

Other “A” Marks

Bill Lockhart, Bob Brown, Beau Schriever, Carol Serr, and Bill Lindsey

Unfortunately, some manufacturer’s marks and other logos do not fall into neat categories associated with major glass houses. However, these marks need to be included in the Encyclopedia. Although we typically begin with histories, in these cases, we need to begin with the logos.

Containers and Marks

A

Knittle (1927:441) cited the “A” mark as belonging to Adams & Co. Toulouse (1971:21) dated the mark “circa 1861 to 1891,” the entire life of the company. He also noted that the company “made fine glassware, rather than bottles.” Toulouse (1971:21-22) also cited an “A” mark as being used by John Agnew & Son from 1854 to 1866. See the Agnew and Adams sections for more discussion.

A final attribution from Toulouse (1971:22) was the Arkansas Glass Container Corp., Jonesboro, Arkansas, but these marks would date from ca. 1958 to at least 1971. The mark did not appear in 1982 (Emhart 1982) or any subsequent manufacture’s mark source, although Arkansas Glass remains in business in 2022. The website showed “AGC” in a steep descending slant in 2010 – but showed an offset “A” in a triangle by 2014 (Arkansas Glass Container 2010; 2014). The Arkansas Glass Co. used a code sequence that always began with “A” – almost certainly the inspiration for Toulouse. The code sequence may have been used since 1958 and remained in used until at least 2014. See AGC below for a history of the company.

Unfortunately, a single “A” could also indicate virtually any glass house beginning with that letter. The letter could also be the

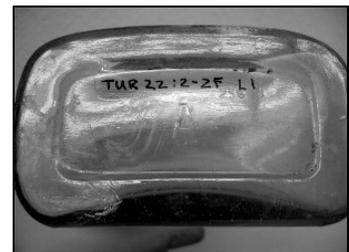


Figure 1 – Prescription-type bottle with the letter “A” (Tucson Urban Renewal collection)

logo of a bottler or distributor (Figure 1). It could be a mold code, especially if the letter occurs with a number (Figure 2). Rob Tong added another example, a possible beer bottle base, with embossed dots on either side of the “A” and “49” below (Figure 3).



Figure 3 – A base (Rob Tong)

A final example was an “A” in the center of a scroll or violin flask.

McKearin & Wilson (1978:623)

described the flask

as “Letter ‘A’ in lower space.

Raised dots in mid an upper space –

probably intended to be stars.” They made no attempt to date the flask and marked the maker as “unknown.” We took a photo of the flask at the Corning Museum of Glass (Figure 4). The flask could have been made at one of the Adams or Agnew glass houses – or by another manufacturer.



Figure 4 – A Flask (Corning Museum of Glass; McKearin & Wilson:623)



Figure 2 – Beer bottle base with A 4 (Fish Camp collectiton)

Angular, Stylized A (ca. 1968)

Barry Bernas contributed this three-dimensional “A” on the base of an amber jar that he said was probably a bean pot. The base was embossed “P-1024 / 1. A-logo 10 / DES.PAT.NO.113299.” Another example had the same embossing but the “10” was replaced with a “3” (Figure 5). The logo was used by the American Can Co. According to Martells (1976:33), American Can used the mark from the mid-1960s on. On bottles, the “on” would have been until 1968, although the logo could have continued to be used on cans and paper products.

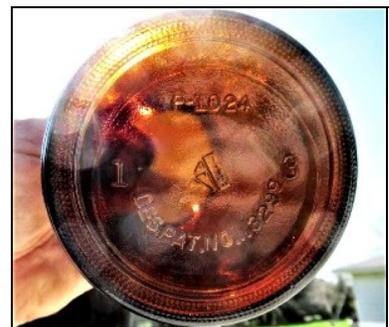


Figure 5 – Stylized A (eBay)

Capitman (1976) claimed that American Can “abandoned its old trademark in 1968, when it acquired Northern Paper . . . and adopted this ‘action A’ suggesting folding and packaging processes” (Figure 6). Since American Can sold its glass holdings in January of 1968, this could explain why we have only discovered the Stylized A on the bean jars. Since most researches erroneously claim the registration dates for trademarks, the important date was the date of first use – usually ignored. Capitman did not reveal which date she used, so the Stylized A may well have been in actual use a year before 1968 – in time to appear on the last bean jars.

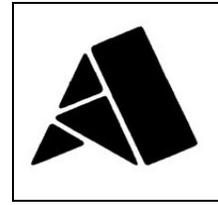


Figure 6 – Stylized A (Logobook 2022)

Logobook (2022), however, attributed the mark to the American National Can Co. but also claimed the year as 1968. However, several ads for toilet paper in 1969 featured a tiny Stylized A near the bottom along with “American Can Company” – strongly suggesting that Logobook was in error. See the next entry for the history of the Glass Division of the American Can Co. On glass, the logo probably was used only during 1967, since the the firm sold the glass business in January of 1968, and the only product made may have been the bean jars.

Stylized A (1964-1968)

Whitten (2022) discussed and illustrated an “A (stylized logo – barred triangular design overlaid by an oval).” He attributed the mark to the American Can Co., Glass Products Division and noted that it was “frequently seen on the bottom of stubby type beer bottles” (Figure 7). The logo appeared on the



Figure 7 – Stylized A (eBay)



Figure 8 – Oval-AW (eBay)

Pepsi-Cola “Swirl” and Patio bottles, Orange Crush, Highlander (beer), Rheingold Chug-A-Mug, Mickey’s Malt Liquor, and Sterling beer bottles. The logo was probably used between the opening of the Cliffwood factory in 1964 and the adoption of the other Stylized A mark (and the selling of the glass plants) in 1968 (or 1967).

The oval may have originated with another American Can logo – AW in an oval – a mark that also appeared on soda and beer bottles between 1962 and 1964 (see the discussion of the Oval-AW logo near the end of this section) (Figure 8). In its turn, the Oval-AW may have derived from CANCO in an oval (Figure 9). According to Trademarkia, the mark was registered on July 8, 1935 (No. 71,367,057) and again on June 1, 1961 (No. 72,121,158). The site did not include the first use date.



Figure 9 – Canco-Oval
(Trademarkia)

Manufacturer

American Can Co., Cliffwood, New Jersey (1963-1968)

On November 19, 1962, the *Terre Haute Tribune* (Indiana) announced that the “new glass plant down at Third and Voohrhees street has a new name, its fourth since starting in business a couple of years ago – American Can Co., Glass Division.” The factory went from the Wheaton Glass Co. to the American Wheaton Glass Co. to A-W Glass Corp. The firm also had a plant at Shakopee, Minnesota. The Terre Haute factory was originally built by the Root Glass Co. in 1901, purchased by the Owens-Illinois Glass Co. in 1932. In 1948, Owens-Illinois closed the concern, using the buildings as warehouses. When Wheaton acquired the property in 1960, it tore down the old factory, building anew. For more information, see the section on the Root Glass Co.

Although the American Can Co. was the majority stockholder of the American-Wheaton Glass Co. in 1963, the firm did not produce glass products under its own name until it completed its new factory at Cliffwood, New Jersey, in December of that year and commenced production in January of the following year. In 1965, the company began a remodeling of the plant to accommodate a second continuous tank to include the production of both flint (colorless) and amber containers and to expand from its then production of beer and soda bottles to include food containers (*Aberdeen NJ Life* n.d.; *Appleton Post-Crescent*).

American Can announced its decision to sell the Cliffwood plant – along with its other two glass houses at Shakopee, Minnesota, and Terre Haute, Indiana – to the Midland Glass Co. in the *Red Bank Daily Register* on January 18, 1968. The Wheaton Glass Co. had been the

minority stockholder of American-Wheaton. For more information on Wheaton Glass, see the section on T.C. Wheaton.

A in a triangle (2011-present)

The Triangle-A mark is the new logo of the Arkansas Glass Co. (see AGC logo below for the history of the firm). This new mark was adopted in 2011 and was phased in gradually (Figure 10). This new logo and the AGC in an outline of the state of Arkansas were both being used in 2013. Unlike the older basemarks, the triangle was embossed on the heel of the container (Gienah Williams, Arkansas Glass Container Co., personal communication, 6/13/2013). See AGC section below for company history.

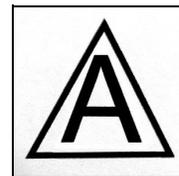


Figure 10 – Triangle-A logo of the Arkansas Glass Container Corp.

AAC Monogram in a Triangle

We found the AAC Monogram in a Triangle embossed on the base of a colorless, machine-made jar above “10” (Figure 11). Since the jar was purchased over the counter at a grocery store in 2015, the “10” may be a date code for 2010. We could not find the mark on either the 2000 or 2021 Emhart Punt Mark guides.



Figure 11 – Triangle AAC

The mark was used by All American Containers, self described as “one of the largest suppliers of glass, plastic and metal containers, tubes and dispensers, and plastic and metal closures in the United States” (All American Containers 2021). The firm began in 1980 and continues in business in 2022.

A.B.C. or ab-ligature in outlined letters (poss. ca. 1945-1950)

Toulouse (1971:28) asserted that the A.B.C. mark was used by the Albion Bottle Co. from 1928 to 1969, but a lower-case ab-ligature was adopted when the firm became a subsidiary of the Imperial Tobacco Group in 1970 (Figure 12). The second logo was probably discontinued in 1975. Since the firm made Lea & Perrins bottles, it is possible that British containers had the A.B.C. logo after 1929. About a dozen sites on the internet parroted the connection between the

A.B.C. mark and the Albion Bottle Co., but the information in all of them is directly traceable back to Toulouse.

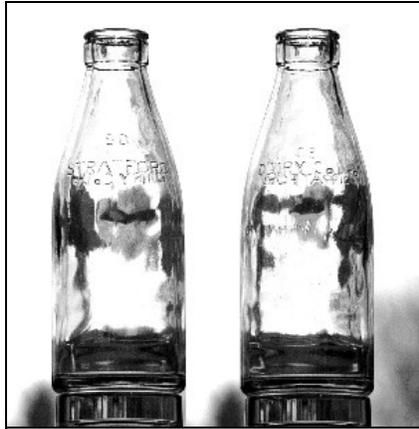


Figure 13 – Milk bottle with A.B.C. logo on base (eBay)

A single English milk bottle offered on eBay was embossed “STRATFORD DAIRY CO, LTD.” around the shoulder and ABC on the base – according to the seller (Figure 13). Unfortunately, the seller did not include a base photo. The bottle apparently was from the 1950s. The V&A

Museum (2021) featured three “jam jars” that the identified as being made by the Albion Bottle Co., Ltd., ca. 1945-1950.

