

## Glass Honey Bottles and Jars – Part 1 by Jim Thompson

After one spends a year in the beekeeping business, they come to the point where a decision usually is made how they are going to sell or give away their honey crop. Some of this decision will be based upon what they have produced and what they plan to do with their crop. Some of these choices will be plastic, glass, cans, jugs, buckets or barrels. The next obvious choice has to be what kind of containers is available. If you plan to give your honey crop away as gifts, you can use non-traditional containers and even make needlepoint covers for the lids. Designing labels for your product can get expensive and you should do your research to see what is required to be printed on the label. There is data on what colors are preferred by customers and you should check into having the likeness of a bee, award ribbons, bee hive, skep or flowers on the label. Some objects can be objectionable to people.

Plastic containers may be shipped from the manufacture or dealer to you cheaper than glass. Plastic containers full of honey may be shipped from you cheaper than full glass containers. If the plastic container doesn't get distorted during shipping, the contents will arrive safely. Plastic usually can withstand a bump better than a glass container. Honey that is being shipped should have either safety seals or shrinkable cover rings to prevent leakage and prevent the lid from coming off.

If the box that contains glass containers is well padded, the jars do not distort as plastic jars and retain their lids. However if the entire package is dropped, there is the likelihood that some jars may get broken. If you plan to show honey at a fair or a honey show, the requirements usually state that only glass containers are used. Most shows even stipulate which glass containers are acceptable. Some honey in the granulated and chunk classes should be shown in a straight sided container if the rules permit.

Some of the glass jars that were used in the past have so many curves and designs that it is difficult to use them at honey shows but these are the bottles and jars that I will discuss, as you might use them for gifts or creating a collection. However some of these jars were popular over 100 years ago and are quite valuable by themselves. How do you find some of these jars to add to a collection? The first technique is to dig up sites where people used to dispose of glass which means old privies or dumps. Another source would be to visit resale stores that recycle products. You might go to bottle shows that are held in practically every state which are usually a one day event with an early bird privilege option. Lastly, you might search the Internet. The Internet option is somewhat tricky as some items may not be represented correctly and care must be used to find the best search words. Sometimes food blenders are described to have a bee hive shape and other objects may have a honey color. If you are looking for jars for bottling your honey, the best source is to visit your bee supply dealer.

I have an extensive collection of old glass honey containers that I will describe in this article. In Part 1, I will cover glass bottles and jars that were and are used for honey. In Part 2, I will mention bottles and jars that contained a mixture of honey and others substances. Part 3 includes glass objects that look like they have used for honey or relate to beekeeping or the honey industry, but may have been used for an entirely other purpose. A discussion of honey pots, comb dishes, salt and pepper shakers, and measuring cups is an entirely different subject area.

Remember that there is a difference between a fluid ounce and an ounce of avoirdupois weight. A one pound honey jar filled correctly to the center of the neck ring holds 16 ounces of honey by weight. That same volume of honey, (1 1/3 cups) would be 10.667 fluid ounces.

**Muth Jar** – original models were made of clear or aqua glass and some lacked the background embossing. The jars were developed by Charles F. Muth, Cincinnati, OH about 1831. An easy way to tell if they are an original Muth Jar is to look at the bottom of the jar and it should be clear or sometimes just have a single letter or number.



Original Muth Jars

**Reproduction Muth Jars** are made of clear glass and are available in many sizes, as 4 oz., 8 oz., and 1 lb. The largest size seems to be 1 pound. But the real identifier is that the bottom of the jars are embossed "Honey Acres". The reproduction jars are available from most bee supply dealers and make good bottles for gifts or honey sales at a special market. You have to be careful in purchasing these jars from the internet as some people will refer to them as vintage or antique and ask exorbitant prices.



