

Beck, Phillips – the Bakewells – and the Brunswick Pharmacal Co.

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Although none were common, several different varieties of bottles and jars were embossed with forms of a “B.P.” logo. These were mostly made during the mid-19th through early 20th centuries, generally by two different glass houses. One of these, Beck, Phillips & Co., only operated in Pittsburgh from 1866-1871. The other was a series of nine glass houses operated by three generations of the Bakewell family, also at Pittsburgh.

Beck, Phillips & Co. produced numerous fruit jars, embossed with the firm’s entire name or the “B.P.&Co.” initials – along with some similarly marked flasks. Bakewell, Page & Bakewells, however, only used the “B.P.&B” logo on a few flasks, made during the 1824-1830 period and “B.P.&Co.” or “BAKEWELL” on tableware during the 1870s.

In addition, the Brunswick Pharmacal Co., a distributor – not a glass manufacturer – had the initials “B.P.Co.” embossed on the fronts of small, cobalt blue pill bottles with rounded bases. These could easily be confused with bottles from one of the Bakewell factories or Beck, Phillips & Co., although there is no reason to believe that either firm made bottles of that type.

Histories

The Bakewell Enterprises, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Bakewell & Ensell (1808-1809)

Although George Robinson and Edwin Ensell (Robinson & Ensell) built a glass factory on the Monongahela River at the foot of Grant St. in 1807, there is no evidence that the plant was ever placed into production. With the backing of Benjamin Page and Robert Kinder, Benjamin Bakewell purchased a two-thirds ownership of the plant by mid-August of 1808. Bakewell & Ensell produced tumblers, tableware, and at least some bottles and pocket flasks at the plant’s six-pot furnace. By mutual consent, Bakewell and Ensell dissolved the partnership on February 1, 1809 (Hawkins 2009:48-49; Roller 1996).

Benjamin Bakewell & Co. (1809-1813)

With the dissolution of Bakewell & Ensell, Benjamin Bakewell, Benjamin Page, and Robert Kinder formed the firm of Benjamin Bakewell & Co. in 1809. Soon after the change in management, the partners built a ten-pot furnace with larger pots. The group apparently moved the factory to Water and Grants Streets in 1811 and made mostly tableware, although the plant made some fruit jars in sizes ranging from half-pints to half-gallons (Hawkins 2009:50).¹

Bakewell, Page & Bakewell (1813-1827)

Upon the hiring of Bakewell's son, Thomas, Benjamin Bakewell & Co. became Bakewell, Page & Bakewell in 1813. The firm built a new black-glass factory by 1817, and the plant – called the Pittsburgh Porter Bottle Manufactory – was in production by 1819. The factory made porter, claret, and ale bottles as well as jars and bottles made of olive-colored glass.

The older flint-glass plant primarily produced tableware and doorknobs along with some flasks. The plant expanded in 1822 to accommodate a larger furnace, and Thomas Bakewell, originally only hired as an employee, became a full partner. The year, 1827, ushered in a slight name change (Hawkins 2009:51-53).

Containers and Marks

BP&B (1813-1832)

Knittle (1927:443) first listed the “BP&B” mark on a “scroll” or “violin” flask, although she did not name the maker. McKearin and McKearin (1949:342) and Toulouse (1971:64) noted that the BP&B mark was used on flasks by Bakewell, Page & Bakewell from 1824 to 1836. McKearin and Wilson (1978:632-633) discussed and illustrated two flasks embossed on the front

¹ McKearin & Wilson (1978:115-117), Monro (1927-1928:114), Pears (n.d.:1-2), Toulouse (1971:64-65), and Welker & Welker (1985:23-24) all presented conflicting dates and circumstances. We have elected to go with Hawkins (2009) and recommend his book for more details about the firms. Hawkins presented the most complete research conducted to date.

