

The Dominion Glass Companies of Montreal, Canada

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The name, Dominion Glass Co., was used by at least two glass firms. The early Dominion Glass Co. opened ca. 1886, morphed in a limited firm in 1896, and was absorbed by the Diamond Glass Co. in 1898. Diamond Glass became Diamond Flint Glass in 1902 (see the Diamond Glass Co. – Canada – section) and reorganized as the Dominion Glass Co. in 1913. Dominion Glass became the largest glass producer in Canada.

Histories

Dominion Glass Co., Montreal, Quebec (ca. 1886-1896)

The Barsalou family established the Dominion Glass Co. at Montreal ca. 1886 and incorporated on October 22, 1894, with Joseph Barsalou as president, Alphonse Desjardines as vice president, and John Stirling as secretary and treasurer. Henry Schnellback, a glass manufacturer from Steubenville, Ohio, became the plant manager. The capital was \$50,000. The factory made bottles, although the types were not recorded (King 1987:87-88). Although King placed the closing at 1894, that is probably a typographical error. The company was reorganized in 1896, and that suggests a continuous operation.

Containers and Marks

For the most part, this firm appears not to have used any manufacturer's marks. However, the plant embossed its name on at least one type of fruit jar.

DOMINION

Toulouse (1969:94-95) discussed three jars that used the word "Dominion" in some format. The first jar was embossed "DOMINION" in an arch on the side. He noted that it was "hand-made, round, ground lip, in flint." He attributed the jar to Dominion Glass, of course, and dated it ca. 1886-1898. Roller (2011:165) agreed. According to the dating, the jars may have

continued in production by the reorganized firm discussed below.

Creswick (1987a:46) showed a screw-top jar embossed on the front with DOMINION in a slight upward arch (Figure 1). She noted the maker as the Dominion Glass Co. and the time ca. 1886-1898.

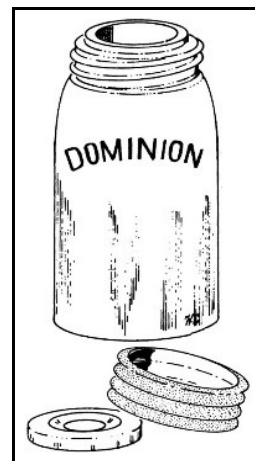


Figure 1 – Dominion jar
(Creswick 1987a:46)

Dominion Glass Co., Ltd., Montreal, Quebec (1896-1898)

On July 17, 1896, Dominion reorganized as The Dominion Glass Co., Ltd., but reduced the former capital from \$50,000 to \$20,000. The Board retained the officers from the earlier firm, and, with the actual transfer of assets from the earlier firm on December 22, it raised the capital to \$490,000. When Joseph Barsalou died the following year, Desjardines replaced him as president, J.G. Laviolette became vice president, and Maurice Barsalou moved into the managing director post. The company was quite successful, but the Diamond Glass Co. acquired the majority stock on November 16, 1897. At the meeting on January 21, 1898, William Yuile became the new president of Diamond Glass, with Maurice Barsalou as vice president (King 1987:88). See the Diamond Glass Co. (Canada) section for information about the combined firms during the 1898-1913 period.

Dominion Glass Co., Ltd., Montreal and elsewhere (1913-at least 1995)

When the Diamond Flint Glass Co. (see the section on Diamond Glass Co. – Canada) committed to machine production in 1913, it merged with the Sydenham Glass Co. and reorganized as the Dominion Glass Co.¹ King (1987:129) described the actual process as “rather devious.” C. Meredith & Co. – a firm totally unexplained by the sources (but, undoubtedly part of the “rather devious” process) – purchased the assets of Diamond Flint as well as Canadian Glass and Sydenham Glass to form the Canadian Glass Corp. – which became the Dominion Glass Co., Ltd.

Dominion Glass actually incorporated on May 15, 1913, and made the official purchase of Diamond on June 12, taking over all eight locations that had operated under the Diamond

¹ We address the Sydenham Glass Co. in the S Volume.

umbrella (King 1987:127-129; Toulouse 1971:154-155). After some of the former locations were closed, the combined plants made “a general line of containers in all colors” (Toulouse 1971:155). The firm eventually controlled:

Diamond Flint (Montreal) – Delorimier plant

Canadian Glass (Montreal) – Pointe St. Charles plant

Jefferson Glass (Toronto) – Jefferson plant until 1922, then Catlaw plant

Toronto Glass – Parkdale plant

Hamilton Glass – Old St. James plant

A new plant at Hamilton – Hamilton plant

Sydenham Glass (Wallaceburg) – Wallaceburg plant

Redcliff, Alberta (a new plant) – Redcliff plant

George Grier was president, with Mervyn “M.O.” Offer as vice president. According to King (1987:132), “the long-term objective was to gradually concentrate all the hand and specialty production at the Wallaceburg plant while still retaining at that factory sufficient machine production of bottles to serve the western Ontario market,” and this was fully complete by 1925. During this period, machine production was concentrated at Pte. St. Charles, Hamilton, Wallaceburg (bottles), and Redclif. Hand manufacture continued at Delorimier, Parkdale, Jefferson (Catlaw), and Wallaceburg (other glass items). Sometimes, molds were transferred between plants (King 1987:130-133).

With its formation, Dominion acquired the exclusive rights to the Owens Automatic Bottle Machines in Canada from the former Diamond Flint Glass Co. – with a clause in the agreement that forbade the company to export any Owens-made bottles to any country with its own Owens licensing agreement. The plant eventually adopted other machines, including those from O’Neill, Miller, Lynch, and Teeple-Johnson but phased all of those out in favor of individual section machines in 1945 (King 1987:132, 146; Miller & Pacey 1985:40).

Charles Gordon had become president at some point and was reconfirmed in that position in 1918, with William McMaster as vice president. A new double-cavity mold became available from Owens in 1921, and that virtually doubled the machine capacity at the plants. In April 1922, the firm discovered that it was losing milk bottle sales along the west coast to the Pacific Coast Glass Works of San Francisco. Transportation via ship was cheap at that time, allowing

the U.S. firm to undercut Canadian prices. Dominion arranged a deal with the Canadian Pacific Railway to reduce shipping costs on milk bottles so that the Canadian firm could remain competitive (King 1987:135).

Dominion sold the Parkdale property and the old Burlington Glass plant at Hamilton in 1925. The following year, the firm made a comprehensive inventory of the molds at all plants – including the stock number, capacity of bottles, and the names of the bottles. These were divided into two groups: Standard Stock Lines (SSL) and Made to Order bottles (MTO). The former were available to anyone, the latter only for specified customers. The inventory also listed machine types that included Owens, Olean, O’Neill, Miller, Lynch, and Teeple-Johnson machines.² The various plants made bottles, tableware, lamps, lantern globes, and a large variety of other glass items, including fire extinguishers, lightning rod balls, fishing floats, door knobs, headlight lenses, bird feeders, vault lights, insulators, and many more categories (King 1987:135, 145-146).

