

# The Anchor Glass Co., L.E. Smith Glass Co., and the Mystery of the Anchor Fruit Jar

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## History

### Anchor Glass Co., Mt. Pleasant, Pennsylvania (1907-1909)

The Anchor Glass Co., Mt. Pleasant, Pennsylvania, registered as a New Jersey corporation on October 23, 1905, intending to produce “table glassware, bottles, fruit jars, packers' wares, and glassware of all kinds and description.” This initial corporation built a factory, but it was never outfitted with equipment (Bernas 2003:16, 19).

On January 14, 1907, Elnathan H. “Harry” Steinman, Edward D. Steinman, and Charles N. Edmonds reorganized Anchor as a Pennsylvania corporation, with a capitalization of \$75,000. Their application was approved by the end of the month. The firm bought land for the factory on February 18 and began production on May 6. The work began at a single 25-ton continuous tank, although the corporation was building a second tank. The plant made tumblers and pressed tableware, while the workers waited for fruit jar machines to arrive. By the end of May, the same tank supported eight shops and had added vault lights to the inventory (Bernas 2003:29-36, 40).

When the four machines arrived in June 1907, the plant began making jars. However, only three machines were in working order, and the factory still only operated the single tank – almost entirely devoted to making fruit jars and bottles. The fourth machine was soon repaired and in production. President Elnathan Steinman filed to register the company trade mark (No. 71,249), a slanted anchor loosely wrapped with a chain, on September 24, 1907, and received the registration on November 10, 1908 (Figure 1). Steinman claimed a first

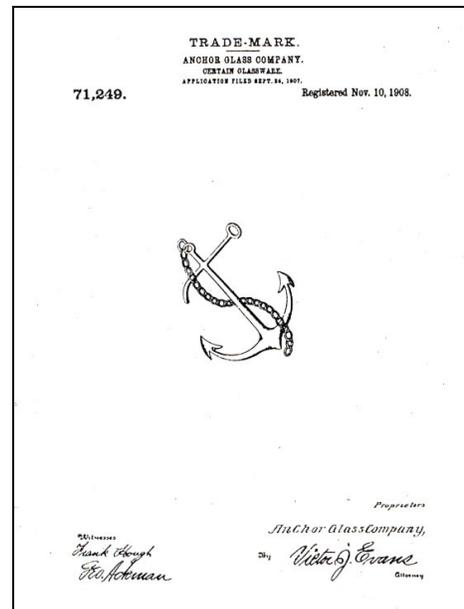


Figure 1 – Anchor Trademark

use in May 1907. Although the registration claimed an application on jars, bottles, vault lights, beer mugs, tea sets, and tumblers, the mark is only known on fruit jars (Bernas 2003:38-43; Peterson 1968:11; Roller 1983:12; Toulouse 1971:46).

Anchor Glass was financed and had accounts with the Farmers and Merchants National Bank, an institution that failed during the Panic of 1907. The bank closed its doors on October 29 and never reopened. The factory entered receivership in April 1908 and continued to operate sporadically until December. The corporation sold the plant to the L.E. Smith Glass Co. of Jeannette, Pennsylvania, at a receiver's sale on October 30, 1909 (Bernas 2003:45-69; 2005:61; Roller 1983:13).

#### **L.E. Smith Glass Co., Jeannette, Pennsylvania (1907-1910)**

On August 12, 1907, Louis E. "Lew" Smith and his associates organized the L.E. Smith Glass Co. to lease the decorating plant of the McKee-Jeannette Glass Co., Jeannette, Pennsylvania. Smith had been the manager of the McKee-Jeannette decorating establishment since 1906 and essentially continued in that position with the new corporation. The new company filled its first order on September 16, 1907. When Smith purchased the Anchor Glass Co. (see below), he sold the Jeannette business to the American Glass Specialty Co. of Monaca, Pennsylvania (Bernas 2007; Felt 2007:9).

#### **L. E. Smith Glass Co., Mt. Pleasant, Pennsylvania (1909-2010)**

The L.E. Smith Glass Co. of Jeannette, Pennsylvania, purchased the Mt. Pleasant plant of the Anchor Glass Co. for \$8,400 on October 30, 1909. The former Anchor plant actually reopened under Smith in late January 1910. Smith left the company in 1911, and Charles Wible reorganized the firm (Bernas 2005:61-62). During at least the teens, Smith also operated a mustard department and sold mustard in pressed glass jelly tumblers and sealed teacups made by firm's own machines. Both were made from colorless pressed glass with embossed designs, and the tumbler featured a painted component (Caniff 1997:137-138). The mustard department operated from 1910 to 1916, and the plant apparently canned olives during the same period (Felt 2007:15-16).

