

The Dating Game

by Bill Lockhart, Bill Lindsey, David Whitten and Carol Serr

The Illinois Glass Company

The Illinois Glass Co. incorporated in Alton, Illinois, in March, 1873. By at least 1908, the company had installed semi-automatic bottle machines, used to make wide-mouth bottles and jars. Toulouse (1971:264) noted, "By 1909 there were 11 furnaces. At that date the whole plant had to be rebuilt to accommodate the Owens machines." Walbridge (1920:88) and the Illinois Glass Co. (1923) both confirmed that the Illinois Glass Co. installed an Owens machine in 1910. The following year, Walbridge (1920:88) noted that "the Illinois Glass Company . . . enlarged its installation to operate twenty-two machines" (Walbridge 1920:91). Scoville (1948:106) claimed that Owens machine "licenses were issued to Illinois Glass on June 11, 1910, January 18, 1911, and May 22, 1914." Miller and McNichol (2002:7-8) clarified two of the dates somewhat by saying that the 1910 license was "perhaps for branded whiskies" and the 1914 license was for "5 to 13 gallon carboys." On the 1911 license, however, the researchers stated that "it is not clear what this license was for." In a personal communication, George L. Miller suggested that the 1911 license may have been for pharmaceutical bottles, a conclusion in line with our findings (see below).

In 1900, Illinois Glass began to expand, building a new plant at Gas City, Indiana that began making milk bottles in 1905, but transferred the milk bottle business to the Bell Bottle Corp., Fairmont, Indiana in 1912. After ceasing milk bottle production, Gas City converted to making "prescription and food bottles and jars." Illinois Glass then expanded to the West Coast in 1902, merging with Abramson-Heunisch Glass Co. to form the Illinois Pacific Glass Co. Illinois Glass continued its expansion into New Jersey by buying the Cumberland Glass Co. at Bridgeton in 1920. By the time of its merger with the Owens Bottle Co. in 1929, it was operating factories in Chicago Heights, Alton, and Gas City, Illinois, and Bridgeton, New Jersey

(Toulouse 1971:266-269).

Several Illinois Glass Co. catalogs have survived and have been excellent references in our research. Among our group, we have Illinois Glass catalogs from 1903, 1906, 1908 (a reprint of 1906 with additions), 1911 and 1920. These provide cameo views of the company's products, although a critical year (1912) is missing. It is instructive to note that some of the bottles in the 1911 catalog are made by semi-automatic bottle machines, but the large majority of bottles in the 1920 catalog are made by fully-automatic bottle machines. Most of the exceptions are specialty-types of bottles that would probably only be ordered in small quantities. Virtually all of those were later made by machines. By 1920, the restrictive clauses that prohibited Illinois Glass Co. from using other machines were lifted. The company noted:

In 1920—just ten years after our installation of the first machine [i.e., the Owens Automatic Bottle Machine]—in order to maintain our place of leadership in the bottle industry, we added another completely new type of Automatic Machine to overcome certain license restrictions which hampered us in the operation of the original . . . at the present time, on either one or the other of our two types of Automatic Bottle Machines, we can make any type of blown container, with the exception of milk bottles and fruit jars (Illinois Glass Co., 1923).



Figure 1: I G Co Basemark [Whitten]

We have looked at as many Illinois Glass Co. bottles as we could find, compared them against the catalogs, and added what has been published about the company to reach the following chronology of Illinois Glass Co. marks. Our findings are somewhat at odds with those of Toulouse, and we have found a great deal of new information.

I G

The I G mark was noted by Toulouse (1971:264) as "before 1890," although we have never seen a bottle with the mark. Toulouse offered no other explanation. It is possible that these were marks where the "Co" was very indistinct.

I G C (1872-1894)

Herskovitz (1978:8) noted six examples of this mark on beer bottles from Fort Bowie. The fort was officially open from 1862 to 1894, although beer bottles were only transported for long distances from the factories after 1872. Thus, 1872 to 1894 are the only dates currently known for this mark. He reported accompanying letters/number of B, H, and 3+.

Herskovitz (1978:8) also recorded an I G O mark accompanied by the numeral 1. This is likely a misstrike by the engraver or a misidentification by Heskovitz. If it were an engraver's error, it would fit into the same pattern as the I G C mark.

