

The Hero Glass Firms

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Salmon B. Rowley began as a jobber with the Lockport Glass Works making his jars. With William A. Leavitt, Rowley opened the Hero Glass Works in 1869 and began making several types of fruit jars, with screw-on lids in competition with the popular Mason jars. Once the Mason patents expired in 1879, Hero adopted the Mason name, although it continued to make brands like Gem and Hero. Rowley apparently separated from Leavitt ca. 1877, and the firm fell into financial difficulty – culminating in a sheriff’s sale of the plant and property in 1883. Rowley purchased the firm, incorporated, and renamed the operation as the Hero Fruit Jar Co. Hero was so successful that it could not keep up with its orders and had other glass houses, including the Illinois Glass Co., produce many of its jars. Eventually, the competition became so stiff that Hero ceased glass manufacture to concentrate on lids – ca. 1900. The firm became the Hero Metal Co. in 1909.

Histories

Lockport Glass Works, Lockport, New York (1869-1872)

Salmon B. Rowley’s first recorded involvement with jars was in 1864, when he sold Excelsior jars as a jobber, shortly before he enlisted in the Union Army during the Civil War. When hostilities ceased, he became a jobber in jars at least as early as 1866.¹ The jars were probably made at the Lockport Glass Works, Lockport, New York (also see Lockport Glass Works section in the “L” volume). Rowley purchased the Lockport plant on January 16, 1869² – as part of the Hero Glass Works (see below) – and operated the factory until he sold it to Alonzo J. Mansfield in 1872, manufacturing “THE HERO” and “THE GEM” jars at that location

¹ Toulouse (1971:249) claimed that the Hero Glass Works opened ca. 1856 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, based on a Rowley patent that year. The patent was actually registered by R.W. Lewis on February 12, 1856, and assigned to Rowley at some point. The patent date is found on Gem jar lids.

² McKearin & Wilson (1978:142) placed the date of the sale at July 16, 1869.

beginning in 1869. Rowley also made the “ALL RIGHT” jars at Lockport by 1870 (McKearin & Wilson 1978:142; Roller 1983:431-432, 449; 1997).

Containers and Marks

ALL RIGHT (ca. 1868-1875)



Figure 1 – All Right jar (North American Glass)

Toulouse (1969:18) listed two variations of the ALL RIGHT jar, made by the Hero Glass Works. One was embossed “ALL RIGHT / PAT^D JAN 28TH 1868” – all horizontal – with “PAT NOV 26 67” on the base. On the second variation, the patent had migrated to the reverse side (Figure 1). He dated the jars ca. 1868-1875 – a date range we support – and further noted that

“the Lockport Journal of July 13, 1870, described operations at the Lockport plant with mention that the ALL RIGHT was being made in a small way. Hero’s 1878 letterheads omits [*sic*] the ALL RIGHT” – suggesting that the brand had been discontinued by that point. The finish of the jar was quite unusual, and the base did *not* have the embossing around the resting point that was common in later jars (Figure 2).

Roller (1983:8-9; 2011:22) dated the jars ca. 1870 based on a drawing of the jar on a May 1870 Lockport Glass Co. billhead and a pamphlet written by S.B. Rowley that year. The Lockport Glass Works certainly produced the jars for Hero, but he did not know if any other glass house made them. He only noted jars with the patent date on the reverse, although he listed variations in the date of JAN 25TH, 26TH, or 27TH, probably engraver’s errors. Creswick

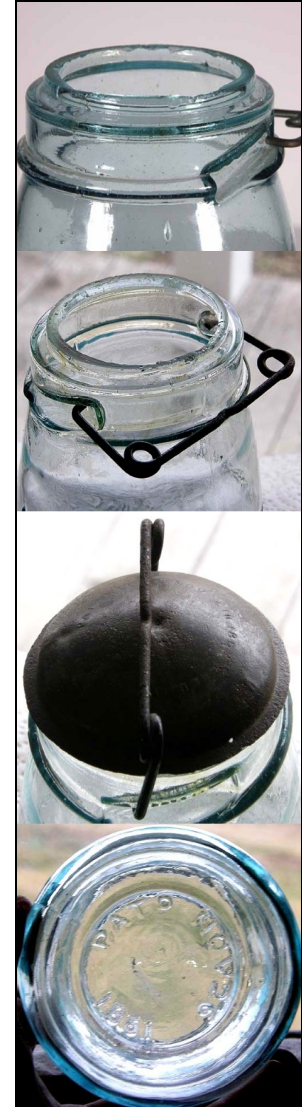


Figure 2 – All Right finish, lid & base (North American Glass)

(1987:5) also noted the variations (but not the date on the jar front) but included both Lockport and Hero Glass Works as makers (Figure 3).

GEM (1867-1900s)

Although these jars were made by several plants (by Hero and for Hero by other factories) during the entire span of the Hero firms, we have discussed them in the Hero Fruit Jar Co. section below.

HERO (ca. 1866-1867)

Roller (1983:153) discussed a jar embossed “THE / HERO” on the front, with “T.G. OTTERSONS PATENT NOV 4 1862 & C.G. IMLAYS PATENT DEC 6 1864” stamped on the lid. He noted that

these early jars are distinguished from the later THE HERO jars by their special shape and lack of patent date embossing on the base. They have very little shoulder taper, and have very nearly square corners at the heel. They were probably made prior to November 28, 1867, when Rowley was issued a design patent for jars with tapered shoulders and rounded heels.

The Roller update (2011:646) noted that these jars were “similar in shape to the ‘Crowleytown’ Mason jars” – possibly suggesting that they were an attempt at duplicating these early Mason jars. The Hero series of jars were Rowley’s competition to the patented Mason jars.

Although Roller suggested 1866-1867 as a date range for the Crowleytown-style jars, the molds were probably used until they wore out. Lockport advertised the jars in the 1866 city directory (Figure 4). Roller (1983:154) stated that Charles Imlay signed an agreement with Rowley on March 7, 1866, that allowed Rowley to make jars

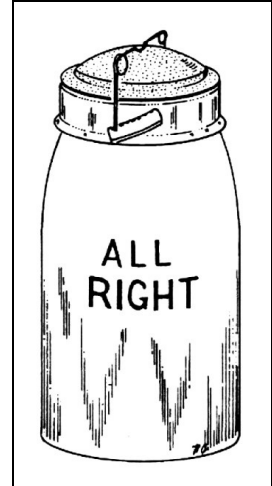


Figure 3 – All Right jar (Creswick 1987:5)



Figure 4 – 1866 Hero ad (Roller 1983:154)

using both the Imlay and Otterson patents – both owned by Imlay. He suggested that the first jars were made in 1866, probably by the Lockport Glass Co., later owned by Rowley. Creswick (1987:83) listed several Hero jars that may have been made during this period. Although we have only discussed the early Crowleystown-style jars here, the Hero firms continued the Hero brand until the company stopped making jars ca. 1900 (see below).

Hero Glass Works, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (1869-1883)

On March 1, 1869, with his partner, William A. Leavitt, Rowley purchased the old Houghton Glass Works (in business since at least 1865) at a sheriff’s auction in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, for \$11,500. After 1872, Rowley only operated the Philadelphia plant, known by at least 1870 as the Hero Glass Works (Roller 1983:432, 449).

By at least 1880, the Hero Glass Works advertised “GEM, HERO, MASON IMPROVED, AND MASON PORCELAIN-LINED Fruit jars and Fruit Jar Trimmings. GEM BUTTER JAR A SPECIALTY” (*Crockery and Glass Journal* 1880:11), although the plant also made the PORCELAIN LINED jars at some point (Roller 1983:449). Other jars included the Hero Improved, Pearl, and Crystal. Hero had three furnaces with 26 pots by the 1880-1881 period, making \$100,000 worth of “green glass-ware” a year, including 48,000 gross of fruit jars and an equal number of trimmings – i.e., lids and screw bands (Commonwealth of Pennsylvania 1882:59). Rowley disappeared from the listings from 1877 to 1883, and the plant was run by Leavitt, Rowley’s former partner. The business apparently failed in early 1883 and was again sold at a sheriff’s auction (Roller 2011:647).

