

Canton Glass Co. and the Cambridge Glass Co.

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The Canton Glass Co. operated in five locations. These plants were in production during different time periods at each place. The initial firm operated at Canton, Ohio, then moved to a rented space at Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania, after the Ohio plant burned. The firm then constructed a new plant at Marion, Ohio. The company joined the National Glass Co. in 1899, but National closed the Marion plant in 1902 and moved to Cambridge, Ohio. Local businessmen revised the Canton Glass Co. name and a new factory at Marion, then moved to Hartford City, Indiana. All of the plants primarily produced tableware. The original firm produced three – probably four fruit jar lines. Some of the fruit jars were continued by the Cambridge Glass Co.

Histories

Canton Glass Co., Canton, Ohio (1883-1890)

Joseph K. Brown, A.M. Bacon, and David Barker incorporated the Canton Glass Co. with a capital of \$50,000 on December 23, 1882. Brown was apparently the financial backer with Bacon providing the glass experience and Brown as a designer and inventor. Located at 235 Marion Ave., Canton, Ohio, the plant made tableware, lantern globes, opal nest eggs (i.e., white milk glass), and the Canton Domestic Fruit Jar. In 1889, Henry Harter and Charles Brockius joined the firm. In a reorganization, the Board of Directors elected Harter president and Brockius secretary. The plant burned to the ground on March 23, 1890 (Macky 2014; Roller 1997; Welker & Welker 1985:34-35).

Beaver Falls Glass Co., Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania (1890)

After the destructive 1890 fire, the corporation rented the Beaver Falls Glass Co., Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania, and moved its 120 workers and the surviving equipment there – probably making the products formerly manufactured at Canton. A.M. Bacon – one of the directors of the firm – had formerly been the secretary and treasurer of the Cooperative Flint Glass Co. at Beaver

Falls. This connection almost certainly resulted in the move to Beaver Falls. The plant operated two press shops and one blow shop at a single 15-pot furnace. The firm ceased production at Beaver Falls in July 1890 to move to a new plant built at Marion, Indiana (Macky 2014; Roller 1997; Welker & Welker 1985:34-35). See the BFGCo section for more information.

Canton Glass Co. (No. 1), Marion, Indiana (1890-1899)

The Board lost no time selecting a new setting. They chose a location at 1800 Spencer Ave., Marion, Indiana, on May 17, 1890 and built a new factory with a 15-pot furnace on August 25. Along with the main building, the grounds included a shipping room, a packing room, a blacksmith shop, a machine shop with mold room, and a grinding and polishing room – all made of corrugated iron with steel roofs (Figure 1). Apparently, the firm was taking no chances on a repeat fire. Although none of the sources went into detail, it is interesting that this furnace had exactly the same capacity as the one at Beaver Falls. The Beaver Falls Glass Co. liquidated its assets as soon as Canton Glass terminated its rental of the plant, so Canton may have simply moved the Beaver Falls operation to the new plant. The company was so successful that it expanded the factory and began year-round production in 1894 – although summer work may have only continued for one season (Macky 2014; Roller 1997).¹

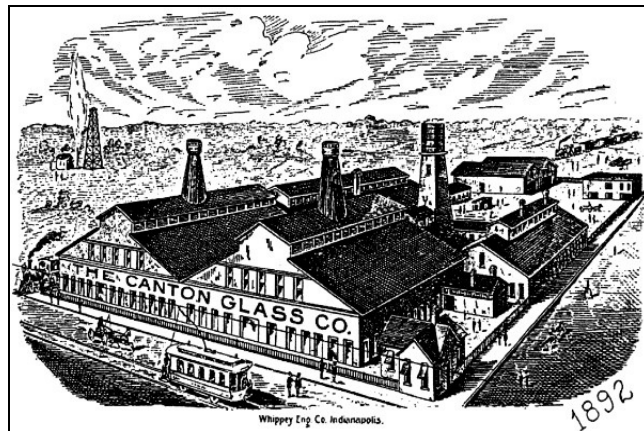


Figure 1 – Canton Glass Co. 1892 (Macky 2014)

Harter continued as president with Brockius as secretary and treasurer, and C.H. Henderson as superintendent. David Barker remained as an inventor and designer for the firm (Macky 2014; Roller 1998a). Barker invented numerous designs for almost everything made of glass, from tableware to vault and sidewalk glass. Only two of those, however, are germane to this discussion: a mold to make screw lids, patented in 1885, and a design that became the

¹ Typically, glass plants closed during the summer months due to the intense heat of the process.

Canton fruit jar series, patented in 1889. Baker assigned both patents (and many others) to the Canton Glass Co.

By 1893, Canton advertised “pressed & blown crystal tableware, tumblers, lamps, founts, bird cups, lantern globes, opal bird baths, decanters, beer mugs, etc., druggist goods, graduates, pressed percolators, mortars & pestles, plain funnels” (Roller 1983:81; 1994:59). The ad also showed “THE CANTON DOMESTIC FRUIT JAR PAT. DEC. 31 1889” (Figure 2). Also in 1893, the plant installed a second 15-pot furnace and expanded the workforce from 150 to 235 (Macky 2014).

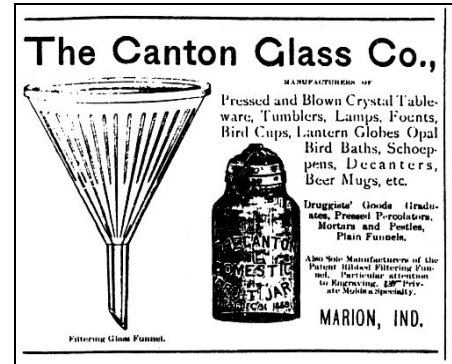


Figure 2 – Canton Domestic Fruit Jar ad 1893 (Roller 1987:81)

Until 1896, the factory imported sand from Millington, Illinois. That year, the plant was able to draw from a white sand deposit estimated at 15,000,000 tons, located near Terre Haute, Indiana. In 1898 and 1899, the plant made tableware along with “pressed and blown specialties in flint, opal and colors” using 30 pots (*National Glass Budget* 1898:7; 1899:7). Fruit jar production continued until at least 1900 but was no longer listed in 1905.