Neither of the two marks, however, fit into the same pattern as the ones known from the Illinois Glass Co. All known Illinois Glass I G Co marks either had nothing else embossed with the logo or had a two- to three-digit number beside the mark (see descriptions below). None had letters, single-digit numbers, or a plus sign (+)/cross. These marks may belong to the Ihmsen Glass Co. (see discussion of Ihmsen below).

I G Co (ca. 1880-ca. 1911)

This mark was noted by Toulouse (1971:264) as "circa 1880 to 1900."



Figure 2: I G Co Heelmark [eBay]

However, in his earlier book on fruit jar marks (Toulouse 1969:157), he dated the mark at “circa 1895-1905,” but, in his “Dating the Fruit Jar” section farther back in the book, he stated that the mark was used from “shortly after [the company’s] beginning in 1873 until about 1900” (Toulouse 1969:389). He explained (1969:157) that “this trade mark [was] used until about 1905, then placed in a diamond. Could not have been made before 1895 first semi-automatic machines.” It should be noted that he was only referring to fruit jars – not other bottles. He also stated that the I G Co mark was located on the bases of fruit jars in an arch (i.e., conforming to the edge of the circular base).

Herskovitz (1978:8) noted three examples of a slight variation of the mark (IG C^o), although this variation has not been reported by any other source. Wilson (1981:117-118) reported eight examples from Fort Union (all with I G Co) both plain and accompanied by letters ranging from D to L. Ayres et al. (1980:unnumbered page) also noted the mark with the small “o” in “Co.”

An interesting variation of this mark is shown in Creswick (1995:87). The mark, I G ‘Co is obviously an engraver’s error and is located in a circular plate mold on the base of a groove ring wax sealer. Creswick dated the jar “circa 1873” but gave no explanation for the timeframe. Creswick (1987:126) also noted the I G Co mark on the base of a fruit jar she dated ca. 1905.

We have solid evidence for use of the I. G. Co. mark by 1881 (probably the year earlier) on Hutchinson-finished soda bottles used in New Mexico. The mark was used until at least 1908, probably 1909 or later, again on a solidly-dated soft drink bottle from El Paso, Texas (see Lockhart 2000a, Chapter 8b). Dates up to 1906 are also known on soft drink bottles from Arizona (Miller 2000:38). The mark only shows up on mouth-blown bottles and mostly appears on the heels of bottles. The occasional marks on bases may be from Ihmsen Glass Co. (see discussion below). The marks appear on heels with no punctuation, full punctuation, and sporadic punctuation (e.g., I G Co.), although the differences appear to be at the whim of the engraver and are not dateable by any means we have found [Figure 1].

Although the possibility of the mark

on the base being used by Ihmsen cannot be discounted, the placement likely has more to do with the other marks frequently being placed on the base. Hutchinson-style bottles were usually used for soft drinks, although, occasionally breweries used the containers for beer. In either case, the bottles were usually stored top down to keep the leather gasket moist – thus preventing leaks. Cases had holes drilled in the bottoms to accommodate the finishes and necks of the bottles, allowing the bases to point upward (Jones 1964:[22]). This created a perfect platform for embossing the bottlers’ names or logos on the bases. With the bottlers’ logos already on the bases, many manufacturers began placing their marks on the heels of bottles. Both practices continued into the late 1930s, and some glass houses continue to mark their bottles on heels into the 21st century. The practice of basal marking for bottlers was rarely used by breweries, so most glass houses embossed their marks on the bases of beer bottles. Thus, the placement of the mark probably had more to do with bottle type than with a difference in manufacturers.

At some point, after 1895, catalog numbers were added to the right of the I. G. Co. marks, possibly only on returnable beer and soft drink bottles or alcohol bottles [Figure 2]. This was certainly in place by 1903 when “mould numbers” (i.e., numbers in the catalog) are included in the catalog – only for returnable bottles and those containing alcohol. Thus far, all numbers associated with the I. G. Co. mark have matched those in the 1903 catalog.

I G CO in a Diamond (ca. 1900?-ca. 1911)

Jones (1966:16) observed that “Illinois Glass Co. used those letters in

combination with [elongated diamond] 1880’s.” Noted by Toulouse (1971:264) as “circa 1900 to 1916,” this mark appears in the 1903, 1908, and 1911 catalogs but is absent from the 1920 catalog [Figure 3]. It appears on few bottles. The catalog dates suggest that Toulouse’s range is reasonably correct, although the use probably ceased in 1912. The only examples we can currently cite (courtesy of Bill Lindsey and David Whitten) are mouth blown. Based on the date range, it is likely that all bottles bearing this mark will be mouth blown. It is clear that these marks were used concurrently with the I. G. Co. mark rather than being used exclusively during the period as Toulouse stated.