Containers and Marks

Toulouse (1971:249) noted that the patent date “NOV 26 67” – Rowley’s patent for the basic jar shape – “was lettered so often on Hero jars as to constitute a trademark in its own right” (Figure 5). He also called the date “a basic Hero patent for shape (Toulouse 1969:18). It is interesting – although unsurprising considering that the November 26, 1867, patent is for the shape of the jar – that virtually all of the Rowley jars (Hero, Gem, Mason, etc.) seem to have the same basic shape.



Figure 5 – NOV 26 97 (North American Glass)

CRYSTAL (ca. 1873-1880)

Toulouse (1969:82-84) noted five variations of CRYSTAL jars. Only one, however, was apparently made by Hero – with “CRYSTAL” embossed in a slight arch on the body along with “PAT. NOV. 26. 67.” on the resting point of the base and “PAT FEB 4 73” around an “A” in the center of the base (Figures 6 & 7). The letters on the resting point of the base served the same purpose as embossed “feet” – to hold the jar above the hot water during the canning process and let it circulate under the base. It also aided in cooling. The patents belonged to the

Hero Glass Works (see the Patents section at the end of this work).

Toulouse noted that the “Crystal” name was included on Hero’s 1878 letterhead and dated the jar ca. 1873-1880.



Figure 7 – Crystal base and lid (North American Glass)

Roller (1983:97; 2011:131) confirmed the identification and agreed that the jars were made in the late 1870s. He added that the cap was embossed “FEBRUARY .4..1873.” with “FEB 4 73” on the base (see Figure 7). The Henry Howson patent (No. 135,430) was for a special thread style (see patent section below for more information. Creswick (1987:37-38) illustrated several variations of the Crystal jars, including the one made by Hero (Figure 8). All three sources noted some Crystal jars with “C.G” embossed below the name on the front body. These are discussed in the CGCo section.

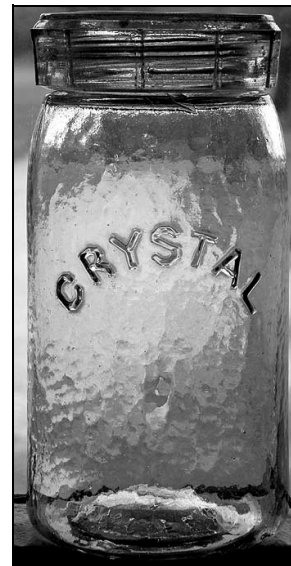


Figure 6 – Crystal jar (North American Glass)

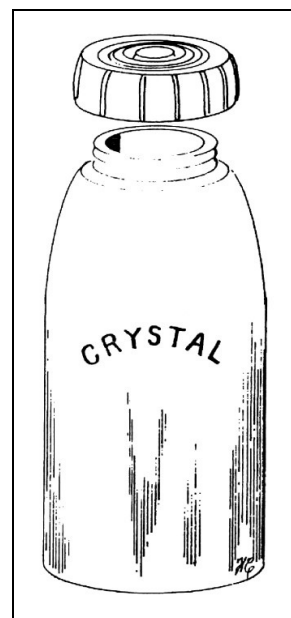


Figure 8 – Crystal jar (Creswick 1987:37)

Creswick (1987:38) provided a tantalizing hint that

One researcher has suggested that some of these jars were made for Rowley, by Swindell Brothers, operating the Crystal Glass Works at North Baltimore, Md. (1869-1959), but we have not been able to verify this. An old advertisement dated March 8 1878 reads: Offices Of Hero Glass Works . . . Hero, Gem, Pearl, Hero Improved, Crystal, & Porcelain Lined Jars.

It is important to note that there were other Crystal jars. Only the ones with February 4, 1873, or the signature November 26, 1867, patents were made by Hero. For more information about the other Crystal jars, see the section on the Crystal Glass Co.

GEM (1867-1900s)

THE GEM, GEM, NEW GEM, IMPROVED GEM, and the GEM BUTTER JAR were all made by Hero (some at Lockport) and for the Consolidated Fruit Jar Co. Toulouse (1969:122-129) listed several variations, including nine unrelated jars made by the Hamilton Glass Works and its successors in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. Canadian jars may mostly be determined by script lettering or the words “RUTHERFORD & Co.” on the jar bodies. The Gem variations made by Hero were accompanied by the HGW monogram, the unlettered Hero cross, and the Hero cross with “HFJCo,” as well as jars marked only with the various “GEM” names. Jars with actual manufacturer’s marks may be dated according to the range for each logo.

Roller (1983:133-136; 2011:207-209) also listed a variety of GEM, THE GEM, and GEM BUTTER jars, including the unrelated Canadian variations (Figure 9). He listed a total of 11 patents on GEM lids. The jars “were made over a longer period of time than any other jars in the Hero line, having first been made just one year after THE HERO jar . . . production began.” The jars were made from 1867 to the 1900s by



Figure 9 – Gem jars (North American Glass)

Lockport and the Hero companies. One variation had “THE HERO” ghosted below “THE GEM,” and another had “THE PEARL” ghosted in the same place. One even had “THE GEM” ghosted below “THE GEM!” The GEM BUTTER JAR was also made exclusively by Hero during the ca. 1879-1880s period. One four-gallon jar was embossed “MANUFACTURED BY THE HERO GLASS WORKS PHILADELPHIA, PA.” on the reverse.

Creswick
(1987:66-70; 123-124)
illustrated numerous variations of GEM and THE GEM, including two more ghosted variations where THE GEM in two lines had been peened out and replaced by the same name in a single line. She included various manufacturer’s marks (Figure 10).

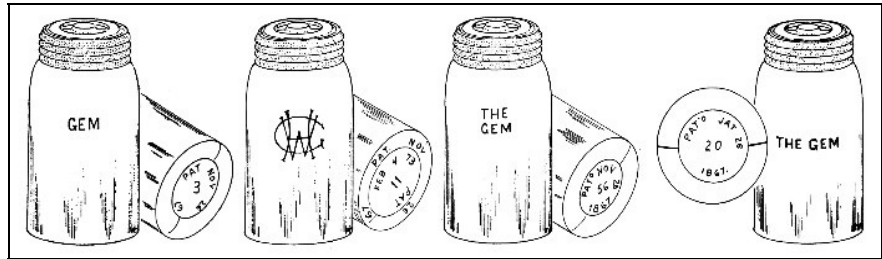


Figure 10 – Gem Jars (Creswick 1987:66-67)

An entire study could be devoted to just the variations in base markings on Gem jars. Just to name a few, some have a simple date: “PAT NOV 26 67.” Others add “PAT^D DEC 17 67 REIS SEP 1 68” in a circle around the original patent date. Typically, the “^D” was in superscript, but in one mold there was a apostrophe before the superscripted D (PAT^{'D}). Sometimes, the year was written with an apostrophe ('67); other times without – and occasionally the year was in full (1867). At least one error placed the date as “76,” and at least one “PAT” had no crossbar on the “A” (Figure 11). And this comes from a sample of only ten bases of GEM and THE GEM jars from North American Glass!

