

Other K Marks

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As with all of the letters of the alphabet, there are some K logos that do not fit in the larger files. We have presented those below.

Containers and Marks

K (ca. 1860-1880)

Toulouse (1969:165) noted the letter “K” and “MONROE Co., OHIO” embossed on the base of a grooved-ring wax-sealer fruit jar. He dated the jar ca. 1860-1880 but did not know the maker. The “K” may have been associated with the using company or a jobber instead of a glass house. Roller (1983:173) also mentioned a grooved-ring wax-sealer embossed on the base with “K” – although he did not note any other embossing.

Creswick (1987:93) listed both jars (with and without the Monroe embossing) and illustrated two with only the “K” embossing (Figure 1). She suggested Kearns & Co. for the first one (see the Kearns Glass Companies section) but had no suggestions for the others. She noted that “MONROE Co.” could mean either Monroe County or the Monroe Company. We note, however, that Zanesville is at least 50 miles northwest of the closest border to Monroe County.

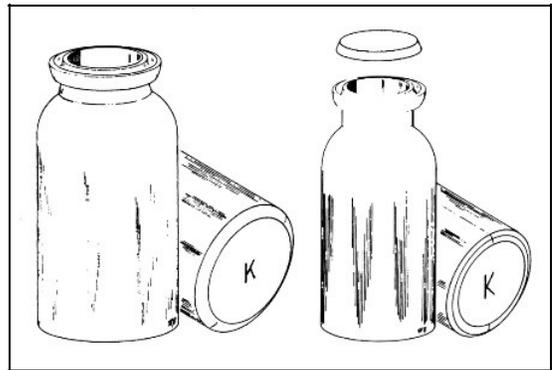


Figure 1 – K bases (Creswick 1987a:93)

Barrett (1997:160) discussed the letter “K” in association with the Kearns glass companies. It is likely that Kearns used a simple “K” on mouth-blown bottles (ca. 1860-1868) and is virtually certain that the plant embossed the mark on bases of colorless bottles and jars during the period (1920-1937) when Hazel-Atlas controlled the company but allowed it to operate under its own name. See the Kearns section for more information.

However, Barrett (1997:160) also noted that the Kemple Glass Co., Kenova, West Virginia, used the letter “K” as a logo on machine-made items after 1914. Burkholder & O’Connor (1997) noted that the firm was a tableware manufacturer from 1945 to 1970 – much later than Barrett’s date. Regardless of the dating, however, an embossed “K” on tableware is unlikely to be mistaken for the “K” on bottle glass.



Figure 3 – K flask (Tucson Urban Renewal collection)

Other “K” marks appeared on flask bases, rectangular prescription or medicine bottles (Eno’s Fruit Salts) that were almost certainly made in England, and soda bottles (Figures 2 & 3). Although we have not discovered a good candidate for the flasks or British bottles, Von Mechow (2017) listed six examples of a “K” on bases of soda bottles by a “K. Glass Company” – made during the:1893-1897 period. He noted that “the firm that produced these bottles is not confirmed. The manufacturer was likely in Pittsburgh vicinity or the Ohio River Valley.

The markings are on the reverse heel or base of the bottle.” On four of von Mechow’s six examples, the logo was on the base; the other two were reverse heelmarks. Four were Hutchinson bottles; the other two were champagne beer bottles. The position of the marks could be on either style.

Fowler (2017) enumerated four Hutchinson bottles with “K” logos – all on Enterprise Soda Works, San Francisco, all on reverse heel and large plus sign on base. He lumped them in the Kentucky Glass Co./Works category, although we feel that is unlikely. However, at this point, we have no other recommendations.



Figure 2 – English K bottle (Nate Briggs)

K + Roman numerals or numbers (ca. 1900-ca. 1910 or later)

Wilson (1981:10) recorded a 2 ½" base embossed with XI K. He presented a photo of a Ft Union 'stout' bottle made from "dense green glass "with 'X I (raised dot) K' in the center of the base." We recorded a similar base fragment at Fort Bowie with "II" replacing the "XI" Roman numeral. Other examples from eBay – all on English stout or ale bottles – were embossed "II•K," "K•8," and "K•IX" plus "K / • / 14" sent to us by David Whitten (Figures 4 & 5).



