

Long Beach Glass

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The Long Beach Glass Co. entered the California bottle competition in 1920. Although the firm's earliest history is somewhat foggy, the plant incorporated in 1923 and used machines from that point until it moved to Vernon (Los Angeles) in 1933 and reorganized as the Glass Container Corp.

History

Long Beach Glass Co., Long Beach, California (1920-1933)

Toulouse (1971:318-319) noted that the initial history of the company was uncertain, but “the consensus seems to be that a Mr. Fogg started it in 1920” at Long Beach, California. Although the firm began as a sole proprietorship, it incorporated at 1550 Daisy Ave. in early 1923, using two new Lynch machines (*Glass Industry* 1923:79). The plant burned in 1927. That year, the firm made “flint prescription, beverages, fruit jars, packers and bottle specialties” at one continuous tank with four rings. The plant added milk jars to the list in 1929 and changed to “flint and amber” glass in 1933 (*American Glass Review* 1927:139; 1929:100; 1933:67). Toulouse (1971:318-319) noted that the factory made “all types of bottles and jars” on three Lynch machines with three Hartford-Empire feeders in 1930.

A 1937 article told a somewhat different story (*Western Brewing World* 1937:32). According to the article, the Long Beach Glass Co. opened in 1922 using semiautomatic equipment. The article claimed that the factory was successful enough to warrant an upgrade to fully automatic machinery in just two years (i.e., 1924). We have no way to determine which of the two early histories is correct.

By at least 1924, Andrew H. Peppal, a Canadian citizen, was the president of Long Beach Glass. By at least June 19, 1924, his home country had begun extradition proceedings against Peppal, charging him with embezzling \$3,368 from a Toronto firm. Although Peppal fought the process, he was eventually convicted. He appealed but was arrested and extradited in 1925. The

newspapers repeated mentioned Peppal's wealth, causing us to wonder if the basis for his riches came from the embezzlement (*Los Angeles Times* 6/19/1924; 4/4/1925; 6/27/1925). Long Beach Glass, of course, quickly dismissed Peppal.

The Long Beach Glass Co. has the distinction of being one of the few companies to create a glass "flood" that threatened its neighbors. On October 24, 1928, "hundreds of tons of molten glass at a temperature of 3300 deg." flowed out of a crack in the furnace. Fortunately, firemen were able to deluge the leading edge of the glass stream with sufficient water to form a dam of cooled, solid glass. Damage was estimated at \$10,000 (*Los Angeles Times* 10/25/1928).

Due to zoning restrictions and earthquake damage (and probably in part due to the runaway glass), the plant closed in 1933. The company moved to Vernon (Los Angeles) that year and rebuilt as the Glass Container Corp. (Toulouse 1971:220). In the 1934 glass factory directory, the name had been changed to Glass Containers, Inc.

Containers and Marks

LB (1920-1933)

Colcleaser (1966:45) showed a medicinal-style rectangular panel bottle marked DR. C.S. WAIT'S with the "LB" mark ("B" is nestled in the bend of the "L") and a "3" embossed on the base (Figure 1). He (1966:47) showed the same mark (followed by a 1) on a crown-finished soda-style bottle embossed CLAM / TEA on the front. The tea was from the J.G. Fox Co. Toulouse



Figure 1 – LB machine (Tucson Urban Renewal collection)

(1971:318) dated the mark to the full tenure of the factory – 1920-1933. Some of the few bottles we have examined were made by machine (see Figure 1), although others were mouth blown into mold (Figure 2). Either the mouth-blown bottles were all made during the first three years, or the plant continued some of its production by hand after the installation of the machines in 1923. The latter explanation is more likely.

Discussion and Conclusions

The early history of Long Beach Glass is somewhat confused. Hopefully, future research will determine which version (if either) is correct. The later history is more clear and complete. Toulouse seems to have been correct both about the logo used by the firm and duration of the use.

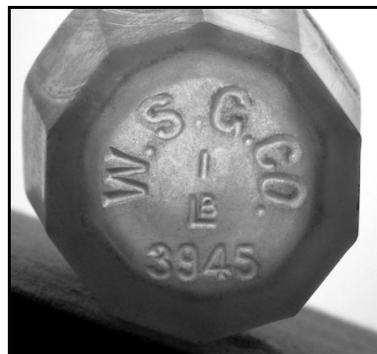


Figure 2 – LB hand

Acknowledgments

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