

Consolidated Fruit Jar Co.

Bill Lockhart, Beau Shriever, Bill Lindsey, and Carol Serr

The patents for the Mason fruit jars were almost certainly the most valuable and important patents in fruit jar history. As these began to expire in the early 1870s, Louis R. Boyd, John L. Mason (the original patent holder and inventor of the Mason jars), and two others formed a corporation to renew the patents and retain control of the Mason fruit jars. Incorporated in December of 1871, the Consolidated Fruit Jar Co. manufactured the tinned-steel lids and screw bands for the jars and authorized various glass houses to actually produce the glass containers. Consolidated sold the fruit jar rights to the Hero Glass Works in 1883.

History

Consolidated Fruit Jar Co., New York, New York (1871-1980s or later)

The Consolidated Fruit Jar Co. incorporated on December 12, 1871, as a combination of the Sheet Metal Screw Co., the Mason Mfg. Co., and several individuals. The new firm had a capital of \$500,000. Roller (1983:446) noted Louis R. Boyd as representing the Sheet Metal Screw Co., rather than the New York Metals Co., as claimed by Toulouse. Boyd was the primary stockholder with \$197,500 (39.5%) of the subscription. John L. Mason, Stephen R. Pinckney, and William S. Carr represented the Mason Mfg. Co. with \$137,000 (27.4%) of the subscription. Henry E. Shaffer had \$65,000 (13%) of the total, and Henry C. Wisner was a corporate member but had no stock (Roller 1983:446).¹

The new firm claimed 66 Warren St., New York – the former Sheet Metal Screw Co. location – as its first home, but the office moved to 49 Warren St. the following year. The actual plant was situated on the Raritan River at New Brunswick, New Jersey. It is interesting that the

¹ According to Toulouse (1971:123-125), four companies consolidated to form Consolidated: 1) Mason Mfg. Co., making lids; 2) New York Metals Co., operated by the well-known Louis Boyd – also making lids; 3) Payne & Co. (Mason's first partner); and 4) Jersey City Glass Works, making jars. This transformation took place ca. 1867. The Roller version is almost certainly correct.

drawing of the plant (Figure 1) in the ca. 1891 catalog traces the founding of the plant to the date of Mason's 1858 patent. Boyd was president, with Harry E. Shaffer as secretary. Initial products included "Mason, Boyd's Porcelain Lined, Queen, Mason's Improved, and Other Fruit Jars" (Roller 1983:446).

Prior to the consolidation, there had been a strong competition between the principle companies, with little cooperation. Boyd controlled the old patents, but he was constantly pushed by the Hero Glass Works – another firm that made closures for screw-top containers. Mason had lost control of his earlier patents, but he kept on inventing – creating new issues for Boyd. Shaffer's Queen jars were *very* similar to Mason jars, adding another complicating factor. The situation was very complex.

The impending expiration of the early Mason jar patents changed their attitudes. John L. Mason had received the patent for his famous jar in 1858. The patent expired in 14 years – 1872 – and that would allow any glass houses to manufacture the jars without paying any royalties to the patent holder. Mason had already been edged out of his former firm, losing control of the patent rights. See the section on the Mason Fruit Jar companies for details about earlier firms.

As owner of the Sheet Metal Screw Co., Boyd controlled all five of Mason's original patents, but the patents could only be renewed by the original patentee – John L. Mason. To retain control of the patents – and the lucrative royalties – Boyd needed Mason. As a result, the two formed an uneasy alliance that included the others. Boyd reassigned the three 1858 patents to Mason in 1872 – in exchange for \$5,000 – and Mason was able to renew them for seven years (Roller 1983:447).

Although the Consolidated Fruit Jar Co. did not make fruit jars, the company controlled various Mason patents and thus controlled who *was* allowed to make them. Old jealousies and disagreements resurfaced almost immediately, and the various partners entered into agreements that landed several groups in court. Although Consolidated was able to retain full rights of the patents, this was clearly not a compatible group (see Roller 1983:447 for more details).

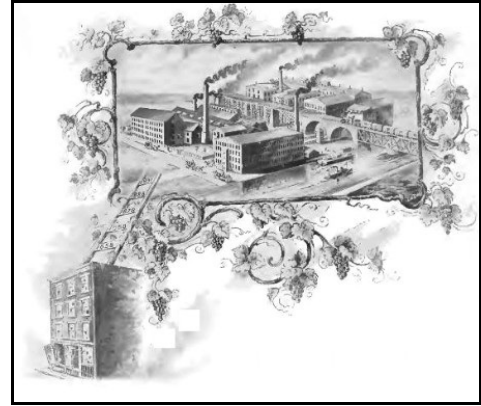


Figure 1 – New Brunswick plant (Consolidated Fruit Jar Co. ca. 1892 catalog)

Reminiscent of his experience with the original Mason Mfg. Co., Mason had been removed from the firm by May 31, 1873. Consolidated registered the CFJCo monogram as a trademark on April 23, 1878, with first use claimed at April 3 of that year (Figure 2). The firm also registered “Boyd’s Porcelain Lined” on September 19, 1878, claiming as a first use date of February 1870 – its use by the Sheet Metal Screw Co. (Roller 1983:447).

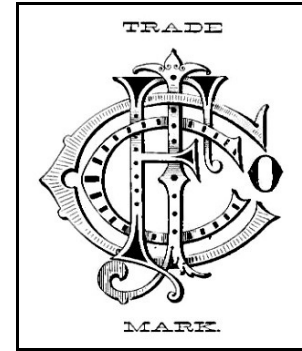


Figure 2 – CFJCo trademark
(Consolidated Fruit Jar Co.
ca. 1892 catalog)

Consolidated also applied to register the term “Mason’s Fruit Jar” on April 12, 1877. This led to a prolonged battle with the patent office. On September 20, 1878, a patent examiner sustained the verdict of the patent office that Consolidated should *not* be granted the trade mark citing its reason:

When all such rights cease by the expiration of the patents, the public will succeed thereto and no one can be prevented from manufacturing and selling Mason’s fruit jars and stamping them as such. Now that the extended patents under which applicants manufacture are about to expire, to give to them a monopoly for thirty years longer in the use of the name by which such patented articles are known would be a fraud upon the public. The Office has hitherto refused to record such names as trade marks and the courts both in England and in this country have declined to extend protection to their use (U.S. Patent Office 1878:270).

The Examiner finally concluded that “no one can claim protection for the exclusive use of a trade mark or trade name which would practically give him a monopoly in the sale of any goods other than those produced or made by himself” (U.S. Patent Office 1878:270). According to Roller (1983:447), however, Consolidated finally won the trade mark on October 8, 1879.

According to Toulouse (1971:124-125) the Clyde Glass Works was the largest manufacturer of Mason jars for Consolidated and was the heaviest hurt when Consolidated sold the jar concession to the Hero Fruit Jar Co. about 1883. While there is little doubt that Clyde was a major manufacturer for Consolidated (probably *the* major manufacturer), there is no documentary evidence that presumed sale ever took place (see Discussion and Conclusions section for more on the debate). Henry C. Weisner became president of Consolidated in 1885. On February 7 of that year, an oil car on a train crossing the elevated bridge above the

Consolidated factory was ignited during a collision, dumping flaming oil on the plant. The resulting fire destroyed the entire holding. The factory was almost immediately rebuilt (Roller 1983:447).

