Additional New Finds to Document

By
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Introduction

This article will continue with my on-going commitment to report newly discovered pieces that were manufactured in the factories operated by the Capstan and Perfection Glass Companies. Besides the documental benefit of this summary, these new additions will also update the listings for Capstan food containers and Perfection separating ware presented elsewhere.[1]

Find One

The first newly discovered piece came to me via Stermer's Auction Service. I acquired the nearly cylindrical Capstan Glass Company tumbler shown in Figure 1 at the Saturday before Easter 2007 auction held in the Liberty Fire Hall located in East Berlin, Pennsylvania.

This food container is 2 3/16th inches in height. It takes a 55 millimeter metal sealing cap which pushes down over its Anchor finish. The outer diameter of this vessel is 2 1/8th inches measured at the midpoint between the lip and base. At the bottom, the circular base has an outer diameter of 2 1/16th inches. Filled to the lip, it holds three and one-half fluid ounces.

Taking a look at the underneath part in Figure 2, the South Connellsville, Pennsylvania firm's registered trademark is prominently embossed in the center. Below this nautical insignia is the mold number 302 ½. Above the emblem is the series number 4.

Figure 1

Figure 2

Precisely where this model fits into the plain tumbler listings in *Tumblers, Jars and Bottles* is difficult to pin point. Its mold number should position it in the nappy line right between 302 and 303; however, its shape doesn't align with the squatty and slanted side wall profile of these specimens. For now, let's call the sample in Figure 1 a nappy tumbler and put it in line right after number 302 in the numeric inventory.[2]

Find Two

Perfection separating tableware admirers, Adele and Orrin Klitzner of Andover, New Jersey, sent me documentation for our second discovery. Figure 3 contains a picture of a Colonial patterned water bottle which they recently acquired through the electronic auction service – eBay. Their piece is particularly important to me because it is the first example that I've seen in over ten years of hunting for one. To say that this model is relatively scarce would be an accurate assessment of its availability in today's antiques market

Figure 3

Adele and Orrin's carafe is massive by Perfection ware standards. Measuring 10 1/4th inches in height, it weighs an impressive 3 ½ pounds. The neck is 4 15/16th inches tall and has the Colonial motif molded around its circumference. Its matching cylindrically shaped bowl has a vertical measurement of 5 3/8th inches with a finish that is 3 3/4th inches across the outer lip.

The only embossing on the Klitzner's specimen is along the bottom edge of the circular vertical flange that is positioned at the bottom of the water bottle's top section. This raised marking reads as follows: PATD (smaller and elevated capital D without a line or dot beneath it) MARCH 30 97 OTHERS PENDING.

The listing for this model in Chapter Five of the book *Perfection Glass Company, One of Many Glass Houses in Washington, Pennsylvania* is only depicted by an extract from the Company's circa-1903 product catalog. Thanks to Adele and Orrin, we now have a picture verifying that this advertised product was actually manufactured in Perfection's Washington factory.

Find Three

My next find came as a personal purchase from an estate auction conducted by Mark Ferry Auctions of Derry, Pennsylvania held at the Westmoreland County (PA) Fairgrounds on June 23rd, 2007.

Figure 4

Auctioned off individually as a vase, the right-hand model in Figure 4 is actually an attractively patterned, 6 7/8th inches tall jar capable of holding thirteen fluid ounces. It has a 58 millimeter finish that took a one-time use metal cap which either pushed down onto the band closure or was crimped around it. The simple design on the container's body consists of four panels and four protruding ribs which are positioned opposite each other and running almost the length of the outer side wall. Just above the 2 3/8th inches circular base is a flared outward aspect which completes the body.

On the underneath side, there is a Capstan Glass Company trademark embossed in the center. Below this symbol is the mold number 5961. Above it is the

phrase "PAT.NOV.23,26."

The puzzling thing about the Capstan piece on the right side in Figure 4 is its uncanny resemblance to the jar beside it to the left. This alternate Capstan Glass product was made to the specifications of a design patent that was issued to Louis P. Piazzoli, Jr. on November 23rd, 1926.[3]

Being 6 15/16th inches tall, the left-hand model holds thirteen fluid ounces when filled to the brim. The same style and size of metal cap which seals its right-hand mate closes this example. Body design appears to be the same for both models. Through close inspection, the only differences I could discern centered on the ribs and lower body region. For the former, this feature stops at the shoulder on the left-hand specimen but continues past this point, blending into the upper body on its counterpart to the right. In the case of the latter variance, this flared outward area of the body just above the base is larger and more vertical in shape than the right side edition.

