Other “A” Marks
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Unfortunately, some manufacturer’s marks and other logos do not fall into neat categories associated with major glass houses. However, these marks need to be included in the Encyclopedia. Although we typically begin with histories, in these cases, we need to begin with the marks.

Containers and Marks

A

Knittle (1927:441) cited the “A” mark as belonging to Adams & Co. Toulouse (1971:21) dated the mark “circa 1861 to 1891,” the entire life of the company. He also noted that the company “made fine glassware, rather than bottles.” Toulouse (1971:21-22) also cited an “A” mark as being used by John Agnew & Son from 1854 to 1866. See Agnew and Adams sections for more discussion.

A final attribution from Toulouse (1971:22) was the Arkansas Glass Container Corp., Jonesboro, Arkansas, but these marks would date from ca. 1958 to at least 1971. The mark did not appear in 1982 (Emhart 1982) or any subsequent manufacture’s mark source, although Arkansas Glass remains in business in 2013. The website showed “AGC” in a steep descending slant in 2010 (Arkansas Glass Container 2010). The Arkansas Glass Co. used a code sequence that always began with “A” – almost certainly the inspiration for Toulouse. The code sequence may have been used since 1958 and remains in used in 2013. See AGC below for a history of the company.

Unfortunately, a single “A” could also indicate virtually any glass house beginning with that letter. The letter could also be the logo of a bottler or distributor (Figure 1). It could be a mold code, especially if the letter occurs with a number (Figure 2).

Figure 1 – Prescription-type bottle with the letter “A” (Tucson Urban Renewal collection)
A in a triangle (2011-present)

The Triangle-A mark is the new logo of the Arkansas Glass Co. (see AGC logo below for the history of the firm). This new mark was adopted in 2011 and is being phased in gradually (Figure 3). This new logo and the AGC in an outline of the state of Arkansas are both being used in 2013. Unlike the older basemarks, the triangle is embossed on the heel of the container (Gienah Williams, Arkansas Glass Container Co., personal communication, 6/13/2013). See AGC section below for company history.

A.B.

We have observed this basemark on two export beer bottles, both “slick-sided” (i.e., no side embossing), one in our possession. Both bottles were mouth blown, light aqua in color, and had two-part finishes with rounded lower rings. Each was embossed with a double-stamped “AB” accompanied by two-digit numbers (74 and 77) embossed below the logo.

Ayres et al. (1980) ascribed this mark to the original Adolphus Busch Glass Works, opened in 1886. This is highly unlikely. We have been observing the double-stamp phenomenon for some time. Data we have compiled leads us to two conclusions: 1) whatever caused the phenomenon was probably limited to techniques used by individual blowers – we found no case where this was the dominant basal format for any glass house; and 2) the phenomenon was in place from ca. 1895 to ca. 1915 (possibly as early as 1890 but very uncommon prior to 1895). See the section on the American Bottle Co. for a discussion of double stamps.

The most likely user of this mark was one of the plants of the American Bottle Co. See the American Bottle Co. section for more information.
A.B.C. or ab-ligature in outlined letters (1929-1975)

Toulouse (1971:28) asserted that the A.B.C. mark was used by the Albion Bottle Co. from 1928 to 1969, but a lower-case ab-ligature was adopted when the firm became a subsidiary of the Imperial Tobacco Group in 1970 (Figure 4). The second logo was probably discontinued in 1975. Since the firm made Lea & Perrins bottles, it is possible that British containers had the A.B.C. logo after 1929. About a dozen sites on the internet parrot the connection between the A.B.C. mark and the Albion Bottle Co., but the information in all of them is directly traceable back to Toulouse.

A single English milk bottle offered on eBay was embossed “STRATFORD DAIRY CO, LTD.” around the shoulder and ABC on the base – according to the seller (Figure 5). Unfortunately, the seller did not include a base photo. The bottle is apparently from the 1950s. This is the only example we have found that would actually connect the logo with the bottle. The mark was likely used between 1929 and ca. 1975. The firm has occasionally been confused with two older glass houses, the Albion Glass Co and the Albion Glass Works.

Possible Manufacturer

Albion Bottle Co., Oldbury, England (1929-at least 1975)

According to Toulouse (1971:38), the Albion Bottle Co. was located on “Rood End Road, Oldbury, near Birmingham, England, using the initials ‘A. B. C.’ as a trademark” (also discussed on p. 28). Toulouse noted that an Albion Glass Co. also existed but admitted that “the name ‘Albion Glass Bottle Co.’ has not been seen, only inferred, from the context of names known to have been used.”
As often happens with histories, two sources tell completely different stories about the founding of the Albion Bottle Co., although both agree that the inception date was 1929. Black Country History (n.d.) noted that “the Standard Bottle Company and HP Sauce, Ltd., of Aston Cross, Birmingham, jointly set up the Albion Bottle Company in 1929 after purchasing premises from timber merchants Tailby and Geddes.” Wright (1975:45), however, stated that one of the firm’s first customers was HP Sauce, Ltd. and that HP Sauce (by this time owner of Lea & Perrins) first acquired shares in Albion in 1945 but captured the total stock for the Albion Bottle Co. in 1953. The Imperial Tobacco Group, Ltd., took over the firm in 1970 (Black Country History n.d.; Toulouse 1971:28).

By 1975, Albion produced over 100 varieties of bottles and jars, with a production rate of 400,000 per day (Wright 1975:45). Despite the apparent success, the Albion Bottle Co. presented a “Petition for the winding-up of the . . . Company by the High Court of Justice” on June 25, 1975. The court warned all creditors that the hearing would be held on July 28 of that year (London Gazette 6/27/1975). As a result, W.R.C. Halpin and R.J.G. Kowell purchased the firm (Black Country History n.d.).

