

The Dating Game

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Cunningham Family Glass Holdings

This is the third part in a mini-series of manufacturer's marks studies. We began with the Illinois Glass Co., then presented the Ihmsen Glass factories because of the I G Co connection. Since a member of the Ihmsen family joined the Cunninghams in the glass business, the Cunningham family seems the next logical group to describe.

The final part of the series will be the Illinois Pacific glass factories, the western segment of the Illinois family. The Owens-Illinois article, the second column of "The Dating Game," was actually the final installment of the series, and we will eventually offer some new information about the Owens Glass Co.

The Cunningham family owned, either completely or in part, five glass companies, all in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Three of these were noted by distinctive marks on bottles. For a biographical sketch of Dominec O. Cunningham, see Creswick (1995:281).

W. Cunningham & Co (1849-1857)

In 1845, Wilson Cunningham and George Jackson began a window-glass and bottle factory (name unknown) on Water St. in Pittsburgh. Four years later (1849), brothers Wilson and Robert Cunningham,

along with George Duncan formed W. Cunningham & Co.¹ and established the Pittsburgh City Glass Works. Apparently, Jackson withdrew from the company about this time. Due to a depression during this period, the company may have experienced financial difficulties. Possibly because of this, Dominick Ihmsen joined the firm in 1857,² and the partners renamed the company as Cunninghams & Ihmsen (Innes 1976:37; Knittle 1924:344; McKearin & McKearin 1941:605; McKearin & Wilson 1978:156; Toulouse 1971:119; Van Rensselaer 1969:181). An 1892 Cunninghams & Co. ad (Putnam 1965) noted that the firm was "established 1849," indicating that the Cunningham family considered that the initial date of their ongoing operations at the Pittsburgh City Glass Works.

Cunningham & Johnson (1867-1886)

W. Cunningham & Co. established a plant on Brown St., making "green glass, flasks, etc." in 1849. Although the sources are a bit unclear, this may be the "Pittsburgh City Glass Works" discussed above, or it may be a separate plant. McKearin & McKearin (1941:607) noted that about 1867 the Brown St. plant was operated by Cunningham & Johnson. The plant did not

return to control by the Cunninghams (Cunninghams & Co.) until 1886. Unfortunately, nothing more is known about Johnson, and he had no further involvement with the Cunninghams. The timing, however, is interesting. It seems that this firm began just about the time that Cunninghams & Ihmsen was formed (see below).

Cunninghams & Ihmsen (1866-1878)

When Dominick Ihmsen joined W. Cunningham & Co. in 1866,³ he was apparently important enough to cause a name change to Cunningham & Ihmsen (McKearin & McKearin 1941:605; McKearin & Wilson 1978:156). When Ihmsen retired in 1878, Dominec Cunningham (Wilson Cunningham's son) joined the firm, and the name was changed to Cunninghams & Co. (McKearin & Wilson 1978:156; Toulouse 1971:120, 132).

There is some ambiguity as to whether the name should be Cunninghams or Cunningham. The name appeared in both forms. Toulouse (1971:132) suggested that use of the singular would have been earlier than the plural. Jay Hawkins' reply to our query about the singulars and plurals of Cunningham was so complete that it is included in full:

The Cunninghams and Cunningham and Ihmsen companies are extremely difficult to figure out. Up to 1866, the listing varies between Cunningham & Co. and Cunninghams & Co. From 1866 to 1869, the listing is Cunningham & Ihmsen. Only 1870 is it listed as Cunninghams & Ihmsen. From 1871 to 1878, it is listed as Cunningham & Ihmsen. In 1879 to 1882, the listing goes back to Cunningham & Co. After that it is



Figure 1: Cunninghams & Ihmsen Bottle Base [eBay]

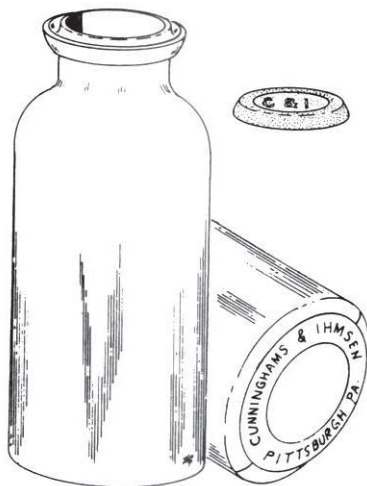


Figure 2: Cunninghams & Ihmsen Fruit Jar [Creswick 1995:39]