On the bottom of the base, a Company trademark appears in the center with the mold number 5412 beneath it. Above the nautical symbol is the phrase – "PAT.NOV.23,26."

One would think that if both jars carried the same patent information that their designs would match and their mold numbers would be in the same 54XX series as other examples of a Piazzoli container. However, in this case, they don't for some reason known only to the makers.

Find Four

This record isn't about a new item turning up but rather a previously reported sample with a newly discovered patent for it. An extract can be seen in Figure 5.

Every few months, I search the Internet using the name William B. Fenn to see if anything new has been added about him. During my last expedition and to my surprise, I came across an idea of his, previously known and patented in the United States,[4] which also registered him as the inventor in the Canadian Intellectual Properties Office.[5] As I looked at the trail of both submissions, it appears Mr. Fenn started his registration process in early February 1900 in the United States while his assignee, Ezra D. Beckwith, began another in Canada in late March of the same year. Approval for the later came in August while it took the former until December to accomplish the same goal.

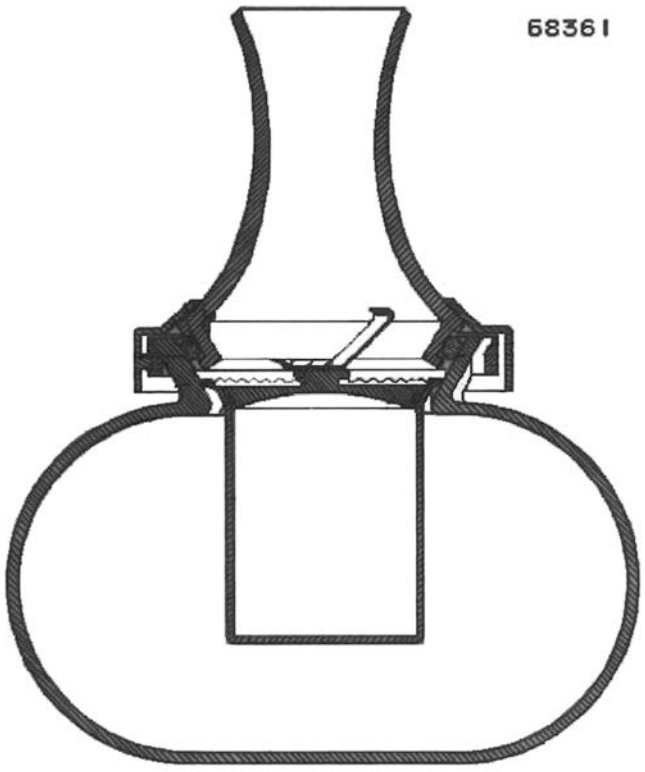


Figure 5

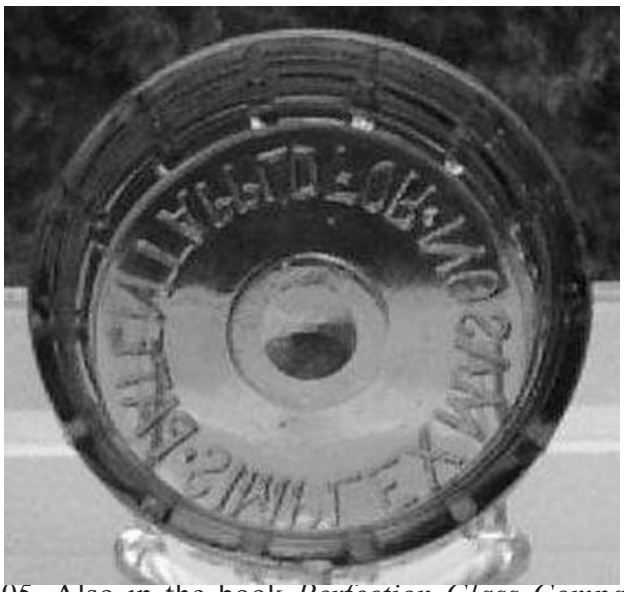
There isn't much information available on both gentlemen. I do know that Messrs. Fenn and Beckwith were partners of some sort in the Perfection Water Bottle Company of New York City in the early months of 1900. Also, Mr. Fenn assigned either a percentage or all of the rights for this idea to Mr. Beckwith.[6] Regrettably, what I don't know and may never know is why Mr. Beckwith chose to apply for a Canadian patent for a separating water bottle with a chilling compartment in it that his associate, William B. Fenn, had applied to patent in the United States.

