

Missouri Glass Co. – A Study of Misunderstandings

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The Missouri Glass Co. has been misunderstood by most researchers. The early studies established that the firm was a glass manufacturer – open in 1856 – producing a variety of goods, including bottles and jars, but did not discover the transition into a distribution jobber in 1864. Later studies noted the jobber status but failed to mention the factory period. We present both parts of the story. The firm finally ceased operations in 1911 or 1912. Contrary to reports from some sources, the factory did not use the “MGCo” manufacturer’s mark – or any other, although the jobbing firm commissioned two jars embossed with its name or logo.

Histories

St. Louis Glass Works, St. Louis, Missouri (1849-1854)

Knittle (1927:422-423) stated that James B. Eads established a glass house at St. Louis in 1842, making tableware. Although his establishment failed in 1849, it was likely the earliest glass house in St. Louis and may have been the ancestral works to what eventually became the Missouri Glass Co. In October 1849, Henry T. Blow, John W. Farrell, and William H. Barksdale opened the St. Louis Glass Works to make window glass at Lemp and Utah Streets (later, the location of the Missouri Glass Co.). The operation soon failed, and Wayman Crow purchased Blow’s interest (Roller 1997; Scharf 1886:1283; *Western Journal* 1850:66).

Now known as Farrell & Crow, the group incorporated, reconstructing the plant as a circular building and beginning production at a single furnace with eight pots on March 11, 1850 (*Western Journal* 1850:66). The organization became the Mound City Glass Works in 1854 (Roller 1997; Scharf 1886:1283). This should not be confused with the St. Louis Glass *Company* that opened by at least 1852 at Broadway and Monroe Streets. See the Other S section for more on St. Louis Glass Co. that later became the St. Louis Glass Works.¹

¹ Jones (1968:18-21) and Welker and Welker (1985:92) also discovered much of this early material.

Mound City Glass Works, St. Louis (1854-1856)

In 1854, James and Samuel Wallace leased the St. Louis Glass Works and renamed it the Mound City Glass Works, converting the plant to flint glass production. Prior to 1857 (probably 1856), a new firm took control (Roller 1997; Scharf 1883:1283).

Missouri Glass Works, St. Louis (1856-1859)

In 1856, Gillinder & Reid (William T. Gillinder and P.W. Reid) gained control of the operation, renaming the plant the Missouri Glass Works, as shown in an 1893 billhead that claimed 1856 as the establishment date for the glass house. Reid withdrew from the partnership in 1857, leaving Gillinder in charge of the firm. By 1859 (probably a year earlier), Wallace & Co. (James W. Wallace, Edward Bredel, Jr., Edward Daly, Chadwick Wallace, and Samuel Wallace) took over the plant (Roller 1997; Scharf 1883:1283).

Missouri Glass Co., St. Louis – Glass Manufacturers (1859-1864)

The *Daily Missouri Republican* reported on October 23, 1859, that the firm had reorganized and incorporated as the Missouri Glass Co. with a capital of \$50,000. The principals were James A. Lucas, John O'Fallon, Archibald Gamble, and Edward Bredell. Bredell was president with Edward Daly as secretary and James W. Wallace as superintendent. The plant now made flint and green glassware at the corner of Lemp and Utah Streets, but all was apparently not well; the factory became idle because of tariff issues after only a year or so (U.S. Census 1860; Scharf 1883:1283).

James W. Wallace & Brother leased the plant in 1863, but the firm sold the factory to Gate (possibly Cate), Laselle & Co. in 1864. The new owners renamed the firm the Planters Glass Co. By the following year, they had refitted and refurnished the factory and had begun production. In 1866, the firm again restructured as Barrie, Laselle & Co. (Samuel S. Barrie, George S. Laselle, and Elijah G. Gate). They, too, failed and sold the plant to the St. Louis Plow Mfg. Co. in 1865 or 1866 (Scharf 1883:1283).

Missouri Glass Co., St. Louis – Ceramic and Glass Jobber (1864-ca. 1911)

After the glass works sale, the Missouri Glass Co. remained in business as a jobber in lamps, lamp fixtures, ceramics, and glass jars. By 1868, Edward Bredell was the president, but William Somerville – who began as a clerk with the glass works – had become president by 1870, with Allen Trail as secretary. The firm was now at 217-218 N. Main. A December 9, 1876, billhead showed

that the firm sold glassware, lamps, Queensware, and bottles (Roller 1997; Wilson and Caperton 1994:69; *Year Book* 1882:105-109, 233-234). A letterhead dated October 29, 1878, noted

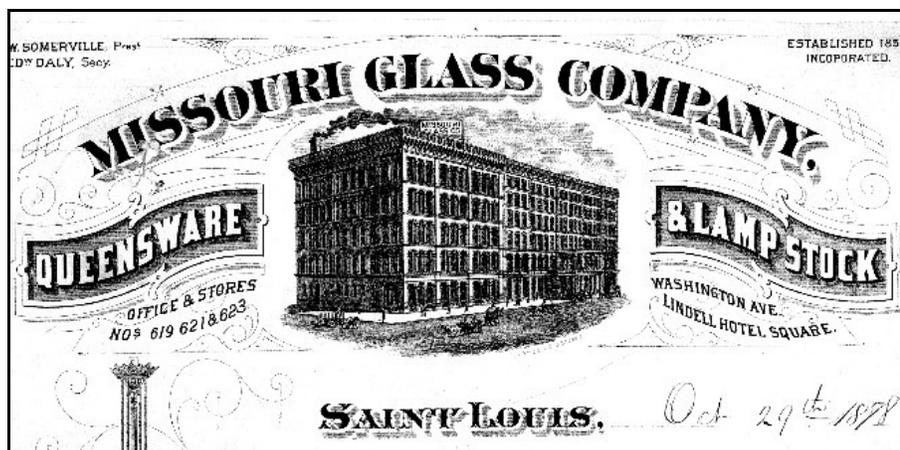


Figure 1 – 1878 letterhead (Terry Schaub collection)

Queensware and lampstock and illustrated lamps and tableware in the left margin (Figure 1). By that time, the firm had moved to 619-623 Washington, and Edward Daly was secretary, with Somerville remaining as president. The firm moved again to the Iron Bldg., 501-505 3rd St., by 1881 (Roller 1997).