Figure 3: C & I Mark on Base [eBay]

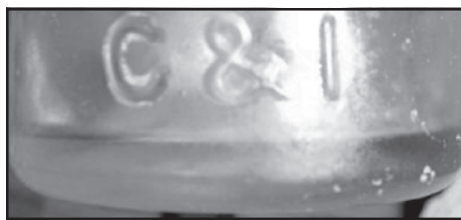


Figure 4: C & I Mark on Heel [eBay]

Cunninghams & Co. My best guess is that a son or perhaps the nephew (Dominec) joined the company briefly in 1870, only to go on to another company. Perhaps I'll find out some day.

Cunninghams & Co. (1878-1907)

Upon Ihmsen's retirement in 1878, the firm became Cunninghams & Co.⁴ In 1880, Dominec Cunningham left to start his own company, and his father died soon after (1882). By at least 1887, the firm specialized in beer bottles. The firm became Cunninghams & Co, Ltd. (i.e., a limited partnership) about 1886⁵ and remained in business until 1907⁶ (City directories; Ayres et al. 1980:12; McKearin & Wilson 1978:156; Toulouse 1971:99, 120-121). Empirical data derived from Wisconsin soft drink bottles, however, suggests that the change to a limited partnership was not reflected on bottle marks until about 1892 (see discussion of C & Co and C & Co LIM marks below). Jay Hawkins (personal correspondence) checked the Pittsburgh directories and discovered that Cunninghams & Co. Lim. was first listed in 1886. The listings remained the same until 1901 or 1902. The 1903 directory no longer had the Lim. nor did the designation return. According to

Roller (1983:99), the firm was listed in the 1904 Glass Factory Directory as Cunninghams & Co., Inc. Thus, the company probably incorporated in 1903. With the new information, the most likely chronology for the company is:

Cunninghams & Co.	1878-1886
Cunninghams & Co., Lim.	1886-1903
Cunninghams & Co., Inc.	1903-1907

D. O. Cunningham (1880-1931)

Dominec Cunningham left the firm controlled by his father and uncles to start his own company in 1880. From the beginning, he was competing with his relatives in the beer bottle trade. The company incorporated in 1897, which may account for some of the controversy about the name (variously recorded as D. O. Cunningham, D. O. Cunningham & Co., or D. O. Cunningham Glass Co.). Although Dominec died on March 26, 1911, the company remained in business until 1931 (Ayres et al. 1980:13; Knittle 1924:344; McKearin & Wilson 1978:156-157; Toulouse 1971:120, 163-164).

There is some dispute about the final disposition of the company. Toulouse (1971:163-164) claimed the firm closed in 1937. Creswick (1995:264) repeated the Toulouse date. McKearin & Wilson (1978:157), however, stated that the company was taken over by All-Pak in 1931. Ayres and his associates (1980:14) stated that the company remained listed in Pittsburgh city directories until 1959.

The confusion was clarified by the All-Pak website (2005):

All-Pak, Inc. was established in 1958 through the combination of Cunningham Glass Company and Allied Can and Container Company.

Cunningham Glass Company was a manufacturer of glass containers from 1849 to 1931. In 1931, Cunningham ceased manufacturing and established themselves as a distributor for Owens-Illinois Glass company. To achieve success as a glass container distributor, it was essential to develop competencies for all types of customers. An extensive inventory of containers of various sizes, shapes, and colors was built and maintained. In addition, the company competitively shipped full truckloads of containers directly from the manufacturing plant.