Even though the company's primary products were novelties, the plant planned to make "mustards, olives, jars and other similar items" in late 1909. Early in 1910, the plant made "sodas, tumblers and packers' goods." Anchor Glass had installed at least four (possibly eight) semiautomatic machines prior to the sale to Smith, so the factory had machine capabilities from the start (Bernas 2005:62-64). L.E. Smith withdrew from the company that still bears his name in October 1911 (Felt 2007:19-20).

Fire struck the plant on April 5, 1913. Even though fire trucks responded quickly, there were no nearby fire hydrants, and the pressure was insufficient from one farther away. The plant was virtually destroyed. However, the machinery and molds were sufficiently undamaged that 9 or the 14 shops returned to production in the open air almost immediately. By this time, however, the jar machines were apparently gone. The workers were apparently making pressed ware (Felt 2007:27).

The plant made paste and candy jars from ca. 1914 to at least 1920 and also made fruit jars from 1918 to at least 1921 (Thomas Publishing Co. 1914:3009, 3011; 1915:3386, 3389; 1917:4103, 4106; 1918:4428, 4430, 4432 1920:4414, 4616, 4618; 1921:4571-4572, 4574). By 1927, the plant made "tableware, auto headlight and signal glass, novelties and specialties, [and] opal ware" at four continuous tanks with 32 rings and two day tanks with six rings (*American Glass Review* 1927:107).

During February 1920, the company acquired the Stahl Glass Co. plant (originally the Gillinder Glass Co.) at Greensburg, Pennsylvania. The Owens-Illinois Glass Co. purchased the L.E. Smith Glass Co. on December 8, 1975, but Michael P. Carlow bought the business on December 31, 1986 (Caniff 1997:138; Felt 2007:32, 53, 56-57). In 1985, the plant had "7 tanks, 50tons/day," making various tableware products (Perrine 1985:43). The company again changed hands on June 29, 1995, this time being purchased by the American Glass Co. The final sale (to date) occurred on January 14, 2005, this time to the Port Augustus Glass Co., LLC. Through all this time, the plants continued to make tableware (Felt 2007:62). The factory closed in 2010, although the outlet remains open in 2013.

## Containers and Marks

### **ANCHOR and design of a left-slanted (admiralty) anchor and a wrap-around chain<sup>1</sup>**

As stated in the history section, the Anchor Glass Co. received Trade Mark No. 71,249 on November 10, 1908, for the design of a slanted anchor with a chain wrapped around it. The trade mark was first used in May 1907 (Bernas 2003:38-43; 2006:9; Peterson 1968:11; Roller 1983:12; Toulouse 1971:46). Although the company claimed an intent to use the mark on various products, we have only located the mark on fruit jars, always accompanied by the word “ANCHOR.”

Roller (1983:14) and Creswick (1987:5) both attributed the logo to the Anchor Glass Co. However, Roller (1983:13) noted that the L. E. Smith Glass Co. purchased Anchor and operated the plant “– but not making fruit jars.” See the ANCHOR MASON’S PATENT below for information about the history of the Anchor logo on the Mason jar. For a thorough description of the logo and its origins, see Bernas (2006:9-11).

Bernas (2005:61-65) hypothesized that the L.E. Smith Glass Co. continued to manufacture the Anchor jars after purchasing the Anchor plant and presented excellent circumstantial evidence. For example, a reminiscence in the *Pittsburgh Press* (2/2/1969) noted that Smith made fruit jars in the early days. Virtually all sources state that Smith made “packers’ jars,” and the presence of surviving paper labels on Anchor Mason Patent jars indicates that these were used as packers (e.g., Thomas Publishing Co 1918:4428). Descriptions of the jar variations (below) are based on the assumption that Bernas was correct.