Figure 5 – K stout bases
(David Whitten)

Toulouse (1971:299) stated that the Kinghorn Bottle Co., Fifeshire, Scotland, used the "K" logo from 1907 to 1920, the years it was in business. William Bailey of the Mid-Lothian Glass Works at Portobello, Scotland, constructed a bottle factory at the former site of an old Saltworks at Pettycur Bay ca. 1901 but closed the plant within about a year (for more on Bailey, see section on the Factories Connected with Richard Cooper and Thomas Wood at Portobello, Scotland). The Kinghorn Bottle Co. had incorporated with a capital of £1,000 by mid-1908 and reopened the plant (*Chemist & Druggist* 1908:576; Kinghorn 2017).



Figure 4 – Stout bottle
(eBay)

Distillers Co., Ltd., purchased the factory in 1920 and operated it until 1937, when the operation became the Kinghorn Plant of United Glass, Ltd. Toulouse (1971:299) noted that the firm used a "KX" mark from 1920 to 1937, and "UGB / K" from 1937. Kinghorn (2017), however, claimed that Kinghorn was Factory #7 for United Glass Bottle and used a UG 7 logo. United rebuilt its furnace in 1980 for one million pounds, although the firm announced the closure of the plant on October 15 the following year (*The Glasgow Herald* 10/15/1981). The Toulouse identification is probably correct.

Large K in a hexagon (1924-1976)

This logo was often embossed on jar bases and paper labels of the Kraft Food Corp. from 1924 to 1976 (Logopedia 2014). James L. Kraft opened a “door-to-door” cheese business at Chicago in 1903 and brought his brothers into the firm as J.L. Kraft & Bros. Co. in 1909. The company moved to New York in 1912 and expanded heavily throughout the 1920s. In 1928, Kraft bought the Phenix Cheese Co., becoming the Kraft-Phenix Cheese Co., but National Dairy acquired the firm in 1930. The



Figure 7 – Kraft base (eBay)

business reorganized as the Kraftco Corp. in 1969, changing to Kraft, Inc. in 1976. The firm has since shifted through mergers and acquisitions and remains in business in 2016. For much more detail, see Wikipedia 2016). Along with the Hexagon-K logo, Kraft also used its name in cursive (Figures 6 & 7). See the Kimble Glass Co. section for a similar logo but with an elongated hexagon. Kraft and Kimble were totally unrelated.



Figure 6 – Hexagon-K base (eBay)

KC monogram in circle (1934-1936)

Dairy Antiques (2016) noted that the Knape-Coleman Glass Co. used a “K superimposed over C” logo. Avants (2010:7) confirmed both the mark and the factory and noted that the location of the monogram was on the heels of its milk bottles, illustrating a blank or parison bearing a paper label that included a KC monogram (Figure 8). The only example we have seen was embossed on the heel of a milk bottle and was surrounded by a circle. Avants did not state whether any mark was used by the Texas Glass Co. (Knape-Coleman’s predecessor), but we have not seen any marks that we would attribute to the firm.

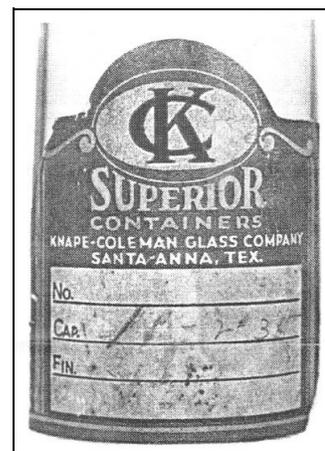


Figure 8 – KC monogram (Avants 2010:7)

Manufacturer

Texas Glass Co., Santa Anna, Texas (1931-1932)

When John W. Parker discovered sand that was 98.5% pure silica at Coleman County, Texas, in 1910, he began selling it to the glass industry the following year. This, apparently, prompted “local men” of Santa Anna, Texas, to organize a corporation to build a glass factory at the town in 1930. The group “purchased a plant from Oklahoma” – apparently moving the equipment to Santa Anna. By August 1931, the factory was producing milk bottles (its specialty) along with vinegar and beer bottles (Bruce & Terry 2005).

Knape-Coleman Glass Co., Santa Anna, Texas (1934-1936)

The Texas Glass Co. secured a loan to increase its capital, but was unable to meet the payment. Capitalists from Fort Worth and Austin gained control of the business and reorganized as the Knape-Coleman Glass Co. in 1932 and incorporated on July 25, 1933, with a capitalization of \$72,000. The group elected S.A. Coleman as president of the corporation (Bruce & Terry 2005; Temporary National Economics Committee 1939:511).

