

Chicago Glass Mfg. Co.

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and Bill Lindsey

The Chicago Glass Mfg. Co. was only in business for seven years. The firm probably would have escaped our notice had it not been for a single letter written by the firm to Charles Yockel, a noted Philadelphia mold maker. The letter calls for a Diamond-S logo to be engraved in the bases of the molds. The use of a counterintuitive logo led to a study of the logo – another tortuous pathway to little-known manufacturer's mark.

History

Chicago Glass Mfg. Co., Chicago (1885-1892)

Although secondary sources claimed a July 1883 date, the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* for May 21, 1884, noted that the Chicago Glass Mfg. Co. had incorporated the previous day with a capital of \$50,000 “to manufacture glass bottles and other kinds of glass ware” (Figure 1). The incorporators were Howard Roper, Felix Babbage, and C.W. Peters. On December 17, 1885, the *Wheeling Daily Intelligencer* announced that “Mr. Thomas K. Sheldon goes the first of January to build and take charge of the Chicago glass manufacturing company.” This suggests that the bottle plant at 4023 Wentworth Ave., Chicago, was not built until sometime during 1886. The *Wheeling Daily Register* added on December 18 that the new plant would work all ten of its pots every day instead of the norm of five on, five off.

In December 1886, the *American Mail and Export Journal* (1886:165) added even more details. The plant would use a

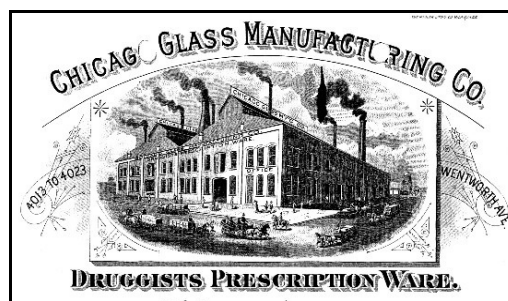


Figure 1 – Figure 1 – Factory on letterhead – 11/17/1887 (Courtesy, The Whiterthur Library: Joseph Downs Collection of Manuscripts and Printed Ephemera)

Seimans glass-melting furnace, with open pots, for flint glass. This is the first attempt to melt flint glass in open pots for the Seimens furnace, and only the second to use open pots for this type of glass. The first attempt was made by the Berger Brothers, of Philadelphia, but they ultimately returned to closed pots. It is claimed that the new process will melt glass in seven hours and forty-five minutes, while the old-fashioned furnaces take from fifteen to twenty-four hours.

According to the *Chicago Tribune* for October 24, 1886, the Chicago Glass Mfg. Co. was entirely destroyed by fire the previous day while the factory was shut down for repairs. At that time, F.K. Jacques was president with M.W. Atwood as treasurer and Thomas K. Sheldon (later of Sheldon-Foster Glass Co. fame) as manager. The factory was rebuilt but suffered a second serious fire, this time on the second floor of the building on January 24, 1888, as reported that day by the *Elkhart Daily Review*. Two men and 75 boys barely escaped by jumping into snow banks or running through flames, although the damage was covered by insurance. Again, the plant was repaired.

The *Wheeling Sunday Register* explained on April 29, 1888, that Sheldon either left or had been dismissed at some point after the second fire, having “had the misfortune of having his works burned twice, the last time receiving no insurance. He is now in Meriden [actually, Marion], Ind.” Sheldon left for Indiana sometime between the second fire in late January of 1888 and April 3 of that year, when the *Chicago Tribune* announced Sheldon’s arrival “from Chicago” and noted that he would remain permanently in Marion.

A short article in the *Western Druggist* (1888:114) noted that Chicago Glass “has been supplying the market with lettered and other druggists’ glass ware of superior quality, and at prices that have attracted a large and rapidly growing business.” The plant supplied local drug stores without transportation costs but also shipped to other areas.

In 1891, Chicago Glass operated two furnaces (Roller n.d.). In September of the same year, the plant advertised in a Pittsburgh newspaper for “first-class, sober prescription glass blowers; also a few good finishers; union wages; steady work; fare paid” (*Pittsburgh Dispatch* 9/5/1891). Brothers (2002) noted the plant as last being listed in newspapers in 1892 – and that year was also the final enumeration in the city directory – very likely the last year of operation.