Dominion sold the Richards Glass Co. to J.P. Richards for \$111,600 in 1928. As noted in the Diamond Glass section, Richards had become a major distributor for the Diamond Flint Glass Co. in 1912 – selling pharmaceutical products in Toronto, and Diamond took control of the firm in 1913. When Richards gained control of the company, he continued to distribute for Dominion, including the Rigo Oval, one of the best-selling prescription bottles (King 1987:146). Also see the writeup on the Richards Glass Co. in the Other R section.

Business was not immediately affected by the stock market crash of 1929, but Dominion had hit a low point in its history in 1933. The mid-1930s, however, became a period of innovation and improved efficiency. For example, the firm installed the first “fully automated raw materials (Batch) handling system” at the Hamilton plant in 1937.³ In 1939, the Knox Glass Bottle Co. of Knox, Pennsylvania, attempted to wrest away a percentage of the Canadian market by opening Canadian Knox Glass at Oshaw, Ontario. The move failed; Dominion purchased the

² Some of these made wide-mouth ware, others narrow-mouth bottles. Although we have never found a definitive answer, it is unlikely that molds from one machine could be used on another brand.

³ King (1987:150) was unclear whether this was the first in the world or the first in Canada.

plant in 1940 and closed it (King 1987:147-151). The very short-lived firm is also addressed in the section on the Knox Glass Bottle Co.

During World War II, at the behest of the Canadian government, Dominion reopened and renovated the Wallaceburg plant to make beer bottles for military use. The plant made and shipped thousands of beer bottles during the war years. During the post-war boom in the 1950s, Dominion again expanded, branching out from glass production by forming an auxiliary corporation, the Sydenham Gas & Petroleum Co. at Wallaceburg. In 1958, the firm began construction of a new glass factory at Burnaby (King 1987:152, 159-162).

Profits began diminishing in the early 1960s. To deal with the issue, Dominion began the production of plastic bottles in 1962 and made non-returnable soft drink bottles in 1965. In a second innovation – also in 1962 – the firm began to manufacture jars for baby food – a product heretofore only available in tin cans. These changes increased Dominion’s market share over the next few years (King 1987:163).

Dominion continued to grow through the 1960s and 1970s. Consolidated-Bathurst took control of the stock in 1974 but continued to operate under the Dominion Glass Co. name. In 1976, the company changed its name to Domglas, Ltd., and the French equivalent Domglas Ltée. The name was further altered to Domglas, Inc., with the amalgamation of Domglas, Ltd., and Consolidated-Bathurst (King 1987:217; Miller & Jorgensen 1986:3). According to Creswick (1987a:265 – 1995 update), the company was still in business in 1995, but the mark was no longer listed in 1996 (Emhart 1996:7). This suggests that the company ceased operation in 1995. For more details about the operation of Dominion Glass, see King (1987:127-135; 145-152; 159-164, 217-220).

Containers and Marks

Dominion Glass used two major logos on bottle and jar bases – a Diamond-D mark and the “mould” logo. In addition, the factories made a large variety of fruit jars.

Diamond-D (1928-early 1970s)

King (1987:248) told the story about why Dominion adopted the Diamond-D logo. The

U.S., at the time of the story – ca. 1923 – was in the early stages of Prohibition, and alcohol production was the purview of the bootleggers. King explained that

about the same time, a family had established a distillery in the Province of Saskatchewan. Made under normal conditions, their product was far superior to that produced illegally in the American “stills.” As a result, and with some international connivance, their superior product was appearing in unmarked bottles in the mid-west United States. However, it was too good to last, and about 1927 the American authorities required that all glass containers entering the United States from Canada have embossed on them the country of origin. As a result, the company [i.e., Dominion Glass Co.] adopted the Diamond D trademark.

Of interest, this also sets a beginning date for jars and bottles embossed “MADE IN CANADA.” Thus, Dominion adopted the Diamond-D mark for use on all glass on June 27, 1928 (King 1987:248; McDougald & McDougald 1990:157).

The Diamond-D mark was in use until the “mould” logo was adopted in 1970. Miller and Jorgensen (1986:3), however, noted that some of the older Diamond-D trademarks were still used during the 1970s. It was a common practice to use old molds until they wore out, even if they contained older marks (e.g., see the Owens-Illinois section). Toulouse (1971:154) suggested a use date of “since 1913” – but he was almost certainly referring to the dates the company was in business. Giarde (1980:36) noted that the mark was “well known on Canadian milk bottles,” but he followed the Toulouse date of “1913 to present” for the use of the logo. Oddly, Peterson (1968:48) described the marks as “D within two horizontal diamonds.” A bottle with a Diamond-D logo and no date, month, or factory codes would have been made prior to 1928 (Figure 2).

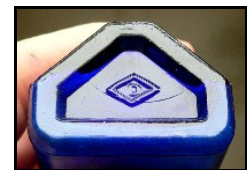


Figure 2 – Diamond-D logo (eBay)

Codes

Although earlier Diamond-D logos were apparently not accompanied by numbers, Miller & Jorgensen (1986:3) showed a series of month/date codes that were intended to run from 1940 to 1943. Apparently, however, the codes were only used during 1940 and were replaced by the

system described in the following paragraph. These consisted of a series of dots and lines, probably embossed on bottle bases, although the authors did not discuss placement of the codes relative to the logo – and we have not found an example. The authors illustrated the 1940 code series:

January-March	April-June	July-September	October-December
• —	•• —	••• —	•••• —

From 1941 on, Dominion used a series of codes to accompany its Diamond-D logo. These included the pair number (mold cavity number), year code (year of manufacture), month code (month of manufacture), factory code (plant location), and mold number. Between 1940 and 1969, Dominion utilized three similar but slightly different sets of codes to identify each category, although each continued to occupy the same relative position (King 1987:247; Miller & Jorgensen 1986:3).

In all three decades, the logo was in the center of the base, with the pair number above it and the mold number below it. The year was indicated by a single-digit number to the right of the logo. During the 1940s, the month was shown by a letter:

A = January/February

B = March/April

C = May/June

D = July/August

E = September/October

F = November/December (King 1987:247; Miller & Jorgensen 1986:3).