Although Black Country History (n.d.) noted that Albion had further difficulties in the 1980s and “ceased trading” in 1982, the London Gazette aired a notice in the February 27, 1987, edition warning that the Albion Bottle Co., Ltd., was being liquidated, and all creditors had to contact the liquidator on or before March 31 or that year. This certainly marked the demise of the firm.

Albion Glass Co., Edinburgh, Scotland (1824)

The Albion Glass Co. was located at Edinburgh in 1824 (Archibald Constable & Co. 1825:372). Writing three decades later, William Tegg (1854:103) called this and other firms from the era “bubble companies . . . . formed in England in 1825, only a few of which were more than moonshine, and remained after the storm had strewed its wreck upon the waters.” In less flowery language, these companies were over financed and had little to offer in return for the investment of the capitalists – and thus failed very quickly. This is reminiscent of the U.S. “dot com bubble” in the 1990s, where large amounts of capital were invested in firms with little substance.
Albion Glass Works, Newcastle-on-Tyne (ca. 1836-at least 1870)
Albion Glass Works, Castleford, Yorkshire (at least 1880-at least 1893)

Davies (2006:348) claimed that there was an earlier Albion Glass Works that existed at Castleford, Yorkshire, ca. 1836, but little is known about the plant. The founding firm, Ridley Thomas & Co., made bottles at the Albion Glass Works at Newcastle-on-Tyne by 1837. Ridley Thomas & Co. continued to operate the plant at that location until at least 1870 (J. Pigot & Co. 1837:124; Wright 1870:220).

By 1880, Sikes Macvey & Co. had acquired the factory and moved it to Castleford, Yorkshire. The plant now made “glass bottles; patent screw-mouth bottle for aerated water.” Sikes Macvey & Co. continued to operate the firm in 1885, when it was listed in the Chemical Stoppers and Chemical Glass Manufacturers and Medical Glass Dealers categories. In 1893, Sikes Macvey & Co. had two plants at Castleford – called the Old Yard and the New Yard. The Old yard had three “glass bottle houses” (likely meaning furnaces), and the New Yard had two (Kelley’s Directory 1885:199, 409, 584; Mason, Firth & McCutcheon 1880:269; Royal Commission of Labour 1893:634).

**ABC** (ca. 1884)

Both Toulouse (1969:13) and Roller 1983:2; 2011:11) noted fruit jars embossed “ABC” in outlined letters on the side (as well as one with regular embossed letters), but neither could identify the manufacturer. Creswick (1987:1) discovered glass lids for the jars (not in the earlier two sources) embossed “PAT. APRIL 15 1884” (sometimes with the “4” reversed). She also noted the two variations: 1) regular embossing with periods after each letter, and 2) outlined letters (Figure 6). The clamps for the lids were stamped “PAT. APR. 15. 84.”

The jars and lids were covered by two patents issued to Philip Lyon and Joseph H. Bossard of East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, on April 8 and April 15,
1884. The only difference in the patents was that each had a slightly different turning disk on the clamp. The only examples Creswick had found were made for the April 15 patent, and she suggested that the East Stroudsburg Glass Co. made the containers (Creswick 1987:1), almost certainly because the inventors were from the same town as the glass house. The history (below) shows that the plant made fruit jars from at least 1896, but we found no direct reference to this or any specific types.

Lyon and Bossard applied for their first patent for a “Fruit-Jar” on February 19, 1883. They received Patent No. 274,620 on March 27 of that year. On February 26, 1884, the inventors applied for another patent (another “Fruit-Jar”) and received Patent No. 297,082 on April 15, 1884. They applied for a final patent (for a “Fruit-Jar-Cover Fastening”) on March 5, 1884, and received Patent No. 296,701 on April 8 of the same year (Figure 7).

**Probable Manufacturer**

**East Stroudsburg Glass Co., East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania** (1877-1918)

Suma and Suma (1998:56) described the early days of the business:

Milton Yetter (owner of the Delaware Valley Railroad) and William Burroughs started the East Stroudsburg Glass Co., located on North Courtland Street, opposite Lennox Avenue. Early in the morning, it manufactured bottles, carboys, and demijohns, and at the end of the day produced novelties such as decorated glass balls, rolling pins, and glass canes (Figure 8).
Creswick (1987:265) claimed that the East Stroudsburg Glass Co. opened in 1877. On December 9, 1878, the *Crockery & Glass Journal* listed the glass house, confirming Creswick’s opening date. The firm was listed as the East Stroudsburg Glass Co. (Limited) in 1880. The factory made green and amber bottles at a single furnace with 5 pots. The plant operated 44 weeks of the year and employed 88 workers, turning out $70,000 worth of “product” each year. The plant made fruit jars by at least 1896 (Busch 1897:312; Commonwealth of Pennsylvania 1882:59; Roller 1998).

The firm received a charter from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by October 20, 1897, when *China, Glass & Lamps* made the announcement that P.T. Wolfe, J.L. Singer, S.A. Scott, O.O. King, P.J. Cullater, Milton Yetter, and Leopold Thomas were the directors (Roller 1998). By 1898, however, the factory was listed as manufacturing “glass bottles” (Ray 1898:506). From 1897 to 1901, the *National Glass Budget* (1897:7; 1901:25) listed the plant in the “Green Glass category, still using five pots to make its products. This suggests that the plant was never very large.

By 1904, Milton Yetter was the president, with C.H. Warman as secretary and S. Scott as manager. The plant now made liquor bottles and fruit jars at one continuous tank with 14 rings. By 1906, the plant used 18 rings, but that had dropped to 10 in 1907 and remained at that level until 1911. The 1907 Thomas Register listed the products as beer, soda, wine, and brandy bottles – along with fruit jars (*American Glass Review* 1934:165; Roller 1998). Maloney (1912:95) provided a cameo view of the operation in 1912:

Figure 8 – East Stroudsburg Glass Co. (Suma and Suma 1998:56)
On the 19th of June, I paid a visit to East Stroudsburg and found two firms operating non-union, one of them the East Stroudsburg Glass Company, has been in existence for years. This firm have [sic] a ten ring tank and operate one shift. They employ a mixed class of glass blowers. Their output is demijohns, beers and a general line of ware.

