

Other Packing Jars

By Barry L. Bernas

Prologue

In past projects, I've discussed the embossed/unembossed SIMPLEX (within a diamond), the unembossed Sunshine and the unmarked probable Federal packing jars and their accompanying glass closures.¹ In this piece, I'm taking another excursion away from my familiar trails laid out for the Anchor, Capstan and Perfection Glass Companies. This time I want to first present other probable food packing vessels that I've encountered while doing data collection on the above containers and then speculate a bit about the proper covers for them.

Three Jars in this Category

For this discussion, I have three containers to detail. They are all machine made, clear in color, cylindrical in shape and basically unembossed. The fifth thread which ties these early probable commercial food jars together is the finish pressed onto each one. It is my opinion that this part of the jar can be one of the decisive factors in making a determination as to what kind of closure was to compliment these vessels.

A Word of Caution

While I'm unfolding the data about these jars, it should be kept foremost in mind that I've not been able to locate much if any ephemera on these examples. As a result, aside from my theory about the probable closure identification value of their finishes, I've no other means of substantiating the likely correctness of the cover for any of the three models that follow.

Put another way, have the sealing components that appeared on two of the three jars in this article been mates since their initial production or did they become forced partners through the personal intervention of a concerned third party at some later date? Without comparative examples from company advertisements or product catalogs to review, who can tell for sure?

In two instances, a probable packing container was found with a glass screw cap. While of seemingly potential help, this fact also added another element of uncertainty to my issue of jar and sealer association. I'm sure you have heard someone make the

statement that since a jar was found with a particular sealer on it that the closure thereon must be an original one. In some cases, this time-honored hobby saying turned out to be true. However, in the three jars that follow, you'll see that this motto doesn't necessarily hold water, as they also say.

Thus, in coming to a conclusion about the proper sealer for a particular jar in this presentation, I was forced by circumstances to construct my own assessment based upon the clues that were available and personal observation.

Introduction

The earliest reference I could find to any of these other packing jars came from 1982. In his "Fruit Jar Newsletter" column in *Old Bottle Magazine*, Bob Cummins wrote the following.

"...Also interesting in this illustration is the advocacy of what we might call mustard jars for use as honey jars and the glass lidded Simplex or Sunshine jar for the same use...The styles of jars shown above were introduced in 1908 and 1909..."

One of the supposed mustard turned honey containers can be viewed in **Figure 1**. As you can see, the unembossed, clear in color, cylindrically shaped jar sits under a glass cover with a jeweled crown profile.³

Unfortunately, no source was given for this extract. But on the positive side of the ledger, the depiction in **Figure 1** suggests that several more packing jars in the SIMPLEX-Sunshine-Federal styles were manufactured and that some could take at least the jeweled crown cover as its sealer. Perhaps, one of the three jars in this analysis represents the vessel in **Figure 1**.

Jar One

Under this category, I've identified two similar examples that were discovered with different all-glass screw caps on them. For ease of reference and distinction, I'll refer to each model as either jar number 79 or jar number 105.

Figure 2 contains a photograph of both specimens. On the left is jar 79 and to its right is jar 105. As you can clearly see, both are unlabeled and identical in design.



Figure 2

Each completely clear vessel holds 10-ounces of liquid measured full up at the lip. Both are 4 1/4 inches tall without the screw cap. Their weights are seven and one-quarter and seven and one-half ounces, respectively sans their internally threaded sealer. Around the mid-point of their squat and cylindrically shaped body is a similar 2 5/8 inches measurement for an outer diameter.

The finish on jars number 79 and 105 consists of a threaded area which is 7/16 of an inch long with two side seams that don't align with the body's side seams. On these specimens, if the threaded area side seams are positioned in a north to south orientation, the side seams on the container's body would be in the east to west compass regions.