Somerville received a number of patents during the 1880s, including one for a disk immerser for Mason jars (see the Immerser section below). Along with the Disk Immerser, an 1887 ad included Mason Improved jars, Mason's Patent Nov. 30th 1858 jars, Standard Groove Ring jars, “French” Jelly Glass with Porcelain Cover, Bucket Style Jelly Glasses, and Queen Glass Oil Cans. By 1891, the firm had moved to the corner of 12th and Olive, relocating again to 908 Clark in 1903 and finally to 1723 Locust by 1911 – the last listing recorded for the firm (Gorham 1995:24; Roller 1997).²

² Jones (1968:19) noted that Albert Christian Revi found “an unbroken record of the Missouri Glass Company in the St. Louis Directories - from 1859 to 1911.” However, she still thought that it was a manufacturing firm for this entire period.

Containers and Marks

Despite several misidentifications, the Missouri Glass Co was *not* the user of the MGCo logo. Jones (1968:19) attributed the MGCo mark to the Missouri Glass Co. Herskovitz (1978:7, 9) agreed with Jones that the Missouri Glass Co. was the most likely choice for the glass house that used the MGCo. mark and cited her reasoning. Ayres et al. (1980:27) cited Jones for the beginning of the firm and added 1911 as a closing date based on their own search of city directories. They concurred with Jones that this company may have used the MGCo mark. Surprisingly, Toulouse (1971:359-361) did not follow Jones on this logo, although his identifications were also faulty (see the section on the Mississippi Glass Co. for our study of the MGCo logo). He belonged to her correspondence group, both contributing and receiving information that he used in his 1969 and 1971 books.

MISSOURI GLASS CO. ST. LOUIS, Mo. (1875-1878)



Figure 2 – “pinched” finish
(North American Glass)

Roller (1983:343) discussed a grooved-ring wax-sealer fruit jar embossed “MISSOURI GLASS Co. (arch) / ST LOUIS Mo. (horizontal),” on the reverse, with “STEVENS (slight arch) / TIN TOP / PATD JULY 17, 1875 (all horizontal)” on the front. Roller noted that the finish had “two small indentations on outer lip of groove to engage two projections on edge of metal disk” (Figure 2).

Creswick (1987:203) illustrated the jar and noted that it was embossed with “S.K.&Co” around “N” in a star on the base – a mark used by the Newark Star Glass Works, Newark, Ohio (see the section on Edward H. Everett for more information – Figures 3 & 4). She stated that the jars were made for Missouri Glass Co. by Newark Star.

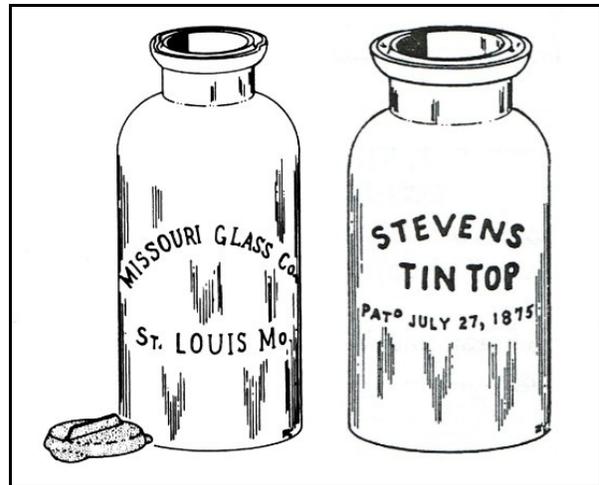


Figure 3 – Missouri Glass Co. (Creswick 1987:203)



Figure 4 – Newark Star base (North American Glass)

On June 30, 1875, David E. Stevens and Richard F. Lumley applied for a patent for a “Fruit-Jar” and received Patent No. 165,962 on July 17 of that year. The patent was for a tin lid that sealed the tops of grooved-ring, wax-

sealer fruit jars. The lid had a projection on each side that turned under two indentations in the finish to hold the lid firmly in place (Figure 5).

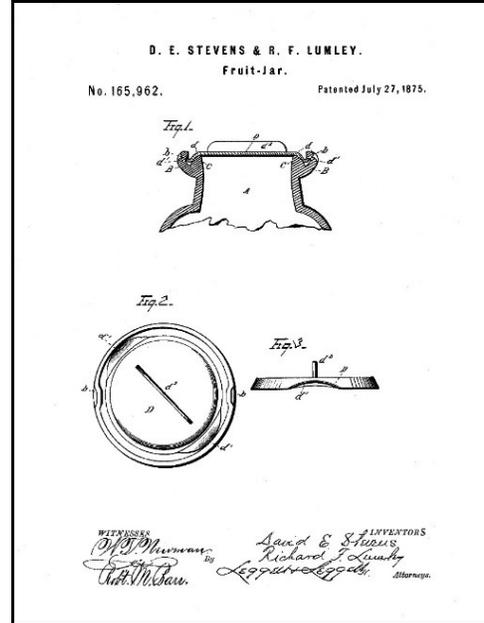


Figure 5 – Stevens & Lumley 1875 patent

The Roller editors (2011:492) only noted the jar with an unembossed base, but North American Glass showed a photo with the SK&Co initials and the Star-N logo on the base (see Figure 4). As is obvious from the patent date, the jars were not made prior to 1875 (at least not with the patent embossing), and Shields, King & Co. sold to Edward H. Everett in 1880 after having been idle for at least one year, possibly two. The jars may therefore be reliably dated 1875 to ca. 1878.

M^oGCo (ca. 1860-1866)

Roller (1983:351) discussed a grooved-ring wax-sealer fruit jar with “• TEMPERED • (slight downward arch) / M^oG.Co (horizontal)” embossed on one side (Figures 6 & 7). He attributed the jar as probably by the Missouri Glass Co., St. Louis, ca. 1860s. Creswick (1987:208) illustrated the jar and agreed that it was probably made by the Missouri Glass Co., “circa 1860-1866” (Figure 8). The Roller



Figure 7 – Grooved-ring finish (North American Glass)

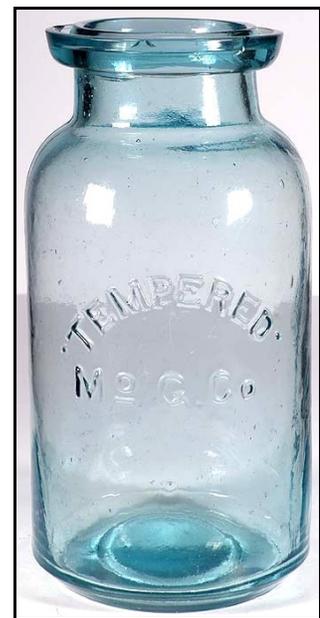


Figure 6 – M^o G. Co jar (North American Glass)

editors (2011:504) listed the jar and noted that it had projections (or feet) on the base to prevent the glass from cracking while on the base of a boiling kettle (Figure 9). The base had a flat heel that the editors claimed was only found on two other jars: the PENN and the UNION.