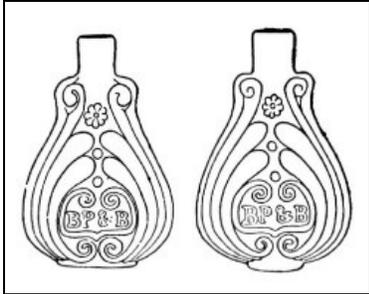


Figure 1 – BP&B Flask (McKearin & Wilson 1978:626)



Figure 3 – BP&B logo (Courtesy of Jay Hawkins)

body with “B.P&B” surrounded by an oval (Figure 1). They, too, attributed the mark to Bakewell, Page & Bakewell and placed the likely manufacture of three flasks with the same initials between 1824 and 1830. Hawkins (2009:53-54) attributed the mark on three variations of flasks to Bakewell, Page & Bakewell (1813-1827) and on scroll flasks to Bakewell, Page & Bakewells (1827-1832) (Figures 2 & 3).



Figure 2 – BP&B Flask (Courtesy of Jay Hawkins)

Bakewell, Page & Bakewells (1827-1832)

When John Palmer Bakewell joined the firm in 1827, the name was changed to Bakewell, Page & Bakewells. The products remained the same. In 1832, Benjamin Page left the company, creating yet another name change (Hawkins 2009:53-54).

Bakewells & Anderson (1832-ca. 1835)

Alexander M. Anderson replaced Benjamin Page in 1832, causing the firm to become Bakewell & Anderson. In late 1835 or early 1836, the partnership dissolved. Hawkins (2009:55) makes a good case for placing the dissolution in late 1835.

Containers and Marks

BAKEWELLS & ANDERSON / PITTSBURGH (1832-ca. 1835)

Pullin (1986:54) noted that “BAKEWELL & ANDERSON / PITTSBURGH” was “molded on drawer pull” and “used on other pressed items.” There is no reason to believe that Bakewell & Anderson made bottles. If the firm did make containers, there is no record of any

manufacturer's mark. Although Pullin used the singular, the firm was almost certainly Bakewells & Anderson as shown on a paper weight offered on eBay (Figure 4).



Figure 4 – Bakewells & Anderson Paper Weight (eBay)

Bakewells & Co. (ca. 1835-1842)

When Anderson left the firm, the name became Bakewells & Co. This was a difficult economic period, so the plant shut down periodically, although it never ceased production for long periods of time. John Palmer Pears was added to the firm in 1837. However, it was not until the death of John Palmer Bakewell in 1842, that Pears became a shareholding partner and the name was again changed (Hawkins 2009:55).

Bakewell & Pears (1842 to 1844)

John Pears became a full partner in 1842, and the name became Bakewell & Pears. When Benjamin Bakewell died in 1844, the firm became Bakewell, Pears & Co. (Hawkins 2009:58).

Bakewell, Pears & Co. (1844 to 1880)

The firm became Bakewell, Pears & Co. in 1844. The factory burned on April 10, 1845, but was soon rebuilt and was back in production the following year. The new plant made both green and flint glass. In 1853, the company built a newer more modern factory on the Monongahela River near Bingham St. that specialized in tableware, lamp globes, bar ware, and other glass goods. The plant made glass at two furnaces, each with ten 1,800-pound pots (Hawkins 2009:58-59).

More relatives joined the group in the 1850s, include the third generation, such as Benjamin Bakewell Campbell, the grandson of Benjamin Bakewell (Figure 5). Although the business was clearly dominated by tableware in 1861, the plant still made some patent fruit jars, but none were marked with the firm's name or initials. The Panic (depression) of 1873 slowed



Figure 5 – Bakewell, Pears & Co. (Pittsburgh city directory 1856:52)

sales, and John P. Pears died in 1874. Although the firm still made some bottles and flasks, tableware, barware, druggists' shop furniture, and lantern globes were the major production categories. But change was again in the wind in 1880 (Hawkins 2009:59-62).

Containers and Marks

NEWMANS PATENT (1860-1863)



Figure 7 – Newman's Patent jar (North American Glass)

Roller (1983:264; 2011:391) noted that “Bakewell, Pears & Co. . . . advertised the ‘Newman Patent Fruit Jar’ in the May through September 1860 Pittsburgh newspapers.” He further stated that Newman was a member of E. Wormser & Co., a rival glass house, by 1863, suggesting that the manufacture of the Newman jar was either short lived or that the manufacture had switched to Wormser. Despite this seemingly solid identification, Roller claimed that the maker was uncertain, although the Bakewell firm “probably” made the jars.