Reproduction Muth Jars - Honey Acres

**Strittmatter & Wife** – Embossed "Strittmatter's, (bee), Pure Honey, Put up by, F.J. Strittmatter & Wife, RD #1, Ebensburg, PA " currently valued in the \$80 to \$100 per jar price range. There are two different styles, and in aqua glass. They were made about 1908. When his daughter was contacted and asked why Mr. Strittmatter didn't list his wife's name, the answer was because he had been married five times and didn't want to continually be changing the glass mold. There is a difference between the two styles of jars in the height, the size of the pontil marks, and a small difference in the lettering. The taller of the two jars was made on the older Owens machine.



Strittmatter Honey Jars - different heights

**Golden Tree Pure Honey jar**, about 1909 – 6" tall clear and blue glass cylinders. The clear glass jar is the most common. It was made by the Maine Honey & Maple Syrup Company, Boston. The jar was also used for maple syrup, mustard and occasionally cane syrup. The company was first mentioned in 1904 and advertised as late as 1920. There were also two sizes of containers the pictured 4 oz. of honey size and a pint.



Golden Tree Honey Jars - 4 oz.

**Honey "milk" Bottle** – L.F. Wahl, Chili, N.Y. sold honey in a quart bottle. A close examination shows MTC which were makers of the bottle Thatcher Glass Manufacturing Company. These bottles were made from 1923 to about 1949. Notice that this bottle lists honey as the contents and not like the regular milk bottles that list their names as honey gardens or show bees, skeps, or flowers. Premium Dairy has a nice Eagle and Skep embossed in their crest on the bottle, but the emphasis is on milk.



Honey Milk Bottle

**Lake Shore Honey Jars** – were made in 3 sizes, patented 1932, 1933, and 1935, The 6" high bottle had a sliding metal top. Lake Shore Honey was located near Chicago, Illinois and Walter F. Straub was at the helm and the holder of the three patents.



Lake Shore Honey Jars

**Beehive Jars** – were listed for sale in 1935 in *Bee Culture* and were made by Hazel-Atlas Glass Company, Wheeling, West Virginia. They were made in three sizes from ½ pound to 2 pounds. The Killions of Illinois were strong supporters of these jars.



Beehive Jars

**Noble Ornamental Honey Jar** – embossed on the bottom D.E.S. Pat. 94984. The patent was granted March 26, 1935. Olbert C. Noble of Washington, PA. is the inventor. Evidently he worked for the Tygart Valley Glass Company, which was a corporation of West Virginia. The jar is approximately 4 7/8" tall and is embossed with skeps, honeybees and honeycomb.



Noble Ornamental Honey Jar

**Queenline** – Originally patented as the J.B. Smurr jar, May 22, 1951. John B. Smurr lived in San Francisco, California, but evidently had a connection with the Hazel Atlas Glass Company, of Wheeling, W. Va. who was the first to produce the jars. The queenline jars were one of the first jars approved for displaying honey at shows and fairs. They may be available at many bee supply companies and were/are made in many weight sizes.



Queenline

**Honey Jar by Armstrong** – 2 sizes. The Armstrong Cork Company (Glass Division), Lancaster, Pennsylvania made these jars. The smaller jar is approximately 5 ¼” tall and the larger jar is 6 ¼” tall. They were made in a two piece mold that left a line in the center of the side. The top and the bottom of the jars have three bands to indicate layers of a skep and there is a bee in the upper right hand “corner” of the jar.



Honey Jars by Armstrong

**Anchor Hocking Honey Jars** – were made in two different sizes and carry the model numbers L-627A and L-628A. The trademark indicates that they were made during the time period of 1937 to 1968. The jars are somewhat oval in shape and have a honeycomb pattern at the top and bottom of the jar. In the upper left “corner” of the jar there is a bee. The smaller jar is 4 ½” tall and the larger jar is 5 ½” tall.



Anchor Hocking Honey Jar

**Anchor Hocking jar** – marked 1232 Patent applied for, 3, 6, and the anchor hocking trademark are on the bottom of the jar. The jar is 5 ¼” tall and has curved sides. The markings on the jar are similar to the jar listed above. (Honeycomb pattern top and bottom with a bee in the upper left of the jar.) It is estimated that this jar was made in 1944.



