

## Other R Marks

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As with all the other “letter” sections, we have found a number of stray marks that need to be discussed but for various reasons – including unknown manufacturers – have not been given individual chapters of their own. These are presented below as the “Other R” logos.

### Container and Marks

#### R

We have found a single letter “R” on a barrel mustard bottle, a blackglass base (Felton & Schulz 1983:48), a prescription bottle (Lynn Loomis collection), an amber beer bottle, and a Curtis Bros catsup bottle (eBay). The “R” on the blackglass bottle had serifs, and the bottle was mouth blown (Figure 1). The blackglass base was excavated from the Diaz privy which the authors dated from the 1840s and 1850s based on numerous artifacts including bottle glass. A basic question revolves around whether this bottle was made in Britain or the U.S. McKearin & Wilson (1978:282) concluded that British bottles were more common in America up to 1820, but, after that, bottles made in the U.S. were more plentiful – although English bottle still turned up. They further noted that only bottles clearly marked with some company identification – English or American – could be positively identified as to origin.

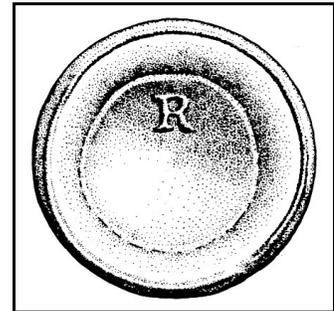


Figure 1 – R (Felton & Schulz 1983:48)

One of the authors of this work had experience on similar California excavations from the same 1840-early 1860s period and discovered that typically the only English-made bottles found on such sites were marked with the Ricketts name – and these were likely U.S. made (see the section on the Ricketts firms for more about counterfeit Ricketts bottles). *If* the “R” on the base were a manufacturer’s mark (and we have no such evidence), we have found no U.S. firm that used such a logo. Although Henry Ricketts & Co., the Redfearn Bros., and Dan Rylands all *could* have used the letter “R” as a mark, we have no evidence that any of them actually did.

Like the blackglass bottle, the other three containers were also mouth blown. The barrel mustard bottle had an amethyst tint and no serifs on the crude “R” – probably indicative of the ca. 1900-ca. 1920 period (Figure 2).

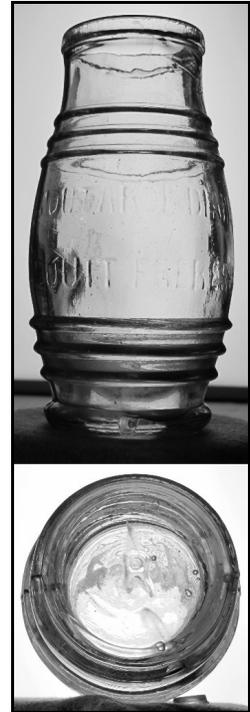


Figure 2 – R

A generic, amber beer bottle that we found in the collection at California Parks was embossed “R 217” in large, crude letters on the heel (Figure 3). This was almost certainly a pre-Prohibition, mouth-blown container, probably in use from the ca. 1915-1920 period.



Figure 3 – R 217 (California Parks)

Although the Curtis Bros. catsup bottle was embossed “8 / R,” and the “R” had serifs, the glass was also tinged amethyst (Figure 4). We have only seen photos of the “R” logo on two machine-made Curtice Brothers bottles with a concave bases. While the letter “R” could indicate any glass house beginning with that letter, we have only discovered one that made



Figure 4 – R (eBay)

catsup bottles during the correct period – the F.E. Reed Glass Co. (discussed in the F.E. Reed and the Rochester Glass Works section). The firm adopted semiautomatic machines in 1912 or 1913, although it is unclear whether those were for wide- or narrow-mouth production. By 1924, however, almost all Reed bottles were made by machine. Since Reed used the F.E.R.G.Co. logo until ca. 1920, these bottles were likely made during the ca. 1920-1925 period.

The final bottle, a prescription style with an applied color label, and a basemark of “R 10” could not have been made earlier than 1933, the year the applied color process was first used on prescription bottles (Figure 5). However, the using firm, Buckland Bros. of Belen, New Mexico remains in business in 2018, so assessing an end date is virtually impossible (Lockhart 2015).



