

## Other U Logos

Bill Lockhart, Beau Schriever, Bill Lindsey, Carol Serr, and Bob Brown

As with every letter, there are some “U” marks that do not fit well into the other “U” chapters. We present those here.

### Containers and Marks

#### U (1956-1979)

Toulouse (1971:506) claimed that the Underwood Glass Co., New Orleans, used a serif “U” mark “since 1956.” He also claimed that the Upland Flint Bottle Co. used a similar mark (see the Upland Glass Companies section), but we have been unable to find a supporting reference for the mark. Underwood ceased production in 1979.

Dave Kirkpatrick drew a base on a field survey in 2010 that was embossed “60-1 / U / 18” (Figure 1). The “U” was sans serif, but that may reflect the drawing rather than the base. Since most of Site 7, where the base was found, had bottles made in the 1950-1970 period, this was almost certainly the mark used by Underwood (rather than one of the Upland companies). The “60” may be a date code for 1960. Since Underwood made mostly generic bottles – rarely collected or saved – we do not have a good sample from this company.

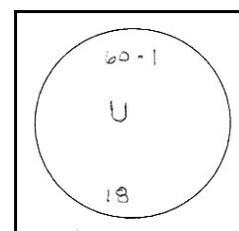


Figure 1 – U (Dave Kirkpatrick)

#### Probable Manufacturer

**Underwood Glass Co., New Orleans, Louisiana (1956-1979)**

**Underwood Glass Co., Memphis, Tennessee (1969-ca. 1975?)**

Chester Underwood, younger brother of Roy Underwood, the founder of the Knox Glass Bottle Co., joined in the Knox management and eventually began a southern expansion of the company, beginning with the Knox Glass Bottle Co. of Mississippi at Jackson in 1932. Chester

opened a second southern plant at Palestine, Texas, in 1941. After Roy's death in 1951, Chester took over the operation of Knox. However, he found himself in a difficult position. The company was in financial trouble, and he began selling off some of the Knox plants to retain solvency. The other stockholders executed a proxy raid and ejected Chester from power at Knox (Jack Underwood interview).

Along with his sons, E.F. "Dick" Underwood and J.H. "Jack" Underwood, Chester started the Underwood Glass Co., announcing on January 27, 1956, that the new corporation would be building a glass plant at Kenner, Louisiana – just outside New Orleans – although the final selection of the site was 6120 Jefferson Highway, Harahan, Louisiana (also a suburb of New Orleans). Chester Underwood was chairman of the board with Dick as president and general manager, Jack as vice president, R.K. Stephens as secretary and treasurer, and Bishop W. Sandifer as assistant secretary-treasurer (*Clarion Ledger* 1/28/1956). The firm suffered a prolonged strike in November of 1956 but resolved it by mid-month (*Times-Picayune* 11/18/1956).

The southern Underwoods opened a second plant at Mineral Wells, Mississippi. Although the opening was planned for November 1, 1969, we have not discovered any confirmation (*Commercial Appeal* 7/27/1969). Dick and Jack managed the two plants, and Jack remembered that they sold the second factory after his brother's death on December 23, 1970 – although it was still open on July 19, 1974, according to the *Times-Picayune*. According to Toulouse (1971:506-507), Underwood made a general line of patent and proprietary medicine bottles, liquor ware, packers, and preservers as well as serving as a sales agent for the Arkansas Glass Container Corp., Jonesboro, Arkansas.<sup>1</sup>

On August 5, 1977, the *Times-Picayune* reported a wildcat strike by the workers of the Harahan (New Orleans) plant, complaining about unsafe working conditions. Issues included "oil leaks from machines, unsafe furnaces, poor drainage and faulty ventilation which they say makes it extremely hot in the working area. The proverbial last straw was the company's removal of stools used by workmen to rest occasionally." Although Jack Underwood recalled

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<sup>1</sup> Toulouse (1971:22) stated that the Arkansas Glass Container Corp. used the letter "A" to mark its wares from its inception in 1958 until at least the early 1970s. The company remains in business in 2019. See the Other A section for more on Arkansas Glass.

that he closed down the New Orleans plant due to the rising prices of natural gas to power the glass furnaces, the *Times-Picayune* (10/14/1979) announced the bankruptcy auction of the company's property on October 25, 1979.

### **U in a Circle** (1925-at least 1950s)

An eBay auction illustrated a shoe polish bottle with a one-part finish that was embossed "GRIFFIN / PAT / 83892 / 3" above a line drawing of a griffin in a circle. To the left was a small serif "U" in a circle (Figure 2). Robert L. Aste received Design Patent No. 83,892 for a bottle design on April 14, 1931. Aste assigned the patent to the Griffin Mfg. Co., Inc., New York – the maker of Griffen Shoe Polish.