Containers and Marks

S in a Diamond (1885-1891)

Jones (1966:18) illustrated a Diamond-S mark but only noted that it was “the only ‘brand’ other than letters that I saw in Fort Union” (bottles deposited ca. 1882-1891). Toulouse (1971:455) illustrated the “turned square” mark (see below for variations) but noted that the manufacturer had not been identified. Bethman (1991:76) attributed the Diamond-S mark to the Swindell Brothers, noting that “the ‘diamond S’ marking would appear to date from 1885 to 1889” – although he gave no reason for this identification.

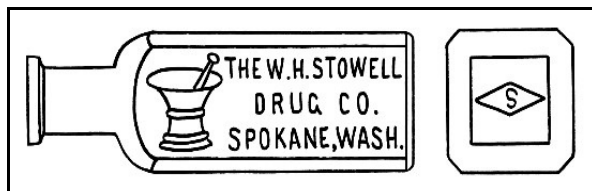


Figure 2 – Diamond-S on prescription bottle (Bethman 762)



Figure 3 – Diamond-S on medicinal bottle (Tucson Urban Renewal collection)

Bethman (1991:762, 805, 875) illustrated three Washington drug store bottles embossed on their bases with this mark (Figure 2). Preble (2002:667) showed a single example of the mark on a drug store bottle used between 1888 and 1889. The Bottle Research Group discovered and photographed two examples of the logo from the Tucson Urban Renewal collection (Figure 3). Both were on “square” pharmacy bottles. These were probably the same marks as those illustrated by Bethman and Preble. A few final examples came from the Lynn Loomis collection of New Mexico prescription bottles – E.W. Spencer, Albuquerque, and the Gate City Drug Store of Raton. Although rectangular in cross-section rather than square, the bottle styles were very similar to the Tucson examples with virtually identical Diamond-S logos (Figure 4).

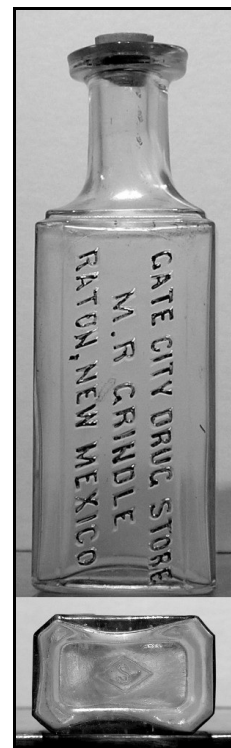


Figure 4 – Diamond-S on prescription bottle (Lynn Loomis coll.)

Clint (1976:115, 123, 176, 190) illustrated three flasks and one cylinder whiskey bottle used in Colorado, all embossed on their bases with the elongated mark (Figures 5 & 6). Each flask and the cylinder bottle had a tooled, two-part

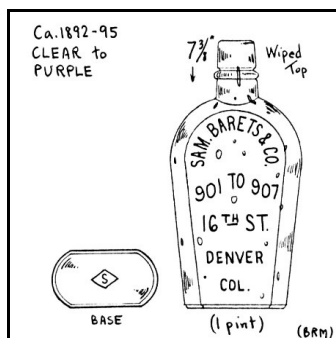


Figure 5 – Diamond-S on flask
(Clint 1976:115)

“brandy” finish. Dates for the bottles ranged from 1884 to 1895. In addition, an eBay auction featured a flask that was a companion piece to the cylinder whiskey bottle, both used by Groff & Collins (or Croff & Collins) (Figure 7 – note that the logo does not show well on the photo).

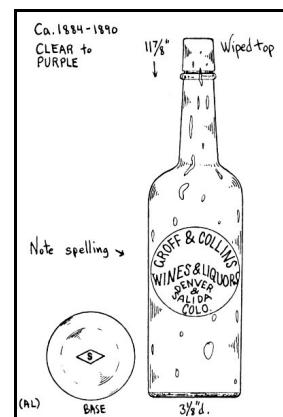


Figure 6 – Diamond-S on cylinder whiskey (Clint 1976:123)

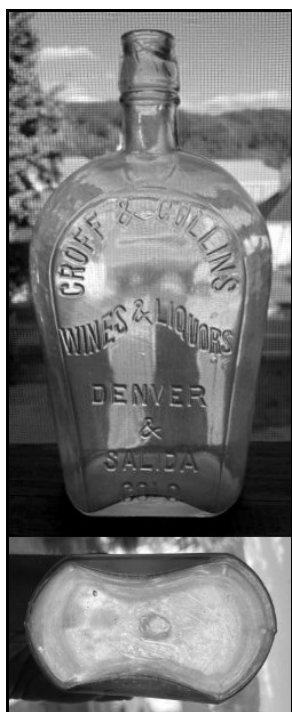


Figure 7 – Croff & Collins flask (eBay)

Clint (1976:169-170) also illustrated two additional flasks marked on the bases with S in a Diamond, but this diamond was not stretched (i.e., a square turned 45 degrees). Both flasks were mouth blown with continuous-thread finishes (Figure 8). Clint showed the bottles with the side seams extending to the top of the finish (to the lip or rim) but noted that the lip was ground smooth. This indicates a bottle that was mouth-blown into a mold, then the finish was ground to allow the screw cap to fit onto the embossed threads. Clint dated the flasks ca. 1887 and ca. 1889.