On each sample, there is a 1/8 inch wide semicircular shaped screw thread which starts just below the smooth lip. It winds around two turns before disappearing into the shoulder of the jar. On either vessel's finish, there is a 7/16 inch tall, upside down and backwards embossed number 3 (jar 105) or a number 4 (jar 79) just before the start of the screw thread. See **Figure 3** for a photo of the finish on these models. Jar 79 is on the left with 105 beside it.



Figure 3

Right after the threaded area, there is a horizontal mold seam that separates the finish from the body on either packing container. The shoulder on each version starts out with a smooth and nearly vertical surface that is 3/16 inch in vertical length.

The next part of the shoulder unfolds right after this neck-like segment. It is smooth and slants outward and down at an approximate one hundred degree angle before curving directly downward. The total length for this segment (vertical and slanted section) is about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch on both examples.

Thereafter, the vertical side wall of the vessel commences. The outer surface on either container is smooth. There is no trace of a plate mold on the front or rear sections. Along the sides of the body on both jars are two vertical mold seams that run from the horizontal mold seam between the threaded region and the neck-like shoulder to the circular bottom parting line on the underneath bearing surface.

Both of these jars have a post bottom mold style of base. The bottom parting line (circle) on each of their bearing surfaces has a $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches outer diameter. Between this seam and the valve mark is a curved down ($\frac{1}{4}$ inch) and inward smooth and flat area ($\frac{7}{16}$ inch) that is $\frac{11}{16}$ inch in combined width. The valve mark on these models has an outer diameter of $\frac{11}{16}$ inch. Ironically, a $\frac{5}{16}$ inch tall number 1 is embossed in the center of the valve mark on both. In **Figure 4**, the base on the left-hand jar belongs to number 79 while its opposite mate goes with number 105.

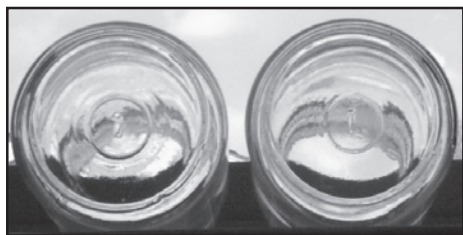


Figure 4

As I mentioned in the introduction to this category (Jar One), both containers were discovered with a different style of glass sealer. **Figure 5** has a picture of each one.



Figure 5

The cover on the left came on jar number 79. This specimen is made to William B. Fenn's May 3, 1904 patent. It is in the jeweled crown motif. Fourteen evenly spaced, stogie-shaped, $\frac{5}{8}$ inch long grippers are positioned around its slanted inward outer skirt.

Its top surface has a two-tiered circular depressed profile with embossing on both

levels. Around the top of the first depression is the abbreviation – PAT.APLD.FOR - with the inscription – *Trade Mark Registered* – opposite it. In the center of the second circularly depressed region is the embossed word – SIMPLEX – which is surrounded by a raised diamond pattern. The inner surface on this closure starts with a $\frac{5}{16}$ inch wide circular flat segment followed by a raised circular plane. The top surface of this plane consists of a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch wide, circular, slanting downward section followed by a raised ring with a $\frac{7}{8}$ inch outer diameter. The inner part of this ring has a circular concave shaped profile.

The inner skirt on this cap angles inward from the bottom edge to the inner surface for $\frac{7}{16}$ inch. Along it runs a $\frac{1}{8}$ inch wide semicircular shape raised screw thread.

My reference guide listing for this cover would be: II 2.2.3.2.a.3.b.3.c.2.d.1.e.14.f.1.⁴

The glass cover that came on jar 105 is shown on the right in **Figure 5**. This specimen is in the Sunshine motif. It has fourteen evenly spaced, stogie shaped grippers around its slanted inward outer skirt. The top has a one tiered circular depressed profile without any embossing.

The inner surface on this closure has a $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter depressed circular region in the center which is surrounded by a raised $\frac{3}{16}$ inch wide flat circular level.

