

## **IGCo Logos Unrelated to the Illinois Glass Co.**

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A number of logos may be mistaken for Illinois Glass Co. marks. Both the Heisey Diamond-H (see the Other H section) and the Diamond Glass Company's diamond marks (see the Diamond Glass Co. section) are similar to the Diamond-I mark used by Illinois Glass. Several other glass manufacturers with IGCo initials used various monograms, some of which are similar to those used by Illinois Glass Co., although all of these were either made during a different time period from the ca. 1906-ca. 1914 Illinois Glass usage of monograms, or they appeared on tableware. Because the marks are similar, we will address them by company below.

### **Imperial Glass Companies**

There were several glass houses, each called the Imperial Glass Co. One of them certainly used an IG monogram on many of its products, although we have discovered no marks used by the others.

**Imperial Glass Co., Bellaire, Ohio** (1904-1931)

**Imperial Glass Corp. Bellaire, Ohio** (1931-1984)

The Imperial Glass Co. was incorporated in 1901 at Bellaire, Ohio, and began producing tableware, headlight lenses, gas and electric shades, and jelly glasses at three furnaces with 45 pots and one continuous tank in 1904. The company began to make more exotic glass in 1910 to compete with machine-made products, adding milk glass to the line in 1931 – changing the name to the Imperial Glass Corp. The firm sold to Lenox, Inc. on January 4, 1973, and became known as the New Imperial Corp. (Lehner 1978:20; Toulouse 1971:260-263; Welker & Welker 1985:63).

By 1982, the plant used one continuous tank, one pot furnace, and seven day tanks to make various types of tableware and barware (*Glass Industry* 1982:34). In 1983, the plant initiated a monogram of NI (New Imperial), but it saw little use. Imperial Glass was liquidated in 1984. The plant was still listed in 1985 as using one pot furnace and nine day tanks to

produce “tableware; crystal & colors; cut, pressed, gold decorated; retail, hotel, institutional, restaurant; stemware & tumblers; giftware; barware; premium & incentive,” probably using data from the year before (Perrine 1985:27).

According to the National Imperial Glass Collectors’ Society (2016), the official date of final production was June 15, 1984. In a joint venture for liquidation, Consolidated International and Lancaster Colony purchased Imperial on November 21, 1984, selling the factory building to Mrs. Anna Maroon in March 1985. The building was razed in 1995.

### **Containers and Marks**

In addition to tableware, Imperial made flasks that were not exactly reproductions but were in the style of much older containers (McKearin & Wilson 1978:695, 704-06, 707). At least two of these bore the IG monogram, and another was embossed with the company name.

### **IG**

Toulouse (1971:258) illustrated an “IG” mark and claimed that it was used by the Imperial Glass Co., Bellaire, Ohio, “possibly circa 1930 to 1940.” He did not elaborate on the type or style of container, and we did not find this logo in our other sources. Notably, the National Imperial Glass Collectors’ Society failed to mention such a mark.

### **IG Monogram (1951-ca. 1977)**

The Imperial Glass Co. used several variations of the “IG” monogram, mostly on tableware, but at least some examples of the logo were found on flasks made in the historical style. We have not discovered whether Imperial used the mark on other containers.

McKearin & Wilson (1978:695, 704-706) described and illustrated two flasks embossed with the IG monogram. A machine-made example, about a quarter pint in capacity, was embossed “MOTHER’S / DAY / GREETINGS” on one side with a sunburst on the other (Figure 1). The IG monogram was embossed on the base. Another, with three ships embossed on the front, celebrated the 1957 Jamestown Festival, also with the monogram on the base. The authors

also attributed several other “Jamestown” flasks to Imperial, obviously based on the presence of the mark on the one base.