Coleman and Knape were both engineers with the Three Rivers Glass Co. until the Ball Brothers bought that firm in 1932, although production did not actually begin in the Spring of 1934. The plant began with two Lynch LA machines, one Miller milk bottle machine, and two Miller feeders. Although the factory originally made a variety of bottles, it quickly settled on milk bottle production because there was no other factory in Texas making containers of that kind (Temporary National Economics Committee 1939:511).

Coleman installed automatic feeders in 1934 and was sued by the Hartford-Empire Co. for patent infringement. Although he settled out of court, he was only allowed to continue using the feeders for an additional six months – a settlement Coleman called “a sort of slow death arrangement.” In an attempt to remain competitive, Coleman and Knape hired gatherers to feed the semiautomatic machines by hand. Pete Peterson became manager of the factory in 1936, the year that Knape-Coleman sold the business to the Liberty Glass Co. (Bruce & Terry 2005; Temporary National Economics Committee 1939:511).

KENSINGTON

Flasks marked “KENSINGTON” on the front and “UNION CO.” on the reverse actually denoted the location of the factory at Kensington, Philadelphia. This should not be confused with the Kensington Glass Works operated by Dyott (below). See Union Glass Co. section for more discussion.

KENSINGTON GLASS WORKS PHILADELPHIA (ca. 1826-1828)

This mark was used by the glass works it names. The plant was owned by Thomas W. Dyott. See the Dyott Glass Works section for a discussion.

KGCo (ca. 1894-1908)

Markota and Markota (2000:43) listed the K.G.Co. mark on the reverse heel of a Hutchinson bottle used by the Enterprise Soda Works, San Francisco, California. The bottler was in business ca. 1894-1908. Von Mechow (2016) listed six bottles with the mark. On four of von Mechow’s six examples, the logo was on the base; the other two were reverse heelmarks. Four were Hutchinson bottles; the other two were champagne beer bottles. The position of the marks could be on either style. He suggested that the manufacturer was likely in Pittsburgh vicinity or the Ohio River Valley but did not explain his reasoning. We checked Hawkins (2009) for Pittsburgh glass houses and the Roller files for Ohio and found only one factory with K.G.Co. initials – and that one made tableware.

The soda bottlers who used the bottles were in Cincinnati and Portsmouth, Ohio; Michigan City, Indiana; Louisville, Kentucky; and Union City, Connecticut. We found no glass houses in Kentucky, Ohio, or Indiana with the proper initials.

Fowler (2017) listed four Hutchinson bottles marked “K.G.Co.” on the reverse heels, all with a large plus sign on the base, and all used by the Enterprise Soda Works, San Francisco. He assigned the logo to the Kentucky Glass Co./Works, probably using that firm as a catch-all category. He noted two others (from Jeffersonville and New Albany, both Indiana) that he assigned to the Kearns-Gorsuch Bottle Co.

The Bill Lindsey collection contains a two-piece mold with “K.G.Co.218” engraved on the base. The base is the older type that created a single mold line across the center. The bottle appears to have been an ointment jar or bottle (Figures 9 & 10).



Figure 9 – KGCo mold 1



Figure 10 – KGCo mold 2

The
Kanawha Glass
Co., in business

at Cedar Grove, West Virginia, made both packers and mineral water bottles ca. 1912, but that seems a bit late for both of these containers. However, we were able to trace the approximate business dates for four of the bottles listed by von Mechow (2017):

American Bottling Works, Louisville, KY 1905-1917

Carstens Bros., Cincinnati, OH 1876-1920

H.C. Kunkel, Michigan City, IN 1905-1915

J.I. Marsh, Portsmouth, OH 1898-1923

All of these date ranges were easily within the years that the Kanawha Glass Co. was in operation. Whitten (2017) suggested the Kentucky Cooperative Glass Co. of Louisville as a possibility, but the “Cooperative” part of the name makes this choice unlikely.

The only sticking point is the Enterprise Glass Co., dated by Markota and Markota (2000:43) ca. 1894-1908. However, the business may have survived later. In July 1917, the *American Bottler* announced that “Graybill & Cory have purchased the Enterprise Soda Works at Monterey, Cal.” If this is the same Enterprise Glass Co., it could have moved to Monterey sometime between 1908 and 1914.