Bottles and Marks

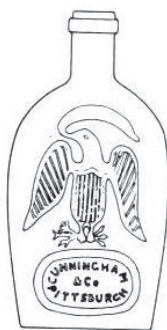
Creswick (1995:153) listed Cunninghams & Ihmsen as a maker of Mason jars (from the Pittsburgh city directory), although she did not note their mark on any actual jars. A Cunninghams & Co. ad from June 1892 listed "Specialties: Mineral or Soda, Ginger Ale, Beer, (Champagne shape, : : Bulb Neck or Export) Apollinaris, (Green, Ruby and : Imported Colors) Porter and Ale, Brandy, Hock Wine, Claret, Schnapps." The ad further advised, "Have made arrangements with Bottle Seal Co., of Baltimore, Md., for making any of the above bottles for the use of the Seal Stopper [also known as the Baltimore Loop stopper]. Bottles supplied with Patent Stoppers, attached ready for use, for Beer and Soda."

P. C. G. CO. (1852-1865)

Creswick (1995:172) noted this mark (with full punctuation) on a grooved-ring wax sealer fruit jar that was otherwise unmarked. Normally, these initials are connected to the Pacific Coast Glass Co. (1925-1930). However, she noted that the



(L) Figure 5: C & I Mark on Fruit Jar [Creswick 1995:39]



(R) Figure 6: Cunningham & Co. Flask [McKearin & Wilson 1980:579]



Figure 7: Cunningham & Co. Fruit Jar [Creswick 1995:39]



Figure 8: Detail of Pontil Mark with Cunningham & Co. Mark [eBay]

company would have been quite late to have made this type of jar. Alternatively, she assigned the mark to the Pittsburgh City Glass Works (Cunningham & Duncan), 1852-1865.

CUNNINGHAM & IHMSEN or CUNNINGHAMS & IHMSEN (1866-1878)

This mark is found on “wine and/or spirits” bottles as well as on the sides of fruit jars (McKearin & Wilson 1978:157, 673). At least one flask was made with the full company name embossed on the side (see last month’s column for photo). The mark is also embossed on the sides of fruit jars that bear the date of 1868 on the base. Grooved-ring wax sealers also bore the mark (with and without the “s”) on their bases, and one had CUNNINGHAMS & IHMSEN PITTSBURGH PA PATD 1868 on the base (Roller 1983:99). Roller also noted a lid that accompanied the PATD 1868 jar that was embossed C & I. He dated the jars and lid from the 1860s to 1876 [see **Figures 1 and 2**]. Toulouse (1969:84-85) dated the jar style at 1868-1879.

Roller (1983:99) told an interesting story about Cunningham & Ihmsen fruit jars. In discussing those marked PATD 1868, he stated:

What the 1868 patent date referred to is not known; but, in 1871, Wm. McCully & Co. sued Cunninghams & Ihmsen for infringing their Holcomb “Dictator Jar” patent rights. . . . In the court records, Cunninghams & Ihmsen stated that they had made fruit jars, starting August 1, 1868, that were very similar to the Dictator jars, only with a groove rather than a flat sealing surface. No mention was

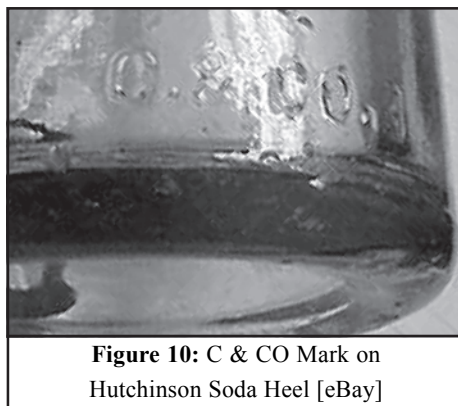


Figure 10: C & CO Mark on Hutchinson Soda Heel [eBay]

made of any specific patent for their jars, and perhaps they used the term “PATD” without the legal right to do so.

