

Other “B” Marks – Part 2

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In all “letter” marks we have discovered, there are some that do not “fit” well into the classification with larger glass houses. Because of the variations of the letter B alone, we have divided this section into two parts. Part 1 dealt with the solo letter B, Part2 with all the rest of the logos beginning with B.

Containers and Marks

B.&A.C.CO. (ca. 1881-ca. 1900)



Figure 1 – B.&A.C.CO. logo (eBay)

We have discovered a mouth-blown, round, wide-mouth bottle with a packer finish that was embossed “B.&A.C.CO. / 51” in a slight arch on the base (Figures 1 & 2). Whitten (2022) identified the user as the Baker & Adamson Chemical Co. (1881-1913). Whitten described the firm as a:



Figure 2 – Round, wide-mouth bottle (eBay)

producer of acids and other chemicals. Although not the mark of a glass factory, this may be mistaken for one. Seen on the base of chemical and acid jars and bottles, most of which probably date from the early period — 1881 to 1900. B&A was bought by General Chemical in 1900, and in 1913 General became a division of Allied Chemical & Dye Corporation, later Allied Chemical Corp. ACC merged into Allied-Signal and that company is now part of Honeywell, Inc.

J.P. Barstow (1890-ca. 1903)

The main form of this colorless fruit jar was embossed “SUN” sun on the side surrounded by a circle with rays (Figure 3). According to Roller (1983:350), the jar was sealed by a “glass lid held down by cast iron yoke clamp tightened by cam lever.” The base was

embossed “J.P. BARSTOW” across the center. A variation had no side marking, but the base was embossed “SUN” with a circle with extending rays with “J.P. BARSTOW TRADE MARK” around the edges.

The clamp was embossed in two variations:

1. MONIER’S PAT. APR 1 1890
2. MONIER’S PAT. APR 1 90 MAR 12 95

April 1, 1890 – Frederick and Elizabeth Monier No. 424,720

March 12, 1895 – Frederick Monier No. 535,549, assigned to the Barstow Fruit Jar Co.

According to Roller (1983:350), the jars were made ca. 1894-1903 “by an unknown glasshouse for Barstow Fruit Jar Co., Jersey City, N.J., and Sun Fruit Jar Co., New York, N.Y., and Jersey City.” A 1900 *Crockery & Glass Journal* ad listed the address as 74 Wall St., noted by Roller as “very probably a sales office.” About 1899, the name changed to the Sun Fruit Jar Co.

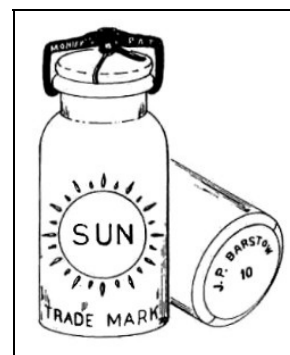


Figure 3 – Sun jar (Creswick 1987a:206)

Creswick (1987:205) illustrated both variations and added that Jacob P. Barstow registered Trademark No. 26,298 on March 12, 1895, apparently for “SUN” in the radiated circle, claiming a first use in November of 1894. She noted Barstow Fruit Jar Co. as 1890-1899; Sun Fruit Jar Co. as 1899-1903. See the section on “Sun” in the Other S file for more information on the jars, Jacob Barstow, and the two companies.

BATTLE & Co. (ca. mid-1880s-early 1920s)

We first found the “BATTLE & Co.” logo on a round, amber medicine bottle base, later on several different kinds of chemical bottles (Figure 4). According to Cullen Battle’s obituary in the March 24, 1908, issue of the *Charlotte Daily Observer*, Cullen A. Battle and his brother, Jesse M. Battle, initiated Battle & Co., a



Figure 4 – Battle & Co base (eBay)

chemists' wholesaler, in October of 1875. The St. Louis city directory also included Sidney S. Blackwell as one of the founders and located the concern at 100 S. Main. Cullen was the president. Cullen died in 1908, followed by Jesse in 1911, but the corporation lived on until at least 1961.



Figure 6 – B basemark (eBay)

All bottles we have found with a “BATTLE & Co.” basemark were mouth blown, but well made, so the logo probably was used between the mid-1880s and early 1920s. However, one bottle with a Battle & Co. Chemists Corporation paper label was embossed on the base with a large “B” – yet another identification for the “B” logos discussed in the first part of the Other B studies (Figures 5 & 6). The firm obtained trademarks for PAPINE and BROMIDIA in 1907.



Figure 5 – Paper label (eBay)

B&B (Cursive) (1893-1928)

In the UTEP collection, we discovered a mouth-blown, square medicine or cosmetic bottle with a single-ring finish. The basemark was a cursive “B&B” in a double stamp (Figure 7). The cursive initials formed the logo of Bauer & Black, Inc., Chicago, Illinois. Louis Bauer, Alexander Bauer, Gustav T. Bauer, and Stephen H. Black formed the corporation in 1893 to make surgical appliances. The Kendall Co. purchased the firm in 1928, selling to the Becton-Dickinson Co. in 1976. The firm became a division of the 3M Co. in 2005 (MyCompanies n.d.).



Figure 7 – B&B basemark (UTEP collection)

BBC (early 20th century)

This faint “BBC” basemark was on a 12-sided aqua medicinal bottle with a one-part finish. The bottle’s appearance was very strange. Although there was a distinct machine scar on the base, there was no parting line below the finish (Figure 8). Unfortunately, our photo did not

show the side seams. Because of the style and crude machine manufacture, the bottle was likely made during the early 20th century.

The initials only fit two glass houses that we have found – Bell Bottle Co. and Bellaire Bottle Co. Although the Bell Bottle Co. acquired machines in 1913, they were for the production of milk bottles – unable to make small-mouth containers. Bellaire manufactured medicinal bottles by semiautomatic machine by 1913, although we have not discovered the exact year when they were installed. However, we could find no 12-sided bottle in Bellaire’s 1910 catalog. While Bellaire still seems to be the most logical candidate, the bottle could have been made by a currently unknown glass house.



Figure 8 – 12-sided bottle, BBC basemark

B. Boley, N.Y. (1881-1895)

Von Mechow (2022) illustrated and discussed two marks used on the bodies of two bottles. One – a champagne beer bottle – was embossed “B. BOLEY (arch) / BOTTLE DEALER / NEW YORK CITY (both horizontal) / N.Y. (inverted arch)” all in round plate on the front and “THIS BOTTLE / NOT TO BE SOLD” on the reverse just above the heel (Figure 9). A Hutchinson bottle was embossed “B. BOLEY (arch) / BOTTLE DEALER / NEW YORK CITY / N.Y. (all horizontal) – in a horseshoe-shaped plate. The reverse heel was embossed “THIS BOTTLE / NOT TO BE SOLD,” and there was an “H” in a heart shape on the base.

These were obviously sample bottles, made for salesmen to show (or give away) to potential customers. Since Boley also sold pony bottles (smaller beer bottles), and there may have been several styles of each type, there may have been more examples. For a history of the company, see the section on the BOLEY MFG Co. logo below.

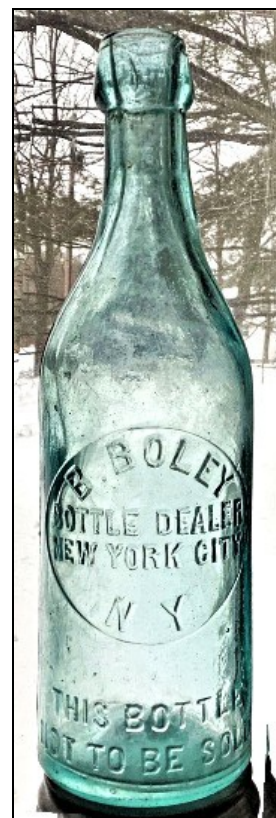


Figure 9 – B. Boley bottle (eBay)

B.&B.S.CO. (1902-1913)

Von Mechow (2022) reported nine champagne beer bottles with this logo, in four different formats. One was embossed “B.&B.S.Co. / NEWARK, N.J.” in an inverted arch on the base, another “B&BSCo (arch) / NEWARK, N.J. (inverted arch).” A third variation was embossed “B.&B.S.Co. NEWARK, N.J.” in a circle. A final example had ““B.&B.S.Co.” in an arch. He noted the maker as the Brewers’ & Bottlers’ Supply Co. An eBay example had a fifth variation – “B.&B.S.CO. / 4” horizontally across the center of the base (Figure 10). The eBay bottle was mouth blown and had a double-stamp on the base. As noted in the Adolphus Busch section, the technique that formed the double-stamp was in use from ca. 1895 to ca. 1914, encompassing the date range for this firm. According to a Philadelphia Farmers and Dairyman’s Supply Co. ad in the December 1920 issue of *Milk Producers Review*, the Thatcher Glass Co. made the milk bottles sold by the jobber.



Figure 10 – B&BSCO basemark (eBay)

User History

Brewers’ & Bottlers’ Supply Co., Newark, New Jersey (1902-1913)

The Brewers’ & Bottlers’ Supply Co. incorporated on August 14, 1902, with a capital of \$100,000.¹ By 1907, William F. Hoffmann was the president and treasurer, with A.L. McCulloch as vice president, C.R. Burnett as secretary and manager, and Joseph A. Carroll, also as a secretary. The firm offered a large variety of items, including “Bottles, Flasks, Demijohns, Labels, Caps, Corks, Stoppers, and much more.” The officers remained the same, apparently until the close of the company – last listed in the directories in 1913, which von Mechow (2022) accepted as the end of the business. Nonetheless, the corporation apparently paid its annual fee each year until 1918. Von Mechow (2022) noted that McCulloch and Carroll were also officers in the South Jersey Glass Works – the glass house that likely made the Brewers’ & Bottlers’

¹ The 1904 Newark directory listed Souda & Graham as “props.” of the firm (von Mechow 2013). Since the company was a corporation, it could not have proprietors. It would instead have had officers – as were listed by 1907.

Supply Co. bottles. Note that the Brewers' & Bottlers' Supply Co. closed the same year as the South Jersey Glass Works sold to Glenshaw – so the two firms were apparently codependent.

Probable Manufacturer

Swedesboro Glass Works, Swedesboro, New Jersey (1885-1906)

South Jersey Glass Works, Swedesboro, New Jersey (1906-1913)

Glenshaw Glass Co., Swedesboro, New Jersey (1913-1918)

Booth Glass Mfg. Co., Swedesboro, New Jersey (1918-1920)

Carr-Lowrey Glass Co., Swedesboro, New Jersey (1920-1923)

The Swedesboro Glass Works opened the factory in 1885 but sold the plant in 1906 to become the South Jersey Glass Works (Stanley & Shiveler 2019). The *Bridgewater Courier-News* reported on September 30, 1912, that a fire “destroyed the main factory buildings” with a loss of \$50,000. The firm rebuilt the plant, and the *Coffeyville Daily Journal* for January 23, 1913, explained that the manager “expected [the plant] to begin operations next week with one tank equipped with seven United machines. The second tank will be started later.”