The base in Figure 3, for example, was made in May or June of 1942 at the Redcliff factory. Miller & Jorgensen (1986:3-4) placed the dates of use for the code from 1941 to 1953 and discussed the problem of overlapping single-digit dates: 1, 2, or 3 could equal 1941/1951, 1942/1952, or 1943/1953. King (1987:247), however, dated the code from 1941 to 1949 – with no overlapping dates.



Figure 3 – Dominion codes (eBay)

From 1950 to 1969, the months were shown by combinations of vertical and horizontal lines (Figure 4). See Table 1 for plant codes. The Milk bottle in Figure 5 has a box to the left that indicates a manufacture in November-December, while the dot below the logo shows that the bottle was made at Redcliff. The year (6) was probably 1956. The base in Figure 6 was made in January or February (although the single vertical line to the left of the logo is faint) of 1963 at the Hamilton plant. Note the two-digit date code.

	January-February
└	March-April
□	May-June
□	July-August
▢	September-October
▣	November-December

Figure 4 – Dominion month codes used from 1950 to 1969



Figure 5 – Dominion codes (eBay)

Although the date codes for this 30-year period remained single digits, the letter (as opposed to line) month codes delineate the 1940s. The two-digit date code on the base shown in Figure 6 suggests that King’s date codes for 1960-1969 were incorrect. These were probably all two-digit codes, allowing us to discern all three decades through these markings.



Figure 6 – Dominion codes (California Parks)

In addition, King (1987:132) noted that Dominion began phasing out Owens and other machines in 1945. Bottles with Owens scars should therefore date prior to ca. 1950 (because we do not know how long the “phasing” lasted). Unfortunately, the other machines left the same type of scar as the individual section machine, so the converse – that bottles without the Owens scar are *after* ca. 1950 – is *not* necessarily true.

Table 1 – Plant Codes on Dominion Glass Co. Bottles

Code	Location	Year
dot to left of logo	Point St. Charles	1940
dot above logo	Hamilton	1940
dot to right of logo	Wallaceburg	1940
dot below logo	Redcliff	1940
dot to lower right of logo	Burnaby	1965
dot to upper left of logo	Bramaley	1970

Miller & Jorgensen (1986) analyzed the codes used by Dominion and included a 47-page appendix with a listing of mold numbers (catalog numbers) and the bottles they identified. Miller and Jorgensen (1986:4) also noted that a “V” prefix was added to the mold numbers in late 1945 – although Alex B. Driega reported to us a V prefix on a jar with a 1942 date code. It was gradually phased in to replace the older numbers (i.e., a new mold for a pickle jar – catalog No. 1256 – would be embossed V1256 on the base). By the mid-1950s, the process was complete, and Dominion dropped the “V” (Figure 7)



Figure 7 – V prefix (Alex B. Driega)

Miller & Jorgensen (1986:2) noted that mold numbers “served several functions”:

1. Identification of the bottle, particularly for customers placing orders.
2. Mould and inventory control of the factory.
3. Quality control for bottle production, i.e. bottles with defects can be used to identify the defective moulds that produced them.
4. Product quality, e.g. should a bottle burst, the mould number, in combination with trademarks and date codes, can tell how old the bottle was and what company produced it.⁴

Giarde (1987:36-37) discussed milk bottles with the Diamond-D mark. He maintained that Dominion Glass was the main manufacturer of Canadian milk bottles, noting, “When one turns up a Canadian milk bottle, the odds are that it will be a Dominion.”

Circle-D

Giarde (1987:36-37) stated that “the D in a circle mark has also been suggested as a Dominion milk bottle mark but remains unconfirmed.” Under his drawing of the logo, he said, “Doubtful.” It is highly unlikely that this mark exists.

P in a Diamond

McDougald & McDougald (:155) reported that some insulators were embossed “with a

⁴ See Miller & Jorgensen (1986:2) for a more detailed discussion about the ramifications of mold numbers for dating and identifying bottles.

letter ‘P’ within a ‘DIAMOND’, but it is thought that this marking is the result of an engraving error.”

DP in a Diamond

An eBay auction depicted the base of a liquor flask that was embossed with an Owens scar and the letters “DP” in an elongated diamond (Figure 8). Since the flask was made for the B.C. Distillery Co. of New Westminster, British Columbia, the container was almost certainly produced in Canada. The “D” could be for Dominion, and the “P” could indicate the Pointe St. Charles plant or the factory at Parkdale. Of course, the letters could have other meanings. Also see Diamond-DP in the fruit jar section below.



Figure 8 – Diamond-DP logo (eBay)

Mold-in-a-D (1970-at least 1995)

In 1970, Dominion adopted a new trademark “in the form of a mould (purple) full of molten glass (orange)” (King 1987:219). In the embossed format, the shape of the mould was surrounded by the letter “D” – all drawn with a single line (Figure 9). Emhart (1982:12) showed the mark as one of only three used in Canada in 1982, but the mark was no longer listed in the 1996 edition (Emhart 1996:7). Roller (1983:393) described the mold logo as a “stylized D.” He discussed two different jars with the mark and dated one of them ca 1983. Miller & Jorgensen (1986:4) noted that “Domglas still uses [the line month code] system” in 1986. This indicates that the mold logo continued to be accompanied by the line code to show the months when each bottle was made (see the section on Diamond-D logos for a discussion and chart).



Figure 9 – Mould logo (Emhart 1982:12; Michelle Courtney)

DOMINION (1913-1928 or later on insulators)

The Dominion Glass Co. originally marked its insulators “DOMINION” followed by a style number on the front skirt and an elongated diamond on the back. That changed in 1928 when the firm adopted a horizontally-elongated diamond surrounding the letter “D” (McDougald & McDougald 1990:157). The firm continued using “DOMINION” on the front (Figure 10).

There is no record of any bottles bearing the mark, but “Dominion” was embossed on fruit jars (see the jar section below.

Fruit Jars made by Dominion

King (1987:248) claimed that there were several trademarks “authenticated or attributed to Dominion through takeover of predecessor companies or taken out directly.” These all seem to be jar brands, especially fruit jars: Bee Hive, Best, Canadian King, Carrols, Crown, Dyson, Erie Lightning, Gem, Ideal, Imperial, Mason Fruit jar, Perfect Seal, Safety Valve and Schram.” Creswick (1987a:34), however, only claimed the Canadian King with Consumers Glass Co. (see that section in the C Volume). Other logos, like Gem, Ideal, Mason, and Schram, were also used by glass houses in the U.S.