Another type of fruit jar manufactured by Cunninghams & Ihmsen was embossed A. STONE & C^O/PHILAD^A/MANUFACTURED BY/CUNNINGHAMS & IHMSEN/PITTSBURGH PA. These were grooved-ring wax sealers and came in aqua and green colors (Creswick 1995:205). A very similar jar was made by Cunninghams & Co. On fruit jars, the mark is on the base in both its singular and plural forms (Creswick 1995:39). Roller (1983:99) noted the STONES PATENT jars but claimed that the STONES PATENT was in “ghosted letters.”⁷

THE/HERO/INE was another jar made by the company and marked on the base either CUNNINGHAMS & IHMSEN PITTSBURGH, PA. or CUNNINGHAM & IHMSEN PITTSBURGH, PA. NOV 26 67 or C I P PATD NOV 26 1867 (Creswick 1995:84). Roller (1983:155) noted that the jar was made by several companies and that Cunninghams & Ihmsen made their version about 1867-1868.

C & I (1866-1878)

This mark is shown or noted in Innes (1976:218); Jones (1966:7; 1968:14),

Herskovitz (1978:8), Knittle (1927:441), McKearin and Wilson (1978:583), Toulouse (1971:132), Van Rensselaer (1969:32), Kroll (1972:3), and Wilson (1981:114). It was found on beer and soda bottle bases [**Figure 3**] and on flasks. This appears to be the only mark regularly used by the company and should be dated from 1866 to 1879, although the mark would have been on beer bottles from ca. 1873 to 1879. The mark is embossed horizontally across the center of soda and beer bases or on the heel [**Figure 4**], sometimes accompanied by a number.

The mark is also found on the bases of grooved-ring wax sealer fruit jars (Creswick 1995:39, 184 – **Figure 5**), as well as THE RESERVOIR, a fruit jar with an internal stopper. Two lugs were embossed inside the throat to take the stopper. Patent No. 136,240 was issued to Ella G. Haller for this type of jar/stopper combination on February 25, 1873. The jar was therefore made between 1873 and 1879.

Neither Ayres and his associates (1980) nor Wilson (1981) showed the C & I mark among the numerous beer bottles they examined. Herskovitz (1978:8) only noted five bottles, and those might have been soda bottles that were misidentified. Despite this omission, Cunninghams & Ihmsen may have been a major beer bottle producer. The factory sold bottles to Anheuser Busch in St. Louis. According to Innes (1976:230), the company shipped 1600 gross of beer bottles (230,400 containers) to the brewery in November 1877. Anheuser Busch bought bottles from only four companies prior to 1886, when Busch entered the bottle manufacturing field. One company was the Pittsburgh City Glass Co. (almost certainly a reference to the Pittsburgh City Glass Works owned by the Cunninghams). This questions whether Cunninghams &



Figure 9: C & CO Mark on Beer Bottle Base [Lockhart]

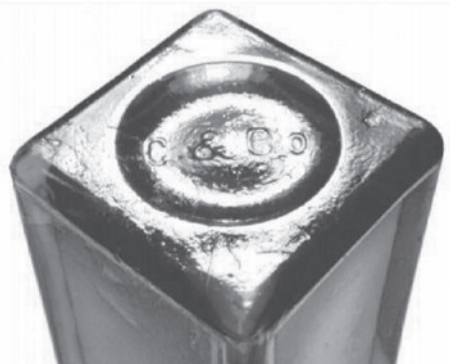


Figure 11: C & CO Mark on Bitters Base [eBay]



Figure 12: C & CO LIM Mark on Beer Bottle Base [eBay]



Figure 13: C & CO LIM Mark on Hutchinson Bottle Heel [eBay]

Ihmsen applied their C & I mark on generic beer bottles, although the dearth of marked containers may simply indicate that the firm began its beer bottle production near the end of its life (the 1877 contract was only a year before the change of name to Cunninghams & Co.

Peters (1996:9) dated the C & I mark 1865-1879. However, on numerous pages throughout his book (a total of more than 20 listings), he consistently dated the C & I mark to the 1870s. A few of the companies that used bottles marked C & I were in business in the 1860s, however, so the bottles could have been used during the earlier period. Peters' work provides solid evidence for the marks' being used throughout the 1870s. Kroll (1972:30, 50, 52, 67, 73, 75, 76, 98) noted eight C & I marks on Wisconsin beer bottles. His aggregate date ranges for the breweries involved (he did not attempt to date individual bottles) suggested a use period from the early 1870s to the early 1880s.