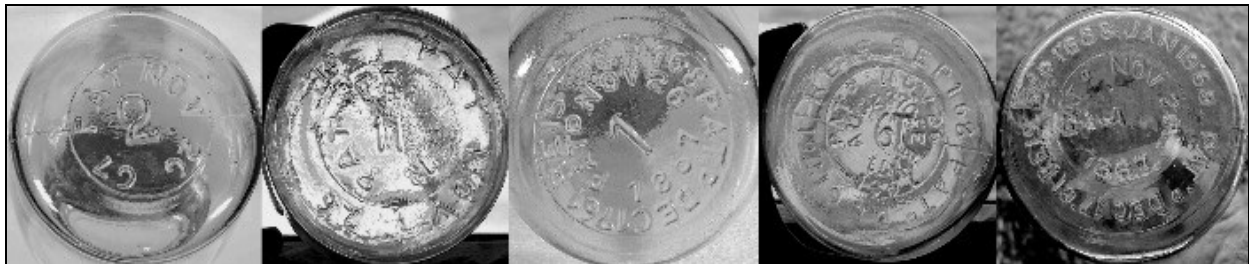


Figure 11 – Gem bases (North American Glass & eBay)

HERO (ca. 1866-1900)



Figure 13 – Hero inserts (North American Glass)

Toulouse (1969:146-148, 151) illustrated the mark as “THE HERO,” embossed on jar bodies ca. 1867; “THE HERO IMPROVED” ca. 1869; and “HERO IMPROVED” (no “THE”)

ca. 1884-1890. He also noted that HERO was also found on the same jar as an unlettered Hero cross and three examples in conjunction with the lettered Hero cross. Toulouse (1971:249) noted that the HERO mark was used by the Hero Glass Works and Hero Fruit Jar Co. from “1860s to 1900.”

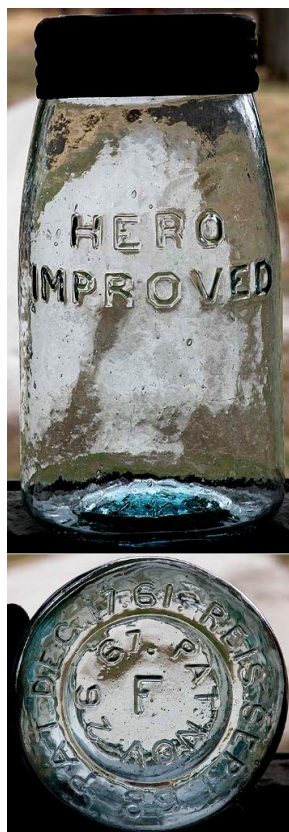


Figure 14 – Hero Improved (North American Glass)

Although the earliest date for “THE HERO” is unknown, the jars were certainly manufactured by the Lockport Glass Co. by 1866, probably the initial year of production (Roller 1983:431). According to Roller (1983:154; 2011:237-238), the Hero was made by thirteen factories by 1893, not all of which are currently known (Figure 12). The inserts could be metal or glass (Figure 13). He suggested that the Hero Glass Works made the jars from 1869 to 1883, and the Hero Fruit Jar Co. produced them from 1883 to the 1890s. He illustrated an 1880 ad for the jar from Hero. Roller (1983:155; 2011:238-239) noted that, on THE HERO IMPROVED, the word “IMPROVED” seems to have been added to the regular Hero jar, although he provided no date beyond the November 26, 1867 patent date (Figure 14). Roller (1983:154) further noted that the HERO IMPROVED was made by the Hero Glass Works ca. 1870s but was apparently not very successful because there are jars with “IMPROVED” peened out to create a ghost label.



Figure 12 – The Hero (North American Glass)

Creswick (1987:82-84) illustrated several variations of the HERO, THE HERO, and THE HERO IMPROVED (Figure 15). She also noted that a number of other glass companies made jars for Hero, including the Ellenville Glass Works, Cunninghams & Ihmsen, San Francisco & Pacific Glass Works, Lyndeboro Glass Co., Lockport Glass Mfg. Co., and the Houghton Glass Works. Hero had so many orders that it could not keep up with them and farmed out some of the orders. It is impossible to tell which glass house produced any given jar.

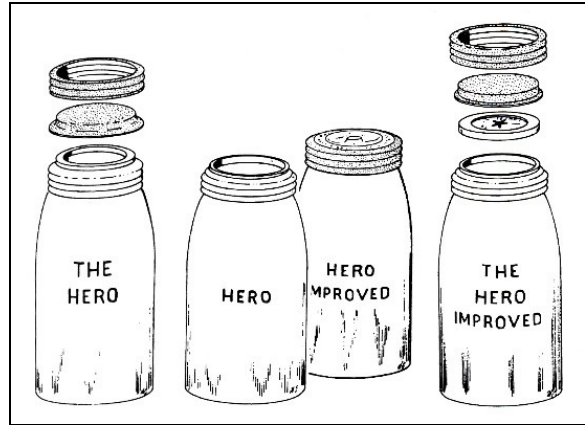


Figure 15 – The Hero (Creswick 1987:82-84)

HEROINE (ca. 1867-1869)



Figure 17 – Heroine base & lids (North American Glass & eBay)

Although it was not included in Toulouse (1969), Roller (1983:432; 2011:239) noted that Rowley “began to use the name THE HEROINE” ca. 1867 (Figure 16). He sued Thomas Houghton, owner of the Houghton Glass Works, for infringement of his HEROINE trade mark in September 1868, and this may have led to Rowley’s purchase of the plant in 1869 (see history section above). According to Toulouse (1969:152), jars marked “THE / HERO / INE” were made by Cunninghams & Ihmsen during the ca. 1865-1879 period, apparently by license from Hero. Roller (1983:155) added that the jar was also made by Houghton Glass Works ca. 1868 and Lockport (for Rowley) from ca. 1867 to 1868. Bases of at least some jars had the typical Rowley 1867 patent embossing, and the lids were stamped with Rowley patents (Figure 17) Creswick (1987:84) also noted the Heroine with and

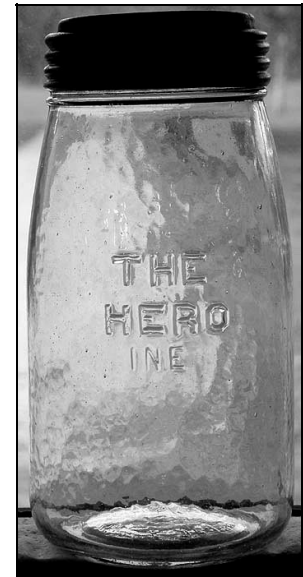


Figure 16 – Heroine (North American Glass)

without the Cunninghams & Ihmsen name on the base. Because of the patent dates, Cunninghams & Ihmsen probably did not make the jars until ca. 1867 (Figure 18).

HGW monogram (1880-1883)



Figure 19 – HGW (North American Glass)

Toulouse (1971:249) claimed that the HGW monogram was used by the Hero Glass Works from the 1860s to 1882. Roller (1983:219, 243; 2011:335, 365) dated Mason jars with the HGW monogram 1880-1883 (Figure 19; also see Figure 10). He noted that lids for the jars were marked with HERO GLASS WORKS and the jar name and showed two variations of the monogram – one, an interesting variation that we have not seen on an actual jar (Figure 20). Creswick (1987:67-68, 124, 135) illustrated the monogram on GEM and Mason jars, including both variations shown by Roller (Figure 21).

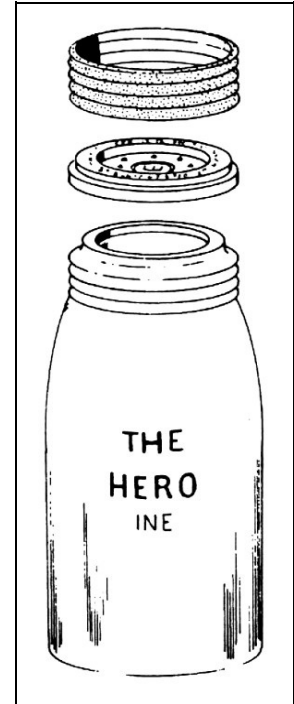


Figure 18 – Heroine (Creswick 1987:84)



Figure 21 – HGW (Creswick 1983:124, 135)

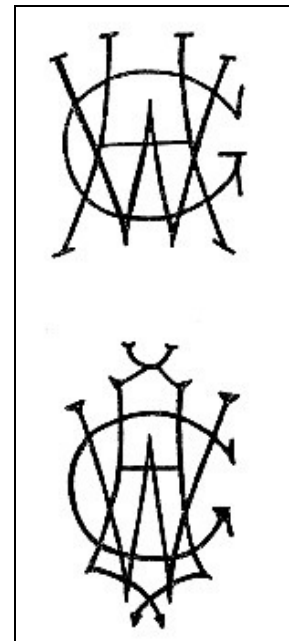


Figure 20 – HGW (Roller 1983:243)

PEARL (ca. 1871-ca. 1875)



Figure 23 – Pearl base & lid (North American Glass)

Toulouse (1969:234; 1971:234) listed a jar with “PEARL” embossed on the body (and several Hero patents on the base) as being made by Hero in the late 1870s. Roller (1983:282; 2011:417) noted that the jars were advertised by Salmon B. Rowley in 1871 and 1872, but the jar was not mentioned in his 1869/1870 canning book.



