

## PLATE 1.

"Ruby Thumbprint", as this pattern is called today, was first made about 1890. It was initially called "XLCR", and became extremely popular during 1893, at the Columbian Exposition at Chicago. This name naturally became changed to "Excelsior", which was used for this pattern for many years. It was produced originally by at least two firms, Adams and Company and Doyle and Company, both of Pittsburgh. Adams advertised making eighty-seven different pieces, counting both the engraved and plain. It was also sold in clear, without the ruby stain, and today this is called "King's Crown". Both the ruby-stained and the clear are being made today.

*Top Row* — 1. Covered sugar bowl,  $6\frac{3}{4}$  inches high,  $4\frac{1}{4}$  inches diameter. 2. Rectangular open salt,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches long,  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches wide. This is an extremely rare little item in this pattern. 3. Toothpick holder,  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inches high,  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches diameter. This is frequently confused with item 5, same row, the miniature open sugar which is lower, wider, and has larger serrations around top rim. 4. Covered compote, high standard,  $12\frac{1}{4}$  inches high,  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches diameter. When the cover is missing, the top edge is plain, without serrated edge, as compared to edge of open compote, Row 2, item 3. 5. Miniature open sugar,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches high,  $2\frac{5}{8}$  inches diameter. Compare with toothpick holder, item 3, same row. 6. Miniature creamer, 3 inches high,  $2\frac{1}{8}$  inches diameter. 7. Previously unrecorded, rare covered jam or marmalade jar, without finial on cover, 5 inches high,  $3\frac{3}{4}$  inches diameter.

*Middle Row* — 1. Five piece castor set, including stand, no engraving. This stand is not known to have been made with red stain on it, 6 inches square, 9 inches to top of wire handle. 2. Miniature creamer, tall shape,  $3\frac{1}{4}$  inches high. 3. Open compote, extremely rare belled shape, (compare with Plate 2, second row, item 1.) serrated edge,  $7\frac{1}{4}$  inches high, 10 inches diameter. 4. Miniature creamer, squat shape, 3 inches high. 5. Five piece castor set, bottles etched with leaf design.

*Bottom Row* — 1. Square, covered cheese or honey dish, rare shape, 8 inches square,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches high to top of cover. 2. and 3. Salt and pepper shakers, with original pewter tops,  $3\frac{1}{8}$  inches high. 4. Extremely rare, large, footed punch bowl, serrated scalloped edges, engraved with stylized leaf design around flared top, 9 inches high, 12 inches top diameter. 5. Covered mustard jar, etched, 4 inches high. 6. Covered butter dish, eleven pointed star on bottom,  $5\frac{3}{4}$  inches high,  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches diameter.

