

# Encyclopedia of Manufacturer's Marks on Glass Containers

## D-E



Compiled and Edited by  
The Bottle Research Group

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# **Preface to the Encyclopedia of Manufacturer's Marks on Glass Containers D-E**

The purpose of this encyclopedia is to update the venerable (and outdated) classic *Bottle Makers and Their Marks*, published by Julian Harrison Toulouse in 1971. Toulouse did a fantastic job, using the available technology of the 1960s. Much of his information came in the form of letters – now frequently referred to as snail-mail – generally handwritten and filled with semi-accurate or inaccurate information. It is remarkable how well he was able to create his 625-page study. However, that study is 44 years old in 2015. It is time for an update.

## **Background**

The Bottle Research Group (BRG) is a consortium of archaeologists and other interested researchers dedicated to the study of glass containers. Our origins date to some point in 2002, when Bill Lindsey e-mailed Bill Lockhart, wanting to share information about bottles. The two rapidly became friends. Carol Serr first contacted Lockhart on August 8, 2003, because one of Lockhart's e-books contained the only example of a Clysmic bottle Serr could find online. On March 4, 2004, the three began group discussions about bottles.

Although the focus of the three researchers was very general, Lockhart, conducting research on soda bottles in El Paso, Texas, had become concerned because there was no information on the T-in-a-keystone logo that he was finding on El Paso bottles. Toulouse was silent on the subject, and none of the other publications about bottle markings offered any information. After considerable searching, Lockhart published an article on the Keystone-T logo and other marks used by the Knox Glass Bottle Co. After reading the article, David Whitten – a collector, researcher, and owner of a website about glass manufacturer's marks – joined the BRG on March 19, 2004. Whitten withdrew from the group in August 2005 to deal with other interests, although he has remained a contributor, and his manufacturer's mark website continues to be one of the best quick-reference sites on the subject.

After discussing bottles with Carol Serr for some time, Pete Schulz joined the BRG on October 21, 2005. By this time, the BRG was having regular annual field trips and had concentrated on the study of manufacturer's marks. The researchers officially adopted the title of the Bottle Research Group in 2006. In March 2010, Schulz suffered a disabling stroke and had to become inactive in the group. As of 2015, Schulz remains inactive, and his presence is sorely missed.

On July 28, 2010, Beau Schriever e-mailed Lockhart to discuss Clorox bottles. Schriever hosted Lockhart (and his wife, Wanda Wakkinen) for a tour of a Fort Bayard, New Mexico, trash dump from November 23-25, 2010. On January 22, 2011, Schriever became a member of the BRG. The four continue to comprise the core group of the BRG.

The actual picture, however, is *much* larger. The BRG has developed a huge network of contributors, who may only supply information about a single bottle, jar or factory – or who may regularly or sporadically contribute information. Throughout this encyclopedia, we have recognized most of these outstanding helpers as coauthors or contributors by citing specific contributions and/or by thanking them in the “Acknowledgments” areas of each chapter. We can attribute the quality and quantity of our information to this group of well over 200 archaeologists, collectors, historians, and just plain folks who find bottles – who share their knowledge and expertise with us.

Earlier, we mentioned the limitations that Toulouse worked under as he amassed his data during the 1960s. Because Toulouse worked in the glass industry (Owens-Illinois Glass Co.), he had access to many of the trade journals and a working knowledge of the players in the glass game at the time. In addition, he belonged to the glass collector's network begun by May Jones (first in California, then in Nara Visa, New Mexico). Through Jones, Toulouse received input via letters from collectors all over the U.S.

We have a tremendously expanded network and access to sources. Internet searches open vast vistas that were unknown 40 years ago, especially into the realm of scanned books and articles, archaeological networks, online newspaper databases, and collectors' websites. One of the amazing things about the internet is that new venues appear almost daily. In addition, through the medium of e-mail and listserves, we are in contact with literally hundreds of

archaeologists, collectors, historians, historical societies, museums, and just interested people. We can scan photos and drawings and capture photos from featured websites, eBay, and other online auctions. We are also in touch with professionals in today's glass industry and numerous authors and researchers. In short, we have hundreds of resources that were unavailable in the days of Toulouse.