Figure 5 – R 10 (Lynn Loomis)

## R in a Sunburst (ca. 1935-mid-1950s)

Hull-Walski and Ayres (1989:87) illustrated a rectangular base with rounded corners embossed with an “R” surrounded by a circle and sunburst (Figure 6). We discovered a similar bottle embossed on the base “DES. /



Figure 6 – Sunburst R (eBay)

PAT. {Sunburst R} 94231.” The sunburst varied in at least four designs, ranging from very crude to sharp. Glen A. Mengle of Brockway, Pennsylvania, received Patent No. 94,231 for a “Design for a Bottle” on January 1, 1935. The design was identical to the one we observed. Mengle assigned the patent to Wizard, Inc., Chicago, Illinois.



Figure 7 – Radiant label (eBay)

Suzette Bybee noticed a bottle with Sunburst-R design and a paper label for Radiant Machine Oil, made by the Midway Chemical Co. of Chicago. The paper label showed a logo composed of a sunburst with “HIGHEST (arch) / QUALITY (inverted arch)” inside a round circle superimposed by “RADIANT” in an upwardly slanted rectangle (Figure 7). The Sunburst-R was almost certainly a simplified variation of the same logo.

The oldest bottle we have found was a ball-neck panel bottle with a continuous-thread finish and a black-lacquered metal cap – with “Made and Guaranteed by / Midway Chemical Co.” on the paper label (Figure 8). Although we could find no base photos, these almost certainly lacked the Sunburst-R basemark. The second variation was made to the Mengle patent and had a slightly different paper label. One example still had the Midway Chemical designation – now at Jersey City, New Jersey – but another listed Boyle-Midway, Inc., at the same location (Figure 9). At some point, probably in the 1950s, Boyle-Midway adopted a can (Figure 10). The Sunburst-R logo was probably used between 1935 and the mid-1950s.



Figure 8 – Radiant bottle (eBay)

## User of the Mark

### Midway Chemical Co., Chicago (1926-1945)

Although we have not discovered when the firm opened, the first reference we can find was a trademark for FlyDed, registered on July 14 1927, although the trademark (see next sentence) claimed a first use in 1926 – likely the begging of the company. Midway also registered trademarks for “RADIANT” in a design font (No. 71269795) on July 18, 1928, and in block letters (No. 71314572) on May. 14, 1931. The shape of the bottle and continuous-thread finish are also consistent with a late 1920s opening of the firm.



Figure 10 – Radiant can (eBay)



Figure 9 – Radiant label (eBay)

Midway Chemical remained in business until at least 1937 – the last patent we could discover for the firm. A new company, Boyle-Midway, Inc. – an apparent reorganization of the firm – was receiving patents by 1942, although the incorporation did not occur until 1945 (see next entry).

### Boyle-Midway, Inc. (1945-2018)

American Home Products Corp. acquired A.S. Boyle in 1930s, and it likely also added Midway Chemical Co. near the same time, consolidating the two. The firm incorporated as Boyle-Midway on January 2, 1945, almost certainly a satellite company of American Home Products. American Home sold Boyle-Midway to Reckitt & Colman in 1990 (Advertising Age 2003; Wikipedia 2018). Boyle-Midway is apparently still in operation in 2018.

## RAMSAY JAR

Toulouse (1969:258) discussed this twelve-sided jar embossed “RAMSAY,” one letter to a panel, above “JAR,” in three panels. He dated the mouth-blown, oval-based jar ca. 1867 but did not know the manufacturer. Roller (1983:104, 303; 2011:164) added that the base was embossed “PAT. APRIL 17 1866 & NOV. 67” – although he, too, could not identify a maker. The mouth of the jar, the stopper, and the base were oval shaped. He included the similar jar embossed “DOCTOR (slight arch) / RAMSAY’S (slight inverted arch)” with each letter in a separate panel and a base embossed “PAT APRIL 17 1866.” The later work included an unmarked base and an example where the panels stopped at one inch above the base.

Creswick (1987a:182) noted that the twelve panes are slightly indented and illustrated two variations in the lids embossed “PAT APRIL 1866 & NOV. 67” or PAT APRIL 17 1866 & NOV. 67”

(Figure 11). Her illustration of the jar also showed “THE” above “RAMSAY / JAR.” George M. Ramsay received Patent No. 54,015 on April 17, 1866, and Patent No. 71,215 on November 19, 1867. Creswick (1987a:182) also included identical jars embossed “DOCTOR / RAMSAY’S” as noted by Roller (above) but include one with a pushed up base. She, too, did not know who made the jars.

