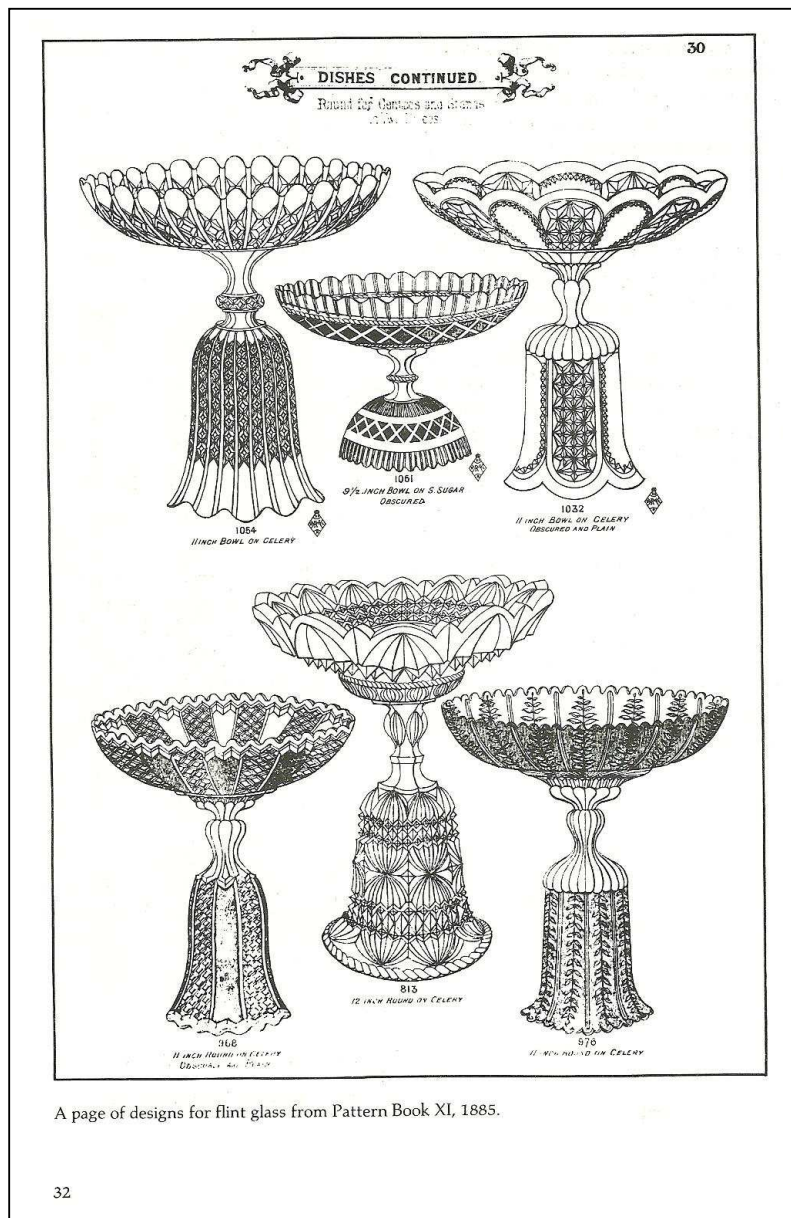


## A Celery Obscured?

Just when you think you've seen it all, another item comes along to add to the confusion. If you put everything that was ever made out of glass for our dining experience out on the dining room table, that table would have to be 20 feet long. And that's just to feed 6 people. I'm exaggerating of course, but not by much. It's known as what I like to call, the **"Invention Breeds Necessity"** syndrome. If someone would have invented a tall glass footed tube with an opening at the bottom, and called it a **Muffin Dispenser**, then we'd all have to make room for that contraption on the table for our fine dining experience.

The following photos show some ideas of what was actually invented back in the 1880's. These are things that we don't see very much today. In fact they are quite rare. One reason for the rarity might be that the idea did not take off very well and not many of these items were ever made.

This first photo shows a grouping of pressed flint glass items made in 1885 in England. These were the kind of items that could be used two different ways simply by turning them upside down. Shown are what was called **"Bowl on Celery Obscured"**, and **"Bowl on Sugar Obscured"**. An interesting choice of words, but then again, what else would you call them?



A page of designs for flint glass from Pattern Book XI, 1885.

By simply turning them upside down, they offer another use. Often times glass companies would copy someone else's ideas. The company that made the pressed flint items, probably got the idea from the company who made these beautiful art glass examples. These were made in a more eccentric style. I suppose you could turn them upside down, but I would prefer leaving them the way they're shown, and serve Muffins in them. If anything, they're much more attractive than a glass tube Muffin Dispenser.



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