During the 1890-1899 period, the plant made tableware, lantern globes, and novelty items, along with Weiss beer bottles, druggist goods, and graduates, ointment and cosmetic jars, inkwells, fish globes, and the Domestic Fruit Jar. The plant continued to make some bottles and jars during the 1899-1902 period, including “bitter bottles. . . fruit jars (Canton Domestic Fruit Jar and Calcutt’s Fruit Jar [patented by Reginald B. Calcutt on Nov 7, 1893]), measuring tumblers, medicine glasses, tablet jars” (Macky 2014).

Canton Glass Works of the National Glass Co., Marion, Indiana (1899-1902)

On November 1, 1899, 19 glass houses – virtually all tableware manufacturers – combined to form the National Glass Co. Not one of the original incorporators, the Canton Glass Co. became a part of the National Glass Co. on November 21, 1899, deeding \$57,130 to National. The plant was now called the Canton Glass Works of the National Glass Co. (Carnival Glass 2004; Macky 2014; Toulouse 1971:127; Welker & Welker 1985:34-35).

The April 7, 1900, issue of *Commoner & Glassworker* noted that

the Gray fruit jar cap machine was given a test at the Canton Glass Works last week and exceeded all expectations. Without the use of wind or water it easily turned out ten 6 oz. caps per minute. It is evident that all articles similar in shape can be made on it. It is a threaded cap weighing about 6 oz. and about 3 inches in diameter, and is said by all to be as perfect as any cap made on a hand press (quoted in Roller 1998a).

On July 1, 1902, National closed the factory due to a local fuel shortage. The firm moved the machinery to a newly constructed plant at Cambridge, Ohio. National went into receivership in 1907 (Macky 2014; Welker & Welker 1985:34-35).

Cambridge Glass Co., Cambridge, Ohio (1902-1960)

On May 15, 1901, the National Glass Co. began construction of a new plant at Cambridge, Ohio, with an intention to open the factory on October 1. The plant was originally equipped with gear from their Summitt, Ohio, factory, although the plant also received equipment from Marion in 1902. By 1904, Arthur J. Bennett was president, with J.H. Harbison as secretary and treasurer and Scott Littleton as manager. The plant made a general line of tableware and novelties at three furnaces with 42 pots. By 1912, the number had increased to four furnaces with 54 pots. Bennett was still president, with W.C. McCartney as secretary, G.R. Boyd as treasurer, and both James Madden and John Holbrook as managers (Roller 1996).

Bennett, McCartney, and Boyd all retained their positions in 1930, with W.L. Orme as vice president, J.C. Kelley as general manager, and O.J. Mosser as factory manager. The plant produced tableware and novelties at three furnaces with 42 pots. The additional furnace in 1912 apparently came from the acquisition of the Byesville Glass & Lamp Co. of Byesville, Ohio. Cambridge Glass used or controlled the Byesville plant from ca. 1912 to ca. 1924. The Imperial Glass Co. of Bellaire, Ohio, purchased the Cambridge name and molds in 1960 (Roller 1996).

Canton Glass Co. (No. 2), Marion, Indiana (1903-1958)

Soon after the Canton factory closed in 1892, a group of townspeople met with the now unemployed glass workers to discuss the feasibility of reopening the operation. The workers raised \$15,000, and the Marion Real Estate Co. offered them a free plot of land directly across the street from the old plant (northwest corner of Spencer and Henderson Avenues). The workers claimed they needed \$50,000 to make the new factory profitable, and bedstead manufacturer Leo Nussbaum provided the additional capital (Macky; Roller 1998a).

During February 1903, the Canton Glass Co. (locally called “No. 2”) opened – although a Canton ad noted that “quality ware and courteous service have been our standards since 1902,” suggesting that the company claimed 1902 as the opening date (*American Glass Review* 1934:172). The main building was made of wood, covered with corrugated iron, along with a

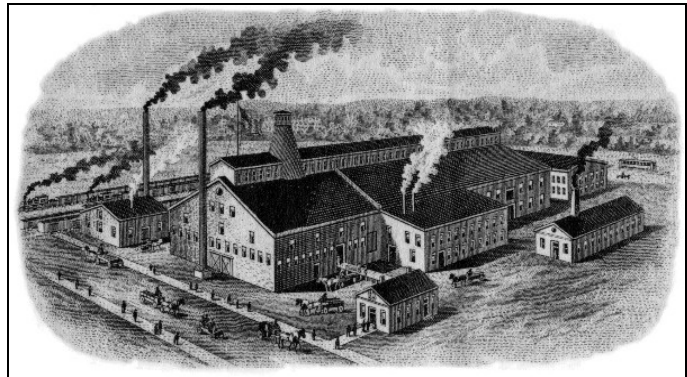


Figure 3 – Canton Glass Co. 1921 (billhead, eBay)

blowing room, lehr room (with five lehrs), mold room, batch room, and grinding room. The blowers worked from a 16 pot furnace capable of melting 16 tons of glass in 24 hours (Figure 3). Leo Nussbaum was the first president and served in that capacity until 1928. F.L. Paul was the vice-president and general manager, with E.J. Mason as secretary and treasurer, and Adam Krill as superintendent. The plant employed 165 workers (Macky 2014). David Lloyd bought the old plant (No. 1) in 1908 and continued production (Macky 2014; Welker & Welker 1985:34-35).

Although the main products of the factory consisted of tableware, fish globes, and the like, the Thomas Registers (Thomas Publishing Co. 1905:577; 1921:4570) showed the company making battery jars from 1905 to 1921. The inventory in 1927 consisted mainly of tableware, but it included “laboratory and druggists glass” still made at one furnace with 16 pots (*American Glass Review* 1927:83). A 1909 billhead noted “tableware, drug sundries, novelties, vault lights & bar goods.” By 1938, the letterhead listed virtually everything the company had made in 1893 plus “sidewalk and skylight glass” – also called vault lights (Roller 1994:59-60).

By 1909, the factory worked two shifts, day and night. Leo Nussbaum died on December 20, 1929, and his son, Berthold M. Nussbaum, replaced his father as president in February of the following year. The plant suffered a fire in February 1933 – costing a total of \$2,500 in damage – caused by the fire and by the automatic sprinkler system. As late as April 30, 1935, all glassware at the plant was still produced by hand (Macky 2014; Roller 1998a).

