

Other Q

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

Since no major manufacturers used a company name beginning with the letter “Q,” we have continued to use the same format as with the other initials – thus, the Other Q section is one of only two entries for the letter Q.

Containers and Marks

QC (1890-1905)

According to von Mechow (2018). The Queen City Glass Co., Cumberland, Maryland, used the “QC” basemark from 1880 to 1905. He discovered the logo on six Hutchinson soda bottles and one champagne beer bottle used in such widely distributed venues as Racine, Wisconsin, Baltimore, Maryland, and Orlando, Florida – although most were clustered within 150 miles of Cumberland.

Manufacturer

Queen City Glass Co., Cumberland, Maryland (1890-1905)

A new group of investors leased the former Warren Glass Works Co. factory in September 1888 to make bottles, glasses (tumblers), and fruit jars. The group, consisting of Arthur H. Amick, Frank Blaul, Frederick Mertens, William M. Mertens, Asahel Willison, Frisby L. Tilghman, and Robert R. Henderson incorporated in April 1889 as the South Cumberland Glass Co. with a capital of \$15,000. They quickly purchased the plant and renamed their operation the Queen City Glass Co., intending to begin the manufacture of prescription ware for 1890, according to manager David Pugh. By 1892, Fred Mertens was the president with Frisby Tilgman as secretary and treasurer (*Pittsburgh Dispatch* 7/31/1590; Roller 1998).

Aside from a couple of short strikes in 1900 (one consisting of only the five female employees), Queen City Glass seems to have operated steadily for its entire tenure. By April of

1897, the plant was “rushed with orders for soda and beer bottles, made of tough, clear white glass, the New England market taking the entire output” (*Frostburg News* 4/9/1897). In the early years of the new century, Queen City Glass was enjoying a boom. The *Cumberland Evening Star* reported on November 17, 1903, that the factory had “the largest force of men at work in their history.” On January 24, 1905, the *Bridgeton Evening News* commented that the plant was “moving along at their usual gate, but report that they found trade in their lines, high grade flint beers, dull during the fall season.

Business was more than “dull.” In late March of 1905, however, the factory closed due to a lagging market and never reopened. In 1909, William S. Breeden, John W. Breeden, John A. Cupler, William M. Mertens and John H. Mertens organized the Eastern Glass Co. and purchased the former Queen City works. Their operation was short-lived, however, and was sold to John H. Mertens in May of 1912. The factory burned to the ground in August of 1913 (Roller 1998; von Mechow 2018).



Figure 1 – Coffeepot Q (eBay)

Q.&Co.

An eBay auction featured a flask embossed GUARANTEED (slight arch) / TRADE {old fashioned coffee pot with Q in the center} MARK (horizontal) / FLASK (slight inverted arch)” on the front and “Q.&Co.” on the base (Figures 1 & 2). The mouth-blown flask was colorless but had solarized to a slight amethyst hue. We have not discovered the manufacturer and/or user.



Figure 2 – C.&Co. (eBay)

QUARRIER . OTT & CO. (ca. 1850-ca. 1854)

An eBay auction offered a dark green cylinder whiskey bottle embossed “QUARRIER . OTT & CO.” in a circular format around the outside of the base, with a “6” in the center. The bottle was mouth blown into a three-part mold and was topped by a two-part finish with a sharp lower ring.

Manufacturer

Quarrier, Ott & Co., Wheeling, West Virginia (ca. 1850-1854)

Richard Knowles and the other glass blowers (including Morgan Ott) formed R. Knowles & Co. in 1849 and built the Union Glass Works at Wheeling, West Virginia. A.E. Quarrier purchased the interests of three of the partners, and the operating company became Quarrier, Ott & Co. in 1850 (McKearin & Wislon 1978:168-169). The eBay seller also noted an ad from the 1851 Wheeling city directory that called the company “Manufacturers of Vials, Bottles, etc.” Griffenhagen & Bogard (1999:104) added the firm advertised “vials, prescriptions, patent medicine vials, and druggists’ packing jars” in 1850.

The *Wheeling Sun* (1/20/1853) bragged that “Mssrs. Quarrier, Ott & Co., in the manufacture of vials and bottles, have an extensive establishment, and are famed for the superiority of the articles they produce,” and the *Daily Intelligencer* (2/5/1853) added that the plant had “more orders than they can fill.” The *Daily Intelligencer* listed the “Union (Green) Glassworks” for sale by “Quarrier @ [&] Ott” on April 4, 1853. Stating that they were “desiring to change their business,” the pair offered “the above works for sale, with moulds, tools, etc. etc. all in good order, and in successful operation.” The furnace had “seven pots, and chairs for 23 blowers.” Although we found no notice for the actual sale, it is clear that the firm ceased operation in 1853. Six (1993:19) listed a Quarrier and Co. of Wheeling in business in 1856, suggesting that Ott had left the firm by that time. See the section on the Union Glass Works for a discussion of several factories that used the name.

Discussion and Conclusions

We have not discovered any information on “Q&Co” on the Q-in-a-coffee-pot marks used by the glass house (or user) of the flask that bears both logos. Hopefully, future research will find the answer. The other two “Q” marks are well researched and dated.

Acknowledgments

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