S.W. Schoonover was the manager in 1916, and the plant had only nine rings, still at the same single tank. By this point, the factory made liquor ware, demijohns, and fruit jars by both hand and machine. The following year, the firm expanded its list to “beer, soda water, shoe blacking & horseradish” (Roller 1998; Thomas Publishing Co. 1907:160, 799; 1917:730).

There was apparently a reorganization of the corporation in 1918. The firm was renamed the Scott-Warman Glass Co., with Samuel Scott as president, H.B. Drake as secretary/treasurer, R.D. Scott as general manager, A. Koscher as factory manager, and S.A. Scott as sales manager. The plant still had a single tank with 11 rings. The plant was destroyed by fire in January 1922 but had been rebuilt by November (Roller 1998).

In another reorganization, Charles R. Singleton became president in 1935 and expanded the plant to two continuous tanks, making sodas, beers, packers’ ware, milks, vinegar, cider bottles, horseradish, flasks, wines, whiskies, and prescription ware in amber, flint and light green colors – all by machine. The improvements may have overextended the capital, however, because the plant was last listed in 1936 (Roller 1998).

A&Co

Knittle (1927:441) and others who almost certainly relied on her assertion attributed the A&Co mark to Agnew & Co (see John Agnew and the Adams sections for more information).

ACBCo (ca. 1860-1920)

Numerous reports, including Frescoln (1973:54) and Lunn (1981:5) have noted Lea & Perrins bottles that were embossed ACBCo on the base in both U.S. and Canadian contexts (Figure 9). The configuration of the mark was a division of A, C, B, and Co set equidistant from each other in the format of cardinal compass points (Figure 10). Lunn (1981) is certainly the best
source as of the time of this publication – although the Bottle Research Group will eventually publish our own study.

Although some researchers – e.g., Rinker ([1968]:27) and Toulouse (1971:38) have suggested that the initials indicate the Albion Glass Bottle Co., subsequent evidence suggests that Albion was in business much too late to account for the early Lea & Perrins bottles (see ABC above). In addition, the only use of the term “Albion Glass Bottle Co.” that we could find is directly traceable to Toulouse. The firm name was clearly the Albion Bottle Co.

Lunn (1981:8) suggested the Aire & Calder Bottle Co. (more commonly called the Aire & Calder Glass Bottle Co. and owned by Edgar Breffit & Co. for most of its existence) as the maker – even though the initials are not a perfect match. Although we prefer a better linking of initials, we agree with Lunn. We have been unable to find another glass house from the British Isles during the correct time period (ca. 1860s-1920s) that even comes close. See the section on Edgar Breffit for more information about the factory.

**ACME**

This mark was actually never used by the Acme Glass Co. See the section on Acme for more discussion and manufacturers.

**ADLAM (1884-1890s)**

Roller (1983:4) described the closure for these jars as “friction side seal, metal press-down lid over metal band permanently attached to the jar neck. Band has a carrying bail hooked through holes in its side.” He noted that Samuel Adlam was the patentee, and the jars were likely
intended to be used as packers or home utility jars – not as canning jars. Jars made to the 1884 patent (see discussion below) were featured in the ca. 1887 A.G. Smalley & Co. catalog (Figures 11-13).

Creswick (1987:2-3) illustrated and described a series of jars made to the patent owned by Samuel Adlam. The first style had three square ribs encircling the jar at the heel, center, and shoulder, with a pail-style wire carrying handle extending from a metal band. The jars were made of colorless and yellow-amber glass as well as cobalt blue stoneware. One variation was embossed “PAT. GLASS PAIL (arch) / BOSTON, MASS. (inverted arch)” on the base and “ADLAM PATENT PEND.” in a circle around the top of the lid. The other was the same but with “JUNE / 24 ‘84 (both horizontal)” in the center of the base and “ADLAM PATENT PAIL” encircling the lid top (Figure 14).
These were both made to a patent applied for by Samuel Adlam on March 17, 1884. He received Patent No. 300,749 for a “Jar” on June 24, 1884. The patent showed the distinctive features of the actual jar. Creswick (1987:2) also showed a jar that had two encircling ribs but used the second lid style (see below). This had no embossing on either lid or base and was likely a transition jar.

The second style jar was cylindrical with the cap handle made from a metal strip riveted to the lid. The base shown in Creswick (1987:3) was embossed “ADLAM PATENT (arch) / 8 / BOSTON MASS (inverted arch)” with “ADLAM” ghosted in an arch across the center. Variations had either a PPCCo monogram or LICORICE YS (monogram) LOZENGES” in a round plate on the front and “ADLAM’S PATENT” on the base.

The second style jar had a cork or wooden liner in the lid. These were described in Adlam’s second patent, which he applied for on October 31, 1885. He received Patent No. 332,772 on December 22 of that year. Like the earlier style, these jars were also made in glass and stoneware. Adlam received two more patents after he had moved to New York, respectively on September 2, 1902 (708,901), and October 3, 1905 (800,891), but no jars may have been made for these. Roller (2011:15) listed a total of a dozen variations! Currently, there appears to be no identification of the manufacturer or manufacturers.

A.D.S. (1905-1926)

Stephen Van Wormer brought this mark to our attention. It was on the base of a rectangular medicine-style bottle. Ring (1980:46) noted the initials (above the number 514) embossed on the base of an A.D.S. Iron Tonic Bitters bottle. She added that a box for the product indicated that it was “manufactured by the American Drug Syndicate.” Griffenhagen & Bogard (1999:122) claimed that the American Drug Syndicate used the A.D.S. logo from 1905 to 1926. Fadley (2012) cited George B. Griffenhagen as stating that almost 700 druggists formed the syndicate in 1905 to save money on purchases from wholesalers. Fadley also noted that the syndicate continued until at least 1927. The initials show up on eBay auctions in both embossed and printed (paper) formats (Figures 15 & 16).
ADVANCE

Toulouse (1969:14) discussed a light green, mouth-blown jar that was embossed “TRADE MARK (arch) / ADVANCE (horizontally superimposed on a JW monogram) / PAT APPL’D FOR (inverted arch)” on the front. The “JW” indicated Joseph Wharton, the power behind the Camden Glass Works. The jar was patented in 1883. Although the jars were also made by the Woodbury Glass Works, the logo is addressed in the Camden section.