Although the firm did resume operations, things did not go well. On October 25, 1913, the *National Glass Budget* explained that “the Swedesboro bottle plant, which has been in the hands of a receiver for some time, has been sold to John Meyer for \$50,000.” John J. Meyer was an officer of the Glenshaw Glass Co., and Glenshaw continued making a variety of bottles on the United machines until the firm sold the factory to the Booth Glass Mfg. Co. in December of 1918.

On December 7, 1918, the *National Glass Budget* noted that Booth Glass made a general line of illuminating glassware, including “vault lights, deck lights, port lights, and intricate mold work under the supervision of Kraft Booth who for some fifteen years has been in charge of the mold making department at Gillinder & Sons factory at Philadelphia.” A.D. Snellbaker was the president with Kraft Booth as vice president and superintendent, and James W. Trenchard was the treasurer. Booth Glass failed by 1920, and the Carr-Lowrey Glass Co. acquired the plant by April of that year as reported in the April 10 issue of the *National Glass Budget*. According to the *Budget*, “the new operators of the plant propose to start an eight-ring tank immediately.

Hand-blown bottles will be made.” Carr-Lowrey closed the factory permanently in 1923 (Stanley & Shivelor 2019).

BELLAIRE STAMPING CO. (ca. 1888)

Roller (1983:64) illustrated and discussed a jar embossed
“BELLAIRE STAMPING CO. (arch) / BELLAIRE, OHIO (horizontal)” on
one side. The jar was sealed with a milk-glass disk immerser lid, held in
place by a zinc screw band. The immerser lid was embossed with four patent
dates: November 23, 1875, September 12, 1876, November 30, 1880, and
July 20, 1886. Roller noted that “only one example of this jar has been
found so far” (Roller 1983:64). Creswick (1987a:16) illustrated the jar but
added no information (Figures 11 & 12).



Figure 11 – Bellaire
Stamping Co. jar
(Creswick 1987a:16)

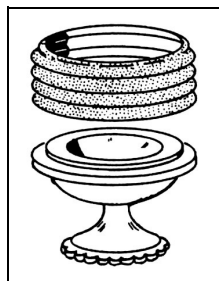


Figure 12 – Disk
Immerser (Creswick
1987a:117)

The Bellaire Stamping Co. wrote to mold maker
Charles Yockel on May 2, 1888, requesting a mold
embossed with this exact name. A June 9, 1887, ad from the firm illustrated
Mason jars made for disk immerser closures. Roller speculated that the
“BELLAIRE STAMPING CO.” jars were intended for the immerser closure
(Roller 1983:64; 2011:100; Tyson 1971:7). Since these jars are very rare,
they were probably only made ca. 1888. If these were not very popular, the
firm may have ceased production of containers at this point.

User History

Bellaire Stamping Co., Bellaire, Ohio (1871-1892)

The Bellaire Stamping Co. opened at Bellaire, Ohio, in 1871. The company produced
kerosene lamps as its main product. Because of its success, Bellaire Stamping decided to
expand into the glass container business. The firm began advertising fruit jars by mid-1877 and
leased the factory of the Bellaire Goblet Co., intending to begin production on May 1, 1888.
Soon, the firm purchased the Buckeye Lantern Co. plant at Bellaire and expanded into
Youngstown, Ohio, and Harvey, Illinois. Along with the relocation, the firm changed its name

to the Columbian Enameling & Stamping Co. in honor of the upcoming (1893) Columbian Exposition. The Harvey factory burned to the ground on January 2, 1900, and the firm decided to move to Terre Haute, Indiana. The company opened its new plant on January 2, 1902 (Columbian Home Products 2011; Paquette 2002:56-57; Roller 2011:100; Sarkar 2007).

BEST

We discovered “BEST” embossed on the base of a mouth-blown prescription bottle with a “4” embossed on the shoulder that had solarized to an amethyst tint (Figure 13). It seems likely that BEST is the name of prescription oval, but we have not discovered any by that name in catalogs or advertisements we could find. The Dominion Glass Co. offered a Best fruit jar, but we have no evidence of a connection (see the section on the Dominion Glass Co. for more information). Currently, we have no other information about this mark.



Figure 13 – BEST (eBay)

BESTOV (ca. 1900-1920)

According to the Dairy Antique Site (2013), the BESTOV Trademark was used by the Dairyman’s Supply Co. of Philadelphia. A discussion on the New Jersey Bottle Forum (2012) described a

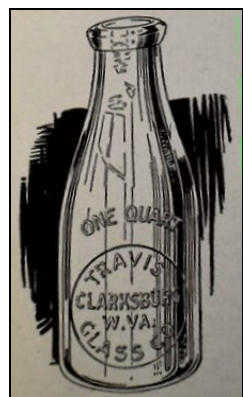


Figure 15 – Travis bottle (Dairyman’s Supply Catalog 1919)

base with the mark as embossed in a three-leaf clover: “DAIRYMEN’S SUPPLY CO.,” with “TRADE / MARK” in the top leaf, “BESTOV” across the center and “PHILADELPHIA” below the stem. Another was embossed only



Figure 14 – Bestov logo (eBay)

BESTOV in the clover (Figure 14). The earliest ads we found using the BESTOV trademark on milk bottles were from 1900, although the 1963 BESTOV Trademark document from Cherry-Burrell (successors way down the line from Dairyman’s Supply) claimed a first use date of 1892. The first use date, proclaimed from 1963, is quite suspect, so our best guess at a date range is ca. 1900-ca. 1920 for Dairyman’s Supply. A Cherry-Bassett-

Winner Co. ad (immediate successor to Dairyman's Supply) in the July 1922 issue of the *Milk Dealer* still illustrated milk bottles, so they were certainly made throughout the tenure of Dairyman's Supply – probably into the mid-1920s or later for Cherry-Bassett-Winner.

The 1919 Dairyman's Supply catalog featured the Travis Glass Co., Clarksburg, West Virginia (1908-1919), as the manufacturer of BESTOV bottles (Figure 15). At least one BESTOV bottle, however, had the "B.P.17" heelmark of the Belle Pre Bottle Co., Alexandria, Virginia (1902-1911) (Figure 16). Since the Thatcher Mfg. Co.



Figure 16 – B.P.17 heelmark (eBay)

succeeded Travis in September of 1919, they, too, probably made some (all?) of the later bottles. If Dairyman's Supply used each of these glass houses sequentially (which seems likely), the order would have been Belle Pre until 1911, Travis until 1919, and Thatcher for the last year of so of Dairyman's Supply then by Cherry-Bassett-Winner, probably until the mid-1920s (or later).

User History

Dairyman's Supply Co., Philadelphia (1890-ca. 1920)

George R. Meloney opened the Dairymen's Supply Co. at 1906 Market St. in Philadelphia in 1890, joined by his brother, William L. Meloney, as a partner in 1895. By 1905, the brothers had warehouses at 1937 Market St. and 1938-40 Commerce St. as well as a factory and warehouse at Lansdowne, Pennsylvania. By that time, they advertised the BESTOV milk coolers and apparently used the logo for other dairy supply products. By at least 1915, the main operation had moved to 1919 Market St. (*Chicago Dairy Produce* 1915:47; *Country Gentleman* 1905:351).

In late 1920 or early 1921, the firm became the Farmers & Dairymen's Supply Co., although we have been unable to discover whether the change indicated a merger or an expansion into the farm supply business. In February 1920, the *Chilton Tractor Journal* listed the new company as a "Recently Appointed Tractor Dealer or Distributor" for tractors. The change, however, was brief. The Farmers & Dairymen's Supply Co. merged with the Cherry-Bassett Co. and the Dairymen's Supply & Construction Co. in February 1922 to form the Cherry-Bassett-Winner Co. (*Chilton Tractor Journal* 1921:44; *Milk Plant Monthly* 1922:46-47).

BFBC^o or B•F•B•C^o or B&FBC^o (ca. 1899-ca. 1924)

According to Toulouse (1971:85), this mark was used ca. 1910 by the Bell Fruit Bottle Co., Fairmount, Indiana. Toulouse noted that the company was said to have “preceded the Bell Bottle Co. of the same place. No documentary evidence is found. The mark was apparently found on a fruit jar.” Toulouse (1969) made no mention of the mark in his earlier book, nor is the mark found in Roller (1983) or either book by Creswick (1987a; 1987b). We can find no historical evidence for a Bell Fruit Bottle Co.

In our first two iterations of the Other B study, we suggested that this mark may have been bogus, but photos from Arthur Sutton (and others) revised our thinking. Sutton’s photos showed an aqua food bottle with a rounded, one-piece finish and a base embossed “BFBC^o” (arch – with two dots under the “o”) / 80 (slightly off center) / 2845 (inverted arch)” (Figure



Figure 18 – BFBC^o variations
(Arthur Sutton; Cyber
Dutchman; Collectors Weekly)

17). The mark was obviously real – but *not* on a fruit jar. A second example from Cyber Dutchman, Robin Mills, and eBay was embossed “B•F•B•C^o (arch) / 2845 (inverted arch) – one with “109” in the center.” And, a slightly different bottle, aqua, with a slightly different finish, was embossed “B&FBCo (arch) / 2448 (horizontal)” (Figure 18). The last was from Collectors Weekly. Another number was 2848, although the container did not look much different.

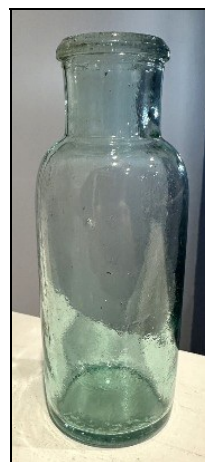


Figure 17 – British
food bottle

Each of the bottles was machine made – parting line below the finish, non-Owens machine scar on the base – but crude, suggesting an early machine. The color of most examples (a light olive green) and both the type and position of the numbers suggest a manufacture in Britain – probably during the early 20th century. The actual user of the logo was the British & Foreign Bottle Co., Ltd., a subsidiary of British Glass Industries, Ltd.

User

British & Foreign Bottle Co., Ltd. (ca. 1899-ca. 1924)

Our first listing for the British & Foreign Bottle Co., Ltd., a subsidiary of British Glass Industries, Ltd., was a patent issued to the firm in 1899 (British Patent Office 1899). In 1920, the firm was

Manufacturers of hurricane lamp glasses, various glass bottles and jars of every description, including English machine-made screw and vacuum jars in best white flint glass, also for perfumers, druggists, wholesale chemists, confectioners, in pale green, amber, opal, etc. *Works*—Queensboro, Kent; Wilmer Gardens, Kingsland Road; and Canning Town. (National Union of Manufacturers 1920)

The firm apparently closed ca. 1923 or 1924.

BGCo monogram

An eBay auction illustrated a BGCo monogram with the appearance of *two* stacked “Bs” superimposed over “Co” within a “G” (Figure 19). The monogram was embossed on the front of a Mason jar with “MASON’S (arch)” above it and “IMPROVED (horizontal)” below it. The jar had a “ground lip” (mouth-blown) and no markings on the base. This is actually the BGCo monogram (a single “B” despite the illusion of two) illustrated in Roller (2011:336). According to Roller, the jars were probably made in Australia.