Jones (1966:16), Peterson (1968:49) and Toulouse (1971:258-261) all listed IG monograms that were not used by the Illinois Glass Co. (Figure 2). Jones showed a monogram of G superimposed on an I from the Imperial Glass Co. that she noted was “est 1901 - still ‘in.’ [probably open]” Toulouse suggested that the Imperial Glass Co. (and Corp.), Bellaire, Ohio, had used the IG monogram “since circa 1940” (Toulouse 1971:258). Peterson (1968:49) also cited the monogram and noted that “the I has curved ends and a dot at the top” but dated the mark at 1951. Toulouse (1971:260) suggested that “‘IG’ trademarks appeared chiefly on Imperial’s opal glassware” (also known as milk glass).



Figure 1 – Mother’s Day flask (McKearin & Wilson 1978:695)



Figure 2 – IG logo & monogram (Toulouse 1971:258)

Peterson’s date was correct, as noted by National Imperial Glass Collectors’ Society webpage (2001), a site that included a timeline for changes in marks used by Imperial. The page showed a number of marks used by Imperial both before and after the IG monogram. The IG monogram was patented on March 17, 1953, and was initially used February 1, 1951. The mark became more complex with the addition of the letter “L” on December 26, 1977, commemorating the January 1971 sale of the company to the Lenox Corp. On June 1, 1981, the company again sold to Arthur Lorch, and an “A” was added to the monogram.

### **IMPERIAL GLASS (1963)**

McKearin & Wilson (1978:706-707) described and illustrated a single flask that was made in the historical style, embossed with the West Virginia State Seal on one side and a map of the state the other. The base was embossed “MADE BY / IMPERIAL GLASS” (Figure 3). Since Imperial made the flask for a 1963 centennial, it was almost certainly produced in that year.

## Other Logos

Peterson (1968:16-17) also showed four additional marks from Imperial that were found on tableware along with “pressed and blown glass.” These included NUCUT (1911), a monogram made from the word IMPERIAL in four parts (1913), crossed arrows (1913), and crossed I’s (1914). Lehner (1978:21) illustrated 11 glass marks used on Imperial products with basic date ranges.

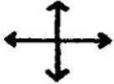


Figure 3 – West Virginia flask (McKearin & Wilson 1978:707).

Felt (2004:8-38) showed a vast assortment of glass in Imperial advertisements. The diversity included vases, pitchers, cups, plates, tumblers, bowls, candlesticks, and sets in a variety of patterns. A trademark on electric lamp shades was Nuart with a “tail” extending from the beginning of the “N” to encircle the mark completely. In 1927, the plant made “tableware, tumblers, goblets, electrical goods, light cut glass, novelties and specialties, free hand glassware” at two furnaces with 28 pots and two continuous tanks with 25 rings (*American Glass Review* 1927:97).

The National Imperial Glass Collectors’ Society (2016), or course, provided the best table for Imperial logos on its website. We have created an abbreviated version (see Table 1), but note that only the IG monogram was probably used on containers, possibly only on flasks. It is possible that any of the later logos could have been used on tableware vessels, opal ware, and tumblers that could be mistaken for bottles, especially on glass fragments found in archaeological excavations. Imperial’s opal glass was almost certainly tableware rather than blown or pressed jars.

**Table 1 – Glass Logos Used by the Imperial Glass Co., Bellaire, Ohio (after National Imperial Glass Collectors’ Society 2016)**

Logo	Date Initiated	Comments
	unknown	used very early on lamp shades and art glass
	1911	Application filed March 17, 1913; Registered September 15, 1914 (No. 99,747); use ceased ca. 1932
	1913	Although used together, the two parts of this logo were trademarked separately, both recorded on June 2, 1914
	1913	No. 97,422
	1913	No 97,423
	Jan 12, 1914	Application: February 18, 1914, Registered September 15, 1914. (No. 99,748)
	poss. 1914	Application: May 19, 1920; Registered: August 16, 1921; use ceased ca. late 1920s
	Dec 4, 1923	Registered: February 19, 1924

Logo	Date Initiated	Comments
	1940	Registered December 3, 1942 (No. 392,737)
	Feb 1, 1951	Initially used on milk glass; Registered March 17, 1953
	1977	Registered: July 11, 1978; in use until June 26, 1981. Firm sold to Lenox Corp. January 1, 1973*
	June 1, 1981	Sold to Arthur Lorch; used until September 1983*
	Sep 1983	New Imperial; only used less than one year

\* Note that the 1977 and 1981 logos were cleverly devised so that a few simple lines of embossing could be added to the former logo, allowing easy use of the older molds with the new logos.