### **ANCHOR MASON’S PATENT. (1910-ca. 1916)**

These jars were all embossed on the front with “ANCHOR (horizontal) / MASON’S (arch) / PATENT. (horizontal – with period).” Bernas (2003:xiii-xxxi; 2005:61-65; 2006:9-15) discovered several variations of these jars, based on three main variables and three additional characteristics. The main variable was the type of seal used on the jars. The lids of the earliest

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<sup>1</sup> In Naval terms, the anchor with a chain wrapped around it is called a “fouled anchor” – meaning wrapped in the chain.

jars sealed on the jar's shoulder; the later style sealed on an embossed bead around the finish – although these *could* have accommodated a top seal.

The combination of a continuous-thread finish and a screw cap or lid sealed in one of four ways (although the Anchor/Smith jars only used the two mentioned above – and, occasionally, the top seal):

1. Probably the earliest was the shoulder seal, where the bottom section of the skirt of the lid sealed tightly against the shoulder of the jar, often with a rubber gasket in between. The thread on the finish ended at the shoulder of the jar, with no neck in between.
2. On the bead seal, the bead was a raised rib of glass encircling the finish where it met the neck of the jar or bottle. This was actually a variation of the shoulder finish, where the bottom of the skirt sealed (frequently using a gasket) against the bead.
3. On some jars or bottles, the seal was affected by the locking action between the threads of the finish and those of the lid. Although uncommon, this could be enhanced by a rubber sleeve between the finish and the lid (note that this system was *not* used by Anchor).
4. The lip or rim seal increasingly became the most common. In this form, the underside of the top of the cap or lid pressed against the lip or rim (the uppermost part) of the finish. Usually, some form of cork, paper, rubber, or composite disk was attached to the lid to help affect the seal.

The letters in the word “ANCHOR” also came in two styles. Initially, the Anchor Glass Co. used a “rope” pattern in the letters, although, as the molds began to wear, the “ropes” became less distinct until some of them disappeared entirely. The L.E. Smith Co., however, may have adopted block letters intentionally leaving out the rope design (see explanation above describing why Smith was probably the next maker of the jars).<sup>2</sup> Smith continued to use molds from the older Anchor factory, so some rope letters continued into the Smith period. Bernas (2006:12) traced the wear on the rope letters over time. As the molds deteriorated, the rope

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<sup>2</sup> While we have found no historical evidence stating that Smith made new molds, empirical evidence (from the jars, themselves) makes the use of new molds virtually certain.

embossing became fainter and fainter, until it disappeared entirely. New molds made by Smith lacked the rope aspect.

Another variable is the anchor logo discussed in the section above. The anchor logo was embossed on the reverse side of the earliest jars. Soon, however, the logo was peened out or filled in so that paper labels could be applied to the reverse side. This peening or filling created a “ghost” mark of the anchor on the intermediate jars. Some of the later jars lacked the logo entirely (Bernas 2006:9-11).



Figure 2 – Shoulder Seal, “Rope” Letters, Anchor Logo on Reverse (North American Glass)

One variation of the bead seal jars had a much smaller bead than normal (styled by Roller as the mini-bead). Another had a threadless finish, the only one of its kind found on these jars. The final anomaly is a half-gallon jar with a ghosted “MASON” or “MASON PATENT” on the reverse (Bernas 2006:11-14). The descriptions of these and the more common variations appear below and in Table 1 (also see Roller 2011:28).

#### 1. Shoulder Seal, “Rope” Letters, Anchor Logo on Reverse

Roller (1983:13#45), Creswick (1987:5#85-1), and Leybourne (2008:12#85-1) all reported this variation. Bernas (2003:44, xiv) noted that examples are scarce and were probably the earliest jars made by the Anchor Glass Co. (Figure 2). Although there are a few known quarts, only two pint examples have been confirmed (Bernas 2003:xv-xvi). These were made by the Anchor Glass Co., probably only in 1907.

#### 2. Shoulder Seal, Block Letters, Anchor Logo on Reverse

Although this variation does not appear in publication, Bernas has discovered only a single example in quart size. This is possibly an example of a “weak” strike, a case where the air blown into the machine was insufficient to push the glass tightly against the letters or where the mold lubrication was old and had partially solidified. These are probably actually a sub-variation of the first jars, made by Anchor ca. 1907.

