

Other “B” Marks

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Containers and Marks

B

Although we have explained the use of the single letter “B” – with and without serifs – by several glass houses in the previous pages, a few applications remain that have not been addressed earlier. The letter “B” has also been found on the bases of beer, bluing, and milk bottles as well as on fruit jars, vials, and insulators.

Export Beer Bottles

Occasional beer bottles, usually amber in color, are found with a large “B” embossed on the base (e.g., Toulouse 1971:59). One of these, for example, was found in the wall of the Tom Kelley Bottle House in Rhyolite, Nevada. Virtually every letter of the alphabet – as well as one- and two-digit numbers – is found in this large style in the center of export beer bottle bases. Although sizes vary, all letters and numbers are between ca. 3/4" and 1" in height and were placed in the centers of the bases (Figure 1). These letters are probably some of the early mold or work station codes, and they were most likely used between 1873 (when the plant opened) to ca. 1880 by the Mississippi Glass Co. (Lockhart et al. 2012:43-45).



Figure 1 – B on beer base

Later beer bottles (ca. 1890s-possibly 1910 or later) were occasionally embossed with slightly smaller letters – including virtually every letter of the alphabet. These were typically less than 3/4" in height, still much larger than the typical later “B” logos used during the early 20th century by Charles Boldt and later by both the Brockway and Buck plants. These larger letters have been recorded on both bases – usually off center – and on bottle heels – usually accompanied by smaller numbers, between one and three digits. Currently, we have no

explanation for these marks – although all were probably some form of mold code, rather than logos of manufacturers.

Bluing Bottles

Another sans serif “B” was embossed on the base of an aqua, mouth-blown bluing or medicinal bottle in the Becky Garrett collection at the El Paso Museum of History (Figure 2). The bottle could have been made by virtually any glass house with a “B” prominently in the name or could have indicated the name of the filling firm. Although doubtful, in this case, “B” could even have meant “bluing.”



Figure 2 – B on bluing base

Milk Bottles



Figure 3 – B on milk bottle (Al Morin)

Al Morin provided a photo of a milk bottle with a “B” in the center of the base (Figure 3). The style of the milk bottle is “older” – a type rarely seen after the early 1910s (Figure 4). The bottle was mouth blown. The sans serif “B” is placed differently from the ones used by the Buck Glass Co. and appears to be much earlier than the logo used by Buck. Buck made milk bottles by hand as soon as the factory opened, so this *could* be one of the early bottles from Buck. The bottle could have been made by the Butler Glass Co. (see the Butler Glass Co. and Buck Glass Co. sections).



Figure 4 – Milk bottle with B logo (Al Morin)

Fruit Jars

Creswick (1987a:10) illustrated a grooved-ring wax-sealer fruit jar embossed on the base with a single, sans serif “B” (Figure 5). Creswick knew nothing about the jar, nor did any of the other typical jar sources. Roller (1983:24; 2011:45) noted that he was unsure whether the “B” indicated a manufacturer or was “simply a mold identifier.”

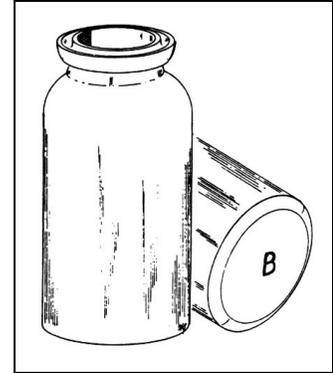


Figure 5 – B basemark on fruit jar (Creswick 1987a:10)

Vials



Figure 6 – Vial

In the former collection of Becky Garrett, we discovered two vials, each embossed on the base with the letter “B.” Both vials were the same shape – cylindrical with a narrowed neck and a single-ring finish (Figure 6). One of them had a sans serif “B” (Figure 7), while the other “B” had two serifs (Figure 8). The vials may have been made by the same glass house; the molds could



Figure 7 – Vial with sans-serif B



Figure 8 – Vial with serif B

have been cut by different engravers. The “B” could indicate something besides the manufacturer.

B on Insulators

The Brookfield Glass Co., Brooklyn, New York, used a serif-B logo on the domes or skirts of various glass insulators (as well as “BROOKFIELD” and “W. BROOKFIELD”). The firm also made



Figure 9 – Brookfield Insulator – B logo (Polivka & Polivka 2013)

bottles, but there is no evidence for Brookfield's ever using a "B" logo (or the others) on glass containers (Figure 9). For a history of the firm and more discussion, see the Binghamton Glass Co. section for a discussion of Brookfield.

B in a circle



Figure 10 – Circle-B logo (eBay)

The Circle-B mark is occasionally found embossed on the base of picnic flasks. Each flask was solarized amethyst in color, mouth-blown, and had a tooled, two-part (double-ring) finish. Flasks of this kind were made during the 1890s and early 20th century. Each "B" was sans serif (Figures 10 & 11). These were certainly not made by the Brockway Glass Co. (a later user of the Circle-B mark). Currently, we have no idea what glass house made these flasks. They are, however, virtually identical to flasks with a Circle-A logo on the bases. Flasks with the Circle-A logo were probably made by the American Glass Works plant at Richmond. The connection – if any – with the Circle-B logo is unknown to us.



Figure 11 – Flask with Circle-B (eBay)

B in a diamond (ca. 1895)

The Binghamton Glass Co. used the Diamond-B logo during the early 20th century (see the Binghamton section for more information). Boyd's Crystal Art Glass, Inc., a company making glass knickknacks, also used the logo in 2011. The plant used a unique dating code (Boyd's 2011). Boyd's was in business far too recently to have made the bottle discussed in the Binghamton section.

User History

Boyd's Crystal Art Glass, Inc. (1978-ca. 2010)

On October 10, 1978, Bernard C. and Bernard F. Boyd began Boyd's Crystal Art Glass, Inc., at Cambridge, Ohio, making glass nicknacks. The business was still operating in 2011 (Boyd's 2011).

54B

Ayres et al. (1980) noted the "54B" mark embossed on the heels of amber, export beer bottles in the Tucson Urban Renewal (TUR) collection (Figure 12). The researchers attributed the mark to the Buck Glass Co. and noted additional numbers of "19," "37," and "41" along with the "B" on other bottles. However, when the BRG examined the TUR in early 2006, we also discovered heelmarks of the same configuration (large, two-digit number; smaller capital letter) with letters "R," "N," and "C" replacing the "B" (e.g., 245R; 54C; 10N). Thus, it is unlikely that the "B" or any other letter in the sequence indicates a glass company and equally unlikely that the numbers are date codes. All these marks were found on crown-finished, machine-made beer or soda bottles. Currently, we have no way to determine the manufacturer of these containers.

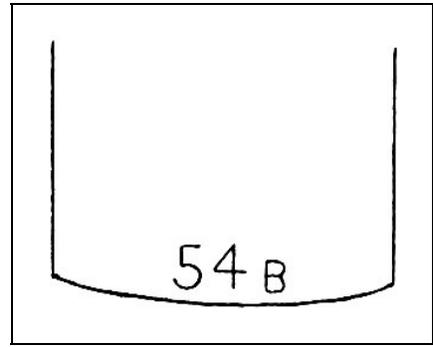


Figure 12 – 54B (Ayres et al. 1980)

B.&A.C.CO. (ca. 1881-ca. 1900)

We have discovered a wide-mouth round bottle with a packer finish that was embossed "B.&A.C.CO. / 51" in a slight arch on the base (Figures 13 & 14). Whitten (2013) identified the user as the Baker & Adamson Chemical Co. (1881-1913). Whitten described the firm as a:



Figure 13 – B.&A.C.CO. logo (eBay)

producer of acids and other chemicals. Although not the mark of a glass factory, this may be mistaken for one. Seen on the base of chemical and acid jars and bottles, most of which probably date from the early period — 1881 to 1900. B&A was bought by General Chemical in 1900, and in 1913 General became a division of Allied Chemical & Dye Corporation, later Allied Chemical Corp. ACC merged into Allied-Signal and that company is now part of Honeywell, Inc.

