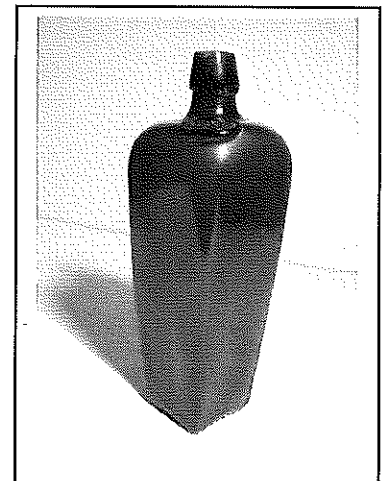
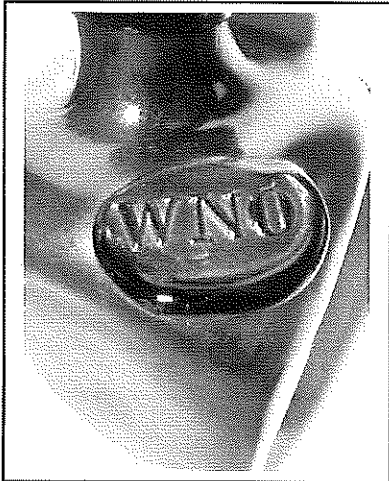


CASE GIN BOTTLE SEALED WNO

Harry Wagter

Recentelijk had ik de volgende fles op eBay te koop staan:

Nice free blown rather small old case gin bottle, green colour. Pig snout top and a height of 23 cm (over 9"), very clear oval seal showing the text "WNO". There is very light scratching and some light dirt inside, but the bottle is not damaged.



Ene Red Mattews reageerde hierop met de opmerking:

"Hello This looks like a standard tapered finish not a pig snout - explain?"

Een paar dagen later nam Red Mattews de moeite het volgende stuk te schrijven:

Hello again, Yesterday I started a letter to you to illustrate the difference between Case Gin finishes. I worked in the bottle manufacturing industry for about 47 years. I have collected bottles off and on for about 64 years. Since retirement some eleven years ago I have gotten into the earlier methods of manufacturing used in the bottle making industry. My oldest bottle no doubt dates back to maybe 200 AD - a Greek discovery and salvage that has lived through many moons. My studies though, are concentrated in the 1700's to 1900. The Case Gin type of container no doubt sustained the longest life of production and use. Maybe not quite as long as the beer bottle, but that's a different story!

My problem is that there isn't much recorded history of the manufacturing and molding methods used over that span of time. The glass was all a gradual change from black to green, the shape was a departure from the earlier square bottles made with plate mold pieces held in a slotted base plate and acted as dip mold to form the blow in. This was a space efficient bottle that would hold efficiently in a small space. The need for faster forming, production speed and shipping strength no doubt brought about the use of a tapered four sided dip mold. This type of mold would have to be made with a square opening on the bottom and an attached bottom plate that also provided venting of air, when the glass was blown to the walls and bottom. This bottom plate also brought about the formation of bottom corner chamfers and footed corners for standing stability. The evolution of the bottom also brought about the makers opportunity to put an identifying mark on the glass by embossing a chiseled star - cross - line - dots or whatever.

*I think the **Star** - similar to an enlarged asterisk, the **Cross** and the **Line** were all indicators of the master bottle maker. Some companies used **Dots** to indicate their company. Some dots were almost cone shaped, and I think they were the location of an air vent that had to be dug out or eroded into a cone.*

The venting of air around the bottom sides was usually accomplished with a knife file groove from the cavity edge to an air escape groove. This form of venting also occurred on the parting edge when the molds for Case Gins had to produce embossed lettering to identify the product producer lettering. This was first done with a bottom hinged dip mold where one side of the four could be tilted out to relieve the formed bottle. Up to this time all Case Gins had their shoulders and necks free formed and twisted before being cut from their blow-pipe. After this the dip molds graduated from side forming panels to the addition of two side opening shoulder mold sections. These split over the center top-side on two panels and were hinged and

pinned to one labeled side panel of the square form. After that came a two part square mold with the shoulders where each half of the mold contained an embossed label of the company producing the product.