The jars may have had basemarks of “ABC and FMF.”

If that identification were correct, it is the most likely use of the “ABC” logo by Albion. The milk bottle seems less likely. The firm has occasionally been confused with two older glass houses, the Albion Glass Co and the Albion Glass Works. An ad from the January 30, 1968, issue of the *Birmingham Post* showed “ABC” in a stylized logo that never appeared on glass (Figure 14).

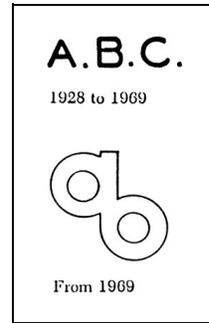


Figure 12 – A.B.C. and ab-ligature – Albion Bottle Co. (Toulouse 1971:28)

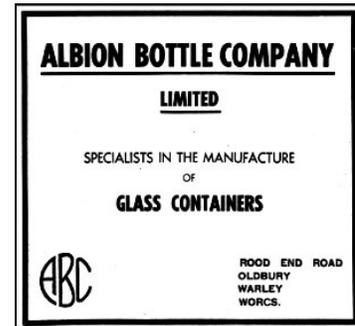


Figure 14 – ABC (*Birmingham Post* 1/30/1968)



Figure 15 – FMF-ligature (eBay)

A Kilner jar, shown on the Resistance Patrol site (2022) looked very similar to the jam jars discussed above and had an “FMF” monogram or ligature embossed on the base. Another example was embossed “FMF ligature / CTG / 1759” (Figure 15). According to Whitten (2022), the logo belonged to the Food Manufacturers’ Federation of the United Kingdom. According to the *Evening Standard* of March 15, 1976, the Federation represented one thousand “major food companies.” The embossed logo on glass items represented that

affiliation. According to Toulouse (1971), “CTG” was the mark of the Canning Town Glass Works, Ltd., Canning Town, London. The logo was used from some point prior to 1928 until “present” (i.e., 1971, when the book was published). A final example was a machine-made,



Figure 16 – Daddie’s base

colorless bottle for Daddie’s Sauce, embossed “DADDIE’S” on the front (finish held to the left) and “ABC / 5” on the base (Figures 16 & 17). Albion was certainly one of the glass houses that made bottles for Daddie’s.

In summary, the FMF ligature indicated the affiliation of the filler of the jar with the Food Manufacturers’ Federation, while the other initials identified the glass house the produced the jars. In the case in point, “ABC” may have referred to the Albion Bottle Co. Assuming the F&A Museum were correct, the “ABC” logo was used during the ca. 1945-1950 period, although the site did not explain the reason for the date range.

Although the lower-case AB ligature appeared in the *Birmingham Post* on January 21, 1969, we have never seen the mark on any glass containers (Figure 18).

Possible Manufacturer

Albion Bottle Co., Oldbury, England (1929-1987)

According to Toulouse (1971:38), the Albion Bottle Co. was located on “Rood End Road, Oldbury, near Birmingham, England, using the initials ‘A.B.C.’ as a trademark” (also discussed on p. 28). Toulouse noted that an Albion Glass Co. also existed but admitted that “the name ‘Albion Glass Bottle Co.’ has not been seen, only inferred, from the context of names known to have been used.”

As often happens with histories, two sources tell completely different stories about the founding of the Albion Bottle Co., although both agree that the inception date was 1929. Black Country History (n.d.) noted that “the Standard Bottle Company



Figure 17 – Daddie’s bottle

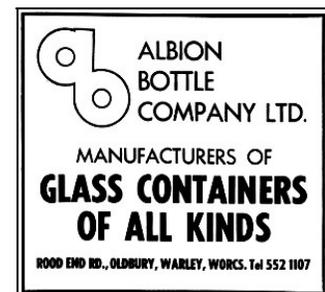


Figure 18 – ab-ligature
(*Birmingham Post* 1/21/1969)

and HP Sauce, Ltd., of Aston Cross, Birmingham, jointly set up the Albion Bottle Company in 1929 after purchasing premises from timber merchants Tailby and Geddes.” Wright (1975:45), however, stated that one of the firm’s first customers was HP Sauce, Ltd., and that HP Sauce (by this time owner of Lea & Perrins) first acquired shares in Albion in 1945 but captured the total stock for the Albion Bottle Co. in 1953. The Imperial Tobacco Group, Ltd., took over the firm in 1970 (Black Country History n.d.; Toulouse 1971:28).

By 1975, Albion produced over 100 varieties of bottles and jars, with a production rate of 400,000 per day (Wright 1975:45). Despite the apparent success, the Albion Bottle Co. presented a “Petition for the winding-up of the . . . Company by the High Court of Justice” on June 25, 1975. The court warned all creditors that the hearing would be held on July 28 of that year (*London Gazette* 6/27/1975). As a result, W.R.C. Halpin and R.J.G. Kowell purchased the firm (Black Country History n.d.).

Although Black Country History (n.d.) noted that Albion had further difficulties in the 1980s and “ceased trading” in 1982, the *London Gazette* aired a notice in the February 27, 1987, edition warning that the Albion Bottle Co., Ltd., was being liquidated, and all creditors had to contact the liquidator on or before March 31 of that year. This certainly marked the demise of the firm.

ABC (ca. 1884)

Both Toulouse (1969:13) and Roller 1983:2; 2011:11) noted fruit jars embossed “ABC” in outlined letters on the side (as well as one with regular embossed letters), but neither could identify the manufacturer. Creswick (1987:1) discovered glass lids for the jars (not in the earlier two sources) embossed “PAT. APRIL 15 1884” (sometimes with the “4” reversed). She also noted the two variations: 1) regular embossing with periods after each letter, and 2) outlined letters (Figure 19). The clamps for the lids were stamped “PAT. APR. 15. 84.”

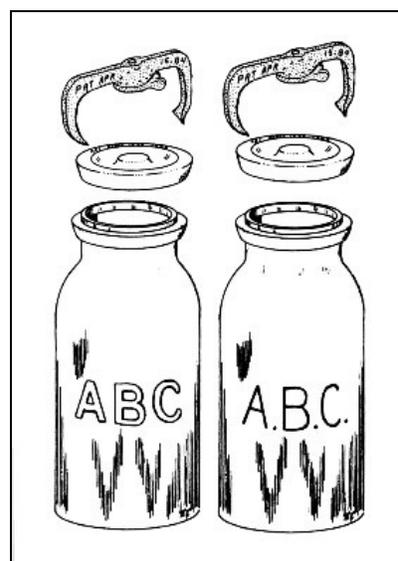


Figure 19 – ABC jars (Creswick 1987:1)

The jars and lids were covered by two patents issued to Philip Lyon and Joseph H. Bossard of East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, on April 8 and April 15, 1884. The only difference in the patents was that each had a slightly different turning disk on the clamp. The only examples Creswick had found were made for the April 15 patent, and she suggested that the East Stroudsburg Glass Co. made the containers (Creswick 1987:1), almost certainly because the inventors were from the same town as the glass house. The history (below) showed that the plant made fruit jars from at least 1896, but we found no direct reference to this or any specific types.

Lyon and Bossard applied for their first patent for a “Fruit-Jar” on February 19, 1883, and received Patent No. 274,620 on March 27 of that year. On February 26, 1884, the inventors applied for another patent (another “Fruit-Jar”) and received Patent No.

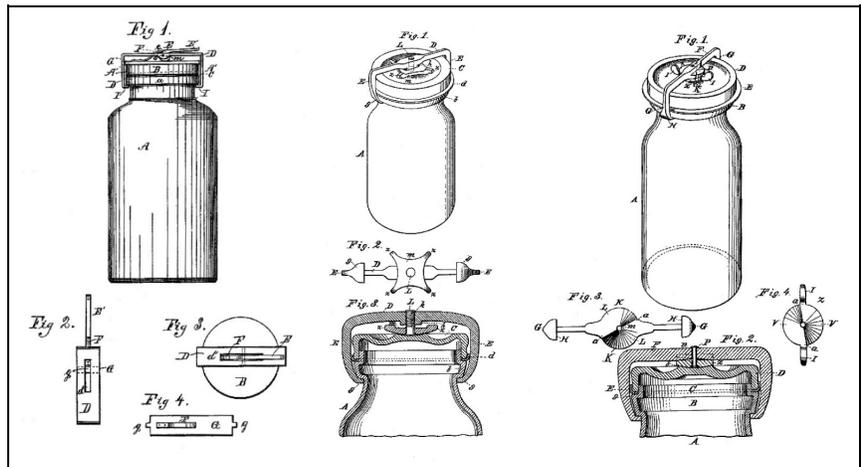


Figure 20 – Lyon and Bossard patents – 1883 & 1884

297,082 on April 15, 1884. They applied for a final patent (for a “Fruit-Jar-Cover Fastening”) on March 5, 1884, and received Patent No. 296,701 on April 8 of the same year (Figure 20). Assuming that the East Stroudsburg Glass Co. was, indeed, the manufacturer of the ABC jars, they were likely made between 1884 (patent date) and 1918, when the plant reorganized.

Probable Manufacturer

East Stroudsburg Glass Co., East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania (1877-1918)

Suma and Suma (1998:56) described the early days of the business:

Milton Yetter (owner of the Delaware Valley Railroad) and William Burroughs started the East Stroudsburg Glass Co., located on North Courtland Street,

opposite Lennox Avenue. Early in the morning, it manufactured bottles, carboys, and demijohns, and at the end of the day produced novelties such as decorated glass balls, rolling pins, and glass canes (Figure 21).

Creswick (1987:265) claimed that the East Stroudsburg Glass Co. opened in 1877. On December 9, 1878, the *Crockery & Glass Journal* listed the glass house, confirming Creswick's opening



Figure 21 – East Stroudsburg Glass Co. (Suma and Suma 1998:56)

date. The firm was listed as the East Stroudsburg Glass Co. (Limited) in 1880. The factory made green and amber bottles at a single furnace with 5 pots. The plant operated 44 weeks of the year and employed 88 workers, turning out \$70,000 worth of “product” each year. The plant made fruit jars by at least 1896 (Busch 1897:312; Commonwealth of Pennsylvania 1882:59; Roller 1998).