Figure 19 – BGCo monogram (eBay)

BIG PINE KEY GLASS WORKS (1967 to 1970)

An eBay auction offered a flask that was blown into a two-piece mold with a tooled finish. The flask was embossed “BIG PINE KEY GLASS WORKS” in large letters across the front (Figure 20). These bottles were apparently only made for the tourist trade.

User History

Big Pine Key Glass Works, Big Pine Key, Florida (1967-1973)

According to Wilkinson (2010), “Les Cunningham and [the] Dwight A. Pettit family, built and operated the Big Pine Key Glass Works on the west end of the Key 1967 to 1970. They made glass bottles, ash trays, paper weights, etc. and operated a gift store. After the Pettit’s [sic] left Les continued to operate the factory until his death in 1973.”



Figure 20 – Big Pine Key Glassworks flask (eBay)

BIXBY (1860s-ca. 1920)

Whitten (2013) illustrated this mark with the “X” much larger than the other four letters (Figure 21). Often, the name was accompanied by a one- to three-digit number embossed below it. The logo was used by S.M. Bixby & Co. on the bases of ink and blacking bottles. All of the examples we have seen were on mouth-blown bottles, many of which were quite crude (Figures 22 & 23). It is likely that Bixby began embossing his name on bottles during the 1860s – possibly shortly after he opened his blacking and ink business in 1865 – and the firm continued to emboss the name on the bottles until 1920, when the F.F. Daily Corp. bought the business. It is unlikely that mouth-blown bottles were used later than 1920 (Whitten 2013).



Figure 22 – Bixby blacking bottle (eBay)



Figure 21 – Bixby blacking base (eBay)



Figure 23 – Side seam on blacking bottle (eBay)

User History

S.M. Bixby & Co. , New York City (1865-1920)

S.M. Bixby quit the shoe business in 1865 to manufacture and sell ink and shoe blacking

(polish). Although the firm went bankrupt in 1877, Bixby reorganized under the same name the following year. Although Bixby died in 1912, the business continued until the F.F. Daily Corp. purchased the company in 1920. Although the Bixby brand of ink continued, we have not discovered when it was canceled (Whitten 2013).

B.K. (1815-1824)

According to Knittle (1927:441), the B.K. mark was used by Benedict Kimber. Benedict Kimber operated the Bridgeport Glass Works near Philadelphia from 1822 to 1824. The factory was in operation by Kimber and other owners from 1811 to 1847 (Hawkins 2009:307-308; McKearin & Wilson 1978:117-118; Toulouse 1971:86-87). McKearin & Wilson (1978:527) illustrated the flask (Figure 24).

Hawkins (2009:308) maintained that “it is likely that [Benedict Kimber] manufactured what is known today as historical flasks while operating the works. He is credited for a Washington and eagle flask bearing the initials B.K.” However, Hawkins further noted an interesting discrepancy: “Marked historical flasks attributed to Adams & Co. include Washington and eagle pint flasks with embossed WASHINGTON above a portrait of Washington and B.K. near the base on the opposite side found in yellow-green and emerald green (GI-13).” Unfortunately, Hawkins did not discuss *why* these flasks were attributed to Adams & Co.



Figure 24 – BK flask (McKearin & Wilson 1978:527)

Probable Manufacturer

Bridgeport Glass Works, Brownsville, Pennsylvania (1811-1847)

John Troth, Henry Minhart, and Isaac Van Hook built the Bridgeport Glass Works on the Monongahela River, near Brownsville in 1811 and began operations in October. Isaac Kimber and Jonah Cadwallader had joined the firm by 1816, but Benedict Kimber took over the factory, probably ca. 1822. N.&P. Schwerer operated the plant from 1824 to at least 1832, but Kimber appears to have maintained at least partial ownership during that period. The factory produced both window glass and hollowware (Hawkins 2009:307-308).

By 1837, A.&B. Kimber & Co. (Abraham and Benedict) had control of the factory and maintained the operation until 1847. Benedict Kimber also either bought or leased the Brownsville glass works at some point between 1843 and 1845. By 1850, however, Kimber had died of cholera (Hawkins 2009:308).

B.&L.O.CO. (ca. mid-1890s-ca. 1918)

We discovered this mark on a colorless salt-mouth bottle with no label. The base was embossed “B.&L.O.CO. / 11.” At least one other mouth-blown, tincture bottle was amber in color and had the exact same basemark (Figure 25).² Although the finishes of the two bottles were quite different (one narrow-mouth, the other wide-mouth), they could have been blown into the same mold – the top could have been tooled into either finish. Conversely, the “11” could have been a sans serif “II” rather than a mold number. The initials almost certainly indicated the Bausch & Lomb Optical Co. and were likely used from the mid-1890s to World War I (ca. 1919).

Manufacturer

Bausch & Lomb Optical Co.

John J. Bausch and his partner, Henry Lomb, founded the firm of Bausch & Lomb in 1853. Leaving Lomb to operate the German business, Bausch left for the U.S. in April of 1849 and began the American branch at Rochester, New York, in 1853 (Bausch & Lomb n.d.). While the full history of Bausch & Lomb is beyond the scope of this study, at some point, the firm built its own glass factory at Thuringen Forest, Germany, manufacturing laboratory glass as well as optics. The firm’s main office was in Frankfurt.

A 1904 catalog (Bausch & Lomb 1904:67) from the German plant showed an open-bottom bell glass that looked almost exactly like a tincture bottle (Figure 26). The technique to



Figure 25 –
B.&L.O.CO. (eBay)

² The term “saltmouth” indicated a wide-mouth bottle, while “tincture” represented a narrow-mouth container.

make the bell glass would have been identical to the one used for a tincture bottle, except that the bottle base would have been tooled open to produce the bell glass. The *Journal of Applied Microscopy and Laboratory Methods* (1912:2443) noted that Bausch & Lomb “also owns a glass factory for the manufacture of chemical glassware” – almost certainly the German plant.

In all probability, Bausch & Lomb produced tincture and salt-mouth bottles at the German factory and exported them to the U.S. from the mid-1890s (possibly earlier) to World War I. After that time, it is a pretty safe bet that Whitall Tatum made the bottles for Bausch & Lomb. With the quantity of bottles needed by Bausch & Lomb, the price would have been low to keep their business – cheaper for Bausch & Lomb than making their own, allowing them to concentrate on lenses.



Figure 26 – Bell glass (Bausch & Lomb catalog 1904)

B&M (1815-1833)

McKearin and Wilson (1978:540-541, 631-632) illustrated and discussed two flasks marked with “B&M” initials. They suggested that Baker & Martin, Perryopolis, Pennsylvania, owners of the New Boston Glass Works, were the makers, an identification confirmed by Hawkins (2009:47). It is important to note, however, that one flask – with a portrait of “GENERAL JACKSON” on the front and an eagle on the back – was noted by McKearin & Wilson as “extremely rare.” The initials “B&M” were embossed below the feet of the eagle (Figure 27). Baker & Martin were in business between 1815 and 1832.



Figure 27 – B&M flask (McKearin and Wilson 1978:54)

The other flask depicted a steam ship (oriented on its side when the flask stood upright) surrounded by “THE AMERICAN SYSTEM” on the front and a sheaf of wheat above the initials “B&M” on the back. McKearin & Wilson (1978:632) also described this flask as “extremely rare” and noted “one specimen recorded, 1965.” The researchers recorded other flasks of this type as having “B.P.&B.” embossed on the heel. Although they also noted the “B.P.&B.” flasks as “extremely rare,” it is obvious that they had actually seen (and drawn) an example. The “B&M”

variation, however, was not illustrated in the book, and the authors had almost certainly received a report – rather than having personal observation. Most of these early flasks have very poor quality embossing. It is possible that the “B&M” mark may actually have been “B.P.&B.” See the section on Beck, Phillips and the Bakewells for a discussion of the “B.P.&B.” logo.

Possible Manufacturer

New Boston Glass Works, Perryopolis, Pennsylvania (1815-1820)

Perryopolis Green Glass Works, Perryopolis, Pennsylvania (1820-1833)

Although Thomas Burns and Thomas Hursey built the New Boston Glass Works at Perryopolis in 1815, Jonathan Baker and John F. Martin took over the operation shortly thereafter. From at least 1820, the plant became known as the Perryopolis Green Glass Works. Thomas Blakely and Joseph Barnett purchased the plant in 1819 but went bankrupt in “a few years” (Hawkins 2009:45).

After that, the record becomes both complex and confused. Baker & Martin likely built another factory at Cookstown (later Fayette City), Pennsylvania, during the period when Blakely & Barnett operated the New Boston Glass Works, and probably ran the plant until ca. 1830. Baker & Martin then apparently again acquired the Perryopolis factory and made glass until they formally dissolved their partnership on September 4, 1833. The plant probably ceased hollowware production by 1832. The factory remained in operation under a series of owners until 1872 (Hawkins 2009:46-47; McKearin and Wilson 1978:118).\

Time Line (based on Hawkins 2009:45-47):

1815 – Burns & Hursey build New Boston Glass Works.

ca. 1815 – Baker & Martin take over.

1820 – Factory was also called Perryopolis Green Glass Works.

1819 – Blakely & Barnet acquire the plant.

ca. 1820-ca. 1830 – Baker & Martin factory at Cookstown.

ca. 1824 (after “a few years”) – Stewart & Irwin own plant.

“after 1830” – Baker & Martin back as owners.

1832 – New Boston Glass Works only makes window glass.
 Sep 4, 1833 – Baker & Martin dissolve partnership.
 1837 – Baker, Stewart & Co. operate New Boston Glass Works.
 ??? – “after Baker, Stewart & Co.,” Henry B. Goucher operates the plant.
 ???-1859 – NBGW operated by “several different companies.”
 1859 – Irwin sold his interest to Stewart.
 1859-1872 – Oliver H.P. Swerer (or Schwerer).
 1872 – atlas says owner is A. Stewart (almost certainly Andrew Stewart).

B.&M.S.Co. (1900-1919)

According to Fisher (2011), von Mechow (2022), and Whitten (2022), this mark was used by the Bottlers’ & Manufacturers’ Supply Co., Long Island City, New York (Figure 28). The company was in business from ca. 1900 to 1920. Whitten noted that the marking was “seen on heel of New York City blob beer bottle,” while von Mechow (2022) listed 21 examples of various beer bottle types, all used by brewers in the New York City area. All examples had the mark on the reverse heel, but punctuation was absent in most reports.