The inner skirt on this Sunshine cap angles inward from the bottom edge to the inner surface for $\frac{5}{8}$ inch. Along it runs a $\frac{1}{8}$ inch wide semicircular shape raised screw thread.⁵

Jar Two

The second jar has a dark blue, gold, red and white colored label on it which reads: AMERICA (bald eagle facing left with wings spread perched on two slanting inward poles {forming a v} with two American flags attached {ensigns facing outward}) FANCY MUSTARD (in a fancy banner) KIDWELL BROS. CO. Baltimore, Maryland. See **Figure 6**.

This completely clear vessel holds 1 pint of liquid measured full up at the lip. It is $5\frac{1}{8}$ inches tall without

the screw cap and weighs nine and one-fourth ounces sans the sealer. Around the mid-point of its squat and cylindrically shaped body is a 3 inches measurement for an outer diameter.

Figure 7 has a picture of this covered mustard container.

Its finish consists of only a seamless threaded area which is $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch long. The $\frac{1}{8}$ inch wide semicircular shaped screw thread on it starts just below the smooth lip. It winds around about a turn and one-half before disappearing into the shoulder of the jar. Refer to **Figure 8**.



Figure 7

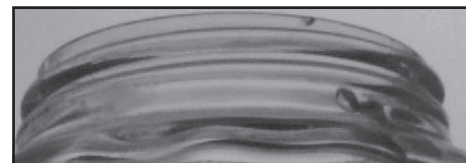


Figure 8

Right after the threaded area, the shoulder starts out with a smooth and sharply slanted downward (almost vertical) neck-like surface that is $\frac{3}{16}$ inch in length. At its bottom point, the next part of the shoulder unfolds. It is smooth and slants outward and down at an approximate forty-five degree angle before curving directly downward. The total length for this segment is about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch.

Thereafter, the vertical side wall of the vessel commences. Two vertical mold seams on the body section run from the horizontal mold seam between the threaded region and the shoulder to the circular bottom parting line on the underneath bearing surface.

Behind the label, the front outer surface on this mustard container is smooth. On its reverse exterior, there is a $1\frac{7}{8}$ inches in diameter plate mold outline.

Turning to the inside of this jar, there are eleven panels about $\frac{5}{8}$ of an inch wide that are positioned to start just below where the bottom point of the curved shoulder and straight part of the body come together. These flutes have a convex outer form over the top one-half of the inner surface. Thereafter, the interior is smooth to the base. The slightly out of focus picture in **Figure 9** shows this internal feature quite distinctly.

The base on this mustard container is



Figure 6

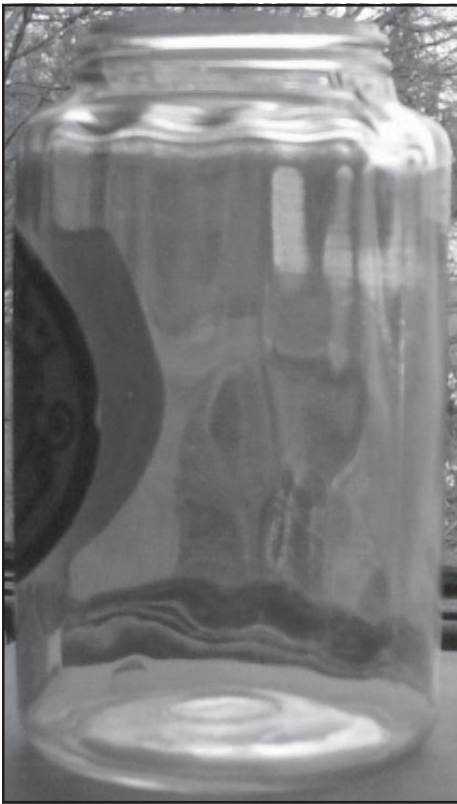


Figure 9

in a post bottom mold style. The bottom parting line (circle) on its bearing surface has a $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches outer diameter to it. Between this seam and the valve mark is a sloping down and inward smooth area that is $\frac{13}{16}$ inch in curved width. And finally, the valve mark has an outer diameter of $\frac{7}{8}$ inch. **Figure 10** is germane.