We have found no other glass houses with the right initial, so the Kanawha Glass Co. is the most likely candidate – despite the ambivalence of the Enterprise Glass Works dates.

Probable Manufacturer

Kanawha Glass Co., Cedar Grove, West Virginia (1913-1914)

The Kanawha Glass Co. made mineral water and milk bottles, packers, tumblers-jellies, amber beers, and pharmaceutical bottles about 1912 in Cedar Grove, West Virginia (Six 1995:14). The firm incorporated in 1912 with a capital of \$75,000 and L.H. Harrison, J.D. Pribble, E.L. Michie, Harold P. Tompkins, and E.E. Fisher as incorporators. The firm lit the fires at the new plant on March 31, 1913, blowing glass by mid-April (*Crockery & Glass Journal* 1912; *Tradesman* 1913:61).

Something went very wrong. On April 22, 1914, the *Charleston Daily Mail* posted a notice asking creditors of the glass house to present their claims in court. By March 1915, the *Mail* began listing law suits against Kanawha Glass, noting on July 28, a “property, formerly that of the Kanawha Glass Co., at Oak and Spring streets” – probably the location of the glass works. The factory was likely only in production for a single year from mid-April of 1913 to early or mid-1914.

A later Kanawha Glass Co. opened in 1953 and remains in business making tableware and vases in 2016. It was unrelated to the earlier firm.

K&M

Knittle (1927:442) claimed that this mark was used by the firm of Knox & McKee, Wheeling (West) Virginia. Although Toulouse (1971:310) included the mark, he admitted that the only known flasks produced by the company were embossed with the full name (see below). None of the typical flask sources included the mark, so it is almost certainly bogus.

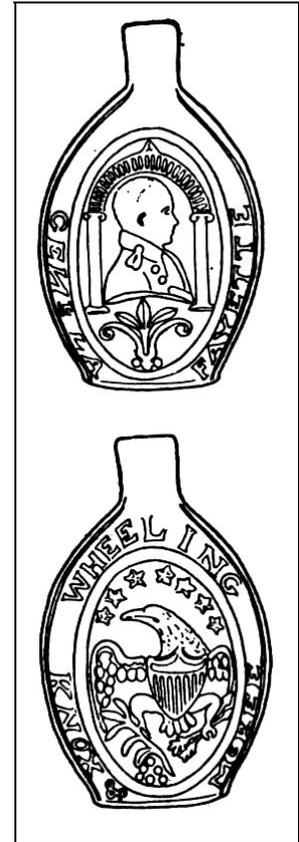


Figure 11 – Knox & McKee (McKearin & Wilson 1978 541, 547)

KNOX & MCKEE (1824-1830)

Knox & McKee made at least three types of flasks, each embossed on the reverse with an eagle and shield motif. Above the motif was “WHEELING” in an arch with “KNOX &” to the lower left and “McKEE” in the lower right (Figure 11). The flasks were made in colorless, green, blue-aqua, emerald green, and “moonstone” (McKearin & Wilson 128-129, 541, 546-547, 556).

Manufacturer

Knox & McKee, Wheeling, West Virginia (1824-1830)

Charles Knox and Redick McKee joined with Noah Zane to form Knox & McKee, a grocery as well as commission and forwarding business, at Wheeling, West Virginia, in 1820. In 1824, Knox & McKee bought the Wheeling, (West) Virginia, glass factory originally begun by George Carruthers in 1820 and named the plant the Virginia Green Glass Works. Although window glass was the plant’s primary product, the firm also made at least three types of flasks that they marked with “KNOX & McKEE” (Toulouse 1971:310-312; McKearin & Wilson 1978:128-129). McKee, himself, stated that the factory made window glass along with “large quantities of green hollow ware gallon half gallon and quart bottles oil and porter bottles and pint bottles innumerable” (quoted in Maury & Fontaine 1876:51).