Figure 2 – Circle U

Although the patent gives us an approximate date for the bottle, it also provides somewhat of a mystery. Aste's drawing showed an octagonal design, with two opposing sides flattened (creating an almost rectangular shape), capped with what was obviously a black screw cap (although neither the cap nor the finish was specified in the patent). The bottle offered on eBay was round in cross-section with a single-part finish to take a rubber "cork" with an attached dauber. Although we have noted similar discrepancies between patent drawings and actual bottles before, we cannot explain the phenomenon.

This apparent date of 1931 also places the user of the mark in question. Although Toulouse (1971:506-508) ascribed the "U" mark to three companies, the 1931 date does not fit any of them. The Upland Glass Co. ceased operations prior to the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and the Upland Flint Glass Co. became Foster-Forbes in 1929. Upland could not possibly have made a bottle whose patent was not even filed (much less awarded) until February 5, 1931. On the other extreme, the Underwood Glass Co. did not begin production until 1956. Although the same bottle style could have been used as late as 1956, there was no reason to continue to emboss that patent date any later than 1945, its expiration date.

The Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America registered the Circle-U trademark (sans serif U) on October 30, 1956, claiming an initial use in 1925 (Figure 3). The mark certified that “the production of the said goods has been supervised by the Rabbinical Supervisors of the applicant” and it was to be used on foods, detergents and household cleaners – a mark indicating Kosher goods. Apparently, shoe polish fell loosely into those categories, and the serifs on the “U” were irrelevant.

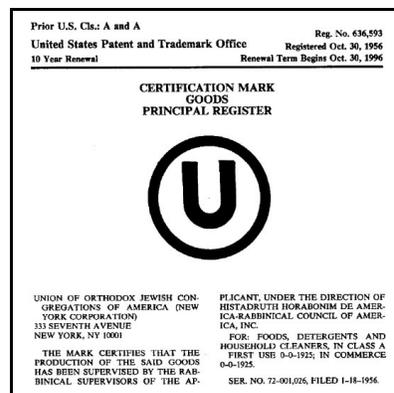


Figure 3 – Circle U trademark

### **UDCO** (ca. 1910-1930)

“UDCO” was the logo of the United Drug Co., used from ca. 1910 to 1930. The dates are from Toulouse (1971:509), although why he chose 1930 is not known to us. The firm changed its name to the Rexall Drug Co. in 1944. For more information, see the Maryland Glass Corp. section.

### **UMPIRE GLASS CO.**, Pittsburgh (ca. 1878-1880)

According to Hawkins (2009:494), the Umpire Glass Co.

had applied for a patent on the “Umpire Measuring Jar.” Richard E. Breed and Thornton A. Shinn were the patent applicants. The jar would not only measure liquids, it also had graduations for different weights of sugar and flour based on the volume. The Umpire Glass Co. did produce the jar for a short period of time.

Thornton A. Shinn applied for a patent for a “Graduated Glass or Jar” on June 28, 1877, and received Patent No. 230,075 on July 13, 1880. Shinn assigned half of the patent rights to Richard E. Breed. Hawkins (2009:494) obtained his date from a June 6, 1878, ad for the company. It is likely that the firm remained in business long enough to receive the patent.

Photos provided by Hawkins show that the “jar” was actually more of a tumbler and is virtually a perfect match for the patent drawings. The base was embossed “PAT AP<sup>D</sup> FOR (arch)



Figure 4 – Umpire base (Jay Hawkins)

/ UMPIRE GLASS Co. (horizontal) / PITTSBURGH (inverted arch)” The side was embossed “No1 UMPIRE MEASURING JAR” with embossed graduations (Figures 4 & 5).

**Manufacturer**

**Umpire Glass Co., Pittsburgh (1877-ca. 1878)**

According to Hawkins (2009:494):

Little is known about Umpire Glass Co. Their address was given at No. 100 Wood Street in Pittsburgh with Richard E. Breed as the contact. The location of the glass works is not known. They may have leased a spot within an existing glass company’s factory.

Since Thornton A. Shinn applied for the patent in 1877, and the known jars indicated that they were made prior to his receipt of the patent, the firm was likely in business by 1877. Hawkins dated the company based on a June 6, 1878 ad, and we have found nothing to indicate that it continued any later than that.

