Another New Find

By Barry L. Bernas

Tylersport Show

You never can tell when a new find will make its presence known! My most recent discovery was made at the above event.

By way of a lead-in, I had struck up a conversation about the May 3rd, 1904 patented screw cap with Richard Dalton at the South River, New Jersey get-together in early February 2006. After letting me examine and measure a SIMPLEX in a diamond top embossed glass sealer that was on a FLACCUS BROS. STEERS HEAD FRUIT JAR marked container on his sales table, Mr. Dalton said he had more closures of this type at home. He offered to let me inspect them at a future date. Of course, my hope was that an unreported variation would be among his examples.

The rendezvous site was the Tylersport, Pennsylvania show in mid-March. Upon arriving on a rainy Sunday morning, I met Richard at his table. As promised, he brought seven models of William B. Fenn's closure for me to look over. After a close review of each one, I determined a seventh shape for this style of glass screw cap had been discovered.

Hope Materializes

In 2005, I proposed a methodology for identifying and cataloging a closure made to the May 3rd, 1904 patent specifications.¹ At that time, I'd uncovered only five outer patterns for this sealer. For ease of identification, these were given the nicknames: Flaccus-like (now Flaccusesque), jeweled crown, curved crown, domed crown and hat. Later in the same year, I came across another motif. When I updated the cataloging process in my book about the Perfection Glass Company, I called this one a domed hat.² Now about a year later, a seventh version has come to light.

In both the article and book, I made the comment that there must be more group, class and category variations of this screw cap out in the collecting public just waiting to be found. This statement of mine seemed to be spot on the mark because since I made it, two new outer profiles and a fifth embossing type have been found and documented.³ Thanks to hobby enthusiasts like Richard Dalton of Brick, New Jersey, the knowledge base about this glass cap continues to expand.

Kin of the Curved Crown

The standard profiles for a curved crown model can be seen in **Figure 1**. Underneath the gripping tools on the screw cap, the outer skirt either ascends nearly straight up from the bottom edge until about the two-thirds of the way up point, curving upward thereafter until its apex (top model) or the same portion of the skirt moves up on more of a slant until the curve inward begins at the two-thirds juncture (bottom model).

Regardless of the underlying design



Figure 1

characteristics of outer skirt, the side wall of the closure serves as the foundation for the ribs. Its contour gives the distinctive bended inward molding at the top of each rib. Also, this part of the sealer permits every gripper to reach over the top surface of the cover as seen on both examples in Figure 1.

The seventh shape is pictured in **Figure 2**. As you examine it, you will notice right off that the underlying shell of the cover resembles the upper sample in Figure 1. But there is where the similarity ends. Unlike its mates in Figure 1, the ribs don't jut out over the cap's top surface. Rather,



Figure 2

these stop abruptly right at it.

The outer skirt on this variation has a vertical 1/16th inch long addition at its uppermost segment. This feature is clearly visible on the sealer in Figure 2. Instead of the ribs stopping short of this section as is the case with the domed crown model, this example has the tip of each gripper blended into the side of the vertical segment. Due to this unusual characteristic, I've chosen to call this new outer motif a truncated curved crown.

More Details

The inner surface of this version of a truncated curved crown has a raised circular plane in its center. This would place it within Group II. See **Figure 3**.

Between the base of its inner skirt and



Figure 3

the slanted rise to the plane's side wall is a $^{1/4^{th}}$ of an inch wide smooth surface. On the examples in Figure 1, this circular area is either flat or slightly angled. However, on the seventh profile, the same location has about a forty-five degree slant to it, making it much different than its other curved crown counterparts.

The interior plane rises out of the inner surface of the sealer on an inward angle to a height of $3/16^{th}$ of an inch. At the top is a circular slanted downward area. The angled inward portion is $5/16^{th}$ of an inch wide. At the center of the plane's top surface is a raised semicircular shaped ring. The interior diameter of this flat surfaced geometric form is $7/8^{th}$ of an inch.

The cover in Figure 2 is ¹³/16th of an inch in height. The initial top surface is comprised of a ¹/8th inch wide flat ledge. Inside of it is a two tiered circular design with embossing on each layer. Along the top of the first is the inscribed phrase -PAT.APLD.FOR. Markings around the opposite side spell out the words - *Trade Mark Registered*. In the center of the second tier is the trademark of the Perfection Glass Company - SIMPLEX in an elongated