

The E.G.CO. and E.G.Co. Logos

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Although the E.G.CO. and E.G.Co. logos are a little-known marks, the user has been the subject of some debate. In addition, at least two EGCo monograms are represented in the literature. We present the possibilities and probable solution below.

Containers and Marks

E.G.CO. / E.G.Co. (ca. 1890-1905)

Lincoln (1970:85) described a colorless soda bottle with a one-piece “blob” finish, possibly for a Baltimore Loop stopper. The shoulder was embossed “REGISTERED” with “Fred J. York / Somersworth, N.H. / Registered” all in upwardly slanted cursive on the body. The base was embossed “E.G.CO.” with a double stamp. Lincoln’s measurement of the contents was 8.5 oz. Upwardly slanted cursive was generally embossed on bottles between ca. 1895 and ca. 1902. Our subsequent investigations suggests that the name was Fred *I.* York and that he was in business sometime between 1893 and 1898.

Von Mechow (2015) suggested that the Eastern Glass Co. of Cumberland, Maryland, produced bottles with this mark. He listed three beer bottles with basal embossing of E.G.CO. or E.G.Co., and two of those were for brewers in Cumberland – probably leading to his identification of the Eastern Glass Co. as the maker (Figure 1). See Discussion and Conclusions section for a more complete discourse.

EGCo Monogram (ca. 1885-1886)

Bernas (2015:104-116) discussed the drawing of a jar embossed “EVERETT / {EGCo monogram}” on the front (Figure 2). Although neither collectors nor archaeologists have ever

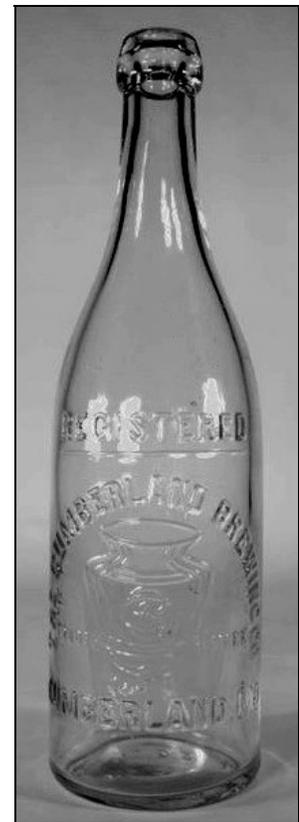


Figure 1 – Bottle with E.G.CO. base (von Mechow)



Figure 2 – EGCo monogram (Bernas 2015)

found an actual example of this jar, its production was certainly intended at some point, and some jars may have been made. The jar apparently had a finish and closure patented by Heney M. Guild of Woodbury, New Jersey, on February 2, 1886 (No. 335,444) – application filed June 26, 1885. The closure consisted of a glass lid with a hollow channel in the center to allow hot gas from the cooked fruit or vegetables to escape (Figure 3). The glass insert was held in place by a tinned-steel clamp that straddled

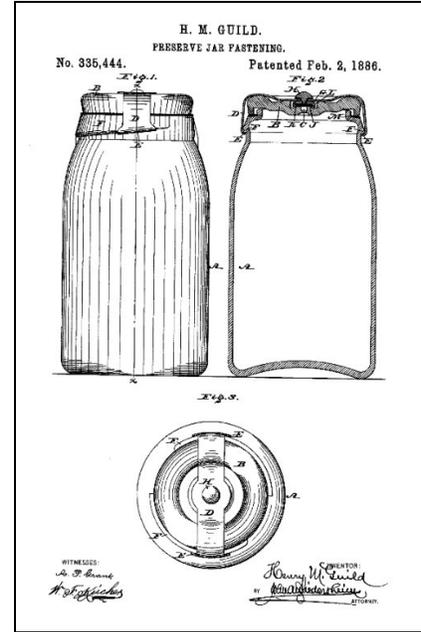


Figure 3 – Guild 1886 patent

the insert and engaged two inclined ramps on the sides of the finish. In the center of the clamp was a domed feature with a rubber disc on its underside which sealed the hollow channel when the clamp was tightened. See the Discussion and Conclusions section for the manufacturer.