In 1886, Consolidated finally overstepped its bounds, when it sued the Bellaire Stamping Co. for infringement on its patents. Consolidated claimed that Bellaire had infringed on Reissued Patent No 9,909, issued on October 25, 1881, assigned to Consolidated by Lewis R Boyd. The original patent, No. 88,439 had been issued for improved mode of preventing corrosion of metallic caps on March 30, 1869. The patent superseded Patent No 117,236, issued to Taylor & Hodgetts on July 18, 1871. The U.S. Circuit Court noted that:

The use of a non corrodible lining was not new with Taylor & Hodgetts. It is shown in the patent granted to B.W. Lewis, February 12, 1856. The lining there was tin but that is not a material difference. It was tin in the cap described in the original application of Taylor & Hodgetts. . . . J.K. Chase's patent October 27, 1857, shows and describes a screw cap of thin metal spun to shape and identical in all respects except the glass lining with the fruit jar caps made and sold in the market under the Boyd patent. Boyd's improvement on the Taylor & Hodgetts cap consisted in combining the screw cap of Chase with the glass lining plate of Taylor & Hodgetts, which was the equivalent of Lewis' tin lining embodied also in the cap described in Taylor & Hodgetts original application. Now, if the Chase patent and Taylor & Hodgetts patent had each been valid and in force when Boyd made his improvement that improvement must have been held to be *nothing more than an ingenious attempt to evade both those patents* and quite within the range of the skill of a competent mechanic but without anything of invention and therefore not patentable [our emphasis].

The judge therefore ruled that "the Boyd patent reissued to the complainant as his assignee was invalid for the reason that the improvement therein described was not patentable." Boyd had been holding an invalid monopoly on his jar cap for 17 years. The playing field was now open.

Consolidated continued to make lids until 1907, although it had begun to diversify its products much earlier. The New York corporation dissolved in 1924, and a new one was formed

immediately in New Jersey (Roller 1983:448; Toulouse 1969:345; 1971:123-125). Although Roller (1983:448) noted that the company was still in business in 1983, we have found no indication that it survived into the 21st century.

Containers and Marks

Although the Consolidated Fruit Jar Co. did not actually manufacture glass, it controlled the patents for the Mason jars (Figure 3). As a result, the firm required the glass houses it supported to emboss the CFJCo monogram on various jars and lids.

- C - (ca. 1875-1878)

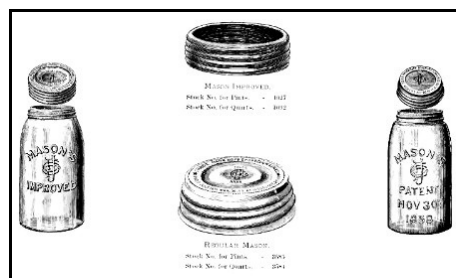


Figure 3 – Mason Jars (Consolidated Fruit Jar Co. ca. 1892 catalog)

Toulouse (1969:60) originally claimed that Consolidated “appears to have used a ‘C’ on the bottom of the jar” from 1867 to 1871. Later, Toulouse (1971:124) was less certain, noting: “There is some indication that the first trademark was a ‘C’ on the bottom of the jar.” Other sources failed to substantiate his claim.

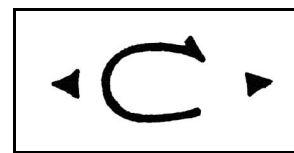


Figure 4 – C logo (Roller 1983:232)

Roller (1983:232) illustrated a “C” with a small, solid arrow or triangle on both ends (Figure 4) between an arched “MASON’S” and “PATENT” but did not know the maker. He noted that one jar had an illegible ghosting below the “-C-” and that a variation had “DUPONT” in an oval on the reverse side. The illustration in Roller showed a serif on the upper termination of the “C.” Creswick (1987:146) illustrated two variations of the logo (Figure 5).



Figure 5 – C logos (Creswick 1987:146) & Hyphen logo (North American Glass)

Roller (2010:350-351) listed three types of logos on the jars as “- C - or _ C _ brackets filled in or _ C _ brackets outlined only.” Based on photos from North American Glass, the “- C -” logo is the one with a hyphen on both sides (see Figure 5). The “_ C _” designation likely

indicated the arrows or triangles (2011:351). The older Roller drawing (see Figure 4) showed the “filled in . . . brackets” (Figure 6). A North American Glass auction showed an example of the “brackets outlined” logo (see Figure 6). Figure 7 shows a comparison of the three logos drawn from North American Glass examples.



Figure 6 – “Closed” & open brackets or arrows (North American Glass)

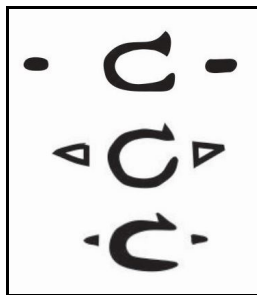


Figure 7 – Three C logo styles

All the photographs from North American Glass showed an upper serif on the “C,” and Figure 5 may have also had a lower serif or a flared lower end. The editors noted that one variation of the hyphen logo had a “2” basemark, and one of the jars with the



Figure 8 – 3 & 1X-9in-G basemarks (North American Glass)

Dupont oval on the reverse had a “3” on the base (Figure 8). The “filled in” triangles or arrows had three basal variants:

1. 1286 or G295 on aqua pints
2. 1X or 2X on quarts
3. 1X, 2X, or 3X inside a large G on quarts (see Figure 8)

The Roller editors (2011:350) noted that in the June 1988 issue of the *Fruit Jar Newsletter*, Dick Roller discussed his long-held belief that these jars were made for the Consolidated Fruit Jar Co. prior to 1871. Jim Sears identified the “unrecognizable ghosting” noted in the 1983 book as the CFJCo monogram. The editors speculated that the lines or triangles on either side of the “C” may have been used to cover up the monogram. We would like to add that the “C” on these jars is very similar in shape and style of serif to the “C” in the CFJCo logo that stands for “Consolidated” (Figure 9).

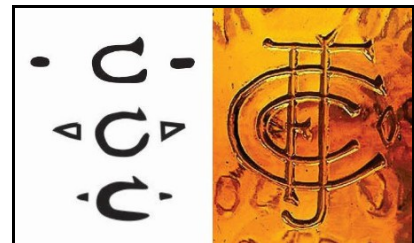


Figure 9 – C logo and CFJCo monogram

There are two apparent difficulties with the Roller editors' speculation. First, if the "C" logos were used *prior* to the CFJCo monogram, the monogram would be *over* a ghosted "C" logo – not the other way around. Second, the logo would have been used *after* 1871 but prior to 1878, when the firm first registered the CFJCo monogram. It is likely that Consolidated first had Mason jars made with no markings, then added the "C" logos, probably as late as 1875 or 1876, since these jars are not common, and finally included the CFJCo monogram in 1878.



Figure 10 – Jar comparison (North American Glass)

The ghosting, however, is intriguing. A comparison of a jar with a "C" logo and one with a CFJCo monogram show that there is insufficient space between "MASON'S" and "PATENT" for the monogram – unless the ghosted monogram extended into the word "PATENT" (Figure 10). In fact, a search of markings between "MASON'S" and "PATENT" showed virtually no logos that would have fit in the space taken by the "C" logos. The mystery continues.