On a more positive side, there is another information source available to researchers to use at the website of the Canadian Intellectual Properties Office. Maybe, it can be of assistance to you as well.

Find Five

At the Ohio Bottle Club's antique bottle and advertising show in Mansfield, Ohio on May 12th, 2007, I was fortunate enough to purchase a Russell Uhl patented all glass screw cap from Galen Ware of Connellsville, Pennsylvania. This new edition to my collection is the fifth find to record in this section.

In a previous *Bottles and Extras* issue, an article was carried about a methodology to identify and classify a glass screw cap, carrying the date December 5th,



1905. Also in the book *Perfection Glass Company*,

Figure 6

this same process was further updated.[7] Both accounts detailed five Groups of inner surface characteristics and six cap shapes for these fruit jar covers. One of the Groups or Group III has a raised hollowed out ring with a raised dot in the center of its inner surface. See the top sealer in Figure 6.

Below it is the screw cap from Galen. It represents a new Group III variation.

As you can see, this example has a relatively flat circular surface which is 7/8th inch wide, beginning at the juncture of the inner skirt and inner surface. At its innermost point, a 1/16th inch vertical drop-off occurs. The resulting circular depression in the center of the inner surface is 1 inch in diameter. In the middle of this recessed feature is a rounded top raised dot with a 9/16th inch outer diameter.

The top surface on this sun colored amethyst model has a one tiered, slightly depressed, circular area with embossing on it. Around the outer part of this topmost indented region are the descriptive phrases – (dot) SIMPLEX MASON (dot) PATENT APPL'D FOR. This sealer carries a jeweled crown profile. Fourteen spike shaped grippers and a 1/8th inch long band are aligned around its slightly slanted outer skirt.

For those interested in putting this sample into a catalog of Russell Uhl patented covers, this example would be listed as follows: III – 2.2.1.d.2.a.-a.1.b.1.c .3.d.2.e.2.f.14.

Figure 7

Find Six

Next up is a discovery I made at the Roller Mills Antique Center in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania. The Capstan beauty on the top in Figure 7 was sitting on the shelf in a dealer's booth, begging for someone to give it a good home. Of course, I recognized its plea in quick fashion and just as rapidly obliged its request for permanent asylum.

This slanted side wall fluted tumbler is 3 1/8th inches in height and holds 7-fluid ounces when filled to the overflow point. Below its 70 millimeter wide Anchor finish, which would seal with a metal pushdown style of cap, is a canted inward outer surface graced with sixteen flat surfaced panels. Rounded upward at the top and rounded downward at the bottom, these flutes have sides which angle slightly inward from the top (1/2 inch wide) to the bottom (7/16th inch wide). Connected at their sides, these panels are aligned side by side around the outer circumference of this container. Inside of this glass are sixteen flutes of the same size, shape and width. These decorative features are positioned directly over their exterior counterparts. Besides their location, the only other aspect which differentiates these features from their external counterparts is their concave outer surface.

The sixteen sided base on my Lewisburg find can be seen on the bottom in Figure 7. With the Capstan Glass logo in the center, the mold number 557 is prominently embossed below it. The series digit 9 is above the familiar nautical insignia.

This addition to my collection will go right after its mate 537 under the numeric section in *Tumblers, Jars and Bottles*.[8]

Find Seven

Once again, the Klitzner's of Andover, New Jersey reported another new addition to their expanding collection of Perfection ware. Carrying the designation of find seven, the separating container in Figure 8 was probably meant for use in a barbers shop.

This previously unknown model is 6 3/4th inches tall, excluding the corked encircled pour spout. Its paneled neck is 4 inches in height. The distance across the circular vertical flange at the base of the top section carries a 2 ½ inches measurement. On either the side wall or bottom edge of this feature, there isn't any embossing.

