

Other T Marks

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As with each letter in this Encyclopedia, there were a few marks that did not fit into the typical classifications. Those are presented here.

Containers and Marks

T

We have observed a small “T” on mouth-blown bottles, and these were probably made by the Tibby Brothers at Sharpsburg, Pennsylvania (see the section on the Tibby Brothers for more discussion). However, we discovered an amber beer bottle base at Fort Bowie (noted by Herskovitz 1978:9) with a medium-sized “T” mark that was roughly centered in the lower half of the base – an unusual location and size combination (Figure 1).



Figure 1 – T (Fort Bowie)

Clint (1976:140) illustrated a large aqua beer bottle embossed on the base with a large “T” – with no accompanying numbers or letters. The bottle had a tooled crown finish and was used for Neef’s beer. Clint (1976:139-140) illustrated a total of seven bottles with the “Neef’s” shoulder embossing, but none of the others had a “T” embossed on the base or the heel. In addition, the owners were Max, Fred, and Emil Neef – so the letter “T” was almost certainly a manufacturer’s mark rather than the owner’s initial. Clint dated the bottle ca. 1909-1912. This is a larger “T” than is commonly seen on the bottles made by the Tibby Brothers, but a new photo showed a typical sized, smaller “T” on a Neef base. It is now unclear whether Clint had a different bottle or if he drew the “T” too large. Ayres et al. (1980) also illustrated a beer bottle with a medium sized “T” in the lower half of the base, although they failed to guess at a date.

We know even less about the generic beer bottle from Fort Bowie. Numerous early beer bottles (ca. 1878-1882) had a single letter embossed on their bases, but all of those were large

and centered. We do not currently know the reason for those marks, but they were different from this “T” mark. We do not know the user of the “T” on amber or aqua bottles. These could have been made by any glass house with “T” in the name. In both cases, of course, the “T” could indicate something else. These two bottles could not have been made by the Tibby Brothers. The Tibbys only made colorless containers.

Wilson and Caperton (1994:79-80) illustrated an oval panel bottle that they noted as being medicinal in use (Figure 2). They did not note the color of the glass, and they had no idea of the maker. Since Fort Selden (the location of their excavations) was open from 1865 to 1888, the bottle could have been made anytime during that period. The style of the bottle was consistent with the ca. 1875-1895 period, and most examples in that configuration were colorless.

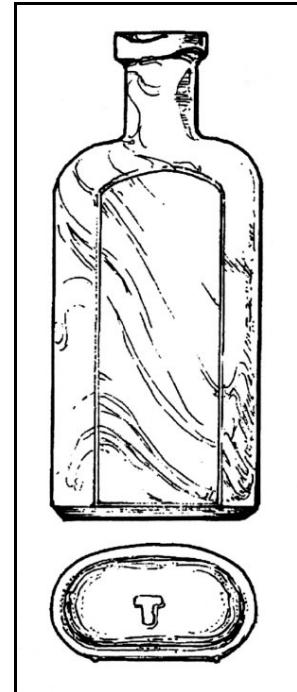


Figure 2 – T (Wilson and Caperton 1994:79-80)

Triangle-T

Fisher & Weinhardt (2011) listed a single mouth-blown soda bottle embossed on the base with a T-in-a-triangle logo above “C30.” The bottle was used by Ackley’s Beverages. Hempstead, New York, from ca. 1948-1950. They did not know the maker., and neither do we. Two different firms, the Travis Glass Co. and the Turner Glass Co. used a logo composed of T in an *inverted* triangle. However, Travis only made milk bottles (at a much earlier period), and Turner – while it produced some soda bottles, sold to the General Glass Co. in 1930 – too early to have manufactured the Ackley’s bottles. See the sections on Turner and Travis for more information about those firms.

T. A. EVANS & CO. PITTSBURGH, PA.

According to Hawkins (2009:196), this mark was found on a “plain-sided, round-shouldered pint” fruit jar and a flask (Figure 3).



Figure 3 – TA Evans (Jay Hawkins)

T. A. EVANS PITTSBURGH, PA.

Thomas A. Evans embossed his name on the base of a grooved-ring wax sealer fruit jar embossed “MASTODON” on the front (Figure 4). Roller (1983:248) dated the jar ca. 1856-1860 and noted that the company was listed as T.A. Evans after 1860. Creswick (1987:154) illustrated the jar, expanding the dates to 1855-1868. Hawkins (2009:196) also noted the jars.