### **How to Use this Encyclopedia**

The Encyclopedia is divided into letter sections (A, B, C, etc.) with some combinations (e.g., the DE section). Each of these letter sections contains a series of titles, usually the name of a glass manufacturer or a family name (e.g., the De Steiger Glass Co. or the Dairymen's Supply Co. – Jobbers in Milk Bottle). Occasionally, the title will reflect a logo that was used by more than one glass house (e.g., DGCo Logos). Titles were also selected according the way the *glass firm* styled itself. For example, Edgar Breffit & Co. will be found in the "D-E" section – rather than the "B" section.

There is *no* classification system that will work perfectly for assigning positions for either glass factories or manufacturer's marks. To help our readers locate information, we have provided two tables (each in its own file or chapter – depending on whether you are using the printed or online format). The first table is a list of all factories found within a specific letter section. For example, the factory list in the "D-E" section includes intuitively obvious plants, such as Dean Foster & Co., the Essex Glass Co., and the Dyottville Glass Works. However, it also includes derivative factories, including Excelsior Glass Co., North American Glass Co., Diamond Glass Co., all eventually leading to the Diamond Flint Glass Co. – and counterintuitive names like Albert A. Paddon (successor to the De Steiger Glass Co.), or the Westford Glass Co. and Westford Glass Co. (suppliers for Dean, Foster & Co.). Each listing will direct the reader to the individual chapter where a discussion of the glass plant is found (e.g., the A.E. Buck & Co. is discussed in the Dean, Foster & Co. chapter).

A second table will direct the reader to specific chapters that discuss individual manufacturer's marks. For example, the E4 mark will be discussed in the Essex Glass Co. chapter. The Dupont logo shows up in both the Other D *and* the Consolidated Fruit Jar Co. chapters – as well as others. A search in the "B" table will reveal that jars embossed "BEST" are discussed in the chapter entitled Diamond Glass Co. – located in the "D-E" section.

## Other Important Information

Information locked into glass containers is *not* limited to manufacturer's marks, of course. The glass house logos are always related to the type of container, sometimes the color, the manufacturing techniques involved, and other codes. We have tried to address all of these variables in our discussions of marks.

The logos themselves are also much more complex than Toulouse (and most other researchers) indicated. For example, various shapes can tell us things about both time and company. In most 19<sup>th</sup> century beer bottles, for example, the "o" in "Co" can be regular or superscript, usually with an underline (e.g., MGCo or MGC<sup>o</sup>). The superscript is consistently earlier in bottles made by most glass houses of the period. Marks used by the Streater Bottle & Glass Co. were made in several formats, each with its temporal association; it is important to know what shape was used as well as the S.B.&G.Co initials. A Circle-A logo on a bottle that was mouth-blown into a mold was used by the Richmond plant of the American Glass Co. before 1920, while the same mark on a machine-made bottle was used by the Armstrong Cork Co. from 1938 to 1969.

The other codes on the bottles may often be useful. Although mold codes on 19<sup>th</sup> century beer bottles and some other styles can give us a sense of a bottle's age, they become increasingly less helpful as we move into the machine era. Some companies with multiple factories also used factory codes. Where applicable, we have discussed these. Some numbers are catalog or model codes. These can identify in some cases what the bottle or jar looked like – even if only a fairly small fragment is available.

Of greatest importance, the American Bottle Co. began using date codes on some of its bottles in 1906. A few breweries and soda bottlers had included four-digit date codes on their bottles during the last half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, but these were scarce. Once the American Bottle Co. began using first one-digit then two-digit date codes, it began a trend that others quickly emulated. By 1930, most soda and milk bottles included date codes. In 1934, federal law mandated date codes on all bottles made to hold liquor. We have included a discussion of date (and other) codes whenever applicable. We hope that our format and information will provide a useful tool for dating and bottle identification.