AGCL

Peters (1996:132) noted a single Hutchinson soda bottle from Milwaukee embossed AGCL (although he failed to note the location of the mark). He dated the bottle to the mid-1880s but offered no other information except to state that examples are very rare. We have not discovered a glass house to fit this mark. This may be a mis-recording of the AGWL mark.

AGBCo

According to Toulouse (1971:38-39), the AGBCo mark was used between ca. 1880 and 1900 by (possibly) the Albion Glass Bottle Co. He claimed that the initials are found on the bases of some Lea & Perrins bottles “imported from England and found in ghost-town dumps.” He admitted that the name Albion Glass Bottle Co. “has not been seen, only inferred from the context of names known to have been used” but presented no evidence that the company was in business in the late 19th century. This is almost certainly a mis-reading of the ACBCo mark (see above).

AGC and AGC in an outline of the state of Arkansas (1958–2013)

Joe Spangler, sales manager for the Arkansas Glass Container Corp., noted: “As far as I can remember, AGC has used the embossing of the state of Arkansas on the bottom of the container.” Joe had been there for 16 years, since 1994 (personal correspondence 3/2/2010). We
have purchased several jars during the 2010-2013 period embossed “A-8-12 / {AGC descending in an outline of the state of Arkansas} / 8” on the base (Figure 17).

As noted above, Toulouse (1971:22) ascribed a single “A” to the Arkansas Glass Container Corp., although we have discovered no other reference to connect that logo with the firm. At least one jar in the David Whitten collection (Figure 18) was embossed “AGC” in a descending line with a code of “A-16-8” above the logo and “25” below it.

The Arkansas Glass website (2013) described the code sequences on the jars, and a look at the firm’s online catalog confirms the identification. On the top line, the “A” – not surprisingly – represents the company’s first initial; the central number is the size of the container in ounces (e.g., 8 = 8 fluid ounces); and the final digit is a code that completes the model number. In the center, of course, is the company logo, and the bottom numeral is the cavity number (in the mold). This mold code series was certainly what inspired Toulouse to suggest an “A” as the logo of the Arkansas Glass Co.

Manufacturer History

Arkansas Glass Container Corp., Jonesboro, Arkansas (1958-present)

The Arkansas Glass Container Corp. was incorporated in 1958 and made “narrow-neck and wide-mouth food bottles and jars, wines, household chemicals, and medicinals in flint glass.” The plant was affiliated with the Underwood Glass Co., New Orleans (Toulouse 1971:22). In 1985, the plant operated four continuous tanks with seven machines, making “chemical, liquor & wine, narrow-neck, packers & preservers, wide-mouth” (Perrine 1985:12). The firm remains in business in 2013, making a similar line of products (Arkansas Glass Container 2013).
A.G.S.&Co.

This is one of the marks used by Albert G. Smalley & Co. See the section on Smalley for more information.

AG&SCo.

This mark was noted as of uncertain age and unknown maker or user by Toulouse (1971:40). He described the container as a “quart round bottle, straight neck for cork finish. All-over design of eagles except the oval label space.” We have discovered nothing further about this mark, although it could be a mis-recording of the AGS&Co logo used by Albert G. Smalley & Co., or it may be the mark of a retailer or wholesaler.

A.G.W.CO.

Although this combination of letters is unlikely, Jones (1968:9) showed a drawing of the A.G.W.CO. mark in a circular format on a post-bottom base. She attributed the mark to the American Glass Works, Ltd. She added the Alloa Glass Works Co. Ltd., Scotland, to the list but gave no details. Toulouse (1971:41) noted the A.G.W. mark (with periods) as being used by the Alloa Glass Work (singular) of Alloa, Scotland. He dated the mark “probably circa 1900 to date [1971].” The firm was open from 1750 until at least 1971.

Wilson (1981:17) illustrated an amber whiskey jug (with a handle) embossed “ACWCo” on the base. This may have been a mis-reading for “AGWCo” (although the reverse is certainly possible). The Wilson bottle was from Fort Union (1863-1890). The jug handle was made with fancy flourishes at each end and should probably be classified as tableware rather than a container.

Although the Alloa Glass Works is a possible candidate for this mark, it is more likely that both of these were mis-recordings, perhaps for other logos.
Possible Manufacturer History

Alloa Glass Works, Leith, Scotland (1750-1955)

Lady Francis Erskine founded the Alloa Glass Works in 1750. The plant made blackglass bottles and specialized in a type of decoration called “chip” engraving. In this technique, the glass was etched in stippled designs. The plant installed Ashley machines in 1887. In 1908, Alloa was the first factory in the United Kingdom to install fully automatic bottle making machinery (Finch 2009; Toulouse 1971:41-42).

With the installation of the second Owens machine in 1920, the stage was set for the elimination of hand production in 1922 and Lynch machines in 1927. The entire plant was rebuilt in 1946. At some point, possibly just prior to the rebuilding, the name was changed to Alloa Glass, Ltd. In 1955, the firm became part of United Glass (Finch 2009; Toulouse 1971:42).

A.H.T.CO. PHILADELPHIA U.S.A

Creswick (1987:4) illustrated a grooved-ring, wax-sealer fruit jar embossed “A.H.T.CO. PHILADELPHIA U.S.A” in an arch on the base (Figure 19). She did not know who made it or a date range. Although we suspect that this was the logo of a wholesale or retail firm, we have no other information about the jar.