Anchor Hocking Jar - 1232

**Brockway Honey Jar** – is 5 3/8 inches tall and has a honeycomb pattern at the top and bottom of the jar. It was made in Muskogee, Oklahoma in 1944, by the Brockway Glass Company.



1944 Brockway Glass

**Gamber Classic Jar**– is available from most bee supply dealers. These jars are made in different sizes and have been approved as another display container at most honey shows. Since they are slightly thinner in total thickness than a queenline jar, the same honey will appear lighter in color.



Gamber Classic Jar

**Hexagonal Jars** – available from most bee supply dealers. Some of the sizes available are: 1.5 oz., 3.75 oz., and 9 oz. These jars make good gift bottles but are generally too small for show requirements. Original patent 1,073,459 granted September 16, 1913.

**Straight sided pickle jar, 2 ½ pound square jar, and the 5 lb. honey jar** – are jars that are not always specifically mentioned in show rule books, but make excellent jars to use. These jars are also available from most bee supply dealers.

The following are jars that have been made or patented, and I do not have a jar to show. However I do have a patent drawing of most of them.

**Larry M. Taylor** – jar patented Feb. 17, 1987 Gales Ferry, Conn. The Monsanto Company, St. Louis, Mo. was the assignee for Patent Number Des. 288,294.



Larry M. Taylor  
Des. 288,294

**R.H. Dallas** – Feb. 22, 1938, Southgate, California. The jars were made by Glass Containers, Inc., Los Angeles, California. Patent Des. 108,592.



**Cole's Honey** – about 1980, California

**Dwight Stoller** – bottle patented Des 428,342 on July 18, 2000. The bottle has many curves to the sides and honeycomb patterns on the top. I suspect that this bottle was not a glass bottle.



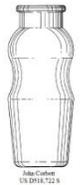
**Dwight Stoller** – bottle patented Des 433,948 on November 21, 2000. The bottle has straight sides with the exception of an indented part for a hand grip. There is a honeycomb pattern on the top part of the bottle. Again I suspect that this bottle was not a glass bottle.



**Francois Bertrand** – of Boulogne, France. He was working with Famille Mchaud Apiculteurs, Gan, France. Patent US D513,188 S, granted December 27, 2005.



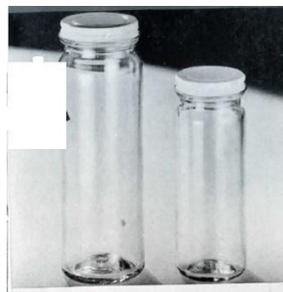
**John Corbett** – April 11, 2006, Little River, SC., working with Cadbury Schweppes plc., Birmingham, Great Britain. Patent US D518,722 S



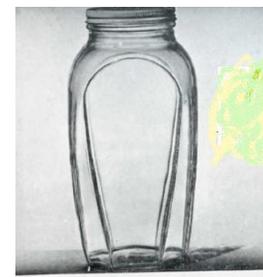
There were several more honey jars that I noticed in advertisements were made by the various companies but the jars must not have caught on to be used by the beekeepers or the jars were plastic and could be covered in this article.



"Skyline Jars" . . . range in size from 1/2 pound to 4 pounds. 1936  
Hazel-Atlas Glass Company  
Wheeling, W. Va.



"Tall Cylinder Jars" . . . range in size from 1 1/4 oz. (individual service) to 3 pounds. 1936  
Hazel-Atlas Glass Company  
Wheeling, W. Va.



