

## **Binghamton Glass Co. and BGCo on a Crown-Finished Bottle**

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We began this study because David Whitten pointed out a BGCo logo on a crown-finished Moxie soda bottle that did not fit the pattern of other bottles embossed with the BGCo mark. There is virtually no question that the BGCo logo found on applied-finish export beer bottles and grooved-ring wax-sealer fruit jars was used the Belleville Glass Co., Belleville, Illinois. However, Adolphus Busch purchased the Belleville Glass Co. in 1886 and renamed it as the Adolphus Busch Glass Mfg. Co. Since the crown finish was not invented until 1892, the Belleville Glass Co. could not possibly have manufactured a crown-topped bottle.

Although there are two other possible users of the mark, the majority of the evidence points to the Binghamton Glass Co. Binghamton began making containers as the Binghamton Glass Works from 1880 to 1897. The firm reorganized in 1897 and manufactured a variety of bottles until the 1920s. Throughout its entire tenure, the plant only used hand methods, never adopting machines. When the Illinois Glass Co. began making small-mouth bottles with screw caps, Binghamton became a jobber for them and gradually eliminated its own glass production.

### **Histories**

#### **Binghamton Glass Works, Binghamton, New York (1880-1897)**

A local group of Binghamton “business leaders” met on March 13, 1880, to consider forming a firm to produce green glass bottles.<sup>1</sup> The following week, the group incorporated with a capital of \$25,000, electing William E. Taylor as president, John B. Van Name as secretary,

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<sup>1</sup> A Binghamton Glass Works letterhead from 1892 stated that the company was “established 1868.” This almost certainly indicates the establishment date for an earlier company ancestral to Binghamton. Such an extension back in time was fairly common (Roller 1997). An 1885 history (cited in von Mechow 2013) noted that the firm incorporated in 1880 – although that may actually refer to the founding of the original company. City directories and other sources did not name officers until much later.

William R. Osborn as treasurer, and William F. Burrows as superintendent. The plant was apparently constructed quite rapidly and began production on July 17, 1880, using a single furnace with five pots. By July, Sigmund J. Hirschmann had replaced Taylor as president (Hitt 2011:10-14).

Although none of the sources addressed the reasons, the company must have had financial problems. On August 25, 1882, the original operating company sold the firm and plant to William Burrows and Milton Yetter for \$10,000. William F. Burrows, the former superintendent, remained to manage the new plant. William Burrows was *not* the same person as William F. Burrows, the superintendent. Burrows and Yetter were also partners in the East Stroudsburg Glass Works, of East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania (Hitt 2011:14).

The Binghamton Glass Works was plagued by two strikes, the first in 1882. This one was resolved. William Burrows, Milton Yetter, and William F. Burrows remained the principals by 1885. When the workers struck again in 1886, management fired the strikers and hired glass workers from out of town. Binghamton Glass remained non-union for the next 13 years (Hitt 2011:14-18; von Mechow 2013).

Wilson and Caperton (1994:70) recorded all beer bottle advertising in the *Western Brewer* between 1883 and 1890 as well as samples from issues between 1878 and 1882. They noted that Binghamton Glass Works advertised beer bottles between December 1884 and December 1885.

In 1888, the Binghamton Board of Trade reported that the Binghamton factory made glass bottles, “chiefly for druggists and patent medicine uses, which find a market in all parts of the country.” (quoted in von Mechow 2013). Although an 1890 letterhead listed William F. Burrows, William Burrows, and Walter R. Burrows as principals of the firm, an 1892 Board of Trade Review noted that William Burrows was the sole proprietor of the company. The plant made green and amber glassware. The factory operated two five-ton furnaces, making a variety of vials, bottles, and flasks. The plant was destroyed by fire on May 14, 1893, but was rebuilt later that year (Roller 1997; von Mechow 2013). In 1897, the firm reorganized as the Binghamton Glass Co.