The firm received a charter from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by October 20, 1897, when *China, Glass & Lamps* made the announcement that P.T. Wolfe, J.L. Singer, S.A. Scott, O.O. King, P.J. Cullater, Milton Yetter, and Leopold Thomas were the directors (Roller 1998). By 1898, however, the factory was listed as manufacturing “glass bottles” (Ray 1898:506). From 1897 to 1901, the *National Glass Budget* (1897:7; 1901:25) listed the plant in the “Green Glass category, still using five pots to make its products. This suggests that the factory was never very large.

By 1904, Milton Yetter was the president, with C.H. Warman as secretary and S. Scott as manager. The plant now made liquor bottles and fruit jars at one continuous tank with 14 rings. By 1906, the plant used 18 rings, but that had dropped to 10 in 1907 and remained at that level until 1911. The 1907 Thomas Register listed the products as beer, soda, wine, and brandy bottles – along with fruit jars (*American Glass Review* 1934:165; Roller 1998). Maloney (1912:95) provided a cameo view of the operation in 1912:

On the 19th of June, I paid a visit to East Stroudsburg and found two firms operating non-union, one of them the East Stroudsburg Glass Company, has been in existence for years. This firm have [*sic*] a ten ring tank and operate one shift. They employ a mixed class of glass blowers. Their output is demijohns, beers and a general line of ware.

S.W. Schoonover was the manager in 1916, and the plant had only nine rings, still at the same single tank. By this point, the factory made liquor ware, demijohns, and fruit jars by both hand and machine. The following year, the firm expanded its list to “beer, soda water, shoe blacking & horseradish” (Roller 1998; Thomas Publishing Co. 1907:160, 799; 1917:730).

There was apparently a reorganization of the corporation in 1918. The firm was renamed the Scott-Warman Glass Co., with Samuel Scott as president, H.B. Drake as secretary/treasurer, R.D. Scott as general manager, A. Koscher as factory manager, and S.A. Scott as sales manager. The plant still had a single tank with 11 rings, but it was destroyed by fire in January 1922 and had been rebuilt by November (Roller 1998).

In another reorganization, Charles R. Singleton became president in 1935 and expanded the plant to two continuous tanks, making sodas, beers, packers’ ware, milks, vinegar, cider bottles, horseradish, flasks, wines, whiskies, and prescription ware in amber, flint and light green colors – all by machine. The improvements may have overextended the capital, however, because the plant was last listed in 1936 (Roller 1998).

AB&Co

Whitten (2022) discussed this logo:

Unknown maker. This mark has been seen on blackglass (very dark olive green or olive amber) bottles that appear to be from Great Britain, and probably date from sometime in the 1860-1900 time period. (There is no relation of this mark to the “ABCO” mark used by American Bottle Company). The letters are rather crudely and largely embossed, and arranged in a circular orientation on the bottom of the bottle. The bottles have been occasionally reported from such

farflung places as Suriname and Cuba, and were evidently exported around the world from Great Britain in the mid/late nineteenth century. . . . These bottles are similar in general appearance to the blackglass “CW&CO” bottles which are likely from another unidentified bottle maker in Victorian-era England.

A&Co

Knittle (1927:441) and others who almost certainly relied on her assertion attributed the A&Co mark to Agnew & Co (see John Agnew and the Adams sections for more information).

ACBCo (ca. 1860-1920)

Numerous reports, including Frescoln (1973:54) and Lunn (1981:5) have noted Lea & Perrins bottles that were embossed ACBCo on the base in both U.S. and Canadian contexts (Figure 22). The configuration of the mark was a division of A, C, B, and Co set equidistant from each other in the format of cardinal compass points (Figure 23). Lunn (1981) is certainly the best source as of the time of this publication – although the Bottle Research Group will eventually publish our own study.

Although some researchers – e.g., Rinker ([1968]:27) and Toulouse (1971:38) have suggested that the initials indicate the Albion Glass Bottle Co., subsequent evidence suggests that Albion was in business much too late to account for the early Lea & Perrins bottles (see ABC above). In addition, the only use of the term “Albion Glass Bottle Co.” that we could find is directly traceable to Toulouse. The firm name was clearly the Albion Bottle Co.



Figure 23 – ACBCo on Lea & Perrins base (Fort Laramie Collection)

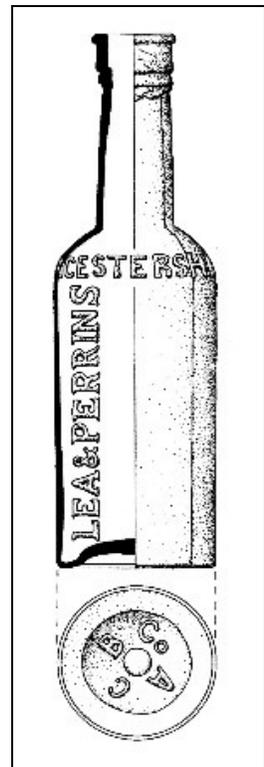


Figure 22 – Lea & Perrins sauce bottle (Schulz 2006:63)

Lunn (1981:8) suggested the Aire & Calder Bottle Co. (more commonly called the Aire & Calder Glass Bottle Co. and owned by Edgar Breffit & Co. for most of its existence) as the maker – even though the initials are not a perfect match. Although we prefer a better linking of initials, we agree with Lunn. We have been unable to find another glass house from the British Isles during the correct time period (ca. 1860s-1920s) that even comes close. See the section on Edgar Breffit for more information about the factory.

ACME

This mark was actually never used by the Acme Glass Co. See the section on Acme for more discussion and manufacturers.

A.C.S.&Co.

Von Mechow (2022) listed two bottles embossed “A.C.S.&Co.” on their bases. He noted that “One possibility would be A.G. Smalley & Co., but the middle initial on both bottle appears to be a ‘C.’” One example of the logo was on a soda bottle from Providence, Rhode Island, the other on a whiskey flask from Philadelphia. He did not know the user of the logo, but we suggest that it was a jobber rather than a manufacturer. We could no longer find the logo listed on von Mechow’s 2022 webpage. He probably discovered that this *was* the Smalley logo and removed it.

ADLAM (1884-1890s)

Roller (1983:4) described the closure for these jars as “friction side seal, metal press-down lid over metal band permanently attached to the jar neck. Band has a carrying bail hooked through holes in its side.” He noted that Samuel Adlam was the patentee, and the jars were likely intended to be used as packers or home utility jars – not as canning jars. Jars made to the 1884 patent (see discussion below) were featured in the ca. 1887 A.G. Smalley & Co. catalog (Figures 24-26).



Figure 24 – Adlam Glass Pail
(North American Glass)

Creswick (1987:2-3) illustrated and described a series of jars made to the patent owned by Samuel Adlam. The first style had three square ribs encircling the jar at the heel, center, and shoulder, with a pail-style wire carrying handle extending from a metal band. The jars were made of colorless and yellow-amber glass as well as cobalt blue stoneware.



Figure 25 – Adlam cap & finish (North American Glass)

One variation was embossed “PAT. GLASS PAIL (arch) / BOSTON, MASS. (inverted arch)” on the base and “ADLAM PATENT PEND.” in a circle around the top of the lid. The other was the same but with “JUNE / 24 ‘84 (both horizontal)” in the center of the base and “ADLAM PATENT PAIL” encircling the lid top (Figure 25).

These were both made to a patent applied for by Samuel Adlam on March 17, 1884. He received Patent No. 300,749 for a “Jar” on June 24, 1884. The patent showed the distinctive features of the actual jar. Creswick (1987:2) also showed a jar that had two encircling ribs but used the second lid style (see below). This had no embossing on either lid or base and was likely a transition jar.



Figure 26 – Base of Adlam Pail (North American Glass)

The second style jar was cylindrical with the cap handle made from a metal strip riveted to the lid. The base shown in Creswick (1987:3) was embossed “ADLAM PATENT (arch) / 8 / BOSTON MASS (inverted arch)” with “ADLAM” ghosted in an arch across the center. Variations had either a PPCCo monogram or LICORICE YS (monogram) LOZENGES” in a round plate on the front and “ADLAM’S PATENT” on the base.

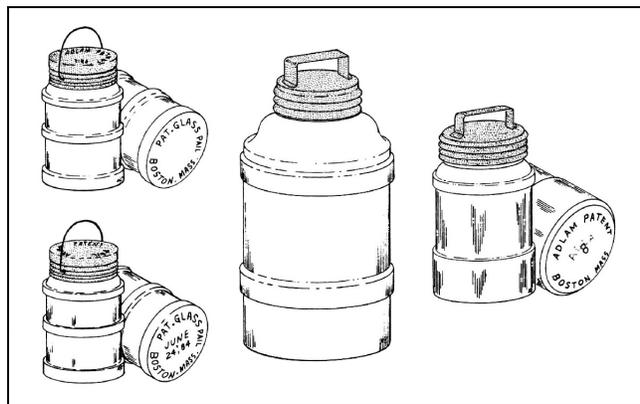


Figure 27 – Adlam pails (Creswick 1987:2-3)

The second style jar had a cork or wooden liner in the lid. These were described in Adlam's second patent, which he applied for on October 31, 1885. He received Patent No. 332,772 on December 22 of that year. Like the earlier style, these jars were also made in glass and stoneware. Adlam received two more patents after he had moved to New York, respectively on September 2, 1902 (708,901), and October 3, 1905 (800,891), but no jars may have been made for these. Roller (2011:15) listed a total of a dozen variations! Currently, there appears to be no identification of the manufacturer or manufacturers.

A.D.S. (1905-1926)



Figure 28 – ADS basemark (eBay)

Stephen Van Wormer brought this mark to our attention. It was on the base of a rectangular medicine-style bottle. Ring (1980:46) noted the initials (above the number 514) embossed on the base of an A.D.S. Iron

Tonic Bitters bottle. She added that a box for the product indicated that it was “manufactured by the American Drug Syndicate.” Griffenhagen & Bogard (1999:122) claimed that the American Drug Syndicate used the A.D.S. logo from 1905 to 1926. Fadley (2012) cited George B. Griffenhagen as stating that almost 700 druggists formed the syndicate in 1905 to save money on purchases from wholesalers. Fadley also noted that the syndicate continued until at least 1927. The initials show up on eBay auctions in both embossed and printed (paper) formats (Figures 28 & 29).