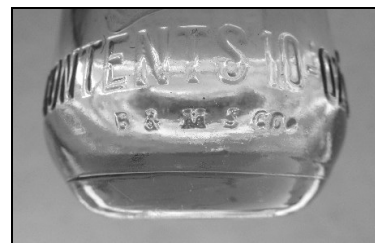


Figure 28 – B.&M.S.CO heelmark (eBay)

Although the above sources claimed that the firm was not an actual glass producer, *Commoner and Glassworker* (1908b:1) reported that “the Brookfield Glass Co., Brooklyn, N. Y., and the Bottlers & Manufacturers Supply Co., of Ravenwood, expect to put their plants in operation about September 14th, or 20th [of 1908].” This suggests that the plant actually manufactured bottles. Since the firm became the Peerless Glass Co. – a known manufacturer of glass containers – it is logical that the earlier firm also made glass.

Manufacturer History

Bottler’s & Manufacturer’s Supply Co., Long Island (1900-1919)

The Bottlers’ & Manufacturers’ Supply Co. was in business by August 1900 at Long

Island, New York. John Ohmeis was the president by at least 1904, with Richard E. Schroder as secretary and C.E. Heerlein as manager. The plant made “beer bottles, liquor and packers’ ware” at a single continuous tank with eight rings (*American Glass Review* 1934:159; von Mechow 2013).

John Ohmeis remained president through most of the life of the corporation, with Richard E. Schroder as secretary and William Lighte as treasurer from at least 1913 to at least 1918. The plant added a second tank in 1911 for a total of 20 operational rings (Directory of Directors Co. 1913:386, 479, 571; 1918:534; Toulouse 1971:418). The *New York Times* reported on March 4, 1919, that Bottlers’ & Manufacturers’ Supply had changed its name to the Peerless Glass Co. See Other P section for more on Peerless.

B.N.P.CO. (ca. 1916-1923, poss. until ca. 1928)

In an uncited report, Pete Schulz illustrated (in a hand drawing) a colorless, machine-made soda bottle with a crown finish embossed “BEECH-NUT CANAJOHARIE, N.Y.” around the shoulder and “B.N.P.CO. (arch) / A / 16 (horizontal)” on the base. The bottle carried a partial paper label identifying Clicquot Club Ginger Ale as the product. Initials in the basemark indicated the Beech-Nut Packing Co.

We found a number of the bottles on eBay, many with “19N 16” or similar numbers embossed on the heels – the manufacturer’s mark of the Newark plant of the American Bottle Co., used from 1916 to 1930 (Figure 29). As explained below, the final date code on one of the Beech-Nut bottles would be 1923.

The *Kansas City Post* for October 8, 1923, explained the seeming mystery of why Clicquot Club labels appeared on rival Beech-Nut bottles, noting that the Cliquot Club of Mills, Massachusetts, “recently” bought “the beverage business” of the Beech Nut Packing Co. of Canjohari, New York. The merge consolidated the “two largest factors in the manufacture of bottled ginger ale, root beer, birch beer and sarsaparilla” in the U.S. –



Figure 29 – B.N.P.CO.
(eBay)

effectively ending the production of Beech Nut as a beverage brand. *Printer's Ink* for October 11, 1923, announced that Clicquot Club sent a message to its distributors, saying, “Your salesmen will confer a favor upon their retail customers by explaining our readiness to pay for Beech-Nut empties, and we believe this will afford excellent opportunity for jobbing salesmen to book Cliquot-Club orders.” Obviously, Clicquot Club continued to use the old Beech-Nut bottles until the supply was exhausted – probably about five years after the last date of manufacture.

BO (1881-1889)

We have only seen a couple of examples of this mark embossed on the bas of a light-green, square bottle with a packer finish. Our example was mouth blown but had no other diagnostic markings, except for “BO” embossed in a double stamp on the base (Figures 30 & 31). Although a very few were made earlier, the vast majority of double-stamped basemarks were on bottles made during the ca. 1895-1914 period.



Figure 31 – Bottle with BO mark

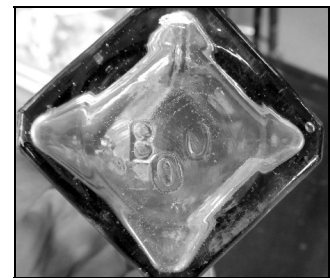


Figure 30 – BO logo

During the 2024 rewrite, we discovered a bottle on eBay that had the remains of a paper label that added to the story. The label showed that the bottle contained “BUTTON’S RAVEN GLOSS FOR DRESSING [ADULT]S’ AND CHILDREN’S SHOES . . . Manufactured by BUTTON & OTTLEY Barklay St. [Ne]w York” (Figure 32). Therefore, the “BO” basemark indicated Button & Ottley.



Figure 32 – Button & Ottley label (eBay)

Button & Ottley (Eugene L. Button and James H. Ottley) applied for Trademark No. 8,388 for “The Word Raven” used on “Liquid Shoe and Leather Dressings” on May 4, 1881. Based on ads in various newspapers, Button & Ottley were in business from 1881 to 1889; Button & Thurston – 1890 to 1898; Raven Gloss Mfg. Co. – 1899 to 1918?

User

Although part of the Button & Ottley story is not relevant to this study, it is too interesting to ignore. So, pardon the detour.

Button & Ottley (and Their Successors), New York

Eugene L. Button and James H. Ottley opened Button & Ottley at 71 Barklay St. in New York City in 1877. On May 4, 1881, the firm applied for Trademark No. 8,388 for “The Word Raven” used on “Liquid Shoe and Leather Dressings.” Based on ads in various newspapers, Button & Ottley were in business until 1889, when Ottley left the partnership. By the following year, Charles S. Thurston joined Button, renaming the firm as Button & Thurston, and remaining together until at least 1898. In 1899, however, the business reorganized as the Raven Gloss Mfg. Co. According to the Trow Directory (1902), Newcomb Cleveland was president with Charles P. Creamer as secretary, and Henry H. Parsons as treasurer. The firm had a capital of \$100,000, and Daniel P. Morse, A.E. Pattison, and Thomas H. Bartindale were additional directors.

Newcomb Cleveland had applied for a patent for a “Can Opener” on December 31, 1902, and received Patent No. 727,905 on May 12, 1903 (Figure 33). Although the system was slightly different, it is easy to recognize this as the ancestral patent to the opener used on shoe polish cans today – in the 21st century. Prior to this invention, such tins were opened by inserting a coin into a slot between the lid and the box body then twisting the coin.



Figure 34 – Raven Gloss ad (*Shoe Retailer* 1904:22)

Raven Gloss advertised the opener by 1904 (Figure 34), noting that the World Polish Mfg. Co. had been using a similar opener on its Blackola brand and that Raven Gloss had brought suit for patent infringement against the offending company (*Shoe Retailer* 1904:22).

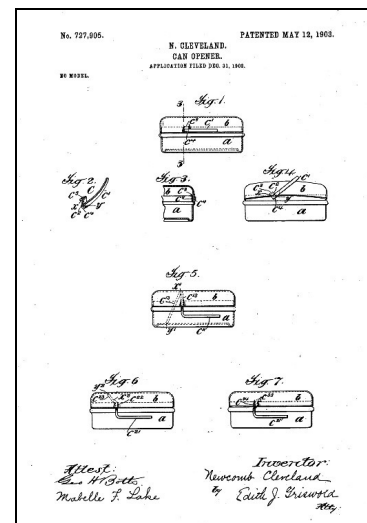


Figure 33 – Cleveland 1903 patent

Even though the Raven Gloss firm continued to advertise both the key opener and Raven Gloss shoe polish until 1914, by at least 1908, Whittemore Bros. & Co. had acquired Cleveland's 1903 patent for the opener and taken over the lawsuits – one against “Reinhardt” (apparently a manufacturer or seller of the opening device), the other against World Polish Mfg. Co., the original company sued by Raven Gloss.

The firm based its charge of infringement on three specific claims as stated in the patent, but the judge could find no infringement based on any of the three items. Each of the claims were too specific to be applied to the slightly different keys involved – unlike broad claims found in many patents. Therefore, Reinhardt and World Polish were enabled to continue their use of the “key” opener (Caselaw 2023; Circuit Court 1913).

The court decisions caused Whittemore Bros. to seek another form of protection, and they either developed or discovered an improvement in the “key” that was patented on June 13, 1911. Although we have been unable to find the actual patent, the new “key” was *very* similar to the opener in use on shoe polish tins today (Figure 35).



Figure 35 – Raven Glass “key” (eBay)

The February 24, 1914, issue of *Meyer Brothers Druggist* reported the sale of Raven Gloss to Whittemore Bros. & Co., who promised to continue Raven Gloss and Raven Bright along with their own brands. The brothers renewed the Raven Gloss trademark in 1924 and remained in business until they sold to the Akwell Corp. in 1965.

BOC

This mark was embossed on at least one export beer bottle made during the 1885-1890s period. The bottle, in the David Whitten collection, had a Baltimore Loop finish and was embossed “PAT (arch) / BOC (horizontal) / 85 (inverted arch)” on the base. The patent date is for the Baltimore Loop finish.

William Painter applied for a patent for a “Bottle-Stopper” on June 5, 1885, and received Patent No. 327,099 on September 29 of that year. He assigned half of rights to Lewis R. Keiser,

his employer at the time (Murrill & Keizer). He went on to found the Bottle Seal Co. in 1885 and the Crown Cork & Seal Co. in 1893. None of the people or firms he worked with or for had “BOC” initials (Lockhart et al. 2014). Figure 36 is a comparison of the “BOC” basemark with a typical “D.O.C.” basemark.



Figure 36 – BOC basemark compared with DOC logo (David Whitten collection and NPSWACC)

“DOC” logos varied dramatically in size and lettering depending on the individual engraver.

Similarly, we have been unable to find any bottler with “BOC” initials; the mark was probably an engraver’s error for the “DOC” logo used by D.O. Cunningham & Co. Cunningham used the “DOC” logo (with or without punctuation) from the inception of his glass house in 1880 to some point in the early 20th century, possibly as late as 1931 (Lockhart et al. 2005).

Whitten disputed this identification and noted his belief “that this does stand for an obscure glass company (or some type of bottling or brewing firm?) with those corresponding initials. The embossed lettering is very strong and bold on this bottle.” While we note Whitten’s contention, many errors on bottles were made in strong embossing. At the time, people ordered molds in handwritten letters. In most cases, the directions for embossing was poor – at best. In some of the letters to Charles Yockel, initials were written in cursive – often letters with flares. A “D” with a curlicue on the bottom or top could be mistaken for a “B” in a letter. In addition, an actual engraver may have been given verbal instructions – and a “B” would have been easily mistaken for a “D.”

Dozens of similar errors appeared on bases, plates, and sides of bottles – into the 1940s. Quality control at the factories was poor or non-existent; although, a glass house owner would periodically test bottles to see how well they were tempered. A baseplate could have been used for months before the error was discovered. To send it back to the mold cutter – usually not located in the glass houses, themselves, until the late 1890s – meant pulling that mold out of production until the baseplate could be returned to the mold shop, re-cut, and sent back. Since the molds were the most expensive part of the process, most glass houses or bottlers just lived with the errors and made sure they were corrected on the next mold. The “BOC” base is likely such an error.