Griffenhagen and Bogard (1999:123) agreed on the general time period, giving 1867-1879 dates, and added that the mark appeared on medicinal bottles used by C. F. Goodman, Omaha, Nebraska, and Charles Schlitz, Milwaukee. According to Fike (1987:164), Goodman was a wholesale

and retail drug dealer from "at least 1874" until his death on January 11, 1895. Although Fike noted the use of C & I to mark Goodman's bottles, he did not add any specific date range for the involvement. Ring (1980:127) also listed the C & I mark on Goodman's Celebrated Mountain Herb Bitters and German Wine Bitters bottles.

C I & Sons (1855-1885)

Although this mark is probably unrelated to Cunninghams & Ihmsen, it was recorded by Freeman (1964:89) on a flying eagle flask. The reverse of the bottle showed clasped hands. Unfortunately, Freeman failed to add any other information. Griffenhagen and Bogard (1999:123) also listed the mark as used by C. Ihmsen & Sons from 1867 to 1885 on medicinal bottles.

CUNNINGHAM'S & CO., CUNNINGHAMS & CO., or CUNNINGHAM & CO. (1878-ca. 1891)

These variations of the mark were found on fruit jars and as part of the integral design on at least four flasks depicting eagles (along with other shapes - **Figure 6**). In at least three cases, the marking "& CO." was below the word CUNNINGHAM or CUNNINGHAMS (McKearin & McKearin 1941:509; McKearin & Wilson 1978:157-158, 445, 509, 579-580, 586). Roller (1983:98-99) noted a grooved-ring wax sealer and two other jars embossed on their bases with CUMMINGHAM & CO (or plural) PITTSBURGH (one variation was PITTSBURGH, PA.). He dated one of the jar styles "c. 1850s" [**Figure 7**] and noted that this style was "probably the first jars in the Cunningham line." Despite the lack of the "W" in the embossing, he attributed the jar to W. Cunningham & Co. Since this jar, unlike the others mentioned in this article, had a pontil mark on the base [**Figure 8**], Roller is probably correct. The

others he dated from 1847-1865. Toulouse (1969:85) dated the jar style as "after 1879."

Another type of fruit jar manufactured by Cunninghams & Co. was embossed A. STONE & C^o/PHILAD^a/MANUFACTURED BY/CUNNINGHAMS & Co/PITTSBURGH PA. These were grooved-ring wax sealers and came in aqua and green colors (Creswick 1995:205). A very similar jar was made by Cunninghams & Ihmsen.

C & CO or C & Co (1878-ca. 1891 and ca. 1900-ca. 1907)

This mark was embossed horizontally across the center of export-style beer bottle bases [**Figure 9**] and on the heels and bases of soft drink bottles [**Figure 10**]. The mark was noted by Ayres et al. (1980:unnumbered page); Jones (1966:7; 1968:14), Knittle (1927:441), and Toulouse (1971:119), although it was surprisingly missing from Wilson (1981). Herskovitz (1978:8) noted a slight variation to the mark: C & C^a, although he only observed one example. Lockhart & Olszewski (1994:39) found 27 beer bottle bases with the C & Co mark at San Elizario, Texas, on a site now dated 1880-ca. 1886. Van Rensselaer (1921:8) added a "Doyle's Hop Bitters 1872" to the list of types of bottles marked with C & Co. Fletcher (1994:228, 319) also listed the mark in connection with Kansas soda bottles. Kroll (1972:91) noted a single example of the mark on Wisconsin beer bottles, but the brewery was in business too long (1885 to at least 1972) to be helpful in dating the mark.

Peters (1996:9) dated the C & Co marks 1879 to ca. 1891 based on empirical data from some ten Wisconsin soft drink bottles



Figure 14: Cunninghams & Co. LIM Fruit Jar [Creswick 1995:40]



Figure 15: D O C Mark on Base [eBay]



Figure 16: D O C Mark on Fruit Jar [Creswick 1995:46]

bearing the mark. The bottles were dated by local historical data to supply the date range. Cunninghams & Co. added Lim. to its 1886 directory listing. However, Hawkins (personal correspondence) suggested that the glass workers probably used the existing molds (with C & Co.) until they wore out rather than retooling to add the LIM. Approximately five years is not an unreasonable time for a mold to last (see C & Co. LIM below). Miller (1999:19, 119) illustrated a single Hutchinson-finished bottle embossed C & CO 4 on the back heel. He dated the bottle 1900. Clint (1976:124), too, only showed a single example of the mark on the back heel of a Hutchinson bottle with an applied finish that he dated ca. 1880.