Creswick (1987:126) showed a jar with a glass lid. The outside of the lid was embossed SUNSHINE in an elongated diamond. The inside was embossed I G Co inside a diamond. She dated the jar ca. 1905.

Diamond I (1915-1929)

Jones (1966:16) estimated that use of the mark began about 1873. The mark was cited by Toulouse (1971:264), however, as dating from “1916 to 1929.” This is the only date range he noted as being “solid” (i.e., not “circa” or “before”). In his fruit jar book (Toulouse 1969:389), he claimed that the mark began to be used “about 1914.” Peterson (1968:41) placed the mark at 1915. All examples of this mark appear on machine-made bottles. As noted in the introduction to this column, the converging evidence indicates that Illinois Glass Co. received a license to manufacture whiskey bottles on June 10, 1910 (Miller & McNichol 2002:7; Scoville 1948:106), and installed numerous Owens Automatic Bottle Machines in 1911. Illinois Glass received

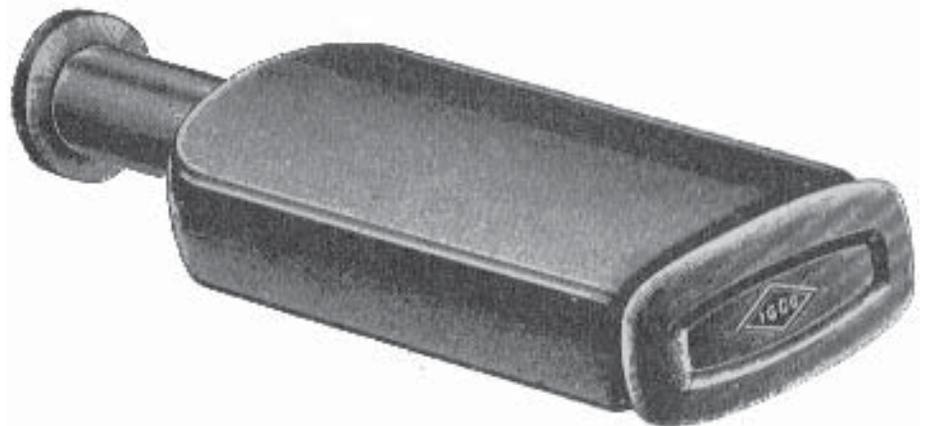


Figure 3: I G Co in a Diamond [1908 Catalog (Lindsey)]



Figure 4: Diamond I with Serifs
[1920 Catalog (Lindsey)]

a second, unspecified license, on January 18, 1911, probably for the production of pharmaceutical bottles. This was apparently not an exclusive license (Miller & McNichol 2002:7; Scoville 1948:106).

Although the extant material does not specifically state which plant the machines went to, the machines licensed in 1911, probably for pharmaceutical bottles, were likely installed at the Gas City plant that actually began production in 1912 (Toulouse 1971:267). We originally thought that 1912 would be a probable beginning date, since all known Diamond I bottles (at least all we could find) are machine made. Evidence from Creswick (1987:154), however, showed that the Illinois Glass Co. registered the "I within diamond" trademark (#224,561) on March 1, 1927, and claimed the mark was first used on June 1, 1915. The mark continued in use until the merger with Owens Bottle Co. in 1929.

David Whitten pointed out that the discrepancy between the trademark date (1927) and the date of initial use (1915) totaled 12 years. The big question (that will probably remain unanswered) is: Did the company have the 1915 date from records, or were they guessing. Since the difference between the company's noted date (1915) and our first estimate (1912) is small, the point is probably moot. The best date with current information, then, is supplied by the Illinois Glass Co. – 1915.

