

The Port Arthur Coca-Cola Bottles

by Bryan Grapentine

Photo by Larry Grapentine

Before the Coca-Cola Company required bottlers to use the hobbleskirt design, patented in 1915 and still in use today, each franchisee used bottles of their own design. The bottles of most interest to collectors today are embossed with the Coca-Cola logo in script and with the city and or state. Collectors refer to these as straight-sided Coke bottles.

The straight-sided coke bottles are rather common from hundreds of different

bottlers in the United States. Less than a dozen are known from Canadian cities most of them are from the province of Ontario. Most of these were made in a standard design similar to U.S. bottles.

Port Arthur, Ontario, bottles are in a unique attractive design, as can be seen in the photo below. Many American collectors mistakenly thought the bottles were from Port Arthur, Texas. There is no question that they are from Ontario.



The left most bottle in the photo is 8" tall aqua and ABM. The middle bottle is 9" tall, light sun-colored amethyst and has a tooled top. The other bottle is also a tooled top, sun-colored, and is 8 1/8" tall. All of the bottles have RETURN WHEN EMPTY around the base.

The bottles are quite scarce and few complete sets of the three bottles are in collector's hands. I rate them as Canada's best Coca-Cola bottles.

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T & M ?



This little slightly rectangular bottle, about 2.5" tall, pontiled, embossed T & M on two sides is often listed as an ink bottle in auctions and on eBay. It is actually a "Bear Grease Pomade" bottle used by the Taylor and Moore Company of New York City.

Alfred Taylor and James Moore were drug importers and distributors of a few medicinals, but their main line was perfumery products, including bear grease pomade. They were in business from 1837 until both retired in about 1857.

Reference:

19th Century Medicine in Glass
Bill and Betty Wilson
1971

Good for One Quart . . .

. . .of Milk



Front and back of a token found in Spokane, Wash: "Good for *1* Quart Milk" from Lakewood Dairy, E.J. Young, Spirit Lake, Idaho.