## **Binghamton Glass Co., Binghamton, New York (1897-1928)**

On August 19, 1897, the Binghamton Glass Co. incorporated with a capital stock of \$60,000. The Board of Directors consisted of John B. Yetter, Frank L. Dennis, Finley B. Overfield, James Warren, Martin P. Farrell, and Milton Yetter. By that time, the plant used ten pots to make its products. In addition, two men were on the premises 24-hours a day to keep fire watch. The firm once again became a union operation in November of 1899 (Hitt 2011:18-19; *National Glass Budget* 1897:7; Roller 1997; von Mechow 2013).

Binghamton Glass suffered a major fire on July 3, 1900. All of the company structures burned to the ground except the office and the warehouse. The factory was again destroyed by fire on May 10, 1901, with an estimated damage of \$60,000, only \$40,000 of which was insured. The firm suspected a recently discharged employee of starting the blaze. As in the past, the plant was rebuilt (Hitt 2011:20-21; Roller 1997; von Mechow 2013).

In 1904, Binghamton made “prescription, liquor, proprietary and packers’ ware” – with Milton James, J.B. and A.C. Yetter as the principals (*American Glass Review* 1934:159). The plant also advertised bottles for root beer and horseradish, flasks, milk bottles, and druggists’ ware (Hitt 2011:21). The plant was not listed in the 1905 Thomas Register but made a general line of bottles, including wine, brandy, beer, soda, and prescription bottles along with fruit jars by 1907 (Thomas Publishing Co. 1907:159). By at least 1907, the factory also made milk bottles and had expanded to include packers’ ware – notably catsup and grape juice bottles – by the following year (von Mechow 2013).

The firm expanded its facilities after the fires. By 1911, the size of the main building increased dramatically along with improvements in the lehrs. The company built a new tank that had 11 rings and two apertures in the rear to add the ingredients. This was likely the first continuous tank used by the company (Hitt 2011:21).

In 1913, the factory still used one continuous tank with 11 rings to produce a “general line” of bottles (*Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry* 1913:953). The plant made “prescription, wine, preservers, etc.” as well as fruit jars in 1916 and had offices in Binghamton and New York City. The same listing continued until at least 1920, when fruit jars were

dropped. The Thomas Register included a general line of bottles as a product of the firm at least as late as 1921 (Thomas Publishing Co. 1916:660, 3782; 1920:827; 1921:781). Binghamton Glass increased its capital from \$60,000 to \$150,000 in 1922 (Hitt 2011:72).

The company advertised prescription bottles with continuous-thread finishes and metal screw caps in 1924 (von Mechow 2013). This listing for the continuous-thread bottles was the knell for the end of glass production at Binghamton. The Binghamton ads offered “Diamond I” bottles that were machine made by the Illinois Glass Co. (Figure 1). The *Binghamton Press* (August 14, 1945 – quoted in von Mechow 2013) explained:

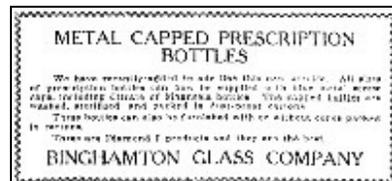


Figure 1 – Ad from Binghamton Glass (*Binghamton Press* 2/1/1926)

The hand-blown glass business started to decline shortly after World War I when mechanical glass blowers were introduced in the business. Patents on these devices were controlled by the bigger glass manufacturing companies and it was not considered expedient to install such equipment so that the Binghamton Glass Co. could keep pace with its larger competitors, it was pointed out. This factor finally led to the decision to abandon manufacturing and to buy and sell glassware at wholesale.