# Volume D-E

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(In order by membership date)

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# Table of Contents

## Volume D-E

Preface. . . . .	iii
Table of Contents. . . . .	x

### Logos and Glass Houses

<b>De Steiger Glass Co. and the Twister Blowers. . . . .</b>	<b>1</b>
Histories. . . . .	1
Phoenix Glass Co.. . . . .	1
De Steiger Glass Co., La Salle. . . . .	1
Export Beer Bottle Manufacturing. . . . .	4
Twister Blowing. . . . .	5
The De Steiger Plant in the Early 1880s. . . . .	7
A New Owner. . . . .	10
The Union Fights Back. . . . .	11
Albert A. Paddon. . . . .	13
The End. . . . .	14
De Steiger Glass Co., Buffalo, Iowa. . . . .	14
Columbia Fruit Jar Co. . . . .	15
De Steiger Patents. . . . .	15
Fruit Jar – November 27, 1883. . . . .	15
Fruit Jar – February 20, 1886. . . . .	16
Fruit Jar – April 20, 1886. . . . .	16
Closure – February 26, 1895. . . . .	17
Fruit Jar – December 29, 1896. . . . .	18
Closure – October 4, 1899. . . . .	18
Closure – January 2, 1900. . . . .	18
Jar Lid Wrench – March 5, 1907. . . . .	19
Machine Screw – September 14, 1909. . . . .	19
Necktie Retainer – April 16, 1918. . . . .	19
Containers and Marks. . . . .	20

Turn-Mold Bottles. . . . .	21
DeSGCo and DESGCo. . . . .	22
DSGCo. . . . .	23
Beer Bottles. . . . .	23
Fruit Jars. . . . .	25
Other Bottle Types. . . . .	26
Milk Bottles. . . . .	27
Fruit Jars Designed by the De Steigers. . . . .	28
IMPERIAL. . . . .	28
COLUMBIA. . . . .	29
Discussion and Conclusions. . . . .	32
Acknowledgments. . . . .	34
Sources. . . . .	34
<b>The Dean Foster Companies. . . . .</b>	<b>43</b>
Histories. . . . .	43
George W. Foster. . . . .	43
Dean, Foster & Co.. . . . .	44
Dean, Foster & Dawley. . . . .	47
Containers and Marks. . . . .	48
D.F.&D.. . . . .	48
D.F.&Co. – No Rays. . . . .	49
D.F.&Co. – With Rays. . . . .	50
DFCo. . . . .	51
DEAN FOSTER Co.. . . . .	52
DEAN FOSTER & Co.. . . . .	52
PARIS. . . . .	53
SHELDON. . . . .	54
EL&Co.. . . . .	54
Milk Bottles. . . . .	55
Bottle Manufacturers. . . . .	55
Dorflinger Glass Works. . . . .	57
Tracyville Glass Works. . . . .	60

Honesdale Anthracite Glass Works. . . . .	60
Honesdale Glass Works. . . . .	60
Discussion and Conclusions. . . . .	61
A Note on Catalogs. . . . .	61
Acknowledgments. . . . .	61
Sources. . . . .	61
<b>DGCo Logos and the Glass Houses that Used Them. . . . .</b>	<b>67</b>
Bottles and Marks. . . . .	67
DGCO in a Diamond. . . . .	68
DGCO Heelmarks. . . . .	69
The Diamond Glass Co. Hypothesis. . . . .	71
Von Mechow’s Duquesne Glass Co. Hypothesis. . . . .	71
Other Possibilities. . . . .	73
DGCO Basemarks – East Coast. . . . .	74
D. Glass Co. . . . .	74
The Diamond Glass Co. Hypothesis. . . . .	75
DGCO Basemarks – Alabama. . . . .	75
Company Histories. . . . .	77
Diamond Glass Co. . . . .	77
Dixie Glass Co. . . . .	78
Douglas Glass Mfg. Co. . . . .	78
Duquesne Glass Co. . . . .	79
Discussion and Conclusions. . . . .	81
Sources. . . . .	82
<b>The Diamond Glass Co. of Royersford, Pennsylvania. . . . .</b>	<b>85</b>
Company History. . . . .	85
Diamond Glass Co. . . . .	85
Bottles and Marks. . . . .	88
Diamond (horizontally elongated). . . . .	88
DGCO in a Diamond. . . . .	91
DGCO. . . . .	92