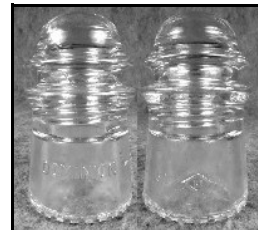


Figure 10 – Dominion insulator (eBay)

Bee Hive Jar (1913-1920s)

Toulouse (1969:45) described this jars as “glass lid and metal band top seal machine-made round in blue tint.” The embossing consisted of a conical bee hive on a table, surrounded by bees, flowers, and “TRADE” “MARK” above “BEE HIVE” in outlined letters. He dated the jar ca. 1920-1930 and credited the Dominion Glass Co. with the manufacture. Creswick (1987a:29) only noted that the jar was “a very attractive Canadian sealer, maker unknown” (Figure 11). Dominion probably made the jars between 1913 and the 1920s.

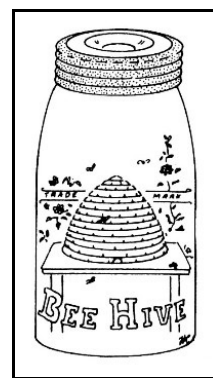


Figure 11 – Bee Hive jar logo (Toulouse 1969:45)

BEST (1913-1920s)

Creswick (1987b:30) illustrated and discussed an unmarked, straight-sided jar with a lid embossed “BEST” above a Diamond-D logo. The jar was machine made and colorless. Although she ascribed the jar to both the Diamond Flint Glass Co. and Dominion Glass, the lid with the Diamond-D mark could only have been made by Dominion Glass no earlier than 1928 (Figure 12).



Figure 12 – BEST (Creswick 1987b:30)

Best WIDE MOUTH (1913-1920s)

We discussed the BEST jars in the Diamond Glass Co. (Canada) section, but Toulouse (1969:48) also described a jar embossed “Best (underlined, upwardly slanted cursive) / WIDE MOUTH” and a second variation with “MADE IN CANADA” below the other embossing – actually on the heel (Figure 13). An eBay jar was made at the Redcliff plant in July or August of 1941 (see Figure 13). Toulouse dated these ca. 1922 by the Dominion Glass Co. Roller (1983:66) also discussed a jar embossed “Best WIDE MOUTH MADE IN CANADA.” with the same embossing on the lid. The base was embossed with the Diamond-D logo, and he attributed it to the Dominion Glass Co. ca. 1930s. Creswick (1987b:30) illustrated the jar but added no new information (see Figure 13).



Figure 13 – Best Wide-Mouth jar (eBay; Creswick 1987b:30)

Carroll’s {Star of David} True Seal (1913-1930s)

Roller (1983:83) noted that “these jars were made for Carroll’s, a chain of stores in Hamilton and London, Ontario, Canada. The jar had an “old style neck, full-wire bale.” He did not know the maker and gave no dates. North American Glass illustrated an example embossed “CARROLL’S (upwardly slanted) {Mogen David (Star of David)} / TRUE / SEAL (both horizontal)” in a stippled rectangle with a rounded top (Figure 14). These were probably made ca. 1913-1920s, probably by Dominion Glass.



Figure 14 – Carroll’s True Seal (North American Glass)

CROWN with a drawing of a Crown (1913-1928)

Toulouse (1971:145-146) illustrated several marks with both the word “CROWN” and a line drawing of a crown, and he attributed them to six different Canadian companies (all eventually tied into Dominion) including the Dominion Glass Co. and the Diamond Glass Co. Creswick (1987a:36-37) illustrated ten variations of the crown logo, all on screw-top jars and attributed them to various Canadian companies. Although Dominion was not specifically listed, it was in business during some of the periods listed for the jars.

Creswick (1987b:38-40) illustrated an additional 15 jars with crown logos during the more recent time period (after 1920), all attributed to Canadian firms (but not Dominion). Roller (1983:95-97) listed a variety of “Canadian Crown Jars” as well as an ad for the Crown and Improved Gem from the Dominion Glass Co. Unfortunately, Roller’s graphic was distorted, making details difficult to discern. However, we discovered a different ad from the *Montreal Gazette* of July 14, 1915, including a Perfect Seal jar as well as the two shown by Roller (Figure 15). The later Roller edition (2011:148) added Dominion Glass but did not assign any specific jars to the firm.



Figure 15 – Dominion ad (*Montreal Gazette* 7/14/1915)

As noted in our discussion of Crown jars in the Diamond Glass Co. section, we are in disagreement with virtually all of the older sources, notably Toulouse (1969), Roller (1983; 2011), and Creswick (1987). Two online sources provided us a good sample of Crown jars: North American Glass (42 examples) and eBay (61). Two factors helped provide insight into the makers of several of these jars. First is the exclusive capture of the license for the Owens Bottle Machine by the Dominion Glass Co. This means that *all* Crown jars with Owens scars were made by Dominion Glass. Second, many of the jars had logos and manufacturer’s marks that identify Dominion Glass. In addition, we can create a hypothesis based on crown designs.

Jars embossed “CROWN” below the drawing of a crown (*without* “MADE IN CANADA”) were made by three processes: mouth blown into molds, press-and-blow machines, and Owens machines. Both the crudeness of the crown drawings and the hand processing suggest that the mouth-blown jar were made by an earlier glass house, although the ones with Owens scars were certainly made by Dominion Glass. Jars with valve scars on their bases were made by press-and-blow machines – the dominant wide-mouth production medium in both the U.S. and Canada. Press-and-blow machines were originally semiautomatic but became fully automated with the development of automatic glass feeding technology during the 1914-1918 period. There is no way to tell whether a jar with a valve scar was made by semi or fully automatic methods; the resulting scars and seams were identical.

As noted in the section on the Diamond Glass Co., the jars with the somewhat standardized crown drawings and machine basal scars continued to be made by the Dominion Glass Co. In addition, the ad reprinted by Roller (1983:166) showed that the Improved Crown

jars were made for at least a few years by Dominion. There is no way to tell whether a machine-made jar was produced by the Diamond Glass Co. or Dominion Glass Co. prior to 1928. Jars from both firms had the same markings.

Made in Canada (1928-early 1960s)

Beginning in 1928, Crown jars were embossed “MADE IN CANADA” on the shoulder above the crown (Figure 16). At least one of these jars had a base with an Owens scar and no logo or codes (see Figure 16). This jar probably was made in 1928, although an unembossed base could have been one that escaped the engravers. Beginning in 1928 or 1929, the Dominion engravers added the Diamond-D basemark plus a four-digit date code (Figure 18). We have not discovered these four-digit codes on any other form of Dominion glassware.



Figure 16 – Crown – Made in Canada & base (eBay)



Figure 17 – 1929 date code; 1940 base (eBay)

The four-digit codes confirm the observations by King. Bases from the 1930s had the Diamond-D logo and the four-digit codes (see Figure 17). The bases dated 1940 had both of those plus the dot code to identify the plant (see Figure 17). Dominion added the letter month code to the left of the logo and the single-digit date code to the right in 1941 (Figure 18). We have not found a 1950 example, but the 1951 base in our sample had the line month code to the left. The last date code we could find was 1962 (see Figure 18). In conclusion, the Crown jars embossed “MADE IN CANADA” were made from 1928 to ca. 1962.