Figure 22 – Pearl jar (North American Glass)

He suggested that the jar “may have been made for a few years after 1872. Thus, a range of 1871 to

ca. 1875 is probably reasonable for this jar. The jar was actually embossed “THE PEARL” on the side, with “PAT^D DEC 17 61 REIS SEP 1 68 around the resting point of the base, and “PAT^D NOV 26 (arch) / 1867 (inverted arch)” around “AUG 23 70 FEB 7 71” in a circle around a central number (12 in one example) – all in the concave center (Figure 22). The lid contained a total of eight embossed patent dates (Figure 23). Creswick (1987:172-173) illustrated three variations of the jar and noted the style was made ca. late 1870s. She included drawings of variations in the lid and base markings (Figure 24).

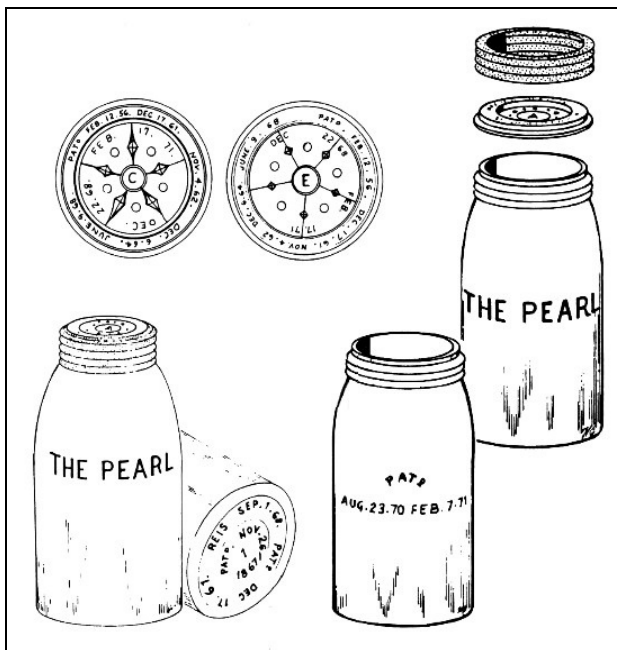


Figure 24 – Pearl jar (Creswick 1987:172-173)

PORCELAIN LINED (ca. 1873-1882)

Toulouse (1969:243) listed a jar embossed “PORCELAIN (arch) / LINED (horizontal)” on the body and “PAT NOV 26 67” in a circle at the resting point of the base and “PAT FEB 4 73” in a circle



Figure 26 – Porcelain Lined base & lid (North American Glass)

around a letter in the slightly sunken central portion of the base (Figure 25). At least one base was double stamped (Figure 26). Although Toulouse did not mention it, these heavily embossed letters on the resting point created a “foot” that held the base of the jar above the surface of the cooking pot used in canning.

Toulouse noted that the jars were made from ca. 1873 to 1880. Roller (1983:288; 425-426; 2011:335) placed the date slightly differently ca. 1874-1882 by Hero Glass Works. He added that the jar had three variations in embossing on the lids. The jars “were probably made as competition to the very popular Mason’s Patent jars.” Rowley replaced the Porcelain Lined jars with Hero’s Mason jars shortly after the Mason patent expired in 1879.



Figure 25 – Porcelain Lined (North American Glass)

Roller (1983:289) also illustrated a jar embossed on the body with “ROWLEYS (ghosted arch) / PORCELAIN / LINED (both horizontal)” and explained:

the reason for erasing Rowley’s name from these jars is not fully understood. But, since no unghosted ROWLEY’S PORCELAIN LINED jars have been reported, I believe that trademark infringement required that Rowley’s name be taken off the jars. The trademark BOYD’S PORCELAIN LINED was registered on September 10, 1878 by Consolidated Fruit Jar Co., of New York, N.Y., for use on their fruit jar caps. These jars are not just ghosted versions of the fairly common PORCELAIN LINED jars . . . but have a special embossing of their own.

We believe there may be a more parsimonious explanation. It is possible that the jars were made just before Rowley left Hero in 1877. Leavitt may have made the jars for a single year prior to the term being trade marked by the Consolidated Fruit Jar Co.

Creswick (1987:177) illustrated variations of the PORCELAIN LINED jar that included the ghosted “ROWLEY’S” as well as a “MASON’S / PATENT / NOV. 30TH / 1858” jar with “PORCELAIN LINED” on the reverse and a variation with the reverse label ghosted (Figure 27).

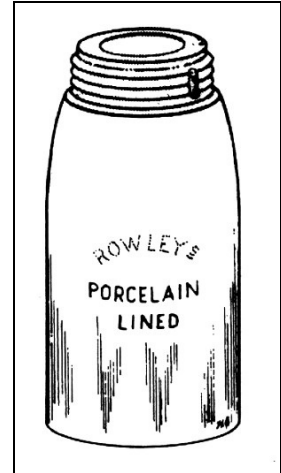


Figure 27 – Rowley’s (Creswick 1987:177)

A final variation was made ca. 1886 by the Ball Brothers just prior to the burning of the Buffalo, New York, plant. The jars contain the BBGMCo monogram (Creswick 1987:176; Roller 1983:289).

Mason Jars (1880-1900s)

As noted above, Rowley replaced the Porcelain Lined jars with Hero’s Mason jars shortly after the Mason patent expired in 1879. Also as previously mentioned, the *Crockery & Glass Journal* advertised “MASON IMPROVED, AND MASON PORCELAIN-LINED Fruit

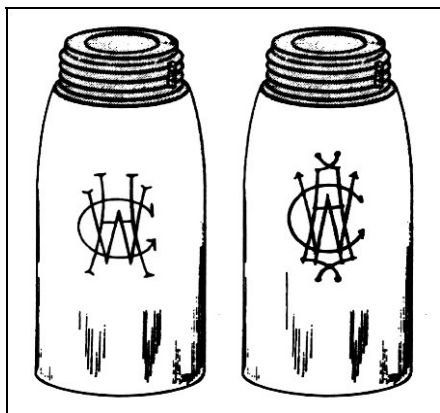


Figure 29 – Mason’s HGW (Creswick (1987:135)



Figure 28 – Mason’s HGW (North American Glass)

jars” in 1880. Toulouse (1969:149-151) only addressed Mason jars with the Hero cross logos. Roller (1983:219, 243), however, included two variations of the HGW monogram on both Mason jars with the 1858 date and Mason’s Improved jars. He dated them 1880-1883 (Figure 28). Creswick (1987:67-68, 124, 135) illustrated both variations of the monogram on the 1858 Masons and the more common one on Mason’s Improved jars (Figure 29).

Hero Fruit Jar Co., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (1883-1909)

On February 5, 1883, Rowley and his backers purchased the Hero Glass Works at a sheriff's auction, the foreclosure against a debt owed by Leavitt. The new corporation was named the Hero Fruit Jar Co., with Salmon B. Rowley as president, and the plant resumed production on April 3, 1883 (Roller 1983:432, 450). Roller (1983:450) stated that the company "drifted away from their emphasis on fruit jars, and began to concentrate on fruit jar trimmings and other metal products" in the late 1880s. However, the Hero Fruit Jar Co. was listed in 1897 and 1898 as using 10 pots to make green glass jars (*National Glass Budget* 1897:7; 1898:7). The *Seegar & Gurnsey's Cyclopedia* for 1899 listed the firm under both the "Fruit Jar Tops" and "Fruit Jars" headings. Toulouse (1971:250) placed the cessation of production at 1900 because of increasing competition from other companies, although the plant continued to manufacture jar lids until 1909. The company again renamed itself as the Hero Metal Products Co.³ at that time and continued to make items that were not jar or bottle related until it ceased operations in 1918 (Toulouse 1971:250).