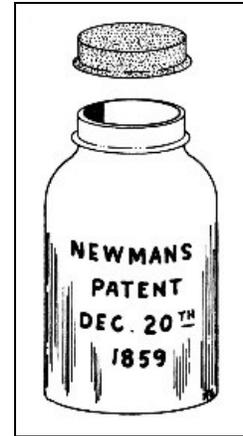


Figure 6 – Newman's Patent jar (Creswick 1987:163)



Figure 8 – Finish of Newman's jar (North American Glass)

Creswick (1987:163) illustrated and described a single jar with the Newman patent information. The jar was embossed “NEWMANS / PATENT / DEC 20TH 1859 (all horizontal)” on the side (Figures 6-8). Carlton Newman, a resident of Birmingham, Pennsylvania, at the time (later moving to San Francisco), received Patent No. 26,515 for an “Improvement in Preserve Cans” on December 20, 1859, although the patent was reissued (No. 1,105) on December 20, 1860, with the identical drawing, although it included a more complex explanation for the process (Figure 9).

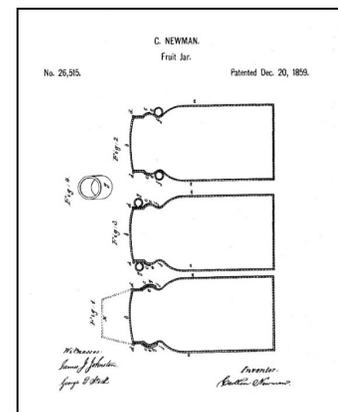


Figure 9 – Newman's 1859 patent

J.D. WILLOUGHBY (1860-ca. 1870s)²

During September 1860, Bakewell, Pears & Co. also advertised the manufacture and sale of Willoughby Fruit Jars. These required neither wax nor cement to seal (*Pittsburgh Post*, September 8, 1860, cited in Roller 1996). James D. Willoughby, of Carlisle, Pennsylvania, received Patent No. 22,535 for “An Improvement in Sealing Cans and Bottles” on January 4, 1859. He assigned the patent to C.M. Alexander of Washington, D.C.

Toulouse (1969:330-331) discussed the Willoughby Stopple and noted that the lid was embossed “J.D. WILLOUGHBY STOPPLE / PAT. JAN 4, 1859.” He did not illustrate the jar, itself nor guess at the manufacturer. He added that “a common size was stamped ‘2 3/8.’”

Roller (1983:385) listed three variations of the jars., only one of which had any side embossing. The one he said was probably the earliest (and made by Bakewell, Pears & Co.) was stamped “J.D. WILLOUGHBY PATD. JAN 4 1859 (on the wings of stopper wingnut).” He noted that the jar was colorless, had a “pontil mark” and “tooled lip,” but no side embossing. In the later edition (Roller 2011:554), the researchers noted that Bakewell, Page & Co. advertised the “Willoughby Patent Fruit Jar” between May and September of 1860.

A later example – still with no side embossing – had “J.D. WILLOUGHBY PATENTED JANUARY 4 1859” stamped on the lid, itself. This one was aqua and had a “tooled lip.” He noted two variations, one with “three glass feet on base, half gallon” – the other “pontil mark on base, one gallon.” Roller (1983:385; 2011-555) claimed that these were made by Lorenz & Wightman of Pittsburgh “and probably other glasshouses” – although he gave no reason for this choice.

The most unusual of the three jars was embossed “J.D. WILLOUGHBY & Co. (serif letters) NEW YORK” on the front with “THE LADIES FAVORITE above the figure of lady” on the reverse. Roller (1983:385) noted the same stopper as in the Lorenz & Wightman jar. This example was aqua in color with a “ground lip.” He placed the maker as “uncertain” but noted that “no record of J.D. Willoughby & Co. was found in New York City directories.”

² We have discussed these jars from a slightly different perspective in the A.R. Samuel section. Each discussion, although slightly different, has its value, so we have retained both.

Creswick (1978:7, 77, 223) placed a jar embossed “ARS” in cursive as using the Willoughby Stopple and being made by A.R. Samuels (also see A.R. Samuels section). She suggested that similar jars, made for Wm. L. Haller of Carlisle, Pennsylvania, were also made by Samuels. However, she noted that other jars using the Willoughby patent with no side embossing were made by a variety of glass houses – including Bakewell, Pears & Co.; Lorenz & Wightman; Craven & Pancoast; John M. Moore & Co.; and the Keystone Glass Works (A.R. Samuels). She did not note any way to tell a Bakewell jar from any of the others.