Numerals, such as 3, 5, 9, 11, 12, and 17 often (but not always) accompany the Diamond I mark. These cannot be date codes because most are too early. They cannot be catalog numbers because the number 9 appears on two different bottle styles (one a medicine bottle, one an ink bottle). Numbers were checked against the 1920 catalog. The numbers are sometimes accompanied by letters, and letters occasionally appear without numbers. Currently these codes remain

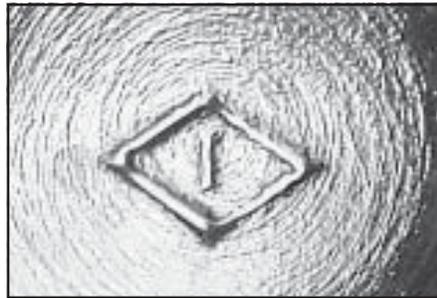


Figure 5: Diamond I Sans Serifs
[Lockhart]

a mystery, although they could simply be related to identifying individual molds for quality control.

The "I" inside the diamond is used in both sans serif and serif forms and even appears as a dot on some small bottles. It is likely that this was done at the whim of the individual engraver and has no relevance to the individual factory in which the bottle was made or to any datable period [Figures 4-6].

Lyric (1911-1929)

LYRIC accompanies Diamond I marks on some pharmaceutical bottles. Page 14 of the Illinois Glass Co. 1920 catalog described the "Lyric" bottles [Figure 7]. It stated that the Lyric bottle was patented (although they did not list the number) and was "a graduated oval." Lyric bottles came in sizes ranging from ½ to 32 ounces, although the "5, 7, 10, 14, and 28 ounces are plain—not graduated." They described the bottle as:

A bottle of excellent design, correctly graduated in both the Metric and American scales, to be used by the druggist—who may desire to add a touch of refinement and good taste, coupled with practicability to his prescription department. . . . [The bottle] is offered in Washed, Corked and Sterilized, or the Regular Service. . . . The style, finish, corkage, capacity, packing and excellent labeling space has made this our most popular Prescription Bottle.

Page 15 of the catalog showed a drawing of the bottle style, front, back, and base. Every Lyric bottle we have examined has matched the drawings in the 1920 catalog. With a single exception, all Lyric bottles we have seen have been made on an Owens Automatic Bottle Machine and also had the Diamond I mark. The exception is mouth blown and



Figure 6: Diamond I (dot variation)
[Whitten]

has SANITIZED/LYRIC embossed on the base [Figure 8]. The S and D are surrounded by shields, and the T is larger than the remaining letters. The bottle does not bear the Diamond I mark. Since this is pre-machine, the bottle style was probably created and the bottle made in 1911, just before the advent of the machines and pharmaceutical production at Gas City. Lyric bottles were made until at least 1920 and probably until the merger with Owens in 1929. It is possible, however, that the initial, pre-machine bottle was a trial run, and the brand began use in 1914 or 1915.

Intertwined IGCo Emblem (ca. 1906-ca. 1914)

According to Toulouse (1971:264), two similar marks, both intertwined logos, were used "circa 1914, fruit jars." However, in his earlier book, he claimed a range of "circa 1906-1914" (Toulouse 1969:157). Both intertwined monograms were found on the sides of fruit jars above MASON'S/PATENT/NOV 30TH/1858. He further stated that "the design of the monogram first appeared in their 1906 catalog and was used on fruit jars only until about 1914."

Kath (1996:50) stated that "gobs of minor variations are found among the IGCo monograms," and she illustrated three of them [Figure 9]. She further noted that all were "embossed above MASON'S PATENT NOV 30 TH 1858 on the front of the jars." She suggested that the jars were made "during the 1890s." The Illinois Glass Co. catalog for 1903 did not show any fruit jars. The 1908 catalog, however, on page 204 showed the Mason jar described by Kath. All fruit jars had vanished again by 1920. This suggests that the date range offered by Toulouse (ca. 1906-1914) is probably correct or very close. Creswick (1995:143) also showed IGCo monograms on Mason fruit jars, although she noted