On October 12, 1945 – probably due to an illness of Berthold M. Nussbaum – the focus shifted away from the Nussbaum family. The Board elected Earl Knightlinger as president and general manager, with William M. Wright as vice-president and treasurer and J.D. Wright as secretary. Berthold Nussbaum died on December 1, 1945. William Wright became president in 1952 (Macky 2014; Roller 1998a).

Welker & Welker (1985:35) noted that the operation existed in Marion until 1958, when the Sinclair Glass Co. purchased the property. Sinclair closed the Marion plant in 1965, and Canton Glass moved the equipment to Hartford City, Indiana (Macky 2014).

Canton Glass Co., Hartford City, Indiana (1958-1999)

In 1958, Canton built a plant at Hartford City, Indiana, in the former Sneath Glass Co. plant and sold the Marion property to the Sinclair Glass Co. in 1965 (Welker & Welker 1985:35). The plant operated six continuous tanks and six day tanks in 1969 but switched to two continuous tanks and seven day tanks the following year. The factory was the property of David Lilly & Co. by 1971, with F.R. Hodges as president. In 1982 and 1985, the plant made pressed, restaurant ware, pharmaceutical ware, and smokers accessories (*Glass Industry* 1982:18; Perrine 1985:14). By 1999, the factory was still in existence but no longer made glass (Macky 2014; Roller 1998b).

Containers and Marks

Although the factory mostly produced tableware and novelties, it made some jars and bottles, although probably few if any were marked with a logo. The company certainly made a series of fruit jars that will be discussed below.

Canton Fruit Jars

The Canton Glass Co. carried three major lines of fruit jars between 1885 and 1902, with two of those extending into the Cambridge Glass Co. Roller (1983:81-82; 2011:125-126) – with a caveat from Tom Caniff – proposed a rough chronology for these three series that we have followed. Creswick (1987:25-26) also listed and illustrated these jars, but none of the sources presented the entire sequence in a single place. We will begin by setting the sequence and follow with details for each line.

The earliest series – based on David Barker’s 1885 patent for a continuous-thread lid mold – was embossed “THE CANTON / FRUIT JAR” and had a screw cap. The original jar was either replaced by or offered contemporarily with the newer “THE CANTON / ELECTRIC / FRUIT JAR” made from the Heston & Akers 1887 patent. These were apparently unpopular (possibly because the high fin on the closure was prone to breakage), so the firm gradually phased out the “Electric” line. The first step was to erase the name from the molds (probably with a ball-peen hammer), creating a jar with a ghost of the word “ELECTRIC.” This was followed by new molds embossed only “THE CANTON / FRUIT JAR.” These last three jars all continued to use the Heston & Akers closure.

When Barker designed an improvement to the Heston & Akers closure, Canton Glass adopted the new format during 1889. Originally, the firm used the same molds – “THE CANTON / FRUIT JAR” – it had used for the former Electric jars but added the new Barker 1889 finishes and lids. At some point, probably early, the factory added “DOMESTIC” between “THE CANTON” and “FRUIT JAR.” The final stage of the jar added an elongated hexagonal frame around “DOMESTIC” in the center. This *may* have been added after the Canton plant at Marion, Indiana, closed, and jar production shifted to the Cambridge Glass Co., Cambridge, Ohio. Table 1 contains the probable chronology.

Table 1 – Canton Jar Progression

Jar	Embossing	Lid	Patent No.	Dates
Fruit Jar	THE CANTON / FRUIT JAR	CT	Barker 1885 – 330,545	1885-ca. 1890
Electric	THE CANTON / ELECTRIC / FRUIT JAR	fin & clamp	Heston & Akers 1887 – 371,685	ca. 1887-1890
Electric (ghosted)	THE CANTON / ELECTRIC / FRUIT JAR	fin & clamp	Heston & Akers 1887 – 371,685	ca. 1887-1890
Fruit Jar	THE CANTON / FRUIT JAR	fin & clamp	Heston & Akers 1887 – 371,685	ca. 1890
Fruit Jar	THE CANTON / FRUIT JAR	fin & clamp	Barker 1889 – 418,266	ca. 1890
Domestic	THE CANTON / DOMESTIC / FRUIT JAR	fin & clamp	Barker 1889 – 418,266	1890-ca. 1910
Domestic	THE CANTON / DOMESTIC [frame] / FRUIT JAR	fin & clamp	Barker 1889 – 418,266	1890-ca. 1910

CANTON FRUIT JAR

The Canton Glass Co. made three different jars, each embossed “THE CANTON (arch) / FRUIT JAR (inverted arch) on the front body. These are confusing because the first variation is not connected temporally or by design to the following two. Both others were transitional formats.

The earliest format was a colorless jar, topped by a continuous-thread glass lid. The lid had two “ears” extending above the top, probably intended to catch a screw driver or other flat object to help tighten or loosen the cap. One variation of the lid was embossed “PAT. APPD. FOR (arch) / THE CANTON JAR (inverted arch)” – the other “PAT^d NOV 17 1885 (arch) / THE CANTON JAR (inverted arch).”

Creswick (1987:25) also illustrated an almost identical jar – with no side embossing – and the second variation of “THE CANTON JAR” lid (with the patent date). Both Roller (1983:82; 2011:126) and Creswick (1987:25) discussed these jars, and Creswick illustrated both of them (Figure 4). Roller dated the jars ca. 1885-1890, but Creswick declined to attempt a year except the patent date. We agree with Roller’s date. Note that all these jars were probably made at Canton, Ohio.

