

**The Flaccus Bros., E.C. Flaccus
and Their Fabulous, Colorful, Embossed Jars:
Part II – Flaccus & Elliott Co. & E.C. Flaccus Co.**

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A major break in the Flaccus family business occurred in 1897, when Edward C. Flaccus, along with the company bookkeeper, George H. Elliott, left the Flaccus Bros. to form a rival packing house – the Flaccus & Elliott Co. Flaccus & Elliott was short lived – replaced by a series of firms, using the E.C. Flaccus Co. name in 1898. The Flaccus companies, however, survived Edward’s death in 1914 but closed six years later.

Flaccus & Elliott Co., Wheeling, West Virginia (1897-1898)

According to Caniff (1997:42), “Edward C. Flaccus and bookkeeper George H. Elliott left the thriving Flaccus Bros. Company in 1897 to form the Flaccus & Elliott Co.” at 1312-1314 Water St. in Wheeling. In fact, the Flaccus & Elliott Co. received its corporate charter on March 17, 1897, in order to buy, deal in, manufacture, and sell “catsup, prepared mustard, preserves and canned goods” with a capital of \$50,000. The incorporators were Edward C. Flaccus, Mary G. Flaccus (wife of Edward), John J. Roth, George H. Elliott, and Alice M. Elliott (wife of George) (Atkinson 1901:52; Press Butler Printing Co. 1899:74).

Flaccus & Elliott registered Trademark No. 30,472 for “FLACCUS” and a stag’s head drawing on August 3, 1897, with first use claimed as January 1 of that year (Creswick 1987:260; Roller 2011:195 – Figure 1). Although later embossed jars were made in many colors, there was little or no variation in embossing (see more about these jars in the E.C. Flaccus section below). It is likely that the firm almost entirely relied on unembossed containers with paper labels, three of which

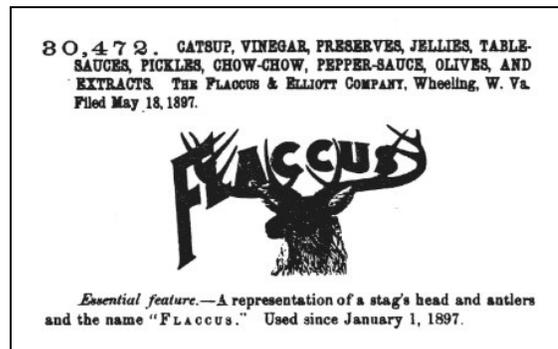


Figure 1 – Flaccus & Elliott Co. 1897 trademark (Creswick 1987:260)

appeared in Caniff's 1997 *Fruit Jar Annual* article. The firm officially changed its name to "The E.C. Flaccus Co." on April 1, 1898 (Press Butler Printing Co. 1899:226).

At this point, a good researcher would ask *why* Edward separated from George, but we found no answers in the historical record. We may never know.

Although we have no direct sources, there are reasons to believe that the breakup was not amicable. To begin with, the new corporation included George's former bookkeeper and another firm worker, John Roth. In addition, Flaccus & Elliott made the same products in direct competition with the older firm. If that were insufficient, the logo – a stag head – was very similar to the Steer's Head trademark of the old business. A final insult, not instituted until Edward was on his own, was the almost duplication of what may have been the greatest marketing ploy of George Flaccus – the elaborately embossed mustard jar.

Containers and Marks

Although the firm was short lived, the Flaccus & Elliott Co. left a few containers to intrigue collectors and archaeologists. These are easily divided into embossed jars and containers with paper labels.

Embossed Jar: FE monogram

Caniff (1996:14) stated that "the only embossed jar attributed to this short-lived company was a tall, clear Exwaco-type jar [i.e., jars made for Exley, Watkins & Co. – a Wheeling packing concern], bearing an FE monogram on the base." Otherwise the firm only used unembossed jars with paper labels (Figure 2). The jar was cylindrical in shape, with a continuous-thread finish. It was sealed with a white milk-glass insert and metal screw band.

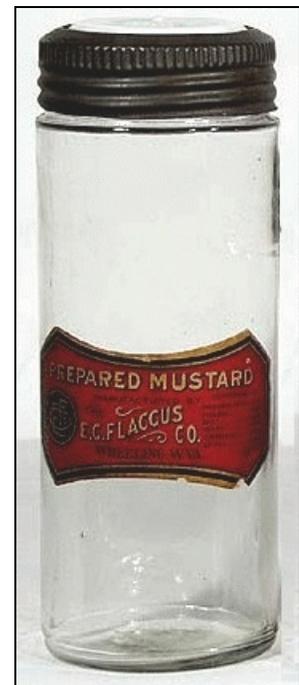


Figure 2 – Exwaco style jar (Hoosier Jar)

Paper Label Containers

The Hoosier Jar webpage illustrated a colorless, unembossed, wide-mouth bottle with a flared finish. The bottle was mouth blown and was sealed by a colorless, unembossed glass lid with an S-shaped depression that was held in place by an S-shaped wire clamp that hooked under the jar's finish. The paper-label centered around a coat of arms with "MIXED PICKLES / FROM THE / FLACCUS & ELLIOTT CO." all in an arch above the coat of arms and "MANUFACTURERS OF / - PICKLES - / CATSUP, SAUCES, &C." horizontally below (Figure 3). As noted in Part I, these bottles were patented by John Schies and were almost certainly made by the Pennsylvania Glass Co. The question we must ask – with no hope of an absolute answer – is whether Flaccus & Elliott purchased the bottle from the Pennsylvania Glass Co. or if they bought the container at a bottle exchange and refilled it. There is almost no question that the successor firm – The E.C. Flaccus Co. – reused bottles, so the practice seems likely with Flaccus & Elliott.



Figure 4 – Flaccus & Elliott Relishes jar (Hoosier Jar)



Figure 3 – Flaccus & Elliott Mixed Pickles jar (Hoosier Jar)

Our next example presents somewhat of a mystery. The oval, large-mouth bottle was colorless and mouth blown with a tooled finish topped by a colorless, unembossed glass lid with a small circular depression in the center and a flat wire clamp that hooked under the flared finish. The bottle had a Flaccus & Elliott Co. label but was embossed "PATENTED AUG. 20, 1901" on the base (Figure 4).

The paper label was rectangular in shape with a full-color stag head in the center – with "FLACCUS" across the antlers. The word "RELISHES" appeared in a curved scroll below and to the right of the stag head. At the bottom of the label was "FLACCUS & ELLIOTT CO. WHEELING / W. VA." Charles H. Hess applied for a design patent for

a “Bottle” on July 26, 1901. He received Design Patent No. 34,956 on August 20 of the same year (Figure 5). The bottle in the design was a triangular pickle-style bottle. Hess assigned the patent to the Kearns-Gorsuch Bottle Co., Zanesville, Ohio.

The mystery concerns how a label from a company that closed in 1898 appeared on a bottle that could not have been made prior to 1901. Caniff (1997:13) speculated that Edward Flaccus probably was using up an old stock of labels rather than wasting them. This fits with the information presented below. By 1902, Edward Flaccus was probably in financial trouble. He was almost certainly packing used bottles and jars – for sale from used bottle stores, very common at the time and much cheaper than new bottles. Under those circumstances, he likely began using up old labels – including some from the older firm. Although it is virtually certain that the Kearns-Gorsuch Bottle Co. made the bottle, it is unlikely that the glass house was a regular supplier for any of the Flaccus packer firms.

A final wide-mouth bottle was similar in design to a milk bottle. Unlike milk bottles, this one had a footed base, widening to a cylindrical body, with a horizontal ring or seam just above the shoulder and another horizontal seam at the base of the finish. The finish flared upward and was sealed by a typical tin-top, Lightning-style milk bottle closure. The label was bow-tie shaped – a copy of the Flaccus Bros design – with a stag head medallion to the left and a medallion with an EFCo monogram to the right. The label read “PREPARED MUSTARD / MANUFACTURED BY / The / FLACCUS / AND ELLIOTT (both in advancing waves) / C^o / WHEELING, W.VA.” (Figure 6).