### Other Imperial Glass Companies

At least four other companies had the same name, but none were known to use manufacturer's marks on their glass products. However, because of the name, they cannot be entirely eliminated as possible users of "IG" or an IG monogram. Imperial Glass Co., Charleroi, Pennsylvania (at least 1905-at least 1918), made a "general line" of bottles by both

semiautomatic machine and hand production in 1913 (*Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry* 1913:953). The plant made beer and mineral water bottles, liquor bottles and flasks, and vials at two continuous tanks with a total of 15 rings (Hawkins 2009:205). In 1910, the glass house had “six shops on beers and all are doing well” (*Commoner and Glassworker* 1910:16).

The Imperial Glass Co., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (1907-1908), was short lived but *may* have made bottles or jars. Little is known about the Imperial Glass Co., Tarentum, Pennsylvania (ca. 1921), except that it made milk bottles (Thomas Publishing Co. 1921:782, 784). Being this late, the milk bottles should have had some marking identifying the glass house, but we have not discovered any that can be traced to the company. A final Imperial Glass Co. location was Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania. The plant was originally built in 1887 by the Beaver Falls Glass Co., Inc., and was sold to Imperial ca. 1901. The plant made flint bottles and jars but closed ca. 1921 (Hawkins 2009:204).

## **Independent Glass Companies**

### **Independent Glass Co., Pittsburgh (1880-1888)**

[Much of this study is copied from the Crystal Glass Co. section]

Michael Ward and Henry F. Voigt formed Voigt, Ward & Co. to operate the Independent Glass Co. at some point in 1880, taking over an existing factory, formerly operated by Ward and F.T. Plunket. The firm primarily made lamp chimneys, but it contracted with the Crystal Glass Co. in May 1881 to produce the Crystal Jars. By August, the plant devoted its entire production to the jars, although the factory had resumed making lamp chimneys and lantern globes by March 1882. When Ward invented a glass press in 1882, he assigned half the patent to Voigt, and William H. Brunt – secretary for the firm – then assigned his 1882 jar lid patent to Voigt, Ward & Co. (Hawkins 2009:286). See the Crystal Jar Co. section for more information on the patents and on the relationship between Independent and Crystal Jar.

Independent Glass made “bubble tumblers” along with jars and chimneys at a single 10-pot furnace. By at least June 23, 1881, the *Crockery & Glass Journal* reported that the plant was “busy on orders from the Crystal Glass Co.” Independent Glass made the Crystal Jars until the

end of 1884 and produced its own Independent Jars by at least April 17 of that year (Figure 4). The plant made the jars as well as lamp chimneys until it closed for the summer in May of 1887 and never reopened. Voigt was charged with embezzlement in 1888 in connection with the failure of the Farmers & Merchants Bank. He was arrested and jailed. The Independent Glass Co. factory was sold at a sheriff's sale in January 1889 (Creswick 1987a:90, 268; Hawkins 2009:286-287; Roller 1983:162, 167-168; n.d.).

### Containers & Marks

#### IGCo monogram (ca. 1882-1885 or later)

Roller (1983:162) discussed a jar with a continuous-thread finish and glass screw lid that was embossed on the base with an IGCo monogram. The glass lid was embossed "PAT. OCT. 24 (arch) / 1882 (horizontal)" (Figure 5), a patent issued to Michael Ward.