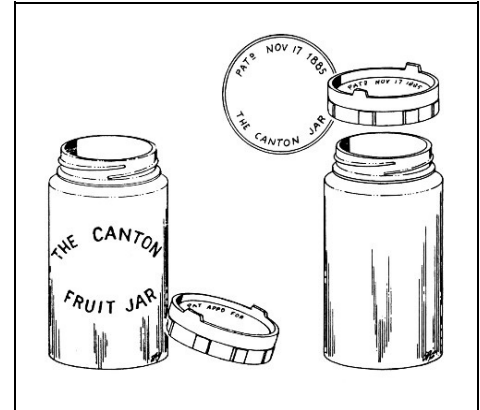


Figure 4 – Canton Fruit Jar (Creswick 1987:25)

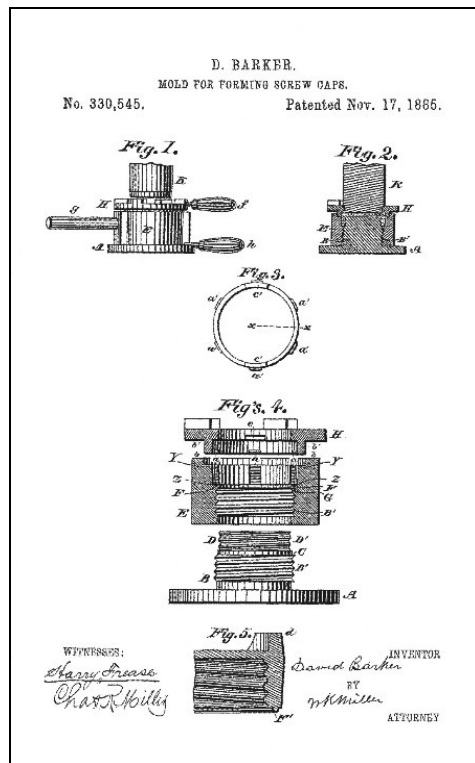


Figure 5 – Barker’s 1885 patent

Roller (1997) mentioned that the Canton Glass Co. advertised “fruit jars with patent tops” in 1884 and included a note with his entry about Barker’s 1885 patent for a mold to make screw caps: “THE CANTON FRUIT JAR.” On June 12, 1885, David Barker applied for a patent for a “Mold for Forming Screw Caps” and received Patent No. 330,545 on November 17 of the same year (Figure 5). Barker assigned the patent to the Canton Glass Co. It is likely that jars with lids embossed “PAT. APPD. FOR” were originally made between June and November 1885, although the lids probably continued to be made until the molds wore out. Lids with the patent date could only have been made after November 17, 1885. Roller (1983:82) was probably correct with his end date of ca. 1890. By then, the firm had moved on to its other jar series.

The other two jars embossed “THE CANTON / FRUIT JAR” were actually transitional jars between the two jar series that followed: the Electric and Domestic models. Each had the same embossing as the earlier jar, but each had finishes appropriate to the other two groups. Table 2 describes all the variations, but the latter two jars will also be described below where they fit into the sequence.

Table 2 – Canton Fruit Jar Variations

Jar Embossing	Lid Type	Lid Embossing
THE CANTON / FRUIT JAR	Barker 1885	PAT. APPD FOR THE CANTON JAR
		PATD NOV 17 1885 THE CANTON JAR
none	Barker 1885	PATD NOV 17 1885 THE CANTON JAR
THE CANTON / FRUIT JAR	Heston & Akers 1887	PATENT APPD FOR
THE CANTON / FRUIT JAR	Heston & Akers 1887	PATENT PENDING*
THE CANTON / FRUIT JAR	Barker 1889	PATD DEC 31 1889
THE CANTON / ELECTRIC (ghosted) / FRUIT JAR	Barker 1889	PATD DEC 31 1889

* round plate between “THE CANTON” and “FRUIT JAR”; “PAT APP FOR” on base

CANTON ELECTRIC FRUIT JAR

The Canton Electric Fruit Jar was made in colorless and light cobalt blue glass, although none of the sources indicated a solarized (amethyst) variation. The jar was embossed “THE CANTON (arch) / ELECTRIC (horizontal) / FRUIT JAR (inverted arch)” on the front body. Roller (1983:82) described the closure as a “straddle-lip top seal, high-finned glass lid and wire bail clasp fitting into loop in tie-wire around jar neck.” Although similar to the Domestic closure (below), there were subtle differences (Figure 6). The lid was embossed “PATENT PENDING.”

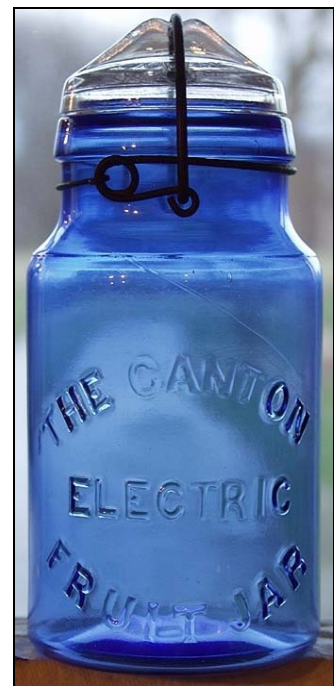


Figure 6 – Canton Electric Fruit Jar (North American Glass)

Roller (1983:82) added:

These jars were probably the first in the family of wire-bail clasp Canton jars. . . . They were probably made to the Heston & Akers patent of October 18, 1887, usually associated with the FAMILY FRUIT JAR. . . . The Electric Jars did not appear on any of the company's letterheads or advertisements while they were in Marion. The word ELECTRIC was probably deleted from the molds to make [the Canton Fruit Jars].

William Heston and John M. Akers applied for a patent for a "Fruit-Jar" on April 16, 1887. They received Patent No. 371,685 on October 18 of that year. The patent drawing (Figure 7) fits the configuration of the actual lids.

The Family Fruit Jar was similar in almost every way to the Electric jars, including the embossing style: "THE FAMILY (arch) / FRUIT JAR (inverted arch)" with "PAT^D OCT. 18 - 1887" on the base. Assuming the jars followed a logical order, this was the last of the Heston & Akers family. The probable order moved from complex to simple:

- THE CANTON / ELECTRIC / FRUIT JAR
- THE CANTON / ELECTRIC (ghosted) / FRUIT JAR
- THE CANTON / FRUIT JAR
- THE FAMILY / FRUIT JAR

Creswick (1987:26) illustrated the progression of the Electric Jars (Figure 8), although she described one jar that she failed to illustrate. She described the jar as having the "THE CANTON FRUIT JAR" in a plate or around a plate on the jar front. This may have been the first in the series,