Knox & McKee operated the plant until 1830 when they leased it to Ensell & Plunkett. During the Ensell & Plunkett tenure, Knox & McKee built a flint-glass house on the property. When the lease expired in 1833, Knox & McKee sold half of their interest in both plants to Jess Wheat and John Price, and the group changed the factory name to the Fairview Glass Works. Operations finally ceased in 1848. For a later history of the plant and more flasks, see the Other W section, Wheat, Price & Co. (Knittle 1927:389-393; McKearin & Wilson 1978:129). McKee called the Wheat, Price & Co. venture a “White Flint Hollow Ware Factory” (quoted in Maury & Fontaine 1876:51). Since few early bottle makers used logos, it is not surprising that we have not found other marks from Knox & McKee.

K&O or KIVLAN & ONTHANK

These marks were used by Kivlan & Onthank from 1919 to 1925. See the section on Smalley, Kivlan & Onthank for more information.

K.S.&Co (ca. 1872-1891)

Creswick (1987:97) illustrated the K.S.&Co mark embossed horizontally across a fruit jar base. Also on the base was “PATENTED” (arch) / “DEC 17TH 1872” (inverted arch). A variation had the same patent information on the base as well as the letter “K” but in mirror image. The “K” is positioned in such a way as to suggest that it was the beginning of the “K.S.&Co” logo (Figure 12). Apparently, the engraver realized his error and stopped, but the company decided to use the baseplate anyway. The initials indicate King, Son & Co., Pittsburgh. Surprisingly, this jar was not listed in either Toulouse (1971) or Roller (1983, 2011).

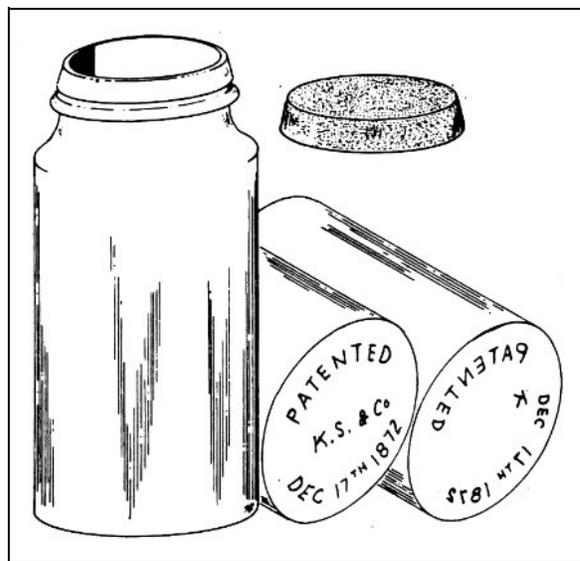


Figure 12 – K.S.&Co. (Creswick 1987a:97)

Manufacturer

Johnson, King & Co., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (1859-1869)

James and Ralph Johnson, along with William C. King formed Johnson, King & Co. and built the Cascade Glass Works in 1859 on the block between 17th, 18th, and Short Streets, bordering the Monongahela River. The plant made pressed and blown tableware. King’s son, Alexander, opened the Jenny Lind Glass Works ca. 1862. When the partnership between King and the Johnsons broke up in 1869, Johnson & Co. took over the Jenny Lind plant, and the King family operated the Cascade works as King, Son & Co. (Creswick 1987:97; Hawkins 2009:111-112).

King, Son & Co., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (1869-1891)

King, Son & Co. operated the plant with two furnaces and 20 pots, still making crystal tableware. By 1877, the company made druggists' ware and two styles of glass jars. The Cascade plant was virtually destroyed by fire in May of 1879, but the Kings had it back in production by 1880 with two furnaces and 24 pots (Hawkins 2009:112, 308).

The firm purchased the Crystal Glass Co. plant at Bridgeport, Ohio, in 1884 and leased Crystal's Southside plant. Meanwhile, they dismantled the Cascade plant but had rebuilt it, again with two enlarged furnaces, by January 1885. The Crystal lease expired in February 1885, and the Kings leased the McKee & Brothers Southside factory in August 1888. The plant relinquished the lease in 1889. The family incorporated as the King Glass Co. at that time, with W.S. King as president, Andrew H. Lietch as secretary and treasurer, and George Swift as manager. The firm was capitalized with \$212,000. In 1891, the plant became Factory K of the United States Glass Co. (Hawkins 2009:112-113).

Discussion and Conclusions

Aside from "K" and "K.G.Co.", the marks discussed above are pretty self explanatory. Although not totally conclusive, the evidence points to the Kanawha Glass Co. as the user of the "K.G.Co." logo.

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