Creswick (1987:90) illustrated a jar with a continuous-thread finish and an unusual IGCo monogram on the base. The



Figure 4 – Independent Glass ad (Roller 2011:258)



Figure 5 – 1882 patent lid (North American Glass)

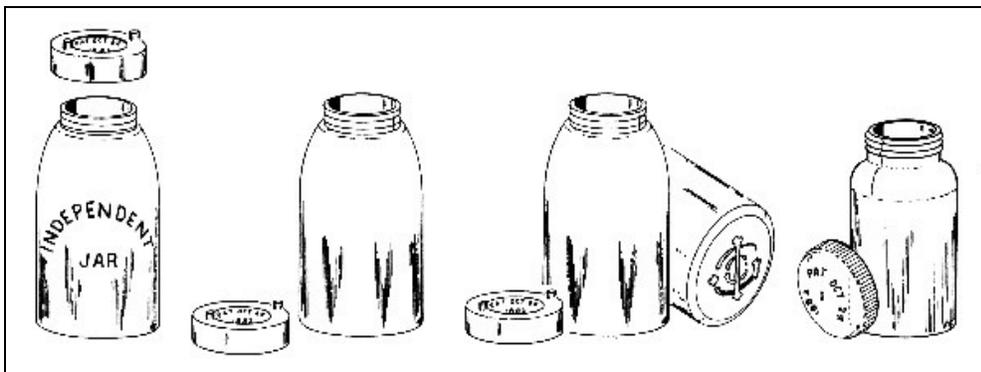


Figure 6 – Independent jar series (Creswick 1987:90)

letters on the monogram had almost clover-shaped serifs and an arrow pointing to the right on the left side of the "G" (Figure 6). The

Roller editors (2011:250) included a photo of the base (Figure 7). Creswick and Roller both assigned the jar to the Independent Glass Co., and the patent on the lid makes the identification fairly certain. It is, of course, possible that the lid was placed on the jar by a user and was not original, but the combination of the lid and the IGCo monogram still strongly suggests the connection with Independent Glass.

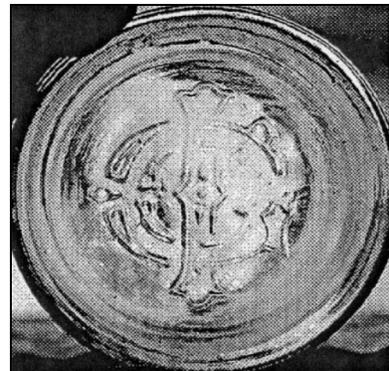


Figure 7 – IGCo monogram (Roller 2011:250)

### **INDEPENDENT JAR (1884-1887)**

Toulouse (1969:159) only listed two entries for an Independent jar. One was a “Mason shoulder seal [jar] with all-glass cap,” hand made, “ground lip,” that was embossed “INDEPENDENT” in an arch on the side. Toulouse suggested the Independent Glass Co., Pittsburgh, ca. 1882. He noted that the lid was embossed “PAT OCT 24 1882” (see Figure 5). The only entry he found for that date was Patent No. 266,375 – issued to Anton Luger – but the drawing did not match the Independent jar lid. A second jar was identical except that it was embossed “INDEPENDENT (arch) / JAR (horizontal)” (Figure 8).

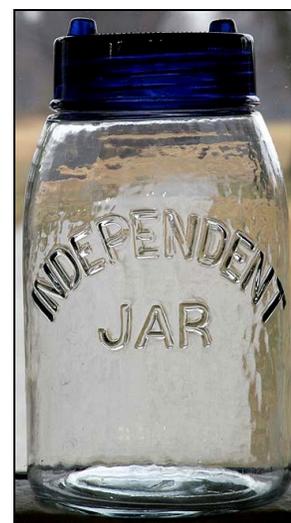


Figure 8 – Independent Jar (North American Glass)

*Old Bottle Magazine* (1974:49) also discussed the firm and the jar, adding that lid was possibly from Patent No. 266,565, William (*sic*) Ward, assigned half to Henry F. Voigt or Patent No. 269,001, William H. Brunt, assigned to Voight, Ward & Co.