### **Rd or RD** (ca. 1930s)

Matt Schwabe sent us a series of photos of three medicinal or household bottles found in Canada. All were machine made with continuous-thread finishes. The first was a colorless oval, with ribbed sides, embossed “Rd 1933” on the base with a Diamond-D logo to the left.

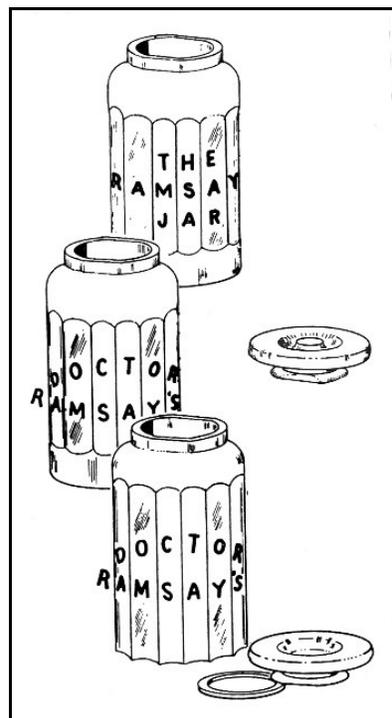


Figure 11 – Ramsay jars (Creswick 1987a:182)



Figure 12 – Rd jar (Matt Schwabe)

Between the thread and the sealing ring, the finish was embossed “RD 32” in tiny characters. Next was a six-sided colorless oval embossed on the base with a large “B” plus the Diamond D logo (Figure 12). The finish of this one was embossed “RD 1932” with the “3” reversed. The final one was an amber rectangular oval with curved front and back faces and vertical ribs on all sides (leaving a blank label area). The finish was unembossed on this one, but the base was embossed “Rd.1936 / 2” (Figures 13 & 14).



Figure 13 – RD 1932 (reversed 3)  
(Matt Schwabe)

Although these initials *could* indicate at glass house or jobber, the term Registered is used in the British system (including Canada) the same way we use Trademark in the U.S. The abbreviations “Rd” and “RD” along with a date or date code almost certainly indicated the use of a trademark connected with the bottles.



Figure 14 – Rd 1936 (Matt Schwabe)

## R.D.CO. (1887-1915)



Figure 15 – R.D.Co. (Paul Demmers)

Our only example of this mark comes from a photo of an oval base – solarized to a light amethyst – embossed “R.D.CO.” – sent to us by Paul Demmers (Figure 15). The mark was probably used by the

Richardson Drug Co., a wholesaler from Omaha, Nebraska. The *Omaha Druggist* (e.g., 1950:3) was a Richardson Drug Co. publication. The covers showed an “RDCo” logo (Figure 16). We have found very little information on the history of this firm, but it was mentioned as early as 1887 and as late as 1915.

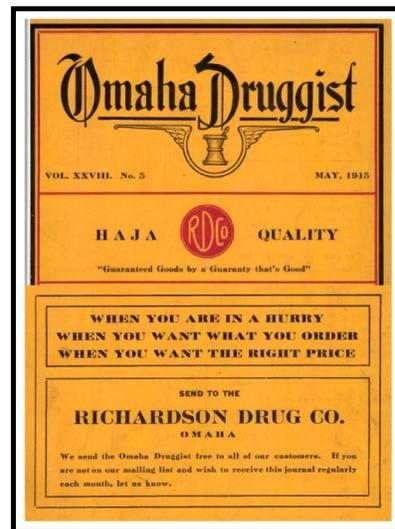


Figure 16 – Omaha Druggist (1915)

## **R.G. WRIGHT & CO.** (ca. 1912-ca. 1942)

Dairy Antiques (2016) listed R.G. Wright & Co. as a dairy supply jobber that sold milk bottles. A post on Antique Bottles.net described a milk bottle embossed “R.G. WRIGHT & CO. (arch) / BUFFALO N.Y. (inverted arch)” on the base, and a Worthpoint auction showed one.

### **User**

#### **R.G. Wright & Co., Buffalo, New York (1900s?-ca. 1940s)**

Rueben G. Wright apparently founded R.G. Wright & Co., although we have not found the date. There was an R.G. Wright’s grocery store at Buffalo in 1870, and the firm may have grown out of that business. Ruben’s son, Pierce Wright, was the sole owner of R.G. Wright & Co. in 1912. The firm was located at 98 E. Eagle St., Buffalo, in 1936, when it advertised “THE NEW WRIGHT POWER FILLER designed for the smaller dairy or to bottle special products in the large dairy” (Garage Journal 2008; Pennsylvania Dairyman’s Assoc.1936:25). The company was the assignee for several patents during the 1920s and 1930s, the last of which was received in 1942.