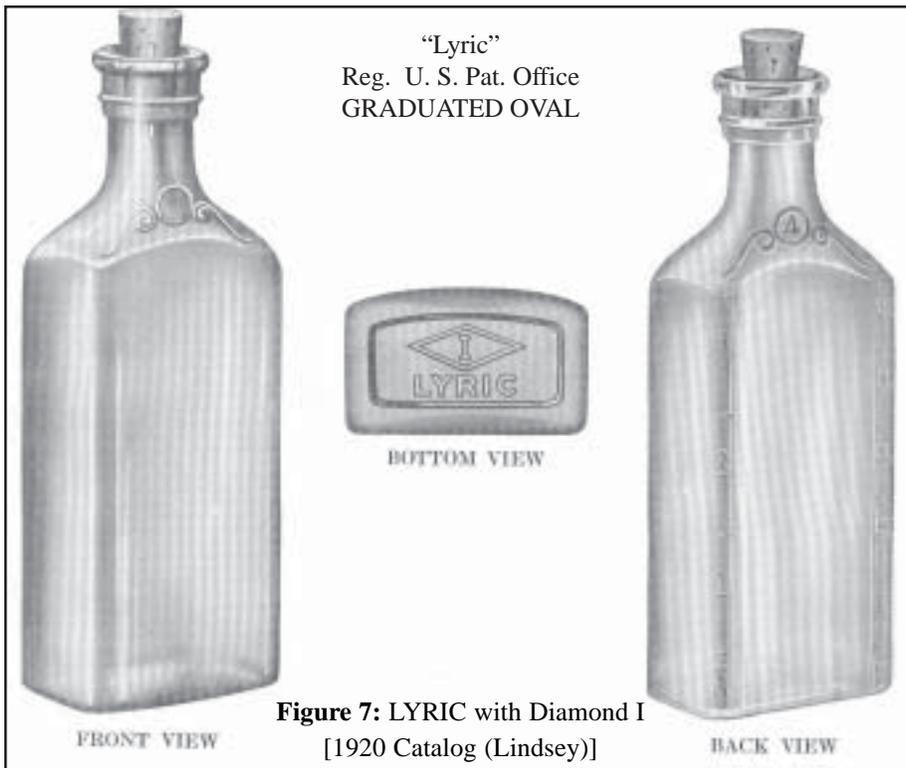


Figure 7: LYRIC with Diamond I
[1920 Catalog (Lindsey)]

fewer varieties than Kath. It is interesting that she did *not* identify the company as either Illinois Glass or Ihmsen.

Although the marks noted by Toulouse appeared in 1903, 1906, 1908, and 1911 catalogs (always in plate molds on soda or beer bottles), we have never seen them on an actual soda or beer bottle. The illustration was likely just to show what could be done on a plate mold rather than to indicate a mark used on the bottle.

Roller (1983:162) identified an IGC_o monogram on the base of a shoulder-seal fruit jar with a continuous-thread finish. The jar was patented October 24, 1882, by Michael Ward, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Roller identified the maker as the Independent Glass Co. of Pittsburgh, a company in which Ward and Henry F. Voigt (the second assignee of the patent) were officers. This identification questions the identification of some or even all of the other marks on jars as



Figure 8: LYRIC
(non-machine made) [Serr]

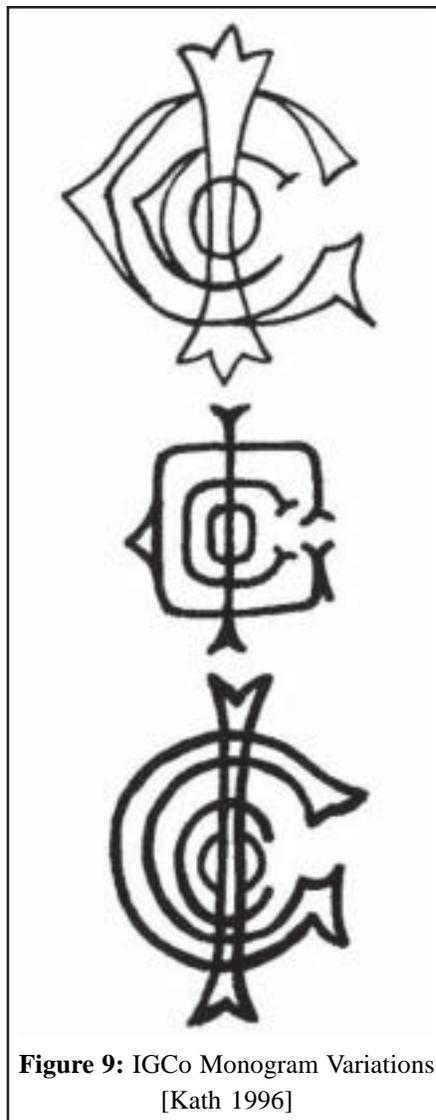


Figure 9: IGC_o Monogram Variations
[Kath 1996]

belonging to the Illinois Glass Co. Roller dated the jar (and therefore the mark) as ca. 1880s.