Manufacturer

T.A. Evans, Pittsburgh (1855-1860)

T.A. Evans & Co., Pittsburgh (1860-1869)

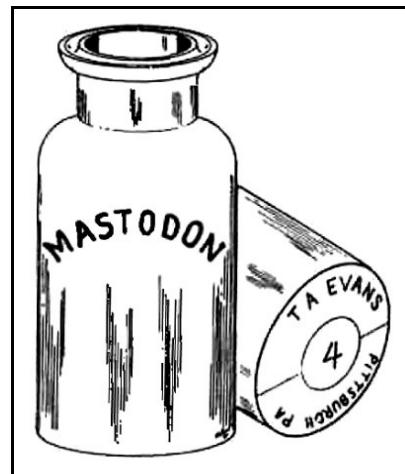


Figure 4 – TA Evans (Creswick 1987a:154)

In 1855, Thomas A. Evans built the Mastodon Glass Works at the corner of Butler and Morton (now Railroad and 28th St.) in Pittsburgh. The plant operated a single six-pot furnace, producing flint bottles and vials, under the moniker of T.A. Evans. Around 1860, Evans renamed the firm T.A. Evans & Co. (Hawkins 2009:195-196). The *Commercial Bulletin* of June 8, 1864, noted that M.A., E.V., and B. Anderson had retired from T.A. Evans & Co., dissolving the firm – although T.A. Evans and Thomas Anderson carried on “under the same style.”

Evans sold the glass house to William McCully in 1869 (Hawkins 2009:196). Roller (1997) cited the 1860 Industrial Census, showing that Evans had a capital of \$16,000. Evans advertised “all kinds of flint glass, prescription, vials, tinctures, salt mouths, and fancy cologne bottles in 1866.

TB&GW

Toulouse (1971:492) stated that “these initials and name were reported to me [as the Thompson Bottle & Glass Works] in all good faith, but they are an example of a manufactured name for an unknown set of initials.” Toulouse noted that he could find no such company, nor can we. He further noted that the J.L. Thompson Bottle Co., Gas City, Indiana, used no mark that he had been able to find. We concur. We have not seen an example of this mark.

T.C.CO. (ca. 1900-ca. 1910)

Von Mechow (2019) listed four Hutchinson soda bottles embossed “T.C.CO.” horizontally on the bases. The four bottlers with names on the bottles were located at Mt. Laffee, Pennsylvania, (base), Pittsburgh, and Buffalo, New York (two in Buffalo). The most logical point of manufacture was Pittsburgh (possibly some other spot in western Pennsylvania). The initials could also indicate a distributor (jobber).

TF in a diamond

See a discussion about this mark in the Florida Glass Mfg. Co. section.

T.G.C^O (1884-1899)

This mark appeared on aqua glass jar lids featured at several eBay auctions. The “C” had a serif at the top termination, and the “G” had an identical serif at both terminations (Figure 5). “T.G.C^O” was embossed in mirror image on the underside of the lid (to be read from the top).



Figure 5 – TGCo (eBay)

According to Toulouse (1971:493-494), the Toronto Glass Co. used the “TGCo” mark from 1894 to 1900. Unfortunately, he did not indicate what products were marked with the logo. Toronto Glass certainly made fruit jars and may have used these lids for them. The color fits the “green” glass made by the Toronto company. Unfortunately, King (1987) made no reference to a mark. The plant was actually open from 1884 to 1899.

It is, of course, possible that the Tigner Glass Co. made the lids, although the “G” is very different from the one in the Tigner basemark and, the “CO” on Tigner jars lacks the underline and superscript position. This makes the Tigner connection unlikely.

Possible Manufacturer

Toronto Glass Co., Toronto, Canada (1894-1899)

The Toronto Glass Co. began production in 1894. The plant only had a day tank, but it used a variety of machines: Olean, Miller, Teeple-Johnson, Blue, Cox, and O'Neill. The factory made fruit jars, round pickles, flasks, panels, and patent medicine bottles in green glass (Toulouse 1971:493-494; King 1987:86).