## **R.I.B.** (ca. 1910-1920)

The “R.I.B.” mark was found on an amber bottle base built into the Tom Kelly bottle house at Rhyolite, Nevada. According to the photograph taken by Suzy McCoy, the mark contains serif lettering, a double stamp, and is on a cup-bottom mold – a mouth-blown example (Figure 17). The mark was also noted by Ayres et al. (1980:36-37) who added that the base had a “suction machine cut-off scar” the likely mark of an Owens Automatic Bottle Machine. They noted that, because of the context, the bottle was probably made no later than 1930. Jones (1965:[34]) also listed the mark but had no information on it.



Figure 17 – RIB base (Suzy McCoy)

When the Bottle Research Group visited the Arizona State Museum to study the Tucson Urban Renewal collection of bottles, we found two export beer bottles

embossed across the center of the bases with “R.I.B.” (no serifs). One was on a bottle with a tooled crown finish (mouth-blown), the other with a machine-made crown finish. We found another at the University of Wyoming (Figure 18)



Figure 19 – R.I.B. plate (eBay)

Another amber eBay beer bottle was embossed “R.I.B. CO. (arch) / ROCK ISLAND, (slight arch) / ILL.” (inverted arch) in a plate on the body – a clear indication of the place of use (Figure 19).



Figure 18 – R.I.B. base (University of Wyoming)

A machine-made aqua bottle with RIB on the base and a crown finish was offered on eBay. Mobley (2018) showed two bottles with RIB embossed on the body. One had 16 S 4 embossed on the heel – another mouth-blown example. The mark was used by the Streater plant of the American Bottle Co. from 1916 to 1929, and this bottle was made in 1916. Another eBay bottle had a heelmark of “17-2.”

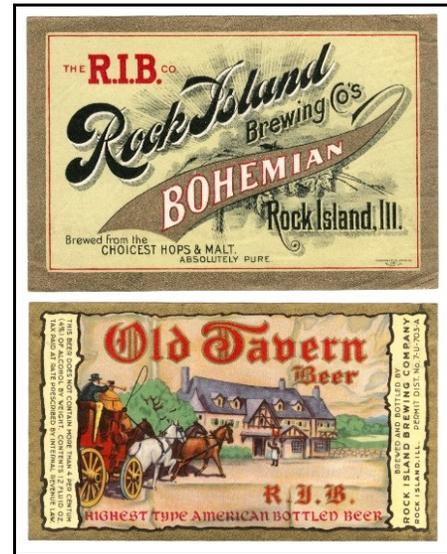


Figure 20 – R.I.B. labels (Bob Kay)

## User

### Rock Island Brewing Co. (1893-1920; 1930-1939)

According to Bob Kay, the initials “R.I.B.” embossed on beer bottles and printed on beer labels were used by the Rock Island Brewing Co., Rock Island, Illinois (Figure 20). Van Wieren (1995:91) listed Raible & Stengel, Rock Island Brewing Co. 1891-1893 and the Rock Island Brewing Co. 1893-1902. However, he also listed a Rock Island Brewing Co. (Ignatz Huber)

1893-1920 and another Rock Island Brewing Co. at the same address (30<sup>th</sup> St. and 7<sup>th</sup> Ave.) ca. 1930-1939. Combined with the information above, the bottles were almost certainly used by the second Rock Island Brewing Co. at 30<sup>th</sup> St. and 7<sup>th</sup> Ave., probably during the pre-Prohibition period, ca. 1910-1920. One label provided by Kay (see Figure 20) certainly came from the immediate post-Prohibition period (early 1920s), but it *very* likely was affixed to a generic beer bottle rather than one embossed with the brewery's initials.

### **RICHMOND GLASSWORKS (1855-1856; 1863-1865)**

McKearin & Wilson (1978:185) discussed a flask with a “large anchor with cable extending through to a ribbon-shaped frame above and below.” The upper frame was embossed “RICHMOND” with “GLASS WORKS” in the lower one. The reverse had a line drawing of a glass factory. They noted that the flask was “extremely rare; only three or four specimens are known” and dated it “probably 1855-65; possibly 1855-58.” Grant (1989:86) illustrated the flask (Figure 21). The flask could have been made by either of two factories that used the Richmond Glass Works name, one from 1855 to 1856, the other from 1863 to 1865. Although less likely, the Virginia Glass Works may have inherited the molds from the initial firm and made some of the flasks, so a cautious researcher would probably want to include the full 1855-1865 date range.