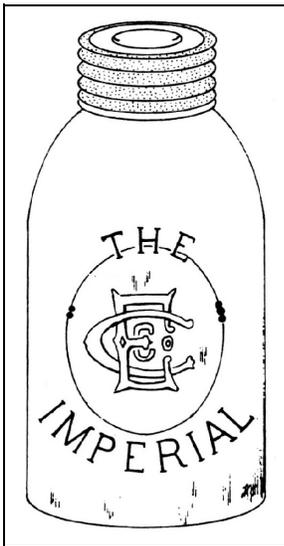


Figure 4 – EGCo monogram (Creswick 1987:56)

The Excelsior Glass Co. of St. Johns and Montreal, Quebec, Canada, used a similar but distinct monogram on Imperial fruit jars from 1879-1883 (Figure 4). Open from 1879 to 1883, Excelsior Glass was one of the ancestral firms to Canada’s giant Diamond Glass Co. The presence of the words “THE IMPERIAL” on each jar and the difference in the monograms make it unlikely that jars from the two firms would be confused. See the Diamond Glass Co. (Canada) section for more information.

EVERETT

Bernas (2015:104-116) discussed a drawing of a jar embossed “EVERETT / {EGCo monogram}” on the front that was probably made by the Everett Glass Co. (see the E.G.CO monogram discussion above for information). Although Toulouse (1969:113; 1971:185) never mentioned the jar described by Bernas, he listed an “EVERETT” basemark on a jar embossed “MASON’S / PATENT / NOV. 30TH / 1858” on the front and identified Edward H Everett & Co. as the manufacturer. Roller (1983:237) also listed the jar and dated it to ca. 1880s. Creswick (1987:138) showed this mark with a two-digit number below it, across the center of the base of a Mason Jar (Figure 5). The mark also appeared on the inside cover of Chessman and Abbott (1991), who – along with Roller and Creswick – also attributed it to Edward H. Everett. See the Discussion and Conclusion sections for more information.



Figure 5 – EVERETT
(Creswick 1987:138)

Possible Manufacturers

As noted above, von Mechow suggested the Eastern Glass Co. as the user of the E.G.CO. and E.G.Co. logos, while Bernas identified the marks with the Everett Glass Co. To these, we add the Evansville Glass Co. and Ellenville Glass Co. as a possibilities. See the Discussion and Conclusions section for a comparison and contrast of these firms.

Eastern Glass Co., Cumberland, Maryland (1909-1913)

William S. Breeden, John W. Breeden, John N. Cupler, William M. Mertens, and John H. Mertens incorporated the Eastern Glass Co. in mid-February 1909 with a capital stock of \$25,000. The group purchased and renovated the former Queen City Glass Works and began production in mid-March. The plant produced glass rods and tubes as well as “thermo bottles,” lamp globes and shades, and homeopathic vials. The plant burned on August 7, 1913, with a loss of \$50,000, only partly covered by insurance. It never reopened (von Mechow 2015).

Ellenville Glass Co., Ellenville, New York (1836-1866; 1890-1894; 1915-1922)

Although this firm has been generally referred to as the Ellenville Glass *Works*, the operating company was called the Ellenville Glass *Co.* during three periods. The middle time frame – 1890-1894 – is the most relevant for this study as noted in the Discussion and Conclusions section. See the section on the Ellenville Glass Works for citations and a more complete history of the company.

Evansville Glass Co., Evansville, Indiana (1903-1907)

The Evansville Glass Co. was incorporated in May 1903, with Aaron M. Weil as president. Construction of the plant began in June. The factory had two departments – tableware and bottle. The tableware department used a 12-pot furnace and an eight-ring continuous tank for its wares, and the bottle department employed a 12-ring flint (colorless) tank and an eight-ring amber tank. The initial fire was set in the flint bottle tank on September 19, 1903 (Iwen 2003:58-60).

In 1904, the plant used one furnace with 16 pots and three continuous tanks with 36 rings to make “flint beers and liquor, proprietary ware, packers ware and general tableware. An additional 36 rings were engaged in making pressed ware (certainly tableware) in September, so the furnace must have been the only bottle-making operation. The company expected to install two fruit-jar machines by the middle of October 1904 (*American Glass Review* 1934:151; Iwen 2003:61; Roller 1994:21; 1996; Welker & Welker 1985:52).

By March 1905, the plant was using two Johnson machines and was reported as “doing well in bottle & press departments” (quoted in Roller 1996). In May 1906, however, fire destroyed the entire bottle-making operation – \$110,000 in damages. The directors committed to rebuilding the bottle division in July, and both departments were again operational by January 1907 (Iwen 2003:62). Although the factory was listed under “Glassware” instead of “Bottles, Glass” in 1907, it still made prescription, druggists’, packers’, and preservers’ ware in addition to tableware. However, the directors of the firm declared bankruptcy on April 17, 1907, and closed the plant during May of that year (Iwen 2003:62; Thomas Publishing Co. 1907:661; Welker & Welker 1985:52).