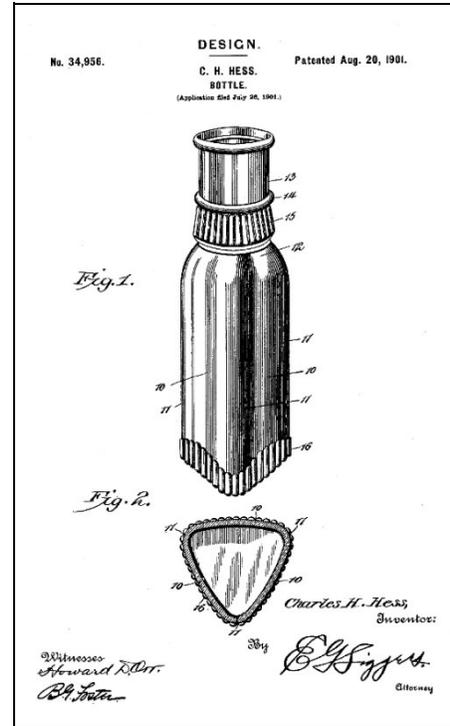


Figure 5 – Hess 1901 patent



Figure 6 – Mustard container (Caniff 1996:13)

Ceramic Containers

A cream-colored stoneware jar with dark brown finish and lid had an identical label to the “RELISHES” bottle, except that the words “APPLE BUTTER” appeared at the top. The stoneware dome or hat shaped lid was held in place by a cast iron cam clamp pivoting on a wire bail hooked into two depressions in jar’s side. The lids were stamped with two patent dates: March 1, 1892, and April 16, 1901 (Figure 7).



Figure 7 – Flaccus & Elliott stoneware jar (Hoosier Jar)

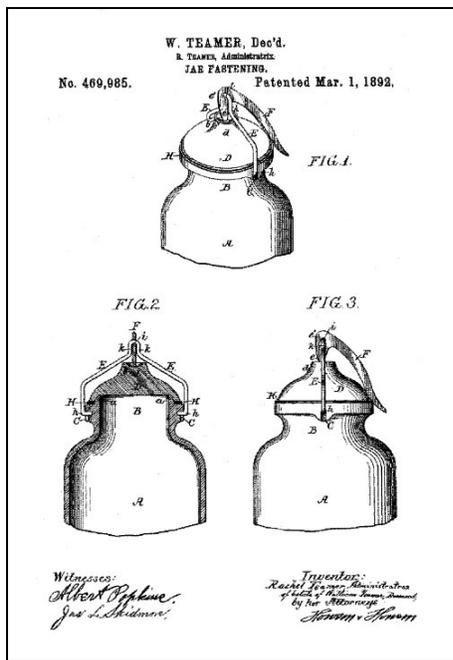


Figure 8 – Teamer 1892 patent

Although William Teamer invented the closure for this stoneware jar, he died prior to the completion of the patent process. Teamer filed for the application on February 16, 1891, but Rachel Teamer, administratrix of the estate received Patent No. 469,985 on March 1, 1892 (Figure 8). William S. Weir applied for a patent for a very similar closure on September 7, 1900. He received Patent

No. 672,049 on April 16, 1901 (Figure 9). The jar was made by the Weir Pottery Co., Monmouth, Illinois, between 1896 and 1906, although it could not have been made prior to the 1891 patent application. Unless these stoneware jars were made prior to the patent release, this is another case of an older label being used on new jar.

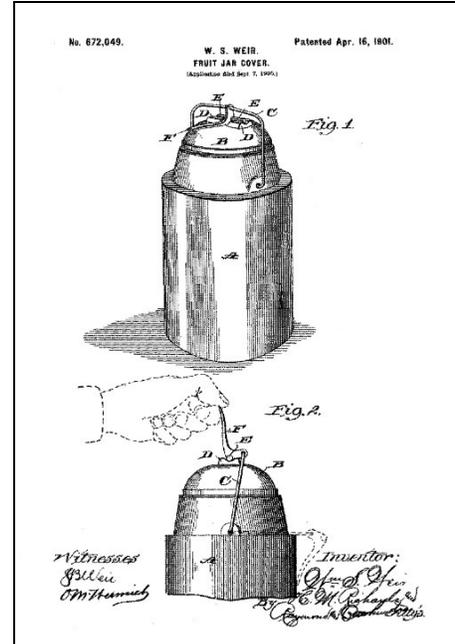


Figure 9 – Wier 1901 patent

Flaccus & Elliott also sold stoneware water coolers in at least two sizes – three and five gallons, respectively grey and cream in color (Figure 10). The front of the three-gallon cooler was stenciled on the front with “WATER COOLER / —THE— / FLACCUS & ELLIOTT CO. / WHEELING, W. VA. / 3.” The five-gallon example had the same label but with designs to the left and right of the “5.” The lids matched the colors of the coolers, and each had a knobbed handle on the top surface. Each cooler had handles molded into the upper sides. Because the firm was in business for such a short time, there are few surviving examples of its wares. Because of the short duration of the firm and its reliance on paper labels, we may never know all the brands carried by the company nor the shapes of its various containers.



Figure 10 – Flaccus cooler (Hoosier Jar)

E.C. Flaccus Co., Wheeling, West Virginia (1898-1902)

As noted above, the reorganization of April 1, 1898, renamed the business “The E.C. Flaccus Co.” – with Flaccus as president of the renewed corporation and George Elliott as secretary.¹ The altered firm used the same brands and products. Elliott apparently left the company shortly after the reorganization and became a traveling sales agent for the Avery Preserving Co. (see more about Elliott below). The E.C. Flaccus Co. officially dissolved on March 2, 1902, almost certainly marking the transition from a corporate structure to a sole proprietorship – incidentally dropping “The” preceding the name – with Flaccus as the single owner (Secretary of State 1903:319). The firm may have been operating on a shoestring at this point; city directories list very few employees. This may also have been the period when Flaccus employed reused jars and bottles for his products (see below). By 1904, however, Flaccus apparently reorganized again as a corporation – with himself as president.

¹ City directories called the firm The E.C. Flaccus Co. (capital “T” in “The”). The dissolution of the corporation in 1902 dropped “The.”

As an interesting aside, Elliott was in Detroit as a traveling salesman for the Avery Preserving Co. by late 1897 or early 1898 because he appeared in the 1898 city directory. It may be a coincidence, but Elliott left Avery in 1901 and struck out on his own, forming his own company – G.H. Elliott & Co. doing the same job as a manufacturer’s agent. There seem to be several connections here. Elliott left Flaccus and joined Avery just at the point when Flaccus & Elliott became the “The E.C. Flaccus Co.” The Avery Preserving Co. went out of business in 1901, just before Flaccus again reorganized. This was also a time when Flaccus Bros. was branching out, sending salesmen to more distant areas. Since Avery was a manufacturer’s agent, Elliott could have been working *for Avery as* the agent for the “The E.C. Flaccus Co.” – although we have no way to verify this speculation.

Flaccus also entered the glass business about the time of the reorganization of the E.C. Flaccus Co. When the Frank Glass Co. organized in mid-1896, Flaccus was not one of the original subscribers. However, he was president of the corporation by April 1899 – possibly as early as 1897 and remained president until the firm defaulted in 1904 (Caniff 1996:13-14; Roller 1998).

Edward re-registered the Stag Head trademark in the name of the E.C. Flaccus Co. (No. 33884) for “certain named Table Relishes, Fruits and Vegetables” on July 8, 1899. This was slightly different from the trademark of two years before. Where the original trademark showed the word “FLACCUS” superimposed over the antlers of a stag, the new trademark had no word at all. In addition, the products list was less specific, and the original first use date of January 1, 1897, had changed to March 1897 (almost certainly due to faulty memory on the part of Edward Flaccus). We have not seen a single paper label with a stag and no wording on the antlers. The trademark may have been intended to protect the elaborately embossed mustard jars – the only examples of unworded antlers we have seen.

Edward then acquired Flaccus Brothers when George A. Flaccus retired in 1905. The company now had its offices and Factory A at Wheeling, West Virginia, with Factory B in New Philadelphia, Ohio, and Factory C at Barnesville, Ohio (Caniff 1996:13-14). At some point after the construction of the Barnesville plant, E.C. Flaccus used a token for its products (Figure 11).

The New Philadelphia plant, part of the Flaccus Bros. purchase, employed eight men and two boys in 1906. The Barnesville factory was never mentioned in connection with the Flaccus Bros., but it was open by 1905 – employing 12 men, 32 women, one boy, and three girls. During the 1905 inspection, the state inspectors issued some form of order to the factory manager – which was marked “Complied.” It is thus likely that E.C. Flaccus built the Barnesville plant in 1905 (State of Ohio 1906:56; 1907:137).



Figure 11 – E.C. Flaccus token (Hoosier Jar)

When Edward purchased Flaccus Bros. in 1905, William Flaccus – who had returned to the family business in 1892 and remained – retired. However, he again returned – this time to Edward’s firm – by 1907. He continued with the firm until at least 1914, probably until the final end of the company. There seem to have been few if any changes between 1905 and 1914.