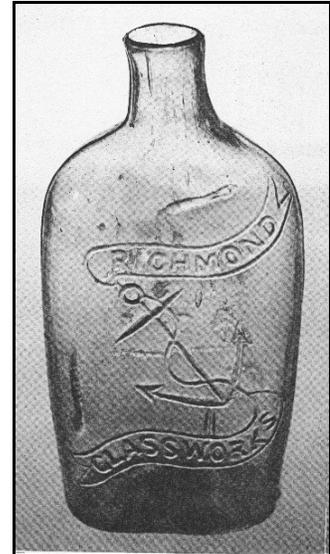


Figure 21 – Richmond Glass Works (Grant 1989:86)

We only have an ad from the initial firm. Throughout 1855 and 1856, the *Richmond Whigg* carried an ad for the Richmond Glass Works that included such items as jars, demijohns, decanters, tumblers, porters, mineral water bottles, flasks, pickle jars, “vials of all descriptions,” and other containers in “white [i.e., colorless] or green glass.” If this large stock proved insufficient, the plant offered “moulds made to order, and particular attention given to their faithful execution” (Figure 22).

**RICHMOND GLASS WORKS.**  
**GEORGE GAVINZEL,**  
 MANUFACTURER,  
 Corner of Main and Tyler streets, Rocketts,  
 RICHMOND, V. A.,

**H**AS constantly on hand a large assortment, and can furnish to order every article of white or green Glass, of any pattern or color required.

Jars,	Demijohns,	Porters,
Decanters,	Madeira Wines,	Minerals,
Tumblers, pressed,	Rhine "	Lemon Syrups,
" plain,	Flasks,	Cognes,
Lamp Glasses, &c.,	Castor Oils	
Vials of every description, Pickles, of every variety.		
<b>MOULDS MADE TO ORDER,</b> and particular attention given to their faithful execution.		

de14—c2m

Figure 22 – Richmond ad (*Richmond Whigg* 1/8/1856)

## **Manufacturer**

### **Richmond Glass Co., Richmond, Virginia (1855-1856)**

Although a group of immigrants, almost certainly glass blowers, formed a partnership on July 18, 1855, to erect a glass factory, they were unable to amass the necessary funds and sold the operation to Dr. George Gavinzel on November 20, 1855. The glass plant – corner of Main and Tyler Streets, Rocketts, Richmond – began operation by at least December 8 of that year under the name of the Richmond Glass Works, making a large variety of bottles, flasks, vials, tumblers, and lamp glass. On February 3, 1856, a fire completely destroyed the plant after a run of only three months (McKearin & Wilson 1978:182-183). The fire marked the end of the Richmond Glass Works (see next entry).

### **Virginia Glass Works, Richmond, Virginia (1856-1863)**

Jacob S. Atlee, the owner of the glass works property, apparently took possession of the factory after the fire. Atlee was rebuilding the plant by September 5, 1856, and placed it back in operation on September 15 – indicating that the plant could not have been very large. The *Richmond Daily Dispatch* the following day reported that the opening “attracted a large number of visitors, who were extremely anxious to witness the *modus operandi* of making tumblers, decanters and other glass ware.” The *Richmond Enquirer* (10/16/1857) located the plant at “the foot of Main St.” By April of the following year, Atlee was calling the business the Virginia Glass Works and advertising the same large variety of products offered by the previous firm. Atlee incorporated the business on February 19, 1858, as the Virginia Glass Mfg. Co., along with Richard O. Haskins, Robert A. Mayo, Jacob Lee, and Horatio Smith. The location given was Port Mayo, possibly the site of the factory – although Rocketts was still mentioned in subsequent documents. Atlee disposed of the firm in 1863 (McKearin & Wilson 1978:183-185).

### **Richmond Glass Mfg. Co., Richmond, Virginia (1863-1865)**

William S. Morris acquired the business on October 6, 1863, and Morris incorporated as the Richmond Glass Mfg. Co. on October 30. On February 2, 1864, under the heading of “Bills Reported,” the *Richmond Enquirer* noted “an act confirming and amending the charter of the Richmond Glass Manufacturing Company.” Just what the amendment consisted of was not

mentioned, but subsequent data strongly suggest that Morris remained involved. When federal forces overran Richmond and occupied the factory on April 2, 1865, all business ceased. On December 30, that year, the *Richmond Daily Dispatch* posted a notice that the glass works – that “fronts on the James River at Rocketts” – was for sale. The plant was “offered for sale because those who heretofore had the management of the works have not capital to resume business.” The plant never reopened and burned to the ground in 1868. Throughout this period, the local newspapers called this the Richmond Glass Works (McKearin & Wilson 1978:185). For greater details, see McKearin & Wilson (1978:182-185).