**UNION GLASS WORKS / NEW LONDON / CT (1859-1863)**

McKearin and Wilson (1978:676-677) illustrated and discussed a flask embossed “UNION GLASS WORKS” (arch) / NEW LONDON / CT (both horizontal)” on the front side. They suggested that the flask was made between 1859 and 1863 (Figure 6).

Von Mechow (2019) listed and illustrated soda bottles embossed “UNION GLASS WORKS (arch) / NEW LONDON CT. (horizontal)” on the front body (Figure 7). The bottles were made of aqua and green glass, had rounded tapered finishes and improved pontil scars on the bases. He suggested a manufacture between 1855 and 1857.



Figure 5 – Umpire measuring jar (Jay Hawkins)

## User History

### Union Glass Works, New London, Connecticut (1859-1863)

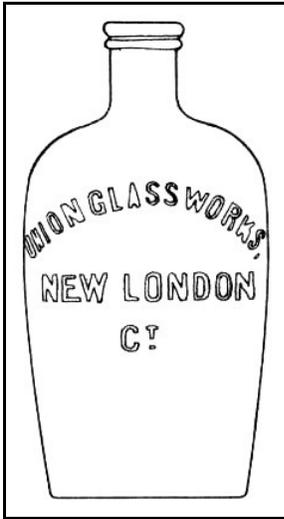


Figure 6 – Union GW  
(McKearin and Wilson  
1978:677)

N.S. Perkins, Jr., was the president of the newly organized New London Glass Co. on August 27, 1856, but the works probably did not begin production until late 1857 or early 1858. Operated by Charles Prentis, the Union Glass Works either replaced the New London Glass Works or was built on land adjoining the older factory in 1859. Since only one successor company is known in New London, we suggest that the former explanation is the most likely. The factory was reported as idle in 1863, when it was purchased by the Thames Glass Works Co. Thames, was also short lived, being taken over by the Fort Trumble Glass Works in 1865 (McKearin & Wilson 1978:149).

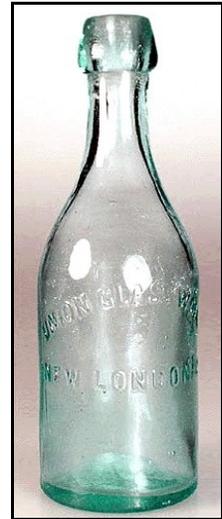


Figure 7 – Union  
GW (von Mechow  
2019)

### UNION LAVA WORKS (ca. 1852-ca. 1855)

Von Mechow (2019) listed five examples of bottles from the Union Lava Works. Soda bottles with iron pontil scars and rounded tapered finishes were embossed “UNION LAVA WORKS (arch) / CONSHOHOCKEN / PATENTED 1852 (both horizontal)” on the reverse body. At least one porter bottle was embossed with “UNION LAVA WORKS” in an arch on the reverse body (Figure 8). The bottle had an improved pontil scar and a double tapered finish. Von Mechow suggested ca. 1852-ca. 1855 for the manufacturing dates.



Figure 8 – Union Lava (von Mechow  
2019)

## Probable User History

Von Mechow (2019) provide the little available information on this plant:

### **William H. Smith, Philadelphia** (ca. 1852)

William H. Smith of Philadelphia patented a method of using slag from iron furnaces as a base for the manufacture of “lava-ware” in 1852. As there were no glass workers listed in the 1850 census for Conshohocken, the works must have stated in that year and appear to be short lived.

Smith received Patent No. 9,459 for an “Improvement in Utilizing Slags of Furnaces” on January 3, 1852.

## UNION MADE

We have discovered five variations of logos indicating a manufacture by a factory with union workers. Flasks embossed “AF” were almost certainly made by the American Flints – the blowers and pressers of flint (i.e., colorless) glass. A second group with two variations was embossed “GBBA” – Glass Bottle Blowers Assoc. – the green glass blowers’ union. A final mark identified itself as union made but failed to note which union.

### **AF** (ca. 1885 *and* ca. 1895-ca. 1905)

A few half-pint picnic (jo-jo), union oval, and shoo-fly flasks were embossed on the front with “UNION / AF (in a football-shaped oval) / MADE” with “TRADE” to the left (up) and “MARK” to the right (down). Despite the “AF” for the American Flints, at least one was made of amber glass. One error example was embossed “AE” (Figures 9 & 10).



Figure 9 – Union AF (eBay)

An 1898 commentary noted that “there are a few flint flasks made with the so-called seal of the American Flints blown into the side of the article...”