ALBANY GLASS WORKS (1848-1851)

Freeman (1964:95) noted two George Washington flasks embossed (one on the front, one on the back) with “ALBANY GLASS WORKS.” McKearin & Wilson (1978:241, 243) noted that the same mark is also found with the initials “NY” embossed on the sides of flasks (Figures 20 & 21). In at least one case, the “N” in “NY” was reversed (McKearin & McKearin 1841:530-531).

1 Toulouse (1971:41) stated that the name was the Alloa Glass Work – with no “s” at the end (probably a typo).
The name “ALBANY GLASS WORKS (arch) / N.Y. (horizontal)” was also embossed on the back of a soda bottle used by J. & A. Dearborn (von Mechow 2013 – Figure 22). The logo was probably used during the 1848-1851 period.

Manufacturer History

**Albany Glass Works, Albany, New York (1847-1851)**

McKearin & Wilson (1978:146) claimed that the Albany Glass & Porcelain Co. probably operated the factory in 1847, making “Vials, Jars, Bottles &c. of every description.” The following year, Dougherty & Cook ran the operation. The final firm, listed in 1850, was called the Albany Glass Co. Unfortunately, none of this information agrees with newspaper reports of the time, although the factory probably did open in 1847.

The December 30, 1848, edition of the *Albany Evening Journal* advertised the Albany Glass Works at the corner of Church and Schuyler Streets. The plant made “Demijohns of all sizes, Druggists’ Glass, Vials, &c., of superior quality; Carboys, Wine, Porter and Mineral Water
Bottles, also, Patent Medicine Bottles” and bragged that “all other articles made in Private Moulds will receive particular attention.” Daniel O. Ketchum was the agent. The same ad ran in 1849 (von Mechow 2013).

“DEMIJOHNS, 1/3 Gallon, 1/2 gallon, 1 gallon, 2 gallons, 3 and 5 gallons, manufactured and sold at the lowest market prices by the Albany Glass Works” was the message of the February 7, 1850, edition of the *Albany Evening Journal*. An 1851 ad (*Albany Evening Journal* 11/29/1851) stated that D.W. Ketchum & Co. was the operating firm. However, Ketchum may have gone bankrupt. The same edition noted that

All the buildings, fixtures, &c. of the Albany Glass Works, now ready for use, together with a five years lease of the entire block of ground bounded on Broadway, Cherry, Schuyler and Church streets–The above offers a rare chance for any persons wishing to engage in the manufacture of glass. Price low and terms of payment made easy. If the above is not being sold before the first of October terms will be exposed at public auction.

The factory never sold. On March 9, 1852, D.O. Ketchum placed a notice in the *Albany Evening Journal* that “there will be sold at the rotunda in Exchange building, Albany City, at public auction, all the buildings, brick &c, of the old Albany Glass Works” (von Mechow 2013). We have found no evidence that the plant ever reopened.

**ALMY (1877-1882)**

“ALMY” was embossed in an arch on the side of a handmade, light blue-green fruit jar with “PATENTED DEC. 25, 1877” on the base. Toulouse (1969:18) noted that Theodore F. Woodward of Winslow, New Jersey, received Patent No. 198,528 on December 25, 1877 and assigned the rights to Hay & Co. of the same community (Figure 23). Roller (1983:9; 2011:23) added that the

Figure 23 – Woodward 1877 patent
June 9, 1881, issue of Crockery & Glass Journal illustrated the jar, noting a manufacture by H.S. Almy & Co., with a sales office address of 42 Park Place, New York (Figure 24). It is highly likely that the Winslow Glass Co. made the jar during the Hay & Co. period.

Creswick (1987:6) noted three variations: “ALMY / JAR,” “ALMY” with “JAR” ghosted, and “ALMY” alone (Figure 25). The base of Creswick’s example was embossed “PATENTED (arch) / B / DEC. 25 1877 (inverted arch)” on the base. She, too, noted the patent and Hay & Co. as the manufacturer. She added that Harvey S. Almy was a jobber and was associated with George W. Almy and William D. Chase in 1880 clock-case patents. Basemarks also included “A” in place of “B” (Figures 26-28).
Manufacturer History

Hay & Co., Winslow, New Jersey (1851-1884)

William Coffin, Jr., along with his father and Thomas Jefferson Perce built the Winslow Glass Works at Winslow, New Jersey, ca. 1829 adopting William Coffin, Jr. & Co. as the operating company name. When William Sr. retired in 1833, the operating firm became Coffin & Perce, but the younger Coffin became the sole proprietor upon the death of Perce in 1835. Coffin’s brother-in-law, Andrew K. Hay, bought into the company, immediately following the burning of the Hammonton plant in 1838, and Tristran Bowdle joined the following year – with the firm now known as Coffin, Hay & Bowdle (Knittle 1927:356; McKearin & Wilson 1978:93; Pepper 1971:98-99; Roller 1996; Van Rensselaer 1969:153).

William Coffin sold his interest to his brother, Edwin, in 1847, and the firm became Hay, Bowdle & Co. In 1850, Bowdle withdrew from the firm, and Coffin sold his interest to Hay a year later. Hay’s nephew, John, joined him, and the firm became A.K. Hay & Co. By the time of Hay’s death on February 17, 1881, the plant had two window-glass furnaces and one that made bottles and jars. The firm reorganized as Hay & Co. in 1883\(^2\) and leased the plant to the Tillyer Brothers in 1884. Foreclosure proceedings were instituted against the Tillyers in 1892, and the factory was sold at a sheriff’s auction on July 8 of that year (Knittle 1927:356; McKearin & Wilson 1978:93-94; Pepper 1971:99; Roller 1996; Van Rensselaer 1969:153-154). The full story of the Coffin glass houses is told in the Coffin Companies section.