E.C. Flaccus died in an auto accident on June 25, 1914, when his chauffeur lost control of the vehicle, sending it over an 80-foot embankment. He was buried on June 27, and his wife, Mary C. Flaccus became executrix of the estate. Many of her relatives moved in to assist her. According to the city directories, Edward Schuler, Flaccus’ brother-in-law, operated the Wheeling plant after Flaccus’ death, while Andrew Schuler – Flaccus’ father-in-law and former plant manger, along with another relative, Leonard Schuler, became foremen for the firm. Andrew was the superintendent by 1919. The family apparently began selling parts of the business in early 1920. The *New Philadelphia Ohio Democrat and Times* noted on June 17, 1920, that the Phelps Can Co. had recently taken over the former Flaccus Bros. plant at that location. An October 1920 billhead listed the sale of numerous jars – apparently generic (Caniff 1996:16). Despite the family efforts, the business closed on November 6, 1920 (*Charleston Daily Mail* 11/7/1920).

Flaccus descendants formed the Flaccus Food Products Co. on July 10, 1922, to liquidate the final holdings. Members of the corporation included Will N. Cruse, Bertha Cruse, H.O. Etz, Douglass Vess, and J.W. Cummins. Despite the name, the firm was not a packing house. The company either was not entirely successful, or it completed its mission in a very brief period

(Caniff 1996:16). The *Charleston* (West Virginia) *Daily Mail* for August 14, 1923, listed the firm under delinquent corporations that had not paid their license tax or attorney fees, and the 1924 Wheeling city directory carried no listing for the company. The Water St. building, however, remained in the family for many years (Caniff 1996:16).

Containers and Marks

Caniff (1997:45-46) noted that the company used brand names of “STAG, STEER’S HEAD, CHAMPION & OHIO VALLEY,” although the same catsup, pickles, mustard, and other foods were probably placed in bottles and jars for all brands. The Champion and Ohio Valley brands were apparently only packaged in generic (i.e., unembossed) jars with paper labels.

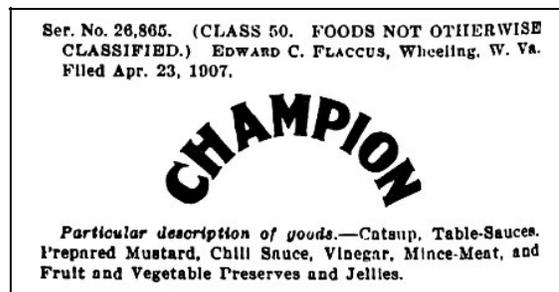


Figure 12 – Trademark for Champion logo

E.C. Flaccus registered Trademark No. 65,082 on September 3, 1907, for the CHAMPION logo (Figure 12), although the registration gave no date of first use (Creswick 1987:258).

The E.C. Flaccus Co. mostly used bottles and jars with paper labels, although the firm used some embossed containers as well as some stoneware vessels. We have divided these into the three categories: embossed, paper labeled, and ceramics – with a special section at the end for the elaborately embossed Stag Head jars.

Embossed Containers

Embossed containers must also be divided into a dichotomy: elaborately embossed jars (discussed at the end) and other containers. We have only discovered two types of other embossed containers that we can attribute to the E.C. Flaccus Co., probably during his early period. One was a colorless jar from the Hoosier Jar webpage that was slightly flared from heel to shoulder with a fluted shoulder and a cracked-off and ground lip or rim to be sealed with a cork. The base was embossed “E.C. FLACCUS Co. GERMAN MUSTARD WHEELING, W.Va.” (Figure 13).

As noted in Part I, George Flaccus patented a “battleship” container – filled with mustard but able to be reused at home – in 1898 – to take advantage of the patriotic fervor evoked by the Spanish-American War. As with the elaborately embossed mustard/fruit jars, brother Edward again produced a copy. In an apparent attempt to avoid violating copyright laws, Edward made a few changes. He replaced the fore and aft main deck guns with a more ornate fore figure² that removed his boat from the “battleship” class – although he applied labels identifying his ships as the U.S.S. Baltimore (a cruiser), Texas (classified as a coastal defense battleship – the first battleship built), Newark (the first modern cruiser in the U.S. fleet), San Francisco (a cruiser), and Minneapolis (a cruiser)



Figure 13 – Base-embossed mustard (Hoosier Jar)



Figure 14 – Flaccus Mustard Boats (Hoosier Jar)

(Caniff 1996:22).³ He also enlarged the main battery control tower on the foremast and changed its shape. Finally, he

changed the portholes on the superstructure to amid ship gun mounts. In Figure 14, the three “boats” to the left were made for the E.C. Flaccus Co., and the one on the right was made for Flaccus Bros. The Flaccus figures were not very accurate in their depiction of the actual ships. Compare Figure 15 – the U.S.S. Texas – with the Flaccus mustard boats in Figure 14. The U.S.S. Baltimore had a similar shape.

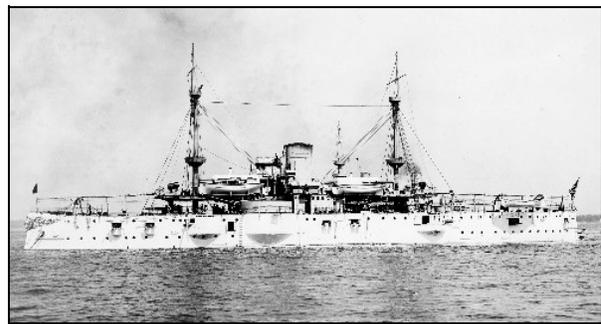


Figure 15 – U.S.S. Texas (Scott 2009)

² We have not found a similar looking feature on photos of any 1890s battleships.

³ Caniff (1996:22) identified all of these but the U.S.S. Baltimore, although a dish with the Baltimore label was posted on the Hoosier Jar webpage.

Paper-Label Containers

As noted above, the vast majority of Flaccus goods were identified by paper labels. These are difficult to classify due to the impermanence of paper and general lack of collector interest in paper-labeled bottles and jars. We have recorded various labels from Steer's Head (continued from Flaccus Bros.), Stag Brand, and Ohio Valley containers – as well as one Champion brand jar.

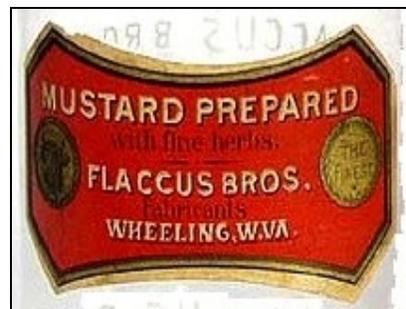


Figure 16 – Earliest Flaccus Bros. mustard label (Hoosier Jar)

Steer's Head



Figure 17 – Ingredients label (Wayne & June Lowry collection)

As noted in Part I, the rectangular, oval, round, and lazy crescent (i.e., a crescent with the points up) Steer's Head labels all lacked the ingredients list required by the Pure Food & Drug Act of 1906. All of these label types were likely used by Flaccus Bros. prior to the 1905 sale to Edward C. Flaccus. Of interest here are the “bow-tie” labels (so called because of their shapes) used on various types of mustard jars and other mustard containers. We noted three variations of these in Part I. The first one of these had two small circular areas, one with a picture of a steer's head, the other with “THE FINEST” in the circle. These also lacked the ingredients and were certainly used by Flaccus Bros., probably as early as ca. 1898 (Figure 16).

The other two variations of the bow-tie label – one with a red background, the other tan – included the ingredients and percentages in fine print and had steer heads in both circles (Figure 17). These cameo steer heads were labeled “STEER'S HEAD (arch) / TRADE MARK REGISTERED (inverted arch)” (Figure 18). Note the apostrophe in “STEER'S HEAD.” An interesting transitional label had the bow-tie with no ingredients along with a second label – listing the ingredients – pasted below the bow-tie (Figure 19). After E.C. Flaccus purchased Flaccus Bros., he



Figure 18 – Steer's Head cameo (eBay)



Figure 19 – Ingredients added (Hoosier Jar)

obviously continued Steer’s Head brand – with the Flaccus Bros. moniker – for a number of years. Edward almost certainly first used up whatever Steer’s Head labels remained from the older firm – without the ingredients – and had labels printed in compliance with the 1906 Act, which he then used until he discontinued the brand.