The Binghamton Glass Co. reorganized under the same name on February 25, 1925, with a capitalization of \$150,000. Amazi C. Yetter was the president of the firm, with Frank L. Dennis<sup>2</sup> as vice president (Hitt 2011:35; von Mechow 2013). By this time, bottle production at Binghamton Glass had dwindled down to a trickle. Hitt (2011:73) quoted the *Binghamton Press*, describing the manufacturing conditions of the plant as of October 7, 1925. The firm specialized “in private mould work and welcome[d] inquiries about all types of glass containers.” The company’s customers included “large and small pharmaceutical houses as well as druggists,

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<sup>2</sup> Dennis came to Binghamton from the East Strousburg Glass Works in 1892. He left the firm in 1896 to establish the F.L. Dennis Co., jobbers in bottles and corks, apparently intended to complement and supply Binghamton Glass. He took on Norman G. Keiser as a partner in 1900 and renamed the firm F.L. Dennis & Co. The final name change – to the Dennis Glassware Co. – occurred in 1934. In addition, Dennis remained as vice president of the Binghamton Glass Co. until his death in 1938 (Hitt 2011:32-33).

manufacturers, milk dealers, etc.” The plant’s “special lines” included “homeopathic vials in all styles and sizes, opal jars with aluminum and nickleplated [*sic*] caps, perfume and toilet water bottles in clear or frosted glass, metal sprinkler tops in various styles” and other stoppers.

The plant ceased production in 1929. Although Binghamton continued to be listed in the manufacturing section of the *American Glass Review* until 1938, it was no longer a producer (*American Glass Review* 1927a:127; 1938:73; Hitt 2011:26). The firm, however, remained a jobber, possibly for the Owens-Illinois Glass Co., successors to the Illinois Glass Co. Amzi Yetter was the president, with Stewart W. Yetter as the office manager, Herbert E. Yetter as the factory superintendent, and Dorothy Laing as secretary. With one exception, the buildings were razed by August 14, 1945, when Binghamton contractor Frank W. O’Connell purchased the property for \$20,000. O’Connell, in turn, sold the building to the Binghamton Container Co. on November 15 of that year (Hitt 2011:26).<sup>3</sup>

Although Hitt (2011:26) is unclear on the exact circumstances, Amzi Yetter apparently moved the business to another location prior to or upon the sale of the property to O’Connell in 1945. Amzi Yetter died on May 30, 1947, and his wife, Leila, gained control of the business. In January of the following year, Leila sold the firm to Howard E. Councilman and Thomas A. Wilson, Jr. When Councilman had a stroke in 1951 and retired, the pair sold their holdings to Howard McConnell. McConnell moved the business to 17 E. Clinton St. in 1954 and apparently closed the firm in 1957 (Hitt 2011:26).

## **Containers and Marks**

Binghamton Glass made bottles for Dr. Kilmer’s Swamp Root by at least 1910, possibly earlier (Hitt 2011:22-23, 78). Although not noted as one of the plant’s customers, a photo in Hitt (2013:23) showed the fence around the factory grounds in the 1920s advertising Chas. H. Fletcher’s Castoria in huge letters (Figure 2).

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<sup>3</sup> Lacey’s Cigar Box Co. became the Binghamton Container Co. ca. 1926. John J. Anthony was the president of the corporation, with Thomas D. Davidge as treasurer. The new firm became manufacturers of corrugated shipping containers (boxes) at 304-311 Water St. (*Binghamton Press* 2/1/1926; 3/24/1928). The Chesapeake Packing Co. acquired the Binghamton Container Co. in 1968 (Answers 2013).

It is clear that neither the Binghamton Glass Works or the Binghamton Glass Co. used any form of manufacturer's mark during most of their years in business. However, the Binghamton Glass Works may have used the BGW logo on at least one occasion. It is virtually certain that the Binghamton Glass Co. embossed a Diamond-B mark on a few bottles, and we make a good case for the firm using the B.G.CO. logo on Moxie soda bottles and a few beer bottles.



Figure 2 – Fence with Castoria and Fletcher (Hitt 2011:23)

Although Binghamton Glass continued to manufacture glass containers after the 1924 decision to sell Diamond-I bottles, it is highly likely that production declined significantly. Machine-made bottles dominated the market by that time, and the introduction of small-mouth bottles with tight-fitting screw caps further eliminated the mouth-blown industry. Binghamton Glass specialized in the types of mouth-blown bottles that still had some validity in the industry in the 1920s – short-run bottles for smaller, generally local customers and specialty items like perfume ware (Hitt 2011:73).