Containers and Marks

GEM (ca. 1879-1880s)

As discussed in the Hero Glass Works section, both of the Hero firms and Consolidated Fruit Jar Co. offered THE GEM, GEM, NEW GEM, IMPROVED GEM, and the GEM BUTTER JAR. Toulouse (1969:122-129) listed several variations, many with the Hero cross used by the Hero Fruit Jar Co. Roller (1983:133-136; 2011:207-209), too, noted that these continued in production into the Hero Fruit Jar Co. era (Figure 30; also see Figures 9-11).

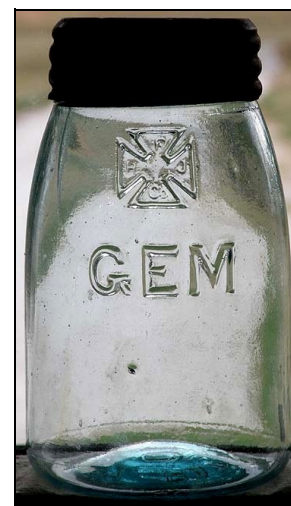


Figure 30 – Gem jar
(North American Glass)

Creswick (1987:66-70) illustrated numerous variations of GEM and THE GEM, including two more ghosted variations where THE GEM in two lines had been peened out and replaced by the same name in a single line. She included various manufacturer's marks.

³ Roller (1983:450) claimed the company name became the Hero Mfg. Co. in 1908.

HERO (ca. 1866-1900)

As noted in the Hero Glass Works section above, Toulouse (1969:146-148, 151; 1971:249) included several HERO jars, some with the unlettered or lettered Hero cross. Roller (1983:154-1955), too, noted that the Hero jar continued to be made by the Hero Fruit Jar Co. until 1900 (see Figures 12-15).

Creswick (1987:82-84) illustrated several variations of the HERO, THE HERO, and THE HERO IMPROVED. She also noted that a number of other glass companies made jars for Hero, including the Ellenville Glass Works, Cunninghams & Ihmsen, San Francisco & Pacific Glass Works, Lyndeboro Glass Co., Lockport Glass Mfg. Co., and the Houghton Glass Works.

Hero Cross with no letters (1884-ca. 1890)

According to Toulouse (1969:146), the Hero Glass Works embossed jars with an outlined cross with no letters inside from 1882 to 1884. He strongly stressed that the Hero cross was unique and was *not* a Maltese Cross, a Patée Cross, or a Formée Cross, although it is similar to all of those. Toulouse (1969:146, 148-151; 1971:124, 146, 249) illustrated the cross and provided examples of its use on Mason jars.

Although Toulouse (1971:249) stressed that the Hero cross with no letters in the “wings” was only used from 1882 to 1884, he provided no documentation to indicate where he obtained that information. We are inclined to believe that this is one of his numerous guesses. It seems more likely that the new logo belonged to the new firm, and someone realized within a few years that the initials might also be a good idea.

Toulouse (1969:150-151) also illustrated and discussed the use of the Hero cross in conjunction with the CFJCo monogram of the Consolidated Fruit Jar Co. on jars embossed “MASON’S / PATENT / NOV 30TH / 1858” – with the Consolidated logo between “MASON’S” and “PATENT” (see the section on Consolidated for more information about that firm). He concluded that

Hero had acquired the right to use the Consolidated trade mark, whose copyright had not yet expired. The position of the cross indicates that it has been added to an existing jar mold already having the Consolidated monogram.

Creswick (1987:142-143) illustrated and described a series of jars embossed “MASON’S / PATENT / NOV. 30TH / 1858.” As discussed above, one of these had the unlettered cross at the top and the CFJCo monogram between “MASON’S” and “PATENT.” Another was identical, but the “1858” was missing. To complicate the identity of the cross, one variation with the CFJCo monogram was also embossed I.G.Co. on the base. This suggests that the Illinois Glass Co. made the jar despite the logos for the other two companies – another clear indication that the glass houses were passing around the same molds. Creswick showed one drawing with the unlettered cross embossed on the base of the Mason jar (Figure 31).

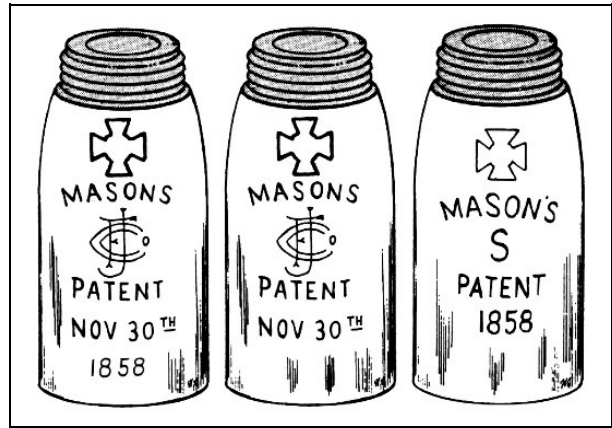


Figure 31 – Hero & Consolidated (Creswick 1987:143)

A drawing of the Mason Jar with the Hero cross appeared on page 222 of the 1906 Illinois Glass Co. Catalog and page 304 of the 1908 listing. The text in both cases stated, “This familiar jar needs neither introduction nor endorsement.” The jar did not appear in the 1903 had disappeared by the 1911 catalog (Figure 32).

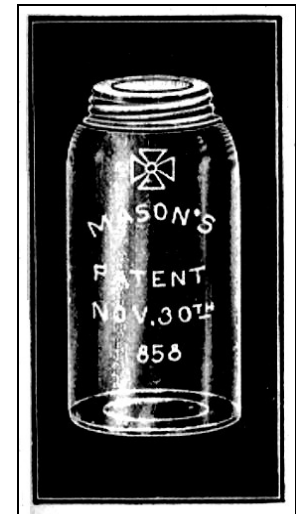


Figure 32 – Hero cross (Illinois Glass Co. 1906:223)

Our interpretation is slightly different. The Consolidated Fruit Jar Co. sold its jar rights to Hero ca. 1883, although it continued to make closures. Consolidated did not make any of its jars; they were produced by other firms (glass manufacturers). It was standard practice during that period for the final seller – not the glass house – to purchase the molds. These molds were thus the property of the Consolidated Fruit Jar Co. It is likely that Consolidated shipped the molds to Hero, when Hero purchased the jar rights. Hero then added its cross logo above the word “MASON’S.”

It is significant that Toulouse only showed the *unlettered* cross in conjunction with the CFJCo monogram. Despite Roller’s reluctance (see below), we agree with Toulouse that the unlettered cross was, indeed, used by Hero. However, Toulouse ascribed the logo to the Hero Glass *Works* – claiming that Hero used it before the change of name. As noted above, Toulouse failed to present any evidence or reason for his assertion. As we suggested above, we believe that the Hero Fruit Jar Co. originally adopted the logo in 1883, then added the tiny letters in the “wings” of the cross at a later date – probably within a few years. This explanation fits these jars much better than the one espoused by Toulouse.



Figure 33 – Unlettered cross (eBay)

Roller (1983:224, 229) was unwilling to ascribe the unlettered cross to the Hero Fruit Jar Co., although he noted that others had done so (Figure 33). Roller (1983:450) also stated:

The earliest notice of a “hero” cross found was in a July 19, 1888 trade journal advertisement for jars lettered (cross) MASON’S PATENT NOV. 30TH 1858 and MASON’S (cross) IMPROVED. Whether the cross trademark was used prior to 1888 by the company is not documented.

Creswick (1987:124) illustrated two variations of the unlettered cross. The first was the cross alone above “MASON’S (slight arch) / IMPROVED (horizontal)” with the word “GEM” ghosted beneath “MASON’S”; the ghosting obliterated most of the word “MASON’S” in one case. One sub-variant of the first variation was marked “MASON’S / {unlettered cross} / PATENT / NOV. 30TH / 1858” with the “E” in “PATENT” reversed. The second variation had the unlettered cross between the words with “TRADE” above the cross and “MARK” below it (Figure 34). These may mark the transition period when Hero used old Gem molds to make the first Mason jars sold by the firm.