It is notable that in our sample, the *only* examples of Steer’s Head labels with a list of ingredients are on bow-tie mustard labels – not on labels for any other product. These labels may have been developed specifically for the ca. 1898 elaborately embossed jars (discussed in Part I and below). The space on the back of the jar is the perfect size for the bow-tie labels (Figure 20). In the Hoosier Jar photos (the former collection of Tom Caniff – the best sample available), the only other container type with these labels was milk bottles – called “mustard milks” in catalogs (Figure 21).

Stag Brand

We have two clues in assessing which labels belong to each period. First, the Stag Head label trademarked in 1897 had the word “FLACCUS” superimposed on the antlers. The later trademark (1908) still had the “FLACCUS” superimposition but also had “TRADE MARK” above it. Second, a requirement of the Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906 stated that all ingredients of a container be shown on the label. Because there was almost certainly a grace period, we would expect to find the ingredient list on labels used by at least 1908 – if not sooner.



Figure 20 – Elaborately embossed jar label (Glass Discoveries)

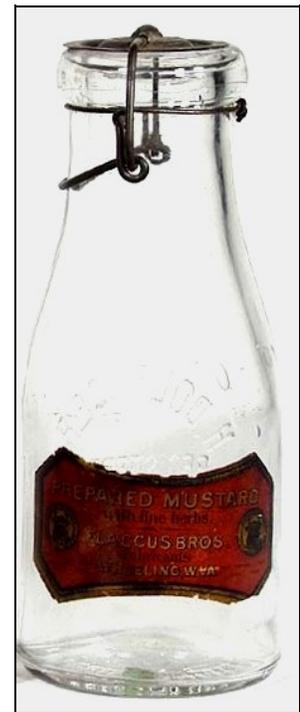


Figure 21 – Milk bottle mustard jar (Hoosier Jar)

The division is further complicated by Flaccus' probable reuse of containers and labels. As noted above, Edward Flaccus almost certainly reused Flaccus & Elliott labels during the early years of "The E.C. Flaccus Co." It is therefore *possible* that he continued to reuse labels for the life of the firm. While we have no historical evidence for this (as we have for the Flaccus & Elliott reuse), it should be kept in mind.

Of the three styles of E.C. Flaccus Co. Stag Head paper labels, two were almost certainly used during the early years of the firm and the third probably belonged to the same era. Both probable early styles had "FLACCUS" above the stag antlers, while the two that were probably used slightly later had "TRADE MARK" in the same place. None of these three label styles listed any ingredients – as would be expected after the 1906 Pure Food & Drug Act.⁴

Probably the oldest label – judging by the crudeness of the container (note the lean of the neck/finish to the right) – was rectangular in shape and is only represented by a single example. The container was listed as a Star Olive bottle in the Hazel-Atlas 1908 catalog. The one-part finish was made to be sealed with a cork. The label had a yellow background with a stag head as the main motif in the upper center. The word "FLACCUS" was superimposed on the antlers, with "TRADE" to the left of the stag and "MARK" to the right. Below was "OLIVES / E.C. FLACCUS, WHEELING, W. VIRGINIA" (Figure 22). Although we have placed this as the oldest label based on the bottle, this could be a case of Flaccus container reuse.



Figure 22 – C.L. Flaccus labels, earliest to left (Hoosier Jar)

The next label group was the most common in our very small sample – with four examples. The labels were vertically extended rectangles with the same stag at the top

⁴ Of interest, *all* of the E.C. Flaccus mustard labels in our sample include ingredients – as per the Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906 – but *none* of the Stag Head ones list any ingredients.

(superimposed with “FLACCUS” on the antlers, “TRADE” to the left and “MARK” to the right – but “TRADE” and “MARK” were much smaller than on the earlier label). The words “STAG BRAND” appeared immediately below the stag in a prominent scroll with the name of the product below that. In a black rectangle at the bottom of the label had “THE / E.C. FLACCUS CO. (in an advancing wave) / WHEELING, W.VA. / U.S.A.” all in white letters. The four labels were for SWEET GHERKINS, SOUR GHERKINS, GRATED HORSERADISH, and SWEET MIXED PICKLES. An extra label around the neck of each bottle appeared to say “Extra Fine Quality” in cursive (see Figure 22).

The Sweet Gherkins bottle was cylindrical in shape and was called an “Olive Bottle, cylinder shape” in the 1908 Hazel-Atlas catalog (Figure 23). The Sour Gherkins bottle was octagonal in cross-section, with a one-part, squared-ring finish and a ring around the neck. The closures consisted of colorless or white milk-glass domed lids (milk-glass in this example), each with an indented horizontal channel on the top, held in place with a wire clamp that hooked under the outer side of jar’s finish. The closure was patented by Julian P. Lyon on April 10, 1900 (No.647,233 – see Part I for details and patent drawing). The container used for Grated Horseradish was square in cross-section with a one-part finish made for a cork seal. The bottle for Sweet Mixed Pickles was identical with the one for Sour Gherkins, octagonal for the Lyon seal.

We have placed the final labels in the last position for one major reason: the stag on the labels had “STAG BRAND” superimposed on the antlers instead of “FLACCUS.” This comes closer to fitting the third trademark, assigned to the E.C. Flaccus Co. in 1908 – although Flaccus claimed it had been used for “ten years” prior to the application. None of these labels listed the ingredients – as required by the Pure Food & Drug Act of 1906.

These labels were rectangular with rounded tops. Each had the stag head with the superimposed “STAG BRAND” on the antlers, “TRADE” to the left and “MARK” to the right, with small, illegible words immediately below the stag’s neck. The individual food name



Figure 23 – Bottle with middle C.L. Flaccus labels (Hoosier Jar)

followed (GHERKINS and SWEET GHERKINS in our sample), with “THE E.C. FLACCUS CO. / WHEELING, W.VA. U.S.A.” in white letters on a sweeping black banner. As noted above, both bottles were made to the 1901 Hess patent (see Figure 22). The Kearns-Gorsuch Bottle Co. 1916 catalog illustrated this style.

E.C. Flaccus Bow-Tie Labels



Figure 24 – E.C. Flaccus mustard label (Hoosier Jar)



Figure 25 – Milk mustards (Hoosier Jar)

jars, milk bottles, and/or reused containers (Figure 25). A slight variation lacked the percentages. These were likely used soon after the Act was passed and were soon replaced by labels with percentages. Hoosier Jar only showed these on reused jars – one embossed “Ball” in cursive (the “triple-I Ball” variation – see the Ball Bros. section) in Ball-blue color (Figure 26).

E.C. Flaccus used a bow-tie label that was a pretty blatant copy of the Flaccus Bros. bow-tie. The label had the same gold-and-black outlined red background, but these only had one circle enclosing an “ECF” monogram. The central area had “PREPARED MUSTARD / MANUFACTURED BY / THE (all horizontal) / E.C. FLACCUS (advancing wave with curlicues above and below) / CO. / WHEELING, W. VA. (both horizontal)” with a list of ingredients and percentages to the right (Figure 24). In the sample from Hoosier Jar, all of the E.C. Flaccus bow-tie labels had the list of ingredients – indicating a use after

1906. These were found on generic



Figure 26 – Flaccus labels on reused jars (Hoosier Jar)

Ohio Valley

Caniff (1997:45-46) noted that the E.C. Flaccus Co. used both the CHAMPION and OHIO VALLEY brands in addition to the Stag Head logo. The Ohio Valley labels in our sample were on catsup bottles with the early style of continuous-thread finish that was formed by the mouth-blown-in-mold process, used between ca. 1890 and ca. 1920.

Each label had “OHIO VALLEY” in an arch at the top with “KETCHUP” in an inverted arch at the bottom. The inner circle had a floral scene with a square inset of a tomato on the left side. It is probably no accident that Flaccus Bros. spelled out “catsup” for this product, while the E.C. Flaccus Co. adopted the “ketchup” spelling (Figure 27). There were no ingredients on the label. Interestingly, the E.C. Flaccus name also failed to appear on the label.



Figure 27 – Ohio Valley Ketchup bottles (Hoosier Jar)

Champion

The only Champion brand label we have seen included the ingredients, reflecting the 1906 Pure Food & Drug Act – thus a use after 1906, probably after ca. 1908 or later. The label was on a wide-mouth bottle that was octagonal in cross-section, with a “packer” finish. The shoulder of the bottle was embossed “11 AVDP OZ” (i.e., Avoirdupois – an Avoirdupois ounce is slightly smaller than a Troy ounce, the typical measure used in the U.S.).