The editorial – from the anti-union *National Glass Budget* rather than the pro-union *Glassworker* – went on to sneer at the quality of the glass in the bottle and the concept of “union made.” The unsigned author commented that the flasks were “made by apprentices, perhaps, who under union rules, are indentured to work for the master for three years, for about one-fourth less than journeymen’s wages – but they’re union made, all the same” (*National Glass Budget* 1898:4). The discourse on quality is somewhat supported by the “AE” error flask noted above. This commentary would tend to date the flasks to the period around the Turn of the Century – possibly ca. 1895-ca. 1905.

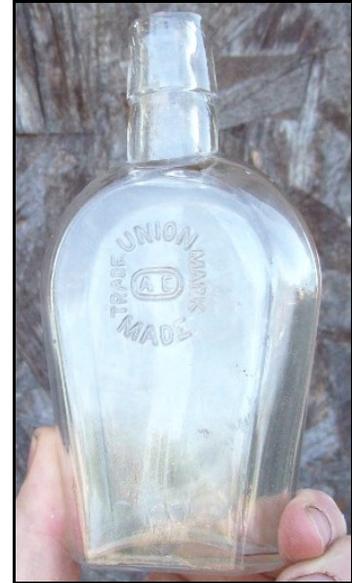


Figure 10 – Union AE (TUR)

According to Peterson (1968:20) this logo (minus “TRADE” and “MARK”) was registered by Edward A. Powers & Co., Pittsburgh, in 1897. He noted that “AF” was the essential feature, and that it could be pressed or blown into the ware. Peterson listed the mark in his “Tableware” section. In his study of Pittsburgh glass companies, Hawkins (2009) noted that he could find no listing for Edward A. Powers, either as a company or an individual, in the Pittsburgh directories.

In 1885, the *Crockery and Glass Journal* (1885:1) noted that:

the flint bottle blowers have just issued a circular to druggists, tavern and hotel keepers and other users of flint bottles, notifying them that each bottle blown by union men will have impressed on its bottom the seal of the union, and cautioning them to use none without the distinguishing mark. . . . the circular has not been received with any marked enthusiasm by the tavern-keepers, who allege that the enforcement of the provisions will be gladly welcomed by old toppers, who, on pretence [*sic*] of examining the bottom of the whiskey bottle in search of the seal, will pour out drinks of such indecent magnitude that the profits of liquor selling will be reduced by at least 100 per cent. The druggists say nothing, but it is safe to assert that it will be impossible to enforce the rule as far as they are concerned, for various very obvious reasons. There is not a great deal doing in prescription goods, but flint flasks for fishing and excursion parties are now largely in demand.

It is thus likely that the seals on the bases of flasks were not in use for long during either the ca. 1885 period or the one from ca. 1895 to ca. 1905.

### **American Flint Glass Workers Union**

Although flint-glass workers held their first national convention at Philadelphia in 1876, it was not until the meeting of January 1, 1879, that the workers created the American Flint Glass Workers Union, dividing themselves into “blowers, pressers, finishers, foot finishers, mold blowers and gatherers” (Zembala 1964:135, 150-151). In 1881, the Union of Flint Glass Workers (UFGW) became a charter member of the Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions, which reorganized in 1886 as the American Federation of Labor (AFL).

The name of the UFGW was changed in 1912 to the American Flint Glass Workers Union (AFGWU), its current name. The AFGWU became one of the first trade unions to bargain on an industry-wide basis when, in 1888, it negotiated an agreement with the National Association of Manufacturers of Pressed and Blown Glassware. In 1897, the AFGWU had a membership of approximately 7,200 members (GlassLinks 1974-2004).

### **GBBA (late 19<sup>th</sup> century-ca. 1920)**

Some shoo-fly flasks were marked on the front with a circle around a GGCo monogram. Inside the circle was “UNION MADE (arch) / “G.B.B.A. OF U.S.&C.” (inverted arch) with “TRADE” to the left and “MARK” to the right, each in a banner (Figure 11). The G.B.B.A. initials represented the Glass Bottle Blowers or America union in the U.S. and Canada. “GGCo,” however, could mean any glass house beginning with the letter “G.”

We explained this flask more thoroughly in the section on the Glenshaw Glass Co. The GGCo monogram probably was used by the Glenshaw Glass Co. during the ca. 1908-ca. 1920 period, although we cannot entirely rule out the Gaston Glass Co. (1902-1906) – also discussed in the Glenshaw section.