B.&B.S.CO. (1902-1913)

Von Mechow (2013) reported four champagne beer bottles with the logo, each in a different format. One was embossed “B.&B.S.Co. / NEWARK, N.J.” in an inverted arch on the base, another “B&BSCo (arch) / NEWARK, N.J. (inverted arch).” A third variation was embossed “B.&B.S.Co. NEWARK, N.J.” in a circle. A final example had ““B.&B.S.Co.” in an arch. He noted the maker as the Brewers’ & Bottlers’ Supply Co. An eBay example had a fifth variation – “B.&B.S.CO. / 4” horizontally across the center of the base (Figure 15). The eBay bottle was mouth blown and had a double-stamp on the base. As noted in the Adolphus Busch section, the technique that formed the double-stamp was in use from ca. 1895 to ca. 1914, well within the date range for this firm.



Figure 14 – Round, wide-mouth bottle (eBay)



Figure 15 – B&BSCO basemark (eBay)

User History

Brewers' & Bottlers' Supply Co., Newark, New Jersey (1902-1913)

The firm incorporated on August 14, 1902, with a capital of \$100,000.¹ By 1907, William F. Hoffmann was the president and treasurer, with A.L. McCulloch as vice president, C.R. Burnett as secretary and manager, and Joseph A. Carroll, also as a secretary. The firm offered a large variety of items, including “Bottles, Flasks. Demijohns, Labels, Caps, Corks, Stoppers, and much more.” The officers remained the same, apparently until the close of the company – last listed in the directories in 1913, which von Mechow (2013) accepted as the end of the business. Nonetheless, the corporation apparently paid its annual fee each year until 1918. Von Mechow (2013) noted that McCulloch and Carroll were also officers in the South Jersey Glass Works – the glass house that likely made the Brewers' & Bottlers' Supply Co. bottles. We have been unable to discover any other references to the South Jersey Glass Works – a good future task for a researcher in New Jersey.

BELLAIRE STAMPING CO. (ca. 1888)



Figure 16 – Bellaire Stamping Co. jar (Creswick 1987a:16)

Roller (1983:64) illustrated and discussed a jar embossed “BELLAIRE STAMPING CO. (arch) / BELLAIRE, OHIO (horizontal)” on one side. The jar was sealed with a milk-glass disk immerser lid, held in place by a zinc screw band. The immerser lid was embossed with four patent dates: November 23, 1875, September 12, 1876, November 30, 1880, and July 20, 1886. Roller noted that “only one example of this jar has been found so far” (Roller 1983:64). Creswick (1987a:16) illustrated the jar but added no information (Figures 16 & 17).

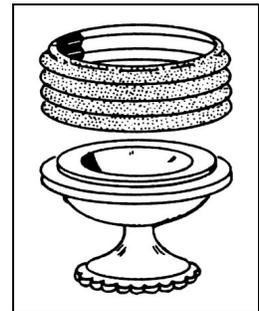


Figure 17 – Disk Immerser (Creswick 1987a:117)

¹ The 1904 Newark directory listed Souda & Graham as “props.” of the firm (von Mechow 2013). Since the company was a corporation, it could not have proprietors. It would instead have had officers – as were listed by 1907.

The Bellaire Stamping Co. wrote to mold maker Charles Yockel on May 2, 1888, requesting a mold embossed with this exact name. A June 9, 1887, ad from the firm illustrated Mason jars made for disk imerser closures. Roller speculated that the “BELLAIRE STAMPING CO.” jars were intended for the imerser closure (Roller 1983:64; 2011:100; Tyson 1971:7). Since these jar are very rare, they were probably only made ca. 1888. If these were not very popular, the firm may have ceased production of containers at this point.

User History

Bellaire Stamping Co., Bellaire, Ohio (1871-1892)

The Bellaire Stamping Co. opened at Bellaire, Ohio, in 1871. The company produced kerosene lamps as its main product. Because of its success, Bellaire Stamping decided to expand into the glass container business. The firm began advertising fruit jars by mid-1877 and leased the factory of the Bellaire Goblet Co., intending to begin production on May 1, 1888. Soon, the firm purchased the Buckeye Lantern Co. plant at Bellaire and expanded into Youngstown, Ohio, and Harvey, Illinois. Along with the relocation, the firm changed its name to the Columbian Enameling & Stamping Co. in honor of the upcoming (1893) Columbian Exposition. The Harvey factory burned to the ground on January 2, 1900, and the firm decided to move to Terre Haute, Indiana. The company opened its new plant on January 2, 1902 (Columbian Home Products 2011; Paquette 2002:56-57; Roller 2011:100; Sarkar 2007).

BESTOV (ca. 1900-1920)

According to the Dairy Antique Site (2013), the BESTOV Trademark was used by the Dairyman’s Supply Co. of Philadelphia. A discussion on the New Jersey Bottle Forum (2012) described a base with the mark as embossed in a three-leaf clover: “DAIRYMEN’S SUPPLY CO.,” with “TRADE / MARK” in the top leaf, “BESTOV” across the center and “PHILADELPHIA” below the stem. Another was embossed only BESTOV in the clover (Figure 18). It is unclear when the firm began using the BESTOV trademark



Figure 18 – Bestov logo (eBay)

on milk bottles – or which glass house actually made their bottles – but it is unlikely that these bottles were offered prior to ca. 1900.

User History

Dairyman's Supply Co., Philadelphia (1890-ca. 1920)

George R. Meloney opened the Dairymen's Supply Co. at 1906 Market St. in Philadelphia in 1890. His brother, William L. Meloney, joined him as a partner in 1895. By 1905, the brothers had warehouses at 1937 Market St. and 1938-40 Commerce St. as well as a factory and warehouse outside of the city limits. By that time, they advertised BESTOV milk coolers and apparently used the logo for other dairy supply products. By at least 1915, the main operation had moved to 1919 Market St. (*Chicago Dairy Produce* 1915:47; *Country Gentleman* 1905:351).

In late 1920 or early 1921, the firm became the Farmers & Dairymen's Supply Co., although we have been unable to discover whether the change indicated a merger or an expansion into the farm supply business. In February 1920, the *Chilton Tractor Journal* listed the new company as a "Recently Appointed Tractor Dealer or Distributor" for tractors. The change, however, was brief. The Farmers & Dairymen's Supply Co. merged with the Cherry-Bassett Co. and the Dairymen's Supply & Construction Co. in February 1922 to form the Cherry-Bassett Winner Co. (*Chilton Tractor Journal* 1921:44; *Milk Plant Monthly* 1922:46-47).

BFBCo

According to Toulouse (1971:85), this mark was used ca. 1910 by the Bell Fruit Bottle Co., Fairmount, Indiana. Toulouse noted that the company was said to have "preceded the Bell Bottle Co. of the same place. No documentary evidence is found. The mark was apparently found on a fruit jar." Toulouse (1969) made no mention of the mark in his earlier book, nor is the mark found in Roller (1983) or either book by Creswick (1987a; 1987b). We can find no historical evidence for a Bell Fruit Bottle Co. This is probably a bogus mark reported to (or mis-recorded by) Toulouse. It may be a mis-recording of BFGCo. (see the BFGCo section).

BGCo monogram

An eBay auction illustrated a BBGCo monogram that consisted of two stacked “Bs” superimposed over “Co” within a “G” (Figure 19). The monogram was embossed on the front of a Mason jar with “MASON’S (arch)” above it and “IMPROVED (horizontal)” below it. The jar had a “ground lip” (mouth-blown) and no markings on the base. This is actually the BGCo monogram illustrated in Roller (2011:336). According to Roller, the jars were probably made in Australia.



Figure 19 – BGCo monogram (eBay)

BIG PINE KEY GLASS WORKS (1967 to 1970)

An eBay auction offered a flask that was blown into a two-piece mold with a tooled finish. The flask was embossed “BIG PINE KEY GLASS WORKS” in large letters across the front (Figure 20). These bottles were apparently only made for the tourist trade.



Figure 20 – Big Pine Key Glassworks flask (eBay)

User History

Big Pine Key Glass Works, Big Pine Key, Florida (1967-1973)

According to Wilkinson (2010), “Les Cunningham and Dwight A. Pettit family, built and operated the Big Pine Key Glass Works on the west end of the Key 1967 to 1970. They made glass bottles, ash trays, paper weights, etc. and operated a gift store. After the Pettit’s [*sic*] left Les continued to operate the factory until his death in 1973.”