The label, itself, was rectangular in shape, with “CHAMPION / BRAND” in white letters on a black background above “QUINCE” in a red background. Below that was “GLUCOSE – APPLES – SUGAR” above a more detailed description of the ingredients. At the bottom was “THE E.C. FLACCUS CO. / WHEELING, W. VA.” There was no picture or drawing of any kind on the label (Figure 28).



Figure 28 – Champion label (Hoosier Jar)

A Surprising Conclusion

At some point, both firms seem to have specialized heavily in mustard. This probably occurred just prior to the Pure Food & Drug Act of 1906. The only non-mustard label – with ingredients – in the entire Hoosier Jar sample was a Champion Quince jar. It seems unlikely that both firms would simultaneously make the identical decision to specialize in mustard; therefore, Edward must have made the change right after he acquired Flaccus Bros.

Ceramic Coolers

The E.C. Flaccus Co. also carried at least one tan stoneware cooler. The same cooler appeared in Caniff (1996:18) and on the Hoosier Jar webpage. The five-gallon cooler was similar to the ones offered by Flaccus & Elliott (see above) and had the same designs flanking the numeral “5” – although the number was placed on the upper section of the cooler. The transfer print on the lower section said “STAG WATER COOLER. / FROM / THE E.C. FLACCUS CO. / WHEELING, W. VA.” – with small designs flanking the bottom two lines and bracketing the word “FROM.” (Figure 29).



Figure 29 – E.C. Flaccus coolers (Hoosier Jar)

Elaborately Embossed Mustard Jars

By far the most dramatic and controversial offering from the E.C. Flaccus Co. was the elaborately embossed jars. Although we have not discovered specific advertising, it is highly likely that these jars were used only for special promotions. The Flaccus Bros. elaborately embossed mustard jars were also embossed “FRUIT JAR” – leaving no doubt as to the intended reuse by the customers. Although the E.C. Flaccus Co. jars lacked that specific designation, there is little question that these, too, were intended to be reused as fruit jars.

These may be one of the most bold-faced copies of another firm’s product on record. Flaccus Bros. adopted the elaborately embossed Steer’s Head mustard jars by at least 1898 (discussed in Part I). Edward’s elaborately embossed jars were remarkably similar (Figure 30).

Where George’s jars had the Steer’s Head as a central figure, Edward used the Stag Head with “TRADE” to the left and “MARK” to the right. Immediately below was “E.C. FLACCUS CO” in a banner. Although Edward used a floral motif above the Stag Head – instead of George’s grapevine arrangement – the similarity was unmistakable. The same was true of the flowery motif below the central figure. The final marked similarity was color – suggesting that the same glass house made the jars (Figure 31).



Figure 30 – Comparison of Steers & Stag Head jars (North American Glass)

Despite the inherent beauty of the design, the E.C. Flaccus jars are scarce. This suggests that they were never made in quantity and may only have been made once.

Like the jars used by Flaccus Bros., the E.C. Flaccus jars were almost certainly manufactured by the Frank Glass Co. at Wellsburg, West Virginia. As noted above, Edward was the president of Frank Glass by at least 1899.

E.C. FLACCUS CO. and the Stag’s Head (ca. 1900-ca. 1909)

E.C. Flaccus used a series of jars embossed with a stag’s head and “E.C. FLACCUS CO.” (Figure 32). These were very similar to the Steer’s Head jars, with intricate floral embossing around the body of each container. Unlike the Steer’s Head arrangement, the Stag Head pattern is strictly wild flower in nature (*draba cusickii* – mustard family from the Cascade region of Oregon and Washington). The choice of flower – from a mustard plant – is very fitting, considering that the jars were packed with mustard. There seems to have been less variation in design than the



Figure 31 – Colored Steers & Stag Head jars (Hoosier Jar)



Figure 32 – Stag Head jar (North American Glass)

Steer’s Head series, but both brands had an almost identical fluctuation in color (Creswick 1987:61; Roller 2011:194-195). This color similarity suggests that both types of jars were made by the same glass house (see Figure 31).



Figure 33 – Generic lid (North American Glass)

Although there were generic inserts (Figures 33 & 34), Creswick (1987:61) only illustrated a single style of jar and lid for E.C. Flaccus with a stag head in the center, “TRADE” to the left, “MARK” to the right, and “E.C. FLACCUS Co.” in a pennant below. An interesting characteristic is that the stag on the jars faced to its own left, while the stag on the trademark and

the lid liners faced to its right – as in the trademark. Note how the Creswick (1987:61) drawing is virtually identical to the Flaccus sign (Figure 35). Unlike the Steer’s Head jars, we have never seen any of the stag head jars with a Simplex or other glass cap (see discussion of these closures below). All of the Stag Head jars seem to have glass liners with metal screw bands; the finishes will not support the Simplex lids. The majority of the caps were made of white milk (opal) glass, although a few were made from colorless glass.



Figure 34 – Sign for Stag Head jar (eBay)



Figure 35 – Stag Head jar (Creswick 1987:61)

Toulouse (1969:117-118) discussed color variations of the jars and illustrated the complex design. He dated the jars ca. 1890 and noted that they were probably made for Flaccus by the Hazel Glass Co. In his later book (Toulouse 1971:488), he was more vehement, dating the stag head at “circa 1890 only.” Although Toulouse used the best sources available at the time, his best guess for dating was incorrect.

As noted above, Flaccus & Elliott registered the Stag Head trademark on August 3, 1897. The logo had the word “FLACCUS” superimposed atop the stag’s antlers, and the trademark document listed ten foods to be covered by the brand (Figure 36). Edward C. Flaccus registered a slightly different trademark (No. 33,884) on December 12, 1899. This stag showed less profile and lacked the “FLACCUS” name (see Figure 36). The food list on this later trademark was restricted to “certain named table relishes, fruits, and vegetables.” Flaccus finally registered Trademark No.

68,405 on April 7, 1908.

This was identical to the

1897 trademark, except for the words “STAG BRAND” above “FLACCUS” (see Figure 36). This list included 22 foods (Creswick 1987:259-260).

Caniff (1996:14) stated that the stag’s head jars, with their fancy designs, were used as early as 1900. Flaccus filed for a trademark on the brand for both E.C. Flaccus and Flaccus Brothers on April 23, 1907 (although the mark was not registered until April 7 of the next year). As noted above, these jars were unsuited for the Simplex glass lids.

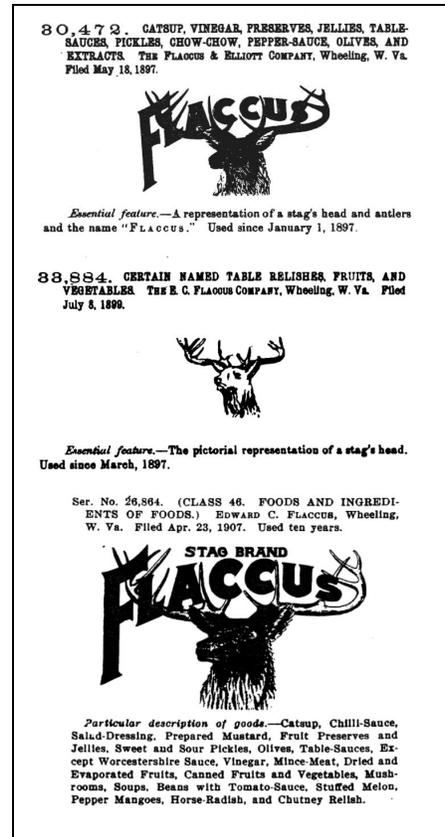


Figure 36 – 1897, 1899, & 1908 trademarks (Creswick 1987:259-260)



Figure 37 – 1908 Steershead trademark (Creswick 1987:260)

STEERS HEAD – Elaborately Embossed, Colored, Mouth Blown

E.C. Flaccus continued the Flaccus Bros. brands when he purchased the firm in 1905, probably because the brand already had a large following. Flaccus registered the “STEER’S HEAD” logo (Trademark No. 67,527) in his own name (for use at the E.C. Flaccus Co.) on February 4, 1908 (Figure 37). Unlike the Flaccus Bros. trademark (see Part I), this one included 18 foods in the description (Creswick 1987:260).

Although Caniff (1996:15; 1997:45-46) suggested that E.C. Flaccus continued to use jars with the Steer’s Head logo, we have not discovered any embossed Steer’s Head jars or paper labels with the “E.C. Flaccus” name. Flaccus apparently continued to use the paper labels left from his brother’s firm and jars embossed with the Flaccus Bros. moniker. It is probable, however, that the Flaccus Bros. used all of the colored, mouth-blown, elaborately embossed fruit jars.