"Excelsior Jars" . . . range in size from 1/2 pound to 4 pounds. 1936  
Hazel-Atlas Glass Company  
Wheeling, W. Va.  
New Jars in 1936

## Glass Bottles & Jars containing honey mixtures – Part 2

Honey and compounds found in these types of jars tend to be very dark. This is a very common trait of honey darkening with time. To determine the date when the bottles were made you may find a date from the glass company that made the bottle, when the patent was granted, the style of the bottle lip, the date of the advertising literature, an indication of the date by the label on the bottle, or sometimes the level or layer in the ground where the bottle was found.

It is interesting to read about all of the claims that were made about the mixtures and one can see where the term "Snake Oil Salesman" may have come from.

**Dr. Bell's – Pine Tar Honey**, was sold as early as 1898 and was produced by the E. F. Sutherland Medicine Co., Paducah, KY. There were at least two different sizes of jars. People have tried to place a date when these bottles were made, as reports mention that several houses during the civil war that were used as hospitals had these jars. Another

dating factor indicates that the bottles were made prior to 1906 as the Food and Drug Act was passed making the list of ingredients, the label law. This made a change in the way the manufacturers made their bottles. Dr. Bell's Pine Tar remedy was used to treat many ailments from colds and coughs to skin treatments.

Pine Tar is actually extracted from pine trees. In the South this is sometimes called a Fat Pine. The trees are usually located in a damp places and the tar is lemon colored and greasy. Once the tar is obtained it could be made into a cough syrup similar to Dr. Bell's by using a ratio of 1 part pine tar to 6 parts of honey. Pine tar could also be used in making a cough candy by using water, sugar, pine tar dissolved in alcohol, capsicum (hot pepper), and wintergreen.

**Hale's Honey of Horehound and Tar** – was made by C.N. Crittenton of New York. The bottle is embossed on three sides and uses a cork stopper. The bottle lip is the style that was used in the time period of 1880 to 1910. The bottle is 7" tall, 2" wide, and 1 1/8" thick. An advertisement in 1865 stated "Hale's Honey of Horehound and Tar, A certain cure for coughs, cold, influenza, hoarseness, difficult breathing, and all affections of the throat, bronchial tubes and lungs, leading to consumption. The Honey of Horehound soothes all irritation. The Tar of Balm of Gilead penetrates, cleanses and heals all parts of the throat and lungs. There is nothing like it. Fifty cents per bottle. For sale by all druggists. Charles Downer, General Agent, No. 44 Cedar – St., New – York." An advertisement in the Weekly Hawkeye newspaper, January 4, 1883 further states what the ingredients are and do: "Honey of the plant horehound, in chemical union with Tar-Balm, extracted from the Life Principle of the forest tree Abies Balsamea, or Balm of Gilead." "Five additional ingredients keep the organs cool, moist, and in healthful union." An 1899 advertisement was similar but described physical symptoms.



Hale's Horehound and Tar

**Kennedy's Laxative Honey and Tar** – was made by E.C. Witt & Company, in Chicago. It is 7" tall and made of blue glass. It is approximated to have been made about 1900. It is rather interesting that the formulation for coughs and bronchial problems is now a cure for laxative problems.



Kennedy's Honey & Tar Laxative

**Honey Tolu** – This bottle required research as to what Tolu was and what it was used for. I found Tolu is a fragrant yellowish-brown balsam obtained from a South American tree. It is used in medicine, as a stomachic and expectorant or a common cough ingredient. My bottle is rather plain, but on other bottles there is an embossed skep in between the words Honey and Tolu. It was marketed to help coughs, colds, consumption and affections of the throat and lungs. It was manufactured by Gilbert Bros and Co., Baltimore. Because there is no listing of ingredients, the product was made prior to 1906. The bottle is 7 3/8" tall, 2 7/16" wide, and 1 1/4" thick. The bottle lip is consistent with those made in the 1880 – 1910 time period. The bottle mold marks are on the diagonal corners.