BIXBY (1860s-ca. 1920)



Figure 21 – Bixby blacking base (eBay)

Whitten (2013) illustrated this mark with the “X” much larger than the other four letters (Figure 21). Often, the name was accompanied by a one- to three-digit number embossed below it. The logo was used by S.M. Bixby & Co. on the bases of ink and blacking bottles. All of the examples we have seen were on mouth-

blown bottles, many of which were quite crude (Figures 22 & 23). It is likely that Bixby began embossing his name on bottles during the 1860s – possibly shortly after he opened his blacking and ink business in 1865 – and the firm continued to emboss the name on the bottles until 1920, when the F.F. Daily Corp. bought the business. It is unlikely that mouth-blown bottles were used later than 1920 (Whitten 2013).

User History

S.M. Bixby & Co. , New York City (1965-1920)

S.M. Bixby quit the shoe business in 1865 to manufacture and sell ink and shoe blacking (polish). Although the firm went bankrupt in 1877, Bixby reorganized under the same name the following year. Although Bixby died in 1912, the business continued until the F.F. Daily Corp. purchased the company in 1920. Although the Bixby brand of ink continued, we have not discovered when it was canceled (Whitten 2013).

B.K. (1815-1824)

According to Knittle (1927:441), the B.K. mark was used by Benedict Kimber. Benedict Kimber operated the Bridgeport Glass Works near Philadelphia from 1822 to 1824. The factory was in operation by Kimber and other owners from 1811 to 1847 (Hawkins 2009:307-308;



Figure 22 – Bixby blacking bottle (eBay)



Figure 23 – Side seam on blacking bottle (eBay)

McKearin & Wilson 1978:117-118; Toulouse 1971:86-87). McKearin & Wilson (1978:527) illustrated the flask (Figure 24).

Hawkins (2009:308) maintained that “it is likely that [Benedict Kimber] manufactured what is known today as historical flasks while operating the works. He is credited for a Washington and eagle flask bearing the initials B.K.” However, Hawkins further noted an interesting discrepancy: “Marked historical flasks attributed to Adams & Co. include Washington and eagle pint flasks with embossed WASHINGTON above a portrait of Washington and B.K. near the base on the opposite side found in yellow-green and emerald green (GI-13).” Unfortunately, Hawkins did not discuss *why* these flasks were attributed to Adams & Co.

Probable Manufacturer

Bridgeport Glass Works, Brownsville, Pennsylvania (1811-1847)

John Troth, Henry Minhart, and Isaac Van Hook built the Bridgeport Glass Works on the Monongahela River, near Brownsville in 1811 and began operations in October. Isaac Kimber and Jonah Cadwallader had joined the firm by 1816, but Benedict Kimber took over the factory, probably ca. 1822. N. & P. Schwerer operated the plant from 1824 to at least 1832, but Kimber appears to have maintained at least partial ownership during that period. The factory produced both window glass and hollowware (Hawkins 2009:307-308).

By 1837, A. & B. Kimber & Co. (Abraham and Benedict) had control of the factory and maintained the operation until 1847. Benedict Kimber also either bought or leased the Brownsville glass works at some point between 1843 and 1845. By 1850, however, Kimber had died of cholera (Hawkins 2009:308).

B&M (1815-1832)

McKearin and Wilson (1978:540-541, 631-632) illustrated and discussed two flasks marked with these initials. They suggested that Baker & Martin, Perryopolis, Pennsylvania, ,

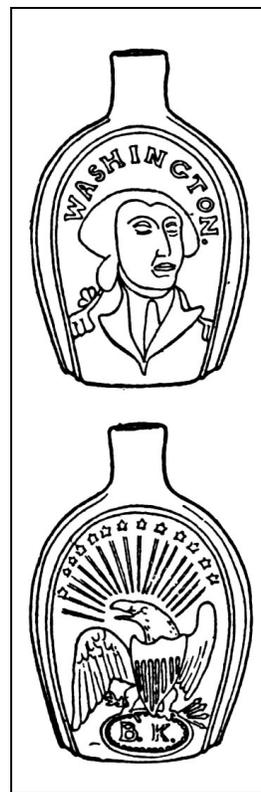


Figure 24 – BK flask (McKearin & Wilson 1978:527)

owners of the New Boston Glass Works, were the makers, an identification confirmed by Hawkins (2009:47). It is important to note, however, that one flask – with a portrait of “GENERAL JACKSON” on the front and an eagle on the back – was noted by McKearin & Wilson as “extremely rare.” The initials “B&M” were embossed below the feet of the eagle (Figure 25). Baker & Martin were in business between 1815 and 1832.

The other flask depicted a steam ship (oriented on its side when the flask stood upright) surrounded by “THE AMERICAN SYSTEM” on the front and a sheaf of wheat above the initials “B&M” on the back. McKearin & Wilson (1978:632) also described this flask as “extremely rare” and noted “one specimen recorded, 1965.” The researchers recorded other flasks of this type as having “B.P.&B.” embossed on the heel. Although they also noted the “B.P.&B.” flasks as “extremely rare,” it is obvious that they had actually seen (and drawn) an example. The “B&M” variation, however, was not illustrated in the book, and the authors had almost certainly received a report – rather than having personal observation. Most of these early flasks have very poor quality embossing. It is possible that the “B&M” mark may actually have been “B.P.&B.” See the section on Beck, Phillips and the Bakewells for a discussion of the “B.P.&B.” logo.



Figure 25 – B&M flask (McKearin and Wilson 1978:54)

User History

Baker & Martin, Perryopolis, Pennsylvania (1815-1832)

Although Thomas Burns and Thomas Hursey built the New Boston Glass Works at Perryopolis in 1815, Jonathan Baker and John F. Martin took over the operation shortly thereafter. From at least 1820, the plant became known as the Perryopolis Green Glass Works. Thomas Blakely and Joseph Barnett purchased the plant in 1819 but went bankrupt in “a few years” (Hawkins 2009:45).

After that, the record becomes both complex and confused. Baker & Martin likely built another factory at Cookstown (later Fayette City), Pennsylvania, during the period when Blakely & Barnett operated the New Boston Glass Works, and probably ran the plant until ca. 1830. Baker & Martin then apparently again acquired the Perryopolis factory and made glass until they formally dissolved their partnership on September 4, 1833. The plant probably ceased hollowware production by 1832. The factory remained in operation under a series of owners until 1872 (Hawkins 2009:46-47; McKearin and Wilson 1978:118).

Time Line (based on Hawkins 2009:45-47):

1815 – Burns & Hursey build New Boston Glass Works.
ca. 1815 – Baker & Martin take over.
1820 – Factory was also called Perryopolis Green Glass Works.
1819 – Blakely & Barnet acquire the plant.
ca. 1820-ca. 1830 – Baker & Martin factory at Cookstown.
ca. 1824 (after “a few years”) – Stewart & Irwin own plant.
“after 1830” – Baker & Martin back as owners.
1832 – New Boston Glass Works only makes window glass.
Sep 4, 1833 – Baker & Martin dissolve partnership.
1837 – Baker, Stewart & Co. operate New Boston Glass Works.
??? – “after Baker, Stewart & Co.” Henry B. Goucher operates the plant.
???-1859 – NBGW operated by “several different companies.”
1859 – Irwin sold his interest to Stewart.
1859-1872 – Oliver H.P. Swerer (or Schwerer).
1872 – atlas says owner is A. Stewart (almost certainly Andrew Stewart).

B.&M.S.Co. (1900-1920)

According to Fisher (2011), von Mechow (2013), and Whitten (2013), this mark was used by the Bottlers’ & Manufacturers’ Supply Co., Long Island City, New York (Figure 26). The company was in business from ca. 1900 to 1920. Whitten noted that the marking was “seen on heel of New York City blob beer bottle,” while von Mechow (2013) listed ten examples, all used by brewers in the New York City area. All examples had the mark on the reverse heel, but punctuation was absent in most reports.