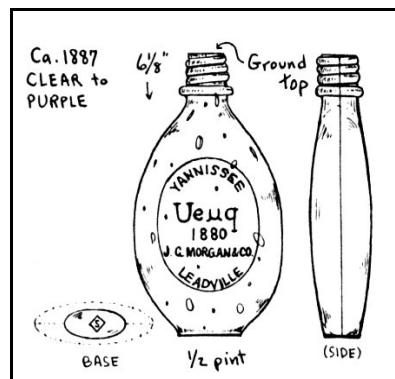


Figure 8 – Diamond-S on continuous-thread flask (Clint 1976:170)

A final group of flasks appeared on eBay auctions. These were all mouth-blown Union Ovals also known as strap-sided flasks with two-part finishes. All of these lacked any body embossing, although each had a Diamond-S basemark. The logos varied in format, most being read with the long axis of the base horizontal, although one mark was correct with the long axis vertical (Figures 9 & 10). These varied in color from citron to amber with one light green example. A final oddity was an amber ammonia bottle embossed “AMMONIA” on the side with a turned-square Diamond-S basemark.



Figure 9 – Colored flasks (eBay)

Toulouse (1971:449-450) added a somewhat bizarre twist by suggesting that the T.A. Snider Preserve Co., Cincinnati, Ohio, used the “turned square” Diamond-S mark ca. 1900. He noted that Mrs. Snider, the wife of Reverend T.A. Snider began a home canning business in the late 1870s, and her husband founded the T.A. Snider Preserve Co. in 1884. The firm became the New York Canners after a move to Albion, New York, in 1923, renamed itself the Snider Packing Co. in 1928, and was absorbed into the Birdseye Division of General Foods in 1943.

Zumwalt (1980:388) cited a section of the *Centennial Review of Cincinnati*, by J.W. Leonard, which gave the same basic history described by Toulouse, noting specifically that Snider and others incorporated the T.A. Snider Preserve Co. in June 1884. She illustrated a sauce bottle base embossed with a slight horizontal stretch to the Diamond-S mark.



Figure 10 – Colored flasks (eBay)

The Charles Yockell Letter

The Chicago Glass Mfg. Co. wrote a letter – dated 11/17/1887 – to Charles Yockell, noted Philadelphia mold maker, asking him to make “two molds wooden handles diamond S on bottom” (Winterthur Library) (Figure 11). This firmly ties the Diamond-S logo to the Chicago Glass Mfg. Co. Amazingly, the Bottle Research Group found small, square, colorless bottles in the Tucson Urban Renewal collection that were almost perfect matches to the ones described in the letter. While the relationship of the “S” to a firm called Chicago Glass is not intuitively obvious, it matches with Thomas K. Sheldon, the plant manager at that time. See the much more thorough discussion in the analysis section below.

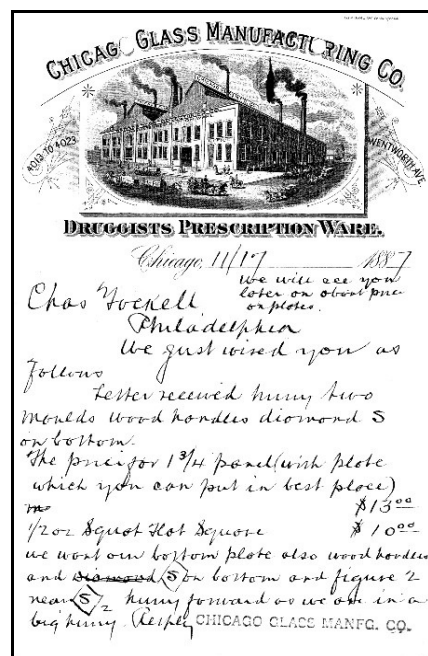


Figure 11 – Chicago Glass Mfg. Co. letter to Charles Yockell (Courtesy, The Winterthur Library: Joseph Downs Collection of Manuscripts and Printed Ephemera)

Discussion and Conclusions

In our original analysis, we had less information and, ultimately, came to very few conclusions. This time, however, we were able to tease out more data and determine the users of the marks on all types of Diamond-S bottles that we have discovered.