The plant made bottles by both machine and hand methods. At some point between 1897 and 1898, the factory opened a flint tank for non-bottle production (King 1987:86). The Toronto Glass Co. appeared in the “Miscellaneous Green List,” using 30 pots in 1897 and 1898 (*National Glass Budget* 1897:7; 1898:7). On October 17, 1899, the Diamond Glass Co. bought Toronto Glass for \$19,423.31 (King 1987:87).

TIGNER G. CO (1891-ca. 1895)

Several eBay auctions have featured jars embossed “MASON’S / PATENT / NOV 30TH / 1858” on the side and “— TIGNER G. CO. — (arch) / XENIA, IND.” (inverted arch) on the base (Figure 6). The short lines (–) that separated the glass company from the place designation were slightly curved. Punctuation was present, absent, or partial (e.g., a period after “G” but none after “CO.”). The mark appeared in two slight variations: one with the “G” evenly spaced between “TIGNER” and “CO”; the other with the “G” very close to the “CO” abbreviation. The latter was almost certainly an engraver’s error.

Toulouse (1969:307) discussed this mark as either “TIGNER G CO.” or “TIGNER & Co.” but noted that “the uncertain letter appears to be a ‘G.’” He also listed a second example where “the uncertain letter appears to be as much an ampersand, ‘&,’ as it does a ‘G’ on the first jar.” He was unable to trace the company. Historical references always noted the company as the Tigner Glass Co., so the ampersand is false.

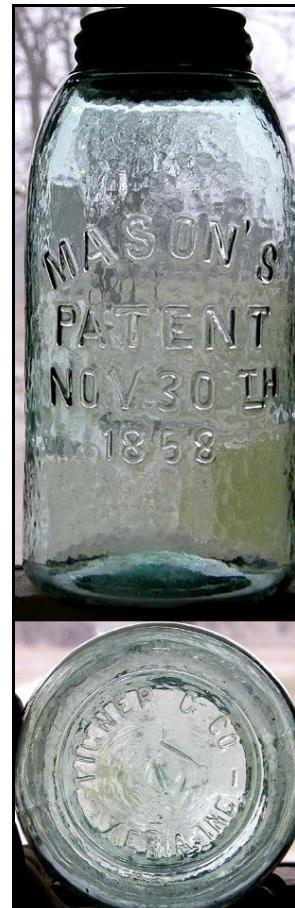


Figure 6 – Tigner G. Co.
(eBay)

The Xenia plant opened in 1891 and almost certainly began production of the jars with the TIGNER G. CO mark immediately. When Tigner left in 1892, production of the jars may have ceased. If so, the plant manufactured large numbers in a single year. It is more likely that the factory continued production at least until the name of the town changed (by 1895) and the plant was sold (and possibly ceased production).

Manufacturer

King City Glass Co., Fairmount, Indiana (1890-1897)

Although Charles Tigner joined with W.C. Winslow, John Rau, and Frank Taylor to found the Fairmount Glass Works in 1888, that plant was unconnected with the Tigner Glass Co. Tigner sold his share of Fairmount to Winslow and Rau in 1890. Tigner was also a founding member of the Dillon Glass Co. (see the Dillon section for more information). Although the extent of his involvement is unclear, he remained a part of Dillon until the sale to the Marion Fruit Jar & Bottle Co. in 1894. Eventually, he became the manager of the Essex Glass Co. and, later, of the Winslow Glass Co. (Roller 1994:24-25; Wacker n.d.).

Along with Dr. A. Henley, Charles Tigner started a glass plant known as the “Dinky” bottle factory at Fairmount in 1890 – officially called the King City Glass Works, with Tigner as the manager. As often happened during that period, the operating firm was the King City Glass Co. – with the term “Works” used for the factory. The plant used a four-ring continuous tank to make battery jars and “electrical supplies” probably meaning insulators. In October 1897, Tigner and Henley sold the property to the Marion Fruit Jar & Bottle Co. (Roller 1994:26).

Reinstra (2009) confirmed the history of the plant (probably from the same sources) but added that collectors’ excavations at the factory site disclosed that the plant made insulators, catsup bottles, and fruit jars. Insulators were embossed with “K.C.G.W” (King City Glass Works) and ghosted “K.C.G.W.” and “K.C.G.Co” marks (Figure 7). He



Figure 7 – KCGW (Travis Tuttle – Pinterest)

note the jars he dug up were embossed “THE MASON JAR” – and referenced Marion Fruit Jar & Bottle Co. as the probable manufacturer. He also cited the local city directories, stating that the King City Glass Works was in business from 1890 to 1897.