Figure 34 – Unlettered cross with Mason jars (Creswick 1987:124)

Roller (2011:338) described an interesting variation embossed “MASON’S (arch) / unlettered Hero cross / IMPROVED (horizontal)” with “GLASSBORO” ghosted under “MASON’S.” He suggested that the maker could be the Whitney Glass Co. or the Hero Fruit Jar Co. Quart jars had “TRADE MARK” ghosted above the cross. Regardless of which firm made the jars, this is another example of trading molds between glass houses. Creswick (1987:124) illustrated the jars (Figure 35).



Figure 35 – Glassboro ghostings (Creswick 1987:124)

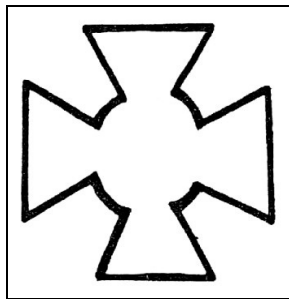


Figure 36 – Hero type cross (Roller 1983:342)

Roller (2011:342) illustrated a logo that was similar to the Hero cross but had more space between the wings – found on a jar embossed “MASON’S / PATENT / 1858” (Figure 36). He stated that “the maker is unknown. . . . The unlettered cross on these jars is different from the a Hero cross. Since it has no Hero characteristics, it is not attributable to the Hero Fruit Jar Co.” We agree with Roller that this was probably not made by Hero, but our reasoning is different. The difference in logo could easily be an engraver’s whim (or indicate a mold maker with a hangover – or still drunk) – but we have not seen any other Hero jars with this pattern of frontal embossing, only ones with the full patent date or “MASON’S IMPROVED.” This certainly could have been a competitor who was hoping to increase sales by copying Hero’s mark.

Roller (2011:348) also illustrated a similar cross with a dot in the center that was on a Mason-type jar with no other embossing. Again, the logo was similar but lacking the initials (Figure 37). The editors cited Jerry McCann as noting that these jars lacked the “NOV 26 67” basal embossing, typical of Hero jars. We felt that these, too, could be forgeries of the Hero mark.

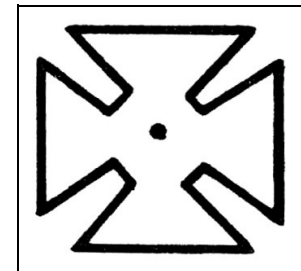


Figure 37 – Hero type cross (Roller 1983:348)

HFJCo in a Hero cross (ca. 1884-ca. 1900)



Figure 38 – Hero crosses (North American Glass)



Figure 39 – Hero cross (eBay)



Figure 40 – 1893 ad

Toulouse (1969:148-149) noted the lettered Hero cross on jars marked HERO and on Mason Jars. According to Toulouse (1971:249), the Hero Fruit Jar Co. used the “Hero cross” with initials from 1884, when the company changed its name from the Hero Glass Works, until 1900, when company ceased fruit jar production. Roller (1983:136) illustrated the “Hero cross” above the word “GEM” on a fruit jar made by the Hero Fruit Jar Co. (Figures 38 & 39). He dated the jar ca. 1883-1900s. He also noted the lettered cross on Mason jars, made by Hero from ca.

1888 to as late as 1900 (Roller 1983:134, 221, 233; 2011:352). He illustrated the lettered cross in an 1893 ad from the September 28, 1893, *Crockery & Glass Journal* (Figure 40). Hero also used the logo on a variety of lids and inserts (Figure 41). As noted above, we disagree with 1888 as a starting date for this logo.



Figure 41 – Cross lids (North American Glass)

Creswick (1987:67, 123) illustrated the mark on a GEM jar and in four distinctive variations – above, below, and between MASON’S IMPROVED and on the reverse of the jar – on Mason jars. Creswick

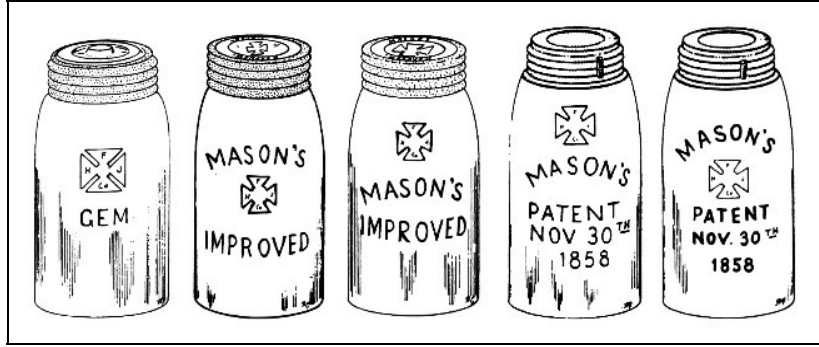


Figure 42 – Hero cross jars (Creswick 1987:67, 123, 143)

(1987:132-133, 139) also

showed the logo on the reverse of a jar marked “MASON’S / PATENT / NOV. 30TH / 1858” and a variation where the logo was originally embossed between “MASON’S” and “PATENT,” but everything except “MASON’S” had been peened out and was now ghosted. Creswick (1987:142, 233) also noted other variations of Mason jars with the mark (Figure 42).

The Roller editors (2011:345) included an interesting salesman’s sample jar embossed “MASON’S PATENT NOV / 30TH {lettered Hero cross} 1858 (both arched)” on the side (Figure 43).

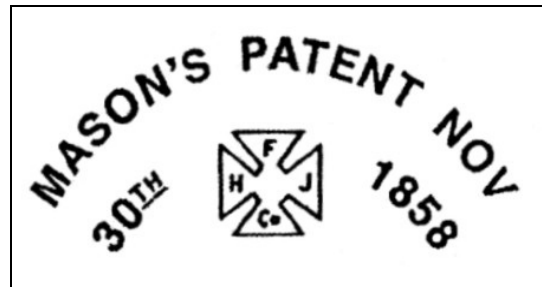


Figure 43 – Salesman’s sample (Roller 2011:345)

Whitten (2016) added:

Hero subcontracted some of their jar orders out to other glass companies, such as Findlay Bottle Company, Findlay, Ohio (1888-1893); Marion Fruit Jar & Bottle Company, Marion, Indiana (1888-1904); and Cumberland Glass Mnfng. Company, Bridgeton, New Jersey (1870-1900), so there is a possibility that any individual jar could have been made at one of those other factories.

HFJC in a Hero Cross (ca. 1884-ca. 1900)

The Hero cross on the final Hero jar was embossed HFJC in the wings (Figure 44). This is not just a case where some “dope” (mold lubricant) filled in the “o” in “Co.” The “C” lines up directly under the “F” – rather than being slightly offset to the left as in the case of “Co.”



Figure 44 – HFJC (North American Glass)

Roller (2011:237) noted that the patents used on this jar were received in 1894 and assigned to the Hero Fruit Jar Co. Roller noted that the jars were “the only wire-bail jars in the ‘HERO’ line and were the last of the many styles of the ‘HERO’ jars.” The Roller editors dated the jars ca. 1894-1895, but we feel that they were likely made a few years longer. Creswick (1987:82) illustrated the jars and added that “some of the jars are found with the mold letter H on the base, and were made for Hero by the Hazel Glass Company” (Figure 45).