Figure 9 – Footed base (North American Glass)

According to Roller (2011:418, 524), The Penn was made by Beck, Phillips & Co. of Pittsburgh ca. 1860-1870s, and the Union was produced by the Beaver Falls Glass Co., Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania, ca. 1870s. As noted previously, it is unlikely that the Missouri Glass Co. manufactured this jar, but it could have been made for them by either of the Pittsburgh glass houses.

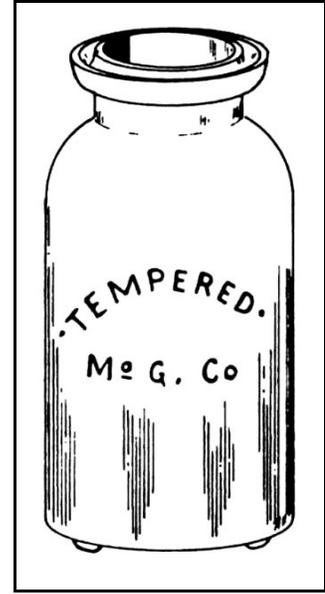


Figure 8 – M^e G. Co jar (Creswick 1987:208)

The Disk Immerser Jars

These jars were all made to the Mason styles, but the use of the Disk Immerser closures is the primary diagnostic consideration. Elizabeth Hunt patented the original invention in 1875, and it went through three sequential improvements, culminating in William Somerville's 1886 patent. The basic idea was a disk suspended from the lid that would press down on the preserved fruit, holding the solids below the level of the liquid in the jar, thereby preventing spoilage. If some of the fruit extended above the liquid level, it could spoil.

Since none of the major fruit jar sources examined these jars in a systematic manner, their entries were scattered within each source. We attempted to pull those together and have divided the Immerser jars into three groupings: 1) the Quotation Mason series; 2) the Mascot series; and 3) the rosette or Tudor Rose series. In addition, the Disk Immersers extended through three temporal periods that form a production sequence that may fit in with the groupings of the jars. We will begin our analysis with the temporal sequence.

Temporal Sequence

The Invention Period (1875-1886)

The invention period extended from 1875 to 1886 and may also be subdivided into four parts in accord with the four patents.

1. Elizabeth Hunt received Patent No. 170,172 on November 23, 1875. This was the original invention for what would eventually become the Mason Disk Protector – although it bore little

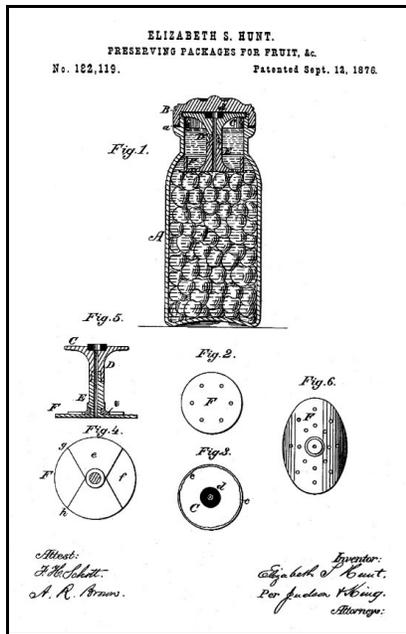


Figure 11 – Hunt 1876 patent

resemblance to the later Immerser (Figure 10). Toulouse (1969:198) described the devise as a “disk on a hanger, to go inside the jar to hold solid portions of the contents below the liquid. It was separate from the cap parts.” Like its next descendant, no lids were actually made to this patent.

2. On August 4, 1876, Hunt applied for another patent and received No. 182,119 for an “Improvement in Preserving Packages for Fruit” on September 12 of the same year. Toulouse (1969:198) described the closure as a “disk in two parts, bolted together, and fitting jar top to replace the normal opal liner.” This was an improvement on her 1875 design (Figure 11).

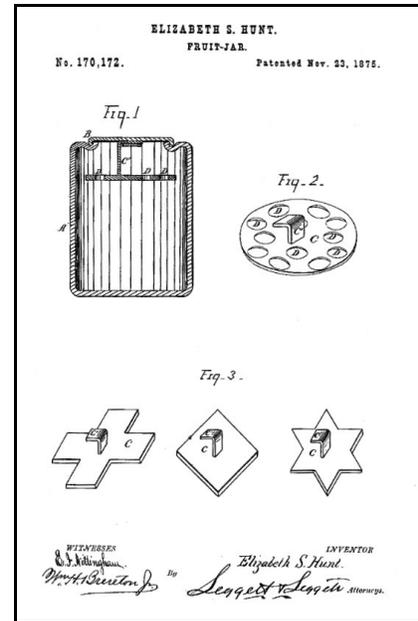


Figure 10 – Hunt 1875 patent

3. William E. Andrew applied for a patent for a “Cover for Vessels” on September 22, 1880, and received Patent No. 234,842 on November 30 of the same year for a “one-piece

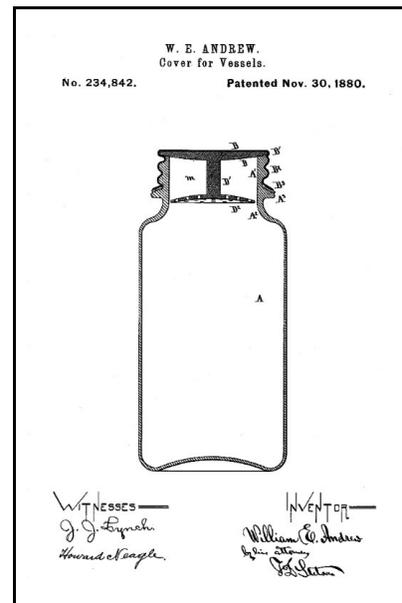


Figure 12 – Andrew 1880 patent

upper cap liner, one-piece lower disk, connected by a pillar and bolted together” (Toulouse 1969:198). This was the initial patent date used on the earliest Mason Disk Immersers, although the lids were actually produced to the Somerville patent (Figure 12).

4. William Somerville, president of the Missouri Glass Co., applied for a patent on March 29, 1880, but did not receive Patent No. 345,999 until July 20, 1886. This invention finally produced the disk protector in a single piece, and Somerville used the term “immerser.” Toulouse (1969:199) suggested that this was the “only patent actually put into practice” (Figure 13). The timing of this final patent is interesting on two counts and deserves more discussion.