Presto (1927-1929)

Creswick (1987:154) noted that the Illinois Glass Co. was granted a trademark for the Presto logo on July 3, 1928. The company claimed it was first used in 1927. Creswick (19878:106-108) showed numerous examples of jars with Presto on their sides, some of them embossed MANUFACTURED BY/ILLINOIS GLASS CO. on the lower back side. Jars with the Presto logo were also made by Illinois Pacific Glass Co., Illinois Pacific Glass Corp., Illinois Pacific Coast Co. (subsidiaries of Illinois Glass), and the company’s successor, the Owens-Illinois Glass Co. Those from Illinois Glass Co. could not have been made after 1929.

Numbers in a Diamond (1911-1929)

We hypothesized that the diamond mark surrounding two-, three-, or four-digit numbers was used by the Illinois Glass Co. and that the numbers were catalog numbers (called Stock Numbers by King [1987:249]) similar to those used by the Dominion Glass Co. in Canada as researched by Miller and Jorgensen (1986). When we tried to match numbers inside 18 marks with the 1920 Illinois Glass Co. catalog, we found matches for most of the bottles that were not embossed on the sides with a specific company name or logo. With only three exceptions, all bottles with numbers in a diamond and no embossing on the sides, had exactly matched both the shapes and the numbers in the 1920 catalog. These exceptions might reflect later styles that were not in production by 1920. Eventually, we were able to match many other numbers between the marks and the catalog.

A good example is a bottle bearing the Diamond 817 mark that matches the Barrel Mustard shown on page 91 of the Illinois Glass Co. 1920 catalog. The drawing in the catalog is labeled mold number 817 [Figures 10-12]. These mustard bottles were made by one of the company’s semi-automatic bottle machines, and our example is solarized a light amethyst color. It becomes pretty clear that the Illinois Glass Co., in its earliest bottles, was using manganese as a decolorant.

Bottles with embossed markings on the sides were probably “private label” bottles,

special orders from various companies. Because these styles were “private,” the mold numbers would not be expected to appear in the catalogs. The numbers would only belong to Illinois Glass Company’s individual customers and a non-public list retained at the glasshouse.

A great example of a private label mark that was used consistently is 600 in a diamond. This mark was embossed on the bases of bottles containing Sloan’s Liniment. Bottles with the mark are



Figure 10: Mustard Jar (base – 817) [Lockhart]



Figure 11: Mustard Jar (side view) [Lockhart]

illustrated in both Colcleaser (1965:57) and Eastin (1965:7), and several examples have been verified by the authors [Figure 13].

The diamond mark with numbers inside was probably first used in connection with whiskey bottles. The Illinois Glass Co. was issued an Owens machine license on June 10, 1910, to make whiskey bottles. Prior to that time, Owens only issued exclusive licenses (e.g., American Bottle Co. was the *only* company allowed to use the Owens machine to make soda or beer bottles until the patents ran out in the early to mid-1920s). However, Owens licensed both Illinois Glass and the Charles Boldt Glass Co. to make whiskey bottles in 1910 (Scoville 1948:103). Actual production of bottles, however, did not begin until the following year (1911). Therefore 1911 is the first year for the use of the diamond mark with internal numbers.



Figure 12: Mustard Jar (817) [1920 Catalog]

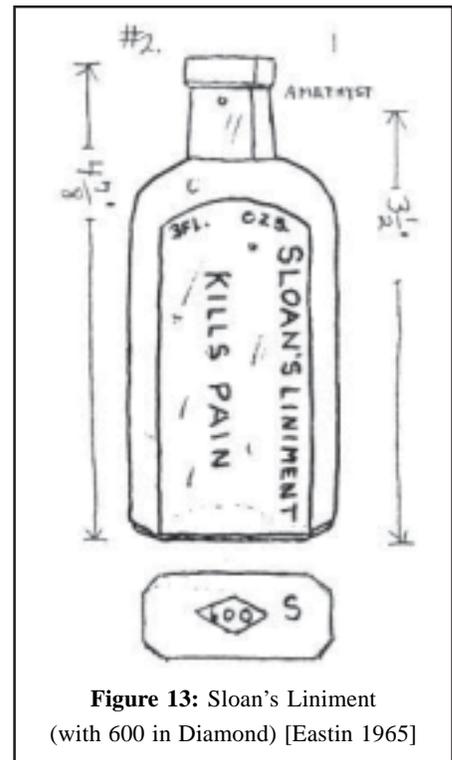


Figure 13: Sloan’s Liniment (with 600 in Diamond) [Eastin 1965]