Figure 10 – Willoughby’s Stopple (Creswick 1987:223)

Creswick (1987:223) illustrated and/or discussed six variations of the unembossed jars with Willoughby lids. She showed lids marked “J.D. WILLOUGHBY (arch) / 2 3/8 (horizontal) / PATENTED JANUARY 6, 1859 (inverted arch)” and “J.D. WILLOUGHBY’S / 1 1/4 (both arched) / JAN (horizontal) / 1859 (arch),” as well as the one with the information stamped on the wings of the wingnut (Figure 10). She noted that the wingnut-stamped jar was made in light cobalt blue and green colors, with a high kick-up and pontil scar.

B.P.&Co.

We have only found reports of the “B.P.&Co. Pat. Sept. 29, 1874” logo on compotes (long-stemmed dish for holding fruit, nuts, or candy) made from opal and colorless glass. We have been unable to discover any patent for an item like this issued on September 29, 1874. However, Lorenz Stoehr received Design Patent No. 7,758 for a “Design for Table Glassware” on September 15, 1874. Although Stoehr assigned his patent to McKee & Brothers (a rival firm), his patent was cited in numerous later patents for candy dishes, compotes, and other stemmed vessels.

Pullin (1986:62) noted that “B.P.&CO. PAT’D / SEPT 29, 1874” was “signed on an item made of patented process of double layer glass fused by processing.” This was almost certainly the compote. Apparently, the mark was only used on this item.

BAKEWELL

Toulouse (1971:64) claimed that this mark was used “possibly circa 1876 to 1880.” That time period would have meant the user was Bakewell, Pears & Co. Although Toulouse failed to note the type of glassware upon which the mark was placed, it was likely some form of tableware rather than a container. Pullin (1886:54) claimed that “BAKEWELL” was “moulded on window pane c. 1830-1845.”

Bakewell, Pears & Co., Limited (1880 to 1882)

The firm reorganized in 1880 as a limited liability company and continued in the same vein until disagreements among the partners caused a permanent closing in March 1882 (Hawkins 2009:63).

Beck, Phillips & Co.

Beck, Phillips & Co., Birmingham (Pittsburgh) (1866-1871)

Washington Beck, William Phillips, and James Beck established a plant at Birmingham (Pittsburgh), Pennsylvania, in 1866, making window glass. Shortly after opening the plant, the firm erected a green glass factory nearby. Each plant operated a single furnace, with ten pots making window glass and eight on green glass. The green glass factory made fruit jars, flasks, and vials by at least 1870. In 1871, the firm became Phillips & Co., when Washington Beck left the company (Caniff 2007:6; Hawkins 2009:73-74; McKearin & McKearin 1941:611).

Containers and Marks

B.P.&Co. (1866-1871)

Jones (1966:15) noted the BP&Co. mark and attributed it to Bakewell, Pears & Co. (1832-1882). She left the cryptic message: “Listed that way in one period,” probably meaning that the company went by the Bakewell, Pears & Co. name during a specific time period. Unfortunately, she did not note the type of bottle.

Creswick (1987:21, 138, 145-147) showed a grooved-ring, wax-sealer fruit jar and a variety of Mason jars embossed B.P.&Co. on their bases (Figures 11 & 12). The Mason jars were embossed “MASON’S (arch) / A / PATENT / NOV 30TH / 1858 (all horizontal)” – with “B,” “D,” “E,” “F,” or “O” replacing the “A.” All the Mason jars had shoulder-seal lids and ground lips (indicating hand manufacture). She attributed the mark to Beck, Phillips & Co., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Creswick (1987:263) noted that Beck, Phillips & Co. was in business from 1866 to 1886, possibly including Phillips & Co. in those years.



Figure 11 – B.P.&Co. wax sealer (Creswick 1987:21)

Leybourne (2008:88, 293-298) confirmed the wax sealer embossed “B.P.&Co.” on the base – with no side embossing. He also confirmed the “B.P.&Co.” markings on the Mason jar bases, adding a jar with no letters and letters “H,” “I,” and “Q” to the list. Three of the basemarks were listed as B.P.Co. – with no ampersand.