Tigner Glass Co., Xenia, Indiana (1891-ca. 1895)

L.E. “Edward” Tigner advertised for glass blowers to work his new plant at Xenia (the name changed to Converse by 1895), Indiana, in June 1891. He planned to begin production of green bottles in September. By June 1892, however, Tigner had severed ties with his original company and took over the Hollweg & Reese plant at Greenfield (later to become the Greenfield Fruit Jar & Bottle Co.). Orin Trook bought the property in January 1895 and sold the operation to the Marion Fruit Jar & Bottle Co. in 1898 (Roller 1994:13; 1997).

THOMAS J. O’NEIL

Lincoln (1970:86) illustrated the base of a beer bottle embossed “THOMAS J. O’NEIL (arch) / MFR (horizontal) / BOSTON (inverted arch)” (Figure 8). Another letter was ghosted under the “M” in “MFR.” The base appears to have been from a mouth-blown bottle with a post mold, probably late 19th to early 20th century. Unfortunately, Lincoln left us no other information about either the bottle or O’Neil. O’Neil was probably a jobber in the Boston area.

THO^S H. JACOBS & CO. (ca. 1870-1871)

A Norman C. Heckler auction featured a mouth-blown dark amber bottle embossed “THO^S H. JACOBS & CO. PHILADELPHIA” in a Ricketts-type mold around the outside edge or the base, just inside the resting point (Figure 9). The bottle was made for liquor or wine in a three-piece mold, while the base was a dip mold, and two shoulder parts formed that area with “PATENT” embossed just above the mold seam. The bottle was topped with a two-part finish with a sharp lower ring.



Figure 8 – Thomas J. O’Neill
(Lincoln 1970:86)



Figure 9 – Thos. H. Jacobs
(Norman C. Heckler)



Figure 10 – Thomas H Jacobs & Co. (eBay)

An eBay auction offered a green demijohn with a shoulder seal embossed “THOMAS H. JACOBS & C^O” in a circle around a design in the center (Figure 10). A paper label on the opposite side red in color and printed with “SUPERIOR / HOLLAND GIN / 1844 / / THOMAS H. JACOBS & CO., / 233 DOCK STREET. / PHILADELPHIA.” (Figure 11).



Figure 11 – Jacobs label & seal (eBay)

A final, similar demijohn was offered by Glassworks Auctions. This one was aqua in color with an identical shoulder seal (with “THOMAS H.” mostly obscured). This, too, had a similar paper label with the firm’s name and address intact but the brand of the contents missing.

User

Thomas H. Jacobs & Co., Philadelphia (ca. 1870-1871)

PrePro.com (2019) only found the firm of Thomas H. Jacobs & Co. listed at 233 Dock St. under the heading of Whiskey (Wholesale) in the 1870 Philadelphia city directory. The *Legal Gazette* (1872:39) posted a notice from M. Thomas & Sons, Auctioneers, of the sale of the “valuable stock of fine wines and liquors of Messrs. Thomas H. Jacobs & Co., declining business” on February 21, 1892. Items for sale included “Fine Brandy, Irish Scotch and Whisky, Rum, Choice Sherry and Cherry Brandy &c. All in demijohns and bottles.”

TILLYER

For information on the Tillyer Brothers and the Tillyer jars, see the section on the Coffin Companies in the C Volume.

T.S. (1820-1825)

McKearin and Wilson (1978:110-111, 544-545) described and illustrated three flasks embossed on the front heels with "T.S." One was also embossed "COVENTRY (arch) / C-T" on the lower reverse side, but the other two lacked the reference to Coventry (Figure 12). These were almost certainly made during the 1820-1825 period when Thomas Stebbins operated the Coventry Glass Works, Coventry, Connecticut. See also S&S and S&C in the Other S section and C-T in the Other C section. The company history is in the Other C file.