Figure 3 – BGW logo (eBay)

### **BGW** (ca. late 1880s-1890s)

We have seen a single example of the BGW mark (from eBay), embossed on the base of what was probably intended to be a beer bottle.

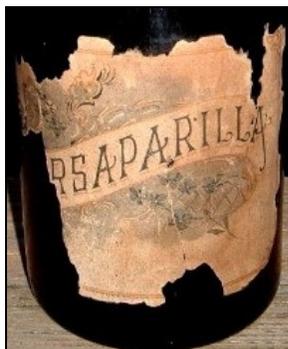


Figure 5 – Sarsaparilla label on Holmes bottle (eBay)

The bottle was amber and was embossed “JAMES A. HOLMES / AUBURN, N.Y.” in a plate on the front of the body (Figures 3 & 4). Holmes, however, was not listed as a brewer in Auburn (Van Wieren 1995:219). A paper label on the reverse of the bottle, however, showed that it held sarsaparilla at one time (Figure 5).



Figure 4 – James A. Holmes soda bottle (eBay)

James H. Holmes was the proprietor of the Holmes' Bottling Works at Auburn in 1900, and the Holmes Bottling Works was still advertising at least as late as 1922 (*Auburn Citizen* 1922; Lamey 1900). Other bottles used by Holmes had basemarks of A&DHC (A & D.H. Chambers, Pittsburgh) and CLYDE GLASS WORKS (Clyde, New York). Chambers reorganized as Chambers & McKee in 1889 and made window glass under new name; thus, the Holmes bottles marked "A&DHC" could not have been made after 1889. Clyde Glass operated from 1895 to 1912. This leaves a six-year gap (1890-1895), when the BGW bottle may have been made. It is likely that Holmes purchased the BGW bottle from a local/regional glass house – probably in the New York/Pennsylvania area.

Von Mechow (2013) described another example, a champagne beer bottle, embossed "D. LAGRANGE (arch) / MORAVIA, N.Y. (inverted arch)" on the front and "BGW" on the base. He suggested the Binghamton Glass Works as the probable manufacturer. LaGrange, too, is not in Van Wieren (1995); in fact, there is no entry for Moravia. LaGrange was the proprietor of the Moravian Bottling Works in at least 1886 (*Weekly Auburnian* November 5, 1886).

Fisher (2011:620) listed a bottle embossed "FRED. W. WITTE / 96 TO 102 / LUQUER S<sup>T</sup> / BROOKLYN, N.Y." on the front and "GINGER / ALE" on the back. The bottle had a "BGW" logo on the base. He dated the bottle's use from ca. 1890 to ca. 1900. In addition, Fisher (2011:362) listed several bottles used by Minck Bros. & Co., also during the 1890-1900 period. Minck Bros. were in business from the late 1870s to at least 1913. The Minck Bros. bottles are the only ones we have found listed with punctuation (i.e., B.G.W.).

The only two glass houses with BGW initials that we have found in the area were the Bushwick Glass Works, located at Brooklyn and the Binghamton Glass Works at Binghamton.<sup>4</sup> Both factories made bottles, and the timing fit perfectly for each. If distance was any issue, however, Binghamton was the probable choice. Moravia was only about 50 miles northwest of Binghamton, with Auburn only about 20 miles farther in the same direction. The distance to Brooklyn was at least three times as far. The only loose end is why we do not see more bottles with "BGW" initials.

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<sup>4</sup> We searched Hawkins (2009) for Pittsburgh glass houses, Pepper (1971) for New Jersey, and through the Roller files for New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, and Connecticut.

Toulouse (1971:85) claimed that the BGW mark was used by the Burlington Glass Works from 1875 to 1877. Toulouse based his end date on the idea that “by 1878 Kerr and W.G. Beach owned the works, whose name they changed to “Company.” King (1987:62-63), however, noted that the Burlington Glass Works began production in 1874 and was completely reorganized, including the name change to the Burlington Glass Co., in 1875. Toulouse was probably confused with the “BGCo” mark on fruit jars – a logo that was certainly used by Burlington.