BODE (1882-1903)

At least one variation of a Hutchinson bottle was embossed BODE on the front heel (Figure 37). Although this had the general appearance of a manufacturer's mark (located at the heel – thin-line embossing), Bode was not a glass house – or even

a jobber. This was the mark of Gustav A. Bode, a Chicago flavoring and extracts firm that shipped all over the U.S. Ron Fowler (personal communication, 11/10/2011) suggested that Bode “utilized [the Hutchinson bottles] as a way to send samples of syrups and/or extracts to potential bottler customers who sent for samples.”

Fowler also noted that there were a number of other Hutchinson bottles with the name BODE, although most did not masquerade as a maker's mark (Figure 38). The company was in business from at least 1890 to December 12, 1903, when the firm was reorganized as the Chicago Extract Mfg. Co.

(American Carbonator and American Bottler

1904:76; von Mechow 2022; Whitten 2022). Von Mechow (2022) also noted that Bode used a “GAB” logo, also on the back heel of a bottle.

Hutchbook (Fowler 2013) listed two bottles with “BODE” logos and three embossed with “GAB” (Figure 39). The GAB bottles were embossed “JOS. HLADOVEC / 82 & 84 FISK ST. / CHICAGO, ILL.” on the front diamond-shaped object on the base – almost certainly connected with Hladovec.



Figure 38 – G.A. Bode's Extract bottle (eBay)



Figure 37 – BODE heelmark (David Whitten collection)



Figure 39 – GAB heelmark (eBay)



Figure 40 – BODE heelmark (Farnsworth & Walthall 2011:228)

Farnsworth & Walthall (2011:59, 228-229), however, provided a different dimension to the study of the bottles and the firm. They illustrated two variations of bottles, both embossed

“E.Y. CRONK / ROOT BEER / CHICAGO” on the front body and “BODE” on the heel (Figures 40 & 41). The bottles were made in cylindrical soda shapes, one with a squared (but not tapered) “blob” finish, the other with a rounded tapered finish. Cronk was listed in the city directories as a root beer producer from 1879 to 1880, and the Chicago branch was closed by 1883. Although we have not found any historical references to Bode earlier than 1890, he must have been in business by at least 1882 for his name to appear on these bottles. It is also apparent that Bode acted as a jobber in bottles to his customers in addition to his extract business.



Figure 41 – E.Y. Cronk bottles
(Farnsworth & Walthall
2011:228)

BOLEY MFG Co. (ca. 1890-ca. 1908)

The Boley Mfg. Co. used a variety of different logos to identify its bottles. These appeared mostly on beer bottles and Hutchinson bottles. Von Mechow (2022) included marks embossed on the bases of blob-top beer bottles and Hutchinson bottles in at least three configurations (total of 56 examples):

1. BOLEY MFG. CO. (arch) / N.Y. (inverted arch)
2. BOLEY MFG. CO. (arch) / New York (inverted arch)
3. BOLEY MFG. CO. (arch) / MADE BY (horizontal) / N.Y. (inverted arch)

The first configuration (N.Y. in an inverted arch) was by far the most common, and it frequently had B, 1, 2, 3, 6, 9, or a “BC monogram” in the center of the base (Figures 42 & 43). Von Mechow recorded “MFG” with and without apostrophes (“MF’G” “M’F’G”) and “NY” with and without punctuation. Both of those may reflect the reports he received more than actual variation. Several bottles were listed only as “BOLEY MFG. CO. N.Y.” – but those were probably the same as the first configuration listed above. The second and third variations on the list were each only on one bottle. In von Mechow’s sample of 56 bottles, most were used by companies in New York, with a few examples from New Hampshire, New Jersey, Connecticut, Maryland, and Georgia.



Figure 42 – Typical Boley
base (eBay)



Figure 43 – Boley beer bottle (eBay)

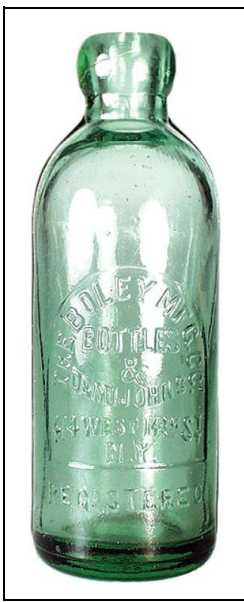


Figure 44 – Boley Mfg. Co. Hutchinson bottle (Glass Works Auction)

Hutchbook (Fowler 2013) listed 15 variations of the mark on Hutchinson bottles, all with the “BOLEY MFG. CO. (arch) / N.Y. (inverted arch)”

configuration or the name listed with no line break.

Most of these had a “B” in the center of the base, but none had numbers. Hutchbook also listed a bottle that was embossed on the front “THE BOLEY MF’G CO (arch) / BOTTLES / & (horizontal) / DEMIJOHNS

(inverted arch) / 414 WEST 14TH ST / N.Y. (horizontal)” all in a horseshoe plate, with “REGISTERED” below the plate (Figure 44) – as well as slight variations (including “BOLEY MANUFACTURING CO.” Each of these included the typical Boley basemark.

One whiskey bottle offered on eBay is of interest. The base was embossed “B BOLEY” horizontally across the center (Figures 45 & 46). This was probably an earlier bottle, made prior to the 1903 incorporation of the firm (see below). The bottles with the Boley Mfg. Co. name were probably made after the incorporation, from 1903 to ca. 1916.



Figure 45 – B BOLEY base (eBay)



Figure 46 – Boley whiskey bottle (eBay)

Manufacturer History

Henry Boley, New York, New York (1871-1883)

Benjamin Boley, New York, New York (1884-1895)

Boley Mfg. Co., New York, New York (1896-1906)

Boley Mfg. Co., Olean, New York (1906-1908)

Henry Boley established a bottle supply business in 1871 at 90-92 Sheriff. His son, Benjamin Boley, joined his father in 1881, taking over the business in late 1882 or early 1883, expanding to a second unit at 96 S. 5th Ave. in 1887. Henry apparently rejoined his son in 1889, but they seem to have closed the 5th Ave. location two years later. In 1893, Henry disappeared from the listings, the same year that Benjamin moved the business to 52 Cannon (City Directories cited in von Mechow 2022). Benjamin Boley applied for a patent for a “Bottle-Stopper” on October 23, 1893, and received Patent No. 521,779 on June 26, 1894. The patent was for an improvement on Karl Hutter’s version of the Lightning stopper and used a very similar wire-bail arrangement. The main difference, however, was a placement of the wire inside the stopper that would prevent the side motion of the stopper and create a more effective seal (Figure 47). This invention may have catapulted Boley from being a jobber to becoming an actual manufacturer.

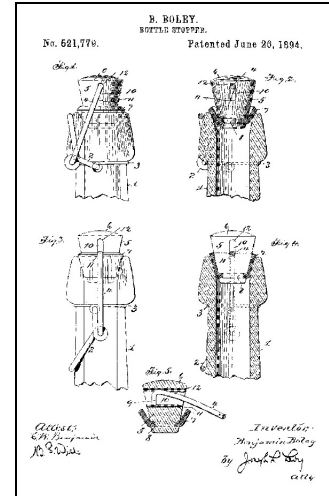


Figure 47 – Boley’s 1894 patent

On January 21, 1896, the *Brooklyn Standard Union* reported that Helen Boley, Benjamin Boley, and Solomon Bermas had incorporated the Manhattan Glass Works of Brooklyn with a capital of \$12,000. Located at the corner of Metropolitan Ave. and Morgan Ave., the plant was sometimes referred to as the Metropolitan Glass Works. Boley apparently combined the two business at that time (1896) to form the Boley Mfg. Co. – although the factory probably continued to be called either the Manhattan or Metropolitan Glass Works. Describing Boley’s containers, the *Baltimore Daily Record* explained that “usually the words, Boley Mfg. Co. N.Y., appear upon the base of the bottle” (von Mechow 2022).

On January 4, 1903, a fire began at the glass works, raging through the wooden structure and destroying the business – a loss of about \$10,000. Boley reorganized the corporation after the fire with a capital of \$30,000, and had rebuilt the factory by March of 1903. Frederick Lutz, J.A. Griffin and Boley, himself, were the incorporators, and the new plant initially made demijohns (*Commoner and Glassworker* 1907:7; 1908a:2; *Illustrated Glass & Pottery World* 1903:16; Mayer 1908:13) In 1905, the plant made beer bottles. Boley was the president in 1906, with Griffin as secretary, and Lutz only listed as a director (Trow Directory 1906:85; Thomas Publishing Co. 1905:104).

In December 1905, Boley was “commencing construction of a large glass works at Olean N.Y.” (*Engineering Review* 1905:27). The plant was in operation by October of 1906 and made beer, soda, wine, brandy, packers’ and preservers’ ware, but the Brooklyn factory still only listed beer bottles. The Brooklyn plant closed about this time (Smith 2010; Thomas Publishing Co. 1907:159; von Mechow 2022).

An unfortunate explosion in the engine room on January 1, 1906, caught several buildings on fire, causing ca. \$25,000 worth of damage, only \$15,000 of which was covered by insurance. The main production unit was not badly hurt, so the workers were able to rebuild (using frame buildings instead of concrete block – the original construction material) by February 25. The Olean plant made demijohns in the 1907-1908 period, including wicker wrapping, probably to James A. Griffin’s 1898 patent (No. 598,305) and Boley’s 1899 patent (No. 626,407). Griffin assigned half the rights of his patent to Boley (Figure 48). Throughout 1907, the plant suffered from various issues but remained solvent (von Mechow 2022). However, the Olean factory was “for sale or rent” in July 1908 (*Commoner and Glassworker* 1908a:2), setting an almost certain date of 1908 for the end of production. The *Olean Times Herald* for August 23, 1929, added a postscript that “Benjamin Boley and wife” transferred a deed to the Acme Glass Co. on February 17, 1913.

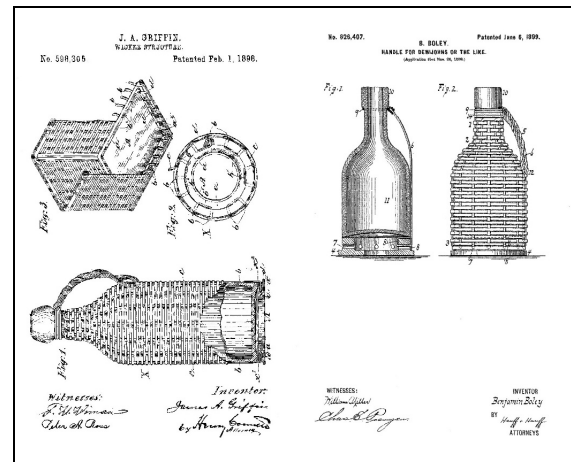


Figure 48 – Griffin’s 1898 patent & Boley’s 1899 patent

Von Mechow 2022) added that

the last listing of the Boley Manufacturing Company was in 1914. Benjamin Boley was still involved in selling bottles in 1918 and he is listed as a glass manufacturer in a 1922 Brooklyn news paper. There was a Boley Glass Company in 1922 located at Grapeville, Pennsylvania.