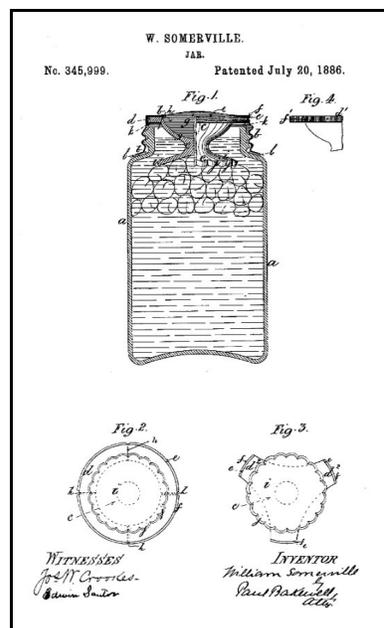


Figure 13 – Somerville 1886 patent

First, Somerville applied for his patent on March 29, 1880, six months *prior* to Andrew’s application of September 22 of that year. It seems strange that Andrew’s similar patent was granted almost immediately – just two months after his application, where Somerville’s earlier application was not finalized for six years and four months!

Second, the timing fit into the moment when the improved Mason jar patents expired in 1886. This should not have had any bearing on the patent itself, however. Somerville required the use of a metal screw cap of the Mason style, but his drawing clearly showed a Mason shoulder seal (as did Andrew’s), a design that should have been free of patent restrictions also by that time. This enabled Somerville and his subsequent manufacturers to legally emboss the word “MASON” on the jars – and to use either the shoulder seal or rim seal – both of which were no longer patent protected as of that year.

According to Roller (1983:217), William Somerville registered a trademark for “The Mason Disk Protector” on July 15, 1884. Either Somerville had managed to acquire the Andrew patent (which seems likely based on subsequent evidence presented below), or he was counting on receiving his own patent – or he would not have registered the trademark. Of course, he may have been using trademark protection *because* he could not push his patent through the system.

The Riverside Glass Co. & Bellaire Stamping Co. Years (1886-1889)

As often happens in historical research, we have very few documentary sources for these jars. Tom Caniff owned a letter from the Missouri Glass Co. addressed to Charles Yockell, a well-known Philadelphia mold maker, dated April 6, 1886. The letter ordered a “short” jar mold to be sent to the Riverside Glass Co., Wellsburg, West Virginia, as well as a mention of a request for a price quote from the Bellaire Stamping Co. (originally a maker jar lids and other tin products). While the date was not absolute, it suggests that Bellaire was involved in the production during 1886 – and the letter was dated more than three months prior to the receipt of the Somerville patent.

Roller (1983:217) noted that Bellaire advertised the Disk Immerser in 1887 and 1888, the June 9, 1887, ad illustrating two jars, one, the “MASON” jar with Andrew’s 1880 patent date on the front, the other a “MASON’S” IMPROVED jar. The first jar appeared to have the Mason shoulder seal lid, while the second one was certainly a top seal (typical of “Improved” Mason jars). The ad listed both the Missouri Glass Co. and the Riverside Glass Co. (Plus ten other firms) as sellers of the jars and noted that the disk protectors “fit all Mason Jars,” while “Disk in Cover with Metal Ring” would fit the Improved variations. The jars were available in “Green, also Flint and Amber Color glass in all sizes” and named the invention the “Anderson Porcelain Disk Immerser” – tying the first jars to the Anderson patent rather than the one by Somerville.

This ad brings several things together. First, it is clear that the Bellaire Stamping Co. produced the jars embossed with “MASON” and “MASON’S” on the front (see the description of the jars below), making those almost certainly the first jars in the sequence. It is thus also probable that the remaining quotation marks jar was also produced by Bellaire (again, see below). Second, it is definite that Bellaire was making and selling both shoulder-seal and top-seal Mason jars by 1887 (probably 1886, soon after Somerville received the patent). Third, it removes any doubt of the connection between the Missouri Glass Co., the Bellaire Stamping Co., and the Riverside Glass Co. Charles N. Brady was the president of Riverside (and the Hazel Glass Co. – more on that below), while his partner, Charles H. Tallman, was the secretary and treasurer of Bellaire. While it was not written out in absolute English, it seems clear that Somerville presented his invention to Brady and Tallman by at least April of 1886 (probably earlier), enlisting the Bellaire Stamping Co. to make the jars, while the Riverside Glass Co. and/or the Hazel Glass Co. produced the lids.

Roller only discovered Bellaire ads for the jars for 1887 and 1888. However, as noted above, Somerville was in contact with both Riverside and Bellaire by at least April of 1886, and production of the jars probably commenced soon after, using the Andrew patent. Production may even have begun prior to April, with the Riverside Glass Co. manufacturing the initial jars – with the 1880 date on the front. Those almost certainly remained in production until the molds wore out. Since Riverside was a tableware factory, the jar line was most likely phased out as soon as possible, with the molds transferred to Bellaire. This line of reasoning strongly suggests 1886 as the initial year of manufacture.

We can equally determine the logical end of production for these jars. The Hazel Glass Co. received a trademark for the term “Mascot Improved” on February 25, 1890, claiming a first use of the term on March 17, 1889. This strongly suggests that Hazel Glass took over production in March 1889 although Bellaire almost certainly made the jars until the molds wore out or the firm had fulfilled all the orders. Thus, the Quotation Mark jars may be safely dated between 1886 and 1889.

The Bellaire Stamping Co. also made a jar embossed “BELLAIRE STAMPING Co. (arch) / BELLAIRE, OHIO (horizontal)” on the front. Only a very few have ever been found, so these may have been the pilot project for the Quotation Mason series discussed below. Roller (1983:64; 2011:100) suggested that the jars were probably sealed with the Immerser system. See the Other B section for more information on the jar.

The Hazel Glass Co. Period (1889-ca. mid-1890s)

As noted above, the Hazel Glass Co. claimed a first use of the term “Mascot Improved” on March 17, 1889, in its trademark of February 25, 1890. This suggests that the Hazel Glass Co. took over the manufacture of the Immerser jars, renaming the series as the Mascot in early 1889. As also noted above, this likely heralded the end of Bellaire’s production of the Quotation Mason series later during the same year – as well as suggesting that Hazel Glass made the Mascot series of jars.

The end of the Hazel Glass period for these jars, however, is somewhat shrouded – although we *may* have one small hint. Leybourne (2014:257) noted that a few of the Mascot Improved jars and all of the Mascotte Improved jars were machine made. If this is correct,

production continued until at least 1894, when the Hazel Glass Co. began machine manufacture. It seems likely that Hazel Glass made the Immerser jars until sometime during the mid-1890s.

Immerser Jar Sequence

Please note that this is a re-thinking of the section on these jars that appears in the Hazel-Atlas Glass Co. section.

Toulouse (1969:198) discussed the four patents under the heading of Mason Disk Protector Cap and dated them 1885-1900 – as well as discussing some of the individual jars listed below. As noted above, we have divided the Immerser jars into three separate series: 1) Quotation Mason Series; 2) Mascot Series; and 3) Tudor Rose or rosette Series. These are divided according to embossing characteristics, and the first two are presented in temporal order. Our discussion of the final series reached a surprising conclusion.