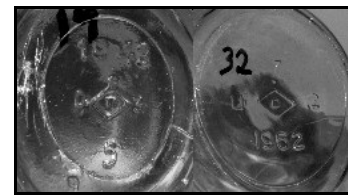


Figure 18 – 1943 base; 1962 base (eBay)

Domglas Mason (1976-ca. 1995)

Roller (2011:165) discussed and illustrated a jar embossed “Domglas (upwardly slanted cursive, with “las” underlined by a tail extending forward from the “g”) / MASON (horizontal)” (Figure 19). These were machine made and were square in cross-section with rounded corners. The Roller editors noted that the jar was made by Dominion Glass ca. 1983 and stated that Roller

had discovered an example with the Diamond-D logo. The firm reorganized as Domglass in 1976 and may have made the jars until the closing, almost 20 years later (ca. 1995).



Figure 19 – Domglas Mason (Roller 2011:165)

Dominion (1913-ca. 1950s)



Figure 20 – Dominion Mason (eBay)

Toulouse (1969:94-95) discussed three jars that used the word “Dominion” in some format, the first of which was discussed in the initial Dominion Glass section. He also illustrated and discussed three variations of a jar embossed “Dominion (upwardly slanted cursive) / MASON (horizontal)” on the front, one with the Diamond-D logo on the base. One variation also had “MADE IN CANADA” along the heel (Figure 20). These were machine made with a shoulder seal, and he dated them ca. 1915-1920. Two others were embossed “Dominion / Wide Mouth (upwardly slanted cursive) / SPECIAL (horizontal)” on the front, one with “MADE IN CANADA” on the heel. The term “Made in



Figure 21 – Dominion Special (eBay)

Canada” indicated a manufacture after 1927, although Toulouse dated both variations ca. 1915-1920.

Roller (1983:105) listed several jars with an upwardly slanted, cursive Dominion embossed on the side, made by the Dominion Glass Co. during the 20th century. One was the Made-in-Canada variation of the Dominion Mason described by Toulouse, but Roller said that it was “made in recent years.” A Dominion Mason offered on eBay was made at least as late as 1950 (see Figure 20). Roller included a Dominion Special (Figure 21), Dominion Wide Mouth, and Dominion Wide Mouth Special (Figure 22) – all with “MADE IN CANADA” on the heel and all from “recent years.” These all had top-seal closures. An unusual variation was embossed “MADE IN BRITISH EMPIRE” on the heel and



Figure 22 – Dominion Wide Mouth Special (eBay; Heydey Design – Flickr)

used a shoulder seal. The Roller update (2011:166) included the same variations and noted that “DOMINION” was in block letters on the British Empire jar – while all the others were in upwardly slanted cursive. The update also noted a jar embossed “Dominion (upwardly slanted cursive) / GEM (horizontal).”

Creswick (1987b:42) listed and/or illustrated eight jars using the name Dominion. These included the Dominion Gem, dated ca. 1977; Dominion Mason, no date but called it a “modern jar”; Dominion Mason Wide Mouth, also “modern jar”; Dominion Wide Mouth (Canada); Dominion Wide Mouth (British Empire); Dominion Special, modern; Dominion Wide Mouth Special, modern jar; and Dominion Wide Mouth Special, Made in Canada, ca. 1930s (Figure 23). Also see the discussion under D.G.CO.LTD. below. See Table 2 for a list of Dominion jars.

Table 2 – Dominion Jars

Front Embossing	Heel Embossing	Basal Logo*
Dominion Gem		Diamond-D Logo
Dominion Mason		
Dominion Mason	Made in Canada	
Dominion Mason	Made in Canada	Diamond-D Logo (with codes)
Dominion Mason Wide Mouth	Made in Canada	
Dominion Special	Made in Canada	
Dominion Special	Made in Canada	Diamond-DP Logo (DGCo)
Dominion Wide Mouth	Made in Canada	
Dominion Wide Mouth	Made in British Empire	
Dominion Wide Mouth Special		
Dominion Wide Mouth Special	Made in Canada	
Dominion Wide Mouth Special	Made in Canada	Diamond-D Logo (no date code)

* In most cases, the presence of the logo is unknown. Roller (2011:166) was the only source that seemed to be consistent in noting logo or no logo. However, we cannot determine that any comprehensive study of the logos on these jars has even been conducted.

D.G.Co.LTD. (ca. 1913-ca. 1928)

Toulouse (1971:160) noted that the DGCo mark was used by the Diamond Glass Co. or the Dominion Glass Co., both of Montreal, Canada. He dated the mark “possibly 1890 to 1910.” King (1987:248), however, in his section on “Producer’s Marks,” did not note any mark used by the Dominion Glass Co. prior to the adoption of the Diamond D mark on June 27, 1928.

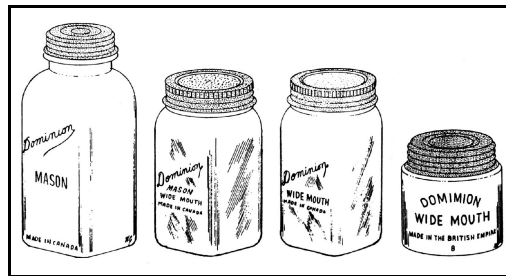


Figure 23 – Dominion jars (Creswick 1987b:42)

We have seen the mark on the base of a jar embossed “Dominion” (upwardly slanted script) “SPECIAL” on the side and “D.G.CO.LTD. / MADE IN CANADA” on the base along with a notable Owens scar (see Figure 16). Although Creswick (1987b:42) listed several jars with the upwardly slanted cursive “Dominion” embossed on the side (including the Dominion Mason and Dominion Wide Mouth), she neither listed nor illustrated the basal embossing we have seen. She noted that the jars were made by the Dominion Glass Co. Roller (1983:105) noted the Dominion Special (along with five other variations of Dominion jars) but did not include the D.G.CO. basemark. He attributed the jars to the Dominion Glass Co.

It is virtually certain that the logo was used by the Dominion Glass Co., and it is likely that the mark was used prior to the 1928 adoption of the Diamond-D logo. All examples we have seen had distinct Owens scars on the bases (with feathering). By the mid- to late 1920s, improved technology in the Owens machines had reduced the scars to thin lines, indistinguishable from the scars made by other automatic machines.

