

Standard Glass Companies

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Although a number of glass manufacturers had “Standard” in their names, only two used glass marks that were associated with containers: the Standard Glass Co., Marion, Indiana, and the Standard Glass Works, Wellsburg, West Virginia. The Standard Glass Works marks were questionable, and we dealt with the glass house in the section on C.L. Flaccus, Part I. See that section for information on the Wellsburg factory.

Histories

Indiana Bottle Co, Marion, Indiana (1889-1890)

The Indiana Bottle Co. of Marion incorporated on June 25, 1889, with a capital stock of \$5,000. The directors were Levi Davidson, Daniel Feathers, David H. Swetzer, Henry C. Leutz, and William D. Steele (*Indianapolis Journal* 6/26/1889; Griffin 1890:26). On January 9, 1890, the plant closed its doors based on employee complaints that the firm could not pay them. The workers had asked for a receiver to be appointed (*Indianapolis Journal* 1/10/1890). The Western Glass Co. purchased the plant on February 5, 1890 (Roller 1994:60-61; 1998).

Western Glass Co., Marion, Indiana (1890-1893)

On January 19, 1890, the Western Glass Co. incorporated with a capital of \$10,000. bought the Indiana Bottle Co. factory on February 5, 1890. Carl Werminghoff was the president with Charles D. Shuldham as secretary and treasurer. Frank Remy was an additional incorporator. The firm planned to produce prescription ware. The plant burned on December 15, 1893, with an estimated loss of \$6,000. Although insurance covered the loss, the Western Glass went into receivership a week later (*Indianapolis Journal* 1/10/1890; 12/18/1893; Roller 1994:60-61; 1998).

Standard Co-Operative Glass Co., Marion, Indiana (1894-1905)

The Standard Cooperative Glass Co. incorporated on April 14, 1894, with a capital of \$15,000 and grew from the ashes of the former Western Glass Works of Marion, Indiana. The directors were Joseph C. Steebe, John Mesquelet, J.H. Lombard, James Rock, Felix Kaid, Perlee W. Schofield, and Daniel Reardon (Roller 1994:60-61; 1998; Toulouse 1971:87-88). In 1897, the plant made flint bottles at one furnace with 12 pots and continued to use that number until at least 1902 (*National Glass Budget* 1897:7; 1902:11; Roller 1998) and made prescription and brandy bottles at least as late as 1903.

On June 30, 1899, the firm increased its capital stock to \$35,000 to enlarge the plant to double its capacity. T.C. Schofield had been president right before the increase, but D.C. Reardon replaced him, with James McPhilliamy as vice president and Perlee W. Schofield as secretary and treasurer. The group apparently remodeled the factory again in October or November of 1905. That may have overextended the cooperative and caused a reorganization the following year (*Bridgeton Evening News* 11/13/1905; Hunt 1900:128; *Indianapolis Journal* 6/30/1899; Roller 1994:60-61; 1998).

Standard Glass Co., Marion, Indiana (1906-1933)

In 1906, the Standard Cooperative Glass Co. was reorganized into the Standard Glass Co. (Toulouse 1971:87-89). Standard Glass Co. was listed in the 1907 Thomas Register (158) as making beer, wine, soda, and brandy bottles. The tank burst in January of 1912, flooding the floor with molten glass. Although the burst did not result in a fire, the damage was estimated at \$6,000-7,000. In 1913, the plant used one continuous tank with 8 rings to make medicine bottles and vials. The Thomas Register listing remained the same until at least 1921 (*Bridgeton Evening News* 1/29/1912; *Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry* 1913:952; Thomas Publishing Co. 1907:158; 1921:780).

Letterheads from the firm, however, only stated that the plant made “High Grade Prescription Bottles.” A fire destroyed the plant on October 31, 1920 – with an estimated damage of \$100,000 – but Standard quickly rebuilt (*Lake County Times* 11/1/1920; Roller 1994:61; 1998). Standard Glass Co. made “prescriptions, vials, patent, proprietary, liquors,

flasks, packers and preservers” by machine at one continuous tank with ten rings in 1927, and that listing continued through 1934 (*American Glass Review* 1927:144-145; 1934:71).

By 1928, C.W.B. Hughes was the president, general manager, sales manager, and purchasing agent, with Frank Bowers as vice president, W.D. Leitch as secretary, and F. Schwaiger as plant manager. The Foster-Forbes Glass Co. gained control of all the common stock in August 1933, and the factory became Plant No. 2 for that concern (Bethman 1991:73; Roller 1994:61; 1998). See the Foster-Forbes section for more details about that company.

Containers and Marks

MONARCH

We have observed this mark on a mouth-blown, colorless prescription bottle in the Tucson Urban Renewal collection (TUR) at the Arizona State Museum (Figure 1). Although we have guessed that the Standard Cooperative Glass Co. might be the maker – based on the similarity in font of the “MONARCH” and “BLUE RIBBON” basemarks – the identification is not solid. The mark is almost certainly a brand or type of bottle rather than a manufacturer.