Although the above sources claimed that the firm was not an actual glass producer, *Commoner and Glassworker* (1908b:1) reported that “the Brookfield Glass Co., Brooklyn, N. Y., and the Bottlers & Manufacturers Supply Co., of Ravenwood, expect to put their plants in operation about September 14th, or 20th [of 1908].” This suggests that the plant actually manufactured bottles. Since the firm became the Peerless Glass Co. – a known manufacturer of glass containers – it is logical that the earlier firm also made glass.



Figure 26 – B.&M.S.CO heelmark (eBay)

User History

Bottler’s & Manufacturer’s Supply Co., Long Island (1900- ca. 1920)

The Bottlers’ & Manufacturers’ Supply Co. was in business by August 1900 at Long Island, New York. John Ohmeis was the president by at least 1904, with Richard E. Schroder as secretary and C.E. Heerlein as manager. The plant made “beer bottles, liquor and packers’ ware” at a single continuous tank with eight rings (*American Glass Review* 1934:159; von Mechow 2013).

John Ohmeis remained president through most of the life of the corporation, with Richard E. Schroder as secretary and William Lighte as treasurer from at least 1913 to at least 1918. The plant added a second tank in 1911 for a total of 20 operational rings. The firm reorganized as the Peerless Glass Co. in late 1919 or early 1920 (*Directory of Directors Co.* 1913:386, 479, 571; 1918:534; Toulouse 1971:418). See Other P section for more on Peerless.

BO

We have only seen a couple of examples of this mark embossed on the bases of light-green, square bottle with a packer finish. Our example is mouth blown but has no other diagnostic markings, except for “BO” embossed in a double



Figure 27 – BO logo

stamp on the base (Figures 27 & 28). Although a very few were made earlier, the vast majority of double-stamped basemarks are on bottles made during the ca. 1895-1914 period. These initials probably represent a food packer or distributor rather than a manufacturer.

BOC

This mark was embossed on at least one export beer bottle made during the 1885-1890s period. The bottle, in the David Whitten collection, had a Baltimore Loop finish and was embossed “PAT (arch) / BOC (horizontal) / 85 (inverted arch)” on the base (). The patent date is for the Baltimore Loop finish.

William Painter applied for a patent for a “Bottle-Stopper” on June 5, 1885, and received Patent No. 327,099 on September 29 of that year. He assigned half of rights to Lewis R. Keiser, his employer at the time (Murrill & Keiser). He went on to found the Bottle Seal Co. in 1885 and the Crown Cork & Seal Co. in 1893. None of the people or firms his worked with or for had “BOC” initials (Lockhart et al. 2014). Figure 29 is a comparison of the “BOC” basemark with a typical “D.O.C.” basemark. “DOC” logos varied dramatically in size and lettering depending on the individual engraver.

Similarly, we have been unable to find any bottler with “BOC” initials; the mark was probably an engraver’s error for the DOC logo used by D.O. Cunningham & Co. Cunningham used the “DOC” logo (with or without punctuation) from the inception of his glass house in 1880 to some point in the early 20th century, possibly as late as 1931 (Lockhart et al. 2005).



Figure 28 – Bottle with BO mark



Figure 29 – BOC basemark compared with DOC logo (David Whitten collection and NPSWACC)

Whitten disputed this identification and noted his belief “that this does stand for an obscure glass company (or some type of bottling or brewing firm?) with those corresponding initials. The embossed lettering is very strong and bold on this bottle.” While we note Whitten’s contention, many errors on bottles were made in strong embossing. At the time, people ordered molds in handwritten letters. In most cases, the directions for embossing was poor -- at best. In some of the letters to Charles Yockel, initials were written in cursive – often letters with flares. A “D” with a curlicue on the bottom or top could be mistaken for a “B” in a letter.

Dozens of similar errors appear on bases, plates, and sides of bottles – into the 1940s. Quality control at the factories was poor or non-existent; although, a glass house owner would periodically test bottles to see how well they were tempered. A baseplate could have been used for months before the error was discovered. To send it back to the mold cutter – usually not located in the glass houses, themselves, until the late 1890s – meant pulling that mold out of production until the baseplate could be returned to the mold shop, re-cut, and sent back. Since the molds were the most expensive part of the process, most glass houses or bottlers just lived with the errors and made sure they were corrected on the next bottle. The “BOC” base is likely just such an error.

BODE (1882-1905)



Figure 30 – BODE heelmark (David Whitten collection)

At least one variation of a Hutchinson bottle was embossed BODE on the front heel (Figure 30). Although this had the general appearance of a manufacturer’s mark (located at the heel – thin-line

embossing), Bode was not a glass house – or even a jobber. This was the mark of Gustav A. Bode, a Chicago flavoring and extracts firm that shipped all over the U.S. Ron Fowler (personal communication, 11/10/2011) suggested that Bode “utilized [the Hutchinson bottles] as a way to send samples of syrups and/or extracts to potential bottler customers who sent for samples.” Fowler also noted that there were a number of other Hutchinson bottles with the name BODE, although



Figure 31 – G.A. Bode’s Extract bottle (eBay)

most did not masquerade as a manufacturer's mark (Figure 31). The firm was in business from at least 1890 to December 12, 1903, when the firm was reorganized as the Chicago Extract Mfg. Co. (*American Carbonator and American Bottler* 1904:76; von Mechow 2013; Whitten 2013). Von Mechow (2013) also noted that Bode used a "GAB" logo, also on the back heel of a bottle. Hutchbook (Fowler 2013) listed two bottles with "BODE" logos and three embossed with "GAB."



Figure 32 – BODE heelmark (Farnsworth & Walthall 2011:228)



Figure 33 – E.Y. Cronk bottles (Farnsworth & Walthall 2011:228)

Farnsworth & Walthall (2011:59, 228-229), however, provided a different dimension to the study of the bottles and the firm. They illustrated two variations of bottles, both embossed "E.Y. CRONK / ROOT BEER / CHICAGO" on the front body and "BODE" on the heel (Figures 32 & 33). The bottles were made in cylindrical soda shapes, one with a squared (but not tapered) "blob" finish, the other with a rounded tapered finish. Cronk was listed in the city directories as a root beer producer from 1879 to 1880, and the Chicago branch was closed by 1883. Although we have not found any historical references to Bode earlier than 1890, he must have been in business by at least 1882 for his name to appear on these bottles. It is also apparent that Bode acted as a jobber in bottles to his customers in addition to his extract business.

BOLEY M'F'G Co. (ca. 1890-ca. 1914)

The Boley Mfg. Co. used a variety of different logos to identify its bottles. These appear mostly on beer bottles and Hutchinson bottles. Von Mechow (2013) included marks embossed on the bases of blob-top beer bottles and Hutchinson bottles in at least three configurations:

1. BOLEY MFG. CO. (arch) / N.Y. (inverted arch)
2. BOLEY MFG. CO. (arch) / New York (inverted arch)
3. BOLEY MFG. CO. (arch) / MADE BY (horizontal) / N.Y. (inverted arch)



Figure 34 – Typical Boley base (eBay)

The first configuration (N.Y. in an inverted arch) was by far the most common, and it frequently had B, 1, 2, 3, 6, 9, or a “BC monogram” in the center of the base (Figures 34 & 35). Von Mechow recorded “MFG” with and without apostrophes (“MF’G” “M’F’G”) and “NY” with and without punctuation. Both of those may reflect the reports he received more than actual variation. Several bottles were

listed only as “BOLEY MFG. CO. N.Y.” – but those were probably the same as the first configuration listed above.

The second and third variations on the list were each only on one bottle. In von Mechow’s sample of 20 bottles, most were used by companies in New York, with single examples from New Hampshire, New Jersey, and Georgia.



Figure 35 – Boley beer bottle (eBay)



Figure 36 – Boley Mfg. Co. Hutchinson bottle (Glass Works Auction)

Hutchbook (Fowler 2013) listed 15 variations of Hutchinson bottles, all with the “BOLEY MFG. CO. (arch) / N.Y. (inverted arch)” configuration or the name listed with no line break. Most of these had a “B” in the center of the base, but none had numbers. Hutchbook also listed a bottle that was embossed “THE BOLEY MF’G CO (arch) / BOTTLES / & (horizontal) / DEMIJOHNS (inverted arch) / 414 WEST 14TH ST / N.Y. (horizontal)” all in a horseshoe plate, with “REGISTERED” below the plate (Figure 36) – as well as slight variations (including “BOLEY MANUFACTURING CO.” Each of these included the typical Boley basemark.