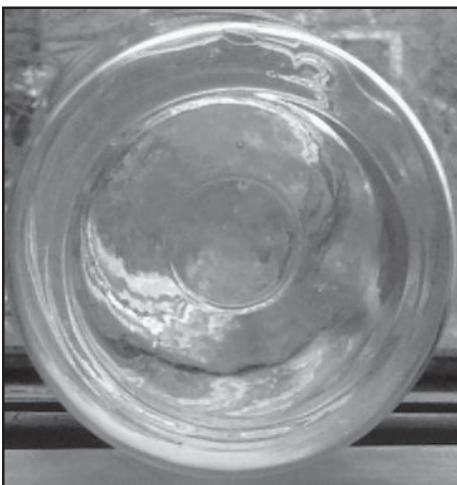


Figure 10

The cover on this jar is in the curved crown motif. It has fourteen grippers around its outer skirt which curve up and over the top surface.

Its top has a two-tiered circular profile with - PAT.APLD.FOR - and - Trade Mark Registered - embossing positioned above and below on the first raised circular tier.

Between the preliminary embossing is the raised inscription SIMPLEX enclosed in a diamond on the second depressed circular tier.

The inner surface has a $1\frac{9}{16}$ inches in diameter raised circular plane in the center. Its top surface consists of a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch wide circular slanting inward smooth surface followed by a semicircular raise ring about $\frac{1}{16}$ inch in width. In the center of the raised ring is a circular flat surface with a 1 inch outer diameter.

The inner skirt of the cap angles inward from the bottom edge to the inner surface for $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. Along it runs a $\frac{1}{8}$ inch wide semicircular shape raised screw thread. **Figure 11** has a photograph of this closure.

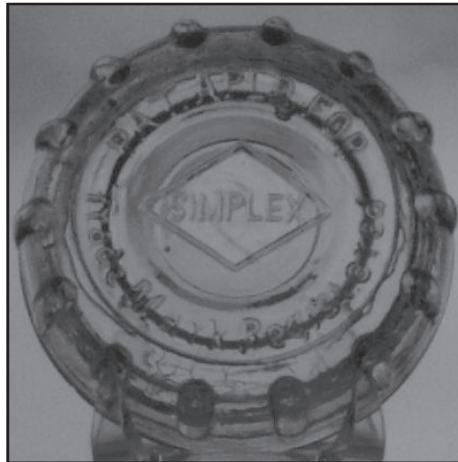


Figure 11

My reference guide listing for this screw cap would be II 3.2.3.2. a.3.b.3.c.2.d.1.e. 14.f.2.⁶

Jar Three

This unlabeled and completely clear vessel holds nearly 10-ounces of liquid measured full up at the lip. It is $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches tall without the screw cap and weighs seven and three-quarter ounces sans the sealer. Around the mid-point of its squat and cylindrically shaped body is a $2\frac{7}{16}$ inches measurement for its outer diameter. **Figure 12** has a photo of this container.

The finish on Jar Three is unique. It consists of two s e a m l e s s t h r e a d e d sections. The



Figure 12

first is located between the lip and the start of the neck. It is $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch long. On it is a $\frac{1}{8}$ inch wide semicircular shaped screw thread which starts just below the lip. It winds around this part of the finish two turns before disappearing into the neck of the jar.

The next section juts outward from the base of the first at a ninety degree angle for about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch before changing direction into a one hundred seventy degree angle for $\frac{5}{16}$ of an inch. On the outer slightly angled outward surface of this extended circular neck feature is another screw thread of the same width and shape as the initial one described above it. It begins about $1\frac{13}{16}$ inches in front of its above mate and winds around the neck about one and one-third times before merging into the container's shoulder. A depiction of this region is featured in **Figure 13**.

