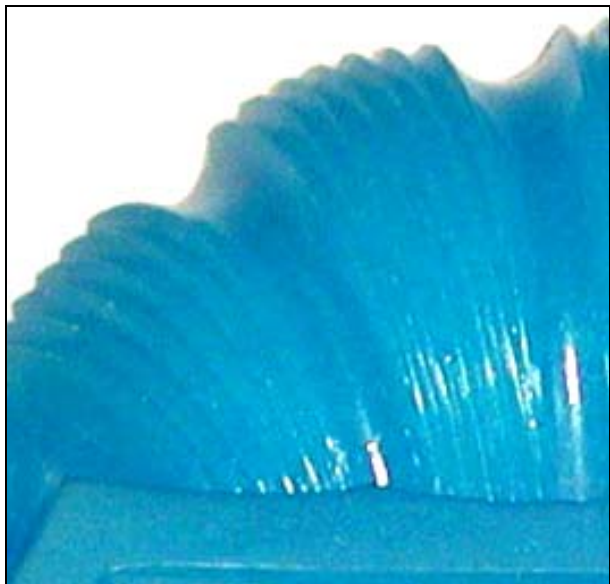


The „French Ink“ Desk Set - Boston & Sandwich Glass Co. 1878 or Crystal works Baccarat 1870?

Auszug aus www.nbmog.org/FrenchInkPage.html (2013-03)
Gefunden von Gerd Mattes, herzlichen Dank!

About 1878 the **Boston & Sandwich Glass Company** published a **trade catalog** illustrating almost **2.000** items available for purchase. Among the items was a **shell-shaped, pressed glass desk set consisting of a tray and two bottles**. One bottle held ink and the other held a fine blotting sand that was sprinkled over the freshly written page to keep the ink from smearing. Curiously, the price list description for the set reads „**French Ink**.“ It sold for \$12.00 per dozen.

Abb. 2013-1/58-01
"French Ink" Desk Set, L: 7 5/16" [ca. 18,5 cm]
France, c. 1875
NBMOG Collection
Gift: Richard & Lesley Harris Acc. 2008.003 (A-D)



The **price list description** suggests **two possibilities**. Either the set was being **imported from France** and resold by the company, a practice in which the company occasionally engaged, or the set was **copied from a**

French prototype. Authors Raymond E. **Barlow** and Joan E. **Kaiser** opt for the later explanation in the fifth and final volume of their monumental study "**The Glass Industry in Sandwich**" (Atglen, PA: Schiffer Publishing Ltd., 1999). For the cover illustration of their book they chose a **translucent blue example of the desk set** that corresponds exactly to the company catalog illustration and to **numerous glass shards excavated from the Sandwich factory site**. Its appearance on the cover indicates how highly collectors esteem this item, which is described in the Barlow / Kaiser text as **extremely rare**.



Last summer a **previously unrecorded variant of the "French Ink" desk set** was donated to NBMOG by Museum members Richard & Lesley Harris. It **differs** from previously discovered examples in **two obvious ways**. First, the Barlow-Kaiser set and all other known examples exhibit **plain shell ribs** on the underside of the tray. The NBMOG example, by contrast, has **fine lines embossed into the underside of the shell ribs**. Second, the Barlow-Kaiser bottles feature Bull's Eye and Dart pattern shoulders and spun metal tops, while the NBMOG bottle designs differ completely from all previously known examples. The NBMOG sand bottle, for example was molded with as a completely enclosed hollow form! Holes for the sand were later drilled through the top and, there being no removable cover, the sand had to be sifted into the bottle through these same tiny holes.

The French glass industry is known for using molds with very precisely embossed patterns. This factor, in

combination with the evidence of the B&SGCo catalog and the shards excavated from the Sandwich factory site, suggests the **strong possibility that the NBMOG example was made in France**. Perhaps the impractical bottle design was supplanted by a later design featuring a metal cap, which, in turn, provided the model for the Sandwich product. Barlow and Kaiser refer to the illustration of desk sets in an **1870 Cristalleries de Baccarat trade catalog**, but the similarity of the catalog designs to the Sandwich and NBMOG examples is not clear from their description.

Abb. 2013-1/58-02
 "French Ink" Desk Set, L: 7 5/16" [ca. 18,5 cm]
 France, c. 1875
 NBMOG Collection
 Gift: Richard & Lesley Harris Acc. 2008.003 (A-D)



Design influences traveled both ways across the Atlantic during the 19th century. The **German porcelain factory Meissen copied pressed Sandwich glass designs in the 1830s**, as documented by the insightful article "**Meissen Porcelain Designed from Glass Patterns**", by **Joachim Kunze**, reprinted in The Glass Club Bulletin of the National Early American Glass Club (Issue 153, Fall 1987, pp. 3-7). Sandwich, for its part, obligingly indicated the foreign origin of their desk set design when they described it as a "French Ink". The study of surviving examples and excavated shards has deepened our understanding of these trans-Atlantic relationships, and to that study the discovery of the NBMOG desk set brings surprising and welcome new evidence.



Siehe unter anderem auch:

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