Figure 29 – ADS paper label (eBay)

ADVANCE

Toulouse (1969:14) discussed a light green, mouth-blown jar that was embossed “TRADE MARK (arch) / ADVANCE (horizontally superimposed on a JW monogram) / PAT APPL'D FOR (inverted arch)” on the front. The “JW” indicated Joseph Wharton, the power behind the Camden Glass Works. The jar was patented in 1883. Although the jars were also made by the Woodbury Glass Works, the logo is addressed in the Camden Glass Co. section.

AGCL

Peters (1996:132) noted a single Hutchinson soda bottle from Milwaukee embossed AGCL (although he failed to note the location of the mark). He dated the bottle to the mid-1880s but offered no other information except to state that examples are very rare. We have not discovered a glass house to fit this mark. This may be a mis-recording of the AGWL mark.

AGBCo

According to Toulouse (1971:38-39), the AGBCo mark was used between ca. 1880 and 1900 by (possibly) the Albion Glass Bottle Co. He claimed that the initials are found on the bases of some Lea & Perrins bottles “imported from England and found in ghost-town dumps.” As noted above, he admitted that the name Albion Glass Bottle Co. “has not been seen, only inferred from the context of names known to have been used” but presented no evidence that the company was in business in the late 19th century. This is almost certainly a mis-reading of the ACBCo mark (see above).

AGC and AGC in an outline of the state of Arkansas (1958–2013)

Joe Spangler, sales manager for the Arkansas Glass Container Corp., noted: “As far as I can remember, AGC has used the embossing of the state of Arkansas on the bottom of the container.” Joe had been there for 16 years, since 1994 (personal correspondence 3/2/2010). We have purchased several jars during the 2010-2013 period embossed “A-8-12 (almost certainly 2012) / {AGC descending in an outline of the state of Arkansas} / 8” on the base (Figure 30).



Figure 30 – AGC in an outline of Arkansas

As noted above, Toulouse (1971:22) ascribed a single “A” to the Arkansas Glass Container Corp., although we have discovered no other reference to connect that logo with the firm. At least one jar in the David Whitten collection was embossed “AGC” in a descending line with a code of “A-16-8” (1998? 2008?) above the logo and “25” below it (Figure 31).

The Arkansas Glass website (2013) described the code sequences on the jars, and a look at the firm’s online catalog confirms the identification. On the top line, the “A” – not surprisingly – represents the company’s first initial; the central number is the size of the container in ounces (e.g., 8 = 8 fluid ounces); and the final digit is a code that completes the model number. In the center, of course, is the company logo, and the bottom numeral is the cavity number (in the mold). This mold code series was certainly what inspired Toulouse to suggest an “A” as the logo of the Arkansas Glass Co. Although this was not confirmed by the company, the final digit fits as a date code.



Figure 31 – AGC descending
(David Whitten collection)

Manufacturer

Arkansas Glass Container Corp., Jonesboro, Arkansas (1958-present)

The Arkansas Glass Container Corp. was incorporated in 1958 and made “narrow-neck and wide-mouth food bottles and jars, wines, household chemicals, and medicinals in flint glass.” The plant was affiliated with the Underwood Glass Co., New Orleans (Toulouse 1971:22). In 1985, the factory operated four continuous tanks with seven machines, making “chemical, liquor & wine, narrow-neck, packers & preservers, wide-mouth” (Perrine 1985:12). The firm remains in business in 2022, making a similar line of products (Arkansas Glass Container 2014).

A.G.S.&Co.

This is one of the marks used by Albert G. Smalley & Co. See the section on Smalley for more information.

AG&SCo.

This mark was noted as of uncertain age and unknown maker or user by Toulouse (1971:40). He described the container as a “quart round bottle, straight neck for cork finish.

All-over design of eagles except the oval label space.” We have discovered nothing further about this mark, although it could be a mis-recording of the AGS&Co logo used by Albert G. Smalley & Co., or it may be the mark of a retailer or wholesaler.

A.G.W.CO. or AGW

Although this combination of letters is unlikely, Jones (1968:9) showed a drawing of the A.G.W.CO. mark in a circular format on a post-bottom base. She attributed the mark to the American Glass Works, Ltd. She added the Alloa Glass Works Co. Ltd., Scotland, to the list but gave no details. Toulouse (1971:41) noted the A.G.W. mark (with periods) as being used by the Alloa Glass Work (singular) of Alloa, Scotland. He dated the mark “probably circa 1900 to date [1971].” The firm was open from 1750 until at least 1971.

Wilson (1981:17) illustrated an amber whiskey jug (with a handle) embossed “ACWCo” on the base. This may have been a mis-reading for “AGWCo” (although the reverse is certainly possible). The Wilson bottle was from Fort Union (1863-1890). The jug handle was made with fancy flourishes at each end and should probably be classified as tableware rather than a container.



Figure 32 – AGWCo (Farnsworth & Walthall 2011:629)

Farnsworth & Walthall (2011:58, 629-630) illustrated the “A.G.W.Co.” logo on a bottle used at Peoria, Illinois – an unlikely location for one made in Scotland – although a Scottish production was not impossible (Figure 32). They attributed the logo to the American Glass Works of Pittsburgh, prior to its reorganization to a limited firm, and the user was only open from 1870 to 1875. See the section on the American Glass Works for that discussion. Ellen Gerth, however, contributed a photo of a machine-made beer bottle from an English shipwreck embossed “6 / S / 4 / AGW” on the base (Figure 33). The base had an Owens scar, almost certainly made by the Alloa Glass Works.



Figure 33 – AGW (Ellen Gerth)

Manufacturer

Alloa Glass Works, Leith, Scotland (1750-1955)

Lady Francis Erskine founded the Alloa Glass Works¹ at Leith, Scotland, in 1750. The plant made blackglass bottles and specialized in a type of decoration called “chip” engraving. In this technique, the glass was etched in stippled designs. The plant installed Ashley machines in 1887. In 1908, Alloa was the first factory in the United Kingdom to install fully automatic bottle making machinery (Finch 2009; Toulouse 1971:41-42).

With the installation of the second Owens machine in 1920, the stage was set for the elimination of hand production in 1922 and Lynch machines in 1927. The entire plant was rebuilt in 1946. At some point, possibly just prior to the rebuilding, the name was changed to Alloa Glass, Ltd. In 1955, the firm became part of United Glass (Finch 2009; Toulouse 1971:42).

A.H.T.CO. PHILADELPHIA U.S.A

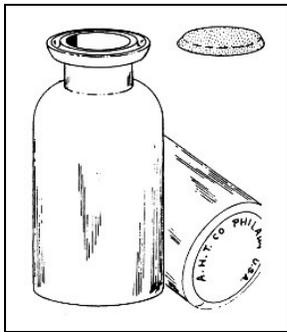


Figure 34 – A.H.T.Co. jar
(Creswick 1987:4)

Creswick (1987:4) illustrated a grooved-ring, wax-sealer fruit jar embossed “A.H.T.CO. PHILADELPHIA U.S.A” in an arch on the base (Figure 34). She did not know who made it or a date range. Sylvia Peñalosa Ortiz suggested that the initials represent Arthur H. Thomas Co. of Philadelphia (now known as Thomas Scientific). Lloyd Rogers contributed an example with “A.H.T.CO. / PHILADA / U.S.A



Figure 35 – A.H.T.CO.
(Lloyd Rogers)

(all arches) / MADE IN GERMANY (inverted arch)” etched on the base (Figure 35). The container was laboratory ware.

¹ Toulouse (1971:41) stated that the name was the Alloa Glass Work – with no “s” at the end (probably a typo).

User

Arthur H. Thomas Co.

After a December 7, 1900, meeting, Arthur H. Thomas, J. Edward Patterson, William Lentz, Charles Lentz, William Drescher, and Henry Bausch formed the corporation of Arthur H. Thomas & Co. at Philadelphia. The firm made and imported a variety of scientific apparatus including glassware as well as other items.

At the age of 70, Thomas died in 1942, and Patterson assumed the key director position. In turn, Patterson died in 1955 at the age of 82, and his son, Edward B. Patterson assumed the leadership position. In 1983, the firm reorganized as Thomas Scientific, a name it continues to operate under in 2021 (Thomas Scientific 2021).

AL

According to Whitten (2022),



Figure 36 – AL

this marking is on the base of a handblown ‘three-piece mold’ dark olive green liquor bottle, with a label for W. Williams & Company, Aberdeen, Scotland, which was in business c.1897-1919. The bottle itself may be American, as the bottle was filled with whisky (in Chicago) that had been shipped over in casks from Scotland. Either the “A” or the “L” could be the first initial of the unknown glassmaker.

Although we have lost the provenience, we have two photos of cylindrical bottle bases embossed with “A” and and offset “L” – one with the “L” offset below the “A” and “96” above – the other with the “L” above the “A” and “85” below (Figure 36). Whitten’s photo showed the “L” offset above the “A” with “95” above them both. We have not discovered the maker.

ALBANY GLASS WORKS (1848-1851)

Freeman (1964:95) noted two George Washington flasks embossed with “ALBANY GLASS WORKS” (one on the front, one on the back). McKearin & Wilson (1978:241, 243) noted that the same



Figure 38 – Albany Glass Works flasks (American Bottle Auction)

mark was also found with the initials “NY” embossed on the sides of flasks (Figures 37 & 38).

In at least one case, the “N” in “NY” was reversed (McKearin & McKearin 1941:530-531). The name “ALBANY GLASS WORKS

(arch) / N.Y. (horizontal)” was also embossed on the back of a soda bottle used by J.&A. Dearborn (von Mechow 2022 – Figure 39). The logo was probably used during the 1848-1851 period.