The Alston

Roller (1983:9-10; 2011:23-24) illustrated and discussed a jar embossed “The / Alston” in upwardly slanted cursive on the side. The jars were machine-made with a tinned-steel lid held in place by a wire bail fitted into round bosses on the sides of the jar neck. These jars were likely made by either the Taylor-Stites Glass Co. / Cape May Glass Co. or the George Jonas Glass Co. / Minotola Glass Co. from ca. 1901 to 1912. See the section on Cape May Glass Co. and the George Jonas Factories for the full story.

\(^2\) Since the 1877 patent document called the glass house “Hay & Co.,” the name was at least commonly used by that time (instead of A.K. & Co.).
ALTON GLASS CO. (1871-1872)

Only two flasks are known to have survived from this company. At least one, a “coffin” flask, was embossed “MADE BY ALTON GLASS CO. (arch) / ALTON ILL (horizontal)” on one side (Farnsworth & Walthall 2011:86). The researchers noted that “this was an advertising whiskey flask manufactured and given away (with contents) by the Alton Glass Company” (Figure 29).

Manufacturer History

Alton Glass Co., Alton, Illinois (1868-1872)

An Alton newspaper article, dated September 24, 1948, stated that William Smith and Robert Levis (founders of the Illinois Glass Co.) built a glass furnace on a site where there had been “three previous [illegible]” – almost certainly a reference to glass plants. The centennial issue of the Owens-Illinois newsletter (9/13/1973:2) added more detail:

It all started with an Alton business man named John Hayner, who had bought the assets of a bankrupt glass works on Belle Street at a distress sale to satisfy his own claims. Mr. Hayner wanted to get rid of his new property, something of a white elephant[,] because of the unsuccessful efforts of the three previous owners to make the business pay.

The Alton Area Historical Society has a letter, dated August 1, 1871, from the Alton Holloware Glass Co., that noted the firm had “established our Works in this city, for the manufacture of all kinds of ‘Holloware Glass’” and that “Our Works will be in full operation about the 15th inst.” John E. Hayner was president of the corporation, with E.A. Harter as secretary and P.W. Whipple as treasurer. Joseph Slim was superintendent of the plant.

The earlier glass houses may have operated from 1868 to 1871, and Hayner was certainly in business during 1871. The Alton Glass Co. (probably Hayner’s firm) received a medal for the
best “Blown and Flint Glass” at a fair in 1871 (University of Toledo 2010). Farnsworth & Walthall (2011:86) suggested that “the Alton Glass Co. began production in 1871 [and] was closed down and sold in 1872.” They suggested that this final incarnation was the maker of the marked flasks.

In his research on Illinois glass bottles, Ken Farnsworth (personal communication 12/30/2011) met and befriended Robert Levis, the last manager of the Alton plant of the Illinois Glass Co. Levis provided access to otherwise unavailable records. Citing these records, Farnsworth continued the story of the end of Hayner’s Alton Glass Co.:

A pre-IGCo factory operated from a “small frame building” on Belle Street that IGCo bought out in the spring of 1873: “John Hayner had bought a bankrupt glass works to satisfy his own claims. He sold this company to a gentleman farmer, William Eliot Smith, and a near bankrupt cabinet maker, Edward Levis, Sr. . . . With an investment of $7,000 from Mr. Smith and $3,000 from Mr. Levis, a new partnership was started and on August 28, 1873, the Illinois Glass Company began (IGCo unpublished document). Initially, “Smith and Levis took over the small five-pot glass factory on Belle Street in lower Alton; … they repaired the building and began making glass bottles” (Means 1984:5). “Within a year the Illinois Glass Company was running at full capacity; sixty-six men were unable to keep up with the orders. Recognizing the need for convenient river and rail transportation, in 1875 the modest factory building was moved on rollers (ca. 2+ miles) to the company’s permanent location between the line of the Alton and Chicago Railroad and the Mississippi River (Means1984:6).

A&P (1885-1930s)

Whitten (2013) listed this mark as “reported on the base of a sauce bottle (a Worcestershire Sauce ‘lookalike’ brand) dating circa 1880s. In this case the mark is probably that of the food product maker or distributor, and not that of the glass maker.” Whitten’s assessment is likely correct. On eBay, we have found small-mouth packer bottles embossed “A&P EXTRACTS” on the side panels (Figure 30) and vinegar bottles embossed “THE GREAT A&P TEA Co.” around the shoulder.
The Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co. adopted the “A&P” initials as a trademark in 1885 and continued to use the logo thereafter on a large variety of products (Levinson 2011:39, 55). Unfortunately, we have not discovered when the A&P first had the initials blown into glass. The Whitten bottle suggests that the first use of the logo on glass may have shortly followed the original adoption of the initials in 1885. The bottles we observed on eBay were probably made during the 1930s or later.

User

**Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Co., New York** (1869-present)

George F. Gilman entered the tea business as a jobber ca. 1860 as Gliman & Co., adopting the name of the Great American Tea Co. ca. 1862. In 1869, he shifted to the retail trade as the Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co. By 1875, Gilman had tea stores in 16 cities, selling his brand, Theta-Nectar. The real branding, however, began in 1885, with the adoption of “A&P” (for the Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co.) as a brand of baking powder (Levinson 2011:134).

One of Gilman’s employees, George H. Hartford, rose to be Gilman’s partner in the enterprise in 1878 and shifted the focus of the firm into groceries during the 1880s. Hartford incorporated the firm on March 4, 1891 – the day after Gilman’s death. By 1907, dozens of brands carried the A&P logo. The firm was one of the early successful chain stores and remains in business in 2013 (Levinson 2011:35-55).

**ARROWHEAD**

Online sources (including eBay) frequently feature five-gallon (occasionally smaller) bottles embossed with the word “ARROWHEAD” usually accompanied by “PURITAS WATER” in an arch or a circle on the base – with a single arrowhead at the bottom. Each base
was embossed with a two-digit date code (68-76 in our very small sample). Often, the codes have been drilled out and re-stamped with a later date (Figure 31). These bottles have a series of arrowheads embossed around the heel and shoulder. Each bottle originally had a small paper label, but this is absent from almost all we have seen (Figure 32).