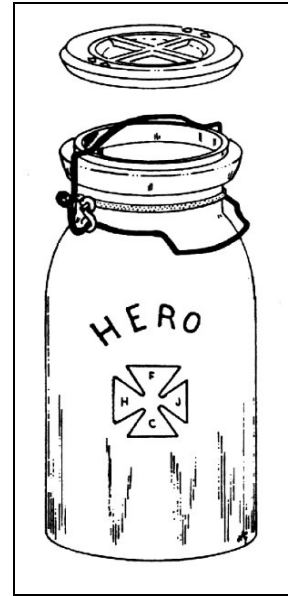


Figure 45 – HFJC (Creswick 1987:82)

Hour Glass (1883-ca. 1886 or later)

Toulouse (1969:154-155) noted that this mark was found on GEM and MASON’S PATENT NOV 30TH 1858 jars and attributed it to the Hero Glass Works ca. 1870 (Figure 46). He stated that “the jar may be the result of a mold-maker’s error in not finishing the cutting on the molds.” The shape is rounded (convex) at top and bottom with concave sides; calling it an hour glass is somewhat of a liberty.

Although Roller (1983:134) noted this variation of the GEM, he did not discuss it separately from other Gem jars (Figure 47). On Mason jars, Roller (1983:243) noted that the mark was used by Hero from ca. 1883 to 1888. Roller (1983:219) told an interesting story:



Figure 46 – Hourglass marks (North American Glass)

The “hourglass” figure was used to erase the HGW monogram . . . Exactly why or when this was done is not fully documented, but it is known that S.B. Rowley purchased the Hero Glass Works at a sheriff’s sale in February 1883, and soon thereafter the firm name was changed to Hero Fruit Jar Co. About 1888, the new firm began using the “Hero” cross on their jars, and the “hourglass” jars were probably made sometime between 1883 and 1888, perhaps closer to 1883.

This explanation makes sense, and we agree that the firm used the hourglass jars until the molds wore out, probably by ca. 1886. However, Rowley almost certainly needed new molds soon after his acquisition of the firm and equally certainly used the new unlettered Hero cross on those molds.

Creswick (1987:67-68) illustrated the mark in two slight variations (one wider) on GEM jars. This is especially interesting, since there were two variations of the HGW monogram – one wider than the other. This difference supports Roller’s contention that the hourglass was used to cover the monogram. Although she did not specifically assign the mark to Hero, she placed it in the section with the other Hero marks. However, Creswick (1987:134, 137) attributed the mark to both Hero firms when it appeared on Mason jars (Figure 48). Roller (2011:365, 367) illustrated the hourglass alone and with a rectangular plate above it. He noted, “It appears that the mold for these jars was altered at two separate times to erase previous markings. Although it is possible that the hourglass shaped alteration was meant to hide an HGW monogram . . . it is not known what mark was erased by the rectangular plate.” We concur.



Figure 47 – Gem hourglass (North American Glass)

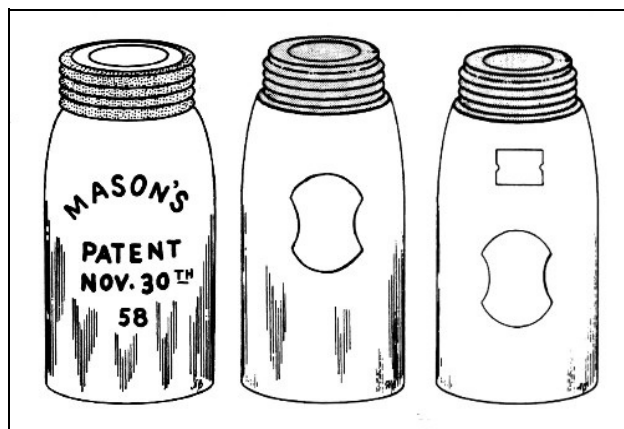


Figure 48 – Hourglass (Creswick 1987:134, 137)

Mason Jars

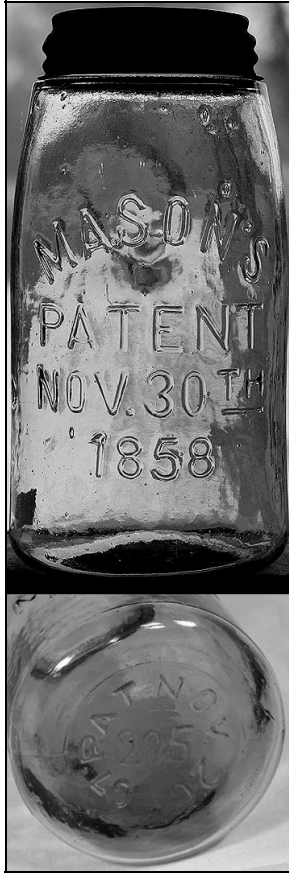


Figure 49 – Mason jars with no Hero logo (North American Glass)

As noted above, Rowley replaced the Porcelain Lined jars with Hero’s Mason jars shortly after the Mason patent expired in 1879. Toulouse (1969:149-151) noted the unlettered Hero cross in conjunction with jars embossed “MASON’S / PATENT / NOV 30TH / 1858” on one side. These included the cross between “MASON’S” and “PATENT”; above ‘MASON’S’ on jars with the CFJCo logo between “MASON’S” and “PATENT”; and above ‘MASON’S’ on jars with “S” between “MASON’S” and “PATENT” (see the section on the Hero cross for a discussion about the CFJCo monogram in association with the Hero cross). Roller (1983:224) also only ascribed the unlettered cross to the 1858 jar.

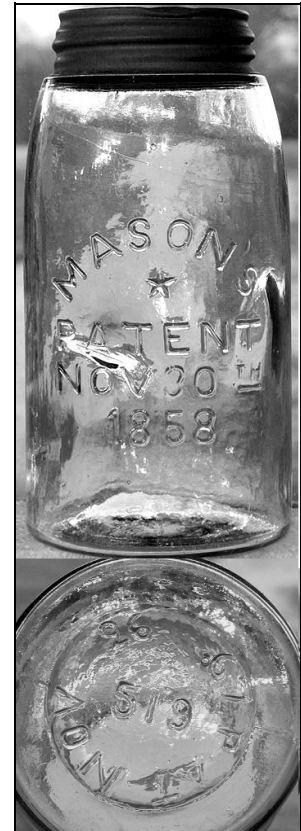


Figure 50 – Mason jar with star (North American Glass)

Toulouse (1969:149) only noted the Hero cross with letters in the wings on jars embossed “MASON’S (horizontal) / IMPROVED (arch).” Roller (1983:224, 229), however, reported the lettered cross on jars embossed “MASON’S / PATENT / NOV. 30TH / 1858” and ones marked “MASON’S / IMPROVED.” Creswick (1987:132, 142), too, illustrated the lettered cross on both types of Mason jars.

Quite a few of the jars lacked any of the Hero logos. These, however, *did* include the Hero patent dates on the bases (Figure 49). These may support Roller’s contention (discussed above) that the Hero cross was not used until ca. 1888. However, these may simply have been the earliest molds that were made immediately after the transition from Hero Glass Works to Hero Fruit Jar Co. They may also have been molds used by other glass houses to make Mason jars for Hero. A slight variation of the jar had a star beneath “MASON’S” (Figure 50).

Patents

Toulouse called a number of patents “Hero patents” and used them to date and identify fruit jars made by Hero in both its incarnations. Below are patents connected with the Hero companies (HP = patents named by Toulouse 1969 as “Hero patents”). As noted below, these were connected to Hero by one or more of the three major jar research volumes.

February 12, 1856

No. 14,245, patented by R. W. Lewis, Honesdale, Pennsylvania for sealing fruit cans – assigned to Rowley and found on Gem jar lids (Creswick 1987:237; Roller 1983:134, 396).

December 17, 1861

No. 33,938, a fruit jar patented by N. S. Gilbert, Lockport, New York – assigned to Rowley and found on Gem jar lids (Creswick 1987:238; Roller 1983:134, 398).

November 4, 1862

No. 36,853, patented by Thomas G. Otterson, Millville, New Jersey, a fruit jar – assigned to Rowley and found on Hero, Pearl, and Gem glass lids (Creswick 1987:239; Roller 1983:134, 398; Toulouse 1969:400).

December 17, 1862

Patented by Thomas G. Otterson, Millville, New Jersey (Roller 1983:8). Found on Hero and Gem glass lids (Toulouse 1969:400). [We have been unable to find this patent online, although it is mentioned by date in Rowley’s December 14, 1869, fruit jar patent (No. 97,964).]