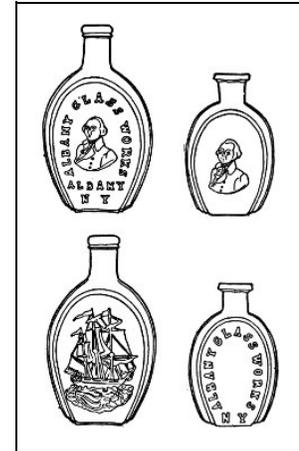


Figure 37 – Albany Glass Works flasks (McKearin & Wilson 1987:531)

User History

Albany Glass Works, Albany, New York (1847-1851)

McKearin & Wilson (1978:146) claimed that the Albany Glass & Porcelain Co. probably operated the factory in 1847, making “Vials, Jars, Bottles &c. of every description.” The following year, Dougherty & Cook ran the operation. The final firm, listed in 1850, was called the Albany Glass Co. Unfortunately, none of this information agrees with newspaper reports of the time, although the factory probably *did* open in 1847.

The December 30, 1848, edition of the *Albany Evening Journal* advertised the Albany Glass Works at the corner of Church and Schuyler Streets. The plant made “Demijohns of all sizes, Druggists’ Glass, Vials, &c., of superior quality; Carboys, Wine, Porter and Mineral Water Bottles, also, Patent Medicine Bottles” and bragged that “all other articles made in



Figure 39 – Albany Glass Works soda bottle (von Mechow (2013))

Private Moulds will receive particular attention.” Daniel O. Ketchum was the agent. The same ad ran in 1849 (von Mechow 2022).

The message of the February 7, 1850, edition of the *Albany Evening Journal* was “DEMIJOHNS, 1/3 Gallon, 1/2 gallon, 1 gallon, 2 gallons, 3 and 5 gallons, manufactured and sold at the lowest market prices by the Albany Glass Works.” An 1851 ad (*Albany Evening Journal* 11/29/1851) stated that D.W. Ketchum & Co. was the operating firm. However, Ketchum may have gone bankrupt. The same edition noted that

All the buildings, fixtures, &c. of the Albany Glass Works, now ready for use, together with a five years lease of the entire block of ground bounded on Broadway, Cherry, Schuyler and Church streets—The above offers a rare chance for any persons wishing to engage in the manufacture of glass. Price low and terms of payment made easy. If the above is not being sold before the first of October terms will be exposed at public auction.

The factory never sold. On March 9, 1852, D.O. Ketchum placed a notice in the *Albany Evening Journal* that “there will be sold at the rotunda in Exchange building, Albany City, at public auction, all the buildings, brick &c, of the old Albany Glass Works” (von Mechow 2022). We have found no evidence that the plant ever reopened.

ALLOA GLASS WORKS

A Glass Works Auction illustrated a “wine” bottle embossed “ALLOA GLASS WORKS” in a circle around the edge of the base (Figure 40). The bottle was mouth blown with an applied finish. The manufacturer is obvious. See A.G.W.Co. above for a history of the factory.

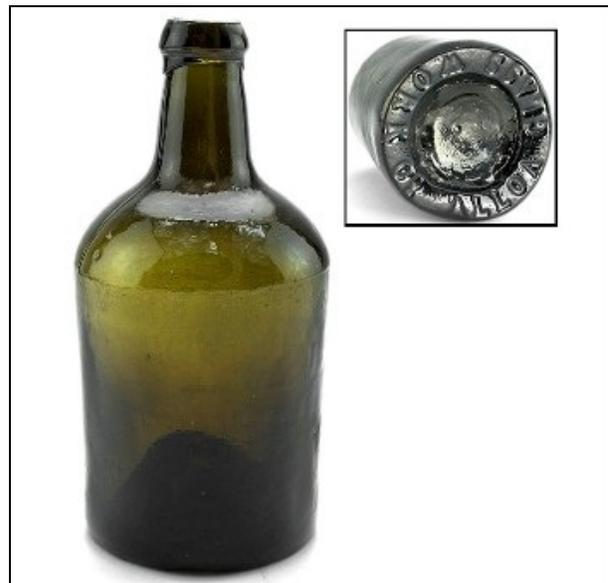


Figure 40 – ALLOA GLASS WORKS (Glass Works Auction)

ALMY (1877-1882)

“ALMY” was embossed in an arch on the side of a handmade, light blue-green fruit jar with “PATENTED DEC. 25, 1877” on the base. Toulouse (1969:18) noted that Theodore F. Woodward of Winslow, New Jersey, received Patent No. 198,528

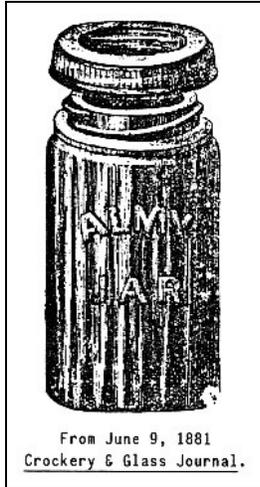


Figure 42 – Almy 1881 ad (Roller 1983:9)

on December 25, 1877 and assigned the rights to Hay & Co. of the same community (Figure 41). Roller (1983:9; 2011:23) added that the June 9, 1881, issue of *Crockery & Glass Journal* illustrated the jar, noting a manufacture by H.S. Almy & Co., with a sales office address of 42 Park Place, New York (Figure 42). It is highly likely that the Winslow Glass Co. made the jar during the Hay & Co. period for the H.S. Almy & Co..

Creswick (1987:6) noted three variations: “ALMY / JAR,” “ALMY” with “JAR” ghosted, and “ALMY” alone (Figure 43). The base of Creswick’s example was embossed “PATENTED (arch) / B / DEC. 25 1877 (inverted arch).” She, too, noted the patent and Hay & Co. as the manufacturer. She added that Harvey S. Almy was a jobber and was associated with George W. Almy and William D. Chase in 1880 clock-case patents. Basemarks also included “A” in place of “B” (Figures 44-46).

Manufacturer

Hay & Co., Winslow, New Jersey (1851-1884)

William Coffin, Jr., along with his father and Thomas Jefferson Perce built the Winslow Glass Works at Winslow, New Jersey, ca. 1829 adopting William Coffin, Jr. & Co. as the

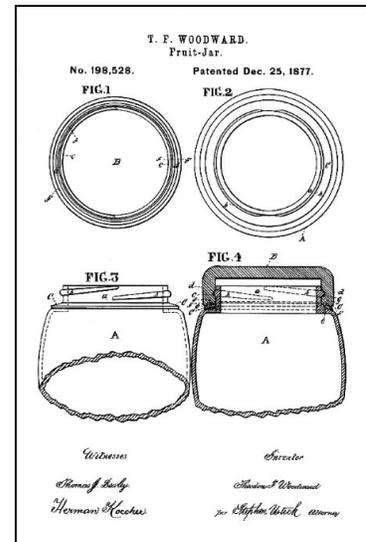


Figure 41 – Woodward 1877 patent

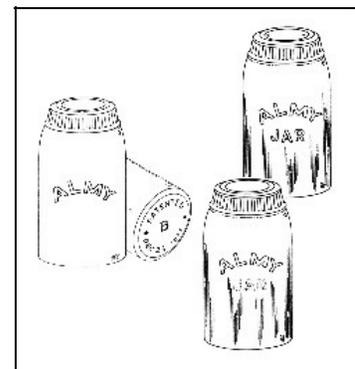


Figure 43 – Almy jars (Creswick 1987a:6)

operating company name. When William Sr. retired in 1833, the operating firm became Coffin & Perce, but the younger Coffin became the sole proprietor upon the death of Perce in 1835. Coffin’s brother-in-law, Andrew K. Hay, bought into the company, immediately following the burning of the Hammonton plant in 1838, and Tristran Bowdle joined the following year – with the firm now known as Coffin, Hay & Bowdle (Knittle 1927:356; McKearin & Wilson 1978:93; Pepper 1971:98-99; Roller 1996; Van Rensselaer 1969:153).

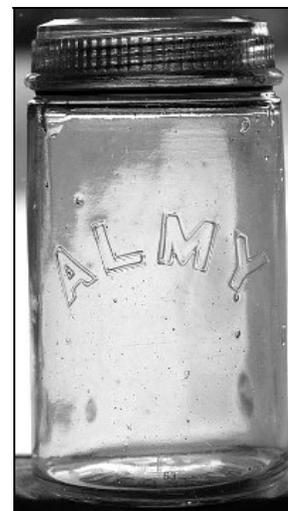


Figure 44 – Almy jar (North American Glass)



Figure 45 – Almy jar finish & lid (North American Glass)

William Coffin sold his interest to his brother, Edwin, in 1847, and the firm became Hay, Bowdle & Co. In 1850, Bowdle withdrew from the firm, and Coffin sold his interest to Hay a year later. Hay’s nephew, John, joined him,

and the firm became A.K. Hay & Co. By the time of Hay’s death on February 17, 1881, the plant had two window-glass furnaces and one that made bottles and jars. The firm reorganized as Hay & Co. in 1883 and leased the plant to the Tillyer Brothers in 1884. Since the 1877 patent document called the glass house “Hay & Co.,” the name was at least commonly used by that time (instead of A.K. Hay & Co.). Foreclosure proceedings were instituted against the Tillyers in 1892, and the factory was sold at a sheriff’s auction on July 8 of that year (Knittle 1927:356; McKearin & Wilson 1978:93-94; Pepper 1971:99; Roller 1996; Van Rensselaer 1969:153-154). The full story of the Coffin glass houses is told in the Coffin Companies section.



Figure 46 – Almy jar base (North American Glass)

The Alston

Roller (1983:9-10; 2011:23-24) illustrated and discussed a jar embossed “The / Alston” in upwardly slanted cursive on the side. The jars were machine-made with a tinned-steel lid

held in place by a wire bail fitted into round bosses on the sides of the jar neck. These jars were likely made by either the Taylor-Stites Glass Co. / Cape May Glass Co. or the George Jonas Glass Co. / Minotola Glass Co. from ca. 1901 to 1912. See the section on the Cape May Glass Co. and the George Jonas Factories for the full story.

ALTON GLASS CO. (1871-1872)

Only two flasks are known to have survived from this company. At least one, a “coffin” flask, was embossed “MADE BY ALTON GLASS CO. (arch) / ALTON ILL (horizontal)” on one side (Farnsworth & Walthall 2011:86). The researchers noted that “this was an advertising whiskey flask manufactured and given away (with contents) by the Alton Glass Company” (Figure 47).