Figure 37 – B BOLEY base (eBay)

One whiskey bottle offered on eBay is of interest. The base was embossed “B BOLEY” horizontally across the center (Figures 37 & 38). This was probably an earlier bottle, made prior to the 1903 incorporation of the firm (see below). The bottles with the Boley Mfg. Co. name were probably made after the incorporation, from 1903 to ca. 1916.



Figure 38 – Boley whiskey bottle (eBay)

Manufacturer History

Boley Mfg. Co., New York, New York (at least 1890-1916 or later)

Boley Mfg. Co., Olean, New York (ca. 1906?-1907)

According to von Mechow (2013):

Benjamin Boley was involved selling bottles by at least 1890 at 96 S. 5th av. & 90 Sheriff and was president of this company as listed in a [*sic*] 1897 Brooklyn Directory at the Cannon Street address. He was still involved in selling bottles in 1916. Reported directory lists span 1898 to 1911.² The office was located at 52 Cannon Street in New York City.

It is possible that Boley was a jobber in his initial venture. He applied for a patent for a “Bottle-Stopper” on October 23, 1893, and received Patent No. 521,779 on June 26, 1894. The patent was for an improvement on Karl Hutter’s version of the Lightning stopper and used a very similar wire-bail arrangement. The main difference, however, was a placement of the wire inside the stopper that would prevent the side motion of the stopper and create a more effective

² The collector who reported the directory search only had access to issues as late as 1911. This does not indicate that the plant closed at that time.

seal (Figure 39). This invention may have catapulted Boley from being a jobber to becoming an actual manufacturer.

According to other sources, however, (*Commoner and Glassworker* 1907:7; 1908a:2; *Illustrated Glass & Pottery World* 1903:16; Mayer 1908:13), the firm was incorporated by Frederick Lutz, J.A. Griffin, and Benj. Boley in 1903³ with a capital of \$30,000. In 1905, the plant made beer bottles. Boley was the president in 1906, with Griffin as secretary, and Lutz only listed as a director (Trow Directory 1906:85; Thomas Publishing Co. 1905:104).

In December 1905, Boley was “commencing construction of a large glass works at Olean N.Y.” (*Engineering Review* 1905:27). The plant was probably open sometime in 1906 and made beer, soda, wine, brandy, packers’ and preservers’ ware, but the New York City factory still only listed beer bottles. The New York plant burned on January 1, 1907, causing ca. \$25,000 in damages (Smith 2010; Thomas Publishing Co. 1907:159).

By 1905, a company in Olean had installed “seven machines, making vaselines, inks, shoe polish and pint and half pint milks” (*National Glass Budget* 1912:1). This was one of only five factories in the United States to make milk bottles by machine in 1905. The products listed, however, were a much better fit for the Acme Glass Co. (see the Acme section for more information).

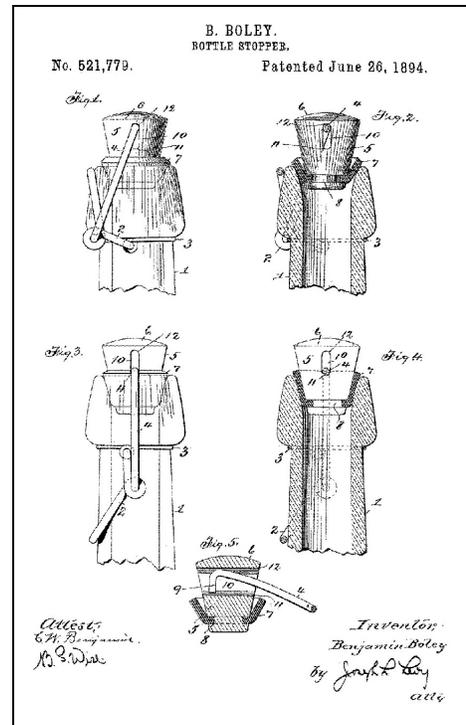
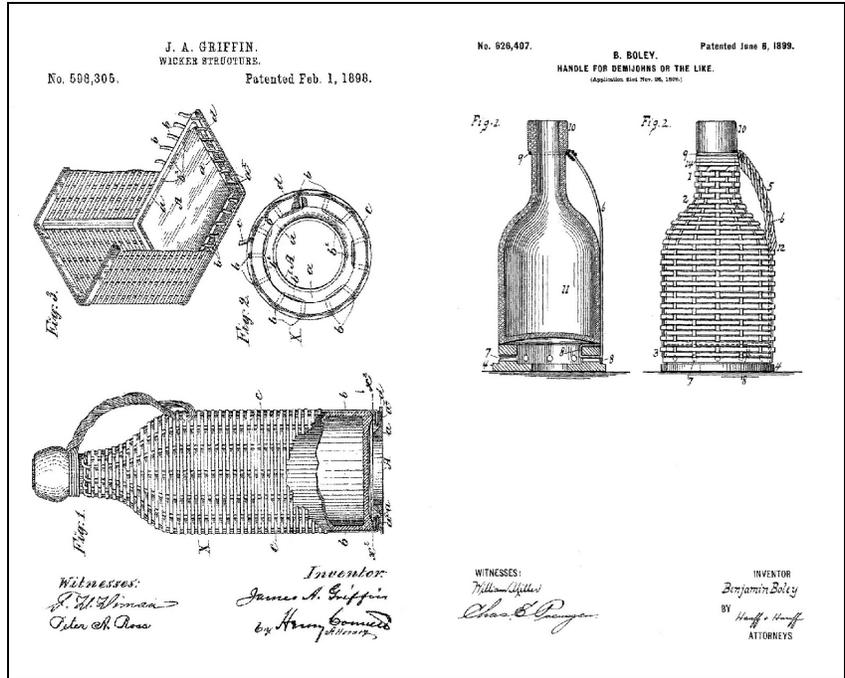


Figure 39 – Boley’s 1894 patent

³ It is possible that both sources are correct. The 1903 incorporation may have been a reorganization. Since von Mechow used Brooklyn city directories as his source, there is little doubt that Boley was in the glass business at some level by 1890. However, the contemporary sources in the glass journals are unlikely to have been completely incorrect either. *Commoner & Glassworker* erroneously called the business the Boley Glass Co.

The Olean plant made demijohns in the 1907-1908 period, including wicker wrapping, probably to James A. Griffin's 1898 patent (No. 598,305) and Boley's 1899 patent (No. 626,407). Griffin assigned half the rights of his patent to Boley (Figure 40). The Olean factory was "for sale or rent" in July 1908 (*Commoner and Glassworker* 1908a:2),



setting an almost certain date of 1908 for the end of production at that location, even though the Olean factory remained listed in the Thomas Register in 1909 (Thomas Publishing Co. 1909:201).

By 1912, only the New York City listing remained, and the plant was still enumerated as making beer bottles until at least 1921 (Thomas Publishing Co. 1912:480; 1921:781). The company was no longer listed in 1927, the next factory list in our possession. According to von Mechow (2013), the plant closed in 1916. With the specter of Prohibition looming on the horizon, Boley – as a maker of beer bottles – could probably not have existed much later.

BPK / GW (1967 to 1970)

An eBay auction reported this mark as “a triangular stamp pressed into the molten glass . . . reads BPK at the top and GW at the base of the triangle.” The Big Pine Key Glass Works also made flasks, but this mark may have only been used on paper weights – as reported in the auction. Also see entry on Big Pine Key above.

THE Brelle JAR (1913-1916)

Toulouse (1969:52) noted two variations of this jar, one embossed “Brelle (script with an underlining “tail” / JAR,” the other preceded by the word “THE.” Lids were embossed “THE BRELLE FRUIT JAR MFG. Co (arch) / PAT OCT 20 / 1912 (both horizontal) / SAN JOSE, CAL. (inverted arch). He dated the jars ca. 1913-1916. Roller (1983:74) only mentioned the variation with “THE” and noted that another had “THE Brelle JAR in a circular plate.” He dated the jar ca. 1914-1916. Creswick (1987b:22) illustrated the jar and agreed with Roller’s two variations – but followed the Toulouse dates (Figure 41). Coulson (2007:1) cited Caniff as stating that the jars solarize to an amethyst color. The only known jar manufactured by the company was the one patented in 1912 (see other Brelle patents in the Manufacturer History section below).

