

Du Bois Glass Co.

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with Contributions by Al Morin

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The Du Bois Glass Co. was short-lived, with a tenure of only four years. The company only produced milk bottles, possibly other dairy containers. The factory used a single manufacturer's mark and the Massachusetts Seal.

History

Du Bois Glass Co., Falls Creek, Pennsylvania (1914-1918)

The Fitzpatrick Glass Co. opened at Falls Creek, Pennsylvania,¹ in 1900, making window glass by the cylinder method. J.J. Fitzpatrick was the president and treasurer. The plant operated one tank with 48 blowers. The company became the Crystal Window Glass Co. in 1908 but went out of business in 1911 with the advent of machines to make window glass (Aravich n.d.; Roller 1997).

The Du Bois Glass Co. took over the old Fitzpatrick factory in 1914 and sold the old window glass paraphernalia for junk. The plant had its own mold section, operated by James McCoy to make milk jar molds (*American Flint* 1914:35; Aravich n.d.; McKnight 1917:472). A notice in the *National Glass Budget* (1915:2) heralded a reorganization of the firm on October 15, 1915. Unfortunately, we have found no details of the meeting. The Du Bois Glass Co. was listed in the Thomas Registers as a milk bottle manufacturer from 1915 to at least 1921 (Thomas Publishing Co. 1915:578,582; 1921:782, 784), and the firm advertised often in dairy journals (Figure 1).

¹ Schadlich ([ca. 1990]) placed the location at Du Bois, Pennsylvania, a more intuitive identification. Falls Creek is actually located just over two miles northwest of Du Bois, and the factory owners probably chose the name of the larger community, simply because of its size.

On July 23, 1921, the *Clearfield Progress* (Clearfield County, Pennsylvania) reported that “the Du-Bois Glass company at Falls Creek which has stood idle since 1918, was sold yesterday morning. By November of 1921, the *Chemical & Metallurgical Engineering* (1921:848) announced that

the Du Bois Glass Co. . . . manufacturer of glass bottles is making a number of improvements in its plant including the installation of new equipment and is said to be planning for a resumption of production at an early date. The works have been closed for many months.



Figure 1 – Du Bois ad (*Creamery and Milk Plant Monthly* 1918:64)

The company did not appear in the 1927 listing. Unfortunately, we have a gap in our factory directories from 1922 to 1926, so we cannot pinpoint the closing date. However, since we have found no other Pennsylvania documents that mention the firm, it probably never reopened after the beginning of the improvements.

Containers and Marks

Because the Du Bois Glass Co. was short lived and only made dairy containers, the plant is only represented by a single manufacturer’s mark and the Massachusetts Seal.

DBGCo 30 (1914-1918)

Al Morin (personal communication, 2/16/2007) noted that bottles in his collection with the Massachusetts “D” seal, were accompanied by heel codes of DBGCo30 or D.B.G.CO.30 (Figure 2). Schadlich & Schadlich (1984:4-5) cited the Massachusetts Department of Standards Bulletin #11 (1918) as listing the Du Bois Glass Co. as the user of the “D” seal. This solidly associates both the Massachusetts D Seal and the number “30” with the Du Bois Glass Co.



Figure 2 – DBGCo logo (Al Morin)

A numbering system for milk bottle manufacturers began in 1910 at New York. By 1912, both New York and Wisconsin required that any glass house selling milk bottles within the boundaries of these respective states had to have a number that represented the factory embossed on each milk bottle. Other states joined in, and the number system was pretty solidly in place by 1916 (Dept. of Commerce and Labor 1912:318; *Milk Dealer* 1916:58-59; *Orange County Times-Press* 1910).

Massachusetts D Seal (1914-1918)

From 1910 to 1947, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts required that all glass factories selling bottles to dairies within the state mark their containers with a Massachusetts seal. From some point after 1910, factories embossed the seal on the shoulder of each bottle, usually in a circular form embossed “MASS (arch) / {factory designator} / “SEAL (inverted arch).” These often appeared in a small plate mold. The Du Bois Glass Co. used a “D” in the Massachusetts seal embossed at the shoulder of its bottles (Blodget 2006:8; Schadlich [ca. 1990]). The mark was probably used from 1914 to 1918, the full tenure of the company (Figure 3).



Figure 3 – Mass D Seal (Al Morin)

Discussion and Conclusions

Between the manufacturer’s mark and the company number, there is no mistaking a bottle made by the Du Bois Glass Co. Many (perhaps all) of these bottles were also embossed with the Massachusetts “D” Seal.

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