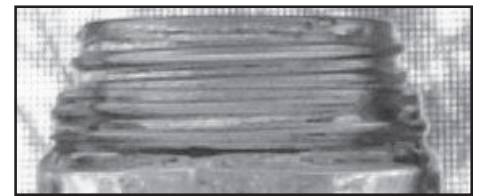


Figure 13

Right after the threaded areas, the shoulder starts out with a smooth and nearly vertical surface that is $\frac{1}{16}$ inch or less in length. The next part of the shoulder is smooth and curves gently outward and down for about $\frac{3}{16}$ inch. Thereafter, the vertical side wall of the vessel commences. Two vertical mold seams on the body section run from the horizontal mold seam between the dual threaded finish and the shoulder to the bottom parting line. A total body length for this vessel is $3\frac{7}{8}$ inches.

The outer surface on this container is smooth. There is no trace of a plate mold on either the front or rear sections.

Jar Three has a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch long, cup bottom mold style of base. After an initially curved segment, the underneath side has a $\frac{3}{16}$ inch wide bearing surface. Between the innermost point of the bearing surface and the outer reaches of the value mark is a $\frac{9}{16}$ inch wide curved down and inward section. The valve mark on this model has an outer diameter of $\frac{5}{8}$ inch. See **Figure 14**.

Unfortunately, the sealer that came on this specimen was missing. Whatever its construction, it surely must have been unique.

Although I've no confirmation that my next assessment is correct, I have a nagging suspicion that Jar Three was sealed by

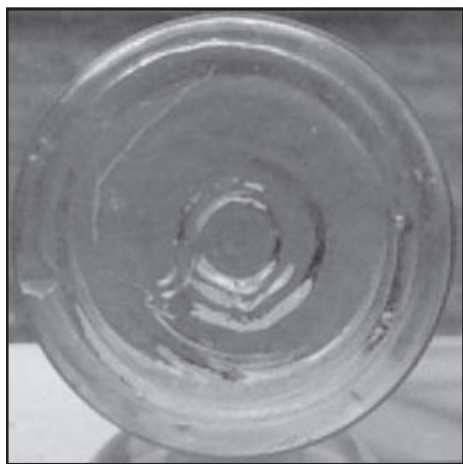


Figure 14

another style of William B. Fenn patented cover.

In a previous *Bottles and Extras* article, I showed a quite elaborate, one-time use separating metal cover.⁷ While the letters patent description of this innovation and how it was employed to seal a jar didn't mention dual screw threads on the container's finish, a simple upgrade to Mr. Fenn's original idea would make this cap and Jar Three compatriots. Once you have reviewed the above reference, you are equally equipped as I to decide whether this could have been the case or not.

Observation One

In my opinion, only one of the three examples in this article has a finish designed to take a William B. Fenn closure. That specimen is listed under Jar Two.

The threaded area on this labeled mustard jar slants inward from its bottom point to the lip. As a result, the thread is canted in the same direction. These two features plus the seamless aspect of the finish mentioned above are all seen on a container made to receive an internally threaded glass screw cap pressed to the May 3, 1904 patent specifications of Mr. Fenn. A picture of these covers can be seen as the left-hand example in Figure 5 and in Figure 11.

To confirm my suspicion, I tried a similar size and style of cover with an in-place rubber packing ring on the mouth of Jar Two. It fit and screwed down onto it perfectly. This trail test added more confidence to my assessment that this version of sealer was the correct one for this mustard jar.

Observation Two

In the case of Jar One, I doubt that the May 3, 1904 patented or Sunshine closures

(Figure 5) that came on these containers were original. Two clues convinced me that my hunch is probably correct.

The first focuses on a seamless threaded region as an essential ingredient to seal with either of these two glass screw covers.