Analyzing the Variables – Diamond-S Bottles

Variations in Shape of the Diamond-S Logo

To make the best sense of the analysis, we need to begin with the four variations of Diamond-S logos, each centered on the shape of the diamond (Figure 12):

1. Rotated Box Diamond-S – a square or box rotated 45 degrees, all sides equal
2. Vertical Diamond-S – diamond stretched slightly vertically
3. Horizontal Diamond-S – diamond stretched slightly horizontally
4. Elongated Diamond-S – diamond stretched horizontally

While there is little question that some of these variations were caused by the whims and/or understanding (or maybe misunderstanding) of individual mold makers, it becomes clear in the analysis below that some of the four variations are tied closely to specific bottle types.

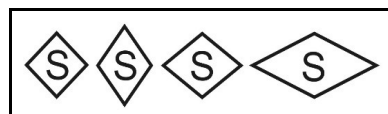


Figure 12 – Four diamond shapes

Variation in Bottle Type

We have discovered other bottle types with the Diamond-S basemark that were used by two glass houses during the 20th century. The Southern Glass Co., used the logo on soda and milk bottles from ca. 1920 to 1925, and a currently unknown British firm made liquor and ammonia bottles with the mark sometime after 1970. These two firms and their bottles are irrelevant for the current analysis, but they are covered in the sections on Southern Glass Co. and the Mysterious Letter S. This leaves us with four main bottle types made during the second half of the 19th century:

1. Prescription bottles
2. Liquor flasks with continuous-thread finishes or two-part collar & ring (i.e., a wide band on top, narrow ring below)
3. Liquor flasks and bottles with one- or two-part double-ring finishes
4. T.A. Snider catsup bottles

1. Prescription bottles

These were either embossed with drug store names or had no side embossing for use with paper labels. With one exception, all in our sample were colorless, square or rectangular in cross-section, and had a one-part prescription finish. The exception was similar but was oval in cross-section. These came from five sources:

Washington (state)

Bethman (1991:762, 805, 875) illustrated three Washington drug store bottles embossed on their bases with the Diamond-S mark (see Figure 2). Bethman (1991:76) attributed the Diamond-S mark to the Swindell Brothers, noting that “the ‘diamond S’ marking would appear to date from 1885 to 1889” – although he gave no reason for this identification.

Colorado

Preble (2002:667) showed a single example of the mark on a drug store bottle used between 1888 and 1889. He made no attempt to identify the logo.

Arizona

The Bottle Research Group discovered and photographed three examples of the logo from the Tucson Urban Renewal collection (see Figure 3). Two were on “square” pharmacy bottles, the other an oval pharmacy.

New Mexico

The Lynn Loomis collection of New Mexico prescription bottles – E.W. Spencer, Albuquerque (at least 1890-1895), and the Gate City Drug Store of Raton (only known from 1900-1930 but certainly earlier). Although rectangular in cross-section rather than square, the bottle styles were very similar to the Tucson examples with virtually identical Diamond-S logos (see Figure 4).

eBay

A few colorless prescription bottles with Diamond-S logos were offered at eBay auctions (Figure 13).

The logos in our sample were either the horizontal or elongated Diamond-S, and all bottles (except one) were similar in shape and color. Each was colorless, either square or rectangular in cross-section with a one-part prescription finish (one oval in cross-section). All, of course, were mouth blown.

2. Liquor flasks with continuous-thread finishes or two-part collar & ring (i.e., a wide band on top, narrow ring below)

Clint (1976:115, 123, 176, 190) illustrated three flasks and one cylinder whiskey bottle used in Colorado, all embossed on their bases with the elongated mark (see Figures 5 & 6). Each flask and the cylinder bottle had a tooled, two-part “brandy” finish. Dates for the bottles ranged from 1884 to 1895. In addition, an eBay auction featured a flask that was a companion piece to the cylinder whiskey bottle, both used by Groff & Collins (or Croff & Collins) (see Figure 7).