Figure 11 – Union GBBA

Another GBBA mark was embossed on bases of beer bottles made by the Maywood Glass Co. (MG ligature). These were composed of a large “G” to the left, a large “A” to the right with “UNION / BB (second B reversed) / MADE” in

between, all forming an oval shape (Figure 12).

See the section on Maywood for more on the firm and the logo.



Figure 12 – Union GBBA



Figure 13 – Union GBBA (eBay)

The final GBBA mark in our sample was on the base of a mouth-blown amber whiskey flask. It consisted of two horizontally elongated diamonds, one inside the other, embossed “BRANCH NO. 22.” at the top space between the diamonds, “UNION MARK” in the center, and “G.B.B.A.” at the bottom space (Figure 13). The flask was probably made during the late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Green Bottle Blowers Assoc.**

Along with other workers, Samuel Manks created the Glass Bottle Blowers Association of the United States and Canada (GBBA) during the 1860s. Bottle workers in Pittsburgh and the Ohio Valley formed a similar organization, and both were called the Druggists’ Wares League, eventually joining the Knights of Labor (Zembala 1964: 133-134).

### **Generic Union Logos**

A final mark was embossed in an oval plate on mouth-blown, colorless picnic (jo-jo) and union oval flasks. It consisted of “UNION (arch) / BOTTLE (inverted arch)” both surrounded by outlines with three bottle styles embossed in the center, flanked by American flags (Figure 14). Because there is no way to tell which union this meant or the manufacturer, these flasks can only be dated by the styles; late 1870s to mid-1910s for the picnic and early 1860s to mid-1910s for the union ovals.

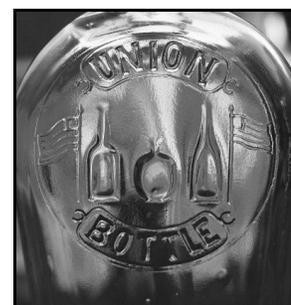


Figure 14 – Generic Union (eBay)

## U.P.&G.CO. (1886-1903 or later)

We discovered a colorless, post-bottom, mouth-blown oval bottle with a prescription finish embossed “U.P.&G.CO. / F” on the base (Figures 15 & 16). The “F” could be the manufacturer’s mark for the Owens West Virginia Bottle Co. (part of the Owens Bottle Co. – 1910-1916); Fidelity Glass Co. (ca. 1910-1916); or the Fairmount Glass Works (ca. 1916-1924). We can eliminate the Owens affiliate because the bottle was not machine made, but either of the other two produced generic, colorless glass prescription ware.

One possible hint toward the identification of the glass house is the missing lower section of the “F.” Throughout the



Figure 16 – U.P.&G.CO.

tenure of the Fairmount Glass Works, the base of the letter “F”

in the various logos tended to fade out. This is *not* a conclusive discovery, however. Although we have placed the “F” in use by Fairmount ca. 1916, it could have been adopted earlier. We mentioned in the Fairmount Glass Works section that the dating of the logo could be in question. It typically appeared on generic bottles, so our sample was tiny.

Conversely, Upjohn may have continued to use the logo after the firm shortened the company name in 1903.

### User

## Upjohn Pill and Granule Co. (1886-1903)

Dr. William Erastus Upjohn created a revolution in the field of pharmacy in 1885, when he developed his “friable” pill. Prior to this time, pills were tough and hard to digest. Upjohn’s label depicted his hand, crushing a pill between his fingers. Along with his brother, Henry, Upjohn created the Upjohn Pill and Granule Co. on Lovell St. at Kalamazoo, Michigan, in 1886.



Figure 15 – Generic bottle

Two of the firm's earliest successes were Quinine pills and "Phenolax Wafers" – the first candy laxative (Encyclopedia.com 2019; Funding Universe [2019]; Roland 2012).

The family renamed the firm as the Upjohn Co. in 1903. The brothers hired Dr. Frederick W. Heyl as their first research chemist in 1924. Lawrence N. Upjohn took the reins of the company, when his uncle William died in 1934, but Donald S. Gilmore ended the family reign, when he became president in 1944. Upjohn continued its expansion and had risen to the country's sixth largest pharmaceutical concern by 1956. The present firm incorporated on November 26, 1958. In 2019, the firm remains in business at 7000 Portage Road, still in Kalamazoo (Encyclopedia.com 2019; Funding Universe [2016]).

## **Discussion and Conclusions**

Most of the dates and identifications of these "U" logos are somewhat tentative – more so than with most of the other "Other" letters. However, the dates should be close. Hopefully, future research will illuminate the currently "dark" spaces.

## **Acknowledgements**

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