Lockhart has an example of the mark on an amber, export beer bottle with an applied finish – likely indicating a use prior to ca. 1885. Probable dates for the use of the mark are 1878-ca. 1891. Coupled with the information from Clint (above), we know that C & CO marks appeared on bottles with both applied and tooled finishes. Any found with tooled finishes were likely made during the late part of the date range. Hawkins also has a bottle from the Loyalhanna Brewing Co. (Pittsburgh) that is marked C & Co (no LIM). The company started business in 1901. Thus we end up with two date ranges for the C & Co mark: 1880-ca. 1891 and ca. 1900-ca. 1907.⁸

The Cunninghams may have been drawn into the beer bottle realm rather than seeking it. Plavchan (1969:75) found the following in Anheuser Busch records:

Prior to 1886 the main source of beer bottles for the Anheuser-Busch [*sic*] Brewing Association were four glass works: the Mississippi Glass Co. and the Lindell Glass Co. of St. Louis; the Pittsburgh City Glass Co. of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and the DeSteiger Glass Co. of LaSalle, Illinois.

This brings up a question as to the owners of the “Pittsburgh City Glass Co.” According to the McKearins and other sources, the Cunninghams and George Duncan opened the Pittsburgh City Glass Works in 1845. The similarity between the two names probably means that the Cunninghams’ plant was the one intended by the Anheuser Busch report.

Between 1872 and 1886, the

Cunninghams operated two different companies (see histories above). Cunninghams & Ihmsen opened in 1857 and made glass until 1878 (see discussion about C & I mark above). When Ihmsen left, the firm became Cunningham & Co. and retained that name until 1886, when it became Cunninghams & Co., Ltd. It is interesting timing that the year Busch expanded his market for beer bottles (1886), the Cunninghams reorganized their company.

Cunninghams & Co., however, had its mark embossed on numerous export-style beer bottles. We suspect the company made bottles for Anheuser Busch from ca. 1879 until some point later than 1886. We doubt that Busch’s operation in Streator produced sufficient beer bottles for the brewer’s needs, especially in the beginning.

Our guess at the chronology is that Busch (who actually ran the company) bought his first bottles exclusively from one of the St. Louis companies. As business improved (probably no later than ca. 1875), he added the other local company. Cunninghams & Ihmsen was added by at least 1877, and DeSteiger was probably included by 1880 or earlier.

The C & CO mark appeared on other types of bottles. Ring (1980:80, 270) listed the mark on Berliner Bitters and Jepson’s Dyspepsia Bitters bottles [Figure 11], and an eBay auction included the mark on a pharmaceutical bottle. Although completely unrelated, a C & Co mark was also used by Colgate & Co. on toiletry bottles in the early 1900s (Griffenhagen & Bogard 1999:122).

C & Co LIM (ca. 1892-1907)

This basemark was only reported on beer bottles [Figure 12] by Ayres et al. (1980:unnumbered page) and Herskovitz (1978:8), although Herskovitz noted 40 examples with numbers from 0 through 13 below the mark. Kroll (1972:3, 75, 125) listed the mark as “manufacturer unknown” and noted two instances of the mark’s appearance on Wisconsin beer bottles. In



Figure 17: D O C Mark on Heel [eBay]

both cases, the breweries were in business from the mid-1800s to at least 1972, so the dates were unhelpful in specifying a range for the mark. Peters (1996:9) dated the mark’s use on soft drink bottles from ca. 1892 to 1907, based on a small sample (1996:32, 198) of Wisconsin bottles. Clint (1976:175) illustrated a single example of a Hutchinson bottle marked C & CO LIM No. 5 on the back heel [Figure 13]. The container had a tooled finish and was dated 1905-1910. The C & Co LIM mark was used from ca. 1892 to ca. 1905 or later. Berge (1980:141) illustrated an example of the mark, although he had no idea who made the bottle. Even though the company dropped the “Limited” in 1903 and became incorporated, the workers probably continued to use bottles marked LIM until the supply was exhausted.