Diamond DP (ca. 1913-ca. 1928)

The Diamond-DP logo was embossed on some jars that also bore the initials D.G.CO.LTD. / MADE IN CANADA (see Figure 21). The mark was almost certainly used by the Dominion Glass Co. The Diamond-DP mark also may have been used as the only marking

on the bases of liquor bottles and possibly some other bottles or jars.⁵ At this time, we have no idea what the initials “DP” indicate. See discussion of D.G.CO.LTD. and DP in a Diamond – both above.

DYSON’S (1913-1920s)

Toulouse (1971:101) described a jar embossed “DYSON’S” / {cross} / PURE FOOD / PRODUCTS” (Figure 24). He described the cross as “a large cross, resembling the HERO CROSS except for rounded contour at the root of the indentations.” The base was embossed with the Diamond-D logo, so he assigned the jar to the Dominion Glass Co. ca. 1915. He also noted that some lids had the Diamond-D mark along with “MADE IN CANADA.” Creswick (1987a:49) noted that the Dominion Glass Co. made most of the jars for Dyson’s.



Figure 24 – Dyson’s (Toulouse 1969:101)

Erie Lightning

Toulouse (1969:111) also listed a round, machine-made jar with an old-style Lightning closure and suggested that the Jefferson Glass Co., Toronto, Ontario, produced the jar ca. 1913-1925. These jars were embossed “ERIE / LIGHTNING” on the front and “ERIE” on the base (Figure 25). Roller (1983:116; 2011:182) noted that these jars were advertised by the Dominion Glass Co. in its 1915 catalog. Creswick (1987b:51) illustrated the lightning and dated it ca. 1915-1925, agreeing on Dominion Glass as the manufacturer. There may be some disagreement about the Dominion Glass attribution. See the Other E section for more containers marked “ERIE” and more discussion about the manufacturer.



Figure 25 – Erie Lightning jar (North American Glass)

⁵ The only example we have seen also had a faint “CANADA” embossed below the Diamond DP. According to Phil Perry of Owens-Illinois, lubricant used on molds can build up in the baseplates partially or completely filling the engraving and causing unclear embossing or even obliterating it entirely. Thus, the company may have intended that the D.G.CO.LTD. mark also be on this bottle.

Gem

The “Gem” jars were made in both the U.S. and Canada. Toulouse (1969:127-128) illustrated and discussed two types of Canadian Gem jars, each with variations.

New Gem (poss. ca. 1913)

Toulouse (1969:128) a jar embossed “NEW (horizontal) / Gem (upwardly slanted cursive, with underlining tail extending from the “m”)” and he ascribed this one to the Sydenham Glass Co., 1894-1913 (Figure 26). Another version was identical except for a Diamond-D logo on the base – obviously representing Dominion Glass. Roller (1983:263) only mentioned the New Gem as being made ca. 1910 by the Sydenham Glass Co. – including a variation with “NEW” ghosted over “1908.” Creswick (1987b:56) included two variations of the New Gem (plus the 1908 and Wallaceburg) but attributed them all to the Sydenam Glass Co. The Roller update (2011:206) included seven variations (including Gem, 1908 Gem, and Wallaceburg Gem), assigning all of them to Sydenham between ca. 1904 and ca. 1910. See the section on Sydenham Glass Co. for a discussion.



Figure 26 – New Gem (eBay)

We have only found photos of three examples. One was puce in color, the other two solarized to a deep purple. Two included base photos, both of which showed a number (5 & 3) in the center with a valve scar (see Figure 26). The lids were also both purple; one had a 19-ray sunburst, with a 23-ray sunburst on the other (Figure 27). Although these *may* have been the earliest Gem jars made by Dominion – to be replaced by the Improved Gem discussed below – all the sources but Toulouse placed them in the Sydenham Glass Co. era.



Figure 27 – New Gem lids (eBay)

Improved Gem (1913-1960s)

Anotehr Gem jar noted by Toulouse (1969:127-128) was embossed “Improved / Gem (both upwardly slanted cursive, with an underlining tail extending from the “m”) / TRADE

MARK REG'D (upwardly slanted block)" on the side. He claimed that this was "all in the style of the Sydenham GEMS before the Sydenham-Diamond merger," although he credited the jar to Dominion Glass, 1913 to "present" (i.e., 1969, when his book was published). A variation had "Gem" in quotation marks, and another had "GEM" in horizontal block letters, no "TRADE MARK REG'D," and "MADE IN CANADA" added below (Figures 28).



Figure 28 – Improved Gem – cursive & block (North American Glass)

Roller (1983:165) included the "Gem" and "GEM" variations but not the cursive Gem with no quotation marks. He dated the cursive jar ca. "1910s-1920s," made by the Diamond Flint Glass Co. and Diamond Glass Co., but the latter may have been a typo for Dominion Glass. He dated the block letter variation from the 1920s to "recent times." Creswick (1987b:56) illustrated three variations and added "V I" or "I V" below the word "GEM" (Figure 29). Improved Gem jars with "MADE IN CANADA" were shown on eBay auctions both with no logo and with the Diamond-D logo and date code. The Roller update (2011:254) dated the jars 1920-1970s or later.



Figure 29 – Improved Gem (Creswick 1987b:56)

Since quite a few of these jars have been offered at eBay auctions, we can establish a tentative chronology. Although both Toulouse and Creswick listed the Improved Gem jar (cursive) with no quotation marks, we have been unable to discover an example. If these exist, they must be rare, and they were probably only made a for a short period. However, Roller (1983:166) illustrated a 1915 Dominion Glass Co. ad that showed a jar with the cursive Improved Gem that appeared to lack the quotation marks. Unfortunately, Roller's depiction of the ad was small and somewhat unclear. However, we discovered another ad from the July 14, 1915, issue of the *Montreal Gazette* that clearly showed the logo with no quotation marks (see Figure 15)

The jars with Improved Gem in cursive and "Gem" in quotation marks came next. Three eBay examples show a likely progression in manufacture:

1. Solarized violet; valve scar on base – no embossing; lid – sunburst w/ 23 “rays”
2. Offset Owens scar on base – no embossing; lid – sunburst with 23 “rays,” Diamond-D logo in center (no dot), “MADE IN CANADA” (arch) at top
3. 11 on base with offset scar – probably Owens; lid: “Improved (upwardly slanted cursive) / GEM / 4 {Diamond-D with dot below} 9 / MADE IN CANADA (inverted arch).”