The cylindrical bowl is 2 7/8th inches in height and has the Colonial motif around its outer circumference. Its threaded finish has an outer diameter of 2 ½ inches. Connecting the neck and the bowl on the probable barbers' bottle in Figure 8 is a zinc screw band that at one time had a shiny nickel coating. When Adele and Orrin first contacted me about this item, I thought immediately that it was an example of a Colonial designed decanter with a six ounce capacity. Rightly or wrongly, I quickly jumped to the conclusion that the facetted stopper for it was broken or lost long ago. Continuing with this train of thought, I easily convinced myself that somewhere

Figure 8

along the time line since that event an enterprising third party decided to make the stopper-less decanter into a barbers' bottle by the insertion of a dispenser into the top of its neck.

This quite plausible but possibly erroneous presumption of mine wasn't arrived at without a factual basis. Before taking the stance above, I recalled that there was a sketch and listing for a 6-ounce Colonial patterned decanter with a stopper in the circa late-1903 product catalog from the Perfection Glass Company. After confirming my recollection, I inspected the other squirt bottles in my collection. The Royal, Imperial and Colonial designed ones all had specially molded necks (long and short) which had the pour spout formed into them. Since these examples were in accordance with the patent issued to William B. Fenn on August 23rd, 1904, I thought my overall impression was further bolstered.[9]

However, after much discussion with the Klitzner's about the aged nature of the pouring mechanism being commensurate with the age of their Colonial piece, the unusual length of the neck when compared to other paneled versions on squirt bottle examples in my collection and the lack of scarring along the inner surface at the top of the neck, which would be expected to be present when a glass stopper was constantly being placed into the opening and then taken back out for use, I abandoned my original belief and came around to their position. Even in the face of Company ephemera and actual examples matching a 1904 patent, I can't say with absolute certainty that their unique specimen isn't a barbers' bottle. It just goes to show you that not being there at the time this piece was sold certainly hinders an accurate assessment of its purpose over one hundred years later.

My thanks go out again to Adele and Orrin Klitzner for reporting their piece and for the thoroughly interesting email discussion we had about it. In my opinion, this electronic example of a give and take face to face conversation brought out one of the primary benefits associated with our hobby – enjoyment.

Find Eight

My final report is on the covered nappy tumbler in Figure 9. It should be pointed out that the pictures and measurements of this example were extracted from an eBay auction in May 2007. Unfortunately, I wasn't the high bidder so I don't have the piece in front of me to provide a better description of it.

This model of a Capstan Glass Company food container is 2 ½ inches tall. It has a standard Anchor finish with an outer lip diameter of 4 ½ inches or 114 millimeters. A metal pushdown style of cover sealed this vessel along this surface.

The eBay seller advertised this piece as a salt box from the Capstan Glass Company. While getting the second part right, the first assessment of a salt box was likely a bit wide of the mark for its initial purpose in life. Undoubtedly, the glass lid with a filial shaped somewhat like a capstan influenced that position. However, it is my opinion that some well intentioned third party attached the glass lid to the nappy tumbler in Figure 9 at some earlier point in time.[10]

Figure 10 has a view of the circular base on find eight. As you can clearly see, the Capstan trademark

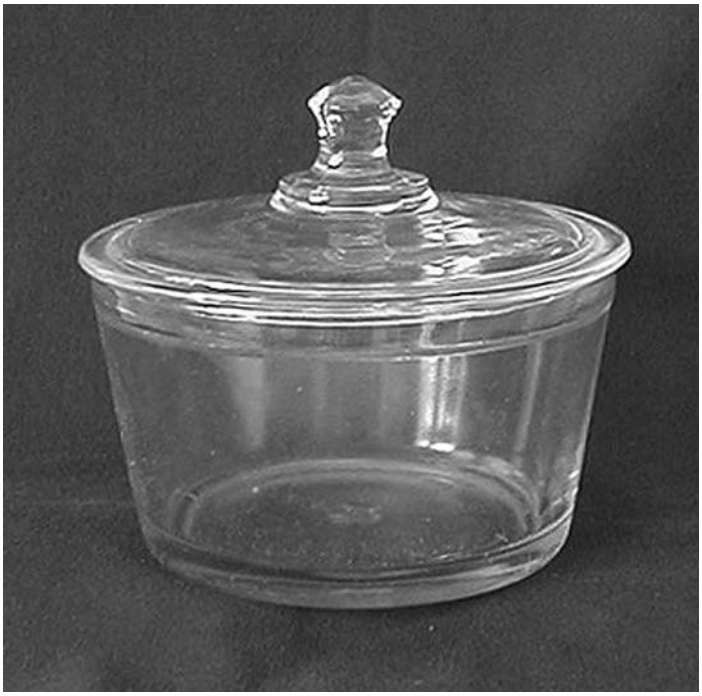


Figure 9

is in the center. Regrettably, the mold number isn't visible so we'll have to take the word of the seller that the set of digits under the nautical logo was 315.