I. Quotation Mason Series (1886-1889)

With two exceptions, these jars were almost certainly manufactured by the Bellaire Stamping Co. between 1886 and 1889 (see discussion above). The exceptions were made by the Hazel Glass Co. We have divided this series into four variations, one with two sub-variations.

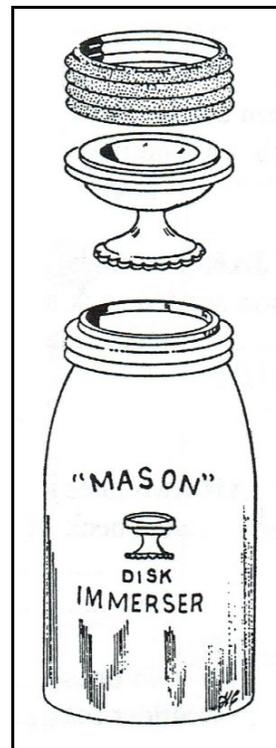


Figure 14 – Immerser jar (Creswick 1987:117)

A. “MASON” with a Disk Immerser figure embossed on the front

These jars were embossed “MASON” (slight arch) / {Immerser figure} / DISK / IMMERSER on the front. These colorless jars were sealed by the Immerser with a metal band. Although Roller (1983:212; 2011:321) listed the embossing on the Immerser as identical with that used on the Mascot jars (see below), Creswick (1987:117) described the top as embossed “PATD NOV. 23.75 SEP. 12.76 NOV. 30.80 JULY 20.86” on top and noted that the “scalloped base of immerser is unmarked” (Figure 14). We suspect that Creswick is correct on this one, as a

very similar lid – embossed PATENTED rather than PATD – appeared on a North American Glass auction (Figure 15). The use of the Mascot lid makes no sense, and the jar illustrated in Roller (2011:321) did not have a lid. The Roller editors noted that the bases of the jars could be embossed with 4, 6, or 8.



Figure 15 – Immerser (North American Glass)

This jar is apparently quite rare – listed by Leybourne (2014:261) at \$5,000 and up, so it seems unlikely that it would have been made in more than one mold – as the three base numbers suggest. It also seems unlikely that three separate baseplates would have been used on a single mold. We suspect that a single limited run of these jars was produced as salesman’s samples to promote the jars.

B. “MASON” PATENT NOV 30TH 1880

These colorless or aqua jars used Mason shoulder-seal lids and were embossed “MASON” / PATENT / NOV 30TH / 1880 on the front

(Figure 16). Although the patent date appears to be an error for John D. Mason’s original patent, it is actually the date of the Andrew patent for the Disk Immerser. Judging by prices in the guides, these are pretty common jars, suggesting that there were quite a few made. Creswick (1987:153) illustrated the jar as well as one with the 1880 date but no quotation marks (Figure 17).



Figure 16 – Mason 1880 (North American Glass)

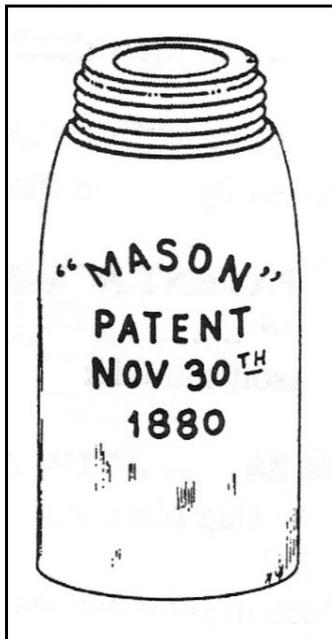


Figure 17 – Mason 1880 (Creswick 1987:153)

Roller (1983:217; 2011:329) noted that the lid was a zinc screw cap with white milk glass disk immerser.

The lid was stamped TRADE MARK THE MASON DISK PROTECTOR CAP (arch) / PATD NOV 30 1880 (inverted arch)



Figure 18 – Disk Protector cap (North American Glass)

around a rosette or Tudor Rose (Figure 18), and the Immerser was embossed PATD. NOV.23.75. SEPT.12.76 NOV.30.80. JULY 20. in a circle with 86 below “JULY 20” on the underside (Figure 19). Creswick (1987:153) also noted two additional Immerer



Figure 19 – Disk Immerser (North American Glass)

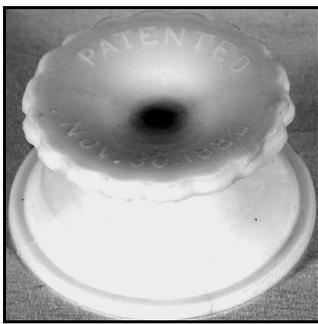


Figure 20 – Disk Immerser (North American Glass)

embossings: 1) the same as the one presented by Roller but with an error of JULY 20.80 on the last date; 2) PATENTED (arch) / NOV 30 1880 (inverted arch) (Figure 20). A variation of the shoulder-seal Immerser shown on North American Glass was embossed PATD. NOV.23.75. SEPT.12.76 NOV.30. in a circle with 80. JULY 20.86 in an arch just below PATD. (Figure 21).

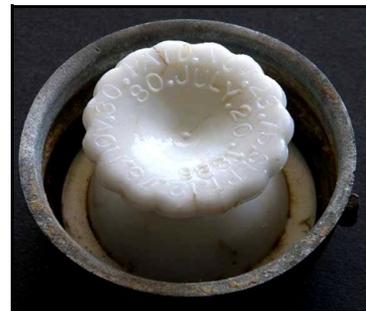


Figure 21 – Disk Immerser (North American Glass)

Roller (1983:217) illustrated a drawing of what was almost certainly intended to be a representation of these jars on the 1886 Bellaire Stamping Co. ad but with slightly different pattern for the wording (Figure 22). These were almost certainly one of the two primary products of the glass house during the 1886-1889 period.