These deserve a bit of explanation. The earliest one was solarized to a similar deep purple as the New Gem examples and had an identical 23-ray lid. This was also the only one of our small sample with a valve scar (Figure 30). This *may* indicate a manufacture in 1913 before the Owens machines were in place. The next example (2) had an Owens scar and a lid that was almost certainly a transitional one –



Figure 30 – Early Improved Gem base & Transitional lid (eBay)

with elements of the purple sunburst lids and of the one that followed (see Figure 30). The final example (3) still had an Owens scar but no Diamond-D logo – along with the new lid design (Figure 31). Note that these lids had a slightly different code sequence than the one described by King. Instead of a letter or box code to the left of the logo, there was a number. The date code on this jar probably indicates 1949 – in which case, it was surely added to the jar by a collector or canner.



Figure 31 – Lid & base of final quotation jar (eBay)

The block-letter GEM jars also showed a two-stage sequence. The first had a Diamond-D logo in the center of a valve scar on the base – but no date or other codes. It is probably that the valve scar covered the logo; i.e., the logo was engraved in the base of the jar rather than in the valve (Figure 32). These were almost certainly made between 1928 (when the logo was adopted) and 1941 (when the code system evolved). At least one of these jars had a lid discussed above. The one on our example was embossed “Improved (upwardly slanted cursive) / GEM / 4 {Diamond-D with dot below} 5 / MADE IN CANADA (inverted arch)” (see Figure



Figure 32 – Logo in valve scar & Improved Gem lid (eBay)

32). This lid may have been added to the jar later, or the codes may have been earlier than those on jars. See the Discussion and Conclusions section for more information.

The final jars in this sequence had bases embossed with the typical box month codes (i.e., lines discussed above) on stippled bases with the Diamond-D logo offset to left or right of center (Figure 33) on jars with valve scars. Jars with machine scars on the bases had logos in the center. Our sample had date codes of “1,” “5,” and “8” – indicating 1951, 1955, and 1958.



Figure 33 – Stippled bases (eBay)



Figure 34 – Improved Gem lid (eBay)

Lids were embossed with the jar name, logo, and codes as described above. All of the ones in our sample had a dot below the logo, indicating a manufacture at the Redcliff plant, and all had a “9” date code (Figure 34). This probably indicated a production in 1949 (see Discussion and Conclusions below).

IDEAL (1913-1920s)

Toulouse (1969:156) discussed a jar embossed “IDEAL / WIDE MOUTH / JAR” in a shield on the front with “MADE IN CANADA” on the heel. He credited the Dominion Glass Co. as the manufacturer and dated the jar ca. 1920. Roller (1983:161; 2011:250) noted that the metal lid (held in place by a screw band) was painted “FOR USE ON DOMINION OR IDEAL WIDE MOUTH JARS.” He dated the jars ca. “1930s to recent times.” Creswick (1987b:65) illustrated an example, and an eBay auction showed a faint Diamond-D logo on the base (Figure 35).



Figure 35 – Ideal Wide Mouth & logo on base (Creswick 1987b:65)

IMPERIAL (poss. ca. 1913)

Creswick (1987a:88) illustrated a jar embossed “IMPERIAL / Qt” on the heel (Figure 36). She said it had an “old style Lightning seal” and was aqua in color. She said it was Canadian made but made no further attempt at attribution. Roller (2011:252) added light blue to

the colors and noted that the jar was mouth blown and had a ground rim. The editors added that “because these jars have imperial capacities and are most often found in Canada, they were probably made in Canada. As noted above, King (1987:248) identified the Imperial jars as being made by Dominion Glass.

Mason Jars

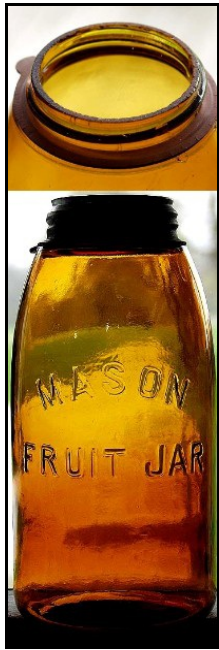


Figure 37 – Mason (arched) Fruit Jar (North American Glass)

Toulouse (1969:199) noted three jars embossed “MASON (arch) / FRUIT JAR (horizontal)” as being made by Canadian firms (Figures 37). He noted the earliest as “handmade round, in green, blue-green, light green, aqua, and amber.” All had Mason shoulder seal closures. He did not know the manufacturer of this earliest jar but dated it ca. 1890-1910. The other two were colorless and machine made. One had the Diamond-D logo on the base; the other did not. He assumed that the jar without the logo was made by the Diamond Glass Co., and he dated it ca. 1900-1910. He thought the Dominion jar was made between ca. 1913 and 1920 (see dating discussion below).

Roller (1983:213) also placed the mouth-blown variation as “maker unknown.” He noted the Canadian jar as having both lines horizontal (“MASON” was arched in the mouth-blown one) and attributed it to the Dominion Glass Co., ca. 1913-1920s. However, he inserted the caveat that he was “not certain whether all of these jars were made in Canada.” He noted three variations:

1. Ge in ghosted cursive letters on reverse, aqua [almost certainly “Gem”]
2. Roman numerals (I through VII reported) below FRUIT JAR, double interrupted threads, aqua
3. Rectangular plated area below FRUIT JAR

Roller (1983:213) also included a variation embossed “MADE IN CANADA” that he dated “after c. 1929 by Dominion Glass Co.” Creswick (1987a:118; 1987b:90) include the same variations (minus the one with the plated area) – all with the two lines horizontal. She attributed them all to the Dominion Glass Co., with the mouth-blown jars dated ca. 1915 and the machine

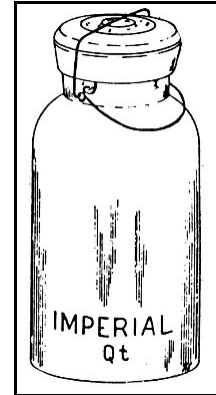


Figure 36 – Imperial Qt (Creswick 1987a:88)

made ones ca. 1914-1921. She included Mason shoulder seals as well as Mason beaded neck seals (Figure 38).

The Roller update (2011:321-323) confirmed that the jars with both lines horizontal were all made in Canada by the Dominion Glass Co. at the Montreal, Toronto, and possibly Wallaceburg plants. To the three variations of the machine-made jars, the editors added one with wider letters in “FRUIT JAR” and another with a reversed “N” in “MASON” – all shoulder-seal jars. The bead-seal jars were listed as a separate variation (Figure 39). The editors dated all of these ca. 1914-1929. They added a misspelled “CANANA” to the “MADE IN CANADA” jars.

It seems likely that the sources are correct (except Toulouse) in not including the arched variation as being made in Canada. The machine-made jars, however, were almost certainly made between ca. 1913 and 1928. Jars embossed “MADE IN CANADA” were manufactured in 1928 or later. It is possible – maybe likely – that the mouth-blown variation was made by the Diamond Flint Glass Co.