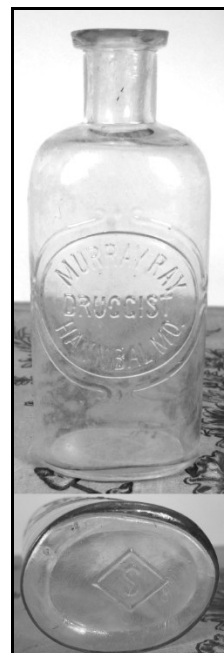


Figure 13 – Oval prescription bottle & base (Etsy)

Clint (1976:169-170) also illustrated two additional flasks marked on the bases with S in a Diamond, but this diamond was not stretched (i.e., a square turned 45 degrees). Both flasks were mouth blown with continuous-thread finishes (see Figure 8). Clint showed the bottles with the side seams extending to the top of the finish (to the lip or rim) but noted that the lip was ground smooth. This indicates a bottle that was mouth-blown into a mold, then the finish was ground to allow the screw cap to fit onto the embossed threads. Clint dated the flasks ca. 1887 and ca. 1889.

3. Liquor flasks and bottles with one- or two-part double-ring finishes

A final group of flasks appeared on eBay auctions. These were all mouth-blown Union Ovals (also known as strap-sided flasks) with two-part finishes. All of these lacked any body embossing, although each had a Diamond-S basemark. The logos varied in format, most being read with the long axis of the base horizontal, although some marks were correct with the long

axis vertical (see Figures 9 & 10). These varied in color from citron to amber with one light green example. A final oddity was an amber ammonia bottle embossed “AMMONIA” on the side with a turned-square Diamond-S basemark (Figure 14).



Figure 14 – Ammonia bottle (eBay)

4. T.A. Snider catsup bottles

Toulouse (1971:449-450) suggested that the T.A. Snider Preserve Co., Cincinnati, Ohio, used the “turned square” Diamond-S mark ca. 1900 (Figure 15). T.A. Snider opened the T.A. Snider Preserve Co. in 1884 and sold the firm to the New York Cannery in 1923, renamed as the Snider Packing Co. in 1928 and absorbed into the Birdseye Division of General Foods in 1943.



Figure 16 – Finish of Snider bottle



Figure 15 – Snider catsup base with Diamond-S



Figure 17 – Snider catsup base – no Diamond-S (eBay)

Zumwalt (1980:388) illustrated a sauce bottle base embossed with a slight horizontal stretch to the Diamond-S mark. While we have found a couple of Snider catsup bottles bearing the Diamond-S basemark (turned-square and horizontal variations), the vast majority of catsup bases used by the firm had no Diamond-S – nor have we found the logo in *any* Snider ads – suggesting that the mark was a glass house logo (Figures 16 & 17).

Date Ranges

The date range for the use of the mark/bottles (where we could find them) was consistently within three temporal periods: 1880-1895, 1920-1925, and ca. 1970s-2000s. Our concern in this study is the earlier period: 1880-1895, so we can eliminate the Elongated Diamond-S that was used by the Southern Glass Co. from ca. 1920 to 1925 (see Southern Glass Co. section for more information) and the British logos used in the 1970s and later (See the section on the Mysterious Letter S for more information on the later use of the logo). If the dates

are correct, we have only two glass houses that fit the time period as well as making the correct types of containers and glass color listed below in alphabetical order):

Chicago Glass Mfg. Co. (1883-ca. 1891)

Swindell Brothers, Baltimore, Maryland (1879-1959)

Other glass houses connected with the letter “S” were eliminated because they either did not make colorless glass, had no history of making the right products, or were in business during the wrong period.

Chicago Glass Mfg. Co. (1883-ca. 1891)

The history of this glass house is discussed in detail above, but there are three important characteristics that are relevant here:

1. The factory made colorless (flint) glass exclusively.
2. The plant’s main products were prescription bottles.
3. The use of the Diamond-S logo by the Chicago Glass Mfg. Co. is *certain*.

The Charles Yockell Letter

The Chicago Glass Mfg. Co. wrote a letter – dated 11/17/1887 – to Charles Yockell, noted Philadelphia mold maker, asking him to make “two molds wooden handles diamond S on bottom” (Winterthur Library). One mold was “for 1 3/4 panel (with plate which you can put in best place).” The other was for a “½ ounce Squat Flat Square.”

The Diamond-S mark was drawn on the letter as what we have called the “rotated square” variation. On the “Squat Flat Square,” Chicago Glass requested a “figure 2” near the mark and illustrated it on the right side. In our examination of the Tucson Urban Renewal collection, we discovered a small, square, colorless bottle embossed with the Diamond-S logo with a “2” to the right.