C. THE “MASONS” IMPROVED

This jar had a Mason’s top-seal Immerser held in place by a metal screw band. The side of the jar was embossed THE (horizontal) “MASONS” (slight arch) / IMPROVED (slight inverted arch), and the jars were made in colorless and amber (Figure 23). Roller (1983:220; 2011:336) claimed that the “correct lid for these jars is not known for certain, although the jar did take a glass lid



Figure 22 – Bellaire ad (Roller 1983:217)

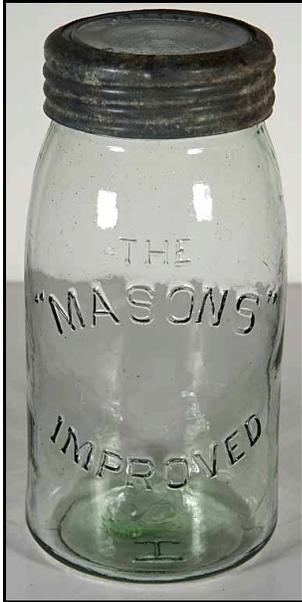


Figure 23 – Mason’s Improved (North American Glass)

with metal screw band. He noted that some bases were embossed H4. A North American Glass Auction also showed a jar with H25 in large letters above a Teeter Totter Line. The Roller editors (2011:770) explained that Dick Roller used the term Teeter Totter Line to describe a horizontal line with a dot in the lower center that resembles the children’s playground equipment (Figure 24). McCann (2017:244) noted that colorless jars were only made in quart and pint sizes, all with H + number basemarks.



Figure 24 – Teeter Totter Line (North American Glass)

Creswick (1987:119) noted that the jars used either a glass insert and screw band or an Immerser embossed “PATD NOV. 23.75 SEPT.12.76 NOV.30.80 JULY 20.86, illustrating the jar and Immerser (Figure 25). Leybourne (2014:264) noted a variation



Figure 26 – Fancy M (Leybourne 2014:264)

that he called the “Fancy M variety” – an “M” in “MASON’S” with a curled left “leg” – although we have only seen these on Mascot lids (Figure 26). McCann (2017:244) noted that colorless jars were only made in quart and pint sizes, all with H + number basemarks. Like the bulk of the Quotation Mason products, these were likely made between 1886 and 1889.

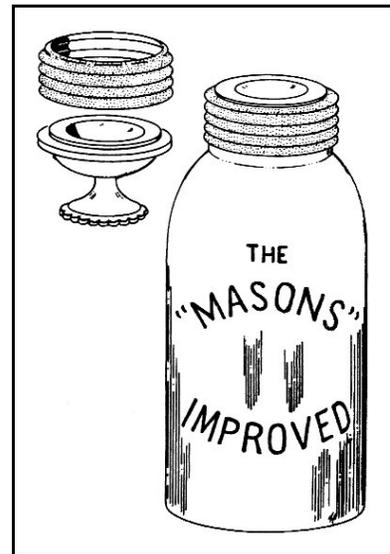


Figure 25 – Mason’s Improved (Creswick 1987:119)

1. Half-Gallon Amber “Masons” Improved

The half-gallon amber THE “MASON’S” IMPROVED jars formed a sub-variation (Figure 27). McCann (2017:239) suggested that the altered variation of these jars (see Variation



Figure 27 – Half-gallon amber (North American Glass)

E of the Mascot series below) were made to hold tobacco, and certainly amber was a common color for tobacco jars. Although this is speculation, the Bellaire Stamping Co., very likely landed a lucrative contract with one of the tobacco firms and made large quantities of these jars prior to the transfer of the jar business to the Hazel Glass Co. These jars were therefore probably made during the 1886-1889 period.

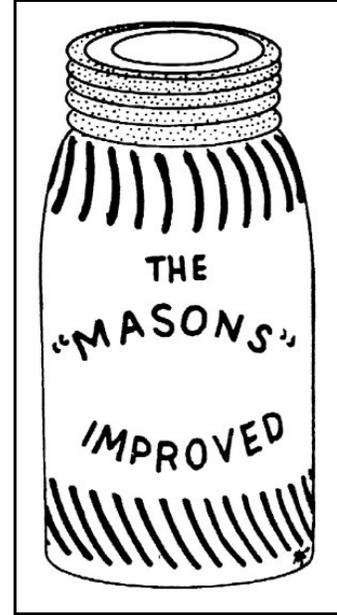


Figure 28 – Ribbed jar (Creswick 1987:120)

2. “MASONS” IMPROVED with ribbed heels and shoulders

Roller (1983:220; 2011:336) illustrated and discussed these jars embossed THE “MASONS” IMPROVED on the side with H23, H25, or H28 on the base. The jars had slanted decorative ridges on both heels and shoulders. Creswick (1987:120) illustrated the jar, noting a basemark of H125 (Figure 28). We have been unable to locate a photo of this jar. The H + number basemarks were used by the Hazel Glass Co. (see the Hazel-Atlas Glass Co. section for more information on the firms), so these jars were probably made after 1889 – although the Hazel Glass Co. certainly *could* have made them during the 1886-1889 period.

D. “MASON” IMPROVED

Toulouse (1969:202) included a jar embossed “MASON” (arch) / IMPROVED (inverted arch) on the front – with no THE. Creswick (1987:119) illustrated the jar but added no discussion of manufacturer, dates, or anything else (Figure 29). Neither Roller volume included this variation, and we have been unable to find an example.

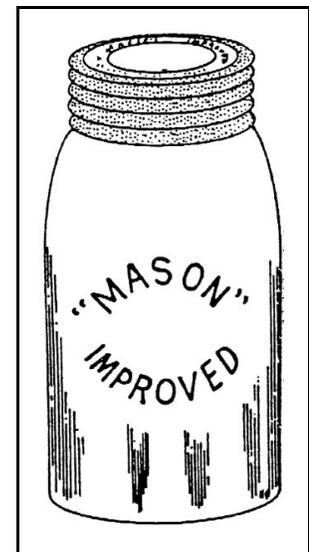


Figure 29 – No “THE” (Creswick 1987:119)

2. Mascot Series

As noted above, the Mascot series was almost certainly made by the Hazel Glass Co., although the date when manufacture of the product ceased is unclear.

A. MASCOT DISK IMMERSER (ca. 1899-1890)

These jars were embossed MASCOT (slight arch) / DISK (horizontal) / IMMERSER (slight inverted arch) on the front and were sealed by a white milk glass Immerser held in place by a metal screw band. Creswick (1987:113) illustrated the jar, identified the Hazel Glass Co. as the manufacturer, and noted that the Missouri Glass Co. sold the jars (Figure 30).

Both Roller (1983:207; 2011:313) and Creswick (1987:113) agreed that the Immerser was embossed TRADEMARK DISK IMMERSER. PATD. NOV 30.80 JULY 20.86 around the rim with MASCOT or MASCOTTE (arch) in the sunken center and PAT. NOV. 23.75 SEP 12.76 in a circle just inside the “petals” on the bottom. These may have been the earliest of the Mascot series, produced ca. 1889-1890 by the Hazel Glass Co. Aside from the Creswick drawing, we have not found an example.