Figure 47 – Alton Glass Co. flask (Farnsworth & Walthall 2011:86)

Manufacturer History

Alton Glass Co., Alton, Illinois (1868-1872)

An Alton newspaper article, dated September 24, 1948, stated that William Smith and Robert Levis (founders of the Illinois Glass Co.) built a glass furnace on a site where there had been “three previous [illegible]” – almost certainly a reference to glass plants. The centennial issue of the Owens-Illinois newsletter (9/13/1973:2) added more detail:

It all started with an Alton business man named John Hayner, who had bought the assets of a bankrupt glass works on Belle Street at a distress sale to satisfy his own claims. Mr. Hayner wanted to get rid of his new property, something of a white elephant[,] because of the unsuccessful efforts of the three previous owners to make the business pay.

The *Alton Telegraph* reported on March 31, 1871, that the stockholders of the Alton Glass Works had chosen a board of directors on March 28, and the board had elected officers the following morning. S.B. Woolfolk was president with Richard I. Compton as secretary and

Austin Seeley as treasurer. The article added that “The works will be commenced immediately, some of the practical glassworkers being already in town.”

On May 5, however, the *Telegraph* posted a notice the “Mr. Jas. Slim, superintendent of the Alton Hollow Ware Glass Works, has started for Pittsburgh to engage practical glass blowers for the Works in this city.” The Alton Area Historical Society has a letter, dated August 1, 1871, from the Alton Holloware Glass Co., that noted the firm had “established our Works in this city, for the manufacture of all kinds of ‘Holloware Glass’” and that “Our Works will be in full operation about the 15th inst.” John E. Hayner was president of the corporation, with E.A. Harter as secretary and P.W. Whipple as treasurer. Joseph Slim was superintendent of the plant.

The earlier glass houses may have operated from 1868 to 1871, and Hayner was certainly in business during 1871. The Alton Glass Co. (probably Hayner’s firm) received a medal for the best “Blown and Flint Glass” at a fair in 1871 (University of Toledo 2010). Farnsworth & Walthall (2011:86) suggested that “the Alton Glass Co. began production in 1871 [and] was closed down and sold in 1872.” They suggested that this final incarnation was the maker of the marked flasks.

In his research on Illinois glass bottles, Ken Farnsworth (personal communication 12/30/2011) met and befriended Robert Levis, the last manager of the Alton plant of the Illinois Glass Co. Levis provided access to otherwise unavailable records. Citing these records, Farnsworth continued the story of the end of Hayner’s Alton Glass Co.:

A pre-IGCo factory operated from a “small frame building” on Belle Street that IGCo bought out in the spring of 1873: “John Hayner had bought a bankrupt glass works to satisfy his own claims. He sold this company to a gentleman farmer, William Eliot Smith, and a near bankrupt cabinet maker, Edward Levis, Sr. . . . With an investment of \$7,000 from Mr. Smith and \$3,000 from Mr. Levis, a new partnership was started and on August 28, 1873, the Illinois Glass Company began (IGCo unpublished document). Initially, “Smith and Levis took over the small five-pot glass factory on Belle Street in lower Alton; . . . they repaired the building and began making glass bottles” (Means 1984:5). “Within a year the Illinois Glass Company was running at full capacity; sixty-six men were unable to

keep up with the orders. Recognizing the need for convenient river and rail transportation, in 1875 the modest factory building was moved on rollers (ca. 2+ miles) to the company’s permanent location between the line of the Alton and Chicago Railroad and the Mississippi River (Means1984:6).

THE A M-S CO (1920-1934)

We found “THE A M-S CO” embossed in a belt-and-buckle-frame on the front heel of a whiskey flask (Figure 48). One paper label on the side of the bottle was an obvious prescription, and the one on the face said at the bottom: “FOR MEDICINAL PURPOSES ONLY. SALE OR USE FOR OTHER PURPOSES WILL CAUSE HEAVY PENALTIES TO BE INFLICTED.” The label was almost certainly made during Prohibition (1920-1934).



Figure 48 – THE A M-S CO (eBay)



Figure 49 – THE A M-S CO (eBay)

Then, we found numerous auction sites online that featured whiskey flasks with the same logo embossed on their bases (Figure 49). Many of these had intact paper labels, including some prescription labels (Figure 50). The initials belonged to the American Medicinal Spirits Co. The firm filed for a trademark for the initials “A.M.S.” on September 20, 1934, receiving Trademark No. 71356210 (Justia 2022). The source failed to include the first use date.

Along with the “A M-S CO” logo, one flask included the initials “N” on one side of “FULL PINT” and “W” on the other (see Figure 49). These could have been the mark of the Northwestern Glass Co. of Seattle, Washington. The glass house opened in 1931 and operated until ca. 1987. Typically, the firm used the initials “NW” welded together with a bar between the right leg of the “N” and the left one of the “W” (Figure 51). We have not recorded the initials in a separated format, but we have no other likely candidate. In addition, Northwestern used O’Neill machines, and the base with

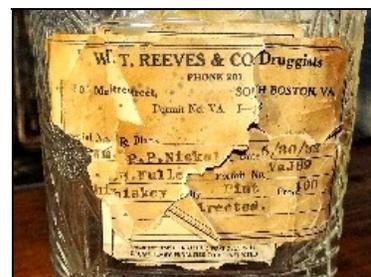


Figure 50 – Prescription label (eBay)

the NW initials was machine made. The firm made both colorless and amber glass. See the Northwestern Glass section for more information.



Figure 51 – NW logo (eBay)

User

American Medicinal Spirits Co.

The Kentucky Distilleries & Warehouse Co. incorporated in New Jersey on February 3, 1899, with E.F.C. Young, Edson Bradley, and Abraham Q. Garretson as incorporators and a capitalization of \$15,000,000. S.M. Rice was president with Edson Bradley as vice president and chairman of the board (*Wall Street Journal* 2/4/1899). The *Detroit Free Press* announced on August 19, 1927, that five “whiskey concentration warehouse companies” – the Kentucky Distilleries & Warehouse Co., R.E. Wathen & Co., E.H. Taylor, Jr., and Sons, Hill & Hill Distilling Co., and the Ashbrook Distillery Co. – had consolidated to form the American Medicinal Spirits Co. The U.S. Treasury Dept. estimated that enough stocks of whiskey existed to forestall any distilling of new alcohol for six or seven years.

Although recreational alcohol was no longer allowed to be made or sold under Prohibition, the new laws held provisions for medical alcohol. The medical beliefs of the times were that alcohol, taken in moderate amounts, would treat a variety of diseases and maladies. However, medical alcohol was expensive (MSU Campus Archaeology Program 2018; Whiskey Wash 2021).

Only six companies received permits to produce medicinal alcohol under Prohibition: the American Medicinal Spirits Co., Brown-Forman, Glenmore, Frankfort Distilleries, Schenley, and the A. Ph. Stitzel Distillery. Of these, only the American Medicinal Spirits Co. had been formed specifically to function under Prohibition; the others manufactured whiskey and other liquors prior to 1920. It is unclear whether any of these former distilleries were still allowed to distill alcohol. All the bottles with intact neck/finish labels showed a



Figure 52 – Finish label (eBay)

distillation date prior to 1920 and a bottling date during Prohibition (Figure 52). The only inside photo we have found of the American Medicinal Spirits Co. showed the bottling operation.

A possibly apocryphal Story from Williams (2018) claimed that

Treasury Secretary Andrew Mellon was a shareholder in Old Overholt distillery based in Pennsylvania. It appears that he used his position to secure a medicinal spirits permit through Old Overholt to form the American Medicinal Spirits Company.

American Medicinal Spirits obtained trademarks for a total of 18 brand names: Black Gold, Mount Vernon, Spring Garden, Blue Grass, Cedar Brook, Boone’s Knoll, U.S. Club, Bond & Lilliard, Coon Hollow, Belle of Nelson, Tip-Top, Atherton, Crab Orchard, Mayfield, Chicken Cock, Hermitage, Golden Premium, and Penwick. As noted above, it is highly unlikely that American Medicinal Spirits distilled any of these during Prohibition, although they certainly bottled them. As an example, a flask of Special Old Reserve had a label that identified Harry E. Wilken, Distillery No. 368, as the producer of the whiskey, but was also labeled American Medicinal Spirits as the bottler (Figure 53). The National Distillers Product Co. purchased 38% of American Medicinal Spirits stock in 1927, gaining full control in 1935 (Justia Trademarks 2022; Whiskey Wash 2021).

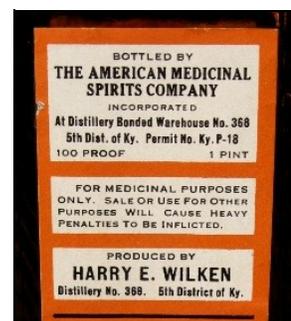


Figure 53 – Harry Wilkins (eBay)

A&P (1885-1930s)

Whitten (2022) listed this mark as “reported on the base of a sauce bottle (a Worcestershire Sauce ‘lookalike’ brand) dating circa 1880s. In this case the mark is probably that of the food product maker or distributor, and not that of the glass maker.” Whitten’s assessment is likely correct. On eBay, we have found small-mouth packer bottles embossed “A&P EXTRACTS” on the side panels (Figure 54) and vinegar bottles embossed “THE GREAT A&P TEA Co.” around the shoulder.

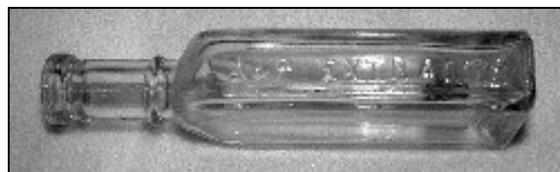


Figure 54 – A&P Extracts (eBay)

The Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co. adopted the “A&P” initials as a trademark in 1885 and continued to use the logo thereafter on a large variety of products (Levinson 2011:39, 55). Unfortunately, we have not discovered when the A&P first had the initials blown into glass. The Whitten bottle suggests that the first use of the logo on glass may have shortly followed the original adoption of the initials in 1885. The bottles we observed on eBay were probably made during the 1930s or later.

User

Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Co., New York (1869-present)

George F. Gilman entered the tea business as a jobber ca. 1860 as Gliman & Co., adopting the name of the Great American Tea Co. ca. 1862. In 1869, he shifted to the retail trade as the Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co. By 1875, Gilman had tea stores in 16 cities, selling his brand, Theta-Nectar. The real branding, however, began in 1885, with the adoption of “A&P” (for the Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co.) as a brand of baking powder (Levinson 2011:134).