Honey Tolu

**Hines – Honey and Almonds skin cream**, making various creams for the face, hands, and skin in 1875. In 1907 Aurelius Stone Hinds sold his business sold to Lehn & Fink, maker of Lysol. However the A.S. Hinds honey almond cream was still marketed until 1948. A.S. Hinds did much of the early formulation and marketing work in Portland, Maine. Because the cream was such a success, production was shifted to a company in New Jersey. In fact there was a Hinds Honey & Almond Cream radio program on CBS starring George Burns and Gracie Allen from 1939 to 1940. It is difficult to date the bottles of the cream as the early bottles did not carry a date. There were several sizes of bottles. The smallest one that I have is 2 1/2" tall and embossed on all four sides. The 5 1/2" bottle and the 6 5/16" bottle has embossing on one panel and the bottom. Therefore the taller bottles were probably produced after 1906.



Hines' Honey and Almonds Skin Cream

**Honey Hop** –hand blown bottle standing 5 ¼” tall. Clear square bottle and embossing on all sides. “Manufactured by Henning-Wennersten Co., Chicago, U.S.A.,” “An Extract of Malt & Hops” and “Makes Gals of a delicious drink”. The bottle lip indicates that the bottle was made in the 1880 to 1910 time period. It’s hard to tell if they were talking about Root Beer or regular beer.

**Foley – Honey & Tar** – was available in several jar sizes and embossing. The smallest jar 3 7/8” was a trial sample jar and has the edges embossed with Foley & Co. and Chicago, USA. Another trial sized bottle is 4 ¼” tall and carries the same embossing but has the paper labels on both sides. The paper label states that Foley’s Honey and Tar compound contains seven percent alcohol, so keep the bottle sealed with the cork when not in use. On the paper label on the other side indicates that M.L. Corel of Horseheads, N.Y. sold this bottle. The regular sized bottle (5 3/8” tall) has flat sides and the same embossing on the edges. Whereas on another Foley’s regular bottle there is no embossing on the edges but embossing on one side. That embossing is “Foley’s Honey and Tar, Foley & Co., Chicago, U.S.A.” Thereby indicating that this bottle is the earliest one as it didn’t have the list of ingredients that were required in 1906. The bottle lip on all of the bottles that I have, are of the flat tooled variety so they were made in the 1880 to 1910 time period. However I have seen advertisements from different magazines that were in 1918 and 1941.



Foley's Honey and Tar Compound Jars

**Jesses Cough Medicine** (paper label) – Pine Tar & honey cough medicine. This is estimated to have been made about 1920 as it has the “Kork-N-Seal” cap which is listed in the 1920 catalog. The bottle was made by the Illinois Glass Company. The Cough Syrup was prepared by Old City Drug Store, Prague, Oklahoma. The ingredients are: Mentholated Pine Tar, Honey, Cod Liver Extract, Eucalytus with Chloroform, and Alcohol.



Jesse's Pine Tar Honey

**Hobson Hive & Cough Syrup** (paper label) – is used for coughs due to colds and minor bronchial irritations. This bottle was made August 1933. It is cork type bottle rather than a screw on cap and has a label on three sides. There is no embossing on the jar. The active ingredients are: Tartar Emetic, Senega, Tolu, Spruce Gum, honey, and 5% alcohol. It was made by Pfeiffer Chemical Company, NY and St. Louis.



Hobson Hive & Cough Syrup

**K-IT, Cough syrup** – white Pine tar & honey. This medicine is to provide relief from coughs and throat irritations. The mixture contains: white pine, wild cherry, spikenard root, balm Gilead Buds, Sassafras blood root, cudbear, Oil of sassafras, oil of tar, oil of orange, Guaiacol, honey, sugar, and Gum Arabic. It was prepared by Balch Products Company, N. S., Pittsburgh, PA. The estimated date of manufacture is 1935.



K-IT Cough Syrup

**Beehive Beverages** (soda pop) were made about 1948. The beverages were produced by the Beehive Red Rock Bottling Company, Brigham City, Utah. You would expect this beverage to come from the Bee Hive State! The ingredients were: Sugar, plain or carbonated water, True or artificial flavor and color, Citric Acid or other essential acids and oils. The bottle is labeled to hold 10 Fluid Ounces. The bottle is approximately 9 3/8” tall.