Table 1 – ANCHOR MASON'S PATENT. Jar Chronology

#	Seal*	Anchor Letters	Anchor Logo Rev.	Co.	Size	Dates	Comments
1	Shoulder	Rope	Present	Anchor	P, Q	ca. 1907	rare, especially the pint size
2	Shoulder	Block	Present	Anchor	Q	ca. 1907	**
3	Shoulder	Rope	Ghosted	Anchor/Smith	Q***	1907-1908	poss. early Smith
4	Shoulder	Block	Ghosted	Anchor/Smith	Q	late 1907-ca. 1913	poss. early Smith**
5	Bead	Rope	Ghosted	Smith	Q	ca. 1909-1915 †	early Smith ††
6	Bead	Block	Ghosted	Smith	P, Q	ca. 1909-1916 †	one quart jar had a 4 on base
7	Bead	Block	Absent	Smith	Q, HG	ca. 1909-1916 †	one quart jar had a 6 on base
8	Threadless	Block	Ghosted	Smith	Q	ca. 1909-1916 †	Mini-Bead †††
9	Mini-Bead	Block	Ghosted	Smith	P	ca. 1909-1916 †	
10	Mini-Bead	Block	Absent	Smith	P, HG	ca. 1909-1916 †	
11	Bead	Block	Absent	Smith	HG	ca. 1909-1916 †	ghosted MASON (reverse)
12	Bead	Block	Absent	Smith	HG	ca. 1909-1916 †	ghosted MASON PATENT (reverse)

\* All shoulder seals have vertical seams on the finish; all bead seals (including the threadless variation) lack vertical finish seams.

\*\* These are anomalies; Bernas has only seen one of each.

\*\*\* L.eybourne (2001) lists a pint (85-2) but it is not confirmed by Bernas.

† Assuming the fire hypothesis is correct (see text), all bead-seal jars would have initially been made in 1914. They may have been made as late as the 1918-1921 period.

†† Roller claimed this was a mini-bead finish but never discussed container size; that is not supported by Bernas. Quart jars can have numbers embossed on reverse heel, 1-5.

††† Only two examples of the threadless variation are currently known.

### 3. Shoulder Seal, “Rope” Letters, Ghosted Anchor Logo on Reverse

Roller (1983:13#45) and Leybourne (2008:12#85-2) both noted the ghosted anchor variation. The anchor logos were apparently peened out or filled in to remove the embossing from the reverse of the jars. This leaves a faint or “ghosted appearance (Figure 3). Roller contended that the jars were made by the Anchor Glass Co. The jars were only made in quart size. This was the most common variation of the Anchor jars.

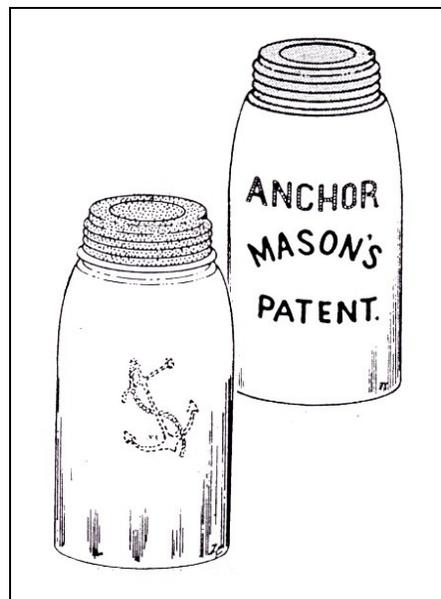


Figure 3 – Shoulder Seal, “Rope” Letters, Ghosted Anchor Logo on Reverse (Creswick 1987:5)

### 4. Shoulder Seal, Block Letters, Ghosted Anchor Logo on Reverse

Bernas has discovered two quart-sized examples of this variation. Like Variation #2 above, this was probably a weak strike of the roped letter variation and was likely made during the same 1907-1908 period. This jar may have been made late by Anchor in 1907 and/or by Smith in the early years, probably not later than ca. 1913.

Bernas (2003:xv) also discussed this variation, noting that at least one example of the jar have been found with a paper label.<sup>3</sup> This indicates that the jars were used as packers (i.e., product jars), rather than just as home-canning fruit jars (although they could certainly have been used for that purpose as well). Bernas suggested that the anchor logo was removed from the jars to facilitate the adhesion of the paper labels. These jars were probably made by the Anchor Glass Co. during 1907 and 1908, possibly by the L.E. Smith Glass Co. during its earliest years.