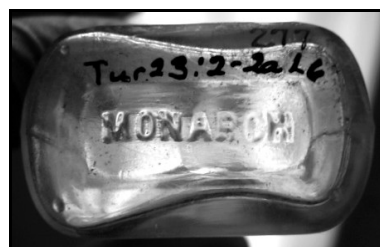


Figure 1 – Monarch

PANAMA

Also at the TUR collection, we found a mouth-blown, colorless prescription bottle embossed “PANAMA” on the base in similar letters (Figure 2). Again, based on font alone, we have assigned the “PANAMA” logo to the Standard Cooperative Glass Co.



Figure 2 – Panama

BLUE RIBBON (1908-1920s, poss. as late as 1932)

According to Bethman (1991:73), the Standard Glass Co. “produced many different styles of prescription bottles The “Blue Ribbon” prescription bottle was very popular, and many druggists used this bottle.” Perlee W. Schofield, long-time Secretary-Manager of the Standard Glass Co., received (and assigned to Standard Glass Co.) Design Patent No. 39,479 on September 1, 1908, for a pharmacy bottle that was the basis for the Blue Ribbon style subsequently popularized by the company (Figure 3).¹ Griffenhagen and Bogard (1999:45) noted that Standard registered the Blue Ribbon trademark on December 22, 1908, and the firm advertised the brand in 1908 and 1909 (Figure 4).

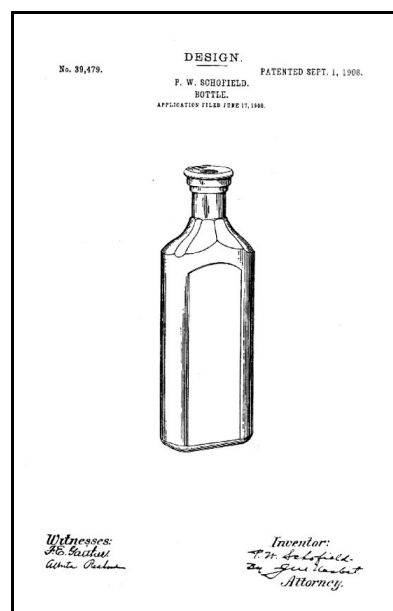


Figure 3 – Schofeld 1908 patent

Colcleaser (1965:71; 1966:28), Miller (1999:77, 90, 98, 110), Elliott and Gould (1988:193), Bethman (1991:412, 437, 444, 468, 486, 690), Miller (n.d.:7), and Preble (2002:584, 688) illustrated and/or described the Blue Ribbon bottles. Each bottle was embossed on the base with “BLUE RIBBON” in block capital letters. The left side panel showed the number of ounces (with the apothecary symbol for ounces at the top). The right side panel had “cc” embossed at the top with measurements in cubic centimeters below it. At the top center of the body, the ounce symbol



Figure 4 – Blue Ribbon 1909 ad (Old Glass Bottles and Items of Antiquity)

¹ The Schofield patent did not show the graduations on the bottle. G.W. Stoeckel patented a graduated bottle (No. 52,461) on February 6, 1866. The graduations, in this case, were embossed on the front center of the bottle. The first appearance of a graduated bottle that we can find was in the 1903 Illinois Glass Co. catalog (Freeman 1964). By that time, the Stoeckel patent had long expired, and graduations were fair game for anyone who wanted to use them.

was embossed, followed by the number of ounces in lower-case Roman numerals. All bottles described in the literature were mouth blown and had reinforced prescription finishes – although a single bottle offered on eBay had a continuous-thread finish, probably used near the end of company (Figures 5 and 6).

Toulouse (1971:87) dated the mark as being used from 1920 to 1930. However, the patent and trade mark registration dates, as well as date ranges provide for individual bottles by the sources listed above and early



Figure 5 – Blue Ribbon bottles (eBay)

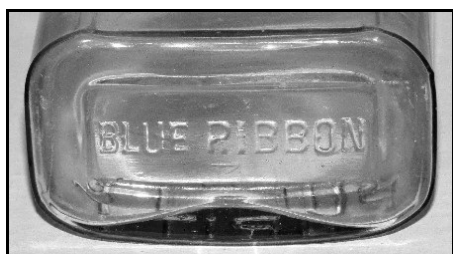


Figure 6 – Blue Ribbon base (eBay)

advertisements, suggest that the bottles were used much earlier, almost certainly by 1908. Production almost certainly continued into the 1920s and may have extended until the company sold in 1932. For most firms, mouth-blown prescription bottles were discontinued by the mid- to late 1920s, although at least one company (Carr-Lowrey Glass Co.) continued hand production until 1960! Many Blue Ribbon bottles had “QUALITY” embossed at the shoulder and “PURITY” embossed at the heel on the same side of the bottle. Others lacked both words.

Discussion and Conclusions

The Blue Ribbon ovals appear to have been the main product of the Standard Glass Co., Marion, Indiana, from 1908 until the firm closed in 1933. As noted in the text, the other two bottle styles – Monarch and Panama – are only included here based on similarity of font, color, and mouth-blown production.

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