BOTTLES FOUND

IN

ST. THOMAS, VIRGIN ISLANDS WATERS

by
Tom and Andrea Hannon

INTRODUCTION

St. Thomas was the crossroads of the trade centers when the main source of transport of cargo was shipping. The stories of great hurricanes, uncharted reefs and pirateering are the consensus held by many historians and archaeologists why many shipwrecks are found in the waters off the British and U.S. Virgin Islands. Ships carrying different cargoes often fell prey to one of the nautical hazards and were condemned to the ocean floor in water depths of between 70 and 200 feet. Lacking any means of retrieving the cargo, or their ship, the shippers acquiesced to the inevitable, unaware that almost 200 years later, technology would reveal a way for us to explore these depths. Today, marine biologists, archaeologists and sport divers are able to take advantage of this technology, and discover the past that was once lost to the sea.

Imagine, diving the clear turquoise waters of the Caribbean, 75-85° F. with a visibility of between 100 to 200 feet! Sea fans, anemones, the widest variety of tropical fish, an abundance of coral and other animal life, are all a part of the Caribbean dive. Beyond this, there is always the possibility of discovering

something of the sunken past.

During our many pleasure dives, we were fortunate enough to have come upon some of these uncharted wrecks. We spotted broken glass and pieces of pottery, and these were the first indications that there was more treasure to be uncovered. During our repeated dives in these areas, we discovered bottles, ceramics and pottery, silver utensils, copper and brass artifacts and the most exciting find of all — a coral-encrusted brass flintlock pistol.

Our interest was so piqued by the objects we found on the ocean floor that we were determined to find as much information on them as we could. The Virgin Islands, unlike the mainland, have recorded very little of its past. We were unable to obtain information from any local sources. An exception was Oliver Christian, a laboratory technician in the Caribbean Research Institute, who has been identifying and cataloging artifacts from charted wrecks. His resources for identification were limited, but his efforts were very helpful in assisting us to clean and restore our growing collection.

At this point, we contacted publishers in the States and England seeking more information. As books and pamphlets were arriving, we continued to classify, as best we could, the different kinds of bottles we were finding. Through a friend, we learned that the V.I. Archaeological Society was showing interest in bottles found in excavations sites. We contacted the Society and found them to be enthusiastic over our finds. They asked us for permission to photograph our collection and were desirous of our continuing to categorize and identify the collection so as to benefit the Society and St. Thomas.

We returned to the Mainland with our collection for five months and were within reach of research material, bottle clubs and one of the most formidable

sources of glass making and bottle identification, The Corning Glass Museum. The process of identifying our collection was being realized. The major part of our collection is bottles — both glass and ceramic — free blown, mold blown, two and three piece molds, dip molds, turn molds. Bottles for wine, beer, soda, gin, mineral water, perfume, condiments, inks, dyes and pharmaceuticals.

It is at this time we feel knowledgeable enough to begin writing down the results of our research for the Virgin Islands and the V.I. Archaeological Society. It is further our intention to arouse enough curiosity from the research articles to obtain financial assistance either from the Department of Conservation and Cultural Affairs, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands or a grant from the Federal Government.

Chapter 1

SODA & MINERAL WATER BOTTLES

In 1772, a scientist, Joseph Priestly, introduced a way to artifically carbonate soda water, at which time it became imperative that someone find a way to bottle the soda water and contain the carbonation. A Swiss, Jacob Schweppes of Bristol, England, in 1794, was one of the earliest manufacturers of mineral water and sold it in earthenware bottles. He subsequently noted that the gas permeated through the sides of the container, resulting in the mineral water losing its carbonation. In the late 1790's, Schweppes began using glass containers. He is the first person known to use the egg-shaped or torpedo bottle. The bottle was designed to lie on its side rather than stand upright. (Plate 1.) Thus, the cork would remain moist. If the cork was allowed to dry out, the carbonation would expel it from the bottle.

The patent for the egg-shaped or torpedo bottle was registered as the Hamilton bottle by William Hamilton, inventor, in 1809. Schweppes never patented the idea. Speculation exists as to the original idea coming from Hamilton or Schweppes.

The Hamilton bottle was not prominent until the 1840's when virtually every manufacturer was using it. Prior to this, the sale of mineral waters was conducted only on a small scale, with each chemist bottling his own soda water in the basement of his shop, and selling it as a medicine to his own shop's private customers. There was no national distribution until much later in the century. Jacob Schweppes had a chemist's shop in Oxford Street, London, in the 1790's and early 1800's and sold his soda water there. He was the founder of Schweppes, Ltd., Britain's largest modern soda water manufacturers.

These early soda water bottles contained many imperfections such as distorted necks, air bubbles and curves in the body of the glass.

EMBOSSING

The first mold-embossed Hamiltons were used from the 1830's - 1837. These bottles did not contain a blob top. Their necks were very thin and were sheared off at the top with a ring lip on them.

In 1850, the glass of the bottle was much thicker to withstand the pressure of the carbonated contents and an applied blob-top was added.

A blob-top was a large blob of thick glass laid around the lip of the bottle. A wire ran over or through the cork just below the bottom of the lip to hold the cork in place.

Embossed Hamiltons were manufactured by being blown into a full height hinged mold (early wood molds, later metal molds). Wood molds marks are characterized by raised overlapping seams. Embossing was done by means of a slug plate which was removable. This allowed different slug plates to be used in the same mold. The slug plate was designed to meet the manufacturer's needs for advertisement. The earlier ones had little embossment, but as the advantages became obvious, more and more area was used for embossed advertising. Trade marks were first used in 1884.

The term "double soda water" refers to the fact that at first, in order to compete, some manufacturers doubled the amount of carbon dioxide gas they put in the artificial spring water, to give it more effervescence, and this fact was advertised by calling it "double."