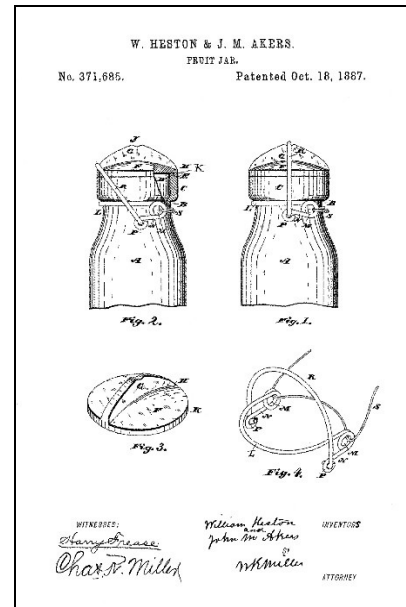


Figure 7 – Heston & Akers 1887 patent

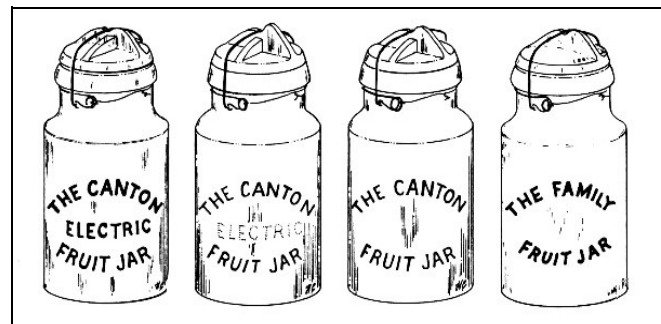


Figure 8 – Electric Fruit Jar series (Creswick 1987:26, 58)

but with no photo or drawing, we can only guess from the description. Creswick illustrated a jar with the word “ELECTRIC” – another with “ELECTRIC” ghosted – and the final one without any hint of the word. This appears to support Roller’s contention that the jar was early in the Canton series. Creswick also noted that “matching blue lids are rare. About seven jars have been reported, but only two blue lids. Some of the ones without “ELECTRIC” were embossed “PAT APP FOR” on the bases. All of these jars had ground rims or lips (Figure 9).



Figure 9 – Ground rim (North American Glass)

Photos from North American Glass show a few differences in the lids from the Creswick drawings. There were at least two major variations in lids. Each was shaped essentially the



Figure 10 – Electric lid variation (Creswick 1987:26; North American Glass)

same, with a central fin that was identical on both sides (unlike the uneven distribution of the Domestic jar described below) with a notch in the middle. The earlier lid had no cross-brace, a shallow groove in the fin, and was embossed “PATENT PENDING” – while the later variation had a cross-brace, had a deeper groove in the fin, and was embossed “PAT^D OCT 18 1887” (Figure 10). Roller (2011:188) included “PATENT APPD FOR” with the Family Fruit Jar, but we

have not seen an example to compare the cross-brace or groove. The embossing was placed *inside* the lid, although it was meant to be read from the outside.

The manufacturer of the jars embossed “CANTON” is obvious, of course, and both Roller editions (1983:122; 2011:188) and Creswick (1987:58) also included the Family Jar as a Canton product.

CANTON DOMESTIC FRUIT JAR

Toulouse (1969:58-59) discussed a jar embossed “THE CANTON (arch) / DOMESTIC (horizontal) / FRUIT JAR (inverted arch)” on the front (Figure 11). He



Figure 12 – Domestic lid & finish (North American Glass)

described the closure of the jar as a “glass lid with high wing and notch for spring-wire bail. The bail hooks into dimples in the neck of the jar, and has an

oxbow loop on each side to develop spring action. It is not a lightning.” The finish was ground (Figure 12). He correctly identified the Canton Glass Co. as the manufacturer but only dated the jar ca. 1890.

The jar was based on David Barker’s Patent No. 418,266, for a “Fruit-Jar” – applied for on July 12, 1889, and received on December 31 of that year. Barker assigned the patent to the Canton Glass Co., Canton, Ohio (Figure 13). As noted in the opening remarks of this section, the Domestic jars grew from the final stage of the Electric jar. The last jar in the Electric series was only embossed “THE CANTON (arch) / FRUIT JAR (inverted arch).” Creswick (1987:26) illustrated an identical jar – with the Heston & Akers 1887-patent lid replaced by the Barker 1889-patent cap.

Both Roller (1983:81; 2011:125) and Creswick (1987:26) illustrated and discussed the rest of the Domestic

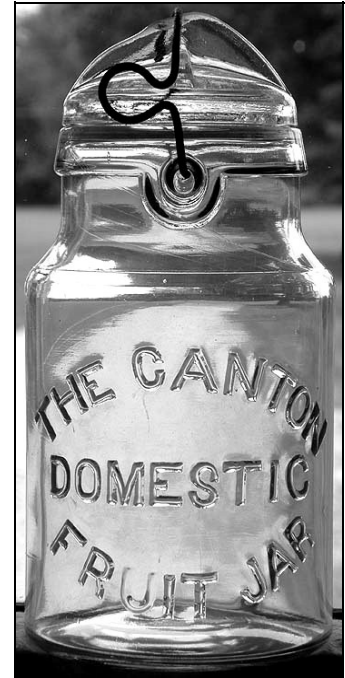


Figure 11 – Canton Domestic Fruit Jar (North American Glass)

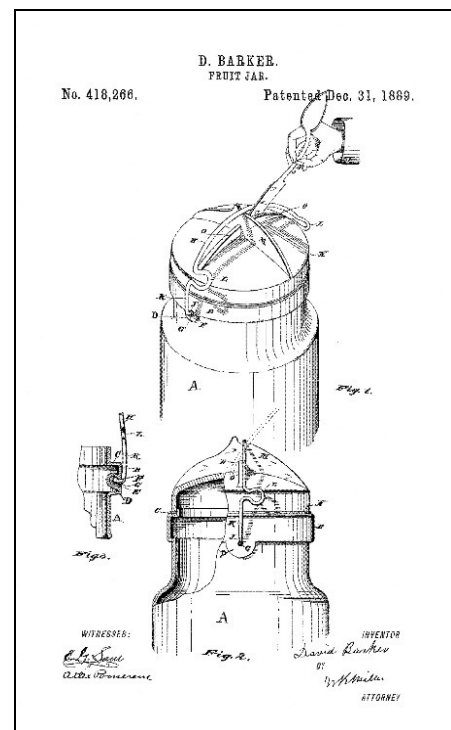


Figure 13 – Barker’s 1889 patent

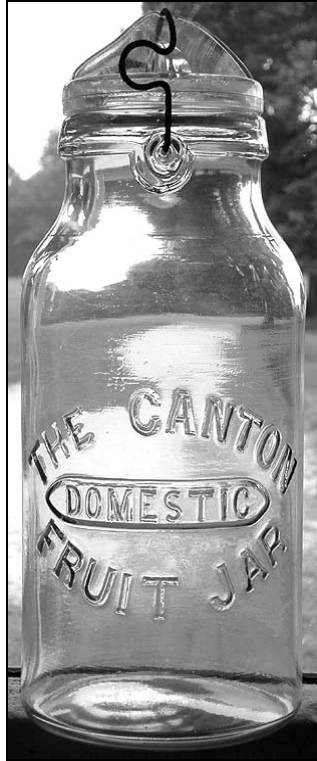


Figure 14 – Canton Domestic in frame (North American Glass)