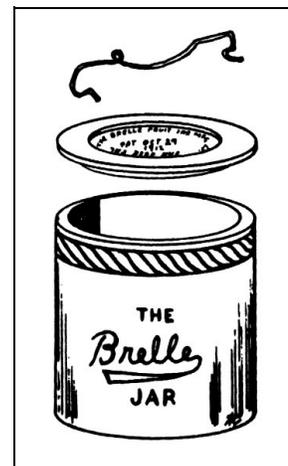


Figure 41 – The Brelle Jar (Creswick 1987a:22)

Manufacturer History

Brelle Fruit Jar Mfg. Co., San Jose, California (1913-1916)

The Brelle Automatic Sealer Co. filed for incorporation with the State of California on August 12, 1912, and received its charter on May 13, 1913. With offices in the Brelle Building, Ferndale, California, the company’s purpose was to reproduce and sell the jar invented by Frank G. Brelle. The company erected a plant at San Jose in 1913 and changed its name to the Brelle Fruit Jar Manufacturing Co. by December 9 (Edeline 1996; Roller 1983:74).

Frank G. Brelle was a resident of Ferndale by at least April 1894 and was a “hardware man.” Brelle built a new hardware store and tin shop in 1894, and that structure was henceforth apparently known as the Brelle Building with Brelle’s offices at the rear. Brelle fell out of a second-story window as the newest Brelle Building was being constructed in 1898. He broke his arm and was shaken up but was otherwise unharmed. Brelle seems to have been constantly engaged in various enterprises, including a tailor shop and a cleaning and pressing establishment (Edeline 1996).

On April 30, 1910, while living at San Jose, California, Brelle filed for his first patent for a “Fruit-Jar” (No. 983,423). The patent was issued on February 7, 1911. According to Roller (1983:74), “In 1910 and 1911, he tried to interest Ball Brothers Glass Mfg. Co. and Hemingray Glass Co., both of Muncie, Indiana, in making sample jars for him, with no success.” Back in Ferndale, Brelle filed for another patent for an updated variation of the jar on January 22, 1912, and received Patent No. 1,042,390 on October 29 of that year (Figure 42).

On June 21, 1913, Brelle filed for yet another patent, this time for a “Machine for Cutting Rubber Gaskets.” Although the machine was intended to make fruit jar gaskets, the type it produced were flat rubber rings or slightly bent ones, not those that were round in cross section, like the ones required to seal his own fruit jars designs. Brelle received Patent No. 1,107,404 on August 18, 1914. Brelle designed his final fruit jar in 1914 and applied for a patent on August 5. This jar was quite different with a lid held in place by “holding clips,” two wire clamps that pressed into two grooves in the upper sides of the shoulder-less jar. He was issued Patent No. 1,142,231 on June 8, 1915.

Brelle’s plant began production in late March or early April 1914. The last listing for the plant was in 1916, when the factory used a single continuous tank with seven rings to make green fruits and packers (Roller 1983:74; Toulouse 1971:93). Actual jars, however, have only been found in colorless glass that solarizes to an amethyst tint (Coulson 2007:1; Roller 1983:74). The drawing in Creswick (1987b:32) showed the jar patented in 1912, apparently the only Brelle container actually produced.

B.R.G.CO. (1905-ca. 1906)

An eBay auction offered a strap-sided whiskey flask embossed on the base with “B.R.G. CO.” The front was embossed “WARRANTED, FULL QUART” at the shoulder and on the

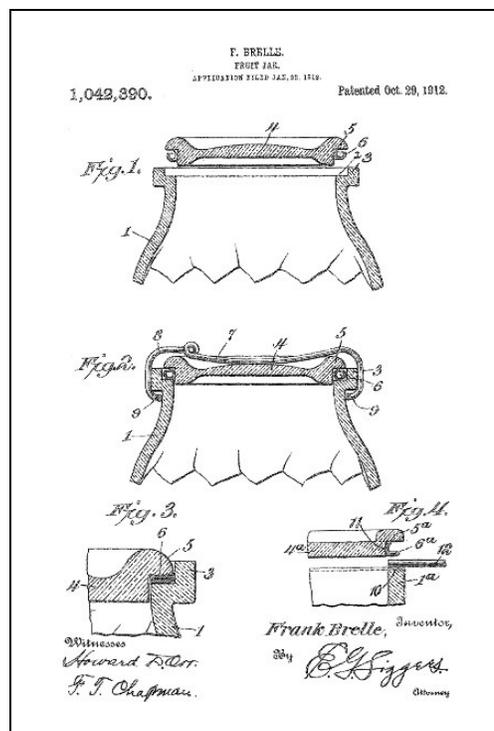


Figure 42 – Brelle’s 1912 patent

front body, inside a round plate with “R.L. CHRISTIAN & CO., RICHMOND, VA.” The flask had a cup base, a two-part (double-ring) finish, and measured 10" tall and 4 5/8" across at the shoulder.



Figure 43 – B.R.G.CO. basemark

Other eBay bottles with B.R.G.CO. basemarks included an apothecary bottle, a round packer, and a crown-finished soda bottle, light blue in color, made for a Wisconsin bottler. The soda bottle was machine made. The “o” in “Co” may be upper or lower case. Our final example left the manufacturer in no doubt. This

was a medicinal-style bottle embossed “SAUER’S EXTRACTS” on two side panels and “B.R.G.CO.” on the base (Figures 43 & 44). Grant (2003:4) noted that B.R.G.CO.



Figure 44 – Sauer’s Extract bottle

was used by the Blair-Ruehl Glass Co. and illustrated an example. Both Blair-Ruehl and Sauer’s Extracts were located at Richmond, Virginia. Also see the discussion of Sauer’s Extract bottles in the American Glass Works – Richmond section.

Manufacturer History

Blair-Ruehl Glass Co., Richmond, Virginia (1905-ca. 1911)

Blair Glass Co., Manchester, Virginia (ca. 1906-ca. 1910)

The Blair-Ruehl Glass Co. incorporated on June 29, 1905. Percy S. Boshier was the president, with J. Harrison Blair as vice president and George O. Ruehl as secretary. The corporation was capitalized at \$50,000 and planned to make bottles at a plant it was building in Richmond, Virginia. The corporate charter was amended on July 29 of that year. The plant was completed later that year and had a single continuous tank with five rings (Roller 1998b; Secretary of the Commonwealth 1905:260).

Grant (1989:89) listed the Blair-Ruehl Glass Co. in Richmond, Virginia, in 1906, followed by the Blair Glass Co. in 1908 and 1909, and finally the Blair Mfg. Co., Inc., in 1911, all at 21st and Stockton. A short 1909 article about George O. Ruehl noted that he was formerly “of the Blair-Ruehl Glass Co., Manchester, Va.” (*Commoner and Glassworker* 1909:1).

The *Commoner and Glassworker* was a bit confused. Apparently, Ruehl had a falling out with the other principals of the company and left the firm. In 1907, the Blair Glass Co. had opened in Manchester, Virginia, with Boshier as president, J.D. (probably J. Harrison) Blair as vice president, A. Blair as secretary, and A. Bowen as manager. The plant had two continuous tanks with ten rings. The number of rings increased to 12 by 1910, the last listing we have found for the plant. A letterhead advertised druggists’ chemists’ and perfumers’ glassware (Roller 1998c)

“BRILLIANTINE”

According to Peterson (1968:41) this mark was registered by the Jefferis Glass Co., Philadelphia,⁴ Pennsylvania, for use on blown ware in 1896. BRILLIANTINE (Trademark No. 31,539) was filed by the “Jefferis Glass Works” on February 14, 1898. The actual trade mark document noted that the mark had been in use since May 1, 1896, and that the mark “is usually placed, either by a label or stencil, on the package containing the goods, but is sometimes blown into the bottles or other vessels or receptacles.” The registration further stated that the “style of lettering is unimportant.” See JGCO section for information about the company. We have not seen an example of this mark on a bottle. This should not be confused with Brilliantine hair tonic, sold in the 1920s.