Other Diamond Marks. . . . .	93
Diamond Fruit Jar Marks. . . . .	93
Diamond (vertically elongated). . . . .	93
Diamond on Insulators. . . . .	93
Discussion and Conclusions. . . . .	93
Acknowledgments. . . . .	94
Sources. . . . .	94
<b>The Diamond Glass Companies of Montreal, Canada. . . . .</b>	<b>99</b>
Histories. . . . .	99
Excelsior Glass Co.. . . . .	99
Containers and Marks. . . . .	100
EGCo. . . . .	100
EGCo Monogram and Imperial. . . . .	100
EXCELSIOR. . . . .	101
EXCELSIOR IMPROVED. . . . .	102
North American Glass Co. . . . .	103
Containers and Marks. . . . .	103
Crown Jars. . . . .	104
Diamond Glass Co., Ltd.. . . . .	106
Containers and Marks. . . . .	106
Crown. . . . .	107
DGCo monogram. . . . .	108
BEST. . . . .	109
PANSY. . . . .	111
DGCo in a Maple Leaf. . . . .	111
Diamond Flint Glass Co.. . . . .	113
Containers and Marks. . . . .	113
BEST and PANSY. . . . .	113
Crown. . . . .	113
Improved Crown. . . . .	119
Diamond Motif. . . . .	121
Schram Automatic Sealer. . . . .	123

Diamond (horizontally elongated).....	125
Discussion and Conclusions. ....	126
Acknowledgments. ....	126
Sources.....	126
<b>Dillon Glass Co.</b> .....	129
History. ....	129
Dillon Glass Co.....	129
Containers and Marks. ....	129
DILLON G. CO.....	230
DILLON GLASS CO.. ....	231
THE FRANK DILLON CO.....	231
Discussion and Conclusions. ....	231
Acknowledgments. ....	231
Sources.....	231
<b>Dixie Glass Co.</b> .....	133
Histories.....	133
Dixie Glass Co.. ....	133
Tallapoosa Glass Mfg. Co.....	135
Dixie Glass Bottle Mfg. Co.....	135
Containers and Marks. ....	135
DIXIE.....	135
D.G.Co.. ....	137
Discussion and Conclusions. ....	138
Sources.....	138
<b>Dominion Glass Companies of Montreal, Canada.</b> .....	141
Histories.....	141
Dominion Glass Co.....	141
Containers and Marks. ....	141
DOMINION.....	141
Dominion Glass Co., Ltd.. ....	142

Dominion Glass Co., Ltd. ....	142
Containers and Marks. ....	145
Diamond-D. ....	146
Codes. ....	147
Circle-D. ....	150
P in a Diamond. ....	150
DP in a Diamond. ....	150
Mold in a D. ....	150
DOMINION. ....	151
Fruit Jars by Dominion. ....	151
Bee Hive Jar. ....	151
BEST. ....	152
Best WIDE MOUTH. ....	152
Carroll's {Star of David} True Seal. ....	153
CROWN with a Drawing of a Crown. ....	153
Made in Canada. ....	155
Domglas Mason. ....	156
Dominion. ....	156
D.G.Co.LTD. ....	159
Diamond DP. ....	159
DYSON'S. ....	160
Gem. ....	160
New Gem. ....	160
Improved Gem. ....	161
IDEAL. ....	164
IMPERIAL. ....	165
Mason Jars. ....	165
Perfect Seal. ....	166
Safety Valve. ....	168
Schram. ....	168
Discussion and Conclusions. ....	169
Acknowledgments. ....	169
Sources. ....	170

<b>Du Bois Glass Co.</b> .....	173
History. ....	173
Du Bois Glass Co.. ....	173
Containers and Marks. ....	174
DBGCo 30. ....	174
Massachusetts D Seal.. ....	175
Discussion and Conclusions. ....	175
Sources.....	175
<b>Dyottville Glass Works.</b> ....	179
T.W. Dyott. ....	179
Histories.....	180
Kensington Glass Works. ....	180
Dyottville Glass Works. ....	181
Containers and Marks. ....	184
KENSINGTON GLASS WORKS. ....	184
DYOTTVILLE GLASS WORKS. ....	185
TWD. ....	187
T.W. DYOTT.....	188
T.W. DYOTT M.D.....	189
Discussion and Conclusions. ....	189
Sources.....	189
<b>Other D Marks.</b> .....	193
Containers and Marks. ....	193
D.....	193
D in a Square. ....	194
DB in an Oval. ....	194
D.B.MFG.CO.. ....	194
DAIRYMEN'S SUPPLY CO.. ....	195
DE LAVAL. ....	195
User. ....	197
DeLaval Cream Separator Co.....	197