### 5. Continuous-Thread Bead Seal, “Rope” Letters, Ghosted Anchor Logo on Reverse

Roller (1983:13#46) and Creswick (1987:5#85-2) gave examples of this variation. Roller claimed this variation had a mini-bead finish, but that is not supported by Bernas in his detailed

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<sup>3</sup> Three other quart jars had paper labels, but all of these were bead sealed rather than the older shoulder-seal variation.

discussion of bead seals (Bernas 2003:xix-xxviii; 2006:5-7). These, like all other bead finishes, had no vertical side seams on the finish above the bead. See the The Seamless, Continuous-Thread Finish section below for a discussion of the lack of seams.

This variation, known only in quart size was probably a transition jar, only made by Smith from ca. 1909 to ca. 1912. After these front molds wore out, he likely eliminated the “rope” style of lettering. Some of the jars have numbers embossed on reverse heel, 1-5 – although the heel may be unembossed.

Bernas (2003:xxv-xxviii; 2005:61) made an excellent case that bead-sealed jars embossed “ANCHOR / MASON’S / PATENT.” were probably made by the L.E. Smith Glass Co., rather than the Anchor Glass Co., as claimed by Roller. On August 23, 1909, John Shies applied for a patent for a “Jar-Closure” and received Patent No. 941-538 on November 30 of that year (Figure 4).<sup>4</sup> Anchor Glass was in receivership during much of 1908 and closed on New Year’s Eve. It is highly unlikely that Anchor Glass made fruit jars using a technique developed a year and a half after the plant closed.

The L.E. Smith Glass Co. had machine capabilities from its acquisition of the Anchor Glass Co. and almost certainly made fruit jars and packers’ ware on them. Bernas (2005:63-64) also described and illustrated examples of the Anchor Mason’s Patent jars with paper labels indicating that the content was cocoa. Thus, the jars were being used in a packer capacity. The Bernas evidence

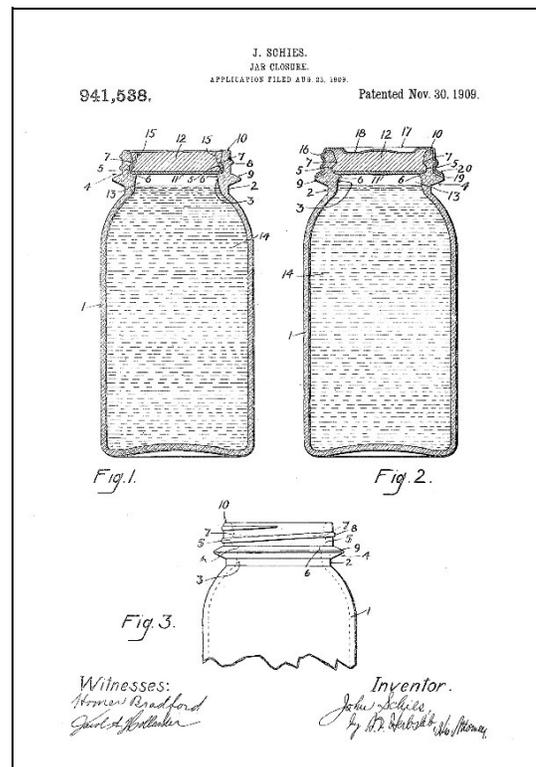


Figure 4 – Shies 1909 patent

<sup>4</sup> Schies’ patent was for an internal ledge with waxed disc and/or external seal along the bead which could co-act together. A patent per se for an annular bead hasn’t turned up. It appears this feature just evolved within the glass trade probably starting as an aid to keeping the finish in place within the neck ring while the pressing part of the production process was taking place.

indicates that the L.E. Smith Glass Co. made the jars from 1910 to ca. 1915. See Bernas (2003; 2005) for very detailed discussions about the evidence.

#### 6. Continuous-Thread Bead Seal, Block Letters, Ghosted Anchor Logo on Reverse

Jars in this variation were the second most common, listed by Creswick (1987:5#86-1) and Leybourne (2008:12#85-4, 86-1) and discussed in detail by Bernas (2003:xix-xxviii; 2006:5-7). These jars showed a return to the threaded finish, but they sealed on an embossed bead just above the top of the shoulder. The bead extended ¼" from its base against the finish to its outside edge. The jars were made in pint and quart sizes probably by the L.E. Smith Glass Co. from ca. 1909 to ca. 1916, possibly later. One quart jar was embossed with a "4" above the ejection scar on the base.