Despite the claim of McKearin & Wilson, we found reports of the 1868 fire in the Richmond newspapers (although it certainly could have happened). On February 8, 1859, the *Richmond Daily Dispatch* posted a notice of a sheriff’s sale of 50 shares of stock for the Richmond Glass Mfg. Co. in accordance with a Circuit Court order from the case of McCause vs. Morris at noon the following day. The March 26 issue of the *Dispatch* offered “310,000 bricks for sale – from the “furnaces &c. of the Richmond Glass Works” and another former building in town. The paper reported the final sale of the glass works stock on December 15 – although the plant, itself, was obviously destroyed at least six months earlier.

## **RK (1849-1850)**

Knittle (1927:405, 442) noted that the initials R.K, found on a flask, were used by Richard Knowles of Wheeling (West) Virginia. Toulouse (1971:443-444) also identified the user of this mark as Richard Knowles and dated the flasks either 1835-1865 or 1849-1865, based on his confused knowledge about the Knowles history.

Assuming that these initials actually indicate Richard Knowles, the flask they reside on could have been made during the 1849-1850 period, when R. Knowles & Co. operated the Union Glass Works. However, Knowles apparently remained, when the firm became Quarrier & Ott in 1850. That ownership continued until sometime between 1851 and 1856, at which time only Quarrier & Co. was listed (see the Other Q section for more discussion about Quarrier & Ott). It is thus possible that Knowles used his initials on a flask made any time during the period from 1850 to as late as 1855. See the next entry for a discussion of the company. We have not discovered a flask with these initials, although Knittle at least inferred that one existed.

## **R. KNOWLES & Co (1849-1850)**

Knittle (1927:443) noted “R. KNOWLES & Co” on a violin flask made by Richard Knowles. Toulouse (1971:443-444) agreed with Richard Knowles and dated the flasks either 1835-1865 or 1849-1865, based on his confused knowledge about the Knowles history. McKearin and Wilson (1978:169, 629), however, provided evidence that the actual dates were 1849-1850.

The design of the flask involved a fancy scroll pattern on the front and reverse sides. The embossing was actually positioned strangely, with “R. Knowles & Co.” along the left border of the scroll edge of the front, with “Union Factory” along the right border (Figure 23). The center was embossed “Wheeling South” in a circle around “VA.” Also see the RK mark, discussed above.

### **Manufacturer**

#### **R. Knowles & Co., Wheeling, (West) Virginia (1849-1850)**

According to Toulouse (1971:443-444), both the founding and closing of R. Knowles & Co. was shrouded in confusion. Unable to confirm either of the two date ranges he had found, he noted that the factory could have been open either during the 1835-1865 or 1849-1865 periods.

McKearin and Wilson (1978:168), however, discovered that R. Knowles & Co. built the Union Glass Works at Wheeling (West) Virginia, in 1849. Knowles was joined by three other glassblowers and Morgan Ott, the financial backer. A.E. Quarrier purchased the shares of the three other blowers in 1850, changing the firm’s name to Quarrier & Ott.

The U.S. census manuscripts tell an interesting story of turbulent life. Richard Knowles first appeared in the 1850 census at the age of 33 as a “Glass Manufacturer” – certainly operating the Union Glass Works at Wheeling as R. Knowles & Co. He owned real estate – almost certainly including the glass house – valued at \$9,000. A decade later (1860), at the recorded age

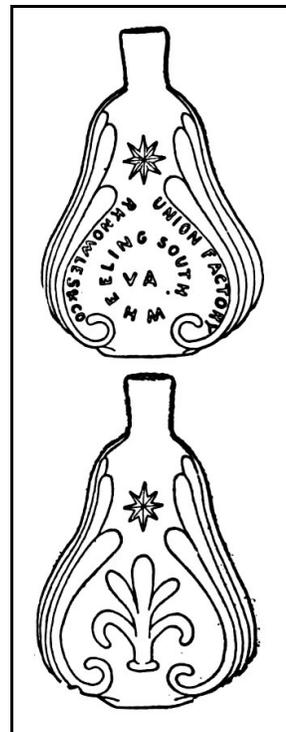


Figure 23 – R. Knowles  
(McKearin and Wilson  
1978:629)

of 44, he was a “Glass Blower” – but he had no real estate, and his personal worth was recorded as \$50. A note at the end of the line may provide some insight into the loss of his glass business – he was “Convict for felony” – and that would be an interesting story. The 1865 Wheeling city directory listed Knowles as a “glass blower” but did not reveal the firm