STEERS HEAD – Elaborately Embossed, Colorless, Machine Made

All of the machine-made Flaccus Bros. Steers Head jars were colorless and have been found with colorless glass screw caps (see discussion of lids below). Although the paper labels and pamphlets used the term “Steer’s Head,” the embossed jars lacked the apostrophe – Steers Head. We have attempted to maintain the distinction. However, William Fenn did not patent the Simplex jar and lid until May 3, 1904 – the year before George A. Flaccus sold the Flaccus Bros. to Edward Flaccus. Caniff (1996:16) speculated that most of these jars were probably used by the E.C. Flaccus Co. – and we concur. As noted above, the only machine-made, continuous-thread Steers Head jars appear to be those topped with Simplex caps.



Figure 38 – Steers Head variations (North American Glass)

We have discovered two different styles of the colorless, machine-made jars each with at least three variations. The most striking difference in the two styles was the embossed steer head in the center (Figure 38). Variations include slight alterations in the steer's head, differences in the grape clusters at the right and left of the top design on the front, and some divergence in the flowers on both front and back lower designs. All bases we have examined had circular valve scars. This analysis suggests that the molds were made by two separate engravers – possibly showing a difference in skill levels. The steer head in the center of the right jar in Figure 38 seems more crudely made than the one to the left. Each variation indicates a separate mold – suggesting that the jars were made in a total of six molds.

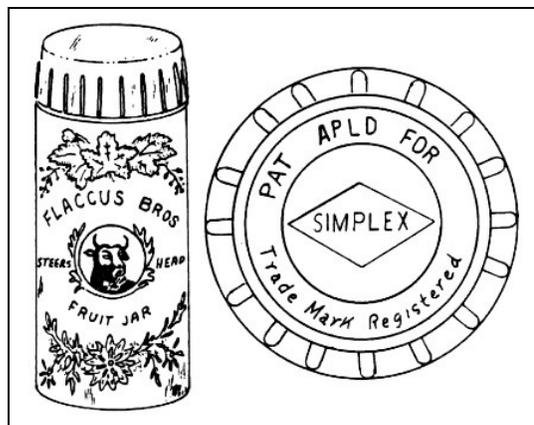


Figure 39 – Steers Head jar (Creswick 1987:61)

Both Creswick (1987:61) and Roller (2011:195) presented examples of the jars, topped with inserts, glass lids, and stoppers (Figure 39). Most variations were only listed as “ground lip.” Creswick (1987:60) speculated that “later the Hazel-Atlas Glass Company also made some of the Flaccus jars or lids.” She added that “the Hazel Glass Company were [*sic*] specialists in opal ware.” However, Bernas (2006:30; 2007:50) also noted that both the Sterling Glass Co. and Perfection Glass Co. made some of the lids that have been found on Flaccus Bros. Steers Head, machine-made jars (see the section on Simplex and Other Glass Lids below).

William B. Fenn and the Washington, Pennsylvania, Glass Houses

On October 10, 1902, the Republic Glass Mfg. Co., a corporation composed of William B. Fenn, John P. Elkin and two other men, was officially registered as a Pennsylvania firm. The plant was at Moosic, Pennsylvania. Meanwhile, Fenn was appointed receiver for the Novelty Glass Works at Washington, Pennsylvania, in February 1902. Fenn and members of the Caldwell family purchased the factory and renamed the operation as the Sterling Glass Co. (Bernas 2005b:59-62).

During this period, Fenn developed an idea for a jar manufacturing machine and a glass lid. On January 20, 1903, Fenn applied for a patent for a “Glass Pressing and Blowing Machine.” He received Patent No. 767,807 on August 16, 1904. Fenn’s machine was of the press-and-blow variety, using one set of molds to mechanically press the glass into a parison or blank that was cylindrical with a depression at the top. The blank was then transferred to the blow mold, where compressed air blew the glass into the final shape. Unlike most machines of the day, Fenn’s device needed only to have the gob of glass introduced by hand; the rest of the operation was mechanical. The machine, however, was apparently limited to the manufacture of wide-mouth containers.

On June 1, 1903, Fenn applied for a patent for a “Jar Closure” and received Patent No. 758,515 on April 26, 1904. These lids were apparently never used. Just ten days later, Fenn applied for another “Jar-Closure” patent – on June 10, 1903. He received Patent No. 759,168 on May 3, 1904.⁵ Unlike other screw closures that sealed against the top (lip or rim) of the finish or against the shoulder, Fenn’s lid sealed at the threads. Although this was accomplished by the design of the lid/finish threads, Fenn included a sleeve between the glass of the finish and the glass of the lid for greater certainty. The Sterling plant began manufacture of the Simplex Packing Jar, based on Fenn’s patents, in mid-June of 1903.

Fenn and seven others reorganized the firm as the Perfection Glass Co. on July 9, 1903, to produce tableware and Simplex jars. Apparently laden with debts he could not pay, Fenn left town unexpectedly in October, causing the company to cease operations by November. Creditors (including the Caldwells) who purchased Fenn’s interests in the plant reopened the works, and the plant resumed production on January 7, 1904 (Bernas 2005a:68-69; 2005b:56-58; 2005c:8-9, 13-22). Because of subsequent events, Perfection Glass made Fenn-style jars and lids until 1906, when the Hazel-Atlas Glass Co. took over the manufacture of these products. Hazel-Atlas continued to make the jars until 1908. For more information, see the Perfection Glass Co. section or Bernas 2005b or 2005c.

⁵ After much hesitancy by the Patent Office, Fenn was issued this patent but the rights were stripped from him on June 11, 1904, due to his bankruptcy proceedings, and transferred to the Republic Glass Mfg. Co. by an arrangement between the court trustee and John P. Elkin. Elkin – formerly Fenn’s partner in this firm – was now the owner.

William B. Fenn and the Flaccus Jar Lids

William B. Fenn patented the Simplex Cap on May 3, 1904. Fenn and several others incorporated the Perfection Glass Co. in 1903, and the plant made Simplex jars until it closed in 1906. Fenn's bankruptcy case included a mention of the Flaccus Bros. as a creditor. Thus, the Simplex caps were used at least as early as 1903.

According to Federal documents for the involuntary bankruptcy of William B. Fenn, on October 23, 1903, Flaccus Brothers in Wheeling, West Virginia, contracted for \$945 worth of merchandise (not further defined) from the Perfection Glass Co. in Washington, Pennsylvania. Two railroad carloads of ware, destined for West Virginia (end point not defined) were seized prior to departure on October 28 (*The Washington Observer* [Washington, Pennsylvania], October 29, 1903).

Since Flaccus Brothers was a packer of preserves, condiments and other food, it is logical to presume that ware shipped was not separating tableware or scallop flanged tumblers – other goods made by Perfection Glass – but the machine made “Simplex” packing jar and glass screw cap for which Fenn had a patent application pending.⁶ Also, it is highly probable that the two railcars full of ware contained the same jars that were destined for Flaccus Bros. Terms of shipment were “F.O.B Factory.” Thus, once the ware was loaded on the railcar, it was the property of the requestor with the obligation to pay the new Perfection owners rather than Fenn's estate from which verified debts would be paid. In the listing of creditors with claims against Fenn, the only other Wheeling firms he dealt with were a printing and paper box company.

The “Simplex” jar and screw caps discussed and shown as an Exhibit in the Federal casework was the unembossed version. We have what may be a labeled example that has a circular plate outline on it which would make sense if Perfection wanted to have the option to put a customer's information on it or not. Tom Caniff also reported a similar jar embossed T.G.Co. (Maine firm) with a Flaccus mustard label on it. The same style label as found on the machine made, clear STEERS HEAD examples.

⁶ There is a possibility that Flaccus purchased non-jar glassware for some form of promotion, but we have found no indication that such a promotion happened.

This series of data certainly points to at least the first Perfection Glass Co. attempting to provide Flaccus Brothers with machine made, unmarked early SIMPLEX style jars with the Fenn style glass screw cap.