This is almost certainly the bottle described in the letter to Yockel (Figure 18).

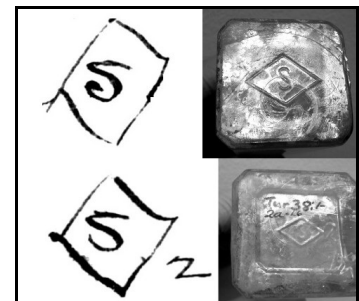


Figure 18 – Drawings sent to Yockle compared with bases found at Tucson (Winterthur Library; Tucson Urban Renewal collection)

Although the letter is only signed by a stamp “CHICAGO GLASS MANFG. CO.,” the message was almost certainly sent at the behest of the firm’s manager, Thomas K. Sheldon, or by him (Winterthur Library). This is the same Thomas K. Sheldon who had his name embossed on Sheldon drug store bottles made for Dean, Foster & Co. and the Sheldon-Foster Glass Co. (see those two sections for more information). Sheldon was involved with Chicago Glass for at least month of December of 1887 (and possibly until late May of 1888), so he would have been in the position to pen the letter and request his initial.

The letter may indicate the reason for the variation in diamonds. The letter noted, “We want our bottom plate . . . ~~Diamond~~ S on bottom” with a rotated-box diamond drawn around the “S.” The spacing of the letters is such that the diamond around the “S” was almost certainly drawn as an afterthought. There must have been a reason for crossing out the word “Diamond” and adding the drawing. Other letters to Yockel (cited at various places in the *Encyclopedia*) have described logos in longhand (handwritten or cursive) instructions. Many of these were barely legible, and it is no wonder that we find so many botched engravings of manufacturer’s marks. It is probable that Chicago Glass sent only a description in a previous order and received an elongated diamond; they wanted to be more certain this time.

This ties the Chicago Glass Mfg. Co. directly to the Diamond-S logo. Although the use of an “S” by Chicago Glass is not intuitively obvious, this is some of the most solid evidence in the bottle literature for a connection between a logo and a glass house. As noted above, the “S” likely indicated Thomas Sheldon, and the molds were certainly used until they wore out – long after Sheldon’s departure.

This is one of the most compelling identifications we have found for a direct link between a manufacturer’s mark and a glass house. There is little question that the Chicago Glass Mfg. Co. produced all of the prescription bottles bearing the Diamond-S logo that were used in the West.

Swindell Brothers, Baltimore, Maryland (1879-1959)

There is no question that the Swindell Brothers made prescription bottles and various containers for alcohol, including flasks. The big question with this glass house concerns the use of the Diamond-S logo. Although Bethman (1991:76) attributed the Diamond-S mark to the

Swindell Brothers, he gave no reason for this identification (as noted above). Toulouse (1970:453-454), however, stated that the Swindell Brothers “did not blow bottles until about 1880. . . . The ‘S in a circle’ is rather recent, being first used about 1920. There is no record of any other mark.” Since Baltimore, Maryland, – the location of the Swindells – was about 1,500 miles from the Colorado users, we cannot automatically assume that the Swidells used the Diamond-S logo.

The Toulouse information is difficult to assess. Toulouse worked for the Owens-Illinois Glass Co., developing new bottles among other duties. As such, he was an industry insider with knowledge we can access from no other sources. However, when he did not know the user of a certain mark, he guessed, and we now know that he was frequently incorrect. For example, he completely missed the St. Louis glass houses that were *major* producers of beer bottles for Anheuser-Busch and others. And the typographic errors in his dates were legendary – off by a year, a decade, or a century. While we have no reason to suspect his 1920 date for the Circle-S mark, he frequently missed on the older logos. When he said “no record of any other mark,” did that come from Swindell records, or did it mean that he did not know of one. Of course, we have no direct answer, but it does question the use of the Diamond-S logo. Aside from Toulouse and Bethman, we have no other direct claims for marks used by the Swindell Brothers.

Analysis of Bottle Types

Addressing the same four bottle types that began this section, we will follow the path to the best probability (virtually certain in one case) for the user of the Diamond-S logo for each type.