Figure 12 – B.P.&Co. basemark (Courtesy of Jay Hawkins)

Roller (1983:72; 2011:111) dated the aqua-colored wax sealer ca. early 1870s and also identified the mark as belonging to Beck, Phillips & Co. He explained: “Beck, Phillips & Co. advertised themselves as manufacturers of fruit jars in the 1870/1871 and 1871/1872 Pittsburgh city directories. Bakewell, Pears & Co., their neighbor in Birmingham (south Pittsburgh), advertised only flint and crystal glassware.” Roller (1983:237; 2011:357) dated the Mason jars marked B.P.&Co. ca. 1860-1870s. Hawkins (2009:74) also noted that B.P.&Co was embossed on Mason jars and added that the logo was also applied to some strap-sided flasks. He, too, attributed the mark to Beck, Phillips & Co.

Caniff (2007:6) listed a base variation of BP&CO on a Mason jar that was side embossed “MASON’S (arch) / B / PATENT / NOV 30TH / 1858 (all horizontal).” He also noted that Roller (1983) mentioned “this basic 1858 jar as having the B.P.&CO base embossing in monogram form, but this may be in error as we’ve been unable to confirm such a monogram.”

BP&So (1866-1871)

Creswick (1987:146), Leybourne (2008:295), and Caniff (2007:6) noted that a fruit jar embossed on the side with “MASON’S (arch) / F / PATENT / NOV 30TH / 1858 (all horizontal)” had an engraver’s error for the Beck, Phillips mark – the base embossed “BP&So.” This could have been made at any time between 1866 and 1871.

BECK PHILLIPS & CO. PITTS. PA. (ca. 1866-1871)

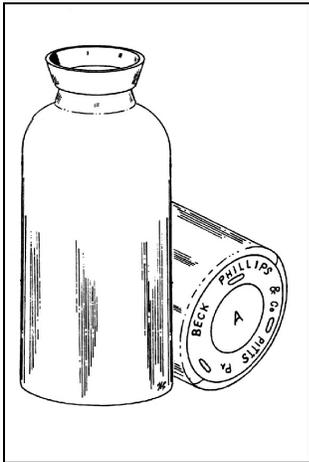


Figure 13 – BECK, PHILLIPS & Co. jar (Creswick 1987:15)

Creswick (1987:15) and Leybourne (2008:79) both noted a fruit jar embossed “BECK PHILLIPS & Co. PITTS PA” on the base, with three oval “feet” projecting from the resting point (Figure 13). The Creswick drawing showed a letter “A” in the center of the base, but that was not addressed in either listing. This suggests that the jars may have had various letters embossed on the bases. The jars were sealed by the Willoughby Stopple (see discussion of the Willoughby patent above).

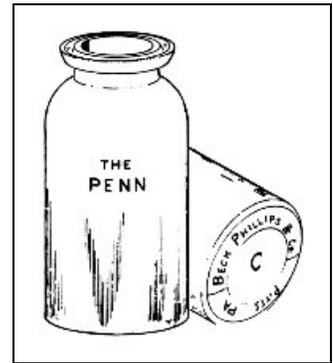


Figure 14 – PENN jar (Creswick 1987:74)



Figure 15 – PET jar (Creswick 1987:75)

Creswick (1987:174-175), Roller (1983:283, 285), and Leybourne (2008:349, 353) all described several grooved-ring, wax-sealer fruit jars with bases embossed “BECK PHILLIPS & Co. PITTS PA” on the bases. Each was embossed either “THE / PENN”; “PET”; or “THE / PET” on one side (Figures 14-16). Creswick’s drawings show a “C” on the base of “THE / PENN” bottle and an “A” on the base of “THE / PET,” This likely indicates that various letters



Figure 16 – BECK, PHILLIPS & Co. basemark (Courtesy of Jay Hawkins)

appeared on the bases of these jars – although none of the researchers addressed that issue.



Figure 17 – BECK, PHILLIPS & Co. whiskey bottle (Glassworks Auctions)

Caniff (2007:6) noted a total of seven variations of Beck, Phillips & Co. markings on wax sealers, including the one with B.P.&CO. on the base (see Table 1 for a summary of the variations). The others were all embossed with “BECK, PHILLIPS & CO. PITTS. PA.” Some were embossed “PET,” “THE / PET,” or “THE PENN” on the side.