CUNNINGHAMS & CO. LIM. PITTSBURGH, PA. (ca. 1892-1907)

Creswick (1995:40) showed a grooved-ring wax sealer fruit jar with CUNNINGHAMS & CO. LIM. (downward arch)/PITTSBURGH, PA. (upward arch) on the base [Figure 14]. She dated the jar ca. 1879. Roller (1983:99) described the same jar but dated it “c. late-1890s to early 1900s.”

C

According to Toulouse (1971:99), this lone initial may have been used by Cunninghams & Co. from 1879 to 1909, although he admitted that the mark had “not been documented.” He noted the mark on “general line ware.” Knittle (1927:441) earlier identified the mark as “probably Cummingham.”

D O C

Creswick (1995:281) quoted the 1889 *History of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania* in its discussion of Dominec O. Cunningham. Check her book for a personal history of the man. Cunningham had “two extensive plants for the manufacture of window glass, bottles & fruit jars.”

The mark of Domenic O. Cunningham was embossed horizontally across the center of export-style beer bottle bases. The mark was shown in Ayres et al (1980:unnumbered page), Herskovitz (1978:8), Jones (1966:7, 16; 1968:16), Toulouse (1971:163), and Wilson (1981:115). Herskovitz (1978:8) noted 49 examples accompanied by embossed numbers (2-23) and letters (A,

G, and S). Cunningham made some of the later beer bottles for Carl Conrad's Budweiser (prior to Conrad's January 1883 bankruptcy and subsequent sale of the label to Anheuser Busch – see Wilson 1981:3, 6 for examples). These were embossed with the CC&Co monogram on the base and D O C on the heel. Thus, we know that Dominec Cunningham made beer bottles during his first two years in business.

McKearin & Wilson (1978:157) noted D. O. C. on the bases of soft drink bottles [Figure 15] dating from ca. 1900 and on fruit jars. Toulouse (1969:93) added that the mark was on the "side" of fruit jars and dated the jars "circa 1882." Creswick (1995:46) showed a grooved-ring wax sealer fruit jar with D. O. C. in a slight arch at the top of the base [Figure 16]. Roller (1983:104), too, listed the jar and dated it ca. 1882 to 1900. He noted that the January 6, 1900 *Commoner & Glassworker* stated that Cunningham had ceased making fruit jars.

By 1885, Cunningham advertised "mineral, ginger-ale, and beer bottles" in the city directory (Toulouse 1971:163). The firm also made bottles for Poland Water from "1906 until its closing" (McKearin & Wilson 1978:157).

Six examples of D O C marks on bottles were found in the *Dictionary of Embossed Beers* (Mobley 2004). Five had the mark on the heel [Figure 17], and four of those had numbers to the left (2, 102, 210, and 307). All had either blob or Baltimore loop finishes. The final bottle had D O C/8 embossed on the base (Baltimore loop). Clint (1976:137) showed a single example with a heelmark followed by 106. The bottle had a tooled finish, and he dated it 1893 to 1894. Numerous heelmarked bottles are offered on eBay. Judging from the bottle styles, Cunningham (and his followers in the firm) used the same mark during the entire tenure of the business.

Discussion and Conclusion

Although the Cunningham family's glass holdings went through five incarnations, the variations in marks were relatively small. Aside from actual names, only three major style of marks exist: C & Co (including C & Co LIM), C & I, and D O C. Each of these is easily datable to the company that used it and sometimes to smaller increments of time. It is odd, however, that D. O. Cunningham used the same mark (D O C) with virtually no variation for 51 years. Future research

should center on dates for the D O C mark. There may be variations in the accompanying numerical codes on later bottles.