However, it seems that the Illinois Glass Co. did not mark its earliest whiskey bottles. Lockhart (2000b) analyzed 23 colorless, one-pint liquor bottles and seven half pints excavated in El Paso, Texas. All of the pints and six of the half pints were machine-made with distinctive Owens scars, marks only made by the Owens Automatic Bottle Machines. All were made between 1911 and 1919 (the inception of Prohibition) – none contained the FEDERAL LAW FORBIDS THE RESALE OR RE-USE OF THIS BOTTLE warning required from 1933 to 1964.

Ten pints and four half pints were embossed with the B (with extended serifs) mark used by Charles Boldt. The remaining 13 pints and two half pints had no manufacturer’s marks, although they had Owens scars. The only quart bottle in the assemblage was embossed with 315 inside an elongated diamond, a mark from the Illinois Glass Co. It is likely that the bottles with no manufacturer’s marks were made by the Illinois Glass Co. Lockhart has two whiskey bottles, both embossed on the base with CAPACITY ONE FULL QUART. Each has an Owens scar slicing through the lettering. One has no manufacturer’s mark; the other is marked with the Diamond I logo [Figures 14-15]. Also of interest, some of the unmarked bottles were solarized to an amethyst color, indicating the presence



Figure 14: Whiskey base
(Owens scar) [Lockhart]



Figure 15: Whiskey base
(Owens scar and Diamond I) [Lockhart]

of manganese dioxide in the glass mixture as a decolorant. The use of manganese was discontinued because it did not work well with machine manufacture. Apparently, Illinois Glass Co. was one of the companies that pioneered the change.

Toulouse claimed a similar elongated-diamond mark was used by Diamond Glass and dated it “since 1924.” Although he did not give an explanation for the date, he stated, “From the beginning [of the company] until 1917 all bottles were hand blown. In that year semi-automatic machines replaced hand blowing in part, but not entirely until about 1924.” He did not mention numbers in the diamond (although he rarely noted numbers in connection with any marks).

Although we considered the Diamond Glass Co. as a possibility, the preponderance of evidence suggests otherwise. Because so many numbers match catalog numbers in the 1920 Illinois Glass Co. catalog, it is clear that the elongated diamond marks that contain numbers were used by Illinois Glass.

Since all examples we have seen were machine made (including pharmaceutical bottles), we date the mark from 1911 to the merger in 1929.

Ihmsen Glass Co.

One mystery remains. Although most bottles with the I G Co mark wear the mark on the heel, a few have the mark embossed on the base. Toulouse (1971:261) maintained that I G Co was used by the Ihmsen Glass Co., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, “circa 1870 to 1895.” He continued, “The use of the ‘I G Co’ trademark is rare and found on some unmistakably Pittsburgh bottles” (Toulouse 1971:263). Unfortunately, he did not indicate what made the bottles “unmistakably Pittsburgh.”

Wilson (1981:117-118) showed eight slight variations of the I G Co mark on beer bottle bases, including the mark alone and with several different single letters (D through L). The letters were always placed below the mark. Wilson, too, suggested that mark belonged to Ihmsen Glass, but he did not discuss why. May Jones (1968:17) also noted the I G Co mark as belonging to Ihmsen. Because of the inclusion of letters and/or numbers and a cross, the I G C mark (discussed above) may also have been used by Ihmsen.

There is, however, no compelling evidence that the I G Co mark was used by Ihmsen. As we will explore in the next issue of *Bottles and Extras*, Ihmsen certainly used the I G Co L mark on bottle bases. Although by no means certain, it is possible that Ihmsen also marked its bottles with the I G Co mark without the “L.” Wilson (1891:118) also showed four beer bottle bases with the I G Co L mark. These were accompanied by either a numeral 6 or a Maltese cross above the mark and a letter (I, D, or K) or nothing below the mark. The lack of either letters on other known Illinois Glass Co. marks strengthens the argument that marks accompanied by the letters, single-digit numbers, or a Maltese cross were used by Ihmsen.