Roller (1983:167-168) identified the patent as belonging to Michael Ward of Pittsburgh, who assigned half the rights to Henry F. Voigt, also of Pittsburgh (see history section above). Roller, too, noted the maker as the Independent Jar Co. of Pittsburgh in the 1880s. He also noted a similar jar with the Ward-patented lid but no side embossing; another jar with the same lid but no side markings, and an IGCo monogram on the base; and the CRYSTAL JAR, made by the Independent Jar Co. for the Crystal Glass Co. from 1882 to ca. 1885.

Creswick (1987:90) discussed and illustrated the INDEPENDENT JAR but added no new information. Roller (2011:256-258) added a few variations with the same patent lid along with an ad for the jar from January 9, 1885 (see Figure 4). Independent Glass actually made the jars from 1884 until the end of production in 1887 (for more details, see the section on the Crystal Glass Co. in the C volume).

### **Other Independent Glass Companies**

Another Independent Glass Co. was formed in Pittsburgh in 1902. This was a consortium of very small window-glass producers. The combine moved to Columbus, Ohio, in late 1902. The Cumberland Glass site (2016) also noted an Independent Glass Co. in LaVale, Maryland. The company was in operation from 1928 to 1929, but the site failed to list what kind of glassware the plant made – although most plants in that area produced tableware.

### **Intermountain Glass Mfg. Co.**

#### **Intermountain Glass Mfg. Co., Midvale, Utah (1935-1937)**

Located at Midvale, Utah, twelve miles south of Salt Lake City, the Intermountain Glass Mfg. Co. incorporated on January 12, 1935, and opened the new plant on March 1 of that year. The factory intended to produce pressed and blown ware – “tableware, tumblers, goblets, milk bottles, cosmetic jars and containers.” The firm almost immediately undertook a \$10,000 enlargement of the facility – but the company was short lived. By September 30, 1937, the courts dissolved the firm. The Western Nonmetallic Production Co. purchased the defunct factory in early April 1940 (Caniff 2015:17-18; Roller 1983:259).

### **Containers and Marks**

Although Intermountain intended to make a long product list, we have only discovered fruit jars that may be traced to the facility.

## MOUNTAIN MASON (1935-1937)

Toulouse (1969:222) listed a jar embossed “MOUNTAIN / MASON” – dating it ca. 1920-1940, although he did not know the maker. He noted that the jar was a rounded square in cross-section and that some of the jars solarized to a straw color. Roller (1986:259)

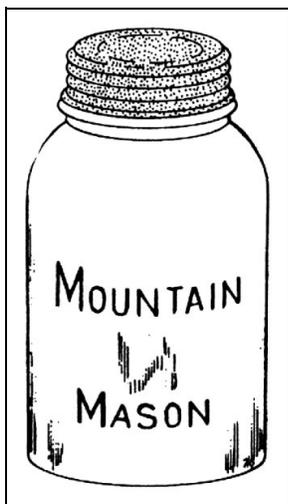


Figure 10 – Mountain Mason jar (Creswick 1987b:97)

discussed two variations of the jar, one round in cross-section, the other square with rounded corners (Figure 9). He dated the jars 1935-1936 and identified the Intermountain Glass Co. as the manufacturer.

Creswick (1987b:97) illustrated

the jar, with variations that had no basemark, the IGC logo or the IGCo logo but failed to draw the marks (Figure 10). She dated all variations 1935-1936. Canif (2015:17-18) listed both the round and square variations and noted that Utah newspapers advertised the jars between August 27, 1935, and September 15, 1936. The bases of some of the jars had the two monogram variations.



Figure 9 – Mountain Mason jars (North American Glass)

## IGC monogram (1935-1937)

Roller (1983:259) illustrated a monogram consisting of “GIC” with the “I” larger than the other letters – apparently in outlined embossing (Figure 11). He noted that the logo was found on some Mountain Mason jars. Creswick (1987b:97) also include the monogram, and Caniff (2015:18) reproduced the Roller drawing, speculating that the logo could have been used on other products as well as the Mountain Mason jars – although he had not seen any.