In our sample, machine-made, elaborately embossed Flaccus jars were strongly associated with Simplex glass caps. As noted above, William B. Fenn patented the Simplex Cap on May 3, 1904. Fenn and several others incorporated the Perfection Glass Co. in 1903, and the plant made Simplex jars until it closed in 1906. However, this was during the period when the Frank Glass Co. was making mouth-blown (ground-rim) Flaccus jars and, it is unlikely that the Perfection Glass Co. made the Simplex-style caps with the “removal” message that are found on handmade jars. In addition, some of the Simplex lids found on Flaccus jars were a style made only by the Perfection Glass Co. (along with its predecessor, the Sterling Glass Co., and its affiliate, the Republic Glass Mfg. Co.). For more information on Fenn, Perfection Glass, and Simplex, see the Perfection Glass Co. section or Bernas (2005a; 2005b).

The above information points to the Perfection Glass Co. as the possible manufacturer of the machine-made Flaccus Steers Head jars. The Steers Head jars had the same profile (cylindrical shape with rounded shoulders), capacity (16 ozs.) and finish (unique – no side seams – made to accommodate Fenn thread sealing screw cap) as that seen on the machine made Simplex jars in diamond embossed and unembossed pint and other size jars. The October 1903 contract with the Flaccus Bros, whether filled or not, shows a connection between both firms.

Perfection Glass had a mold shop on site and employed well-recognized mold makers who were capable of making the Flaccus Bros. Steers Head fruit jar patterns. Perfection made the Fenn screw caps for the above jar from July 1903 up through June 1906. Discounting a massive conspiracy among collectors over the years, the majority of machine made Steers Head jars circulating today have Fenn screw caps with embossing that indicates pressing before and likely long after the May 3, 1904, patent date.

On the other hand, when the first Perfection Glass Co. sold its equipment in November 1903, the only jar mold mentioned as being sold was for the Simplex jar. When the factory for the Perfection firm reopened in January 1904 and spun up operations, only separating tableware and the Simplex jar and cap were mentioned as being produced. With the Perfection factory

being closed for upgrades between July 1904 and April 1905 and the concentrated production thereafter of Simplex Mason jars and then their Uhl screw cap during the calendar year, the capacity to make the Steers Head jars was unavailable. This seems to suggest that some other glasshouse made the machine made Steers Head jars, and Perfection supplied the Fenn screw caps for them up until Hazel-Atlas began production ca. 1906.

With the demise of the Perfection Glass Co., the Hazel-Atlas Glass Co. adopted the Simplex closure system, making and marketing the Fenn glass screw cap and the Simplex embossed jars for it. It is possible that Hazel-Atlas produced the machine-made Flaccus jars at that point. Because the Flaccus firm was declining in its last few years, it is likely that the Simplex period was only from ca. 1903 to 1908 or earlier. Hazel-Atlas may also have manufactured some of the white milk or opal glass inserts used earlier. For a probable chronology of manufacturers, see Table 2 in Part I.

October 23, 1903, when Perfection Glass contracted for \$945 worth of ware (most likely the early SIMPLEX packing jar and Fenn glass screw cap) to the Flaccus Bros. may be considered the focal point for machine made jars supplanting the hand blown ones with the non-Fenn glass screw caps at Flaccus Bros. Also, it could serve as the timeframe when new molds were produced for the inclined and seamless threaded area needed to accommodate the Fenn style sealing system by whoever was making those jars for Flaccus Bros. After this date, the Steers Head machine made jars with the SIMPLEX (Fenn) screw cap became to norm for Flaccus Bros. and then E.C. Flaccus after 1905.

The finishes of the jars had no vertical seams. The machines that made the jars may have used the Grote 1900 patent to produce finishes with a single-piece neck ring.

Ludwig Grote filed for a “Glass Bottle Blowing Machine” on March 5, 1900, and received Patent No. 656,322 on July 17 of that year (Figure 40). The system could be added to most machines and apparently was used by the Fenn machine and/or later machines at the Perfection

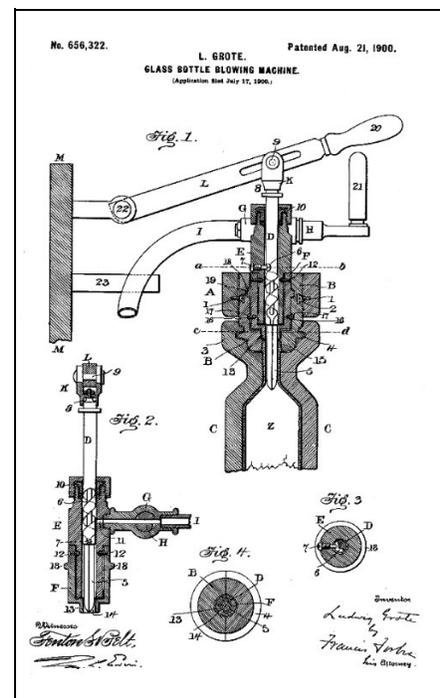


Figure 40 – Grote 1900 patent

Glass Co. The Steers Head brand continued to be used after E.C. Flaccus bought the Flaccus Bros. in 1905.

The firm or firms that made the jars would have to be machine equipped and have a single neck ring capability or another means to make a seamless threaded region which Perfection and Republic did possess on the Fenn machine (SIMPLEX jars and separating

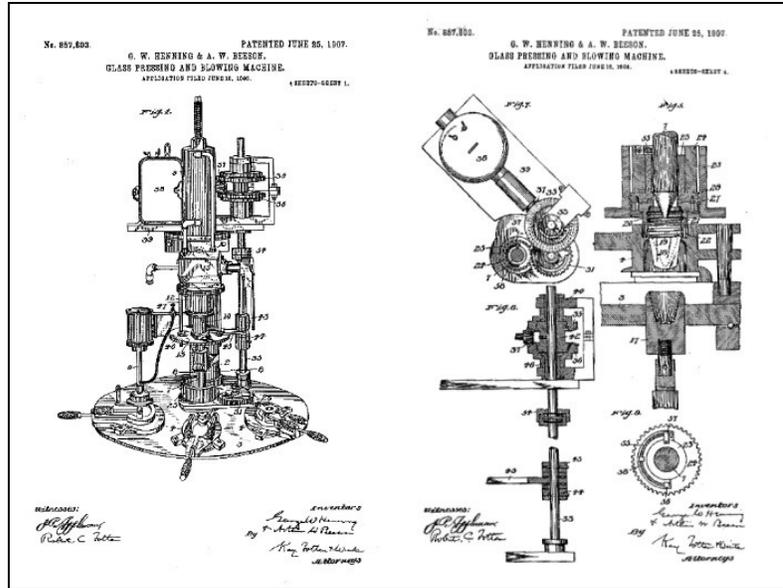


Figure 41 – Henning & Beeson 1907 patent

tableware bowls blown on his machine have no seams in the threaded region). Coincidentally, George W. Henning and Arthur W. Beeson applied for a patent for a “Glass Pressing and Blowing Machine” on June 16, 1906, and received Patent No.857,803 on June 25, 1907 (Figure 41). The pair were Hazel-Atlas employees, and they developed a process to make seamless threads for the Blue machine – just about the time Perfection Glass disappeared) – which would give this capability to the Hazel-Atlas firm as well.

The non-Fenn glass screw caps were likely made at the Frank Glass Co. in Wellsburg. In addition to the arguments presented in Part I, the Perfection Glass Co. only made flint (clear) lime glass products rather than colored glassware – as used on the mouth-blown jars with non-Fenn caps. Possibly, Fenn saw these screw caps while he was completing his agreement with John Elkin to design a fruit jar and patterned his concept based on the earlier invention, perhaps hoping to break into that market with his machine made jar and screw cap.

Lids on Flaccus Jars

Although the discussion is complex, Bernas (2008) provided compelling evidence that the Sterling Glass Co., Perfection Glass Co., followed by the Hazel-Atlas Glass Co., made the Simplex lids, and the E.C. Flaccus Co. almost certainly used some of these. Bernas assessed the

glass lids made by the Perfection Glass Co. and its predecessor according to lid configuration, embossing, and historical references to arrive at a chronology of manufacture. We have composed Table 1 based on the Bernas Chronology and subsequent data.

Table 1 – Chronology of Flaccus Glass Caps

Cap Type	Embossing	Prob. Manufacturer	Date Range
Flaccusesque	PAT APLD FOR (inside of cap)	Sterling Glass Co.	June 1903
Flaccusesque	PAT.APLD.FOR / SIMPLEX diamond / Trade Mark Registered (inside of cap)	Perfection Glass Co.	June-October 1903
Crown	PAT.APLD.FOR with SIMPLEX	Perfection Glass Co.	ca. 1904-ca. 1906
Crown	PAT.MAY.3.1904 above the Simplex diamond logo	Perfection Glass Co.	1904
Crown	Simplex diamond	Perfection Glass Co.	ca. 1904-ca. 1906
Hat	Simplex diamond	Hazel-Atlas Glass Co.	1906-1908

Bernas (2008; 2012) divided the Fenn-style lids – including those made prior to the Sterling/Perfection firms – into three configurations: “Flaccusesque,” crown, and hat shapes. Although we will use the shapes as a basis in this section, the style of embossing is more important than the shape of the lids for this study.