Most of these are typical five-gallon water bottles (Figure 33), although there are a variety of other shapes. One was made with a heavy textured surface and an uneven form. About one-third of the base of a half-gallon bottle was sloped to allow the bottle to be set in a refrigerator. The “sloped” bottle was generic with a paper label (Figure 34).

According to Wikipedia (2012),

The Arrowhead and Puritas brands were bottled in the same plants and co-marketed until the 1970s. Arrowhead Springs marketed the brands in separate containers that sometimes carried the Arrowhead or Puritas names alone, but containers were often labeled “Arrowhead and Puritas.” The Arrowhead Beverage
Company was the bottler for many different brands of water and soft drinks including seltzer, fruit-flavored soda, and ginger ale.

Early Arrowhead bottles were made by the McLaughlin Glass Co. These may have been marked with the “McL” logo or may have had no mark (Figure 35). They may also have been generic, identified as Arrowhead only by the paper labels. After 1956, the bottles became more elaborate with the embossed arrowheads described above. These had no manufacturer’s marks, but date codes between 1956 and ca. 1987 indicate that Arrowhead, itself, made those bottles.

A variation, probably the earliest made by the Arrowhead glass house, was embossed on the heel and shoulder with interspersed upwardly pointed arrowheads and a “stepped” diamond logo that was the older mark of the Puritas firm. The front was embossed “ARROWHEAD / (arrowhead joined to the Puritas symbol, superimposed with “AND” / PURITAS / WATERS INC” – inside an octagon – all to be read with the bottle upside down in a dispenser (Figure 36 & 37). The base was embossed “McL” re-engraved into “GPD” / 57” – almost certainly indicating the Glass Products Division of Arrowhead Puritas (Padgett 1996:85 – Figure 38). The “7” had been drilled out and re-stamped, so the mold was probably used during 1956, altered, and used again in 1957.

A variation of the bottle was embossed “MINIMUM NET MEASURE FIVE GALLNS” on one side of the shoulder and “UNAUTHORIZED USE PROHIBITED BY LAW” on the other – both to be read with the bottle on its base. The base was embossed “Arrowhead and Puritas
Waters Inc.” in a circle, with arrowhead and stepped diamond logo in the center (Figure 39). The bottle was otherwise identical to the one described immediately above.

An early style was embossed with 16 rows of small arrowheads covering the surface of the bottle. In the middle of one side was “ARROWHEAD (arch) / LOS ANGELES (inverted arch)” with a large, textured, downwardly pointed arrowhead in the center – read with the bottle inverted in a stand. Such a mold was certainly labor intensive, so it was probably discontinued after a fairly short period, although it was almost certainly used until the molds wore out (Figure 40).

An eBay example of the multiple-row-of-arrowheads bottle had a base embossed “L / X 27” – all in a shield (Figure 41). This is almost certainly a mark used by the W.J. Latchford Glass Co. from 1925 to no later than 1939, although the “27” is likely a date code for 1927. Latchford was a major competitor with the McLaughlin Glass Co., and, Arrowhead may have purchased bottles from both firms. The same type of bottle appeared in a photograph of Don McLaughlin (Padgett 2001:15). It is possible that McLaughlin captured the Arrowhead contract from Latchford, then purchased the molds, or the two may have each made this style of bottle (Figure 42).
Manufacturers

W.J. Latchford Glass Co., Los Angeles (1925-1939)

W.J. Latchford left the Southern Glass Co. in 1925 and formed the W.J. Latchford Glass Co. in Los Angeles with two step-sons. Initially, the plant made fruit jars, proprietary ware, sodas, five-gallon bottles and carboys at two continuous tanks with three rings. Because his step-sons, John McK. Marble and W. Baird Marble, became more involved, they renamed the firm the Latchford-Marble Glass Co. in 1939 (American Glass Review 1927:139; Toulouse 1971:314-315). For more information, see the section on Latchford-Marble.

McLaughlin Glass Companies, Los Angeles (1920-1956)

William McLaughlin started the McLaughlin Glass Co. at Los Angeles sometime between 1915 and 1920. He operated a series of small-to-medium-sized glass houses for many years, making a variety of bottles but generally specializing in large ware – such as five-gallon water bottles. McLaughlin’s business received a big boost when the Illinois-Pacific warehouse in San Francisco burned on May 2, 1920, destroying all the bottles in storage. Representatives from the Arrowhead and Puritas water companies immediately sought McLaughlin, and he expanded his business to accommodate their orders (Padgett 1996:37-38). Thus, McLaughlin was a major supplier of Arrowhead bottles from 1920 until the next major change.

McLaughlin then purchased the Larsen Letter Co., Gardena, California – a plant that made glass letters for movie theater marquees – in 1946. McLaughlin made large ware on a machine he had designed and patented. Once again, his five-gallon water bottles were so popular that when McLaughlin next sold out in 1956, the Arrowhead Water Co. purchased the plant to make its own bottles (Padgett 1996:56, 58, 67).
Arrowhead Springs Co., San Bernardino, California (1909-1929)

The Arrowhead Mountain Springs emerged from a large rock formation shaped like an arrowhead (Figure 43). The Arrowhead Springs Co. began bottling in 1905, serving Southern California from a location just north of San Bernardino. The plant moved to Los Angeles in 1917 (Figure 44). The firm merged with the Puritas Water Co. in 1929, although the new company marketed both brands of water.3 The combined firm added a Department of Distilled Water in 1922 (Beverage Journal 1922:41; Nestlé Waters 2011; Wikipedia 2012).

