

Duquesne Glass Co.

Bill Lockhart, Bob Brown, Beau Schriever, David Whitten, Bill Lindsey, & Carol Serr

In our original document and the subsequent revision, this information was in a chapter entitled “The DGCO Logos and the Glass Houses that Used Them.” However, we now have more positive evidence and information, assigning DGCO marks to the Diamond Glass Co. and Duquesne Glass Co. only, so the older file has been deleted. For more information about the Diamond Glass Co. and its marks, see that chapter. During its 15 years in business, the Duquesne Glass Co. only used a single logo.

History

Duquesne Glass Co., Paden City, West Virginia (1905-1920)

On November 9, 1905, a group composed of A.R. Hampsey, Robert S. Feldmeier, T.M. Caldwell, A. J. Rittmann, and John B. Haeckler – all residents of Pittsburgh – incorporated the Duquesne Glass Co. at Paden City, West Virginia. The group began with a capital of \$25,000 and stated its purpose as “the manufacturing, buying and selling of glass and glassware of all kinds and any article or articles of commerce of which glass forms a part” (von Mechow 2025). Actual production did not begin until 1906 (Figure 1). On March 5, the *Coffeyville Daily Journal* reported that the plant was “booked to make glass next week. One of the tanks has been completed and the other will soon be ready for work.” In August, the group increased the capital to \$50,000. The factory used a six-ring continuous tank to make bottles (von Mechow 2025).



Figure 1 – Duquesne Glass Co. outside (O.O. Brown collection)

The *Coffeyville Daily Journal* reported on February 18, 1907, that the factory had “ten shops working, six day and four night, making pint beers. They have all the orders on hand that can be filled and prospects are said to be very bright” (Figure 2). The plant also made soda,

wine, and brandy bottles that year and had plans to double its capacity (*Manufacturer's Record* 1907:527; Thomas Publishing Co. 1907:161). The factory was called the Duquesne Glass Works, and it employed 50 people in 1909, mostly making beer bottles. A tank burst in early March of 1911, catching the plant on fire, but it was quickly quenched and repaired, leading to the most productive season up to that point (von Mechow 2025).

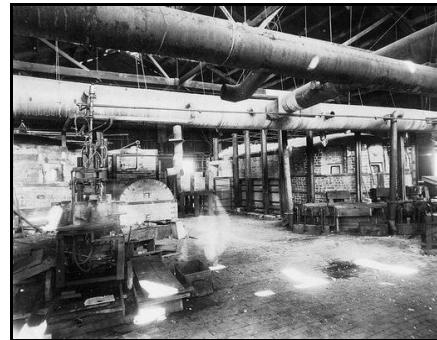


Figure 2 – Duquesne Glass Co. inside (O.O. Brown collection)

A 1913 article confirmed that the Duquesne Glass Co. made “beer and water [i.e., soda] [bottles], etc.” at two continuous tanks with eight rings (*Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry* 1913:954). The company continued to be listed in the Thomas Registers until 1918 making the same product line (Thomas Publishing Co. 1917:731; 1918:810). The plant was no longer enumerated in the 1920 edition.

The firm still employed 50 men in 1916, but, as early as August 18, 1917, the plant was reported as idle, and rumor was that the American Glass Co. of Richmond, Virginia, had taken control of the firm. On October 6, the rumor was confirmed, although the plant continued to operate under the Duquesne name. The new owners installed a fuel oil system in late 1917 or early 1918, and increased the capacity of the factory. The plant apparently closed again on October 12, 1918, although it was reported to employ 75 men in late 1919 or early 1920 (*National Glass Budget* 1918:5; Montgomery 1920:31; von Mechow 2025). Although Lockhart and associates (2012) originally placed the date when the plant began operating under the American Glass Works name about 1919, it now appears that the shift occurred in 1920. See the section on the American Glass Works, Richmond, for more information.

This firm is often confused with the Duquesne Glass Co. of Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania; the Duquesne Glass Co. of Carnegie, Pennsylvania (a manufacturer of insulators); or the Duquesne Glass Mfg. Co. of Pittsburgh – a maker of lamp chimneys. For more information on these firms, see Hawkins (2009:185-188).

Containers and Marks

DGCO Heelmarks

Von Mechow (2025) and Fowler (2015) both listed 18 Hutchinson bottles embossed “D.G.CO.,” usually followed by a one- to three-digit number, each on the back heel of the bottle, and eBay auctions showed logos with “DGCO 5”; “DGCO 21”; and “DGCO 22” heelmarks (Figure 3). Numbers ranged from 1 to 185 with distribution shown in Table 1. Since bottles with the same numbers were used by different bottlers, the numbers were almost certainly model codes.



Figure 3 – DGCO 5 & 22 heelmark (eBay)

Table 1 – Distribution of Numbers Accompanying DGCo Heelmarks

Heel Number	Frequency
no number	1
1	3
3	1
5	6
19	3
29	1
112	3
185	1

Mobley (2015) added two champagne beer bottles with crown finishes embossed respectively “D.G.Co. 125” and “D.G.Co.” with no number. He also included a single export beer bottle embossed “D.G.Co. 50” – also with a crown finish. All of Mobley’s examples had the logos embossed on the back heels, and the bottlers were located in the western half of Pennsylvania. However, he made no attribution to the manufacturer.

