

# Fairmount Glass Works Indianapolis, Indiana

By Steve Lang

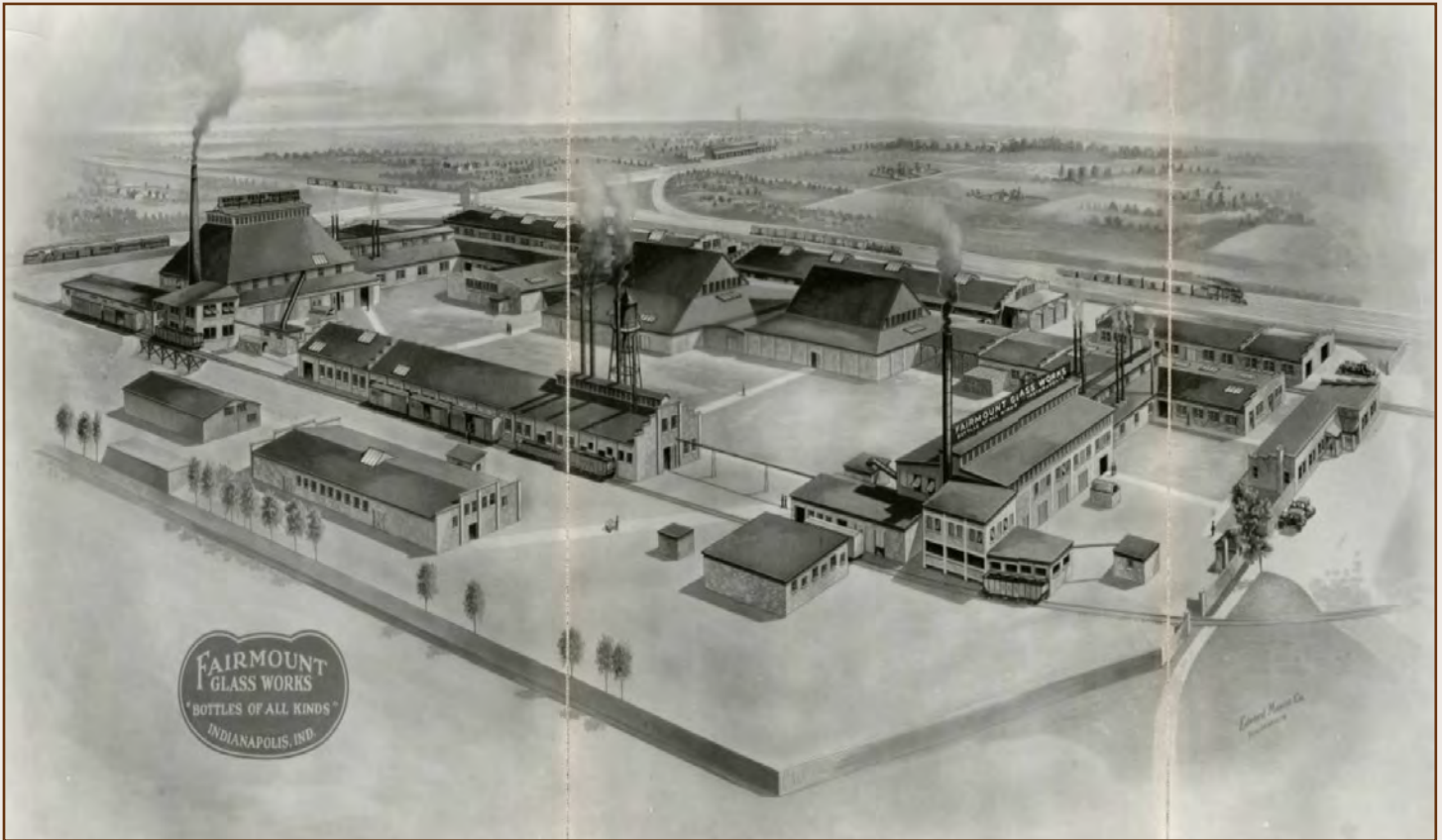
The Fairmount Glass Company was opened in Fairmount, Indiana (Grant County) by William Winslow, John Rau, Frank Taylor and Charles Tigner in 1889. William Winslow was a Fairmount banker and in 1894 his son, Palmer Winslow, succeeded to president of the company becoming the youngest Glass Company President of all time at the age of 18. In 1898, the name of the company changed to Fairmount Glass Works. Palmer sold his interest in the company to John Rau of Indianapolis before opening the Winslow Glass Company in Matthews, Ind. (Grant County).

In 1904, John Rau had begun a Fairmount Glass Works plant in Indianapolis at Prospect and Keystone. A fire destroyed the Fairmount, location in 1906 and Rau moved all the remaining equipment to Indianapolis and was fully functional by 1908. The company was in the Rau family until Inland Container purchased the business in 1961. They stopped producing glass in 1985 just shy of what would have been their 100th Anniversary.

John Rau was a pioneer of glass manufacturing in Indiana. He started as a boy helping in a glass factory and worked himself up the ladder acquiring knowledge at each step. Rau was born in Louisville, Ky. on August 15, 1856 to Frederick and Rebecca Rau. He was one of 12 children, John being the 2nd oldest. He started working at the age of 9 in a Louisville Glass factory. At 18, he helped open a Denver, Colorado glass factory and after 2 years moved to Massillon, Ohio to blow glass. All this experience led to the founding of the Fairmount Glass Company after natural gas in Indiana made glass manufacturing very attractive in the state. Rau had 20 patents in his name involving different phases of glass manufacturing.



Three different mold marks used by the glass works at various times



Here is an image of the Fairmount Glass Works factory.



Here is a Fairmount Glass Works paperweight with a picture of the factory. Manufacturer of bottles and jars in flint and amber glass.

There was one complaint about Rau and The Fairmount Glass Works concerning the use of children under 14 in the factory. He was fined \$13.85 on Jan 19, 1901. Almost all issues with children under 14 working were found in glass companies around the state of Indiana.

In 1897 the Fairmont Glass Works was operating an 8-ring continuous tank making bottles, oil cans, lamp fonts and standard fruit jars using 24 pots. By 1904, the factory had 5 continuous tanks with 31 rings making flint glassware including beer and liquor bottles. The Indianapolis plant was destroyed by fire on December 19, 1918 at a cost of \$30,000. They rebuilt and were in business until 1961 when Inland Glass purchased them.



Descriptions and images of some of the bottles blown at the glassworks



Amber fish bottle blown at the Fairmount Glass Works