#### 7. Continuous-Thread Bead Seal, Block Letters, No Logo on Reverse

Except for the lack of the anchor logo on the reverse, these are identical to the previous variation; they were only made in quart and half-gallon sizes. Creswick (1987:5#87) and Leybourne (2008:12#87) listed these jars, and they are included in the Bernas (2003:xix-xxviii; 2006:5-7) descriptions of the bead seals. This variation was probably made by Smith from ca. 1909 to ca. 1916, possibly later

#### 8. Threadless, Bead Seal Finish, Block Letters, Ghosted Anchor Logo on Reverse

Leybourne (2008:12#85-3) listed this variation, but Bernas (2003:xviii-xix) discussed it at length. The overall appearance of these jars matched the bead-seal jars, but the finish was altered. Above the bead, the finish was threadless.<sup>5</sup> These could not have been used for home canning; they were obviously intended to be packers' jars. These jars are uncommon and probably represent a special order. By this point in jar history, home canners would not have been comfortable without a threaded finish.

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<sup>5</sup> On one jar, at the base of the finish, just above the bead, there were two small non-continuous threads. These were very small and may have indicated an original intention to have made a threaded finish.

Only two of these jars are currently known, and both have the mini-bead described below. One had an embossed “2” at the heel; the other had a “5” heelmark.. Because of the commonality of the bead and the embossed heel numeral between these jars and the ones in the No. 5 position (above), Bernas (2006:3) attributed the threadless jars to the L.E. Smith Glass Co., although they could have been made at any time during the ca. 1909-1916 period or later.<sup>6</sup>

#### 9. Continuous-Thread Mini-Bead Seal, Block Letters, Ghosted Anchor Logo on Reverse

These jars were essentially the same as the other bead seal jars. The main difference was a much smaller bead. Compared to the ¼" bead described above, this variation had a 1/8" bead. Bernas (2003:xx-xxii) suggested that these were made for commercial packers' use rather than home canning. Bernas also suggested that this was another transition finish. The ejection (or valve) scar on the small-bead-finished jars was also different (7/8" versus the 3/4" scar on the shoulder-seal jars). The small-bead ejection scar was also less “sharp” or distinct.

Roller (1983:13#46) also claimed that the bead-sealed jars were made by Anchor from ca. 1908 to ca. 1909. He noted, “These later jars . . . have only a very narrow bead around their neck, making it doubtful that they were meant to seal on the bead. There are no side seams throughout the finish area, which means that they were made by a special machine process. It is possible that they may have been closed by Simplex glass screw caps” (see Perfection Glass Co. section for a discussion of Simplex).<sup>7</sup> Roller claimed that L.E. Smith did not make fruit jars after he acquired Anchor in 1909, but subsequent research by Bernas (see above) indicates that these jars were likely made by Smith during the ca. ca. 1909-1916 period, possibly later.

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<sup>6</sup> Bernas (2003:xix) hypothesized at one point that the threadless jars constituted a transition between the shoulder-seal and bead-seal finishes, thus being made during Smith's early years. This seems less likely after due consideration of the physical evidence.

<sup>7</sup> The mini-bead finish could not be sealed by the Simplex glass cap patented by William B. Fenn on May 3<sup>d</sup>, 1904 because the cap was not made in the standard 70 millimeter size required for the Anchor jar. Likewise, if the cap did not seal on the bead, it could not use the SIMPLEX glass cap patented by Russell Uhl on December 5, 1905. This version sealed just like a normal fruit jar zinc screw cap. On the shoulder seal jar, it used a rubber gasket which was compressed between the jar's shoulder and the bottom edge of the glass cap. For the bead seal variety, it followed the same procedure but used the standard annular bead instead. See the section on the Perfection Glass Co. for more discussion about Simplex.

#### 10. Continuous-Thread Mini-Bead Seal, Block Letters, No Logo on Reverse

This is the same jar described above, minus the anchor logo on the reverse and was made during the same time period. The jar had no period after the word “PATENT” on the front. Only two examples are currently known.

#### 11. Continuous-Thread Bead Seal, Block Letters, Ghosted MASON on Reverse

These jars have the regular bead seal, block letters, and no logo on the reverse. They are the same as No. 8 (above), except for a ghosted , arched “MASON” on the reverse. Creswick (1987:5#86-1), Leybourne (2008:12#86-1) and Roller (1983:13#45) all list this variation. Bernas (2006:3) discussed the variation in detail. These jars were made sometime during the 1909-1916 period, although the exact dates are impossible to pinpoint.