One of Gilman’s employees, George H. Hartford, rose to be Gilman’s partner in the enterprise in 1878 and shifted the focus of the firm into groceries during the 1880s. Hartford incorporated the firm on March 4, 1891 – the day after Gilman’s death. By 1907, dozens of brands carried the A&P logo (Levinson 2011:35-55). After more than a century of success, the Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co. offered its business for sale in 2013 but found no buyers. On July 19, 2015, the firm declared bankruptcy and had closed all supermarkets by November 25 (Wikipedia 2021a).

ARDEN (ca.1890-ca. 1925)

We discovered the word “ARDEN” on the bases of several bottles (Figure 55). Initially, we thought it was a model of a round, mouth-blown medicinal bottle, but then we discovered perfume-style containers and other cosmetic types. The various bottles were all mouth blown and were probably made during the ca. 1890-1925 period.

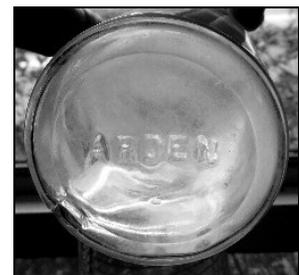


Figure 55 – ARDEN (eBay)

User

Elizabeth Arden, New York (1881-?)

Florence Nightingale Graham on December 31, 1881, used the trade name Elizabeth Arden opened her initial Red Door Salon in New York City in 1910 – on Fifth Ave. She had formed a partnership with Elizabeth Hubbard in 1909, only using the word “Elizabeth” as a trade name to save space. Once the pair separated in 1910, she selected “Arden” from the name of a nearby farm – and a legend was born. Graham created skin care products and eventually opened more Red Door Salons in other major cities. Although she died on October 18, 1866, the firm remains open in 2021 (Elizabeth Arden 2020; Wikipedia 2021b).

ARISTOCRAT

This name is found on the bases of prescription bottles used during the ca. 1920s-1930s period – with a single-digit number below the name (Figure 56). Numbers in our sample varied between 2 and 6, probably cavity numbers. The bottles were machine made, with graduated side panels, continuous-thread finishes or reinforced two-part prescription finishes, and hand-stamped engraving on bases (rather than machine). The shoulder



Figure 56 – ARISTOCRAT
(NPSWACC)

was decorated with nine vertical ribs and included the ounce symbol and the number of ounces held by the bottle. At least one base had the rough edge associated with the Owens scar. We have not discovered the manufacturer or user. However, if the Owens scar identification is correct, only three glass houses could have made the bottle with the Owens machine: the Illinois Glass Co., the Owens Bottle Co., or the Owens-Illinois Glass Co. The bottle was not shown in the Illinois Glass Co. 1920 catalog, the Owens Bottle 1928 Want Book, or the Owens-Illinois ca. late 1930s catalog.

ASF

Toulouse (1971:53-54) noted this mark on a fruit jar from the Frank Glass Co. See the Other F section for more information.

AS&CO Monogram

According to Toulouse (1971:52), this was the logo of A. Schilling & Co. of San Francisco, California, used ca. 1881 (Figures 57).



Figure 58 – SB & SCHILLING (eBay)

He also included an SB monogram (ca. 1885) and an AS&CO

monogram (ca. 1881). The initials “SB “ indicated “Schilling’s Best” – the firm’s top quality brand. The bases of the bottles were embossed “A. SCHILLING & CO. (arch) / 4 OZ / NET (both horizontal)” – with various sizes, of course. Schilling’s use of the word “NET” was far ahead of its time (Figure 58).

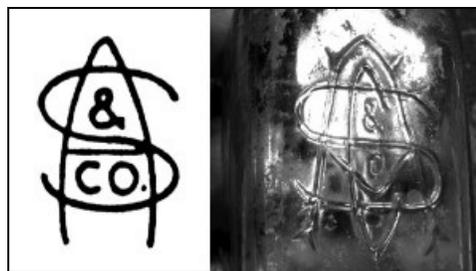


Figure 57 – AS&Co logo (eBay & Toulouse 1971:52)

User

A. Schilling & Co., San Francisco, California (1881-1947)

Although A. Schilling & Co. was not a glass house, we have included the logos in this study because the bottles were ubiquitous. August Schilling and George Volkmann opened A. Schilling & Co. at 108 Market St. in San Francisco in September 1881. In 1903, the firm moved to the intersection of Second and Folsom Streets, where the business burned to the ground, following the April 18, 1906, earthquake. The company, of course, rebuilt immediately (Toulouse 1971:52-53; Zumwalt 1980:366).

After the death of August Schilling on August 1, 1934, the Volkmann family continued to operate the firm under the A. Schilling & Co. name. Volkmann died on December 9, 1945, and McCormick & Co. of Baltimore, Maryland, purchased the business two years later (1947). McCormick continued to operate the company in San Francisco (Toulouse 1971:53; Zumwalt 1980:366S).

ATLAS

A colorless, mouth-blown, prescription bottle was embossed “ATLAS” in a font with large serifs on the base (Figures 59). The bottle was probably blown during the ca. 1900-ca. 1925 period. We have not discovered the manufacturer.

AUGUSTA GLASS WORKS

Bill Baab has reported that a collector had a Hutchinson bottle embossed “AUGUSTA GLASS WORKS, AUGUSTA, GA.” on the side. Although he had not seen the bottle, we include it here. The Augusta Glass Works was open between 1890 and 1894 (see history in the AGCo section).

AVON (1970s-1990s)



Figure 60 – Figural car Avon bottle (eBay)

Whitten (2022) discussed “glass pieces, including figural cologne containers (cars, boats, clocks, etc) with the embossed mark “AVON”, and/or a paper label

on the base, . . . actually manufactured by Wheaton Glass Company, Millville, New Jersey” (Figures 60-63). These may have been made between the 1970s and 1990s.

User

California Perfume Co., New York (1886-1892)

David H. McConnell began selling perfume door-to-door under his own name, using women as sales agents in 1886. In 1892, McConnell renamed the firm the California Perfume

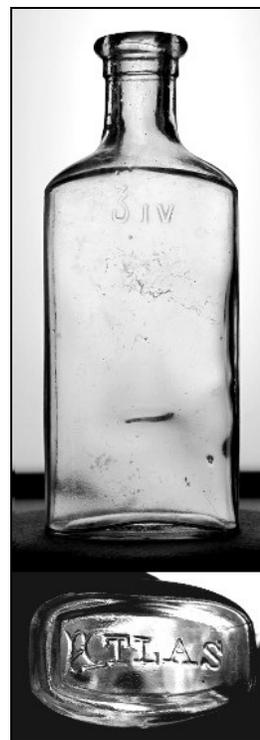


Figure 59 – ATLAS



Figure 61 – Embossed AVON logo on figural car (eBay)

Co. at the suggestion of his partner. The firm incorporated in the State of New Jersey on June 16, 1909, and became a New York corporation on January 28, 1916. The firm received the Avon trademark for “perfumes, toilet waters, powder and rouge compacts, lipsticks, and other toiletry products” August 30, 1932, claiming a first use of the term on January 1, 1929 (Wikipedia 2013). It was not until 1939, however, that the firm became Avon Products, Inc.



Figure 62 – Figural cab Avon bottle (eBay)

Avon Products, Inc., New York (1936-present)

The California Perfume Co. reorganized as Avon Products, Inc., in 1939 and became a public corporation in 1946. The firm began its overseas expansion in 1954, with entries into Venezuela and Puerto Rico. Mexico followed in 1958, with multiple expansions in the years to after. Avon purchased Tiffany & Co. in 1979 and grew into additional product lines throughout the 1980s. In 2011, Avon celebrated 125 years of empowering women (Avon Products, Inc. 2011:1-4). The company remains in business in 2022.



Figure 63 – Paper label with AVON on car bottle (eBay)

AW-in-an-Oval (1960-1964)

We have observed the Oval-AW logo on beer and soda bottles; for example, it appeared on 16-oz. Pepsi “swirl” bottles and Coor non-returnable beer bottles. Both of our samples had “64” date codes (1964) (Figure 64). When the American Can Co. acquired the assets of the Wheaton Glass Co. in 1960, the new name became the American-Wheaton Glass Co., and the Oval-AW mark likely began use at that time. The *Terre Haute Tribune* reported on August 29, 1962, that the name again changed to the A-W Glass Co. in March of that year, and the same set of plants again shifted monikers to the American Can Co., Glass Products Division in 1963 – including the adoption of a Stylized A logo the following year. For more information, see the section on the two Stylized A marks above.



Figure 64 – Oval-AW (eBay)

Discussion and Conclusions

Most of the identifications in this section are reasonably obvious (e.g., ADLAM or ADC) or likely bogus (e.g., AGBCo or AGCL), so they require no further discussion. A few, however, are controversial or have been misidentified in the past. The “A” logo, for example, is addressed in both the Adams and Agnew sections, although it *may* have been used by one or more other firms.

ACBCo

Although this logo will be discussed in more detail in an article about Lea & Perrins sauce bottles, the initials need a brief treatment here. We have never found this mark on any other type of container. It is probable that Lea & Perrins required the identification of the manufacturer on its products, although that sort of record has been lost.

Both Rinker ([1968]:27) and Toulouse (1971:38) suggested the Albion Glass Co. as the maker of the bottles – possibly because the glass house made containers for Lea & Perrins later in the 20th century. As noted above, however, the initials do not mesh with the Albion Glass Co. name, and the firm was not in business during the ca. 1860s-1920s period when bottles with the ACBCo initials were made. Even though the initials are also an imperfect match for the Aire & Calder Bottle Co. (or Aire & Calder Glass Bottle Co.), the fit is closer – *and* neither we nor other researchers have found any reasonable alternative.

A&P

While not a glass manufacturer, the Great A&P Tea Co. deserves further study. Levinson’s 2011 history provides an excellent treatise of the A&P (as well as the grocery industry), but it does not cover glass containers. There are almost certainly more examples and variations of bottles and jars than we have uncovered. These also probably changed somewhat over time. However, these are not the types of glass containers that collectors typically value or that archaeologists often research, so we have discovered few examples.