Mason's Improved

Creswick (1987:121) illustrated a jar embossed "MASON / – C – / IMPROVED" on the front and claimed that in at least one variation, the "– C –" was ghosted over the CFJCo monogram. The base of that jar was embossed "H8C" (Figure 11). She further claimed that the maker was the Hazel Glass Co. As usual, she did not explain the reason for her choice. Unlike the Roller drawing Creswick made no serif on the "C." Roller (2011:337) noted that Vivian Kath had reported the variation with the ghosted monogram and "H8 / C" on the base. We have been unable to find an example of this jar. This may a misunderstanding of the Mason's Patent jars described above, or Creswick may have had access to a jar or jars that we have not been able to locate.



Figure 11 – C logo on Mason's Improved (Creswick 1987:121)

Dupont

Roller (1983:232) only noted a variation with "**DUPONT** in oval on reverse" with a backward "N" (Figure 12). Creswick (1987:135) illustrated a jar with the Dupont oval both with

and without the CFJCo logo. Roller (2011:364) noted that there were pint, quart, and half-gallon sizes of Mason's Patent jars with Oval-Dupont logos on the reverse. The editors stated that Vivian Kath had reported variations with 1X or 2X inside a G, both with backwards "Ns" in the word Dupont. The 1X variation illustrated on North American Glass had the backwards "N" – although two other photos – without "X" basemarks – showed normal "Ns" (see Figure 12).



Figure 12 – Dupont ovals (Roller 1983:232; North American Glass)

Roller (1988:424-425) discussed the Dupont jars known at that time. He noted them as “very scarce.” He discussed the logo. Dupont registered “DU PONT” in an oval (No.133,238) on July 20, 1920, adding that “DU PONT” had been used continuously since 1802 but the oval logos only had been used “on gelatinous explosives” since May 1909. Other Dupont records confirm the 1909 date. Roller drew three conclusions from the variations of the jars:

1. The Dupont jars were made at several points in time as shown by the different base markings.
2. They were probably not used as packer jars because they were made in three sizes.
3. They were not made much later than the 1880s or 1890s because of manufacturing techniques.

We should address these conclusions individually. Point 1 may only indicate that different glass houses made the jars. If Toulouse was correct that the Clyde Glass Co. was the major producer of CFJCo jars, then the typical letter/number base code would *only* indicate Clyde. That type of code does not appear on jars made by any of the other firms that marked their CFJCo jars with logo or company name. This *may* reflect three different orders, but they were not necessarily at radically different time periods. If the orders went through Consolidated, the firm would have sent them on to one of the glass houses making jars. Even if the orders were a year (or even less) apart, they could still have gone to different glass houses.

Point 2 is almost certainly correct. Glass jars seem to be unlikely containers for gunpowder. The fact that these jars were “very scarce” increases the likelihood that they were used as something besides packers. Once packers are eliminated, what is left? These may have been used in-house for some substance that was necessary but needed in small quantities, or these may have given to management or employees as incentives or keepsakes. We completely agree with Point 3. It is highly unlikely that these jars were made after 1909.

No one seems to have hazarded a guess as to the meaning of the Dupont logo on these jars, although Dupont Industries still uses the logo that was embossed on the fruit jars. Dupont began making black powder for blasting and gunpowder in 1802. The firm eventually branched out into synthetic fibers, paints, dyes, cellophane, and numerous other products. In 1880, the company began making dynamite to replace the older (and more dangerous) blasting powder. The firm remains in business in 2014 (Dupont 2014). Unfortunately, the company history gives no hint as to why the firm would have its logo embossed on fruit jars during the 1870s and 1880s.

CFJCo monogram

As noted in the history section, Consolidated registered the CFJCo monogram as a trademark on April 23, 1878, with first use claimed at April 3 of that year. Thus, the mark could not have been used during the first seven years when the firm was in business. Unless one of the “C” jars discussed above was made for Consolidated during those early years, there is no way to discern a jar made for the company from 1871 to 1877. Creswick (1987:258) claimed that the first use was in 1877, although that was probably a typographical error. The correct date is 1878 (Cox 1892:389). Toulouse (1971:123-124), however, suggested that the CFJCo monogram was embossed on fruit jars from 1871 to 1882. Roller (1983:220, 232) also dated the jars ca. 1870s to 1880s.

The source books seem to have mostly ignored variations in the logos – although Creswick (1987:122-123) illustrated logos with both a round and diamond-shaped “o” – more about those in a moment. The “F” had serifs on all three terminations as well as one at the “corner” – although these could be faint on some worn molds. The “J” had a serif at the top that extended well above the top bar of the “F” in some cases but was right at the bar on others. The larger “C” had a very distinct serif at the upper termination and occasionally had a squared or slightly flared end on the lower one. The smaller “C” had a much lesser serif in the upper termination that often faded out on worn molds.

The “o” in “Co” appeared in four distinct formats (Figure 13):

1. A typical round “o” found in most fonts.
2. An “o” in a horizontal oval shape

3. An “o” in a vertical oval shape
4. A diamond-shaped “o” (vertically stretched in at least one example)

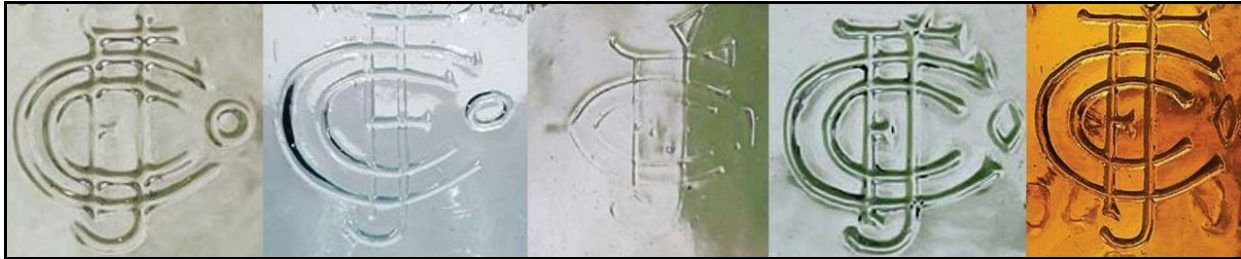


Figure 13 – Variation of “o” in “Co” (North American Glass)

The vast majority of all CFJCo monograms on eBay or North American Glass had a round “o” in “Co.” Our largest sample was composed of Mason’s Patent jars, and those had the widest variation, with round, diamond-shaped, and vertical ovals on the front, vertical ovals, vertical diamonds, and one very large round “o” on the reverse logos (Figure 14). All Clyde jars in our sample had a round “o” in “Co” – although some jars not marked “CLYDE, N.Y.” also had the round “o.” The Whitney variation had a slightly vertically oval “o.” All of the large-letter butter jars also had a round “o” in “Co” - although the small-letter variation had a diamond-shaped “o.”



Figure 14 – Very large “o” (North American Glass)

Queen jars in our sample that were embossed “THE / CFJCo monogram / QUEEN” had a diamond-shaped “o” – but those with the logo on the reverse had a horizontal oval “o” in “Co.” Creswick (1987:181) showed all Queen jars with the diamond-shaped “o.” The variation of the Mason’s Patent jar with both the CFJCo monogram *and* the Hero Cross also had a vertically elongated oval “o.” If the Creswick drawing (1987:141) is correct, the A.&D.H. Chambers variation also had a vertically elongated “o” as did the IGC0 variation in Roller (1983:230; 2011:348). It is probable that these variations are more indicative of individual mold makers than of glass houses or time periods, although future research with a larger sample of jars should address this issue.