#### 12. Continuous-Thread Bead Seal, Block Letters, Ghosted MASON PATENT on Reverse

These jars have the regular bead seal, block letters, and no logo on the reverse. They are the same as No. 8 (above), except that they have no ghosted “MASON (arch) / PATENT” on the reverse. Bernas (2006:3) discussed the variation in detail. These jars were made sometime during the 1909-1916 period, although the exact dates are impossible to pinpoint.

#### **Other Possible Variations**

Some sources list variations of the ANCHOR MASON PATENT. jars that have not been verified by Bernas.<sup>8</sup> These include a shoulder-seal jar with rope letters but no anchor logo on the reverse (Creswick 1987:5#85; Lebourne 2001:10#85); a shoulder-seal jar with block letters and no anchor logo on the reverse (Creswick 1987:5#86; Lebourne 2001:10#86); and a bead-seal jar with block letters and a ghosted anchor logo on the reverse with a ghosted “MASON’S PATENT” on the front (Lebourne 2001:10#86-2). This last variation is probably a confused reporting of the “MASON PATENT” on the reverse (#12 above).

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<sup>8</sup> Since collectors’ publications often rely on reports from other collectors, some information could easily be confused. It is, of course, possible for other variations to exist.

## The Seamless, Continuous-Thread Finish

George W. Henning and Arthur W. Beeson invented an adaptation to fit a press-and-blow machine that would make seamless, continuous-thread finishes and applied for a patent on June 16, 1906. The two received Patent No. 857,803 on June 25, 1907 (Figure 5). The patent document stated:

The object of the invention is to provide a mechanism which may be readily adapted and attached to any form of molding and blowing machine, and which operates automatically and whereby a thread or threads without fin or seam may be formed on the article.

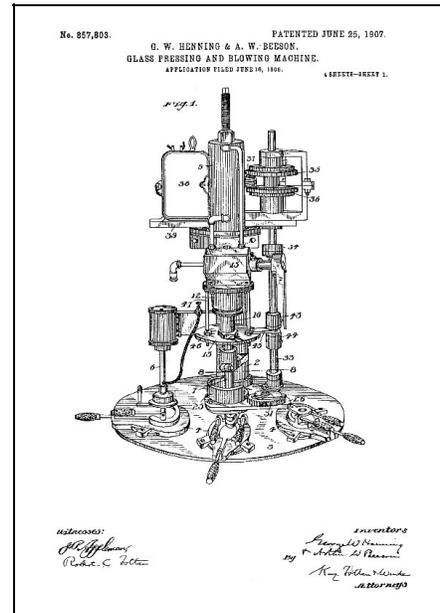


Figure 5 – Henning & Beeson 1907 patent

This paragraph almost perfectly describes a device that would make the finishes on the bead-seal, ANCHOR MASON PATENT. jars (Figure 6).

## Ramifications of the 1913 Fire

On April 5, 1913, a fire swept through the L.E. Smith Glass Co., doing considerable damage but apparently leaving the “patterns for mustard jars” (i.e, the jar molds) operable (Hawkins 2009:466). This may well have been the deciding factor that led the company to either purchase new machinery or modify the older machines with the Henning and Beeson device described above – producing the new, bead-seal jars with no side seams on the finishes. Assuming this to be correct, the entire bead-seal jar chronology for the company began in 1914.

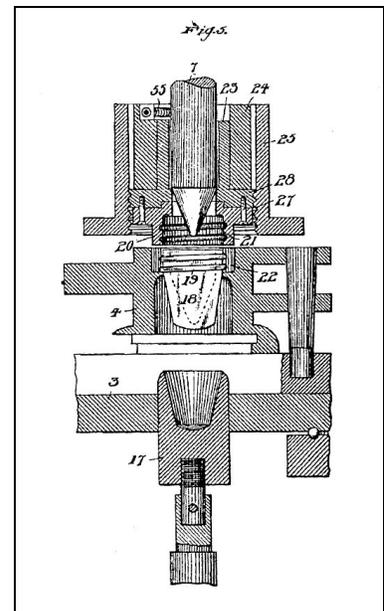


Figure 6 – Detail of Henning & Beeson machine

## Other Anchor Jars

Toulouse (1969:20) illustrated and discussed a single jar with a slanted anchor logo (Figure 7). He dated the jar ca. 1910-1920 but had no idea who made it. Toulouse (1971:46) said that he did “not think they [i.e., Anchor Glass] were the maker of the Anchor fruit jar” and illustrated one of the “other” anchors. Roller (1983:12) discussed and illustrated a different, upright anchor logo (Figure 8). While he noted that the slanted anchor had been patented by the Anchor Glass Co., he noted that the “jar is considered by many to be of Canadian make, since it is most often found there.”