Prescription bottles

As noted above, we discovered prescription bottles with the Daimond-S mark used at Washington (state), Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, and Missouri. All but the Missouri example were square or rectangular in cross-section with chamfered corners and one-part prescription finishes (see Figures 2, 3, 4, 13, & 18). The Missouri example was oval in cross-section – as was one from Tucson – and also had the same finish (Figure 19). All were colorless. The Charles Yockell letter (see above) makes the connection with the rotated-square variation of

the Diamond-S logo and the Chicago Glass Mfg. Co. so strong as to be virtually absolute. The Bottle Research Group's discovery of almost certain identical logos on prescription bottles from Tucson, Arizona, ties Chicago Glass to that location. The basemarks in all examples were either rotated square or horizontal diamonds.

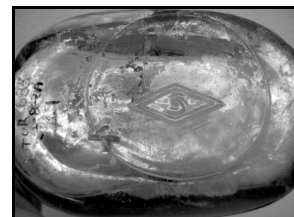


Figure 19 – Elongated diamond logo (Tucson Urban Renewal collection)

While the Swindell Brothers of Baltimore may have used the Diamond-S logo in some contexts (see below), there is no strong relationship between the Swindells and Diamond-S marks in the West. Of course, distances were daunting for *either* glass house. From Denver to Chicago is about 1,000 miles, 1,500 miles to Baltimore. The closest bottle we have found was used at Hannibal, Missouri – 300 miles from Chicago, almost 900 from Baltimore. A final question, however, virtually eliminates the Swindells – Why do we find *no* prescription bottles in the East with Diamond-S logos?

Although the same question could be asked about Chicago, we *do* have evidence that some, if not all of the Western bottles *were* made by Chicago Glass. This brings us to a new hypothesis: the Chicago Glass Mfg. Co. targeted West as a sales area. Numerous glass houses bracketed the East and Midwest, so the West would have been pretty ripe – with good rail coverage by 1880. All this together makes Chicago Glass pretty certain as the user of the Diamond-S logo on prescription bottles.

Liquor flasks with continuous-thread finishes or two-part collar and ring

Liquor flasks bearing Diamond-S basemarks fall into two categories: 1) the colorless flasks discussed in this section; and 2) amber and green flasks discussed below. Characteristics of the first category include: two-part collar-and-ring finishes (i.e., a longer, tapered collar above a single ring), multiple shapes, colorless glass, and sides embossed with the names of the users. In addition, one firm used both a flask and a cylinder whiskey bottle, and our searches have only revealed colorless containers with Diamond-S marks in Colorado.

Mostly, these came from Clint (1976:115, 123, 176, 190), very detailed drawings plus one flask from eBay (see Figures 5, 6, 8, & 9). This group includes two additional flasks marked on the bases with S in a Diamond, but this diamond was not stretched (i.e., a square turned 45 degrees) (Clint 1976:169-170). Both flasks were mouth blown with continuous-thread finishes.

Clint showed the bottles with the side seams extending to the top of the finish (to the lip or rim) but noted that the lip was ground smooth. This indicates a bottle that was mouth-blown into a mold, then the finish was ground to allow the screw cap to fit onto the embossed threads. Clint dated the flasks ca. 1887 and ca. 1889.

Even though a flask with the same type of continuous-thread finish appeared in the 1902 Swindell catalog (Figure 20), this was later than the use in Colorado, and the style of flask was different. The use of colorless glass in Colorado as well as older shape styles than those found in the Swindell 1902 catalog still suggests the Chicago Glass Mfg. Co. as the most likely user of the Diamond-S mark on these Colorado flasks and bottle.



Figure 20 – Flasks (Swindell Bros. 1902 catalog)

Liquor flasks and bottles with one- or two-part double-ring finishes

These flasks are very different from the ones described above. These were all mouth-blown Union Ovals (also known as strap-sided flasks) with two-part finishes. All of these lacked any body embossing, although each had a Diamond-S basemark. The logos varied in format, most being read with the long axis of the base horizontal, although one mark was correct with the long axis vertical (see Figures 9 & 10). Regardless of axis, most of these were the vertical variation, although one each of the horizontal and rotated square appeared in our sample. These varied in color from citron to amber with one light green example. A final oddity was an amber ammonia bottle embossed “AMMONIA” on the side with a turned-square Diamond-S basemark (see Figure 14). Because of its amber color, this probably belonged with the unmarked flasks.

Flasks of this type and general color scheme typically have been found along the Eastern Seaboard, suggesting a manufacture in that area, and they are a close match for ones found in the Swindell Brothers 1902 catalog (see Figure 20). Since these flasks had no side embossing, we can only date them by manufacturing technique and style trend, placing them somewhat later than the colorless flasks and prescription bottles described above. Even though we have no direct evidence tying the Diamond-S logo to the Swindell Brothers, they made the right type of flasks in the right color during the right time period for this style. Therefore, these flasks probably were made by the Swindells at some period between ca. 1880 and ca. 1920.