MASON’S PATENT NOV 30th 1858 (1878-ca. 1883)

Toulouse (1969:62) listed three variations of the jar embossed “MASON’S (arch) / CFJCo monogram / PATENT / NOV 30th / 1858.” Roller (1983:230, 232) included examples

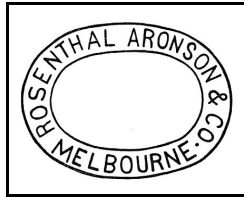


Figure 15 – Melbourne embossing (Roller 1983:232)

embossed “CLYDE, N.Y.” on the reverse or “I.G.Co” on the base. These were made by the Clyde Glass Works and the Illinois Glass Co., respectively. Roller (1983:232) also included a Mason’s Patent jar embossed “ROSENTHAL ARONSON & CO. / MELBOURNE” in an oval frame on the reverse

(Figure 15) and noted that these were made for export to Australia. He included a 1906 ad from a Sydney, Australia, firm – that showed a drawing of the jar with the CFJCo monogram (Figure 16).

Creswick (1987:131, 140-141) illustrated seven jars with the

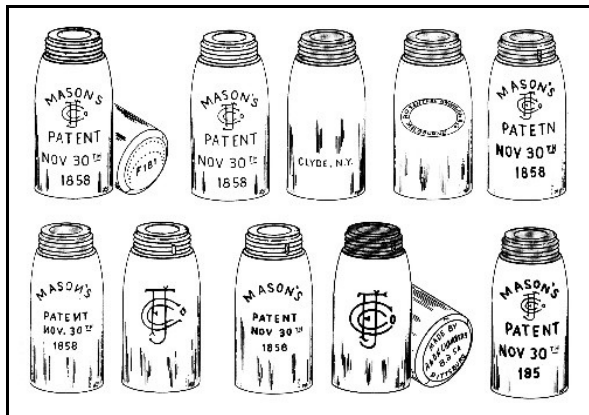


Figure 17 – Mason’s Patent variations (Creswick 1987:131, 140-141)

monogram and Mason’s

Patent. Variations

included a lack of the apostrophe in “MASON,”

one with “CLYDE, N.Y.” on the reverse, a dotted half-moon shape on the base, different sizes of embossing, jars with the CFJCo

monogram on

the reverse – including one embossed

“MADE BY

(arch) / A.&D.H. CHAMBERS (slight arch) / 8.6SA

(horizontal) / PITTSBURG (inverted arch)” on the base, and

one with each “N” reversed (Figure 17). Roller (2011:351)

included a ghosted CFJCo

monogram, bases with crosses

(Figure 18), and a ghosted

“IMPROVED” through the word “PATENT.” Bases of the jars were embossed with a variety of letters and numbers, usually beginning with a capital letter (see Figure 18). Each of these jars was mouth blown (ground rim) and sealed with a glass insert in the top of a metal screw lid (Figure 19).



Figure 19 – Ground rim (North American Glass)



Figure 16 – Australian ad (Roller 1983:232)



Figure 18 – Crosses & base numbers (North American Glass)

Some Mason jars were marked with both the CFJCo monogram and the Hero cross with no letters (see Hero Fruit Jar Co. section). These should be dated ca. 1883-1885 and were made by Hero rather than any glass house connected with Consolidated (Toulouse 1971:124). These almost certainly were made using molds obtained from Consolidated (Figure 20). Creswick (1987:143) included a variation missing the “1858” (see Figure 20).



Figure 20 – CFJCo monogram and Hero Cross (eBay; Creswick 1987:143)

Lids

Roller (1983:232) described two variations of the zinc lids:

1. “TRADE MARK BOYD’S PORCELAIN LINED (arch) / PAT^D MAR. 30. 58 JUNE 9.63 MAR. 30. 69 EXT^D MAR. 30 72 (inverted arch)” around the CFJCo monogram – all stamped into the top of a metal lid (Figure 21). A milkglass liner inside the top of the metal lid was embossed “CONSOLIDATED FRUIT JAR COMPANY NEW YORK” around the monogram (see Figure 21).

2. “★ TRADE MARK BOYD’S PORCELAIN LINED ★ (arch) / PAT^D JULY 1871 MAR 30 1869 REISSUED OCT 25 1881 (inverted arch)” around “TRADE” / CFJCo monogram / “MARK” – all stamped on top of the metal lid (see Figure 21). The milkglass liner was marked as in #1 above. Some of these had a vertical metal rod soldered to the side of the lid for easier opening and sealing.



Figure 21 – Mason’s Patent lid 1, Porcelain liner; Mason’s Patent lid 2 (North American Glass; eBay)

Roller (1983:232) noted that the patentees mentioned on the two lids were:

John L. Mason – November 30, 1858

John K. Chase – June 9, 1863

Lewis R. Boyd – October 25, 1881

William Taylor & Charles Hodgetts assigned to Lewis R. Boyd – July 19, 1871

MASON'S IMPROVED (1878-ca. 1883)

The Mason's Improved jar was based on Patent No. 102,913, issued to John L. Mason on May 10, 1870. The basic improvement was to replace the old, one-part zinc lid with a glass insert that sat atop the jar rim and was held in place by a metal screw band. For more information, see the section on the Mason Mfg. Co.

All major sources (Toulouse 1969:61; Creswick 1987:119, 121-123; Roller 1983:220; 2011:335-337) include variations of jars embossed "MASON'S (arch) / IMPROVED (horizontal)" on the front and the CFJCo monogram. All of these jars were mouth blown (ground rims) and many included basemarks with letters and numbers (although none of the major sources recorded those).

Variations included:



Figure 22 – CFJCo on reverse, Mason's Improved; Trade Mark top front; CFJCo reverse; Trade Mark bottom front; CFJCo reverse (Creswick 1987:121; North American Glass)

1. "MASON'S / IMPROVED" with CFJCo monogram on reverse (Figure 22)
2. "TRADE" (to left) and "MARK" (to right) above "MASON'S" on front; monogram on reverse (see Figure 22)
3. "TRADE MARK" below "IMPROVED" on front; monogram on reverse (Figure 22)
4. "IMPROVED" over ghosted "JAR"; monogram on reverse; "H. BROOKE MOULD MAKER N.Y. on base
5. Monogram below "IMPROVED" with "MANUFACTURED AT (arch) / THE / WHITNEY GLASS WORKS / GLASSBORO N.J. (all horizontal)" on the reverse (Figure 23)
6. Monogram between "MASON'S" and "IMPROVED" with or without CLYDE, N.Y. on the reverse (see Figure 23)
7. "TRADE MARK" above "MASON'S"; monogram between "MASON'S" and "IMPROVED" (see Figure 23)
8. "TRADE MARKS" above "MASON'S"; monogram between "MASON'S" and "IMPROVED" (see Figure 23)

The Clyde Glass Works made some of these jars and embossed both the CFJCo monogram and “CLYDE / N.Y.” on many of them (see the section on Clyde Glass Works for more information). In 1877 and 1878, the Whitney Brothers,



Figure 23 – Whitney variation; Clyde variation; North American Glass; Trade Mark top; CFJCo front; Trade Marks variation (Creswick 1987:123)

Glassboro, New Jersey, and the Cohansey Glass Mfg. Co., Bridgeton, New Jersey, both offered Mason jars with CFJCo trimmings, but Roller (1983:447) did not know whether the jars bore the CFJCo monogram. Creswick (1987:122) illustrated a four-gallon example embossed with the Whitney name.