Now-then, back to the makers marks. When the bottle was removed from the blow-pipe the remaining glass on the blow-pipe was reheated in a glory hole in the furnace and then stuck to the bottom of the bottle. This produced a tubular glass holding for the bottle maker to hold the product while he applied the finish lip to the top. Some were banded with a ribbon of glass for cork-pressure protection. Then the band was shaped into a tapered top (finish). When the bottle finish was done the bottle maker would score the tube near the bottom glass with a wet tool or knife and break it off. Leaving the tube pontil ring on the glass and some were open enough so the mold makers mark would show under them.

The finishes are a study all of their own. The earliest Case Gins and Utility bottles had flared finish or prescription finishes. The applied rings of the early pig snout finishes were unique and rough. Sometimes what collectors have taken to describing as sloppy because extra lass was left below the desired finish and often dribbled to the neck. It didn't hurt the function of anything so it was left. This same sloppy extra glass can be seen around a lot of the seals used on Case Gins. As for the blob finish description you used - it is different than what you see on soda and mineral waters with a blob top; but is an applied and shaped almost to a mouth pieced blob. I also see them referred to as a Rolled-lip bottle. I think this is the correct term. So I have to look up my 'Bosche' book and other references to this type of finish.

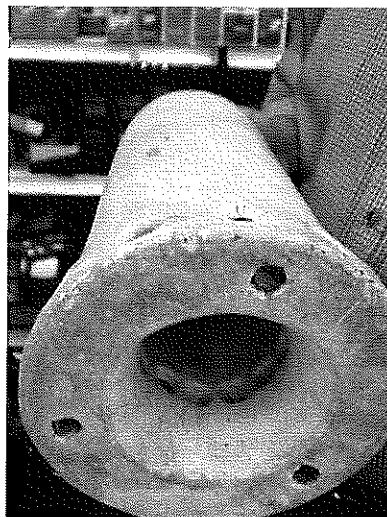
Well - I sure get carried away with word assembly. I will appreciate you comments or corrections to this dissertation as it will be included in my home page when I get it put together a little more. If you have any book or reference material that could help me - tell me about it. One thing you can do is go to Google and search **Pontil Marks**. You will find there a series of articles on several subjects that have been put together by a Bill Lindsey under the http://www.blm.gov/historic_bottles/ - their coverage is priceless to the learner. I used a lot of printer ink and paper to get hard copy reference sheets printed. Main Subjects Pages they have are Home, Dating, Typing/Shapes, Glass Making, Colors, Finishes(lips), Body & Seams, Bases, Fragment ID, Glossary, References, Links, & Web site map. They have some that cover Closures. When you get done with all that, I think you will be amazed and informed about a lot of bottle knowledge. Let me know. Best regards, Red Matthews

HULP GEVRAAGD!

Peter Vermeulen

Onze vriend, Larry Chipman van de Maagden Eilanden (voormalig Deens West Indië), vraagt hulp voor een opgegraven voorwerp.

Het ding is tevoorschijn gekomen – van 3 meter onder de grond - bij de aanleg van een wandelpad bij de haven van Christiansted op het eiland St.Croix. De oever aldaar is sedert 1700 zo'n 7 meter opgeschoven als gevolg van sedimentatie, weggegooiderommel en plantengroei. Het voorwerp kan dus heel goed overboord gevallen zijn. Inmiddels zijn daar al scheepswrakken uitgegraven van eind 18^e eeuw tot 1861. Het voorwerp is ca 40cm hoog en weegt bijna 7 kilo.



Rondom de onderkant zitten gaten, die naar binnen gebogen doorlopen. Het materiaal is een soort - hard gebakken - keramiek. Aan de top is een bronzen ring bevestigd.

Wie kan Larry helpen?

P.S. het is geen okkelokke!

Peter Vermeulen (petverm61@freeler.nl)