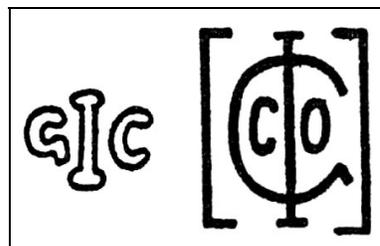


Figure 11 – IGC & IGCo monograms (Roller 1983:259)

### **IGCo monogram (1935-1937)**

Roller (1983:259) also showed another monogram consisting of a large “I” and “G” with a small “C” and “O” all surrounded by brackets (see Figure 11). Creswick (1987b:97) also listed the logo, and both agreed that it was used on Mountain Mason jars. Caniff (2015:18) reproduced this Roller drawing and noted that the monograms had been confused with similar ones used by the Illinois Glass Co. prior to Roller’s work. As with the IGC monogram, this logo could have been used on other products.

### **Iroquois Glass Industries, Ltd.**

#### **Iroquois Glass Industries, Ltd., Candiac, Quebec, Canada (1958-1967)**

The Société Générale de Belgique, Brussels, Belgium, created Sogemines, Ltd., in 1951 to establish production in Canada. Sogemines incorporated Iroquois Glass Industries, Ltd., on April 18, 1958, and completed the construction of the factory in just over eight months (January 1959). Production began with nine machines at two continuous tanks, but there was apparently much tension between the Canadian half of the management (who wanted to move quickly in a changing market) and the Belgians (who chose deliberation as a general method). By 1961, the Canadian format took precedence, and the firm began making a profit (King 1987:167-168; Toulouse 1971:260-261).

The plant added a third tank by March of 1963, making bottles for beer, soft drinks, whiskey, wine, milk, food, and pharmaceuticals – although there appears to have been a strong concentration on non-returnable beer bottles. In 1964, the market shifted, with a heavy emphasis on canned beverages and a strike by the Quebec Liquor Board, both strongly affecting Iroquois production. The company reorganized in 1965, changing its name slightly to Iroquois Glass, Ltd. but failed in 1967 (King 1987:167-168; Toulouse 1971:260-261).

#### **Containers and Marks**

Iroquois Glass Industries, Ltd., Candiac, Quebec, Canada, produced “soft drink and distillery bottles and both narrow-mouth and wide-mouth food containers” (Toulouse 1971:260).

### **IG monogram (1958-ca. 1967)**

Peterson (1968:49) listed this mark as “I and G superimposed” and correctly identified Iroquois Glass Industries as the user, although he provided no date. Toulouse (1971:260) illustrated two monograms used by Iroquois, both similar to one used by the Imperial Glass Co. but without the curved ends of the I or the dot on top (Figure 12). One was apparently an outlined logo, used from 1959 to 1967, the second a more normal embossing, used during the same period. King (1987:248) noted that the mark was adopted in 1958 “upon incorporation” and that it was “phased out after 1967, with the company’s takeover by Consumers Glass.”

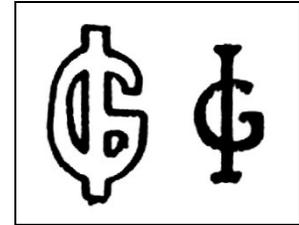


Figure 12 – IG logos  
(Toulouse 1971:260)

## **Discussion and Conclusions**

The impetus for this section began when the Bottle Research Group published an article about the Illinois Glass Co. that included a section on the similar monograms used by glass houses other than Illinois Glass (Lockhart et al 2005). Our current Illinois Glass section has grown to the point where the discussion on non-Illinois-Glass monograms would have been somewhat ponderous. Thus, we presented those logos here.

In all cases, there is little chance of confusing any of these marks with the ones used by Illinois Glass for two reasons. First, the Illinois Glass Co. used its monograms from ca. 1906 to ca. 1914, while the Independent Glass Co. was in business from 1880 to 1888, and the others produced containers later in the 20<sup>th</sup> century – notably different time periods. Second, the monograms were all different in details, alleviating most of the confusion (although the IG logos of the Imperial Glass Co. and Iroquois Glass Co. were very similar).

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