In 1870, at the age of 53, he “Wks Glass Hse” and had real estate to the value of \$4,700 and a personal estate of \$300. Perhaps, he was now a partner in another glass operation. Our final glimpse of Richard Knowles was in 1880, when he was 63. This census did not enumerate the person’s value – real or personal. But, his days in the glass industry were over.

### **R&M** (ca. 1890-1920s)

The “R&M” basemark on perfume or cologne bottles has been offered frequently on eBay auctions (Figure 24). One item in particular was a glass shoe (Figure 25). The items we have seen were mouth-blown, although that is not particularly helpful with this type of bottle. Hand production of these continued until at least the 1980s at some glass houses. However, at least one shoe was made of colorless glass that had soloarized to a lavender color – indicative or a probable manufacture during the ca. 1890-1920 period – although manganese dioxide was used as a decolorant both somewhat earlier and slightly later. Unfortunately, we have not discovered who or what “R&M” indicates – although it was probably a perfumer rather than a glass house.



Figure 24 – R&M (eBay)



Figure 25 – R&M (Etsy)

## ROLLINS SELF-SEALER (ca. 1908)

Roller (1983:308; 2011:450) discussed a jar embossed “ROLLINS (horizontal) / SELF-SEALER (inverted arch)” on the front and “PAT JAN 14 08” on the base. The lid was embossed “TO OPEN PRY OUT RUBBER AT NOTCH.” The patentee was Jarrot L. Rollins of Colfax, California, and he dated the jar ca. 1908, made by an unknown glass house for the Rollins Pacific Jar Co. Rollins wrote the Ball Brothers about a mold and quart jars that had been made for him (not by Ball). He shipped the only known sample – a machine-made jar – to the Ball Brothers for a price quote.

Jerrot L. Rollins applied for a patent for a “Jar Sealing and Vacuum Releasing Device” on May 7, 1907, and received patent No. 876,591 on January 14, 1908. This jar closure was a “means of hermetically sealing jars, cans and like receptacles, and for readily breaking or releasing the vacuum within the jar so that it may be opened without difficulty. The drawings show a rather complex mechanism, so it is no wonder that the invention found no market (Figure 26).

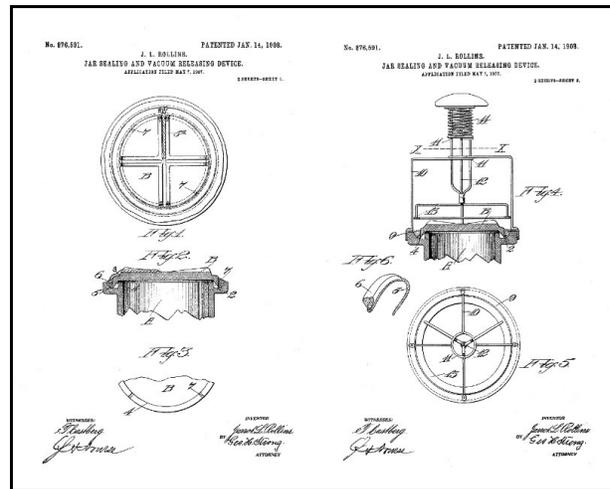


Figure 26 – Rollins 1908 patent

On March 22, 1910, *Pottery, Brass & Glass Salesman* presented the greatest amount of information on the firm – the last we have found.

The Rollins Pacific Jar Co., of Auburn, Cal., a company made up of Auburn and Colfax stockholders, is making headway in the matter of selling stock, Dr. J.L. Rollins being actively engaged in the work at the present time. While the company is incorporated to manufacture and deal in glassware, crockery etc., it will largely specialize in the manufacture and sale of the Rollins self sealer fruit jar. Free building sites have been offered the company at three different points in northern California, but the company will wait before picking out a site in order to secure the best transportation accommodations. As soon as the rest of the stock is

sold and as soon as the site has been definitely decided upon, active building operations will commence.