Beehive Beverages

**Watkins – Honey & Almond Lotion** – is in a bottle that has a reverse machine made top crown, thus indicating that it was made in the time period from 1903 to the present time. The bottle is 8 3/8” tall, 3” wide, and 1 5/8” thick and embossed Watkins on one side. The paper label further states that there were 11 Fl. Oz. of lotion and it was made by Watkins Products, Inc., Winona, MN 55987. Because there are no



Watkins - Honey & Almond Lotion

ingredients listed this is an indication that the bottle was made before 1906, however there is a zip code listed indicating that it was made after July 1, 1963. This is probably a violation of the labeling law. We can assume that it is very similar to the Hines skin cream.

**A. Davis Ashley** – made a Honey Balsam for colds, all coughs, and croup. It was manufactured in Boston.

## Glass Bottles and Jars that look like honey containers - Part 3

**“Bee Hive” Ink Bottle** – is estimated to have been made in the 1860s and has registration diamond embossed under the base. It is 2.8 inches in length and about 2.5 inches tall.



1860s Ink Bottle

**Root Mason Jar** – was made in Terre Haute, Indiana by the Root Glass Company from 1906 to 1909. It was made in pints, quarts and ½ gallon jars. If the zinc cap on the jar is printed “Root”, you can add \$300 to the value of the jar as the lids were only made for three years. Ball bought the Root Glass Company.



Root Mason Jar - pint

**Canadian Bee Hive Jar** – was made in pints and quarts, clear and aqua colors about 1910 and the current (2012) selling price is approximately \$200 per jar. It looks like a Mason jar that has an embossed skep, flying bees and the words BEE HIVE. At one show many years ago, one of the dealers referred to it as a midget jar, while the dealers today are calling it as a pint or quart jar. As there are two sizes. I put this jar in this category as it is actually a fruit or canning jar and not classified as a honey container.



Embossed Canadian Bee Hive Jar

**Octagon quart jar** – was made by the Owens-Illinois Glass Company, Perrysburg, Ohio in 1954. This jar looks like a possible honey container even though it is not six sided or round like the regular honey jars.



Octagon quart jar

**“Bee Hive” jar** – some peoples have their own idea of a bee hive looks like. In a certain position, the bottom of this container reflects giving the illusion that there is an entrance and this jar looks like a skep. It was made by the Jeannette Glass Company, Jeannette, Pennsylvania. The company was in business from 1889 to 1983.



“Bee Hive” Jar

**Vase** – was advertised as a honey jar as it has a honeycomb pattern on the top portion of the “jar”. The problem comes when you look at the lid being made out of wire and having an open grid. Then you realize that the top is actually a flower frog for holding flowers in their arrangement and the “jar” is actually a vase. It is made by THT in 2003.



Vase with honeycomb pattern

**Fly trap** is an ingenious idea. This again is an item that one would think it is just a glass bee hive. Then you notice that it has three pegs for feet and a wire harness for hanging. So it may be placed on a table or hung from a support. You put a small amount of sugar water into this jar or pieces of fruit. Insects may enter the trap through a one inch hole in the center bottom but cannot remember the exit and drown in the syrup. There was no manufacturers mark on this fly trap, so I cannot place a date. However I have seen some that were made in the 1900 time period and others that are rolling off the assembly line today. I have a feeling that this one is old, due to the beaded hangar.



Flytrap

**Skep Diffuser bottle** – is 3 inches tall and holds 4 ounces of diffuser oil. There are many fragrances that could be used. Select any of the aromatic fragrances or essential oils and pour into the glass bottle. Insert an all-natural reed that will act as a wick and the oils or fragrance will be released into the air.



Skep Diffuser Jar