Figure 18 – BECK, PHILLIPS & Co. basemark (Courtesy of Jay Hawkins)

Hawkins (2009:74) also noted the Beck, Phillips mark on these jars. The firm also used its full name on four-piece mold cylinder whiskey bottles (Figures 17 & 18).

Brunswick Pharmacal Co.

Dating the Brunswick Pharmacal Co. requires an understanding of its roots in both Johnson & Johnson and the Papoid Co.

Johnson & Johnson, Brunswick, New Jersey (1887-present)

Johnson & Johnson remains one of the largest suppliers of medical products in 2022. However, the firm has had a long history. According to Johnson & Johnson (2005):

Robert Wood Johnson joined with his two brothers, James Wood and Edward Mead Johnson, who had formed a partnership in 1885. Operations began in New Brunswick, New Jersey, in 1886 with 14 employees on the fourth floor of a small building that once was a wallpaper factory. In 1887 the Company was incorporated as Johnson & Johnson.

Table 1 – Wax-Sealer Jars made by Beck, Phillips & Co.

Side Embossing	Base Embossing	Other Features	Sources
none	B.P.&Co.	none	Creswick 1987: Leybourne 2001:77
THE / PENN	BECK PHILLIPS & Co. / PITTS PA	Footed base (oval feet)	Creswick 1987:173 Leybourne 2001:308 Roller 1983:283
THE / PENN	BECK PHILLIPS & Co. / PITTS PA	Poss. letter in center of base	Creswick 1987:174 Leybourne 2001:308 Roller 1983:283 Toulouse 1971:235
THE / PENN	BECK PHILLIPS & Co. / PITTS PA	THE PENN over ghosted PET	Creswick 1987:174 Leybourne 2001:308 Roller 1983:285
PET*			Creswick 1987:175 Leybourne 2001:312 Toulouse 1971:240
PET	BECK PHILLIPS & Co. / PITTS PA	Poss. letter in center of base	Creswick 1987:175 Leybourne 2001:312 Roller 1983:285 Toulouse 1971:240
THE PET	BECK PHILLIPS & Co. / PITTS PA	Poss. letter in center of base	Creswick 1987:175 Leybourne 2001:312 Roller 1983:285

* Although Toulouse (1969:240) stated that T.G.O. was embossed on the “bottom” of this jar, Creswick (1987:175) and Leybourne (2001:312) both noted that the lid was stamped “Patd August 31th 1869 T.G.O.” or “Patented Aug. 31st T.G. Otterson.”

Papoid Co., New Brunswick, New Jersey (1892-1896)

Johnson & Johnson instituted the Papoid Co. as a subsidiary firm. The new company filed for incorporation under New Jersey statutes on March 12, 1892, with a capitalization of \$200,000. The firm reorganized as the Brunswick Pharmacal Co. on January 30, 1896 (Secretary of State [New Jersey] 1914:95, 532).

The main product (possibly the only one) processed by the plant was papoid pills. As early as 1887, Dr. William H. Morse proclaimed that papoids provided relief from dyspepsia.³ He called the product a “vegetable pepsin” that was “the ideal digestive ferment” (Morse 1887:145-416). Ads from the Papoid Co., however, argued that Papoid was better than Pepsin (e.g., Papoid Co. 1894).

Brunswick Pharmacal Co., New Brunswick, New Jersey (1896-ca. 1910)

As noted above, the Brunswick Pharmacal Co. grew out of the Papoid Co. in 1896. Brunswick Pharmacal, too, was a subsidiary of Johnson & Johnson. Ads for both firms (e.g., Brunswick Pharmacal Co. 1896:3) noted Johnson & Johnson as the selling agent (Figure 19). A 1900 directory listed Robert Wood Johnson as the president of Johnson & Johnson, the San Miguel Cattle Co., and the Brunswick Pharmacal Co. (Biographical Directory Co. 1900:231).