Arrowhead Beverage Co., Los Angeles (1929-ca. 1956)

The name change to Arrowhead Beverage Co. appears to have been connected to the merger with the Puritas Water Co. in 1929, although this may have been a subsidiary company to make and sell carbonated beverages. The firm marketed sodas and water in glass bottles with ACL labels during part of this period – at some point after ACL became available in 1934 – probably the late 1930s. The firm continued under this name until at least 1949, likely until the firm entered the bottle-making business in 1956.  

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3 Wikipedia (2012) noted that “Puritas water products were first introduced in Los Angeles in 1894.” Puritas Water Co. incorporated at San Francisco on May 22, 1901 with a capital of $300,000 (Curry 1902:67)
Arrowhead and Puritas Water Co., Los Angeles (ca. 1956-1987)

As noted above, William McLaughlin took over the Larson Glass Co. facility in Gardena, California to produce water bottles and sold that property in 1956 to the Arrowhead and Puritas Water Co. (possibly just Arrowhead Water Co.). The factory was then known as the Arrowhead Glass Products Division. Although we have not discovered the date that Arrowhead ceased bottle production, we can guess that it was probably around 1987, when Nestlé Waters North America, Inc., acquired the brand. That was the period when glass was being phased out of water bottles in favor of plastic. Nestlé continues to sell Arrowhead Water in 2013 (Padgett 2001:15; Wikipedia 2012),

ASF

Toulouse (1971:53-54) noted this mark on a fruit jar from the Frank Glass Co. See the FGCo section for more information.

AS&CO Monogram

According to Toulouse (1971:52), this was the logo of A. Schilling & Co. of San Francisco, California, used ca. 1881 (Figures 45 & 46). He also included an SB monogram (ca. 1885) and an S&CO monogram (ca. 1881). The initials “SB” indicated “Schilling’s Best” – the firm’s top quality brand. The bases of the bottles were embossed “A. SCHILLING & CO. (arch) / 4 OZ / NET (both horizontal)” – with various sizes, of course. Schilling’s use of the word “NET” was far ahead of its time.
A. Schilling & Co., San Francisco, California (1881-1947)

Although A. Schilling & Co. was not a glass house, we have included the logos in this study because the bottles were ubiquitous. August Schilling and George Volkmann opened A. Schilling & Co. at 108 Market St. in San Francisco in September 1881. In 1903, the firm moved to the intersection of Second and Folsom Streets, where the business burned to the ground, following the April 18, 1906, earthquake. The company, of course, rebuilt immediately (Toulouse 1971:52-53; Zumwalt 1980:366).

After the death of August Schilling on August 1, 1934, the Volkmann family continued to operate the firm under the A. Schilling & Co. name. In 1947, however, McCormick & Co. of Baltimore, Maryland, purchased the business, and Volkmann died on December 9, 1945. McCormick continued to operate the company in San Francisco (Toulouse 1971:53; Zumwalt 1980:366S).

AUGUSTA GLASS WORKS

Bill Baab has reported that a collector has a Hutchinson bottle embossed “AUGUSTA GLASS WORKS, AUGUSTA, GA.” on the side. Although he has not seen the bottle, we include it here. The Augusta Glass Works was open between 1890 and 1894 (see history in the AGCo section).

AVON

Whitten (2013) discussed “glass pieces, including figural cologne containers (cars, boats, clocks, etc) with the embossed mark “AVON”, and/or a paper label on the base, . . . actually manufactured by Wheaton Glass Company, Millville, New Jersey” (Figures 48-51). These may have been made between the 1970s and 1990s.
David H. McConnell began selling perfume door-to-door under his own name, using women as sales agents in 1886. In 1892, McConnell renamed the firm the California Perfume Co. at the suggestion of his partner. The firm incorporated in the State of New Jersey on June 16, 1909, and became a New York corporation on January 28, 1916. The firm received the Avon trademark for “perfumes, toilet waters, powder and rouge compacts, lipsticks”, and other toiletry products” August 30, 1932, claiming a first use of the term on January 1, 1929 (Wikipedia 2013). It was not until 1939, however, that the firm became Avon Products, Inc.

Avon Products, Inc., New York (1936-present)

Discussion and Conclusions

Most of the identifications in this section are reasonably obvious (e.g., ADLAM or ADC) or likely bogus (e.g., AGBCo or AGCL), so they require no further discussion. A few, however, are controversial or have been misidentified in the past. The “A” logo, for example, is addressed in both the Adams and Agnew sections, although it may have been used by another firm.

ACBCo

Although this logo will be discussed in more detail in an article about Lea & Perrins sauce bottles, the initials need a brief treatment here. We have never found this mark on any other type of container. It is probable that Lea & Perrins required the identification of the manufacturer on its products, although that sort of record has been lost.

Both Rinker ([1968]:27) and Toulouse (1971:38) suggested the Albion Glass Co. as the maker of the bottles – possibly because the glass house made containers for Lea & Perrins later in the 20th century. As noted above, however, the initials do not mesh with the Albion Glass Co. name, and the firm was not in business during the ca. 1860s-1920s period when bottles with the ACBCo initials were made. Even though the initials are also an imperfect match for the Aire & Calder Bottle Co. (or Aire & Calder Glass Bottle Co.), the fit is closer – and neither we nor other researchers have found any reasonable alternative.

A&P

While not a glass manufacturer, the Great A&P Tea Co. deserves further study. Levinson’s 2011 history provides an excellent treatise of the A&P (as well as the grocery industry), but it does not cover glass containers. There are almost certainly more examples and variations of bottles and jars than we have uncovered. These also probably changed somewhat over time. However, these are not the types of glass containers that collectors typically value or that archaeologists often research, so we have discovered few examples.
Arrowhead

The various firms that bottled Arrowhead Water also provide a good platform for future research. We have already unearthed a rich tradition of bottle variation, but the containers were probably also made in several formats that we have not discovered. The size of these bottles – mostly five gallons – inhibits most collectors, and they do not show up often in archaeological reports that we have examined.

Acknowledgments

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