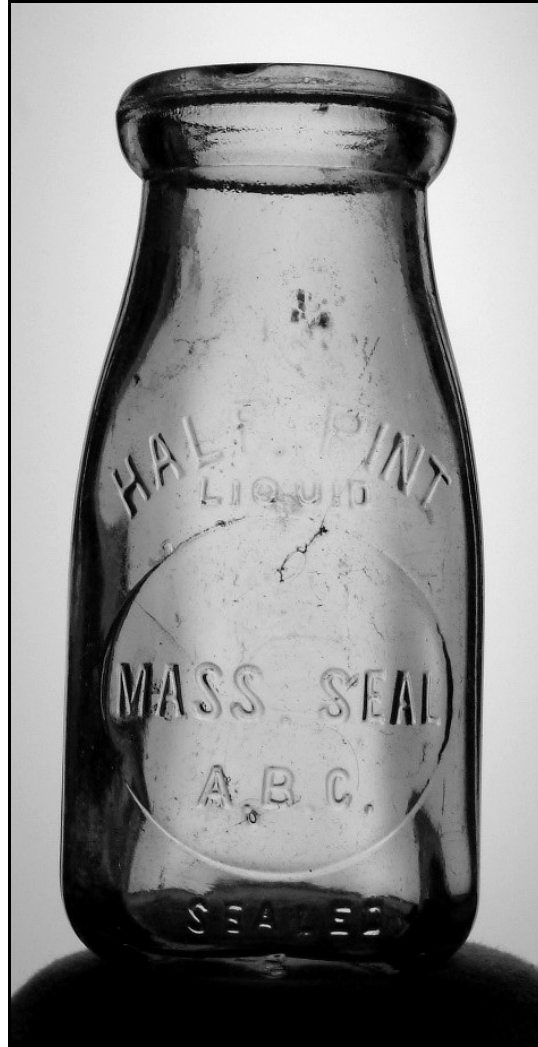


# **Milk Bottle Seals**

## **The Other Manufacturer's Marks**



Bill Lockhart, Pete Schulz, and Al Morin



# Milk Bottle Seals – The Other Manufacturer’s Marks

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# Preface

Bill Lockhart

This book has been about a decade in the writing, but it has been worth the wait. During the interval, we have gleaned significant information on the seals, themselves, and also about the manufacturer's marks that accompanied them. At this point, I do not remember how I came in contact with Paul Doucette or Brad Blodgett, but one of them provided the impetus that propelled me to cast my eyes higher up on bottles – but that cryptic statement requires a bit of background information.

I have personally been viewing the bases and heels of bottles since my days as a 46-year-old student, working for an archaeologist named John Peterson at the University of Texas at El Paso in 1991. I was placed on a bottle project and ended up coauthoring the report on the containers of the El Paso Coliseum dump. That led to another project – and an article in a local journal – and I was hooked. I learned the importance of manufacturer's marks and how they could help identify not only the maker but also the bottle's dates of production – but my real interest was in local bottles used in El Paso.

My whole life changed when I received an e-mail from Bill Lindsey in 2002. Bill was creating a comprehensive web page on bottle identification, and he had seen my 1000 online book on El Paso soda bottles and bottlers. The relationship – on both a personal and professional basis – has continued. Carol Serr first contacted me on August 8, 2003, because one of my e-books contained the only example of a Clysmic bottle Serr could find online. On March 4, 2004, the three of us began group discussions about bottles.

Like almost everyone else at that time, I relied on *Bottle Makers and Their Marks*, the 1971 seminal work on manufacturer's marks on bottles and jars. However, there were dates that did not fit well, and some marks that I was seeing on bases were not listed at all. One such mark – T-in-a-Keystone – that I found on some El Paso soda bottles, so intrigued me that I researched it and wrote an article for a collectors' magazine. After reading the article, David Whitten – a collector, researcher, and owner of a website about glass manufacturer's marks – joined the group on March 19, 2004. Whitten withdrew from the group in August 2005 to deal with other

interests but has remained a contributor, and his manufacturer's mark website continues to be one of the best quick-reference sites on the subject.

Pete Schulz joined the BRG on October 21, 2005, and we seriously turned our focus to manufacturer's marks. We officially adopted the title of the Bottle Research Group in 2006. In March 2010, Schulz suffered a disabling stroke and had to become inactive in the group. As of 2017, Schulz remains inactive, and his presence is sorely missed. On July 28, 2010, Beau Schriever e-mailed Lockhart to discuss Clorox bottles. Schriever hosted Lockhart (and his wife, Wanda Wakkinen) for a tour of a Fort Bayard, New Mexico, trash dump from November 23-25, 2010. On January 22, 2011, Schriever became a member of the BRG. The four continue to comprise the core group of the BRG.

The actual picture, however, is *much* larger. The BRG has developed a huge network of contributors, who may only supply information about a single bottle, jar or factory – or who may regularly or sporadically contribute information. And this brings us back to Paul Doucette and Brad Blodgett about 2006. Regardless of who was first, they sparked my interest in adding milk bottle seals to my research. Pete Schulz became interested and contributed heavily, especially in the discovery of the early laws in New York and Massachusetts.

Al Morin found me at some point, and all of the BRG members have helped with research into the manufacturer's marks. The resulting document is composed of five chapters. The initial chapter discusses the numbering system that began in New York in 1910 and became nationwide, as well as several other marks, such as REGISTERED, etc. that appear regularly on milk bottle heels and/or bases.

Chapter two explores the Massachusetts seal system and the individual seals that appear on milk bottles. This was the most comprehensive seal organization, although it spawned a major movement in New England and other systems throughout the U.S. The system in Maine is covered in Chapter 3, followed by the other seal systems in Chapter 4. Chapter 5 discusses the unusual triangle logos used by Minnesota.



## **Research Ramifications**

Like all exploratory studies, this work is intended to be an early voice in research – not the last word. There are gaps in the research that we hope will be filled by future archaeologists, collectors, or local historians. There are many state systems that we have only lightly touched. All these gaps need to be filled, and we hope that future research will discover new sources to complete the picture.

## **Acknowledgments**

Throughout this work, we have cited our sources and acknowledged those who contributed. In addition, we wish to thank the members of the Bottle Research Group. It is impossible to assess the depth of BRG contributions to this work, especially in the area of manufacturer's marks. Pete and I have worked with the others for years, and that connection has affected virtually all of my research. We also acknowledge the contributions, albeit accidental, of the eBay sellers whose photographs appear in this study as well as those who have sent photos to us. We also thank all the other folks who have in some way influenced this work and Wanda Wakkinen for her tireless proofreading..