BROOKE or BROOKE CO.

According the Dairy Antique site (2013), John B. Brooke embossed “BROOKE” on the bottles he sold. See the John B. Brooke section for more details.

⁴ This probably indicates that the main business office for Jefferis was in Philadelphia; the factory was in Fairton, New Jersey.

BROOKLYN GLASS BOTTLE WORKS (1831-1868)

We have recorded cylinder whiskey bottles offered for sale on eBay and other auction websites that were embossed “BROOKLYN GLASS BOTTLE WORKS” in a circle on a Rickett’s type mold on their bases (Figure 45). Each bottle had a concave base inside the Rickett’s plate with a dot or mamelon at the center. Some bottles were olive in color, others amber. Each appears to have been blown into a dip mold with two hinged top leaves. The shoulders on some were embossed “PATENT” – although others had no shoulder embossing. Each was topped with a two-part, applied “brandy” finish.

Whitten (2013) noted: “From the type and general style of bottle which carries the mark (early cylinder whiskey), it looks like the company was probably in operation during the 1860s or 1870s.” Some of these bottles were found at the excavation of the shipwreck of the S.S. Republic, sunk in October 1865 (Gerth & Lindsey 2011:1, 16).

Manufacturer History

Brooklyn Glass Bottle Works, Brooklyn (1831-1868)

McKearin and Wilson (1978:134) discussed what they called the “Brooklyn Glass Works.” The plant was in an area of New Jersey apparently called Seven Causeways, the Brooklyn. John Marshall and Frederick Stanger built a “bottle glasshouse” at the site, although the firm changed owners several times. The factory was apparently destroyed by fire in 1856 but was rebuilt in 1857 and remained in operation until 1868. Although the plant certainly made bottles, the researchers did not specifically mention liquor containers.

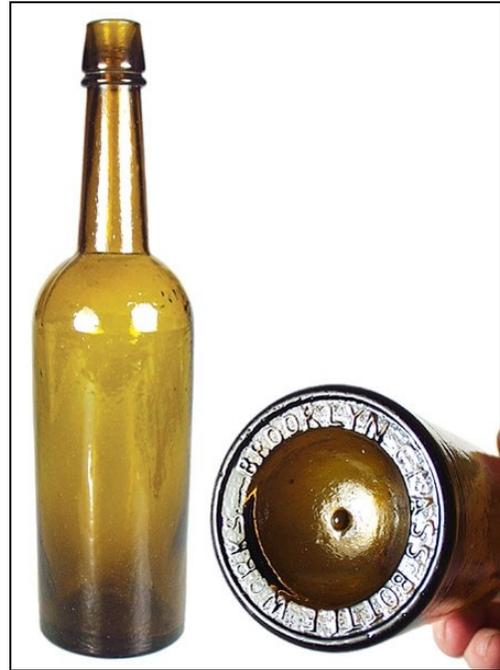


Figure 45 – Brooklyn Glass Bottle Works (Glass Works Auction)

Thomas W. Stanger established a new plant nearby between 1848 and 1850, and this became known as the New Brooklyn Glass Works. This one remained in business until 1876. This plant made calabash bottles for liquor, but it was probably called the Isabella Glassworks at some point (McKearin & Wilson 1978:134-135). See the Isabella Glassworks in the Other I file.

B.&S.

According to Knittle (1927:441), the B.&S. mark was used by either Boston & Sandwich or Beatty & Stillman of Steubenville, Ohio. Toulouse (1971:95-97) researched the two companies (from secondary sources) to provide additional information (see Company Histories below). Beatty & Stillman apparently made tableware, making them an unlikely choice.

McKearin & McKearin (1941:597) noted that Boston & Sandwich exhibited “6 bottles, and 1 flask” at the Franklin Institute in 1831. While McKearin & Wilson (1978:98) acknowledged that “flasks were blown there, for ‘flasks’ were entered several times in Deming Jarves’s account book of 1825,” they made no mention that we can find of a “B.&S.” logo. This may be a bogus mark. If real, however, Boston & Sandwich would be a good candidate.

Histories of Possible Makers

Beatty & Stillman, Steubenville, Ohio (1845-1880)

Joseph Beatty and Edward Stillman bought the abandoned Kilgore & Hanna factory in 1845 but sold it to David and Neal Hull the following year. Thus, Beatty & Stillman were only in business for a single year. Toulouse noted that the plant made tumblers and goblets, although Van Rensselaer claimed the factory made “all kinds of glassware.” After a series of owners, Joseph’s younger brother, Alexander, gained control of the company in 1852. The business moved to Findlay, Ohio, in 1880 (Iwen 2006:13; Knittle 1927:385-386; McKearin & McKearin 1941:599; Roller 1998a; Toulouse 1971:95; Van Rensselaer 1969:227).

Roller (1998a) added that the plant was listed as flint glass manufacturers and dealers in queensware in 1850. It was thus an unlikely candidate for the B&S mark on bottles.

Boston & Sandwich Mfg. Co., Sandwich, Massachusetts (1825-1888)

Deming Jarvis operated the Sandwich Mfg. Co. at Sandwich, Massachusetts, from July 4, 1825, to April 3, 1826. He joined with Henry Rice, Andrew T. Hall, and Edmund Monroe on February 22, 1826, to form the Boston & Sandwich Mfg. Co. The factory made tableware, lamps, glass knobs, and other pressed goods – as well as a few flasks and bottles. The plant closed on January 1, 1888 (McKearin & McKearin 1941:597).

THE BURLINGTON

Toulouse (1969:55; 1971:97) and Roller (1983:78) each listed a single variation of a jar embossed “THE BURLINGTON” on the front with “B.G.Co.” below it. Both attributed the jars to the Burlington Glass Works, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. For more discussion, see the Belleville Glass Co. section.

BUSHWICK GLASS WORKS (1868-1898)

The Glassworks Auctions offered an amber, cylinder whiskey bottle with a two-part finish and “PATENT” embossed on the shoulder. The base had a Rickett’s-style plate embossed “BUSHWICK GLASS WORKS” in a circle around a concave center with a large dot or mamelon in the middle (Figure 46). The Bushwick Glass Works was in business between 1868 and 1898, so the bottle must have been made within that period – probably during the first decade.

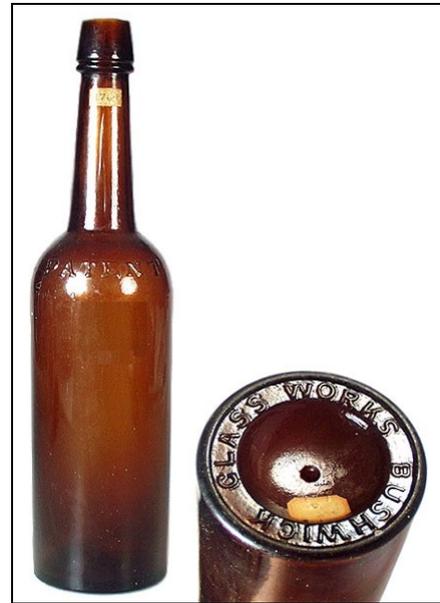


Figure 46 – Bushwick Glass Works (Glass Works Auction)

Manufacturer History

Bushwick Flint Glass Works, Brooklyn (1868-1898)

James M. and William Brookfield purchased the Bushwick Flint Glass Works in 1868 (Lutz 1997-2006; McDougalds 1990:24; McKearin and McKearin 1941:611; Woodward 1988:5). The Brookfields may have been in business earlier – either at the Bushwick plant or

somewhere else. The Brookfields purchased the Cauvet patent for threaded insulators, apparently shortly after the inventor patented his design in 1865. Brookfield continued to manufacture insulators until the plant closed (Milholland 1967:56, 58).