Mason's Improved Butter Jar

Toulouse (1969:61-63) discussed a MASON'S IMPROVED BUTTER JAR with the CFJCo logo embossed between “IMPROVED” and “BUTTER.” He noted that “there were several of these butter jars, generally used to hold butter water tight for spring-



Figure 24 – Butter jars; Large & small lettered jars (Creswick 1987:119; North American Glass)



Figure 25 – Small jar (North American Glass)

house cooling and ice-chests.” Creswick (1987:119) illustrated three variations of the butter jars. Two were embossed “MASON’S (arch) / CFJCo monogram / IMPROVED / BUTTER JAR (all horizontal)” on the front. The other was the same but without the words “BUTTER JAR” (Figure 24). Roller (2011:339) added that there were small- and large-lettered variations (see Figure 24). The jars were made in various sizes (Figures 25 & 26).

Like the other CFJCo Mason jars, these were mouth blown with ground-rim finishes and were sealed with glass inserts held in place by metal screw bands. The glass inserts on all the examples we have seen were embossed “MASON’S IMPROVED (arch) / MAY 10 1870.” Some of the metal bands had small metal tabs soldered to the sides to act as “grippers” for



Figure 26 – Tall jar (North American Glass)

sealing and unsealing the lids (Figure 27). At least some bases were embossed with letters and numbers – for example, “E364” or “H273” (see Figure 27).

Summary of Manufacturers

Toulouse (1971:123-124) claimed that the Jersey City Glass Works was one of the incorporators of the Consolidated Fruit Jar Co., although that was not substantiated by any other source. He noted (1971:124) that “Consolidated never made any fruit jars, although we have no exact record as to what the Jersey City Glass Works had done on the glass side. They did not give up their separate identity as a glass maker.” *If* Jersey City Glass made any jars for Consolidated, it did not use a manufacturer’s mark.



Figure 27 – Insert & band; Butter jar base (North American Glass)

Roller (1983:230; 2011:348) and Creswick (1987:140-141) listed three manufacturers of the Mason’s Patent jars: Illinois Glass Co., A.&D.H. Chambers, and the Clyde Glass Works. Only Clyde and the Whitney Glass Works were reported as making Mason’s Improved jars. These firms should be addressed individually.

The I.G.C° Variation (prob. ca. 1878-1880)

Roller (1983:230) originally recorded this logo on a Mason’s Patent jar with the CFJCo monogram (Figure 28). The Roller update (2011:348) discussed the Illinois Glass Co. variation. Although Dick Roller had identified the Illinois firm in 1983, Jerry McCann disputed that claim. McCann observed that

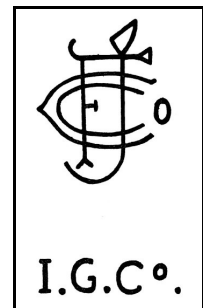


Figure 28 – I.G.C° basemark (Roller 1983:230)

there is no evidence that this jar was made for the Consolidated Fruit Jar Company. It does not have the usual letter/number base as seen on other CFJCo embossed jars. It is possible that the base mark is for the Independent Glass Company of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.”

The argument seems convoluted. The presence of the CFJCo monogram almost certainly indicates that the jar was made for Consolidated. The statement was probably intended

to read that “there is no evidence that this jar was made *by the Illinois Glass Co.*” Lockhart and his associates (2012:22-23) noted several early medicinal bottles that were virtually identical, although some were embossed “I.G.Co.” on their bases, and at least one other had an “I.G.C°” basemark (Figures 29 & 30). While the “I.G.Co.” variation of the logo is far more common, we have found no evidence to suggest it was used by any glass house except the Illinois Glass Co.



Figure 29 – IGC° and I.G.C° basemarks (Lockhart et al. 2012:22-23)

Independent Glass Co. opened in 1880 and primarily produced lamp chimneys on a single 10-pot furnace for its entire existence. The firm leased the plant to the Crystal Jar Co. from 1881 to 1884. On December 1882, William H. Blunt received a patent for a fruit jar and assigned the patent to Independent. The plant closed in 1888 and probably made the fruit jars until that date (Hawkins 2009:285-287). There was no record of *any* production of product jars or other fruit jars, and Hawkins did not note any logo for the firm. While the Independent Glass Co. (1880-1888) was open at the very end of Consolidated’s tenure, it is far less likely as the fruit jar maker than the long-term Illinois Glass Co.



Figure 30 – Medicine bottle (Lockhart et al. 2012:22)

The Illinois Glass Co. opened in 1873 and remained in business until it merged with the Owens Bottle Co. in 1929 to form the Owens-Illinois Glass Co. The firm used the “IGCo” logo from ca. 1880 to ca. 1915 (Lockhart et al. 2005). Information noted above (Lockhart et al. 2012:22-23) suggests that the “I.G.C°” was also used by the Illinois Glass Co. It is possible that the mark with the elevated “o” was the first one used by the firm, possibly from ca. 1878 to 1880.

The A.&D.H. Chambers Variation (1878-ca. 1883)

The firm of A.&D.H. Chambers grew out of Chambers & Agnew about 1852. The Pittsburgh plant was a major producer of bottles and jars until 1889. A.&D.H. Chambers used an “A.&D.H.C.” logo on most of its containers, but the firm also embossed the full company name on whiskey bottles and fruit jars. Although the whiskey bottles were made earlier, the fruit jars were produced from the 1860s to the 1880s. Apparently, the



Figure 31 – A.&D.H. Chambers basemark (Hawkins 2009:123)

brothers only made a single Mason's Patent jar for Consolidated (Figure 31 – also see Figure 17), unless the plant made others with no identifying manufacturer's mark (Lockhart et al. 2013:27).

Clyde Glass Works Variations (1878-ca. 1883)

Toulouse (1971:124) called the Clyde Glass Works “the largest of the makers of Mason jars” for Consolidated. Unfortunately, the only identification for the manufacturer was the location name – Clyde, N.Y. – on the reverse side of the jars (Figure 32 – also see Figure 71). Clyde was the only glass house to leave its mark on both Mason's Patent and Mason's Improved jars (Figure 33).



Figure 32 – Clyde Mason's Patent jar (North American Glass)

Although the factory was probably known as the Clyde Glass Works much earlier – possibly as early as 1827 – the business was not incorporated under that name until 1895. By the time Consolidated opened in 1871, Southwick, Reed & Co. ran the Clyde plant. When the factory was rebuilt after a disastrous fire in 1878, Ely, Reed & Co. was the operating firm. The group again changed to Ely, Son & Hoyt in 1880 and remained under that

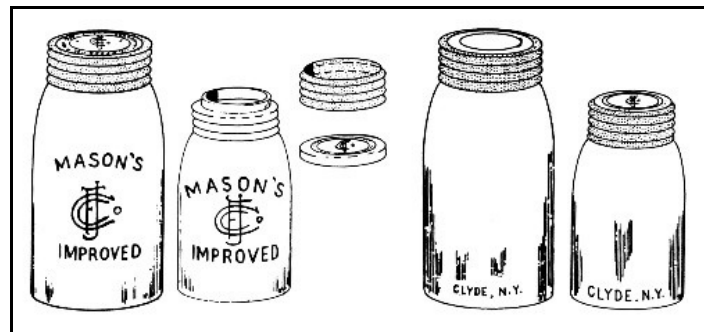


Figure 33 – Clyde Mason's Improved jar (Creswick 1987:122)

name until the 1895 incorporation. Thus, Ely, Reed & Co. and Ely, Son & Hoyt were the operating entities during the 1878-1883 period when the jars embossed with “CLYDE, N.Y.” and the CFJCo monogram were produced (see the section on the Clyde Glass Works).