Acknowledgments

We are deeply indebted to Jay Hawkins. His information from Pittsburgh city directories has been invaluable. Frequently, this data has meant the difference between guessing about tenuous dates and having more solid figures to report. Our gratitude also goes to Douglas M. Leybourne, Jr., for allowing us to copy and use drawings from *The Fruit Jar Works*. We are also indebted to eBay and the thousands of sellers for inadvertently presenting such a great venue for usable photographs.

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(Endnotes)

¹ Welker and Welker (1985:44) noted the operation as B. Cunningham & Co., although that is probably a typographical error.

² According to Welker and Welker (1985:44), Duncan withdrew from the company in 1857. Creswick (1995:264), however, claimed the firm was called Cunningham & Duncan from 1852 to 1865, with Duncan's involvement ending at that point. Neither of these agree with other sources.

³ Toulouse (1971:118, 132) and Creswick (1995:264) claimed that Cunninghams & Ihmsen began in 1865. Roller (1983:99) placed the date at 1866. The directory information from Jay Hawkins also noted 1866 as the first entry. Although the McKearins (1941:605) provided a date of 1857 – which was repeated by McKearin & Wilson (1978:156), there are more independent sources placing the date at 1866.

⁴ According to Welker and Welker (1985:44), the company became Cunningham & Co. in 1875 when Ihmsen sold out his interest.

⁵ Jones (1968:14) discussed an ad (that she suggested was ca. 1875) from Cunninghams & Co., Limited, Pittsburgh City Glass Works. However, an 1892 ad with the exact wording

appeared in Putnam (1965). Whitten suggested that Jones actually referred to this ad.

⁶ Toulouse listed the final date for the firm at 1907 in one place and 1909 in another. Jay Hawkins checked the city directories and found that 1907 was the last listing for the company. The 1909 date was another Toulouse typo.

⁷ "Ghosted letters" are letters that were originally embossed on the mold but were later "peened" (struck with a ball-peen hammer) to obliterate them. They still appear on the glass in an ephemeral form.

⁸ However, the Empirical studies by both Clint (1976:175) and Peters (1996:9, 32, 198) suggest that the LIM added to the mark was used until the end of the company.

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Follow-Up: to Vol. 16, No. 1: "The Dating Game" - Illinois Glass Company

In Vol. 16, No. 1 of *Bottles and Extras* there is an article entitled, "The Dating Game: The Illinois Glass Company" by Bill Lockhart, Bill Lindsey, David Whitten and Carol Serr. I have some additional information that should be of interest to your readers and to these authors.

For some years I have researched and now have written a book on South Carolina bottles that will be out in the next months. Because the State of South Carolina purchased 22 boxcar loads of South Carolina Dispensary bottles from the Illinois Glass Company, 1897-1899, I was led to delve briefly into the history of this company.

In the early 1970s, I visited Alton, Ill., in search of information about Illinois Glass Company's business with the S.C. Dispensary. I found no information on that topic, but was given public relations information hand-outs and a tour of the facilities by their public information

director. The facilities covered about 100 acres in Alton along the Missouri River. The only visible evidence of the Illinois Glass Company I found was its name printed vertically on one of the smokestacks.

In the course of my research, I acquired an 1896 catalog of *U.S. Bottlers' Supply Co.*, the supply department for the Illinois Glass Co. This catalog contained much interesting information about the bottles supplied to various customers across the nation, but shed no light on the topic I was researching. I am sure its contents are of more interest to many of your readers and to the authors of the aforementioned article.

In the course of my research, I discovered that the State of South Carolina in 1897 began requiring all glass houses which supplied bottles to them to have the company's initials blown into the bottle. Consequently, the Illinois Glass Co. placed the initials "I.G.Co." inside an elongated diamond on the bottles supplied to South

Carolina. This fact documents the use of this initial by Illinois Glass Co. three years earlier than was reported in the article. I have examples of South Carolina Dispensary quart bottles with this initial and have seen dozens more.

I am enclosing from the 1896 *U.S. Bottlers' Supply Co.* catalog a copy of the title page, an engraved photo of the Illinois Glass Co. plant in Alton and a page of advertising labels the company supplied.

Also included is the information about the Illinois Glass Co. that will appear in my upcoming book and a copy of the company's letterhead from the original in the S.C. state archives.

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