In conclusion, it seems logical that the Binghamton Glass Works only applied the “BGW” initials on bottles when requested to do so by individual bottlers. Apparently, the above discussed bottlers desired the manufacturer’s marks, since those initials are very rare on bottles. It seems unlikely that Binghamton (or anyone else) would have casually added such logos randomly.

### **B** (ca. 1904-ca. 1910)

Beginning ca. 1899, the Moxie Nerve Food Co. initiated a requirement for its bottle suppliers to emboss on the base of each bottle a single initial representing its glass house. Although, as noted above, Binghamton rarely used a manufacturer’s mark, it did apply the letter “B” on the bases of one style of Moxie bottles used from ca. 1904 to ca. 1910. The bottle was embossed “TRADE MARK (horizontal) / MOXIE (slight arch) / NERVE (horizontal) / FOOD (slight inverted arch)” on the front body plus “REGISTERED (horizontal – on front heel)” and “MOXIE (slight arch)” on the reverse (Figure 6). The bases in our sample were embossed “B1” and “B5” (Figure 7). In 1910, Binghamton adopted the “BGCO” logo to meet Moxie’s revised requirements (see below).



Figure 6 – Moxie bottle (eBay)



Figure 7 – B5 logo (eBay)

**B.G.CO.** (ca. 1910-ca. 1913)

Whitten (2013a) reported that “A Moxie soda bottle variant with a crown lip carries the ‘B.G.CO.’ mark, and in that case would have been made by a factory some time after c.1893, eliminating Belleville as a possibility.” The “c. 1893” date refers to the invention of the crown finish and cap by William Painter in 1892 (Figure 8). The date, however, is conservative. Although Painter patented the crown in 1892, it was rarely adopted by either soda bottlers or brewers during the first few years of the crown cap’s existence. It became more common ca. 1897.

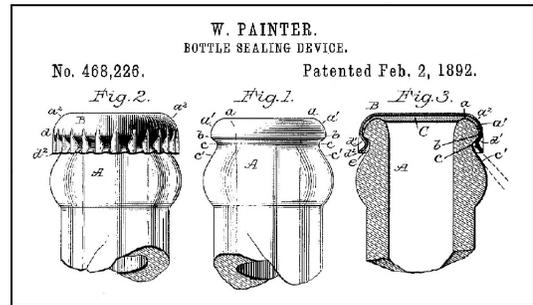


Figure 8 – Crown Finish – Painter 1892 Patent

One style of Moxie bottles offered on eBay was embossed on the shoulder with “MOXIE” in an arch above “MOXIE” in a horizontal line. The bottles we have seen were made from green-aqua glass and were embossed “B.G.CO.” horizontally across the center of the bases (Figure 9). Each bottle was mouth blown with a tooled crown finish (Figure 10).



Figure 9 – B.G.CO. logo on Moxie base (eBay)



Figure 10 – Finish of B.G.CO. Moxie bottle (eBay)

Although the B.G.Co mark was used by the Belleville Glass Co. between 1882 and 1886, a crown-finished bottle could not have been made that early. Whitten’s report of a Moxie soda bottle with a crown finish and a B.G.CO. mark, however, fits into the known time period for three other glass houses,<sup>5</sup> all of which made soda bottles:

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<sup>5</sup> The B.G.Co. mark was also embossed on fruit jars, almost certainly made by the Burlington Glass Co., a Canadian firm. See the Belleville Glass Co. section for more discussion.

Bellingham Glass Co., Bellingham, Washington (1906-1910)  
Binghamton Glass Co., Binghamton, New York (1880-1928)  
Brookfield Glass Co., Brooklyn, New York (1868-1922)

We have not discovered any other soda bottle with a crown finish and a B.G.CO. mark. Based on other bottle marks, it seems likely that Moxie required all of its manufacturers to emboss company initials on the bases or heels of the bottles. Since Moxie was a New England beverage, either Binghamton or Brookfield are better choices than Bellingham – located in the State of Washington, on the other side of the continent. The B.G.CO. mark seems to be an exception to the general practice of either Brookfield and Binghamton, although other factors favor Binghamton as the choice. See the Discussion and Conclusions section below – also see our study on the Moxie Nerve Food Co.