PERFECT SEAL (1913-1930s)

Roller (1983:238) described these colorless jars as square in cross-section with “old style neck, full-wire bail” closure. He said they were made ca. 1915 by Dominion Glass. That date was backed up by a July 14, 1915, Dominion Glass ad from the *Montreal Gazette* that showed a Perfect Seal Widemouth Adjustable jar plus two others (see Figure 15). Roller (1983:234) also discussed square jars embossed “THE (in scroll) PERFECT SEAL (all within trailing vines) WIDE MOUTH ADJUSTABLE” (Figure 40). He added that “these beautifully decorated jars may be found with numerous embossing variations in the scrolls, vines, and framing of the words WIDE MOUTH ADJUSTABLE.”

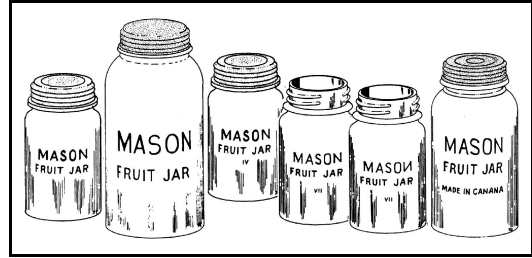


Figure 38 – Mason Fruit Jars (Creswick 1987a:118)



Figure 39 – Beaded seal (North American Glass)



Figure 40 – Perfect Seal – square (eBay)

Creswick (1987:103-104) illustrated and/or described 24 variations of the Perfect Seal jar in both round and square formats (Figure 41). Most of the pre-1928 jars were square in cross-

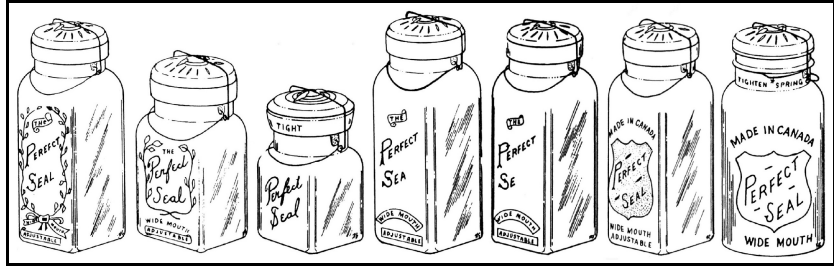


Figure 41 – Perfect Seal jar sequence (Creswick 1987:103-104)

jars were square in cross-section, while most of the 1928 or later jars (embossed “MADE IN CANADA”) were round. Roller (2011:420-421) also include variations but continued to use the same ca. 1915 date.

A small sample of jars from eBay helps fill in the picture. All but one of the square jars in the sample lack the “MADE IN CANADA” designation, and all of them were machine made. The only markings on the

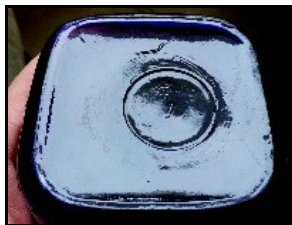


Figure 42 – Valve scar (eBay)

bases were valve scars or Owens scars (Figure 42). These were certainly made prior to 1928. A single square jar in the sample was embossed “MADE IN CANADA” and had an Owens scar on the base, probably manufactured in 1927 or 1928. The rest of the “MADE IN CANADA” jars were round and had Diamond-D logos (Figure 43). One had only the logo, but two others were

also embossed “R ‘31” and “1933,” respectively (see Figure 43). “MADE IN CANADA” jars were probably produced during the 1928-1930s period – although their manufacture could have extended into the 1940s. We have arranged the Creswick drawings (see Figure 41) in the probable chronological order. Note that the smaller square jars likely had less fancy embossing because of their size. The simpler marking probably does not have a chronological value.

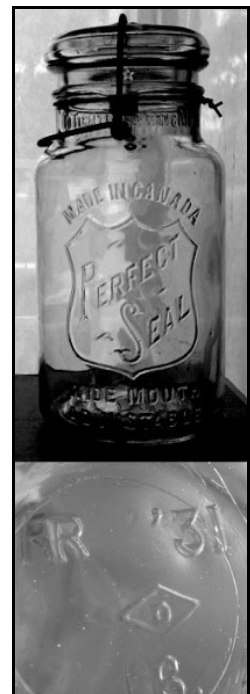


Figure 43 – Perfect Seal & basal codes – round (eBay)

Safety Valve

Even though King (1987:248) claimed that the Dominion Glass Co. made the Safety Valve jar, the jar sources do not confirm that. Roller 2011:459), for example, provided good evidence that the Safety Valve jars were made by the Hazel-Atlas Glass Co. It is possible that

Dominion landed the Canadian contract but could only produce the glass in the typical U.S. format – possibly for a short period of time.

Schram

Although King (1987:248) asserted that the Dominion Glass Co. made Schram Automatic Sealer jars, the evidence suggests that the jars were produced during the ca. 1901-ca. 1908 period – far too early for Dominion Glass. As noted in the Diamond Glass Co. (Canada) section, the Schram jars were much more likely manufactured by Diamond Glass and/or the Diamond Flint Glass Co. See the Diamond section for more discussion.

Discussion and Conclusions

Most of the marks attributed to the Dominion Glass Co. are pretty clearly defined both historically and empirically. Our arguments above in support of the Toulouse identification of D.G.GO.LTD. as belonging to Dominion are equally well supported as is our contention that the Diamond-DP mark was used by the company.

Our study of the Crown jars, however, was very revealing, although we dealt with the early jars in the Diamond Glass Co. (Canada) section. Although earlier studies suggested a variety of manufacturers for these jars, physical characteristics – most notably crown designs and manufacturing techniques – suggest that all but the initial jars were made by firms that led up to the Dominion Glass Co. and by Dominion Glass. The jars, themselves, form a logical progression leading to the ones embossed “MADE IN CANADA” – the final style of crown jar made by Diamond Glass. We have not attempted to address variations in lid styles – except for those associated with the North American Glass Co. – although future research should move in that direction.

Dominion Glass Co. made a huge variety of fruit jars, and most of these are attributable to the firm – even though some also were made by U.S. glass houses. Our studies are among the first to match jar types with machine manufacturing techniques. These have been useful in making identifications and creating chronologies. We also noted some distinctions not stressed in the earlier studies. The post-1940 Gem jar lids, for example used a numerical code to indicate

the month of manufacture (to the left of the Diamond-D logo) rather than a letter or line code – as was typical on bottle and jar bases. The post-1928 Crown jars were marked with a four-digit basal date code – another departure from the typical. Virtually everything in this study should be revisited in the future – with larger samples. Hopefully, more historical documentation will also appear.

Acknowledgments

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