A group of workers, including Alexander Hutchinson, Gilbert Walker, John Zutt, F.W. Reitz, and Frank Zipp joined forces to buy the plant in March 1908 and reorganized as the Citizen's Glass Co. in April. The group was sued for fraud in August because all of them were part of the original directors of the Evansville Glass Co. The plant never reopened, although listings for the idle factory continued until 1911 (Iwen 2003:63-64; Roller 1994:21; Welker & Welker 1985:52).

Everett Glass Co., Everett, Pennsylvania (1885-1886)

Edward M. Walsh and a group of local businessmen incorporated the Everett Glass Co. on March 30, 1885. The factory was completed, and production began in late July 1885. The non-union plant made colorless fruit jars and prescription bottles. After almost a year of financial difficulties, the county sheriff began liquidating the firm's assets in April 1886 and completed the process on May 25 (Bernas 2015:5-32).

Everett Glass Co., Ltd., Everett, Pennsylvania (1890-1901)

On August 28, 1890, Dr. H. Howard Hill, John A. Gump, H. Frank Gump, Martin D. Barndollar and H. Clay Lashley of Everett and M.P. Heckerman of Bedford, a druggist, formed the Everett Glass Co., Ltd. to take over the defunct Everett Glass Co. factory. The new owners completed repairs and the new factory began production of glass bottles – primarily druggists' ware – on October 20, 1890. This time, the works were affiliated with the American Flint Glass Workers Union. By 1894, the plant made beer bottles and milk jars – still of flint (colorless) glass. The factory employed a variety of stoppers for its beer bottles, including Hutchinson, Lightning, and Crown closures and claimed that the bottles were strong enough to drive nails. The 1897 list included glass bottles, flasks, fruit jars, and druggists' ware, although beer and soda bottles remain specialties. The plant continued to produce its varied output as of mid-1900. The firm began having financial problems in early 1901 and closed the plant between October and November (Bernas 2015:36-70).

Everett Glass Co., Everett, Pennsylvania (1902-1905)

In mid-1902, a new group of stockholders incorporated another Everett Glass Co. This group reopened the factory on September 12, still making colorless bottles using hand processes. The production list was essentially unchanged. This plant, too, closed in mid-1905, although the H&BT Railroad did not purchase the property until October 15, 1906. Glass production at Everett was at an end (Bernas 2015:78-94).

Discussion and Conclusions

As noted above, three distinct marks may be associated with one or more of the firms that were possible users of the E.G.CO. marks. Because the evidence associated with all of these logos is different, we need to discuss each one separately.

E.G.CO. or E.G.Co.

Although von Mechow (2015) identified the Eastern Glass Co. with the use of the E.G.CO. logo, Bernas (2015:127-131) noted that local people in Everett, Pennsylvania, credited the Everett Glass Co. with embossing E.G.CO. initials on colorless glass bottles. The Everett Glass Co. made beer, soda, and milk bottles, along with druggists' ware and fruit jars – all from colorless glass. Thus, the E.G.CO. initials could appear on virtually any of those items (see Figure 1). Finishes on the soda and beer bottles included Lightning, cork, crown, Hutchinson, and a variety of other closures.

Bernas suggested that either the first or third Everett Glass Co. had the correct initials, although the Everett Glass Co., Ltd. could also have used the mark. We feel that the first firm (ca. 1885) was too early for the double-stamped logos, although the limited partnership phase (1890-1901) and the final Everett Glass Co. (1902-1905) are both possibilities. Bernas also discovered three additional bottles with the E.G.Co. logo, all used by Pennsylvania bottlers.

Another possibility was the Evansville Glass Co., Evansville, Indiana. The plant primarily engaged in tableware manufacture, but it did make “flint beer” bottles during the 1904-1905 period, possibly until it ceased operations in early 1907. Another heretofore

unconsidered candidate was the Ellenville Glass Co., certainly the manufacturer of whiskey bottles and fruit jars, although we have no direct evidence for beer and soda containers.

As often happens, we are faced with four possible users of the E.G.CO. and E.G.Co. basemarks: Eastern Glass Co., Ellenville Glass Co., Evansville Glass Co., and Everett Glass Co. Since the Eastern Glass Co. made tubular glass, lamp shades, etc. – with no mention we could find about soda or beer bottles – we consider that firm an unlikely choice.

The other three are somewhat more difficult to separate, although the lack of conclusive evidence for some container types makes Ellenville less likely. Both Evansville and Everett, however, made soda, beer, and druggists' bottles in flint (colorless) glass. Each also had the correct initials and was open during a period consistent with mouth-blown bottles and double-stamped basemarks (as was Ellenville).

