

Chapter 2

Bottle Terminology



Bill Lockhart

2014

Chapter 2

Milk Bottle Terminology, Descriptions, and Photographs

Bill Lockhart 2014

Descriptions

Descriptions of bottles generally require some explanations. As with all specialties, the study of bottles has its own set of nomenclature (Figure 2-1).

Bore or throat – inside diameter of the neck

Rim or Lip – extreme upper surface

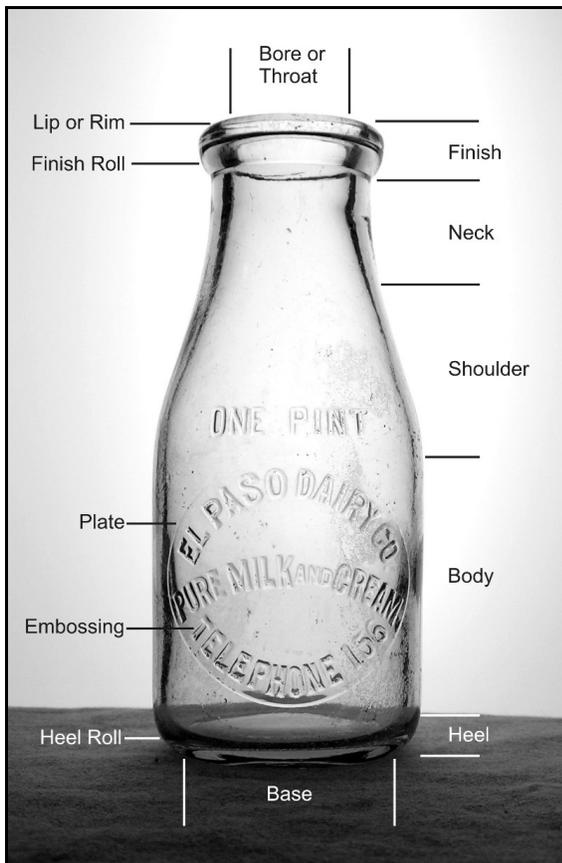


Figure 2-1 – Terminology

Neck – usually narrow area between the shoulder and the finish

Shoulder – change in slope where the body begins to narrow to form the neck

Body – central section of the bottle, usually containing embossed, paper, or pyroglazed label

Heel – lower section of the body, just above base

Heel Roll – part of the heel that “rolls” under the body to the base

Base – very bottom of the bottle – where it sits on the table

Resting point – part of the base that actually makes contact with the table

Embossing – raised glass letters, pictures, or designs that are molding into the glass

Plate, plate mold, or slug plate – separate plate with embossed message – on body or neck

Finish – the final, upper section of the bottle, sometimes including part or all of the neck

Finish roll – the lower part of the common sense finish that “rolls” to the neck of the bottle

The finish received its name because it was the last part of the bottle to be completed in the hand-made or mouth-blown manufacturing process. In milk bottles, the most common finish is the cap-seat or common sense finish (see Chapter 3 for description and more on finishes).

Wherever possible, I have used descriptive terms found in Jones and Sullivan (1989), such as ribs to describe embossed, rounded ridges, although I have continued to use spelling common to the United States (e.g. mold rather than mould).

Although I have attempted to be as comprehensive as possible, it is important to note that the list of bottles in this volume is incomplete. Despite having collected El Paso bottles for almost 20 years, I still find at least one new milk bottle each year – sometimes more. The list will probably never be complete.

Descriptions Within the Text

Since milk bottles generally follow the same pattern, I have not repeated the general shape, finish, or design each time. Instead, I have concentrated on the notable features – especially the labeling – and listed any changes in the variations. I have presented embossing, etching, or ACL labeling in either capitals or mixed letters as they appears on the bottle or label. Details (such as italics, arches, upwardly slanted labels, etc.) follow the lettering in parentheses (). A line change is indicated by a slash (/) between words (e.g. THIS BOTTLE / TO BE RETURNED means the second set of words appear below the first set of words).

Photographs

These photographs come from a variety of sources, including eBay, other internet sources, and photos others have sent me, although most come from my own collection. Because of lighting, age, and other considerations, these photos vary in quality. Because they provide increased clarity in most cases, I have presented photos in black-and-white formats. If color is of vital interest (e.g., in the pyroglazed milk bottles), I have used color photos.

Photos were selected because of the quality of each bottle's details or historical veracity, rather than for overall photo quality – although I have tried to also select the best ones available. Photos of my collection, taken by me, will not carry citations. If a photo came from another

collection, it is labeled just below the picture with the collector's name or name of the specific collection (for archaeological collections or museums).

Sources

Jones, Olive and Catherine Sullivan

1989 *The Parks Canada Glass Glossary for the Description of Containers, Tableware, Flat Glass, and Closures*. Parks Canada, Ottawa.