series. Next in line was a jar apparently the same as the one just described but with the word “DOMESTIC” between “THE CANTON” and “FRUIT JAR” on the front. This was followed by the same look, except for an elongated hexagonal frame surrounding “DOMESTIC” (Figure 14). The jars were made in colorless formats that solarized to an amethyst color and in cobalt blue (Figure 15). Creswick (1987:26) illustrated and described a final variation of the “DOMESTIC” jar (Figure 16). She described the container as an “unmarked jam jar.” Although she did not illustrate the entire lid, it appears to be embossed “DOMESTIC PAT[®] DEC 31 1889.”



Figure 15 – Domestic jar in cobalt blue (North American Glass)

Based on the excellent photos from North American Glass, our observations disclosed another subtle difference in front embossing that *may* be significant. All of the front embossing is in an arch/inverted arch format. On the Electric jars, the arches are very rounded, almost forming a perfect circle. Domestic jar arches vary from almost as rounded as the Electric jars to an arch/inverted arch that is only slight (Figure 17).

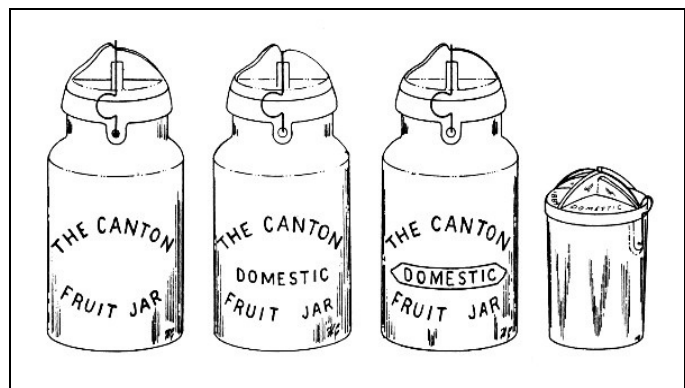


Figure 16 – Canton Domestic Fruit Jar progression (Creswick 1987:26)



Figure 17 – Variations in arches on Domestic jars (North American Glass)



Figure 18 – PAT^{DE} DEC 31 1889 lid (North American Glass)

Roller (1983:81; 2011:125) noted lid embossing in two variations: 1) PAT^{DE} DEC 31 1889 (Figure 18); 2) DOMESTIC PAT^{DE} DEC 31 1889. He dated the jars ca. 1890-1898. Although none of the sources mentioned it, North American Glass Co. presented a photo of the typical Domestic lid embossed “PATENT APP^{DE}



Figure 19 – Internal lid embossing (North American Glass)

FOR” (see Figure 12). All of the lids were embossed on the inside – to be read from the outside (Figure 19).



Figure 20 – Variation in Fins – Domestic jars (North American Glass)

Our observations of the North American Glass photos also disclosed three variations in the shapes of the fins on the lids (Table 3). When viewing the flat side of the fin, these closures have two distinct sides with different shapes. In the photos, the wire side will be to the right (Figure 20).

Wire-side ramp – where the wire slides up the fin to close the jar lid

Empty-side ramp – opposite of wire side; not used in sealing the jar

Nipple on top – located just to the empty side of the notch that holds the wire in place

Table 3 – Lid Variations on Canton Domestic Fruit Jars

#	Wire-side ramp	Empty-side ramp	Nipple	Embossing
1	rounded; higher than empty side	rounded	prominent	PATENT APP ^D FOR
2	sloped; lower than empty side	rounded	rounded	PATENT APP ^D FOR
3	unevenly rounded; barely higher than empty side	sloped	slight	PAT ^D DEC 31 1889

Each of these jars (and the Electric Jars) were manufactured by a process that left a horizontal seam encircling the shoulder (Figure 21). We have not discovered the purpose of the ring. Typical two-piece molds with a baseplate do not have horizontal seams except where the baseplate joins the two side molds.

The dating of these jars is a bit complex. Roller’s beginning date of ca. 1890 is probably about five months late. Jars with lids embossed “PATENT APP^D FOR” were probably originally made between July 12, 1889, when Barker applied for the patent and December 31 of that year, when he received it – although Canton Glass may have continued in use he molds until they wore out. Lids embossed with the



Figure 21 – Shoulder seams on Canton jars (North American Glass)

patent date were almost certainly made in 1890 or later. Roller (1983:81) illustrated an ad for the jar from 1893. Macky (2014) claimed that the Domestic jar was still made between 1899 and 1902, and Roller (2011:125) observed the jar in a 1903 National Glass Co. (Canton Glass Works) catalog. We thus suggest that the Canton Domestic Fruit Jars were manufactured at Canton between 1889 and 1902.

When discussing the Canton Fruit Jar – *with* the Domestic-style lid – Creswick (1987:26) also suggested that the Cambridge Glass Co. (1903-1960) and the Swindell Bros. (1869-1959) could also have been possible manufacturers. Roller (1996; 2011:125) also noted that the Canton Domestic Fruit Jar was listed in the 1903 Cambridge Glass Co. catalog. It is thus certain that Cambridge produced the jar, but we do not know how long it was offered. The jar was no longer listed by 1905. It is possible that Cambridge added the frame around “DOMESTIC” to distinguish jars made in Ohio rather than at Canton’s Indiana plant.