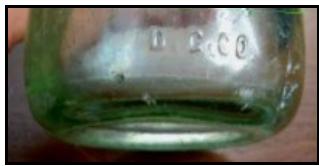


Figure 4 – DGCO 13 heelmark
(eBay)

A “quart” export beer bottle embossed “J.J. KOUGH / PROP. / PALACE BOTTLING / WORKS / TITUSVILLE, PA.” in a circular plate was offered on eBay. The bottle was embossed D.G. CO. 50. at the back heel – apparently the code for Mobley’s export beer bottle (above). The bottle had a one-part (blob) finish. Another champagne beer bottle was posted at an eBay auction. This one was embossed “D.G.CO. 13” on the heel and had a crown finish (Figures 4 & 5).



Figure 5 –
Champagne beer
bottle (eBay)

All bottles with the DGCO heelmark clustered in the western half of Pennsylvania, with a small incursion into the upper east central region. The grouping is almost discrete. The tiny incursion is the only area where both bottles with the Diamond logo and those with the DGCO heelmark mixed. Researchers – including the Bottle Research Group – have developed two hypotheses to explain the distribution and probable maker of the heelmarked bottles.

The Diamond Glass Co. Hypothesis

Perhaps the most obvious choice would be the Diamond Glass Co. of Royersford, Pennsylvania. The distribution area would be an extension of the known service area of the firm. It is virtually certain that Diamond Glass used the Diamond-DGCO logo – a distinct connection between Diamond Glass and the DGCO mark. Despite this attribute, the evidence overwhelmingly supports the Duquesne Glass Co. as the user of the DGCo heelmark (see below).

Von Mechow’s Duquesne Glass Co. Hypothesis

Von Mechow (2025) – echoed by Fowler (2015) – attributed the DGCO logo to the Duquesne Glass Co. Von Mechow pointed out in a personal communication that “one of the company founders was from Cunningham & Co. [Pittsburgh] and I believe that is why the mark resembles similar aged Cunningham & Co marks” – also noting the differences in distribution areas. He continued:

Paden City is on the Ohio River, not too far from Pennsylvania and was founded by Pittsburgh men. The transportation lines were along the Ohio River and not into West Virginia due to the steep Bluffs along the River. The distribution of the bottles supports a Pittsburgh sales office.

Not counting the meandering of the river, Paden City was ca. 110 miles from Pittsburgh. The timing also fits exceptionally well. We searched online for dates associated with the various bottlers who used containers with the DGCO heelmarks. Although the evidence was sparse, those bottlers seem to have been in business from ca. 1900 to ca. 1915, possibly to 1920. The Duquesne Glass Co. was open from 1905 to 1920.

The major problem with the hypothesis is the lack of bottles embossed “DGCO” from West Virginia bottlers. Despite our internet searches, we have found none. North of Paden City – and before the river reaches Pittsburgh – the Ohio flows through Wheeling and Stuebenville, both notable communities. To the south, along the river, are Marietta and Parkersburg, and all of these places are closer than Pittsburgh. Each of them also had soda bottlers. Despite von Mechow’s “steep bluff” explanation (above), there were surely docking facilities at the major communities along the river. In addition, wagon or rail transportation could have served local venues. Why are there no bottles with the DGCO logos from these towns?

Von Mechow (2025) also reproduced the ca. 1900-1905 Diamond Glass Co. catalog. Since the catalog included model numbers – that von Mechow matched to some of the bottles with Diamond logos enclosing numbers (see the section on the Diamond Glass Co.) – it provides a way to test the hypothesis. The numbers associated with the heelmarks do *not* match *any* of the numbers in the catalog – even though other evidence (again, see above) suggests that the heel-code numbers *are* catalog numbers. For example, page 6 of the catalog illustrates a bottle with “Mould No. 5.” This is a half-pint beer bottle according to the catalog, with a crown or blob finish (Figure 6). All six of the containers with DGCO 5 heelmarks in von Mechow’s database were Hutchinson bottles.

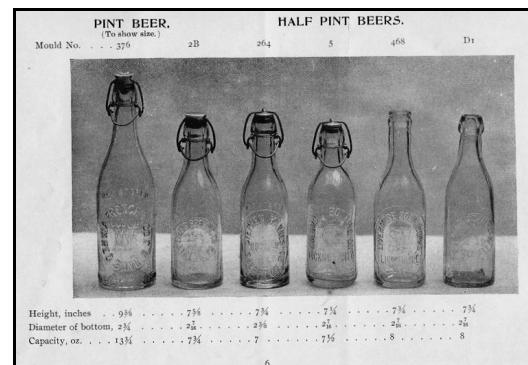


Figure 6 – Diamond Glass catalog, p. 6 – ca. 1900
(von Mechow 2015)