DeLaval Co. Ltd.. . . . .	197
D.G.W... . . . .	197
DJ or JD. . . . .	197
D&O.. . . . .	198
DODSON & BRAUN. . . . .	198
User. . . . .	198
Dodson & Braun Pickle Co... . . . .	198
DR. S.B.H. & CO / PR... . . . .	199
User. . . . .	200
Dr. Samuel B. Hartman & Co... . . . .	200
Dupont. . . . .	200
Discussion and Conclusions. . . . .	201
Sources... . . . .	201
<b>Glass Factory List – D-E Section. . . . .</b>	<b>205</b>
<b>Manufacturer’s Marks and Other Logos on Glass Containers – D. . . . .</b>	<b>207</b>
<b>E.R. Durkee &amp; Co. – and the Misunderstood Durkee Bottles. . . . .</b>	<b>211</b>
Histories... . . . .	211
E.R. Durkee. . . . .	211
E.R. Durkee & Co... . . . .	212
Durkee’s Famous Foods... . . . .	213
Containers and Marks. . . . .	213
Sauce Bottles. . . . .	215
Round, “Beehive” Sauce Bottles. . . . .	217
Hexagonal, Tapered Sauce Bottles. . . . .	218
Round, Long-Necked Challenge Sauce Bottles... . . . .	219
Salad Dressing Bottles... . . . .	219
Gauntlet and Belt Logo. . . . .	220
Vertical Embossed Bottle. . . . .	221
Salt Shakers. . . . .	223
Curry Powder Bottle. . . . .	224



Extract Bottles. . . . .	224
Discussion and Conclusions. . . . .	225
Sources. . . . .	225
<b>Edgar Breffit &amp; Co.. . . . .</b>	<b>227</b>
History. . . . .	227
Edgar Breffit & Co.. . . . .	227
Edgar Breffit & Co.. . . . .	228
Containers and Marks. . . . .	228
ACBCo.. . . . .	228
B&Co.. . . . .	229
BREFFITS or BREFFITS & Co.. . . . .	230
EB. . . . .	230
E/B. . . . .	230
EB&Co.. . . . .	231
EB&CoL <sup>D</sup> .. . . .	231
E. BREFFIT & C <sup>O</sup> . . . . .	232
EFB. . . . .	233
EFB&Co.. . . . .	233
Discussion & Conclusion.. . . . .	233
Sources.. . . . .	234
<b>Newark Star and the Everett Factory. . . . .</b>	<b>237</b>
Histories.. . . . .	237
Shields, King & Co.. . . . .	237
David E. Stevens Patents. . . . .	238
Stevens & Lumley, June 22, 1875, Patent. . . . .	238
WESTERN PRIDE. . . . .	238
Western Pride Lids.. . . . .	241
Stevens & Lumley, July 27, 1875, Patent. . . . .	242
STEVENS TIN TOP. . . . .	243
Steven October 28, 1879, Patent. . . . .	245
Containers and Marks. . . . .	245

SK&Co.....	245
SK&Co around a star.....	246
Token.....	249
Newark Star Glass Works.....	250
Containers and Marks.....	250
N in association with a star.....	251
Edward H. Everett Glass Co.....	255
Containers and Marks.....	256
E.H.E.....	256
EHE Co.....	257
Soda Bottles.....	257
Beer Bottles.....	258
Fruit Jars.....	259
EVERETT.....	260
E1, E2, E3, E4, E5.....	260
LIGHTNING.....	261
Discussion and Conclusion.....	261
Sources.....	263
<b>The E.G.CO and E.G.Co. Logos.....</b>	<b>267</b>
Containers and Marks.....	267
E.G.CO. / E.G.Co.....	267
EGCo Monogram.....	268
EVERETT.....	269
Possible Manufacturers.....	270
Eastern Glass Co.....	270
Evansville Glass Co.....	270
Everett Glass Co.....	271
Everett Glass Co., Ltd.....	272
Everett Glass Co.....	272
Discussion and Conclusions.....	272
Acknowledgments.....	274
Sources.....	274