In 1875, Bushwick placed an ad in *China, Glass and Lamps* that called the plant the Bushwick Glass Works and noted a manufacture of “Vials, Bottles, Carboys, Demijohns, Insulators, etc.” (Figure 47). On August 9, 1893, the firm placed another ad in *China, Glass and Lamps* that called the company the “manufacturer of bottles, carboys, battery jars, insulators, etc.” and promised “strict attention to private molds.” The plant produced “every description of green and amber glass made to order” (Stahr 1997:36). Jones (1968:10-11) and Putnam (1965) noted identical ads dated 1892 and 1896. The Brookfields restructured and incorporated as the Brookfield Glass Co. in 1898 (Ayres et al. 1980; McDougalds 1990:24; Woodward 1988:5). See the Binghamton Glass Co. section for a history of Brookfield Glass.

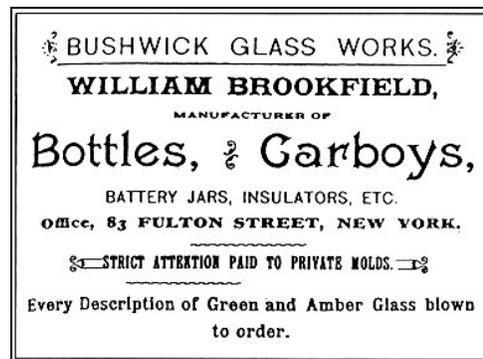


Figure 47 – Bushwick Glass Works ad (*China, Glass and Lamps* 1875)

B&W (1827-1829)

Knittle (1927:441) identified the “B.&W.” mark as belonging to Bryce & Walker. A much more likely identification is Burgin & Wood. See the Burgin & Sons section for more information.

B.W.&Co. (1812-1822)

Knittle (1927:441) claimed that Beltzhoover, Wendt & Co. used the B.W.&Co. mark. Toulouse (1971:98) also attributed the mark to Beltzhoover, Wendt & Co., in business from 1812 to 1822. Hawkins (2009:76-77), however, suggested that Bryce, Walker & Co., a much later firm (1865-1882), might be a better choice, although he knew of no actual containers with the mark. He explained, “There are few, if any, known Pittsburgh glasshouse marks that date from the Beltzhoover, Wendt & Co period (1812 to 1822).”

We could not find an example of this mark in McKearin and Wilson (1978), the most complete collection of flasks in print. Because Hawkins has not discovered an example, and there is none in McKearin and Wilson, it is possible that “B.W.&Co.” was a misreading or mis-recording for “B&M”; “B&W”; or some other logo. The embossing on many (most?) early flasks was very indistinct.



Figure 48 – BW&Co basemark (eBay)

In addition, there was a firm in London that used a basemark of “BW&C^o (arch) • / W (in a rectangle with chamfered corners) / LONDON (inverted arch) •” (Figure 48). Toulouse (1971:529; 586) identified the Rectangle-W logo as belonging to the Wood Bros. Glass Co., Ltd., Barnsley, Yorkshire, England. He discussed the logo but noted “Dates not stated” in relation to it. He claimed that the Wood Bros. Glass Co. was operating from 1851-1905, followed by a reorganization that created the Wood Bros. Glass Co., Ltd. – which remained in business at least until the publication of his book in 1971.

The initials, however, belonged to Burroughs Wellcome & Co. at Snow Hill, London. This is confirmed by another bottle embossed “SNOW HILL, BW & CO, LONDON” on the base – although the eBay seller did not include a photo of the base. Obviously, the Wood Bros. made some of the Burroughs, Wellcome & Co. bottles. Based on the available data, the only bottles we can find with the “B.W.&Co.” mark are those attributed to the English company.

Possible Maker/User Histories

Beltzhoover, Wendt & Co., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (1812-ca. 1822)

It is probable that Ensell, Wendt & Co. (or the Sydney Glass Co.) built the Birmingham Glass Works in 1810.⁵ About 1812, the firm reorganized as Beltzhoover, Wendt & Co., with Daniel Beltzhoover, George Sutton, and John K. McNickle financing the firm, while Edward

⁵ In discussing Beltzhoover, Wendt & Co. and Bryce, Walker & Co., Toulouse (1971:98) noted that “there is confusion all around over the proper order in the names of both companies.”

Ensell, Sr., Edward Ensell, Jr., Frederick Wendt, Charles Ihmsen, and Peter Hane conducted the actual operation of the plant. During the 1810-1812 period, there was also a firm called Ihmsen, Wendt & Co., and Belthoover, Wendt & Co. may reflect a combination of the two earlier companies (Hawkins 2009:75-76). The Ensells, however, did not join the firm until 1819.

It is likely that the original works, built in 1810, only made window glass. Beltzhoover, Wendt & Co. built a second plant in 1812, and this one probably made all of the hollowware. In 1822, another reorganization resulted in Sutton, Wendt & Co., although the firm had become Wendt & Ensell the following year. Charles Ihmsen was still a part of this group until his death in 1828. His son, Christian Ihmsen, replaced him, and the younger Ihmsen apparently purchased the other interests in 1836 (Hawkins 2009:76; McKearin & Wilson 1978:152). See the section on the Ihmsen family for more information

Bryce, Walker & Co., Birmingham District, Pittsburgh (1865-1886)

The Bryce family operated a series of glass houses at Pittsburgh, virtually completely devoted to the manufacture of tableware. A series of researchers (Knittle 1927:325; 441; McKearin & McKearin 1941:607; Toulouse 1971:98; Van Rensselaer 1969:187) have addressed the history of the firm, but Hawkins (2009:91-101) provided the most complete data, and we have elected to use his chronology:

Bryce, McKee & Co. (1850-1854)

Bryce, Richards, & Co. (1854-1865)

Bryce, Walker & Co. (1865-1882)

Bryce Brothers (1882-1891)

Factory B, United States Glass Co. (1891-??)

Bryce Brothers (1893-1897)

Bryce Brothers Co. (1897-1965)

Bryce, Higbee & Co. (1878-1907) [separate from the rest of the Bryce chronology]

The only segment of the Bryce firms of interest in this research is Bryce, Walker & Co. When Bryce, Richards & Co. dissolved in 1865, James Bryce, along with his brothers, Robert and John, and Andrew and John Bryce (sons of James) recruited William Walker, a local banker,

to join the company. Walker, obviously, was to provide financial backing, while the Bryce family put to work its glass-making skills. The factory covered parts of two adjacent blocks along 21st St. (Railroad Ave.). The combined plants ran three furnaces with 32 pots, making tableware, lamp globes, crystal perfume bottles, other bottles, and novelties. In 1882, Walker sold his interests to the Bryce family (Hawkins 2009:100-101).

Toulouse (1971:98) mentioned that only Knittle listed this firm as Bryce & Walker. He noted that the name was Bryce, Walker & Co. Knittle (1927:325; 441), however, did not actually claim Bryce & Walker as one of the Bryce companies in her history section, although she did note that name in conjunction with marks.

Burroughs, Wellcome & Co., London (1883-1995)

At some point after 1843, John Wyeth & Co. began making better quality compressed pills using a technique developed and patented by William Brockedon in 1843. This opened up modern pharmaceutical production, and Wyeth began exporting pills – notably to England. Silas Burroughs began importing and selling such pharmaceuticals as Wyeth’s sole agent in London in 1878. Burroughs invited Henry Wellcome to join the business the following year (Bailey 2008).



Figure 49 – Burroughs, Wellcome & Co., 1880 (Bailey 2008)

Burroughs obtained the contract from McKesson & Robins for distribution of their products in Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia, and the East Indies, and Wellcome officially joined the firm on September 27, 1880. Burroughs, Wellcome & Co. set up its home office at Snow Hill, London, that year (Figure 49). The firm quickly tired of Britain’s high import duty on drugs and purchased a factory at Bell Lane Wharf in Wandsworth in 1883. They installed machinery bought from Wyeth in the U.S. The firm was now a producer (Bailey 2008).

When Burroughs died in 1895, Wellcome embarked on a period of expansion that continued until World War I. After the war, the company again flourished and eventually

merged with Galaxo, Inc. in 1995 to form Galaxo Wellcome. Galaxo Wellcome merged with SmithKline Beecham on January 17, 2000 and remains in business in 2013 (Wikipedia 2013).

Discussion and Conclusions

In this chapter, all of the discussion about the various logos and initials is in the actual marks section. We were able to discover the users of most of these mark, but a few remain mysteries.

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