Figure 30 – Mascot (Creswick 1987:113)

B. “MASCOT” with a Disk Immerser figure embossed on the front (ca. 1889)

This very rare, colorless jar was embossed “MASCOT” (slight arch) / {immerser figure} / IMPROVED (slight inverted arch). Roller (1983:207; 2011:313) noted the jar, and the update defined Mascot as a thing held to bring good luck, a cherished emblem or symbol. The jar used the same lid a Variation A. Unsurprisingly, we have not found an example. Like their counterpart in the Mason Quotation series, these were probably only made in a single run as salesman’s samples, likely ca. 1889.

C. THE “MASCOT” TRADE MARK PAT’D IMPROVED (1889-mid-1890s)

Roller (1983:207; 2011:314) noted that the most common style of this series was embossed THE (horizontal) / “MASCOT” (slight arch) / TRADE MARK / PAT’D (both horizontal) / IMPROVED (slight inverted arch) on the front on colorless or amber jars (Figure 31). Some bases had the H + number marks above ‘teeter-totter’ lines, specifically 9, 10, or 15 – although North American Glass auctions added numbers 18 and 23 (Figure 32).

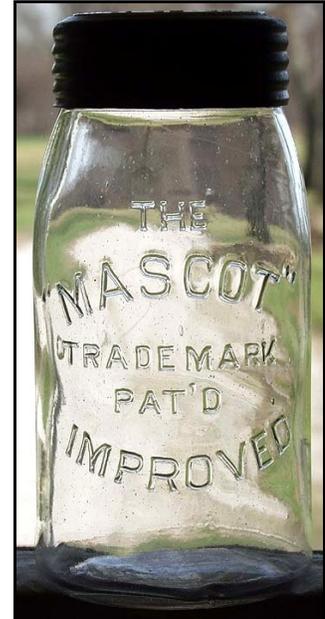


Figure 31 – Mason Trade Mark Improved (North American Glass)



Figure 33 – No “THE” (Creswick 1987:114)

Toulouse (1969:195) discussed the jar, noting a Tudor Rose symbol on the reverse body as well as the lid, but the body mark is not supported by any other source.

Creswick (1987:114)

illustrated the jar without the

word “THE” – and discussed the variation with “THE” –

but only with an insert

rather than an Immerser

(Figure 33). According

to McCann (2017:238-

239), the this variation in colorless glass is only jar in this series

that is “available.” All others

are “not available.” Creswick

(1987:114) and Leybourne

(2014:257) suggested that the

ones with “THE” were made with both “ground” rim

(handmade) and “smooth” rim (machine made).

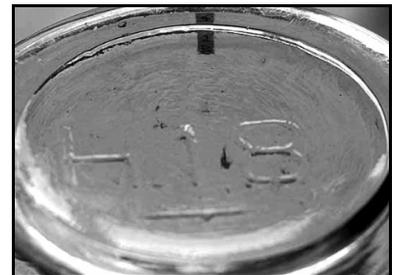


Figure 32 – H + number (North American Glass)



Figure 34 – Mascot cap (North American Glass)

Although Creswick (1987:114) only noted the insert, Roller (1983:207; 2011:314) insisted that two closures were available: 1) an insert embossed THE “MASCOT”

IMPROVED - (arch) / TRADE MARK PAT'D - (inverted arch) around a rosette or Tudor Rose, in white milk glass (Figure 34); and 2) an Immerser embossed TRADE MARK DISK IMMERSER PATD. NOV 30.80 JULY 20.86 around MASCOT or MASCOTTE (top); PAT. NOV. 23.75 SEP. 12.76 (underside), also in white milk glass (see Figure 26). These were almost certainly made from 1889 to some point in the mid-1890s, possibly later. If Creswick and Leybourne are correct in asserting that some of these were machine made, production must have lasted until at least 1894, the year Hazel Glass began machine manufacture.

D. THE “MASCOTTE” TRADE MARK PAT'D IMPROVED (1889-1890s)

Roller (1983:209; 2011:314) only briefly noted these jars – with the French “MASCOTTE” replacing “MASCOT” – although the update added a basemark of H1 on one base. These used the same lids as noted in Variation D, but the original Immersers almost certainly had “MASCOTTE” on the top. Creswick (1987:113) illustrated the jar as well as the disk immerser lid (Figure 35), and Leybourne (2014:257) noted that all of these were machine made. Roller made no comment on whether the manufacture was by hand or machine. Only a few of these were probably made, possibly for a special order – at any time between 1889 and the mid-1890s. We have been unable to find an example.



Figure 35 – Mascotte (Creswick 1987:113)

E. THE “MASONS” IMPROVED over a ghosted MASCOT TRADE MARK PAT'D

These jars were embossed THE (horizontal) / “MASONS” (slight arch) / IMPROVED (slight inverted arch) on the front with “MASONS” over a ghosted “MASCOT” and TRADE MARK / PAT'D ghosted in between “MASONS” and “IMPROVED” (Figure 36). Both Roller (2011:336) and Creswick (1987:120) agreed that the jars were made in both colorless and amber glass. McCann (2017:239) described these jars as

readily available especially the amber half gallon jars which may have been used as packer jars to hold tobacco product. At least one jar has been found with the remnants of a tobacco tax stamp across the zinc band. The disk immerser will *not* fit most of these altered mold jars.

McCann (2017:244) further noted that colorless jars were only made in quart and pint sizes, all with H + number basemarks. Roller (2011:336) added that some jars had based marked with 18, 21, or 23 above a teeter totter line. These were almost certainly a continuation of the tobacco jar contract discussed in the Mason Quotation Jar section above. In this case, the Hazel Glass Co. used altered half-gallon molds from the Mascot series to continue filling the contract – probably from 1889 to the mid-1890s. The lids on the tobacco jars were apparently unmarked (Figure 37).



Figure 37 – Tobacco jar lid (North American Glass)

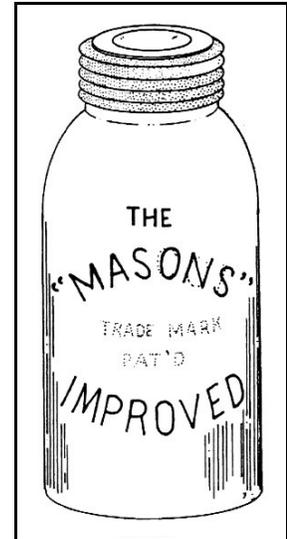


Figure 36 – Ghosted Trade Mark (Creswick 1987:120)

3. Tudor Rose or Rosette Jars

Unlike the other series, this one is only represented by a single style of jar. These jars were embossed MASON'S (slight arch) / PATENT / NOV 30TH / 1858 on the front and the symbol that has been variously called a Tudor Rose (Toulouse 1969), snowflake (various online venues), and rosette (Roller 1983:245 – Figure 38). Just to be perverse, it looks like a flower symbol to us – although we have used both Tudor Rose and rosette in this study. It seems strange to us that no one appears to have noticed that the rosette symbol resembles the bottom of the milk glass Immerser – although the rosette only had eight “petals” while the actual Immerser – whether as part of the shoulder-seal



Figure 38 – Rosette or Tudor Rose (Roller 1983:245)

lid or as part of the top-seal Immerser-and-band unit – had 18. Somerville’s 1886 patent drawing showed 20 petals. Leybourne (2014:294) listed jars of colorless, aqua, Ball blue, sky blue, apple green, olive green, yellow amber, and amber hues. Prices range from \$25-35 for colorless to \$5,000-7,000 for amber quarts – suggesting that large numbers of these jars were made.