It is interesting to note that the illusive nappy tumbler 315 and the nappy jar 415 in my collection have the same height and outer lip diameter. The only difference between each is their finish. Nappy 315 has an Anchor finish (sealing surface and knurling) while 415 has a six lugged closure suitable for a quarter turn Amerseal metal screw cap. In this case, I wonder if the different numbers for the same size of food container have something to do with their dissimilar sealing

surfaces which made one (315) a tumbler and the other (415) a jar.

After nappy jar 415 was pressed, it started out its commercial life with imported Bismarck herring inside. These contents were packed by the Vita Fish Preserving Works of New York. I suspect, but can't prove, that nappy tumbler 315 had a similar fate. However, once its contents were exhausted; it could very well have invoked its reuse value and took up a second vocation as a covered salt container for its owner.

Figure 10

This example would be under the plain tumbler category in the numeric inventory for nappy tumblers in the book *Tumblers, Jars and Bottles*.[11] It falls in between numbers 308 and 318 therein.

Final Comments

This report verified the existence of four more Capstan Glass products, two additional Perfection Glass separating ware pieces plus a Group III variation of a Russell Uhl screw cap and the research value of the Canadian Intellectual Properties Office. This swath of items is what I collect and document for those that follow us in the bottle and jar hobby. If you have other items from the Anchor, Capstan or Perfection Glass Companies that you are willing to share, please don't hesitate to contact me directly so that we can discuss your finds and appropriately record them. BL

(Endnotes)

1, 2 *Tumblers, Jars and Bottles*; A Product Identification Guide for the Capstan Glass Company, South Connellsville, Pennsylvania, Barry L. Bernas, 239 Ridge Avenue, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, 17325, 2007, pg. 60.

3 Ibid, pg. 100.

4 *Patents Issued to William Beach Fenn* (Part 1 of 2), Barry L. Bernas, *Bottles and Extras*, January-February 2007, pgs. 29-30. William B. Fenn's application for this idea started to be processed at the United States Patent Office on February 7, 1900. He was issued a patent (664,472) for this concept on December 25, 1900.

5 No. 89580, Department of Agriculture, PATENT BRANCH, Little Falls, N.Y., Filed: March 21/23, 1900, Application for Patent, Water Bottle (bouteille a eau), Inventor: William Beach Fenn, Owner: Ezra D. Beckwith, Patent Number 68361, Issued: August 7, 1900.

6 *Crockery and Glass Journal*, February 1,1900, pg. 26 and *Patents Issued to William Beach Fenn* (Part 1 of 2), Barry L. Bernas, *Bottles and Extras*, January-February 2007, pgs. 29-30.

7 *Cataloging a Russell Uhl-Patented, Glass Screw Cap*, Barry L. Bernas, *Bottles and Extras*, Spring 2004, pgs. 29-33 and *Perfection Glass Company, One of Many Glass Houses in Washington, Pennsylvania*, 239 Ridge Avenue, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, 17325, 2005, pgs. XIX-XXIX.

8 *Tumblers, Jars and Bottles*; A Product Identification Guide for the Capstan Glass Company, South Connellsville, Pennsylvania, Barry L. Bernas, 239 Ridge Avenue, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, 17325, 2007, pg. 65. I put 557 in this section along with 517 and 537 even though its panels had rounded downward bottom segments vice the horizontal ones of its two compatriots.

9 *Patents Issued to William Beach Fenn* (Part 1 of 2), Barry L. Bernas, *Bottles and Extras*, January-February 2007, pg. 31.

10 The description of this item indicated the cover had the number 402 on it. In my opinion, this factor in itself is indicative of the top belonging to another piece altogether.

11 *Tumblers, Jars and Bottles*; A Product Identification Guide for the Capstan Glass Company, South Connellsville, Pennsylvania, Barry L. Bernas, 239 Ridge Avenue, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, 17325, 2007, pg. 60.