December 6, 1864

No. 44,834, patented by Charles G. Imlay, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, a fruit jar – assigned to Rowley and found on Gem jar lids (Roller 1983:134, 399; Toulouse 1969:401).

May 23, 1865

No. 50,181, patented by John J. Squire, a fruit jar (Creswick 1987:240; Roller 1983:400) – antedated December 6, 1864. Toulouse (1969:401) only noted this as “Rowley? . . . Hero . . . Seal unknown.”

November 26, 1867 (HP)

Design Patent No. 2,840, by Salmon B. Rowley for the shape of the HERO jar (Creswick 1987:241; Roller 1983:134, 401; Toulouse 1969:83). This was the most common patent date embossed on the bases of Hero jars (Figure 51).

December 10, 1867

Toulouse (1969:402) noted this date in connection with Hero and Gem jars but stated “Details unknown.” The date was not shown in Roller (1983), and we were unable to find any patent for December 10, 1867, that was relevant to jars or lids.

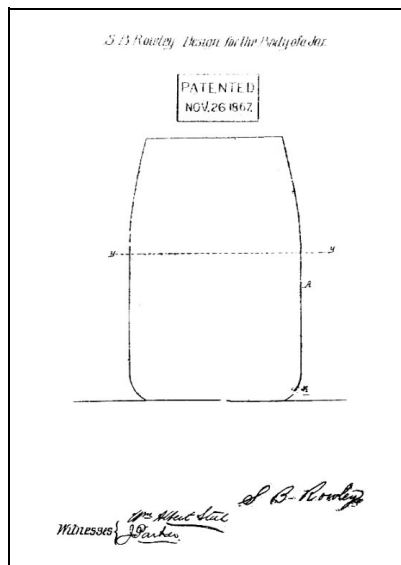


Figure 51 – Rowley 1867 patent

December 17, 1867 (HP)

Toulouse (1969:84) noted that “the only cover patent of this date is that of G. L. Harrison, No. 211,011, which is directly applicable.” It was found on the bases of some “The Gem” jars along with other patents (Toulouse (1969:402). The date and patent were not shown in Roller (1983).

January 28, 1868

No. 73,724, patented by William L. Imlay, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, a closing for fruit jars (Creswick 1987:241; Roller 1983:8, 401).

February 11, 1868

Patent No. 74,249, issued to Salmon B. Rowley for helical lugs on the neck of Gem and Hero jars (cap and fastener for preserve jars) (Creswick 1987:241; Roller 1983:401; Toulouse 1971:402).

June 9, 1868 (HP)

No. 36,853, a patent reissued for assignment from T. G. Otterson to S. B. Rowley (original patent No. R2,977 – lid design for Gem, Hero, and Pearl (Creswick 1987:242; Roller 1983:134, 402; Toulouse 1969:402).

September 1, 1868

No. 33,938, a patent reissued for assignment from N. S. Gilbert (original patent No. R3,111) to S. B. Rowley – lids for Gem and Hero (Creswick 1987:242; Roller 1983:134, 402; Toulouse 1969:402).

September 8, 1868

No. 14,245, a patent reissued for assignment from R. W. Lewis to S. B. Rowley (original patent No. R3,115) – lids for Hero, Gem, and Pearl (Creswick 1987:242; Roller 1983:134, 402; Toulouse 1969:402).

December 22, 1868

No. 85,236, patented by George H. Meyers, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania – lid for Hero, Gem, and Pearl (Creswick 1987:242; Roller 1983:134, 402; Toulouse (1969:403).

January 19, 1869

No. D3,349, a design patent by Salmon B. Rowley for a glass cover for a fruit jar – used on Gem and Pearl jars (Creswick 1987:242; Roller 1983:402). Toulouse (1969:403) mistook the Rowley patent for Patent No. 85,935 to Portus N. Hinman for “Rubber band holds top seal.”

March 2, 1869

No. 97,964, patented by Salmon B. Rowley for “Improvement in Fruit Jars” (Toulouse called the patent a “Metal lid top seal; screw-band”) – used on Gem jars (Creswick 1987:242; Roller 1983:134; Toulouse 1969:403).

August 23, 1870

No. 106,624, patented by F. Rohrbacher and F. Hormann, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and assigned to S. B. Rowley, for forming smooth tops on glass covers – found on lids for Gem jar (Roller 1983:134, 282, 403).

February 7, 1871 (HP)

No. 111,607 patented by Melvin R. Bissel for “Grinding top for glass lid fit” and assigned to Rowley – Gem jar (Creswick 1987:243; Roller 1983:134, 282, 404; Toulouse 1969:404).

September 3, 1872

No. 131,003 patented by Henry Howson for “Glass lid in metal retainer, both held by screw-band” – Hero and Gem jars (Creswick 1987:244; Roller 1983:404; Toulouse 1971:404).

December 31, 1872

No. 134,400 patented by Salmon B. Rowley for “metal lid with glass liner” – Hero and Gem jars (Creswick 1987:243; Roller 1983:404; Toulouse 1971:404).

February 4, 1873 (HP)

No. 135,430 patented by Henry Howson, assigned to Rowley for a glass lid and threads in the jar mold (Creswick 1987:244; Roller 1983:134, 288, 405; Toulouse 1936:83, 404). This patent date appeared on the lids of Crystal jars and other Rowley lids (Figure 52).

July 14, 1874

No. 153,077, patented by Thomas Hipwell, assigned to Rowley for a threaded lid for the Porcelain Lined jars (Creswick 1987:245; Roller 1983:288, 405).

July 28, 1874

No. 153,529, patented by Mark J. Bennett, for jelly glasses. Toulouse (1969:404) called the patent an “all-glass lid for Crystal jars.” The patent was not mentioned in Roller (1983).

December 17, 1878

No. 210,984, patented by Daniel Bennett, an all-glass cap with three lugs for Crystal jars (Creswick 1987:246; Roller 1983:407; Toulouse 1971:405).

February 27, 1894

No. 515,579, patented by Cleophas Fischer for a fastener for glass or other vessels (Creswick 1987:261; Roller 1983:413). Toulouse (1969:408) noted that the patent was a

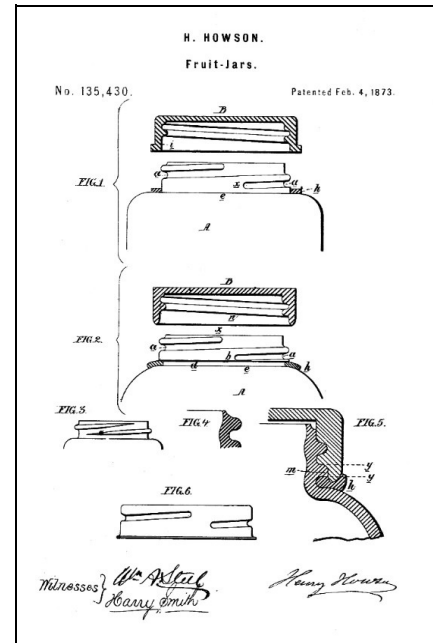


Figure 52 – Howson 1873 patent

“lightning-type seal for Hero jars” (Toulouse 1971:408), although this is a bit late for the Hero line.

Discussion and Conclusion

An entire study – perhaps even a short book – could be written about the variations of Gem jars alone. Hero jars would rate a second study, although both of these are beyond the scope of this work. The chronological placement of the jars and especially the logos, however, is sound. The HGW monogram is dated by solid evidence, but the dates of the Hero crosses are in some dispute – although we have included probable date ranges.

It is clear that Hero could not handle all the orders it received. Other glass houses undoubtedly made jars for the company (e.g., see the jar marked with the unlettered cross, CFJCo monogram, and I.G.Co. logo – above). Both the Hero Glass Works and the Hero Fruit Jar Co. controlled a remarkable number of patents. Although the companies made a number of jars exclusively, they also made the Gem in conjunction with other factories and were happy to adopt the very popular Mason jars when they became available on the open market.

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