The *Sacramento Bee* announced the incorporation on October 11, 1909, claiming that \$1,075 or the \$100,000 capitalization had been subscribed. The firm was intended “to manufacture and sell glass jars glassware, particularly glass fruit jars, for which Dr. Rollins has obtained a patent.” Directors included Rollins, Harold T. Power, Sheriff George McAulay, District Attorney C.A. Tuttle, and Mayor J.W. Morgan, all of Colfax or Auburn. On September 18, 1911, the *Bee* published a list of failed corporations – including the Rollins Pacific Jar Co. Apparently, the group never found the necessary stockholders. It is virtually certain that the company only existed on paper and never made any jars – probably never even selling any.

## **RUSSELL & WATSON** (ca. 1890s-ca. 1910 or later)

Dairy Antiques (2016) listed Russell & Watson as a jobber in milk bottles, although the firm certainly sold other paraphernalia – including ship’s lanterns, copper pots, and copper fry pans – and probably many other similar items. The company may have manufactured its copper parts, but it certainly acted as a jobber for glass lenses, milk bottles, and other items. One eBay seller suggested that a milk bottle bearing the Russell & Watson embossing was made in 1880, but he or she did not explain the choice of that date. Copper items were stamped “RUSSELL / 7 / WATSON / BUFFALO, / N.Y.,” “MANUFACTURED BY RUSSELL & WATSON, BUFFALO, NEW YORK” (with “PATd. DECr. 27. 1870.” embossed on the edge of the lens – on a lantern), or “MANUFACTURED RUSSELL & WATSON / 145 MAIN ST. BUFFALO, N.Y.” – and possibly other variations. We do not know the exact embossing on milk bottles or whether it was on the base or heel. Although other items could have been made both earlier and later, the milk bottles were probably only carried during the ca. 1890s and early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### **User or Manufacturer**

#### **Russell & Watson, Buffalo, New York (1859-1920s)**

William Russell arrived at Buffalo with his parents in 1830 – at the age of three and began selling ship and hotel supplies in 1859. We have not discovered when he joined in

partnership with Watson or Watson’s full name, but two historical mentions included Watson in 1893 and 1897. The 1902 Buffalo directory listed the firm as Russell & Watson, Hotel and Steamboat Supplies, 145 Main. Russell died in 1919 at the age of 92 (Archives West 2018; Bailey 1893; Cichon n.d.). At some point, possibly after Russell’s death, the firm incorporated as shown by Buffalo city directory entries from 1915 and 1923 Russell & Watson, Inc. But, 1923 was the last entry we found for the firm.

## **RW (1745-1755)**

The “RW” mark appears on a “sealed” bottle – i.e., one with a blob of applied glass on the shoulder that was imprinted with a “seal” to show the owner of the bottle. In this case, the seal represented Richard

Wistar – eldest son of the bottle maker.

The bottle, itself, was free blown of green-aqua glass. Only two of these bottles are known to exist, one at the Corning Museum of Glass (where one of the authors photographed this one), the other at the Wistar Institute (Figures 27 & 28). According to the Wistar Institute (2017), the bottle was made between 1745 and 1755.



Figure 28 – R•W (Corning Museum of Glass)



Figure 27 – R•W (Corning Museum of Glass)

## **Manufacturer**

### **Wistar Glass Works, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (1739-1776)**

Noted button maker, Caspar Wistar, opened his glass factory at Philadelphia and began production in 1739. This was one of the early glass houses to be erected in the U.S., the first being the very limited glass production at Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607 and again in 1621. Caspar Wistar died in 1752, and his eldest son, Richard, continued the business. The plant used two furnaces and made a variety of bottles as well as window glass and table ware. When the Townshend Act was passed in the late 1760s, British glassware disappeared from the colonial

market, and other U.S. glass houses began to compete with Wistar. The plant closed during the American Revolution, probably during 1776, and was placed for sale on October 11, 1780, a year before Richard Wistar's death (Pepper 1971:19-29; Wheaton Arts 2018).

## **Discussion and Conclusions**

Most of the marks discussed above are relatively obvious, and the dates of use, manufacturers, and relevant details need little explanation. Manufacturers of the five exceptions, however, remain unknown to us. These include the five "R" base and heelmarks (probably at least three *different* producers just of these), the Ramsay Jar, the Canadian medicinal or household bottles embossed "RD" or "Rd" on bases and/or finishes, the R&M perfume and cologne bottles, and the Rollins Self-Sealer jar. Future research will have to solve these mysteries – or not.

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