J.L BOYLE

A mouth-blown aqua bottle was embossed “CHARLES ELLIS SON & Co.” around the shoulders and “J.L. BOYLE / 949” on the base. See discussion in the Other J section.

BPK / GW (1967 to 1970)

An eBay auction reported this mark as “a triangular stamp pressed into the molten glass . . . reads BPK at the top and GW at the base of the triangle.” The Big Pine Key Glass Works also made flasks, but this mark may have only been used on paper weights – as reported in the auction. Also see entry on Big Pine Key above.

THE Brelle JAR (1913-1916)

Toulouse (1969:52) noted two variations of this jar, one embossed “Brelle (cursive with an underlining “tail” / JAR,” the other preceded by the word “THE.” Lids were embossed “THE BRELLE FRUIT JAR MFG. Co (arch) / PAT OCT 20 / 1912 (both horizontal) / SAN JOSE, CAL. (inverted arch). He dated the jars ca. 1913-1916. Roller (1983:74) only mentioned the variation with “THE” and noted that another had “THE Brelle JAR in a circular plate.” He dated the jar ca. 1914-1916. Creswick (1987b:22) illustrated the jar and agreed with Roller’s two variations – but followed the Toulouse dates (Figure 49). Coulson (2007:1) cited Caniff as stating that the jars solarize to an amethyst color. The only known jar manufactured by the company was the one patented in 1912 (see other Brelle patents in the Manufacturer History section below).

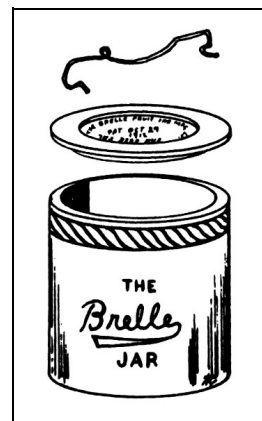


Figure 49 – The Brelle Jar
(Creswick 1987a:22)

Manufacturer History

Brelle Fruit Jar Mfg. Co., San Jose, California (1913-1916)

The Brelle Automatic Sealer Co. filed for incorporation with the State of California on August 12, 1912, and received its charter on May 13, 1913. With offices in the Brelle Building,

Ferndale, California, the company's purpose was to reproduce and sell the jar invented by Frank G. Brelle. The company erected a plant at San Jose in 1913 and changed its name to the Brelle Fruit Jar Manufacturing Co. by December 9 (Edeline 1996; Roller 1983:74).

Frank G. Brelle was a resident of Ferndale by at least April of 1894 and was a “hardware man.” Brelle built a new hardware store and tin shop in 1894, and that structure was henceforth apparently known as the Brelle Building with Brelle's offices at the rear. Brelle fell out of a second-story window as the newest Brelle Building was being constructed in 1898. He broke his arm and was shaken up but was otherwise unharmed. Brelle seems to have been constantly engaged in various enterprises, including a tailor shop and a cleaning and pressing establishment (Edeline 1996).

On April 30, 1910, while living at San Jose, California, Brelle filed for his first patent for a “Fruit-Jar” and received Patent No. 983,423 on February 7, 1911. According to Roller (1983:74), “In 1910 and 1911, he tried to interest Ball Brothers Glass Mfg. Co. and Hemingray Glass Co., both of Muncie, Indiana, in making sample jars for him, with no success.” Back in Ferndale, Brelle filed for another patent for an updated variation of the jar on January 22, 1912, and received Patent No. 1,042,390 on October 29 of that year (Figure 50).

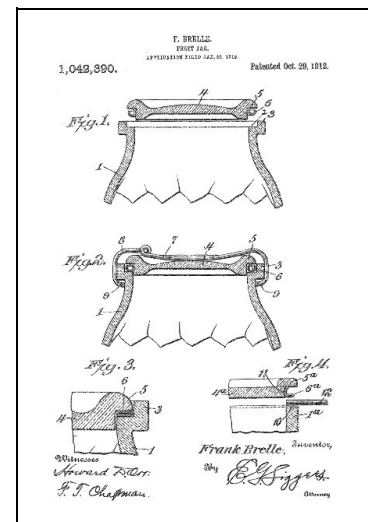


Figure 50 – Brelle's 1912 patent

On June 21, 1913, Brelle filed for yet another patent, this time for a “Machine for Cutting Rubber Gaskets.” Although the machine was intended to make fruit jar gaskets, the type it produced were flat rubber rings or slightly bent ones, not those that were round in cross section, like the ones required to seal his own fruit jars designs. Brelle received Patent No. 1,107,404 on August 18, 1914. He designed his final fruit jar in 1914 and applied for a patent on August 5. This jar was quite different with a lid held in place by “holding clips,” two wire clamps that pressed into two grooves in the upper sides of the shoulder-less jar. He was issued Patent No. 1,142,231 on June 8, 1915.

Brelle's plant began production in late March or early April of 1914. The last listing for the plant was in 1916, when the factory used a single continuous tank with seven rings to make

green fruits and packers (Roller 1983:74; Toulouse 1971:93). Actual jars, however, have only been found in colorless glass that solarizes to an amethyst tint (Coulson 2007:1; Roller 1983:74). The drawing in Creswick (1987b:32) showed the jar patented in 1912, apparently the only Brelle container actually produced.

B.R.G.CO. (1905-ca. 1906)

An eBay auction offered a strap-sided whiskey flask embossed on the base with “B.R.G. CO.” The front was embossed “WARRANTED, FULL QUART” at the shoulder and on the front body, inside a round plate with “R.L. CHRISTIAN & CO., RICHMOND, VA.” The flask had a cup base, a two-part (double-ring) finish, and measured 10" tall and 4 5/8" across at the shoulder.



Figure 51 – B.R.G.CO. basemark

Other eBay bottles with B.R.G.CO. basemarks included an apothecary bottle, a round packer, and a crown-finished soda bottle, light blue in color, made for a Wisconsin bottler. The soda bottle was machine made. The “o” in “Co” may be upper or lower case. Our final example left the manufacturer in no doubt. This was a medicinal-style bottle embossed “SAUER’S EXTRACTS” on two side panels and “B.R.G.CO.” on the base (Figures 51 & 52). Grant (2003:4) noted that B.R.G.CO. was used by the Blair-Ruehl Glass Co. and illustrated an example. Both Blair-Ruehl and Sauer’s Extracts were located at Richmond, Virginia. Also see the discussion of Sauer’s Extract bottles in the American Glass Works – Richmond section.



Figure 52 – Sauer’s Extract bottle

Manufacturer History

Blair-Ruehl Glass Co., Richmond, Virginia (1905-1906)

Blair Glass Mfg. Co., Richmond, Virginia (1906-1911)

Blair Glass Co., Manchester, Virginia (1907-1911)

The Blair-Ruehl Glass Co. incorporated on June 29, 1905. Percy S. Boshier was the president, with J. Harrison Blair as vice president and George O. Ruehl as secretary. The corporation had a capitalization of \$50,000 and planned to make bottles at a plant it was building in Richmond, Virginia. The firm amended its corporate charter on July 29 of that year. Later that year, the corporation completed its plant and had a single continuous tank with five rings (Roller 1998b; Secretary of the Commonwealth 1905:260).

The firm was very short-lived. On September 29, 1906, the *Richmond Times Dispatch* reported that the charter for the Blair-Ruehl Glass Co. had “recently been amended, and hereafter the establishment will be known as the Blair Glass Company. Mr. Ruehl will retire from the business.” Percy S. Boshier was the president with John D. Blair as vice president and Adolphus Blair as secretary and treasurer. It is unclear what happened to J. Harrison Blair from the first company.

However, the *Times Dispatch* was not finished with George Ruehl. On January 15, 1907, the newspaper added that Wilmer M. Cox and Ruehl had joined together to form the Ruhel & Cox Co. at 111 S. 12th St., Richmond, “where they have large sample and ware-rooms, and will be pleased to show goods and quote prices on GLASSWARE OF EVERY DESCRIPTION, JUGS, CORKS, ICE CREAM, SODA WATER, BAKER, BAR AND HOTEL SUPPLIES.” A jobber, the firm was only peripherally in competition with Blair – and may have even sold some of Blair’s products.

By 1907, the Blair Glass Co. had opened in Manchester, Virginia, with Boshier as president, J.D. Blair as vice president, A. Blair as secretary, and A. Bowen as manager – the same officers as in the Virginia branch. The plant had two continuous tanks with ten rings, but the number of rings increased to 12. A May 18, 1910, letterhead advertised druggists’ chemists’ and perfumers’ glassware (Roller 1998c).

The *Coffeeville Daily Journal* took up the story on March 21, 1911, noting that “the Blair Glas Co., Manchester, Va., had discarded its machines and returned to the old hand process” because “the grade of ware the machines turned out was not acceptable to the company’s trade.” The firm’s two tanks continued in operation, with 18 shops that were “turning out a general line of prescription ware.”

Apparently, the Richmond plant remained open as the Blair Glass Mfg. Co. On April 4, 1911, the *Roanoke Evening News* revealed that the Blair Glass Mfg. Co. “filed a petition for voluntary bankruptcy in United States district court here [on April second], setting forth its liabilities at \$30,856, and its assets at \$25,382.” The court made receivers of Cary Ellis Stern and Louis E. Cutchins. Almost two months later (May 24, 1911), the *Richmond Times Dispatch* added the final chapter, when it announced the “Bankrupt Auction Sale of the Machinery and Equipment of the Blair Glass Mfg. Co., Inc., Twenty-First and Decatur Street, South Richmond.” Among the items listed by the District Court decree of April 27 were “237 tons of glass, 837 empty cases . . . one barrel Manganese, one barrel Arsenic, one barrel Antimony, one lot of Columbia and Washington Oval Molds. . . . Sale Positive Terms Cash.”

Although the Blair Glass Mfg. Co. was finished, it is unclear what happened to the Blair Glass Co. at Manchester. When Blair opened its Manchester plant, we lost track of the one at Richmond until its demise. However, we have the Richmond plants demise but no closing for the factory at Manchester. We can assume two things: 1) the Richmond plant – probably called the Blair Glass Mfg. Co. – remained in production until early 1911; and 2) the Manchester factory almost certainly closed about the same time as the one in Richmond.

“BRILLIANTINE”

According to Peterson (1968:41) this mark was registered by the Jefferis Glass Co., Philadelphia,³ Pennsylvania, for use on blown ware in 1896. The *Official Gazette* of the Patent Office for May 10, 1898, listed “BRILLIANTINE” (with quotation marks) as Serial No. 31,539, filed by the “Jefferis Glass Works” on February 14, 1898 – used since May 1, 1896, and that the mark “is usually placed, either by a label or stencil, on the package containing the goods, but is sometimes blown into the bottles or other vessels or receptacles.” The registration further stated that the “style of lettering is unimportant.” See JGCO section for information about the company. We have not seen an example of this mark on a bottle. This should not be confused with Brilliantine hair tonic, sold in the 1920s.