The embossed and/or unembossed SIMPLEX (within a diamond) and the unembossed Sunshine jars were pressed with a threaded area sans any seams. Associated with these packing containers were the SIMPLEX and Sunshine designed covers, respectively.

Since north to south seams in the finish of Jar One offered the potential for air to sneak in under the bond of the vertical packing ring/muslin disc in the respective SIMPLEX/Sunshine sealers, the Fenn patented (left side in Figure 5) or inspired (right side in Figure 5) style of closure probably wouldn't be a good choice for these jars. It is my belief that Jar One was sealed on the lip vice finish by some other kind of screw cap.

The second factor is even more convincing. I tried to screw down over Jar One's finish a similar size May 3, 1904 patented closure with an in-place rubber packing ring. It wouldn't turn even one-third of the way onto this region. Unfortunately, I don't have a Sunshine jar with an original composition sealing disc in the cover. As a result, I couldn't test my second finding any further to see if the same held true for the Sunshine cap as well. Nonetheless, I have a sneaking suspicion that it wouldn't.

Observation Three

The same latter test was also tried on the first screw thread on Jar Three with the same result as Jar One. So neither the SIMPLEX nor Sunshine type of glass cover was likely meant for this dual threaded model.

Until proven otherwise, I still think Jar Three could have taken a metal cover made to another William B. Fenn patent. Only time will tell if my supposition gains anymore credibility.

Conclusion

Besides the smooth lipped, embossed or unembossed SIMPLEX (within a diamond) and the FLACCUS BROS. STEERS HEAD FRUIT JAR inscribed packing containers, there is at least one other comparable machine made, clear in color, cylindrical in shape, basically unembossed jar with a seamless and canted finish that took the

May 3, 1904 patented glass screw cap.⁸

Are there more jars that employed this same style of cover? I can't rule out the possibility. With luck, many others may be marched to the forefront and be authenticated. If you can help force this act to occur, don't hesitate to report your finds for the hobby's benefit.

BLB

Endnotes:

¹ *Perfection Glass Company, One of Many Glass Houses in Washington, Pennsylvania*, Barry L. Bernas, 239 Ridge Avenue, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, 17325, 2005, pgs. III-XVIII; *Cataloging Process for the Fenn-Designed, 1904 Patented, Screw Cap*, Barry L. Bernas, *The Guide To Collecting Fruit Jars Fruit Jar Annual Volume 10 – 2005*, Jerome McCann, 5003 W. Berwyn Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, 60630-1501, pgs. 4-20; *Sunshine Jar: Myth or Reality?* Barry L. Bernas, *The Guide To Collecting Fruit Jars Fruit Jar Annual Volume 12 – 2007*, Jerome McCann, 5003 W. Berwyn Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, 60630-1501, pgs. 9-20; *The SIMPLEX (within an elongated diamond) Embossed and Unembossed Series of Packers' Jars*, Barry L. Bernas, *Bottles and Extras*, Sept.-Oct. 2007, pgs. 50-56 and *An Unlikely Find!*, Barry L. Bernas, *Bottles and Extras*, Fall 2006, pgs. 13-15 and 17. These references provide all of the information I've uncovered on the SIMPLEX in a diamond, Sunshine and probable Federal food packing jars.

² "Fruit Jar Newsletter," Bob Cummins, *Old Bottle Magazine*, April 1982, pgs. 10-11.

³ *Cataloging Process for the Fenn-Designed, 1904 Patented, Screw Cap*, Barry L. Bernas, *The Guide To Collecting Fruit Jars Fruit Jar Annual Volume 10 – 2005*, Jerome McCann, 5003 W. Berwyn Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, 60630-1501, pgs. 4-20 and *Perfection Glass Company, One of Many Glass Houses in Washington, Pennsylvania*, Barry L. Bernas, 239 Ridge Avenue, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, 17325, 2005, pgs. III-XVIII. For more detailed information about this kind of glass screw cap, please see the above references.

⁴ *Ibid*, pgs. 15 and XVIII, respectively.