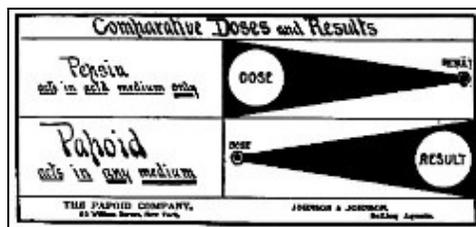


Figure 19 – Ad for Papoids (Papoid Co. 1894:33)

Robert W. Johnson was still listed as a director of both Johnson & Johnson and Brunswick Pharmacal in 1907, and the firm decreased its capital stock to \$10,000 on November 19, 1909 (Leonard 1907:748; Secretary of State [New Jersey] 1914:95). We have not found any listings for Brunswick Pharmacal after 1909. Fike (1988:51) claimed that Johnson & Johnson succeeded Brunswick, although it would be more correct to say that the parent firm reabsorbed its subsidiary – probably ca. 1910.

³ According to Health Media Ventures (2013), “Dyspepsia is a painful and difficult digestion which is followed by problems like nausea, vomiting, heartburn and stomach discomfort.”

By at least 1898, the pills were called Johnson’s Digestive Tablets, still manufactured by Brunswick. A pamphlet put out by the Brunswick Pharmacal Co. (ca. 1899) noted that “Johnson’s Digestive Tablets, formerly \$15 per dozen, 100 in each bottle [were] reduced [in] price, \$9 per dozen, 150 tablets in each bottle.” Johnson & Johnson was noted as “agents” of the Brunswick Pharmacal Co.

Containers and Marks

Currently, we have discovered two apparent logos used by the Brunswick Pharmacal Co., but they were used concurrently on the same type of bottle. Both are described under the same heading below.

B.P.Co. and Mirrored Ps in a Circle (1896-ca. 1910)

These initials are commonly found embossed in a slight arch above an embossed circle (an intentional line – not the outline of a plate) with two “Ps” inside, one in mirror image – so that the two stood with rounded sides out. The bottles were cobalt blue and were oval shaped when viewed from either the side or in cross-section (Figure 20). This means that the base was rounded so that the bottle could not stand up.



Figure 20 – B.P.Co. / Circle PP – round base
(New Jersey Bottle Forum)

In response to a query about a similar bottle, O’Dell (2000) wrote:

Your little bottle dates around the turn of the century. They are fairly common. . . . The letters B.P.Co. stand for Brunswick Pharmacal Company better known as Johnson & Johnson, 100 Williams St New Brunswick, NJ and 47 Franklin St., NYC (1905). They contained Johnson’s Digestive Tablets, for dyspepsia, and indigestion. Your bottle was made well into the machine made era with screwtop variants being common.

O'Dell likely obtained at least some of his information from Fike (1988:51) who illustrated the bottle and added that it was advertised by Johnson & Johnson in 1889 (Figure 21).

Whitten (2013) dated the bottle ca. 1895-1930 and added that the “actual glass manufacturer is unknown, but Maryland Glass Corporation, Baltimore, MD (a prolific maker of cobalt blue bottles after 1907) could be one possibility.” Toulouse (1971:162, 339) noted that the Cumberland Glass Co., Bridgeton, New Jersey, was the “cobalt blue specialist” prior to the opening of the Maryland Glass Corp. Cumberland could have made the earlier “PP” bottles.

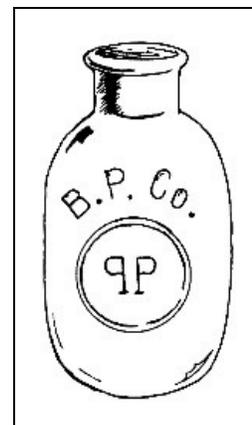


Figure 21 – B.P.Co. bottle (Fike 1988:51)

The Illinois Glass Co. called the style “Round Tablet Vials” and only carried the four drachm size in flint glass in 1896 – although the Illinois Glass style appeared to have a flattened base. The catalog noted that the bottles “are fitted with plates, and lettered bottles can be furnished at a trifling additional cost on first orders only.” The “lettering” offer was gone by 1903, although the rest of the entry remained the same until the 1908 catalog. By 1911, the bottle name was reduced to “Round Tablet” – still in flint and the same size. The style was no longer listed in the 1920 catalog (Illinois Glass Co. 1896; 1903; 1908; Putnam 1965).