Whitney Glass Works Variation (ca. 1878-1883)

Roller (1983:447) reported that the Whitney Bros, of Glassboro, New Jersey, advertised Mason jars with CFJCo trimmings in 1877 and 1878, but he did not know whether the jars bore the CFJCo monogram. Creswick (1987:122) illustrated Mason's Improved jars embossed with the Whitney Glass Works name on the reverse side (Figure 34). Ads that featured fruit jars

called the factory the Whitney Glass Works at least as early as 1875, although the operating firm was. Prior to that, the firm was called the Whitney Bros. (see the Whitney section for more information). So, the Whitneys, too, made jars for the entire period.

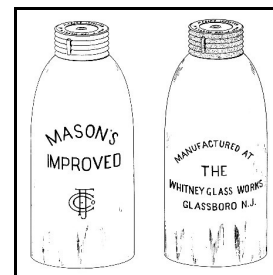


Figure 34 – Whitney Mason’s Improved jar (Creswick 1987:122)

Queen

There were several versions of the Queen jar (all different from a square variation made for the A.G. Smalley Co. – see that section). All four sources – Creswick (1987:181), Roller (1983:299-300; 2011:437-439), and Toulouse (1969:255-256) – dealt with the jars. All of these jars were mouth blown with continuous-thread finishes and ground rims. They were sealed with glass inserts held in place by metal screw bands. See Table 1 for a chronology.

Table 1 – Queen Jar Variations

Variation	CFJCo	Date Range
THE QUEEN PAT. NOV. 2 1869	none	1869-ca. 1870
THE QUEEN	none	ca. 1870-ca. 1878
THE QUEEN with Lyman patents	none	ca. 1870-ca. 1878*
THE QUEEN (front); CFJCo monogram (back)	reverse	1878-ca. 1880
CFJCo monogram below THE QUEEN	front	1878-ca. 1880
THE CFJCo monogram QUEEN	front	ca. 1880-ca. 1883

* This was probably an error mold only used for a brief period.

THE / QUEEN / PAT. NOV. 2 1869 (1869-ca. 1870)

Toulouse (1969:256) briefly discussed this variation. The side of the jar was embossed “THE / QUEEN / PAT. NOV. 2 1869 (all horizontal).” According to Roller (1983:300; 2011:439), “This uncommon form of the Shaffer Queen jar has been found with the mold numeral ‘1’ on the base, and may represent the earliest form of Queen jars.” Creswick (1987:181) illustrated the jar and remarked that the variation was scarce (Figure 35). Harry



Figure 35 – The Queen 1 (Creswick (1987:181)

Shaffer received Patent No. 96,490 for a fruit jar on November 2, 1869, and this was the basis for the Queen jars (Figure 36). Shaffer developed his own firm in Rochester, New York, to market these jars, then became one of the incorporators of the Consolidated

Fruit Jar Co. in 1871. This variation was apparently only produced shortly after Shaffer received the patent. Shaffer also received Reissue No. 4,460 for the same patent on July 4, 1871.

THE QUEEN (ca. 1870-ca. 1878)



Figure 37 – The Queen 2 (North American Glass)

These jars were embossed “THE / QUEEN” on the front and “PAT NOV 2 (arch) / 1869 (inverted arch)” on the base (Figures 37 & 38). Toulouse (1969:256) suggested that these and the ones described above were made by either the Rochester Glass Works or the Hitchens Glass Works at nearby Lockport, New York. He said that many collectors believed that the Hero Glass Works made the jars, but the November 2, 1869, patent date did not appear on any Hero products.

Roller (1983:299; 2011:437) illustrated an ad for the Queen jar from Shaffer in the 1871 Rochester city directory (Figure 39). He added that “Shaffer Queen lids have a 1" long notch on the underside to allow air to enter the jar for easier opening.” He noted three styles of lids used on the jars:

1. QUEEN JAR PATENTED NOV. 2. 1869 embossed on the top (Figure 40)
2. PATD NOV. 2ND 1869 embossed on the top
3. unembossed lid (see Figure 40)

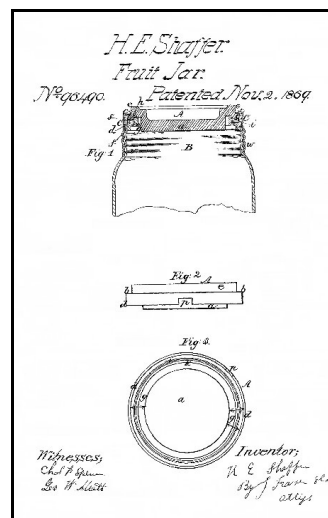


Figure 36 – Shaffer 1869 patent



Figure 38 – Queen base (North American Glass)



Figure 39 – 1871 Queen ad (Roller 1983:299)

Creswick (1987:181) added that the “9” in “1869” on the base was sometimes reversed. She added two other lids: 1) PATENTED NOV. 2 1869; and 2) PATD NOV 1868 (error). Creswick (1987:181) further stated that the patent office reissued the patent to Shaffer on July 4, 1871, along with Design Patent No. 3,806 on December 21, 1869, for the lid. Although none of the sources elaborated on the time these were made (except to say ca. 1869), it is likely that these jars were made between 1869 and 1878.



Figure 40 – Queen jar lid (North American Glass)

THE QUEEN surrounded by letters in a circle (ca. 1870-ca. 1878)

This jar was embossed “PAT^D DEC 28TH 1858 (arch) / THE / QUEEN (horizontal) / PAT^D JUNE 16TH 1868 (inverted arch)” on the front (Figure 41). Toulouse (1969:255) could not find suitable patents for this jar – noting that the patent for December 28, 1858, was for a wax sealer – and he was confused about the dates and maker. Despite these unusual dates, the jar was recognizably the same as the other two Queen jars described above.



Figure 42 – Queen 3 lid (North American Glass)



Figure 41 – The Queen 3 (North American Glass)

Roller (1983:300; 2011:439) added that the lid was embossed “PATD DEC 28 1858 & JUNE 16 1868” on top (Figure 42). He also noted that W.W. Lyman was the patentee and stated that “these jars and their closures are like the Shaffer Queen jars and closures But, for some unknown reason, they are marked with Lyman’s patent dates.” Creswick (1987:181) illustrated the jar and suggested Cunninghams & Ihmsen, Clyde Glass Works, A.&D.H. Chambers, and Thomas Wightman & Co. as manufacturers – obviously identifying these with the Consolidated Fruit Jar Co. She noted Lyman’s patent No. 22,436 of December 28, 1858, and his reissue of the same patent on June 16, 1868 (Figure 43).