Other IG Marks

Jones (1966:16), Peterson (1968:49) and Toulouse (1971:258-261) all listed other IG marks. Jones showed a monogram of G superimposed on an I from the Imperial Glass Co. that she noted was “est 1901 - still ‘in.’” Toulouse

noted two marks for the Imperial Glass Co. (and Corp.), Bellaire, Ohio: 1) I G, that he dates as “possibly circa 1930 to 1940” and 2) the same monogram already described, used “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. The I G mark of Imperial cannot be confused with the I G mark of the Illinois Glass Co. because of the date discrepancy (before 1890 for Illinois; after 1930 for Imperial). The Illinois mark would only appear on mouth-blown bottles, while all Imperial bottles would be machine made. Toulouse (1971:260) also informed us that “‘I G’ trademarks appeared chiefly on Imperial’s opal glassware” (also known as milk glass). Imperial also made flasks that were not exactly reproductions but were in the style of much older flasks (McKearin & Wilson 1978:695, 704-06, 707).

The National Imperial Glass Collectors Society strongly disputed the Toulouse dates. Their webpage (2001) 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, marking the 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. In 1983, a monogram of NI (New Imperial) was initiated, but it saw little use. Imperial Glass was liquidated in 1984.

A second company, Iroquois Glass Industries Ltd. (later Iroquois Glass Ltd.), Candaic, Quebec, Canada, used a similar monogram (without the curved ends of the I) from 1959 to 1967 (Peterson 1968:49; Toulouse 1971:260). Peterson did not include dates, and Toulouse did not explain his reasons for choosing his date range. Iroquois produced “soft drink and distillery bottles and both narrow-mouth and wide-mouth food containers” (Toulouse 1971:261). King (1987) 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.”

Creswick (1995:268) also included the

Table 1: Manufacturer's Marks Used by Illinois Glass Co.

Mark	Bottle Type	Location of Mark	Dates Used	Source
I. G. Co. *	Returnables, liquor, some food	heel or base **	ca. 1880-1911	Glass Group
I G Co" with catalog number to right	Returnable soda & beer, alcohol	heel	ca. 1895-1911	Glass Group
IGCO in a diamond †	General	base	ca. 1900-1911	Toulouse (1971:264) Glass Group
Diamond I	General but especially pharmacy	base	1915-1929	Toulouse (1971:264) Glass Group
Numbers in a diamond ††	Mostly pharmacy	base	1912-1929	Glass Group
Lyric	Pharmacy	base	1911-1929	Glass Group
Intertwined IGCo emblems	Fruit Jar	body	ca. 1906-1914	Toulouse (1969:157)

* This mark appears with punctuation, without punctuation, or with partial punctuation.

** Basemarks are unusual; there is a slight chance that basemarks are from Ihmsen Glass Co.

† These marks are relatively scarce; we find no specific pattern for their use.

†† The numbers are catalog numbers or numbers of private molds.

Independent Glass Co., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in business from 1881 to 1889. The company made the INDEPENDENT JAR, patented October 24, 1882, by Michael Ward of Pittsburgh. The jar was also identified by Roller (1983:162).

Conclusions

The IGCo mark mostly appeared on the heels of bottles and was especially prevalent on soft drink bottles. It was in use by at least 1881 (probably 1880) and was used until at least 1908. The mark may have continued in use until the machine era at Illinois Glass about 1912. It appears that the IGCO in a diamond was used concurrently with the IGCo mark, although the diamond mark may have been adopted somewhat later. It was also used much less often. If it had a specific purpose, the explanation for that has been lost.

Toulouse was somewhat correct with his dates for use of the Diamond I mark (1916-1929), although the mark very likely was first used in 1912. The mark was also used, often in conjunction with the term LYRIC, on the bases of pharmaceutical bottles beginning about 1912 (although LYRIC, alone, may have been used a year earlier), and its use

extended to the merger with Owens Glass Co. in 1929. The intertwined logo was apparently only used on fruit jars and then rarely.

The final mark, an elongated diamond containing numbers, was almost certainly used by Illinois Glass and probably dates from 1912 to 1929. I. G. Co. marks found on the bases of bottles (rather than the much more common position on heels) may have belonged to the Ihmsen Glass Co. (especially those with accompanying letters and/or numbers). A few other marks that used IG monograms were unconnected with Illinois Glass.

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