One of the Hutchinson bottles with the “DGCO 5” logo is very interesting. Hutchbook (Fowler 2015) described two bottles from the Lusch Bottling Co. at Altoona, Pennsylvania – using the exact same description for each (except the manufacturer’s mark). One was embossed “DGCO 5” on the back heel (see Figure 3); the other was “C&Co 5” in the same location (Figures 7 & 8). Compare the bottle with No. 5 in the catalog (see Figure

6). Recall that von Mechow noted a connection between Cunninghams & Co. – a Pittsburgh firm – and the Duquesne Glass Co. Three other bottlers also used “DGCO 5” bottles as well as other bottles (with different descriptions) made in Pittsburgh:

Thompson, Powell & Co., Rochester, Pennsylvania – “DGCO 5” & “DGCo 1”
 Tyrone Bottling Works, Tyrone, Pennsylvania – “DGCO 5” & “C&Co 3”
 Union Bottling Works, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania – “DGCO 5” & “C&CoLIM 512

Although we could not find photos, another example on Hutchbook (Fowler 2015) had identical descriptions for bottles made by these two plants; Bantleon & Whamond, Brockwayville, Pennsylvania, used identical bottles embossed “DGCO 19” and “C&Co 19.” Other bottlers used different styles of bottles from the two firms – as well as from D.O. Cunningham. The Conemaugh Bottling Co. of Conemaugh, Pennsylvania, for example, used Hutchinson bottles with heelmarks of “DGCO 185,” “C&Co 5,” and “DOC 1141.” By 1887, Dominick O. Cunningham owned both D.O. Cunningham and Cunninghams & Co. (see the section on the Cunningham Family Glass Holdings for more information). This short study further supports von Mechow’s Duquesne Glass Co. hypothesis.

Other Possibilities

In the name of thoroughness, we sought other possible glass houses with DGCo initials. Despite the comparatively low number of glass houses beginning with “D,” there were several possibilities. In addition to the Paden City company, two glass houses – one in Pittsburgh, the



Figure 7 – C&Co 5 heelmark (eBay)



Figure 8 – Lusch Bottling Co. bottles (eBay)

other in western Pennsylvania – were named the Diamond Glass Co. – although neither one produced bottles. Of bottle producers, there were:

Daleville Glass Co., Daleville, IN – prescription, preservers', packers (ca. 1907-ca. 1915)
Demuth Glass Mfg. Co., Brooklyn, NY – prescriptions, wine, preservers (ca. 1914-ca. 1918)
Douglas Glass Mfg. Co., Cape May Courthouse, NJ – no products listed (ca. 1897-1905)
Durand Glass Co., Vineland, NJ – art glass and novelties, possibly some bottles (ca. 1909-1920s)

Both glass houses with “Mfg.” in their names were also occasionally listed without the term. While all of these were open during the approximate period for the DGCO heelmark, none of them were noted for producing beer or soda bottles.

Discussion and Conclusions

Although the Diamond Glass Co. used “D.G.CO.” and “D.G.CO.” in a diamond basemarks, von Mechow’s Duquesne Glass Co. identification for “D.G.CO.” heelmarks withstood our hypothesis testing and is the most logical choice. Still unknown is why no bottles with the mark have appeared in West Virginia contexts. Perhaps the State of Pennsylvania required logos on bottles sold within its jurisdiction, although we have never found such a law. Possibly even a single county had such a requirement, and Duquesne Glass complied, covering its entire Pennsylvania territory. In this speculation, the plant would have chosen to leave its West Virginia bottles unmarked.

Sources

Fowler, Ron

2013 “Hutchinson Bottle Directory.” Seattle History Co., Hutchbook.com.
<http://www.hutchbook.com/Bottle%20Directory/>

Hawkins, Jay W.

2009 *Glasshouses & Glass Manufacturers of the Pittsburgh Region, 1795-1910*.
iUniverse, Inc., New York.

Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry

1913 “The Present Status of the Glass Bottle and Hollow Ware Industries in the United States.” *Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry* 5(11):951954.

Manufacturer's Record

1907 “West Virginia.” *Manufacturer's Record* 11(9):527. [May 16]

Mobley, Bruce

2015 “Library of Embossed Beer Bottles.”

<http://brucemobley.com/beerbottlelibrary/index.htm>

National Glass Budget

1918 “The Duquesne Glass Co of City W Va.” *National Glass Budget* 33(36):5. [January 12]

Thomas Register of American Manufacturers

1907-1908 *Thomas' Register of American Manufacturers and First Hands in all Lines: The Buyers Guide*. Thomas Publishing Co., New York.

1917 *Thomas Register of American Manufacturers and First Hands in All Lines*. 9th ed. Thomas Publishing Co., New York.

1918 *Thomas' Register of American Manufacturers and First Hands in All Lines: A Classified Reference Book for Buyer and Sellers*. Thomas Publishing, New York.

Von Mechow, Tod

2025 “Soda & Beer Bottles of North America: Bottle Attributes - Beer & Soda Bottle Manufacturers.” <http://www.sodasandbeers.com/SABBottleManufBeerSoda.htm>

Published and updated 11/6/2025