A Swindell Bros. letterhead dated May 12, 1888, listed four brands carried by the firm. The third name on the list was “Canton.” This was not specifically identified as a fruit jar, but the other names – Crystal, Standard, and Anchor – sound very much like fruit jars. This may have been the source of Creswick’s reference to the firm, but we have not discovered any other connection between “Canton” and the Swindells.

CALCUTT’S

Macky (2014) noted that Canton made the Calcutt’s fruit jar. The jar was patented in 1893 and probably made by Canton until ca. 1902. Toulouse (1969:56-57) dated jars embossed “CALCUTT’S” on the sides to the ca. 1870-1890 period, except for those with the patent date, which he listed as ca. 1893. Toulouse (1871:112) later recanted and claimed the period as “after 1893.”

Roller (1983:79) noted the full embossing “CALCUTT’S PATENT APRIL 11TH 1893 NOV 7TH 1893 OTHER PATS. APPLIED FOR” on the base of the jar, with “CALCUTT’S PATENT APR. 11TH NOV 7TH 1893” around the edge of the lid. Each jar had a “shoulder seal, glass screw cap that engages two lugs on jar neck.” Although he admitted that the maker was uncertain, he suggested the Cambridge Glass Co., Cambridge, Ohio, as the most likely maker.

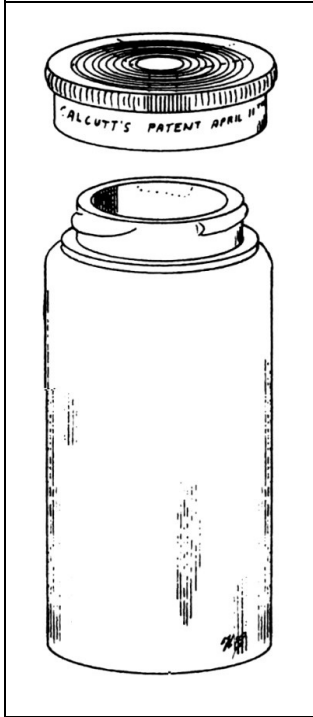


Figure 22 – Calcutt’s jar (Creswick 1987a:25)

He noted that “these jars were listed and illustrated in a 1903 Cambridge Glass Co. catalog. . . . They may well have been packer jars, although the patents are entitled ‘Fruit Jar.’” Creswick (1987a:25) agreed that Cambridge Glass made the Calcutt’s patent jars (Figure 22).

Both patents belonged to Reginald Boyce Calcutt of Chicago, Illinois. Boyce applied for a patent for a

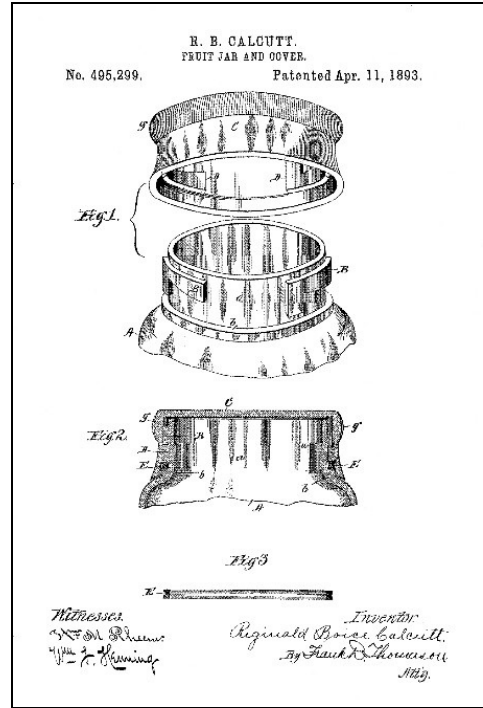


Figure 23 – Calcutt’s 1893 patent

“Fruit-Jar and Cover” on May 31, 1892, and received Patent No. 495,299 on April 11, 1893 (Figure 23). The lid consisted of a glass cap with internal lugs that rotated around external lugs on the finish to create a seal. Calcutt also received Design Patent No. 22,873 for a “Design for a Fruit-Jar” on November 7, 1893 (Figure 24). The design was for the same jar and lid as the May 31 patent; Calcutt apparently preferred to be thorough. He did not assign either patent to any firm or individual.

Roller 2011:122) listed a total of five variations:

1. “CALCUTT’S PATENT APRIL 11TH 1893 NOV 7TH 1893” on base
2. same but with “OTHER PATS. APPLIED FOR”
3. unembossed jar
4. an apple-shaped jar embossed “JOB SMITH CONFECTIONER PHILA., PA” on the base
5. ghosted “CALCUTT’S (slight arch) / PATENT (horizontal)” on front with patent dates or no embossing on base.

Roller (2011:122) stated that the jars were made “circa 1895 by an unknown glass house; circa 1902 by Factory 2 (Canton Glass Works in Marion, Indiana) of the National Glass Company and circa 1903 by the Cambridge Glass Company of Cambridge, Ohio.” The Roller editors noted that Tom Caniff had discovered an August 8, 1895, ad for Calcutt’s jars from Oshkosh, Wisconsin, that ran until August 27. The lids/finishes were made in two-lug and three-lug variations, and the jars came in one-half pint, pint, quart, and half-gallon sizes.

We suggest that the Canton Glass Co. (No. 1) at Marion, Indiana, initially made the Calcutt’s jars, probably ca. 1895. Since no source discovered a jar or lid with a “patent applied for” message, the plant probably did not adopt the design immediately after Calcutt’s patent – as they had with their own designer. Since Canton’s successor made the later jars, it is logical that Canton Glass made the earlier ones. The last known date for Canton fruit jar production was 1903, and no jars were reported in 1905, so ca. 1903 is a good cutoff date.