³ This probably indicates that the main business office for Jefferis was in Philadelphia; the factory was in Fairton, New Jersey.

An ad for the The Jefferis Glass Works in the January 1897 *Practical Druggist* noted that the firm made “High Grade Flint, Green, Amber Bottles” in factories at Fairton, New Jersey, and Rochester,

Pennsylvania. The firm added that “we have succeeded in producing a new light green glass called ‘Brilliantine,’

specially adapted for use of manufacturers of proprietary medicines and druggists on account of its great STRENGTH and LUSTRE.” This makes it pretty certain that Jefferis actually made bottles bearing the name “BRILLIANTINE” (Figure 53).

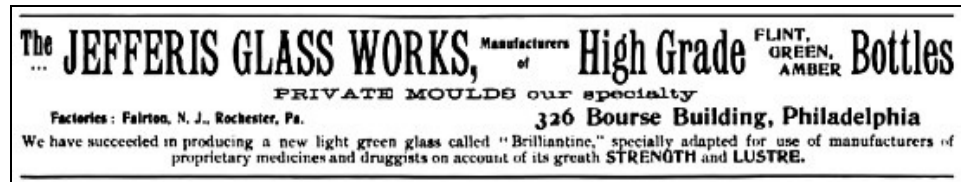


Figure 53 – Jefferis Glass Works ad (*Practical Druggist* 1897:1)

Edna Liggin filled in the final information in her column “Bottle Notes” in the *Gazette* (Farmerville, Louisiana) of December 7, 1972: “Did you know that Brilliantine embossed on the bottom of a bottle says just one year—1900? The Jefferis Glass Co. made the bottles, and striving for perfect bottles, threw out 20 per cent of the bottles. Wonder where they threw them?” With a production of just one year, no wonder we could not find an example.

BROCK in a wooden shoe (1921-1970s)

Peter Utas contributed a photo of a five-gallon water bottle embossed “FRESPURO ARTESIAN WATER Co. LOS ANGELES” in a circle around the base with “BROCK” in a wooden shoe in the middle and a “32” date code (Figure 54). Although the Brock Glass Co. made smaller containers, this appears to be the only five-gallon water bottle it ever produced.



Figure 54 – Brock (Peter Utas)

Manufacturer History

Brock Glass Co., Santa Ana, California (1921-1970s)

On September 22, 1921, the *Santa Ana Register* noted that “the Brock Glass factory,

which started operations only a few days ago, will show some of its newly-made novelties, lantern globes, etc.” at the 1921 Orange County Fair at Huntington Beach. N.V.D. Brock was the proprietor. The same paper announced the incorporation of the Brock Glass Co. on January 24 of the following year, with C.W. Irwin, J.A. Maag, Nick V.D. Brock, George Carroll, and Kenneth Van Slyke as directors. The new firm had a capital of \$75,000.

On April 7, 1926, the *Register* provided a cameo look at the glass plant, claiming that it made its own molds for glass items such as “Crystal and Opal glass drawer knobs and pulls, caster cups, opal glass shades, small containers, and other specialties.” The operation employed “27 to 30 men, pressers, gatherers, finishers and blowers,” working two shops all year round, one at each furnace. The firm sold in excess of \$100,000 worth of products in 1926 and remained in business into the 1970s.

BROOKE or BROOKE CO.

According the Dairy Antique site (2013), John B. Brooke embossed “BROOKE” on the narrow-mouthed dairy bottles he sold. See the John B. Brooke section (in the J volume) for more details as well as an alternative possibility provided by von Mechow (2022).

BROOKLYN GLASS BOTTLE WORKS (1831-1868)

We have recorded cylinder whiskey bottles offered for sale on eBay and other auction websites that were embossed “BROOKLYN GLASS BOTTLE WORKS” in a circle on a Rickett’s type mold on their bases (Figure 55). Each bottle had a concave base inside the Rickett’s plate with a mamelon at the center. Some bottles were olive in color, others amber. Each appears to have been blown into a dip mold with two hinged top leaves. The shoulders on some were embossed “PATENT” – although others had no shoulder embossing. Each was topped with a two-part, applied “brandy” finish.



Figure 55 – Brooklyn Glass Bottle Works (Glass Works Auction)

Whitten (2022) noted: “From the type and general style of bottle which carries the mark (early cylinder whiskey), it looks like the company was probably in operation during the 1860s or 1870s.” Some of these bottles were found at the excavation of the shipwreck of the S.S. Republic, sunk in October 1865 (Gerth & Lindsey 2011:1, 16).

Manufacturer History

Brooklyn Glass Bottle Works, Brooklyn (1831-1868)

McKearin and Wilson (1978:134) discussed what they called the “Brooklyn Glass Works.” The plant was in an area of New Jersey apparently called Seven Causeways, near Brooklyn. John Marshall and Frederick Stanger built a “bottle glasshouse” at the site, although the firm changed owners several times. The factory was apparently destroyed by fire in 1856 but was rebuilt in 1857 and remained in operation until 1868. Although the plant certainly made bottles, the researchers did not specifically mention liquor containers.

Thomas W. Stanger established a new plant nearby between 1848 and 1850, and this became known as the New Brooklyn Glass Works. This one remained in business until 1876. This plant made calabash bottles for liquor, but it was probably called the Isabella Glassworks at some point (McKearin & Wilson 1978:134-135). See the Isabella Glassworks in the Other I file.

BRUNSWIG (1907-1920s)

Kevin Dougherty showed us a colorless prescription bottle, mouth blown with a cup bottom and no embossing other than “BRUNSWIG” on the base (Figure 56). The manufacturer is currently unknown.

Probable User

Brunswig Drug Co., Los Angeles, California (1907-1969)



Figure 56 – BRUNSWICK
(Kevin Dougherty)

According to the *Los Angeles Herald* (December 22, 1907), the Brunswick Drug Co. was the “headquarters for everything in drugs, chemicals, medicines and glassware.” They shipped all over the West, to Mexico, and South America. The business was “launched in Los Angeles in the early spring of 1888 . . . by L.N. Brunswick, with F.W. Braun. This year, Mr. Brunswick purchased Braun’s interest and changed to Brunswick Drug Co.” The *Bridgeport Post* reported on March 24, 1969, that the Bergen Drug Co. had bought the firm, renaming the operation as the Burgin Brunswick Corp.

B.&S.

According to Knittle (1927:441), the B.&S. mark was used by either Boston & Sandwich or Beatty & Stillman of Steubenville, Ohio. Toulouse (1971:95-97) researched the two companies (from secondary sources) to provide additional information (see Company Histories below). Beatty & Stillman apparently made tableware, making them an unlikely choice.

McKearin & McKearin (1941:597) noted that Boston & Sandwich exhibited “6 bottles, and 1 flask” at the Franklin Institute in 1831. While McKearin & Wilson (1978:98) acknowledged that “flasks were blown there, for ‘flasks’ were entered several times in Deming Jarves’s account book of 1825,” they made no mention that we can find of a “B.&S.” logo. This may be a bogus mark – one we have been unable to find. If real, however, Boston & Sandwich would be a good candidate.

Histories of Possible Makers

Beatty & Stillman, Steubenville, Ohio (1845-1880)

Joseph Beatty and Edward Stillman bought the abandoned Kilgore & Hanna factory in 1845 but sold it to David and Neal Hull the following year. Thus, Beatty & Stillman were only in business for a single year. Toulouse noted that the plant made tumblers and goblets, although Van Rensselaer claimed the factory made “all kinds of glassware.” After a series of owners, Joseph’s younger brother, Alexander Beatty, gained control of the company in 1852. The business moved to Findlay, Ohio, in 1880 (Iwen 2006:13; Knittle 1927:385-386; McKearin & McKearin 1941:599; Roller 1998a; Toulouse 1971:95; Van Rensselaer 1969:227).

Roller (1998a) added that the plant was listed as flint glass manufacturers and dealers in queensware in 1850. It was thus an unlikely candidate for the B&S mark on bottles.

Boston & Sandwich Mfg. Co., Sandwich, Massachusetts (1825-1888)

Deming Jarvis operated the Sandwich Mfg. Co. at Sandwich, Massachusetts, from July 4, 1825, to April 3, 1826. He joined with Henry Rice, Andrew T. Hall, and Edmund Monroe on February 22, 1826, to form the Boston & Sandwich Mfg. Co. The factory made tableware, lamps, glass knobs, and other pressed goods – as well as a few flasks and bottles. The plant closed on January 1, 1888 (McKearin & McKearin 1941:597).

B&S (ca. 1880s-at least 1892)

We discovered a colorless base fragment embossed “Z (straightened to 45-degree angles) / B&S” (Figure 57). The container was round, and the initials were double stamped. The double-stamp phenomenon was produced when a blower pressed the gob of glass at the end of his blowpipe onto the base to make sure the gob was centered in the mold then lifted it to blow the bottle, unintentionally adding a “ghost” of the mark. These were mostly found in the 1895-1914 period.



Figure 57 – B&S

Whitten (2024) identified the “B&S” logo as:

unidentified with certainty. Seen on base of pickle or “chow chow” bottle, probably from Great Britain. A possibility would be Thomas Barron & Sons, an obscure bottle maker operating circa early 1890s. The initials are also found on the bottom of some Worcestershire Sauce bottles, also indicating an English origin.

Our searches discovered the Worcestershire Sauce bottle on eBay with the word “WORCESTERSHIRE” embossed around the shoulder and “B&S” across the center of the base (Figure 58). The seller described the finish as “handtools [*sic*] very crudely with a drippy

appearance” and “seed bubbles” in the glass on the body. Thomas Barron died in 1887, and the sons continued the Mexborough plant until at least 1892. We have not discovered how long it was open before that.

THE BURLINGTON

Toulouse (1969:55; 1971:97) and Roller (1983:78) each listed a single variation of a jar embossed “THE BURLINGTON” on the front with “B.G.Co.” below it. Both attributed the jars to the Burlington Glass Works, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. For more discussion, see the Belleville Glass Co. section.

BUSHWICK GLASS WORKS (1868-1898)

The Glassworks Auctions offered an amber, cylinder whiskey bottle with a two-part finish and “PATENT” embossed on the shoulder. The base had a Rickett’s-style plate embossed “BUSHWICK GLASS WORKS” in a circle around a concave center with a large mamelon in the center (Figure 59). The Bushwick Glass Works was in business between 1868 and 1898, so the bottle must have been made within that period – probably during the first decade.



Figure 58 – B&S (eBay)

Manufacturer History

Bushwick Flint Glass Works, Brooklyn (1868-1898)

James M. and William Brookfield purchased the Bushwick Flint Glass Works in 1868 (Lutz 1997-2006; McDougalds 1990:24; McKearin and McKearin 1941:611; Woodward 1988:5). The Brookfields may have been in business earlier – either at the Bushwick plant or somewhere else. The Brookfields purchased the Cauvet patent for threaded insulators, apparently shortly after the inventor patented his design in 1865. Brookfield continued to manufacture insulators until the plant closed (Milholland 1967:56, 58).