Mobley (2013) listed a single beer bottle that was embossed “BGCO” at the back heel. This was almost certainly reported to Mobley by another collector, so the mark may have had punctuation. The bottle had a tooled crown finish, and it was used by the Norfolk, Virginia, branch of the Chr. Heurich Brewing Co. We have not discovered why a logo was placed on this bottle or why a Virginia brewer – quite a bit south of New York – ordered a bottle from the northern glass house. Heurich’s (pronounced Hyrik) main brewery was in the Foggy Bottom area of Washington, DC. It was open under the name of the Chr. Heurich Brewing Co. from 1890 to 1956 (Foggy Bottom 2013; Van Wieren 1995:60). We have not found information on the Norfolk branch, although it could not have been open prior to 1890.

Hitt (2011:77) noted another beer bottle embossed with “B.G.Co. on the heel of the bottle,” although he was ambivalent about whether the logo belonged to Binghamton. The bottle was used by David LaGrange of Moravia, New York. Hitt added that LaGrange was in business from the 1880s to the 1920s. Von Mechow (2013) listed the bottle as having “B.G.W.” on the base (see B.G.W. section above). This may be a case where the bottle was misreported to von by one of the researchers, or these may be two separate bottles. We have discovered no further information about LaGrange.

## Diamond-B

Hitt (2011:77) discussed a Diamond-B logo embossed on the base of a bottle made for the Harris Extract Co. of Binghamton. He illustrated the bottle, complete with a horizontal diamond enclosing the letter “B” and a paper label that identified the extract firm (Figure 11). Hitt noted that the mark should not be

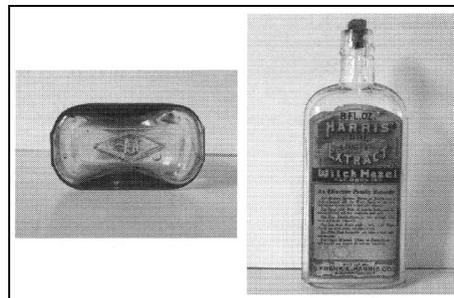


Figure 11 – Diamond-B on extract bottle base (Hitt 2011:77)

confused with the Diamond-I logo of the Illinois Glass Co. and suggested that the bottle “was probably made after 1906 since it lists the alcohol content and the amount of contents.” He included Binghamton Glass Co. ads that showed styles very similar to the Harris bottle (Hitt 2011:82). Von Mechow (2013) listed the B-in-a-Diamond logo on a single beer bottle, used by the Milwaukee Brewing Co., Jamestown, New York. The mark was embossed on the base of the bottle.

Toulouse (1971:59) stated that the mark was listed in Jones. Jones (1966:15) only drew the mark; she offered no explanation. Her drawing, however, looks like the logo on the horseradish bottle (below). In addition, Whitten (2013a) noted that

Known bottles with the “B in a diamond” mark on the bottom include square Horseradish bottles (would be generally termed “square pickle bottles” by the average collector) that are pictured in local Binghamton Glass Co. newspaper ads from the early 1900s and were evidently made in considerable numbers for several years.

An example of the horseradish bottle in Whitten’s collection had the “B” in a diamond with almost equidistant sides. Whitten’s bottle was aqua in color and mouth blown (Figures 12 & 13). It is likely that the diamond in the logos varied according to the whims of each mold cutter. Hitt (2011:83) illustrated square horseradish bottles from 1904 and 1905 Binghamton ads.

Hitt (2011:77) may have provided us with an interesting hint about the origin of the Diamond-B logo. As noted above, Binghamton Glass never entered into machine manufacture;



Figure 12 – Square horseradish bottle

instead, the firm became a jobber for the Illinois Glass Co. – while still making mouth-blown bottles. While the company evolved away from manufacture, there was a period of overlap from early 1924 to 1929. This is the likely period when Binghamton adopted the Diamond-B mark to correspond with the Diamond-I logo used by the Illinois Glass Co. – although this is a bit late for the manufacture of this type of bottle.