This style of bottle with its rounded base (so the container could not stand up) was advertised in the 1887 Whitall Tatum catalog as “Tablet Bottles for Tablets of Soda Mint, etc.” The bottles were made in three sizes (2, 4, and 6 Drachm), and the catalog noted, “These Bottles are made of convenient shape for carrying in the pocket, and are fitted with a Nickel-plated Metal Cap, screwing on the neck of the bottle.” The color of the glass was not noted, but the page was after the “Flint Prescription” section (Whitall Tatum & Co. 1887). The identical bottles continued to be offered by Whitall Tatum until at least 1909 (Whitall Tatum Co. 1909).



Figure 22 – Variations in Circle PP bottles (New Jersey Bottle Forum)



Figure 23 – Flat-based Circle PP bottles (New Jersey Bottle Forum)



Figure 25 – Amber Circle PP bottle (New Jersey Bottle Forum)



Figure 27 – Papoid paper labels (Kilmer 1901)

The style of the cobalt blue bottles used by the Papoid Co., Brunswick Pharmacal Co., and Johnson & Johnson passed through at least three changes in configuration (Figure 22). It is possible that the first embossed bottle was the one described above: “B.P.Co. / PP (second P in mirror image) in a circle.” Most of these had the round bases and a single-bead finish for a cork closure – although some had flat bases with squared heels (Figure 23). Photos show a flanged cork. The wooden top created a better grip (Figure 24). At least one example appears to have been machine made.



Figure 24 – Flanged cork (eBay)

Another phase, possibly later, was embossed with the Circle-PP logo but no “B.P.Co.” initials. This variation was mouth blown, with the one-part finish, and the rounded base – still in cobalt blue – although at least one variant was amber (Figure 25), and some had a flat base with a tapered heel (see Figure 23). The final phase was also cobalt blue and had the Circle-PP logo embossed on one side. However, these were certainly machine made, with continuous-thread finishes and flattened bases (Figure 26).



Figure 26 – Circle PP bottle with continuous-thread finish & cap (New Jersey Bottle Forum)

The PP in a circle (second P in mirror image) was a Johnson & Johnson trademark and was depicted on even later paper labels (along with the word “PAPOIDS”) in a more complex format than the embossed version (Figure 27). The embossed version was probably simplified for ease of engraving and lower cost. Unfortunately, we cannot place any of the variations in bottle design in datable contexts – except that the bottles embossed “B.P.Co.” were almost certainly made during the 1896-ca. 1910 period. See Table 2 for variations in Papoid bottles.

Table 2 – Embossed “PP” Bottles from Brunswick Pharmacal Co.

Front	Finish	Base	Heel
P.B.Co. / Circle PP	single bead	round	round
P.B.Co. / Circle PP	single bead	flat	squared
Circle PP	single bead	round	round
Circle PP	single bead	flat	tapered
Circle PP	continuous-thread	flat	tapered

Discussion and Conclusion

Because of the similarity of the initials, glass marks from Bakewell, Pears & Co., Beck, Phillips & Co., Brunswick Pharmacal Co., and the Bel Pre Glass Co. all could be confused.⁴ However, only the cobalt blue (and a few amber) pill bottles were made for the Brunswick Pharmacal Co. Although the manufacturer is currently unknown, the Maryland Glass Corp., Baltimore, was the industry leader in cobalt-blue bottles from at least 1911, possibly from the plant’s opening in 1907 or 1908 (see the Maryland Glass Corp. section for more information).

The BP&Co mark was almost certainly used by Beck, Phillips, & Co. on fruit jars between 1866 and 1874 and on some strap-sided flasks. The firm also made various jars and whiskey bottles embossed on the bases with “BECK, PHILLIPS & Co.” during the same period. A BP&Co logo was used on at least one type of tableware by Bakewell, Pears & Co., but the mark is unlikely to have been embossed on bottles. The firm also used “BAKEWELL” – but, again, the logo has only been reported on tableware and widow glass.

The BP&B logo was apparently only used by Bakewell, Page & Bakewell (1813-1837) and/or Bakewell, Page & Bakewells (1827-1832) during the ca. 1824-1830 period and only on a limited number of flasks.

⁴ Also see the section of the Bel Pre Glass Co. The firm used a “BP” logo on the heels of some milk bottles, but milk bottles were the company’s only product; thus, they cannot be confused with any glass made by the other glass houses.

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