In 1875, Bushwick placed an ad in *China, Glass and Lamps* that called the plant the Bushwick Glass Works and noted a manufacture of “Vials, Bottles, Carboys, Demijohns, Insulators, etc.” (Figure 60). On August 9, 1893, the firm placed another ad in *China, Glass and Lamps* that called the company the “manufacturer of bottles, carboys, battery jars, insulators, etc.” and promised “strict attention to private molds.” The plant produced “every

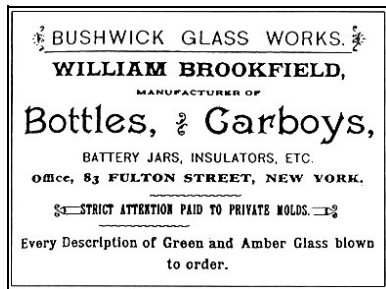


Figure 60 – Bushwick Glass Works ad (*China, Glass and Lamps* 1875)

description of green and amber glass made to order” (Stahr 1997:36). Jones (1968:10-11) and Putnam (1965) noted identical ads dated 1892 and 1896. The Brookfields restructured and incorporated as the Brookfield

Glass Co. in 1898 (Ayres et al. 1980; McDougalds 1990:24; Woodward 1988:5). See the Binghamton Glass Co. section for a history of Brookfield Glass.

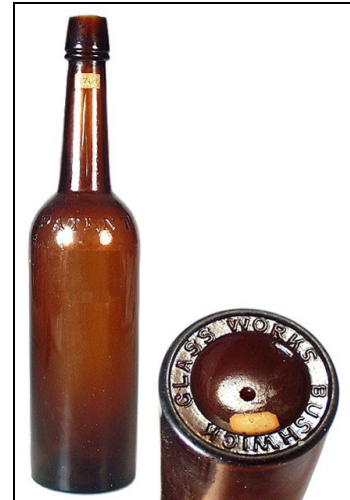


Figure 59 – Bushwick Glass Works (Glass Works Auction)

B&W (1827-1829)

Knittle (1927:441) identified the “B.&W.” mark as belonging to Bryce & Walker. A much more likely identification is Burgin & Wood. See the Burgin & Sons section for more information.

B.W.&Co. (1812-1822)

Knittle (1927:441) claimed that Beltzhoover, Wendt & Co. used the B.W.&Co. mark. Toulouse (1971:98) also attributed the logo to Beltzhoover, Wendt & Co., in business from 1812 to 1822. Hawkins (2009:76-77), however, suggested that Bryce, Walker & Co., a much later firm (1865-1882), might be a better choice, although he knew of no actual containers with the mark. He explained, “There are few, if any, known Pittsburgh glasshouse marks that date from the Beltzhoover, Wendt & Co period (1812 to 1822).”

We could not find an example of this mark in McKearin and Wilson (1978), the most complete collection of flasks in print. Because Hawkins had not discovered an example, and there is none in McKearin and Wilson, it is possible that “B.W.&Co.” was a misreading or mis-recording for “B&M”; “B&W”; or some other logo. The embossing on many (most?) early flasks was very indistinct.

In addition, there was a firm in London that used a basemark of “BW&C^o (arch) • / W (in a rectangle with chamfered corners) / LONDON (inverted arch) •” (Figure 61). Toulouse (1971:529; 586) identified the Rectangle-W logo as belonging to the Wood Bros. Glass Co., Ltd., Barnsley, Yorkshire, England. He discussed the logo but noted “Dates not stated” in relation to it. He claimed that the Wood Bros. Glass Co. was operating from 1851-1905, followed by a reorganization that created the Wood Bros. Glass Co., Ltd. – which remained in business at least until the publication of his book in 1971.



Figure 61 – BW&Co basemark (eBay)

The initials, however, belonged to Burroughs Wellcome & Co. at Snow Hill, London. This is confirmed by another bottle embossed “SNOW HILL, BW & CO, LONDON” on the base – although the eBay seller did not include a photo of the base. Obviously, the Wood Bros. made some of the Burroughs, Wellcome & Co. bottles. Based on the available data, the only bottles we can find with the “B.W.&Co.” mark are those attributed to the English company.

Possible Maker/User Histories

Beltzhoover, Wendt & Co., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (1812-ca. 1822)

It is probable that Ensell, Wendt & Co. (or the Sydney Glass Co.) built the Birmingham Glass Works in 1810.⁴ About 1812, the firm reorganized as Beltzhoover, Wendt & Co., with Daniel Beltzhoover, George Sutton, and John K. McNickle financing the firm, while Edward Ensell, Sr., Edward Ensell, Jr., Frederick Wendt, Charles Ihmsen, and Peter Hane conducted the

⁴ In discussing Beltzhoover, Wendt & Co. and Bryce, Walker & Co., Toulouse (1971:98) noted that “there is confusion all around over the proper order in the names of both companies.”

actual operation of the plant. During the 1810-1812 period, there was also a firm called Ihmsen, Wendt & Co., and Belthoover, Wendt & Co. may reflect a combination of the two earlier companies (Hawkins 2009:75-76). The Ensells, however, did not join the firm until 1819.

It is likely that the original works, built in 1810, only made window glass. Beltzhooover, Wendt & Co. built a second plant in 1812, and this one probably made all of the hollowware. In 1822, another reorganization resulted in Sutton, Wendt & Co., although the firm had become Wendt & Ensell the following year. Charles Ihmsen was still a part of this group until his death in 1828. His son, Christian Ihmsen, replaced him, and the younger Ihmsen apparently purchased the other interests in 1836 (Hawkins 2009:76; McKearin & Wilson 1978:152). See the section on the Ihmsen family for more information

Bryce, Walker & Co., Birmingham District, Pittsburgh (1865-1886)

The Bryce family operated a series of glass houses at Pittsburgh, virtually completely devoted to the manufacture of tableware. A series of researchers (Knittle 1927:325; 441; McKearin & McKearin 1941:607; Toulouse 1971:98; Van Rensselaer 1969:187) have addressed the history of the firm, but Hawkins (2009:91-101) provided the most complete data, and we have elected to use his chronology:

Bryce, McKee & Co. (1850-1854)

Bryce, Richards, & Co. (1854-1865)

Bryce, Walker & Co. (1865-1882)

Bryce Brothers (1882-1891)

Factory B, United States Glass Co. (1891-??)

Bryce Brothers (1893-1897)

Bryce Brothers Co. (1897-1965)

Bryce, Higbee & Co. (1878-1907) [separate from the rest of the Bryce chronology]

The only segment of the Bryce firms of interest in this research is Bryce, Walker & Co. When Bryce, Richards & Co. dissolved in 1865, James Bryce, along with his brothers, Robert and John, and Andrew and John Bryce (sons of James) recruited William Walker, a local banker,

to join the company. Walker, obviously, was to provide financial backing, while the Bryce family put to work its glass-making skills. The factory covered parts of two adjacent blocks along 21st St. (Railroad Ave.). The combined plants ran three furnaces with 32 pots, making tableware, lamp globes, crystal perfume bottles, other bottles, and novelties. In 1882, Walker sold his interests to the Bryce family (Hawkins 2009:100-101).

Toulouse (1971:98) mentioned that only Knittle listed this firm as Bryce & Walker. He noted that the name was Bryce, Walker & Co. Knittle (1927:325; 441), however, did not actually claim Bryce & Walker as one of the Bryce companies in her history section, although she did note that name in conjunction with marks.

Burroughs, Wellcome & Co., London (1883-1995)

At some point after 1843, John Wyeth & Co. began making better quality compressed pills, using a technique developed and patented by William Brockedon in 1843. This opened up modern pharmaceutical production, and Wyeth began exporting pills – notably to England. Silas Burroughs began importing and selling such pharmaceuticals as Wyeth's sole agent in London in 1878. Burroughs invited Henry Wellcome to join the business the following year (Bailey 2008).

Burroughs obtained the contract from McKesson & Robins for distribution of their products in Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia, and the East Indies, and Wellcome officially joined the firm on September 27, 1880. Burroughs, Wellcome & Co. set up its home office at Snow Hill, London, that year (Figure 62). The firm quickly tired of Britain's high import duty on drugs and purchased a factory at Bell Lane Wharf in Wandsworth in 1883. They installed machinery bought from Wyeth in the U.S. The firm was now a producer (Bailey 2008).



Figure 62 – Burroughs, Wellcome & Co., 1880 (Bailey 2008)

When Burroughs died in 1895, Wellcome embarked on a period of expansion that continued until World War I. After the war, the company again flourished and eventually

merged with Galaxo, Inc. in 1995 to form Galaxo Wellcome. Gallaxo Wellcome merged with SmithKline Beecham on January 17, 2000 and remains in business in 2013 (Wikipedia 2013).

B.W.O.&CO. (ca. 1890-ca. 1918)

David Whitten reported the “B.W.O.&CO.” initials to us “reported to me by two different people, as seen on the base of a handmade light aqua strapside type flask, probably from sometime in the 1870s-1890s. This picture from Crystal King.” We also found an eBay report with a Union Oval Flask embossed “WARRANTED / FLASK” on the front and “B.W.O.&CO.” on the base (Figure 63). According to Lindsey (2023), these warranted flasks were generally used from the mid-1890s to the 1920s. Benjamin W. O’Neil & Co. was a dealer in bottles, glassware, and druggists’ sundries at 73 Blackstone St., Boston, at least as early as 1882

and as late as 1918 – all within the expected period of the Warranted flasks. Although a 1911 billhead claims the firm as “Manufacturers of Glassware,” O’Neil was certainly a jobber (Figure 64).



Figure 64 – O’Neil billhead (eBay)

The initials also indicate the Brisbane Water Oyster Co. of Woy Woy, New South Wales, Australia. A green, mouth-blown bottle on Flickr, pentagonal in cross-section, was embossed “OYSTERS” on one face and “TRADE” above a shield with “B.W.O. / C^o” inside and “MARK below it (Figure 65). The base was unmarked. The two should never be confused. The initials are in different configurations; the firms were thousands of miles apart, and the bottle types were completely different.



Figure 65 – B.W.O. / C^o Oyster (eBay)

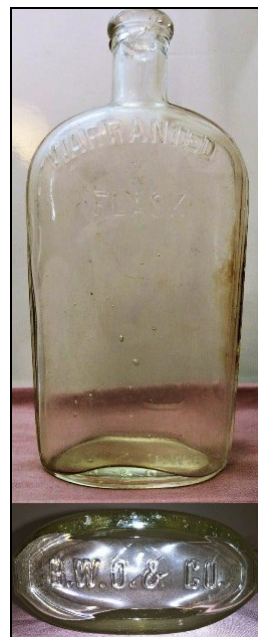


Figure 63 – B.W.O.&CO. (eBay)

Discussion and Conclusions

In this chapter, all of the discussion about the various logos and initials is in the actual marks section. We were able to discover the users of most of these marks, but a few remain mysteries.

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