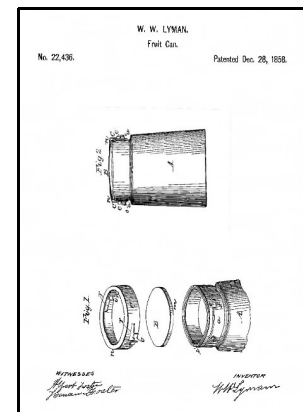


Figure 43 – Lyman’s 1858 patent

This mystery has only lightly been addressed. Some other jars with Lyman patents used the same style of embossing as are found on this variation of The Queen (e.g, Creswick 1987:110 – Figure 44). However, none of the Lyman jars used the 1858 and 1868 patent dates. Shaffer’s other jars – the Champion and the King (see Figure 44) – used a different form of embossing, much more reminiscent of the original Queen.

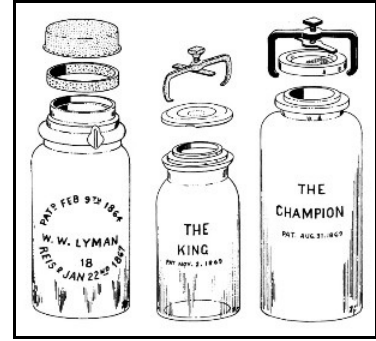


Figure 44 – Lyman patent jar; Champion & King jars (Creswick 1987:95, 110)

By at least 1866, A.&D.H. Chambers advertised the Lyman Patent Jar, and the factory also made at least one variation of the Mason’s Patent jar with the CFJCo logo (Lockhart et al. 2013:27-28). Although that connection is quite tenuous and may be spurious, it is the only one we have found. We will probably never know the real answer, but it seems likely that the same machine shop made molds for both Shaffer and Lyman, and they were probably made by the same glass house (the Chambers plant?). A hungover – or still drunk – machinist could have gotten the instructions mixed up. But the mystery remains.

THE QUEEN with CFJCo monogram (1878-ca. 1883)

Consolidated had Queen jars made in at least three formats, all depending on where the CFJCo monogram was embossed. All three variations had “THE QUEEN” on the front, the November 2, 1869, patent date on the base, and the CFJCo monogram prominently displayed.

THE QUEEN (front); CFJCo monogram (back) (1878-ca. 1880)

Toulouse (1969) missed the CFJCo Queen series, but Creswick (1987:181) illustrated this variation along with two others (Figure 45). The jar was embossed “THE / QUEEN” on the front, with “PAT^D NOV 2 (arch) / 1869 (inverted arch)” on the base. She noted two variations in the glass inserts: 1) QUEEN JAR (arch) / PATENTED NOV 2 1869 (inverted arch)” with the CFJCo monogram in the center; and 2) “TRADE MARK QUEEN JAR PAT^D MAY 23^D 1871” around the CFJCo monogram in the center. The metal band had “-.- THE QUEEN -.- C.F.J.Co.



Figure 45 – CFJCo Queen variations (Creswick 1987:181)



Figure 46 – Queen metal band (North American Glass)

PATENTED
NOVEMBER
2ND 1969”
stamped along
the top edge
(Figure 46).

Roller (2011:437) only noted this as a variation of THE / QUEEN jar. Although Creswick illustrated all three variations as having a diamond-shaped “o” in “Co,” North American Glass photos show the “o” in this variation as being oval (Figure 47). The jar was probably made from an older Queen mold with the monogram added to the back.



Figure 47 – Queen with CFJCo monogram on reverse (North American Glass)

THE QUEEN CFJCo monogram (1878-ca. 1880)

Roller (1983:300) mentioned this variation but did not go into any detail. Creswick (1987:181) illustrated the jar but added no information (see Figure 35). The Roller update (2011:438) only noted this as a variation. This *may* have been made from an older mold with the CFJCo monogram added below “THE QUEEN” – but the placement of the words seem a bit high compared to the older jars.

THE CFJCo monogram QUEEN (ca. 1880-ca. 1883)

Roller (1983:300) discussed this variation, embossed “THE / CJFCo monogram / QUEEN” on the front of the jar, with “PAT^D NOV 2 (arch) / 1869 (inverted arch)” on the base (Figure 48). He noted two variations in the glass inserts and metal bands (also discussed in the first variation above). Roller further noted that Shaffer was one of the incorporators of the Consolidated Fruit Jar Co. in 1871 and that he had transferred all patent rights to the new firm in exchange for stock. He added that “the May 23, 1871 date [on the lid variation] referred to the registration date for ‘Mason’s Improved’ trademark, for reasons unknown.”



Figure 48 – Queen jar, front CFJCo monogram (North American Glass)

Creswick (1987:181) illustrated this variation along with two others, although she added no additional information (see Figure 44). Roller (2011:438) featured this as the primary type but noted that variations had either an unembossed base or a “J 54” basemark. At least one other base shown on a North American Glass auction had a basal embossing of “B-53” (Figure 49). The “o” in “Co” on these jars was diamond shaped.



Figure 49 – B 57 base (North American Glass)

Gem

There were numerous jars called the Gem (e.g., Creswick 1987:66-70), and Consolidated was one of the companies that offered the jars. Consolidated’s version had THE GEM in an arch above the CFJCo monogram (Toulouse 1969:125; Creswick 1987a:69; Roller 1983:135 – Figure 50).



Figure 50 – Gem jar (North American Glass; Creswick 1987:69)

Toulouse (1969:125) explained that “this jar is one of the indications that Hero had taken over the Consolidated assets about 1882, since it combines the Hero-owned GEM with the Consolidated-owned monogram.” His example had a Hero lid. Roller (1983:135) countered the Toulouse ideas: “The manufacture of these jars has been attributed to the Hero Glass Works, Philadelphia, Pa., solely on the basis of THE GEM on the jars. However, there are none of the customary Hero patent dates . . . on these jars.”

Creswick (1987:69) remained neutral, only noting that the “maker of this jar with the Consolidated Fruit Jar Company monogram is unknown. Possible maker could be the Whitney Brothers of Glassboro, N.J.” She illustrated the jar but did not explain her choice of the Whitney Brothers as the manufacturer (see Figure 50). The Roller update (2011:209) added that “these jars have the typical ‘CFJCo’ base mold markings.” Jerry McCann further added that:

these jars are generally found in Ontario, Canada, suggesting that they were made in Canada or marketed in Canada. The style of base is consistent with that found on Rutherford & Company (Ontario) ‘GEM’ jars. GEM became the generic term

used in Canada to describe fruit jars or as Canadians called them ‘sealers.’ Thus, it would make sense that an improved style of ‘CFJCo’ would be called THE GEM in Canada rather than MASON’S IMPROVED.”

We agree that McCann’s explanation makes the best sense for an otherwise mysterious jar.

Tin Can

Creswick (1878:27) illustrated a tin can with a lid embossed “✚ PAT’D MARCH 30 58 ✚ (arch) / CFJCo monogram (center) / “EXT’D MARCH 30 72 (inverted arch)” (Figure 51). She noted that a paper label showed that the can held tea. John L. Mason received Patent No. 19,786 on March 30, 1858, and the patent was extended in 1872. She thought that the Mason Mfg. Co. could have been a possible maker. We feel that the Consolidated Fruit Jar Co. – a producer of tinned-steel items – was a much more likely manufacturer.