The jars were topped with either shoulder-seal Immerser caps or caps with white milk glass liners. The latter were stamped “TRADE MARK THE MASON DISK PROTECTOR CAP (arch) / PAT² NOV 30 1880 (inverted arch)” around the Tudor Rose on the zinc cap, but embossed with the other



Figure 39 – Rosette lid (North American Glass)

patent dates on the bottom of the milk-glass Immerser (Figure 39). The liners were embossed “CAP WITH PORCELAIN LINING (arch) / FOR MASON FRUIT JAR (inverted arch)” around a rosette figure on the top and “PORCELAIN ☆ LINED CAP (arch) / ☆ FOR MASON JARS ☆ (inverted arch)” with a rosette symbol in the center (Figure 40).

Roller (1983:245) claimed that “advertisements by the Bellaire Stamping Co. in 1887 and 1888 showed figures of immerser caps with very similar design [i.e., the rosette figure] on top.” Although the stamp shown in the ad is faint, we agree that it has the appearance of the roseate or Tudor Rose design – although by our count it had ten petals rather than the eight of the actual design.



Figure 40 – Porcelain Lining lid (North American Glass)

It therefore seems likely that either William Somerville or someone from the Bellaire Stamping Co. devised the Tudor Rose to compliment the design of the Immerser – although Somerville used the term “corrugations” for the “petals” in his 1886 patent document. This also provides an initial date when the use of the Tudor Rose began – 1886. It is interesting, however, that the rosette symbol only appears on the shoulder-seal lids (not the jar bodies) of the “MASON” and “MASCOT” jars.

Toulouse (1969:195) assigned the Tudor Rose jars to the Mason Fruit Jar Co. – as did Creswick (1987:137), who illustrated the reverse side of the jar (Figure 41). Roller (1983:245; 2011:367) speculated that either the Missouri Glass Co., Bellaire Stamping Co., or Hazel Glass Co. could have made the jars. We question all of these assignments. The Mason Fruit Jar Co. had its own series of shoulder-seal jars utilizing a well-researched keystone symbol. Why would the firm institute a second series for the same jar? As noted above, the same argument could apply to the other glass houses.

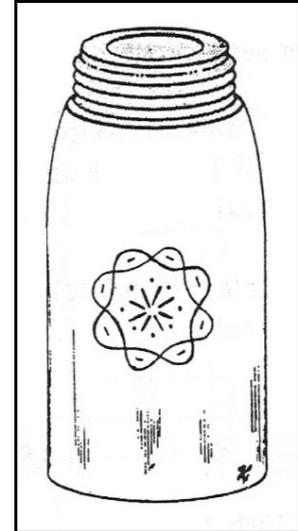


Figure 41 – Tudor Rose (Creswick 1987:137)

We have noticed that many of these Tudor Rose jars – perhaps most of them – have basemarks of A followed by a one- or two-digit number. While not quite as large as the H numbers on the bases of the Hazel Glass Co. series, they are larger than many base mold numbers. We already have a distinct connection between the rosette symbols and the Charles N. Brady companies that all eventually combined to form the Hazel-Atlas Glass Co. in 1902. Eventually, the Mason fruit jars were called Atlas Masons, so it just makes sense that the Atlas Glass Co. made Mason jars with an A embossed on the bases (Figure 42). It also follows logically that the sequence of Tudor Rose jars/lids jumped from the Riverside Glass Co. (1886-1889) to the Hazel Glass Co. (1889-1896) to the Atlas Glass Co. (1896-1902) – all glass houses under essentially the same management and all part of the merger that formed the Hazel-Atlas Glass Co. in 1902.

One major flaw questions this hypothesis. Brady and his associates formed the Atlas Glass Co. in 1896 specifically to manufacture jars by machine. It seems therefore unlikely that the factory would have made a single style of mouth-blown jars. This brings up two possibilities, neither of which is supported by existing historical documents. First, Atlas Glass may have had a brief hand component that was not generally listed. Small units such as this were fairly common in otherwise machine factories during the late 1890s and early 20th century.



Figure 42 – A basemark (North American Glass)

Second, the jars could have been originally blown at the Hazel Glass Co. ca. 1895 – when the Atlas Glass Co. was in the late planning stages. Atlas could have been intended as the

manufacturing unit, causing the mold makers to create the A-*{number}* baseplates. Although Atlas then moved to only machine production, Hazel then continued the jars until the merger. While these possibilities remain in the realm of speculation, they form the best current explanation for the presence of the “A” basemarks.

Discussion and Conclusions

The early researchers missed the transition from glass factory to jobber, and some of the later researchers seem not to have discovered the earlier manufacturing component. There is no doubt whatsoever that the Missouri Glass Co. began as a glass factory, making tableware, bottles, and other glass goods from 1856 to 1864, converting to a jobbing business in 1864 that continued to 1911 or 1912

The glass factory did *not* use the MGCo logo nor any other mark that we can determine. The jar embossed “MISSOURI GLASS Co.” was almost certainly made by the Newark Star Glass Works, not earlier than 1875 patent date. The other jar – embossed “M^o GCo” – may have been manufactured by either Beck, Phillips & Co. or the Beaver Falls Glass Co. between the mid-1860s and 1870s. These are the only two containers that can be positively ascribed to the Missouri Glass Co.

The Missouri Glass Co. certainly did not make any of the Immerser jars, although the firm – or at least its president, William Somerville – was involved in the process. With two exceptions, the Quotation Mason jars were produced by the Bellaire Stamping Co. (1886-1889), with the Mascot jars – and the two remaining Quotation Mason jars – were manufactured by the Hazel Glass Co. (1889-ca. 1895). The final, Tudor Rose or rosette Mason jars were almost certainly made by the Atlas Glass Co. from ca. 1895 possibly to 1902. The rosette symbol or Tudor Rose was probably inspired by the shape of the petaled foot of the Immerser disk rather than the symbolism suggested by past researchers.

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