The distribution of our small sample of seven beer and soda bottles, however, provides a clue. Lincoln included a single bottle from Somersworth, New Hampshire, and von Mechow listed three – two from Cumberland, Maryland, and one from Muncy, Pennsylvania. Bernas discovered three more examples from Newport, Shamokin, and Steelton – all in Pennsylvania. In addition, there is evidence that Everett Glass made bottles for firms in Massachusetts. All of these locations center around Everett, Pennsylvania, but most are somewhat distant from Ellenville and all are far removed from Evansville (Table 1). Unless a very unusual sales pattern occurred, the bottles with the E.G.CO. and E.G.Co. logos were much more likely to have been made at Everett.

We have also attempted to date bottlers connected with the E.G.Co. logo. Except for the Cumberland Brewing Co., in business for many years, the dates we could find clustered in the 1890s, with some extending into the early 20th century – mostly during the period of the Everett Glass Companies. Our conclusion, therefore, is that the Everett Glass Co., Ltd. (1890-1901) was the most likely manufacturer, although the later Everett Glass Co. (1902-1905) probably made some of the bottles.

A final possible dating point surrounds the “o” in “Co.” Although the sample is very small, the capital “O” in “CO.” appears most in conjunction with date ranges in the 1890s and

may have been used by the Everett Glass Co., Ltd. (1890-1901). Marks with the lower-case “o” seem to fit with early 1900 dates and may be more associated with the Everett Glass Co. (1902-1905). This conclusion, however, should be taken as tentative, pending more data.

Table 1 – E.G.Co. Beer and Soda Bottles

Location	Bottler	Basemark	Dates
Cumberland, MD	Cumberland Brewing Co.	E.G.Co.	1890-1958*
Cumberland, MD	H.T. Mullin	E.G.Co.	at least 1892-<1897
Somersworth, NH	Fred I. York	E.G.Co.	ca. 1895-ca. 1905**
Muncy, PA	Muncy Bottling Works	2 / E.G.Co.	< 1902 at least 1916
Newport, PA	Newport Bottling Works	4 / E.G.Co.	ca. 1895-<1902
Shamokin, PA	Michael Flaherty	1 / E.G.Co.	ca. 1901-1927
Steelton, PA	Steelton Bottling Works	1 / E.G.Co.	ca. 1895-poss. 1922+

* Van Wieren (1995:136)

** Based on bottle style; upwardly slanted cursive embossing was apparently primarily used between ca. 1895 and ca. 1905.

EGCo Monogram

Bernas provided compelling evidence that the Everett Glass Co. of Everett, Pennsylvania, was responsible for the drawing of the jar and planned to make it. He noted, for example, that the July 22, 1885, issue of *The Everett Press* reported that the Everett Glass Co. intended to produce a patented jar called the “Everett Jar.” The embossing of the word “EVERETT” along with the EGCo monogram on the jar makes this identification highly likely. It is important to note that collectors have never found an example of this jar. It may never have been produced or may have only been made in a plain, unembossed version. As noted above, the EGCo monogram used by the Excelsior Glass Co. (Canada) was notably different and included the words “THE IMPERIAL” – making confusion between the two logos unlikely.

EVERETT

Edward H. Everett consistently used either “EHE” or “EHE Co.” on jars and bottles (including the same type of Mason jar), so it seems odd that he would have used the full name – EVERETT – on just one Mason jar. However, the color of the jar almost certainly indicates that it was *not* produced by the Everett Glass Co., since the



Figure 7 – EVERETT and EHE jars (Jim Sears)

jar was aqua in color rather than flint (colorless) – the only type of glass known to be

made by Everett Glass. In addition, Jim Sears noted that Mason jars in his collection with the “EVERETT” basemark have the same physical appearance as those with EHE heelmarks (Figures 6 & 7). It is thus highly likely that Edward H. Everett was the manufacturer of jars with the “EVERETT” basemark. Of course, if a jar embossed with “EVERETT” on the side and/or the EGCo monogram is ever found by collectors or archaeologists, there is little question that it will be the one illustrated by the Everett Glass Co. in 1885.



Figure 6 – EVERETT basemark (Jim Sears)

Acknowledgments

We would like to thank Jim Sears for providing information for and photos of the Mason jar with the “EVERETT” basemark. His input added distinct clarity to our study. Our gratitude also goes to Doug Leybourne for granting us permission to use the Alice Creswick drawings.

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