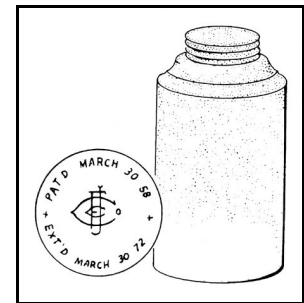


Figure 51 – CFJCo can (Creswick 1878:27)

The patent was for a “Lathe Chuck for Making Sheet Metal Screws.” The main improvement in the patent was for rounded grooves and threads to avoid tearing the sheet metal on the sharp edges. Mason had noticed that the lids were formed better on temporary wooden chucks and duplicated the wooden imperfection on the metal chucks to improve the final product (Figure 52).

Discussion and Conclusions

Although not a manufacturer, the Consolidated Fruit Jar Co. was an important purveyor of Mason and other jars during its decade-long period in business between 1872 and 1882. Table 2 shows the three probable phases of Consolidated logos. The final logo – the CFJCo monogram – was used from 1878 to 1882 on a variety of jars including:

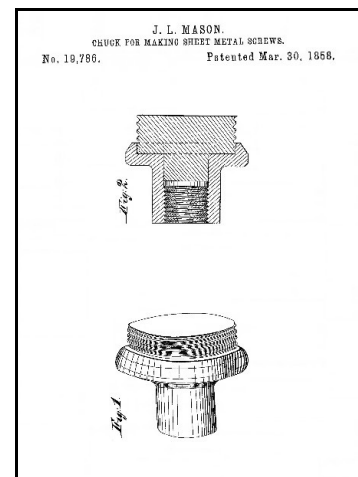


Figure 52 – Mason’s 1858 patent

Mason's Patent Nov. 30 1858

Mason's Improved

Mason's Improved Butter Jar

The Queen

The Gem

CFJCo tin can

Table 2 – Probable Phases of Consolidated Marks

Marks	Possible Dates
No logo	1872-ca. 1875
"C" logos	ca. 1875-1878
CFJCo monograms	1878-1882

There were several variations of the CFJCo monogram, but there is currently no way to assign these to specific glass houses or time periods. At least four companies (Clyde Glass Works, Whitney Glass Works, A.&D.H. Chambers, and Illinois Glass Co.) made jars for the Consolidated Fruit Jar Co. from 1878 to 1882, but we have no way to define specific dates for each company's manufacture of the jars for Consolidated using current methods. The variations of each type of jar are very complex, although we have attempted to make some chronological distinctions in the analyses above.

Although not completely certain, the jars with the "- C -" logos were probably also used by Consolidated – likely during the ca. 1875-1878 period. This was probably an intermediate evolution that led from jars with no mark to identify Consolidated and the better-known CFJCo monogram. Future research should further address this logo.

The All-Important Sales Date

The date and circumstances of the sale of the Mason jar patent rights from Consolidated to the Hero Glass Works is important – even vital – *if* it ever occurred. Indeed, the date is missing from Roller's (1983:446-448) three-page history of the firm and Creswick's (1987:121)

discussion! We can find no documentary evidence that there even *was* such a sale. Toulouse (1969:345) seems to have provided the original circumstantial evidence:

The appearance of both the Hero Cross and the CFJCo monogram on the same jar about 1882 announced the end of Consolidated, for the placing of the cross *above* [his emphasis] the word “MASON’S and the monogram in the usual place between it an “PATENT” would indicate that the cross had been placed on an old Consolidated mold. The changing of Hero’s name to the “Hero Fruit Jar Company” two years later—an exact following of Consolidated’s name except the first word, seems to indicate that Hero had taken over Consolidated’s business.

Nothing in any of these histories indicates any special occurrence that would have precipitated such a sale. The only date in the histories of major import was the disastrous fire of February 7, 1885, that destroyed the Consolidated plant. But, even then, the factory was rebuilt, and business resumed. The ca. 1892 catalog (see Figure 3) still showed the CFJCo monogram on Mason’s Patent and Mason’s Improved jars and on lids. We have no way to tell whether the catalog drawing reflected continued use or just old illustrations.

From the standpoint of Hero history, an 1882 date seems even less likely. The firm apparently foundered in 1882 and was sold at a sheriff’s auction on February 5, 1883. Unless the occurrence was a sudden precipitation, it seems like an unlikely time to purchase the most important patents in fruit jar history! However, Salmon Rowley found new backers and incorporated the Hero Fruit Jar Co. on March 29, 1883, then resumed production on April 3 of that year (Roller 2011:671). This timing combined with the Toulouse notion that the new Hero name “was an exact following” of the Consolidated moniker suggests that 1883 would be a much more likely date for the purchase of the Mason jar rights.

Toulouse (1971:124) provided additional information to support his claim for an 1882 date by noting that “the Hero cross was unlettered in the first two years, 1882-84, while the company was still the Hero Glass Works, and lettered HFJCo in the four wings after 1884.” At that time, he assumed that the name change occurred in 1884. However, the same logic will support an 1883 date. The addition of the letters to the cross would not necessarily have happened immediately upon the incorporation. It may have taken a year or more before the idea occurred to anyone. We will continue to use the 1883 date in this study.

However, at least one of the Toulouse assumptions may be blown into a faulty mold. Our assessment of existing bottle/jar literature shows that Toulouse – like all other researchers – made numerous guesses and assumptions to fill in gaps in the actual evidence. Unfortunately, he did not tell us which of his dates were based on evidence or historical knowledge and which were his best guesses. His dating of the Hero logos seems to be based on guesses.

The Hero cross was embossed on jars in two forms, one with “H,” “F,” “J,” and “Co” in each of the four “wings” and the other with no letters. Toulouse assigned great significance to the empty cross, assuming it was used at the end of the Hero Glass Works period. Although there are exceptions, glass houses usually changed logos to commemorate some event. We can find no event during the 1880-1883 period that would justify creating a new logo. The first significant event was the creation of the Hero Fruit Jar Co. in 1883.

The Toulouse idea is predicated on the belief that there were two distinct logos – one with letters, one without. Numerous Hero crosses have only faint letters, and only some of the letters are visible in others. It is possible that there was only one Hero cross, and it was always *intended* to have letters. Why would the letters be missing? There are at least two reasons. First, any given mold that was made in a hurry could have the letters missing. Second, the letters were the smallest embossing on the jar, therefore the most likely to fill up with lubricant – creating faint or missing characters. Both of these conditions would create a jar with no lettering in the cross – without any temporal connection. In support of Toulouse, however, there are also numerous examples where the empty “wings” are very clear, showing no evidence of letters or distortion.

One final assumption must be challenged. Toulouse assumed that Hero purchased one or more sets of molds *from* Consolidated. Since Consolidated did not make its own jars, it did not necessarily own its own molds and almost certainly did not own *all* of the molds used to make its jars. Hero could have purchased a set of molds from any of the other manufacturers, especially if that glass house was no longer making Mason jars for Consolidated. If Hero succeeded Consolidated, it is surprising that we do not find Hero Crosses embossed on ghosted CFJCo monograms.

Regardless of the reason, it is clear that *something* happened. It may or may not have involved a purchase. The Hero Fruit Jar Co. certainly began making Mason Patent fruit jars at some point, likely from the inception of the new firm in early 1883. This may even be the reason

why Rowley was able to acquire new backers after the demise of the Hero Glass Works. The jar sources (e.g., Roller 1983:448; Toulouse 1969:345; 1971:123-125) stated that the market opened up for Mason jars in 1886 and that Hero began to phase out its production of the jars. That only leaves three-plus years for Hero to have manufactured a huge amount of jars. The inception date could therefore not have been later than 1883.

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