ARISTOCRAT

As noted in the text (above), only three glass houses were licensed to manufacture pharmaceutical bottle with the Owens machine – the Owens Bottle Co., the Illinois Glass Co., and the Owens-Illinois Glass Co. – successor to the other two. Assuming that our identification of the machine scars on the bases was correct, the machine was *not* one of the early ones that left the distinctive feathered scar. However, by the late 1920s, technology and knowledge had improved to the point where the Owens machines left little or no feathering, looking just like other machine scars. Thus, the slight imperfections that we have detected on these bases, may indicate a manufacture in the late 1920s or 1930s, suggesting the Owens-Illinois Glass Co. as the manufacturer.

However, the appointing of Owens-Illinois as the producer should be approached with caution for three reasons. First, the late 1920s would include either the Owens Bottle Co. or the Illinois Glass Co. as possibilities. Second, some other machine – not Owens – could conceivably have created the small glitches we have recorded. Finally, the feathering seems to have been mostly caused by not changing the “knife” that cut the gob of glass after it had been sucked into the parison mold – although other factors, such as how often the molds were cleaned and the formulas of the glass mixtures probably contributed. Thus, right after the changing of the “knife,” the next bottles may have shown little or no feathering – even on bottles made by the oldest machines.

Even with these three caveats in mind, however, the combined facts that these bottles seem to have been fairly common and that the cleaner scars – in quantity – really *do* suggest recent vintage, still suggest the Owens-Illinois Glass Co. as the most likely maker. The discovery of an ad for the Aristocrat brand or finding the name in a catalog would be necessary for a more certain placement.

Acknowledgments

Our gratitude to Doug Leybourne for granting us permission to use the Alice Creswick drawings in this publication and to Greg Spurgeon for letting us reproduce the North American Glass photos of fruit jars and other containers.

Sources

Aberdeen NJ Life

n.d. "History: American Can Company, Cliffwood (1962-1966)."

<http://aberdeennjlife.blogspot.com/2011/10/history-american-can-company-cliffwood.html>

All American Containers

2021 "Explore Our Products." <https://www.allamericancontainers.com/>

American Glass Review

1934 "Glass Factory Yearbook and Directory." *American Glass Review*, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Includes reprint of the *Glass Trade Directory for 1904*. Commoner Publishing Co., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Arkansas Glass Container Corp.

2010 "AGC Arkansas Glass: Manufacturing Glass Containers for Over 40 Years."

Arkansas Glass Container <http://www.agcc.com/>

2014 "Arkansas Glass." Arkansas Glass <http://www.agcc.com/>

Avon Products, Inc.

2011 "Celebrating Women, Avon 125 Years: Avon Products, Inc. Timeline." Avon Products, Inc.

Black Country History

n.d. "Albion Bottle Company, Glass Bottle Manufacturer, Oldbury." Black Country History http://blackcountryhistory.org/collections/getrecord/GB146_BS-AB/

Busch, Clarence M.

1897 *Seventh Annual Report of the Factory Inspector of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the Year 1896*. Clarence M. Busch, State Printer of Pennsylvania.

Capitman, Barbara Baer

1976 *American Trademark Designs*. Dover Publications.

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

1882 *Annual Report of the Secretary of Iriterial Affairs of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania: Part III Industrial Statistics, Vol. IX, 1880-1881*. Lane S. Hart, State Printer & Binder, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Creswick, Alice

1987 *The Fruit Jar Works, Vol. I, Listing Jars Made Circa 1820 to 1920's*. Douglas M. Leybourne, N. Muskegon, Michigan.

Elizabeth Arden

2020 Elizabeth Arden. <https://www.elizabetharden.com/about-us.html>

Emhart Glass

1982 *Emhart Punt Marks*. Emhart, Zurich, Switzerland.

Fadley, Don

2012 “American Druggists Syndicate.”

http://www.hairraisingstories.com/Proprietors/AMER_DS.html

Farnsworth, Kenneth B. and John A. Walthall

2011 *Bottled in Illinois: Embossed Bottles and Bottled Products of Early Illinois Merchants from Chicago to Cairo, 1840-1880*. University of Illinois, Urbana. Studies in Archaeology No. 6, Illinois State Archaeological Survey.

Finch, Ralph

2009 “Alloa Glass Works: On these Stippled Bottles, Every Picture Tells a Story – but Some Remain a Mystery.” *Antique Bottle & Glass Collector* 25(11):36-40.

Freeman, Larry

1964 *Grand Old American Bottles*. Century House, Watkins Glen, NY.

Frescoln, Carol Ananis

1973 “Comparison of the Bottle Glass from Two Historical San Juan Island Sites.”
Master’s thesis, Dept. of Anthropology, University of Idaho.

Jones, May

1968 *The Bottle Trail, Volume 9*. Nara Visa, New Mexico.

Justia Trademarks

2022 “American Medicinal Spirits Company, The Trademarks.”
<https://trademarks.justia.com/owners/american-medicinal-spirits-company-the-15055/>

Knittle, Rhea Mansfield

1927 *Early American Glass*. Appleton-Century, New York.

Levinson, Marc

2011 *Great A&P and the Struggle for Small Business in America*. Hill and Wang, New York.

Logobook

2022 “American National Can Company.”
<http://www.logobook.com/logo/american-national-can-company/>

London Gazette

1975 “In High Court of Justice.” *London Gazette* 6/27/1975.

1987 “Albion Bottle Co. Limited.” *London Gazette* 2/27/1987.

Lunn, Kevin

1981 “Identification and Dating of Lea and Perrins’ Worcestershire Sauce Bottles on Canadian Historic Sites: Interpretations Past and Present.” *Canadian Journal of Archaeology* 5:1-17.

Maloney, James

1912 "Report of Executive Officer James Maloney." In *Proceedings of the Thirty-Sixth Annual Convention Glass Bottle Blowers' Association of the United States and Canada, Held August 5-17, 1912*. Olean, New York.

Martels, J.

1977 *The Beer Can Collector's Bible*. Ballentine Books, New York.

McKearin, Helen and George McKearin

1941 *American Glass*. Crown Publishers, New York.

McKearin, Helen and Kenneth M. Wilson

1978 *American Bottles & Flasks and Their Ancestry*. Crown Publishers, New York.

MSU Campus Archaeology Program

2018 "Take Two Shots of Whiskey Every 6 Hours: Medicinal Alcohol During Prohibition Era MSU." <http://campusarch.msu.edu/?p=5897>

National Glass Budget

1897 "Glass Directory." *National Glass Budget* 12(42):7.

1901 "Complete List of Glass Factories in the United States and Canada." *National Glass Budget* 17(1):11.

Perrine, Lowell E.

1985 "Directory Issue 1985." *Glass Industry* 66(3):1-170.

Pepper, Adeline

1971 *Glass Gaffers of New Jersey*. Scribner's Sons, New York.

Peters, Roger

1996 *Wisconsin Soda Water Bottles, 1845-1910*. Wild Goose Press, Madison, Wisconsin.

Ray, William Stanley

1899 *Ninth Annual Report of the Factory Inspector of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the Year 1898*. William Stanley Ray, State Printer of Pennsylvania.

Rinker, Meryle

[1968] "A Dash of This, A Pinch of That: A Bottle Collector's History of Sauce and Spice Bottles." Privately Published, Ashland, OR.

Ring, Carlyn

1980 *For Bitters Only*. Nimrod Press, Boston.

Roller, Dick

1983 *Standard Fruit Jar Reference*. Acorn Press, Paris, Illinois.

1996 "Winslow, NJ History Notes." Dick Roller files.

1998 "East Stroudsburg, PA History Notes." Dick Roller files.

2011 *Standard Fruit Jar Reference: 2011 Update*. Edited by Jerome McCann and Barry Bernas. Fruit Jar Annual/Phoenix Press, Chicago.

Suma, Marie and Frank Suma

1998 *Images of America: the Stroudsburgs in the Poconos*. Arcadia Publishing, Charleston, South Carolina.

Thomas Publishing Co.

1907-1908 *Thomas' Register of American Manufacturers and First Hands in all Lines: The Buyers Guide*. Thomas Publishing Co., New York.

1917 *Thomas' Register of American Manufacturers and First Hands in All Lines*. 9th ed. Thomas Publishing Co., New York.

Thomas Scientific

2021 “History: The Formation of the Arthur H. Thomas Company.” Thomas Scientific
<https://www.thomasci.com/History>

Toulouse, Julian Harrison

1969 *Fruit Jars*. Thomas Nelson & Sons, Camden, New Jersey.

1971 *Bottle Makers and Their Marks*. Thomas Nelson, New York.

University of Toledo

2010 “Finding Aid: Owens-Illinois, Inc. Company Records.” Ward M. Canaday Center
for Special Collections, University of Toledo.

<http://www.utoledo.edu/library/canaday/findingaids1/MSS-200.pdf>

Van Rensselaer, Stephen

1969 *Early American Bottles and Flasks*. Rev. Ed. J. Edmund Edwards, Stratford,
Connecticut.

V&A (Victoria and Albert Museum)

2021 “Albion Bottle Company Ltd.”

<https://collections.vam.ac.uk/search/?q=Albion%20Bottle%20Company%20Ltd.>

von Mechow, Tod

2022 “Soda & Beer Bottles of North America: Bottle Attributes - Beer & Soda Bottle
Manufacturers.” <http://www.sodasandbeers.com/SABBottleManufBeerSoda.htm>

Whitten, David

2022 “Glass Bottle Marks: McLaughlin Glass Company.”

<http://www.glassbottlemarks.com/mclaughlin-glass-company/>

Wikipedia

2013 “Avon Products.” Wikipedia http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Avon_Products

2021a “A&P.” Wikipedia <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A%26P>

2021b “Elizabeth Arden.” https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elizabeth_Arden

Williams, Don

2018 “A Bourbon Discovery. A Brief History of Bourbon and Prohibition.”

<https://bourbonfool.com/a-bourbon-discovery-a-brief-history-of-bourbon-and-prohibition/>

Wilson, Rex

1981 *Bottles on the Western Frontier*. University of Arizona Press, Tucson.

Wright, Louise

1975 *The Road from Aston Cross: An Industrial History, 1875-1975*. Smedley-HP

Foods, Ltd., Leamington Spa, England.

Zumwalt, Betty

1980 *Ketchup Pickles Sauces: 19th Century Food in Glass*. Mark West Publications,

Fulton, California.

First published 2013; updated 6/22/2022