“Flaccusesque” Lid Configuration

Bernas (2008) noted two differences in embossing on lid configurations that he called “Flaccusesque” – based on their use on jars made for Flaccus Bros. While these two embossing styles of screw caps have shown up so far only on Steers Head jars, they were originally made for the unembossed Simplex jar and advertised as such. How they migrated to the STEERS HEAD jar is still undetermined. The top surfaces of these lids were flat and even, the vertical ribs on the sides were thin, and there was a semicircular band at the base of the outer skirt.

Pat Apld For

The first “Flaccusesque” lid in the Fenn patent style was only embossed “PAT.APLD.FOR” in an arch (Figure 42). Unlike later editions, this one was embossed on the *inside* of the cap in mirror aspect. These lids are not common and probably were only made by the Sterling Glass Co. on or near June 1903.

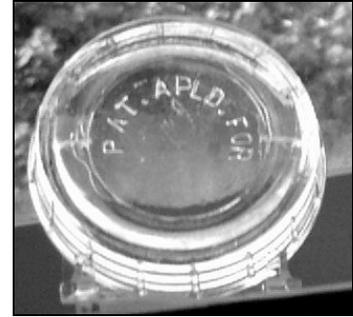


Figure 42 – Pat Apld For

Pat Apld For – Simplex

The follow on “Flaccusesque” lid was another Fenn patent style and was embossed “PAT.APLD. FOR / SIMPLEX in diamond / Trade Mark Registered” on the inside of the cap in mirror aspect (Figure 43). Like the lid described above, these earliest Fenn style caps are not common and were likely made by the Perfection Glass Co. in the June-October 1903 period.



Figure 43 – Pat Apld For Simplex

Crown Lid Configuration

Bernas (2008) hypothesized that the crown style of Fenn patented screw cap was inaugurated by the Perfection Glass Co., during the period of the first incorporation and continued throughout the life of the firm (Figure 44). He chose the term “crown” to describe these lids based on the overall configuration of the cap.

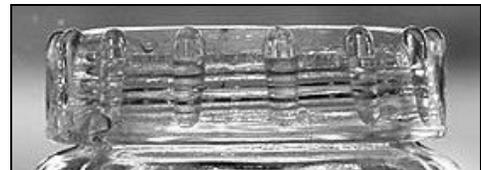


Figure 44 – “Crown” shape

The vertical ribs were wider than other Fenn lids and extended over the top of the cap, forming a series of “jewels” at the top. The top surface also sometimes had a depressed circular area in the center.

Crown lids appeared in four sub-categories. One was the Curved variation, where the “grippers” (vertical ribs) curved over the edge of the top; whereas, ribs in the basic design were



Figure 45 – Pat Apld For Simplex (North American Glass)

straight up. The second variation – the Dome – had a “dome” top surface that extended beyond the ends of the ribs. Third was the Jeweled Crown, where the ribs ascended vertically straight up the outer skirt and jutted over the top surface. The final variation was the Truncated Curved Crown, where the ribs curved up the outer skirt and ended at a raised wall around the outer edge of the top surface (Bernas 2008).



Figure 46 – Pat May 3 1904 plus Simplex diamond

The next embossing – found on three of the four Crown variants (Curved, Truncated Curved and Jeweled) – added “Trade Mark Registered” in an inverted arch below “PAT.APLD.FOR” with “SIMPLEX” in an elongated diamond in the center (Figure 45). All of the embossing migrated from the inside to the outside surface. These lids were likely made by the rejuvenated Perfection Glass Co. from early 1904 to 1906.

The next member of the Jeweled Crown family was embossed “PAT.MAY.3.1904” above the Simplex diamond logo (Figure 46). These lids are so rare that Bernas (2012:9) reported having seen three and read about one. He dated these from September to November of 1904.



Figure 47 – Simplex diamond only

The final embossing – found on Curved, Domed, and Jeweled Crown lids – consisted only of the Simplex diamond logo (Figure 47). These screw caps were made by the Perfection Glass Co. between June 1904 and June 1906. The Hazel-Atlas Glass Co. picked up production of the Jeweled Crown in 1906 and may have continued production of the style until 1908.

Hat Lid Configuration

The final Bernas (2008) Fenn screw cap configuration was the “hat” – like the crown, so called by its appearance (Figure 48). The major defining feature was a broad band around the base of the lid, with the grippers (ribs) extending upward from the band. The ribs did not extend over the top. The top surface had a circular, flat or dome-shaped depression. These were almost certainly produced by the Hazel-Atlas Glass Co.



Figure 48 – “Hat” shape

The Hat and Domed Hat lids were only embossed with the Simplex diamond in the center of the cap. It is probable that the style was created by the Hazel-Atlas Glass Co. and used between 1906 and 1908. Hazel-Atlas also used a Simplex-style glass lid for Mason jars from ca. 1906 to 1908. The lid was based on Russell Uhl’s 1905 patent – an adaption of the Fenn cap for shoulder-seal Mason jars. For more discussion on the Uhl lids, see the section on the Perfection Glass Co.

The Probable Manufacturers

We have discussed the manufacturer of the earlier elaborately embossed fruit jars for both Flaccus Bros. and the E.C. Flaccus Co. in Part I and earlier in Part II. It is solidly referenced that the Frank Glass Co. made at least some – probably many – of these Steers Head and Stag Head jars, almost certainly all mouth blown. Mouth-blown Stag Head and Steers Head jars are made from the same glass colors, some unusual, suggesting that they were made at the same factory. Mouth-blown Steers Head jars and their non-Fenn glass screw caps were made in the same varied colors as the mouth-blown jars, with matching colors – e.g., a green jar has a matching green lid. All Stag Head jars were mouth blown and fit the same color patterns as the mouth-blown Steers Head jars. It is therefore highly probable that the Frank Glass Co. also made the lids for both of these jars.

Machine-made Steers Head jars, however, were all colorless with Fenn patent lids of different profiles. Machine-made jars required new molds because the ones produced by hand would have been difficult to modify for machine usage. The earliest three or four lid styles were

made prior to 1905; therefore, they were commissioned by George A. Flaccus of the Flaccus Bros. George sold the firm to Edward Flaccus in 1905, and Edward almost certainly used the same sources. As noted above, there was a distinct connection between Flaccus Bros. and the Perfection Glass Co., strongly suggesting that Perfection Glass made the bulk of the colorless glass lids used on the elaborately embossed Steers Head jars. Thereafter, the Hazel-Atlas Glass Co. continued to produce the Simplex jars from 1906 to 1908.

Discussion and Conclusions

Although questions and speculation abound, there are several solidly referenced conclusions we can reach. The Flaccus & Elliott Co. survived as a packing firm from March 17, 1897, to April 1, 1898. In a reorganization, the new corporation renamed itself “The E.C. Flaccus Co.” In 1902, Edward became the sole proprietor but again incorporated the firm in 1904. Because of George’s ill health, Edward purchased Flaccus Bros. the following year. Flaccus continued essentially the same packing operation until his death in 1914. The firm struggled on for another six years, finally dissolving permanently in 1920. We may never know why Edward Flaccus left Flaccus Bros. or what caused the apparent animosity between the brothers.

An unexplained mystery yet surrounds the use of Steer’s Head mustard labels (and jar) by the E.C. Flaccus Co. The list of ingredients on bow-tie mustard labels ties their use to 1906 or later – definitely the later E.C. Flaccus Co. period. However, we have found no listings in the city directories for Flaccus Bros. after the 1905 sale. Edward apparently recognized that the Steer’s Head brand was popular, and he would have lost business by dropping it immediately. Thus, he apparently gradually phased out the label. Perhaps future research can discover sources to make this transition more clear.

Each firm left us with specific material culture in the form of bottles, jars, and labels. The Flaccus & Elliott Co. was in business for such a short period that dating its containers is easy, but assigning dates to labels, bottles, and jars from the E.C. Flaccus Co. has been much more challenging, although many of the features of the elaborately embossed fruit jars may be dated with some precision. Hopefully, future collectors and/or archaeologists will devise a better dating scheme for the other jars and/or labels or discover new information to improve our look at the heritage of the final Flaccus enterprise.

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