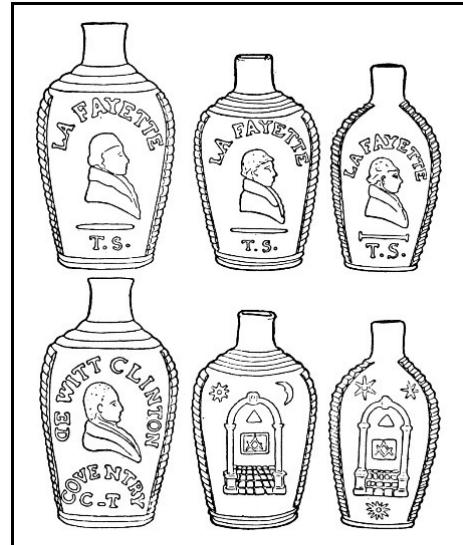


Figure 12 – TS (McKearin & Wilson 1978:545)

T.S.G.Co. (1901-1908)

An eBay auction offered a deep-purple (probably artificially solarized) peppersauce bottle embossed on the base with "T.S.G.Co." (Figure 13). The initials were almost certainly those of the Taylor-Stites Glass Co., located at Cape May Court House, New Jersey.



Figure 13 – T.S.G.CO. (eBay)

Manufacturer

Taylor-Stites Glass Co., Cape May Court House, New Jersey (1901-1908)

Leander G. Taylor, former manager for the George Jonas Glass Co., Minitola, New Jersey, and mold maker, Harry Stites, joined together to form the Taylor-Stites Glass Co. at Cape May Court House, New Jersey, in 1901. Taylor was the president of the corporation, with Stites

as the secretary and treasurer. The first bottles were blown on December 5, 1901. The plant operated a single tank with five rings by 1905, but, by 1907, the factory used two continuous tanks with 16 rings (Pepper 1971:272-274; Roller 1998). The plant made prescription, preservers', and packers' ware by that time (Thomas Publishing Co. 1907:159).

The *Bridgeton Evening News* announced on March 23, 1908, that the plant was closing down permanently. The managers assured the workers that they would be paid wages owed to them because the factory had \$60,000 worth of glassware in the yard, mostly private orders – so money would be coming in for awhile. The paper gave no reason for the closure. Taylor sold his share (the controlling share) to George Jonas in 1908 and joined with several other glass blowers to form the Hereford Glass Co. From then on, the local people called the old Taylor-Stites plant the Upper Factory and the Hereford works the Lower Factory. Jonas took over the Upper Factory on April 15, 1908 (*Bridgeton Evening News* 4/17/1908; Pepper 1971:272-274; Roller 1998).

When Jonas gained control in 1908, he renamed the plant the Cape May Glass Co. According to Pepper (1971:273-275), all glass from both companies was hand blown, and the main product was bottles. Although she described a large variety of bottles, ranging from beer, liquor, and soda to catsup, bitters, and medicines, it was unclear whether that list included the earlier Taylor-Stites period.

By 1921, however, the factory was listed as making "Private Mould Sizes 1/4 oz. to 32 oz." (Thomas Publishing Co. 1921:781), still at two tanks with 16 pots. By that time, only specialty bottles (such as drug store and perfume bottles) were still being made by hand. The plant ceased operations in 1924 because of pressure from glass-blowing machines (Pepper 1971:273).

In 1925, however, the Bridgeton National Bank asked that a receiver be appointed to liquidate the company. The notice stated that the firm was insolvent and that most of the plant had been dismantled. The company was apparently reorganized at that point. By 1927, the Cape May Glass Co. was listed as making prescriptions, vials, beers, minerals, patent, proprietary, liquors, and flasks at one continuous tank with eight rings. Harry Stites was president, sales manager, secretary, and purchasing agent, with Jonas as treasurer. The last listing was in 1930 (*American Glass Review* 1927:127, 129; 1930:86; Roller 1998). Also see a discussion of the firm in the Cape May Glass Co. section of the C volume.

TWD

These initials stand for Thomas W. Dyott. See the section on the Dyott glass works for more information.

Discussion and Conclusions

Although most of the marks described above are self-explanatory, two require a short bit of discussion. The jar lids embossed “T.G.C^O” were probably made by the Toronto Glass Co., although the Tigner Glass Co. cannot be completely eliminated with current evidence. Excavations at one or both locations would almost certainly reveal the answer. The “T” marks and Circle-T marks on aqua and amber bottles remain mysteries. There are far too many factories with “T” as the first initial to speculate at this time.

Acknowledgments

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