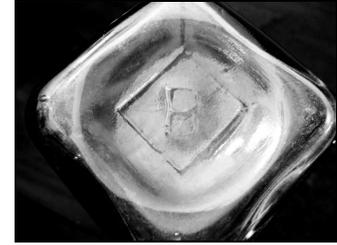


Figure 13 – Diamond-B logo

Whitten (2013a) was almost certainly correct that the horseradish bottles were made in large quantities from the early 1900s to probably ca. 1920. However, it is likely that most of those made by Binghamton Glass had no manufacturer’s mark. By 1920, the Illinois Glass Co. already offered machine-made, square horseradish bottles with continuous-thread finishes and screw caps (Illinois Glass Co. 1920:89 – Figure 14). Assuming our hypothesis is correct, Binghamton Glass would only have used the logo during the very short overlap period between the adoption of Illinois Glass Co. bottles and the widespread use of similar bottles with continuous-thread finishes. This explains why bottles with the Diamond-B mark are so uncommon.



Figure 14 – Square horseradish bottle with CT finish (Illinois Glass Co. 1920:89)

## Milk Bottles

Hitt (2011:89-91) illustrated several milk bottle ads from the Binghamton Glass Co. The firm made milk bottles from at least 1907 to at least 1913, but none of the sources for milk bottle logos (e.g., Giarde 1980) included any mark for Binghamton Glass. This presents a bit of a mystery because the State of New York was the first to require a system where each milk bottle manufacturer had to emboss its initials or logo on the bottle along with a number that was supplied by the state. The New York system began in 1910, and the numbers achieved national usage before 1920. Since Binghamton Glass – a New York corporation – advertised milk bottles

within the state during the 1910-1913 period, the New York law was certainly in effect during the final three years of that period. Although we would expect to find milk bottles with some form of BGCO initials or logo and a number, we have discovered none – from any source. Did the plant merely ignore that law?

### **Alternative Possible Candidates**

As noted in the discussion above, the identification of the Binghamton Glass Co. as the user of the B.G.CO. logo is not absolute, although we feel that Bingham Glass is the best choice (see the Discussion and Conclusions section). Both the Bellingham Glass Co. and the Brookfield Glass Co. had the correct initials and were open during the right time period.

#### **Bellingham Glass Co., Bellingham, Washington (1906-1910)**

The plant made insulators, beverage, beer, food, drug, and other bottles from 1906 to 1910 (Toulouse 1970:34). Unfortunately, we have discovered little more about the factory.

#### **Brookfield Glass Co., Brooklyn, New York (1898-1922)**

The Brookfield Glass Co. grew out of the Bushwick Flint Glass Works (or Bushwick Glass Works). The company was incorporated in 1898 and was listed in the 1898 Brooklyn directory (Ayres et al. 1980; McDougald & McDougald 1990:24; Woodward 1988:5). In 1908, the firm reorganized under the same name – and made “liquor and packers’ ware, milk jars” in 1904 (*American Glass Review* 1934:159).

By 1909, the Brookfield Glass Co. plant at Brooklyn was “operating as usual, the principal product being beer bottles” (*National Glass Budget* 1909:1). The next year, a glass journal crowed that “a splendid production of high grade beer bottles is noted” from Brookfield (*Commoner and Glassworker* 1910:16). The company had what was apparently a second plant at Old Bridge, New Jersey. The Old Bridge factory probably operated between 1906 and 1912 (*Commoner and Glassworker* 1909:9; Whitten 2013b).

By 1913, Brookfield made beer, liquor, and soda bottles as well as insulators on two continuous tanks with 15 rings (*Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry* 1913:953). Brookfield was listed as making “green” bottles in the Thomas Registers from 1905 to 1914, but the plant was no longer enumerated in the 1915 edition (Thomas Publishing Co. 1905:104; 1907:159; 1909:201; 1912:480; 1914:531). The company went out of business in 1922 (McDougald & McDougald 1990:25; Milholland 1967:27, 56).<sup>6</sup> See the Other B file for a history of the Bushwick Glass Works.