T.A. Snider catsup bottles

As noted above, Toulouse (1971:449-450) claimed that the T.A. Snider Preserve Co., Cincinnati, Ohio, used the “turned square” Diamond-S mark ca. 1900 (see Figures 15-17). The T.A. Snider Preserve Co. opened in 1884 and became the New York Cannery after a move to Albion, New York, in 1923. Zumwalt (1980:388) illustrated a Snider sauce bottle base embossed with a slight horizontal stretch to the Diamond-S mark. These Snider’s catsup bottles had continuous-thread finishes, created in a mouth-blown mold. Once the bottle was wetted off the blowpipe, the rim was ground down flat to accept an aluminum cap – the same process used for the liquor flasks discussed above.

Unfortunately, machine-made continuous-thread finishes for small-mouthed bottles were unavailable until the early 1920s, so the bottles with the Diamond-S logos could have been used anytime during the 1884-1923 period. Since the vast majority of surviving Snider’s catsup bottles *lack* the Diamond-S logo – and we have not seen the mark in conjunction with any Snider’s ads – it is highly unlikely that that “S” in the logo indicated Snider. The only two real hints we have for the maker include the colorless glass and continuous-thread finish. Assuming our assignment of the Diamond-S mark to the Chicago Glass Mfg. Co. is correct, both of those characteristics again suggest Chicago Glass as the manufacturer.

Wrapping it all up

Assuming that our conclusions in the above discussion are correct, we can arrive at a few final decisions. Looking first at Diamond-S logo styles, the Chicago Glass Mfg. Co. appears to have used the turned-square, horizontal, and elongated horizontal types – all but the vertical variation. In contrast, the Swindell Brothers used the turned-square, horizontal, and vertical variations, but not the elongated horizontal one. However, this may be a result of sample bias. It is possible that we will eventually find the missing ones for each firm. It is virtually certain that the main reason for variation was the whims of the mold makers.

By glass house, the results are most interesting. As noted in the analysis, characteristics of colorless glass, locations in the West, and the elongated horizontal logo all point toward the Chicago Glass Mfg. Co. Therefore, Chicago Glass was the most likely producer of the colorless prescription bottles, liquor bottles and flasks, and Snider’s catsup that bear the Diamond-S

basemark. Note that all of these were used in the West (although not the West Coast) except for a single example we have found from Missouri.

The Swindell Brothers likely produced flasks made from shades of amber and green glass, especially those with double-ring finishes. As noted above, those were much more common in the East and were the only ones with the vertical variation of the Diamond-S logo. Some of these flasks were also the only ones where the logo was intended to be read with the flask held vertically. Some of the colored flasks and all of the colorless ones showed the marks in horizontal context. See Table 1 for a tabular view.

Dating varies according to product and glass house. All Chicago Glass Mfg. Co. bottles only could have been made between 1885 and 1892, the years the factory was in operation – including the ones made for the Snider Preserve Co. Local dating of individual examples may reduce the span (e.g., dates by Clint 1976).

Table 1 – Shapes, Colors, Bottle Types, and Manufacturers of the Diamond-C logo

Type of Bottle	Color	Manufacturer	Shape of Logo
Prescription	Colorless	Chicago Glass Mfg. Co.	Horizontal Diamond Elongated Diamond
Liquor Bottle & Flasks	Colorless	Chicago Glass Mfg. Co.	Rotated Box Diamond Horizontal Diamond Elongated Diamond
Snider's Catsup	Colorless	Chicago Glass Mfg. Co.	Rotated Box Diamond Horizontal Diamond
Liquor Flasks	Ambers & Green	Swindell Bros.	Rotated Box Diamond Vertical Diamond Horizontal Diamond

Colored flasks made by the Swindell Brothers are more difficult to pin down. Because of the flask type, finish type, and manufacturing characteristics, the Swindell likely produced the flasks between ca. 1880 and ca. 1920 – a 40-year span. However, Toulouse may have provided another hint. Even though Toulouse asserted that the Swindells used no marks prior to the Circle-S in 1920, the Diamond-S likely preceded the Circle-S on a limited type of containers

(i.e., colored flasks). This suggests a change to Circle-S, so the Diamond-S may have been used only from say 1900 to 1920. Of course, a more cautious date range would be 1880-1920.

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