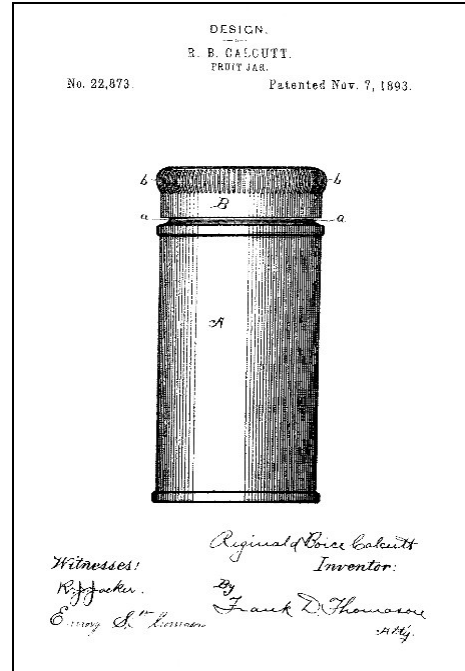


Figure 24 – Calcutt’s 1893 design patent

Other Logos

C

Jerry McCann identified a cobalt blue pint jar with a “C” embossed on the base as possibly being made by Canton. The jar had a matching cobalt blue lid “embossed with an eagle over globe design.” The design on the lid was illustrated in the 1903 Canton catalog. McCann noted that the jar was likely a packer (Coulson 2008:2).

CANTON

According to Kroll (1972:77), the word “Canton” was marked on a beer bottle used by the J. Obermann Brewing Co., Milwaukee. Obermann was in business from 1854 to 1861 as

Jacob Obermann; from 1861 to 1880 as Obermann & Co.; from 1881 to 1896 as the Jacob Obermann Brewing Co.; and from 1897 to 1900 as Obermann Brewing and Bottling Co. The name suggests that the bottle marked “Canton” was made between 1881 and 1896. Kroll also noted that the Canton Glass Co., Canton, Ohio, was in business from 1880 to 1894, a corresponding period. We have been unable to find an example.

CGCo

Peters (1996:9) identified the Canton Glass Co. as a possible user of the C.G.CO. mark on soda bottles from 1894 to 1899 but did not justify his claim. Von Mechow (2014) listed one export beer bottle embossed “C.G.CO.” and one champagne beer bottle embossed “C.G.Co.” both on bases. He assigned the Canton Glass Co. as the manufacturer, although he did not list a reason. Whitten (2014) also included Canton in his list of manufacturers using the C.G.Co. logo.

CGCo Monogram

Toulouse (1971:127) suggested that the company may have used the CGCo monogram on fruit jars, but other sources (Creswick 1987a:65, 141; Roller 1983:233; 2011:204) identified the monogram as GCCo, a logo used by the Giles-Clough Glass Co. (Figure 25). See the section on the Giles-Clough glass house for a discussion about the mark.



Figure 25 – CGCo (GCCo) monogram (Toulouse 1969:63)



Figure 26 – Canton Glass Co. letterhead 1937 (Machy 2014)

that it did not appear on containers.

Although Toulouse was almost certainly incorrect about the monogram he chose, Canton Glass Co. No. 2 did use a type of monogram as a logo on its letterheads during the 1930s (Figure 26). While this logo could have been used on tableware, it is virtually certain

J.H.S.Co

According to Toulouse (1971:277), both the Canton, Ohio, and Marion, Indiana, factories of the Canton Glass Co. made fruit jars for the J. Hungerford Smith Co. Smith was located in Albany and Rochester, New York, as well as Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Although other companies may also have made the jars, only Canton has been identified. Smith's "Fruit-Keeper" was made from ca. 1885 to 1900.

JHSCo Monogram

Canton was also known for making the "True Fruit" jar for the J. Hungerford Smith Co. – marked with a JHSCo monogram (Figure 27). See J.H.S.Co mark above for details. The monogram was used ca. 1910 (Toulouse 1971:278). Toulouse failed to mention *which* Canton firm this would have been.

CANTON MANUFACTURING CO.

Creswick (1987:26) illustrated one other jar that is unrelated but could be mistaken for a Canton product. It had no embossing on the sides, but the base was marked "CANTON MANUFACTURING CO." around the edge and BOSTON in the center (Figure 28). This was a "product jar" rather than a fruit jar and was likely made for the Boston company by a currently unknown manufacturer.

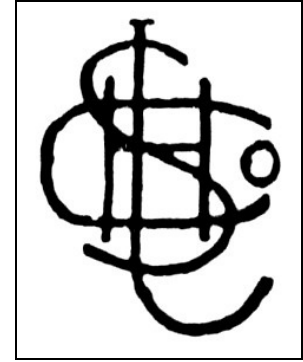


Figure 27 – JSCCo monogram (Toulouse 1971:278)

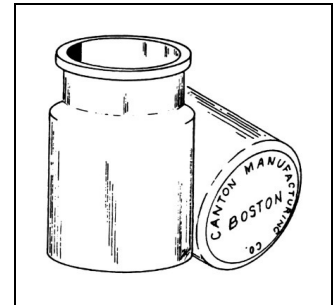


Figure 28 – Canton Mfg. Co. (Creswick 1987:26)

Discussion and Conclusions

The Canton mark on a beer bottle base is an interesting case. Canton made Weiss beer bottles in 1896. Under the National Glass Co., Canton continued to make "some bottles," including bitters bottles during the 1899-1902 period. Although Kroll (1972:77) did not state the type of beer bottle, the timing is certainly correct, so it is possible that Canton made some beer bottles marked with the Canton name during the ca. 1890-1900 period. Although Kroll noted the name in mixed-case letters, it was likely capitalized.

Canton also made THE CANTON DOMESTIC FRUIT JAR, THE CANTON FRUIT JAR, and THE CANTON ELECTRIC FRUIT JAR. The Canton Fruit Jar was patented in 1885 and was probably not made much later than 1890. The Electric variation was patented in 1887 and also probably not produced much past 1890. The Domestic jar was patented in 1889 and made until at least 1902 by Canton and offered at least the first year (1903) by the Cambridge Glass Co. Based on information from the usual jar sources, we have produced a logical progression of all the Canton Fruit Jars (see text section above).

The Calcutt's jar was patented in 1893 and probably made from ca. 1895 until 1902 by the Canton Glass Co. The Cambridge Glass Co. certainly made the jar by 1903, although we have not discovered when the glass house discontinued the brand. Both firms were primarily manufacturers of tableware and novelties. Neither likely made many bottles of any kind.

Even though three sources have suggested the Canton Glass Co. as a possible user of the CGCo mark, we find that highly unlikely.

Acknowledgments

Our gratitude to Doug Leybourne for granting us permission to use the drawings from the Alice Creswick books and to Greg Spurgeon for allowing us to use photos from North American Glass.

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Last updated 3/5/2014