<b>Ellenville Glass Works</b> .....	279
Histories.....	279
Ellenville Glass Co.....	279
Ellenville Glass Works.....	280
Ulster Glass Works.....	281
Ellenville Glass Factory.....	281
Ellenville Glass Co.....	281
Bahr Demijohn Co./Ellenville Glass Co.....	281
Containers and Marks.....	282
E.G.W.....	282
ELLENVILLE GLASS WORKS.....	282
Discussion and Conclusions.....	285
Sources.....	285
<b>Essex Glass Co</b> .....	289
Histories.....	289
Crescent Milk Bottle Co.....	289
Containers and Marks.....	289
Crescent Symbol.....	289
Essex Glass Co.....	290
Containers and Marks.....	292
E4.....	292
E 4.....	293
E - 4.....	293
ESSEX.....	294
ESSX.....	294
Massachusetts Seal.....	294
Maine Seal.....	295
Other Seals.....	296
Empire.....	296
Discussion and Conclusions.....	296
Acknowledgments.....	297
Sources.....	297

<b>Eureka Jars and Their Makers.</b> . . . . .	301
Containers and Marks. . . . .	301
EUREKA. . . . .	301
Distributor. . . . .	303
Griffen & Titus. . . . .	303
John F. Griffen. . . . .	304
Griffen-Related Patents. . . . .	304
James Spratt 1884. . . . .	304
W.D. Ludlow 1861. . . . .	305
Theodore Sellers 1860. . . . .	305
John F. Griffen. . . . .	306
John F. Griffen. . . . .	306
EureKa (cursive). . . . .	307
Distributor and Manufacturers. . . . .	310
Eureka Jar Co.. . . . .	310
HESTON & TRESSELS EUREKA FRUIT JAR. . . . .	311
Possible Manufacturer. . . . .	313
Canton Glass Co.. . . . .	313
The French Connection. . . . .	313
Discussion and Conclusions. . . . .	314
EUREKA. . . . .	314
HESTON & TRESSELS EUREKA FRUIT JAR. . . . .	314
EureKa. . . . .	314
DUNBAR, W.VA.. . . . .	315
BOSTON, MASS.. . . . .	315
Sources. . . . .	316
 <b>Other E Marks.</b> . . . . .	 317
Containers and Marks. . . . .	317
E. . . . .	317
Eagle Jars. . . . .	317
Probable Manufacturer. . . . .	322
Hall, Pancoast & Craven. . . . .	322

EAGLE WORKS. . . . .	322
Potential Manufacturer Histories. . . . .	323
Eagle Glass Works, Philadelphia. . . . .	323
Eagle Glass Works, Port Elizabeth. . . . .	324
THE ECLIPSE. . . . .	324
E.F. in the Massachusetts Seal. . . . .	324
Possible Manufacturer. . . . .	325
Elk Flint Bottle Co.. . . . .	325
EFB. . . . .	326
EFBCo. . . . .	327
E•L6. . . . .	327
Manufacturer. . . . .	328
East Lakes Glass Works. . . . .	328
Electric. . . . .	328
E.M.&CO.. . . . .	328
EMPIRE – Milk Bottles. . . . .	329
User. . . . .	331
Empire Bottle & Supply Co.. . . . .	331
Empire (Jars). . . . .	331
EMPIRE. . . . .	331
Manufacturer. . . . .	332
Empire Glass Works. . . . .	332
Empire Glass Co.. . . . .	333
King, Son & Co.. . . . .	333
THE EMPIRE. . . . .	333
THE EMPIRE (machine made). . . . .	334
EMPIRE (Maltese Cross). . . . .	334
EMPIRE GLASS WORKS. . . . .	335
E.P.JR.&Co. . . . .	336
ERIE. . . . .	336
Probable Manufacturer. . . . .	338
Erie Glass Co., Ltd.. . . . .	338
ESB in a diamond. . . . .	338

EWPGCo. ....	339
Discussion and Conclusions. ....	340
Acknowledgments. ....	340
Sources.....	340
<b>E Section – Factory List. ....</b>	<b>347</b>
<b>Manufacturer’s Marks and Other Logos on Glass Containers – E.....</b>	<b>349</b>