## Discussion and Conclusions

It is clear that neither the Binghamton Glass Works nor the Binghamton Glass Co. (nor Brookfield) used logos on most of their glass containers. The plant must have made millions of bottles and jars throughout its existence, yet the B.G.W. and B.G.Co. logos are scarce. In addition, several letters exist between the Binghamton Glass Works and Charles Yockell, mold maker of Philadelphia. Only one letter – dated April 21, 1891 – requested any basal embossing on a round-shouldered prescription bottle mold. The letter asked for the initials “V.C.&C.” – almost certainly the logo of a local company (Corning Museum of Glass 2013).

Although the identification is not absolute, the B.G.W. mark was probably used by the Binghamton Glass Works during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Diamond-B logo was very likely used by the Binghamton Glass Co. during the period between ca. 1904 and the early 1920s. We have been unable to discover why each mark was used so sparingly, both are uncommon in surviving bottles.

Although we have included histories of both the Bellingham and Brookfield glass firms, we eliminated Bellingham as a user of the B.G.CO. logos because of its location across the continent. However, there are two other relevant factors that will help determine the user. First, the Brookfield Glass Co. was an extensive manufacturer of glass insulators. To identify its insulators, Brookfield



Figure 15 – Brookfield Insulators (Polivka & Polivka 2013)

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<sup>6</sup> The *American Glass Review* (1934:159) placed the closing at 1925.

embossed on each one either a serif or sans serif “B,” the company name “BROOKFIELD,” or “W BROOKFIELD” (Figure 15). Since Brookfield already used these logos on insulators, it seems logical that the firm would have chosen either “B” or “BROOKFIELD” to fulfill a requirement for Moxie. While this could explain the “B,” it does not satisfy the later “B.G.CO.”

Second, the Moxie bottles with the “B” and “B.G.CO.” basemarks both had clearly focused eBay photos showing mouth blown bottles with tooled finishes (see Figures 8 & 9). The primary reason that Binghamton Glass ceased production in 1929 was its lack of machines. The firm could no longer compete by producing mouth-blown bottles – such as the one with the BGCO mark. Thus, the Binghamton Glass Co. was the likely user of the BGCO logo.

## **Moxie Soda Bottles**

Our study of Moxie soda bottles has led us to create a detailed chronology of those containers from the firm’s inception to 1943, about the time that Moxie adopted Applied Color Label bottles. Our examination has made it pretty certain that Moxie required all glass houses manufacturing its bottles to emboss the factory initials or logos on the bottle bases or heels beginning ca. 1899. Initially (1899), the bottles showed a single initial to identify each glass house, soon followed by a set of initials (see our study on Moxie for more information).

While uncommon, this requirement for logos was also not unheard of. It is virtually certain that the Curtice Brothers demanded initials or manufacturer’s logos on the bases of their catsup bottles in 1901 (see the Curtice Brothers study and/or the section on the Bellaire Bottle Co.).<sup>7</sup> By 1909, the state of Massachusetts required “seals” from milk bottle manufacturers selling glass containers within its boundaries, and New York placed similar requirements (initials and a number) on glass houses wanting to sell milk bottles in New York. Eventually, most bottle and jar manufacturers adopted logos. This manufacturer’s mark requirement explains why these two glass houses – neither of which ordinarily used manufacturer’s marks – actually did so on Moxie soda bottles and Curtice Brothers catsup bottles. Interestingly, both Moxie and Curtice Brothers eventually adopted bottles made on Owens machines, ultimately from the Owens-Illinois Glass Co., although Curtice Brothers adopted the machine-made

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<sup>7</sup> At this point, we have been unable to discover a connection between Curtice Brothers and Moxie. They appear to have reached similar conclusions independently.

containers much earlier. See the relevant sections for more information on each of these fascinating bottle fillers.

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