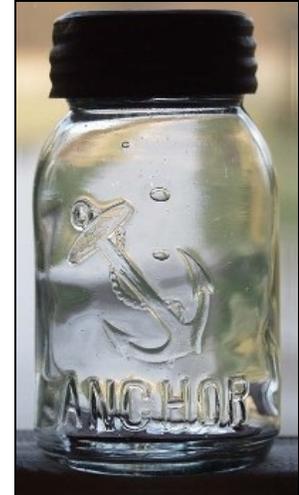


Figure 7 – Slanted anchor fruit jar (North American Glass)



Figure 8 – Upright anchor fruit jar (North American Glass)

Creswick (1987:4) illustrated three variations of embossed anchors on fruit jars with continuous-thread finishes but no “ANCHOR MASON PATENT” embossing (Figure 9). She noted that “it is believed the jars were made by Sydenham Glass Works of Wallaceburg, Ontario, Canada. The company was acquired by Dominion Glass Company in 1913, although she presented

no evidence or reasons for the belief. Roller (2011:26) noted that John Barclay “observed that ‘on the top of this jar there is a slight ledge, this same ledge can also be found on The Rose.’”

The Rose – in underlined,

upwardly slanted cursive – was made by the Sydenham Glass Co., Wallaceburg, Ontario, Canada (Figure 10). Sydenham operated from ca. 1894 the Dominion Glass Co. purchased the firm in 1913 (Roller (2011:451). King (1986:99-105)

noted that Sydenham received its charter on November 7, 1894 and remained in business until

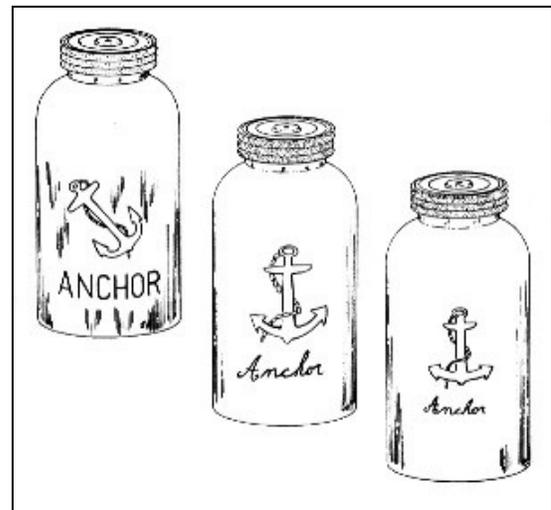


Figure 9 – Non-Anchor Glass Co. jars with anchor logos (Creswick 1987:4)

the Dominion takeover until May 15, 1913, when Dominion acquired the firm's assets. Sydenham manufactured a variety of glass products, including the Beaver and other fruit jars.

### **Conclusions**

Bernas (2009) took an in-depth look at minute jar characteristics that may eventually take jar/bottle analysis to a new depth. In observing and recording characteristics of individual embossed letters (including slant, size, and shape as well as magnified looks at mold lines, Bernas made it clear that a careful observer can distinguish between individual molds used to manufacture mouth-blown containers. With a sufficient sample size, this has the potential to track bottles or jars made from specific molds to their final destinations.



Figure 10 – The Rose – Canadian fruit jar (North American Glass)

Although the sheer volume of the variations of these jars can be a bit overwhelming, the various articles and book by Bernas go into deep detail for those interested in the pursuit of a specific jar. The above table and descriptions should enable most researchers to identify and date any of the known variations.

We concur with earlier researchers that the upright anchor symbol (as opposed to the slanted anchor used by the Anchor Glass Co.) was not used by Anchor, and jars with the logo were probably made by a Canadian company.

### **Acknowledgments**

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