⁵ "Another Glass Cap and Jar Inspired by William B. Fenn," Barry L. Bernas, *Bottles and Extras*, Spring 2006, pgs 54-55 and 57. For more details about this screw

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Left: Woosies (embossed, clear glass)
Woosies / Beverages / RJC
(on the bottom, "Real Juice Co. /
Cap. 10 Fl. Oz. / 242-1-B / LG 53 /
Dallas, Texas
Right: Sonny Boy in clear glass.



Left: Joys (white ACL, clear glass)
Joys Beverages / Conts. 7 Fl. Oz.
Hires Bottling Company
Alexandria & Lake Charles LA.,
with five-pointed stars and bubbles
(On the bottom, "33-B-7 / 2")
Right: Uncle Jo Syphon Water
(white/blue ACL, clear glass)
Uncle Jo / Syphon Water / Phone 2-2391 /
Ft. Worth Tex. / Cont. 36 Fl. Oz.
with a six-pointed star around the nozzle

Syphon bottles also exist in blue, green, and amber.

There are other variations of the Uncle Joe, such as an 8-ounce amber like the mini (pictured on previous page) and an 8-ounce like the mini in clear.

My collection also has the Sonny Boy in both the shape of the amber Uncle Joe (pictured on the left) and the Aunt Ida, but in clear glass. I have only seen the Aunt Ida in the green example pictured, but other variations could exist.

References:

Courtney Glazer's family history.

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Other Packer Jars

Continued from page 56.

cap and the jar it sealed, please review the above reference.

⁶ Endnote number 3 has references which can provide more information on this screw cap.

⁷ "Patents Issued to William Beach Fenn Part 2 of 2," Barry L. Bernas, *Bottles and Extras*, March-April 2007, pgs. 36-41. See Figure 17 and the patent verbiage that accompanies it.

⁸ "Granny Kath's Kitchen," Vivian S.

Kath, *Antique Bottle & Glass Collector*, October 1995, pg. 56; "The Label Space," Tom Caniff, *Antique Bottle & Glass Collector*, July 2006, pg. 41 and "Fruit Jar Rambles," Tom Caniff, *Antique Bottle & Glass Collector*, January 2007, pg. 6. The first reference initially reported another probable packing container with a May 3, 1904 patented screw cap on it. This machine made, clear and cylindrically shaped container had the abbreviation – T. C. Co. – embossed on it. The second source reported the same style of embossed jar and glass cover with a label on it for prepared mustard

from Flaccus Brothers of Wheeling, West Virginia. The last update from Tom Caniff offered a probable identification for the T. C. Co. abbreviation. This marking likely stands for the Twitchell-Champlin Company of Portland, Maine. This jar represents the fourth packing container that took the May 3, 1904 closure.

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The Dating Game: Hermann Heye Glasfabrick

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Perrine, Lowell E.

1985 "Directory Issue 1985." *Glass Industry* 66(3):1-170.

Quinn, Tom

1998 "The German Connection." In *Whiskey and Liquor Containers from the State of Oregon* by John L. Thomas. Privately published, Soquel, California.

Toulouse, Julian Harrison

1971 *Bottle Makers and Their Marks*.

Thomas Nelson, New York.

Wilson, Rex

1981 *Bottles on the Western Frontier*. University of Arizona Press, Tucson.

Footnotes:

¹ Answer.com (2007) stated that Gerresheimer did not begin exporting bottles until 1882. Although this disagrees with Quinn's claim that the plant exported bottles in the 1860s, we have no way to determine which source is correct. It is certain that bottles marked "HEYE" were imported into the U.S. by at least the early 1860s, although most of those are also marked "BREMEN."

² Answer.com (2007) placed the date of the first Owens machine at the Gerresheimer plant in 1908 and claimed it was the first in Europe.

³ The Bottle Research Group consists of Bill Lockhart, Bill Lindsey, Carol Serr and Pete Schulz.

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