The cylinder (Plate 2) was in direct competition to the Hamilton. It was a round bottomed bottle which also could not be stood upright. They were popular in the 1880's. Except for a very early cucumber-type bottle, such as Maugham's Patent, these bottles were very thin and long, unlike the cylinder which we have in our collection.

In 1870, the flat egg (Plate 3), which stood upright or on its side, replaced the Hamilton bottle. In 1870 - 1875, the Hutchinson stopper replaced the blob top. In 1903, the Hutchinson stopper was replaced with a crown top (Plates 4 and 6).

According to Ron Dale, Secretary of the National Bottle Club of England, it is very difficult if not impossible to determine the bottle manufacturer and manufactured date of bottles which do not supply the name of the company or some mark. The small glass houses of England either faded out of existence, giving way to the bigger companies, or sold out to them. Unfortunately, most of the records of these small glass manufacturers were lost or burned. Mr. Dale is in the process of publishing a book "A Dictionary of Collectible British Bottles: 1700-1920," which will be coming out in the fall of 1976. It promises to be the most comprehensive book on bottles ever published in Britain.

The following is a list of Hamilton "Torpedo" bottles which we have in our collection. Most of the bottles fit the following characteristics:

Height: 9 - 9½ inches

Color: Aqua

Contents: Soda or Mineral Water

Origin: English
Date: 1850 - 1880

Made: Blown into a full height hinged mold

with an applied blob top.

Plate 1

Embossments:

 Webb's Double Soda and other waters to Her Majesty Islington London From J. Schweppes & Co. Genuine Superior Aerated Waters Roughsedge & Summers Bristol

- 3) Marylebone Rawlings Soda Water Nassau Street
- 4) Aerated Waters
 Belfast & Dublin
 Cantrell & Cos
- 5) The Prince of Wales
 (drawing of crown)
 Fleet's & Mineral Waters
 H. R. H.
 Lemonade
 Double Soda
 Walworth
- 6) J. Schweppe & Co.
 51 Berners Street
 Oxford Street
 Genuine Superior
 Aerated Waters
- 7) Genuine Soda Waters
 Prepared by
 W. Culverhouse & Co.
 White Chapel
 Established in 1808
 London, E
- 8) Double Carbonated Soda Water London
- 9) Browne, Taylor & Hill Belfast
- 10) J & C Webb
 Manufacturers
 Double Soda Water
 to Her Majesty
 Islington
 London
- 11) Soda Water
- 12) Webb's Mineral Waters
 Islington
 London

- 13) Genuine
 Aerated Waters
 Mayo Watson & Co.
 No. 2
 Berners Street
 Oxford Street
- 14) Fleets Double Soda Water East St. Walworth
- 15) Aerated
 Superior
 Water
 Mineral
- 16) Genuine
 Soda Water
 Manufactured by
 D.P. Cotton Co.
 Ice Establishment
 Barbados
 - 17) J. Webb
 Manufacturer of
 Double Soda Water
 to Her Majesty
 Islington
 London
 - 18) Portsmouth
 Mumby & Co.
 and Gosport
 Front: Trade Mark
 (anchor)
 C M & C
 P & C
 Her Majesty
 the Queen

The following is a list of the "cylinders" we have in our collection. Most of the bottles fit the following characteristics:

Height:

9 - 9½ inches

Color:

Light Amber; Dark Amber; or Aqua

Contents:

Soda or Mineral Water

Origin: Date:

English or Irish 1860 - 1910

Made:

Blown into a full height hinged mold

with an applied blob top.

Plate 2

Embossments:

Belfast 19) Medicated Aerated Waters Cantrell & Co

- 27) Troncoso Hermanos V1co
- 20) WEBB'S LONDON (light amber)
- 28) Design of Wheel E.R.
- 21) WEBB'S LONDON (dark amber)

- & Co Wheeler & Co Cromac Springs Belfast
- See that each cork is branded 22) Cantrell & Cochrane (on rounded bottom) Dublin & Belfast
- 29) Bottom: 0901
- 30) Bottom: 122

- 23) ROSS'S **BELFAST** (on rounded bottom) R&S 1246
- 31) Bottom: 1473

24) **BELFAST** 32) Wheel Design E.R. & Co

ROSS'S BEL

В

(shoulder) Belfast 1895 OO Gold Medals OO (FLAT BOTTOM)

(Post Bottom) 25) C.B. & Co Ld 6898

33) The Belfast York Road Mineral Water Co Ltd Barron & Co Makers Newton-le-Willows

(Post Bottom) 26) 18

Soda Water Manufacturers — with reference to the embossments found on the bottles in our collection of Hamiltons and Cylinders.

JOHN WEBB, SODA WATER MANUFACTURER, ISLINGTON, LONDON, N.

This company was founded by John Webb in 1818 and he obtained a Royal Warrant from King William IV (1830-37). Earliest bottles seen are embossed with "J. Webb, Manufacturer/Double Soda Water/To His Majesty/Islington Near London." The reference to Islington being near London is amusing. Even in Victorian times, it was swallowed up in the sprawling city and is now not even on the edges of London. This very early embossed bottle does not have a blob top, as special machinery or tools were not then in use for Hamiltons. It is a thin applied ring, similar to the string-rim on early wine bottles. Blob tops only came into use when national distribution commenced from a few companies around 1850. The bottle manufacturer of John Webb's bottles is not known at this time, but could be uncovered in the research for Mr. Dale's book.

J. SCHWEPPE & CO. (NOW CADBURY SCHWEPPES LTD.)

This firm commenced business in the name of J. Schweppes & Co. in 1798 after working in Schweppe's chemist shop on his own for a few years. In 1897, the company became known as Schweppes Ltd. They first used mold-embossed Hamiltons around the 1830's, but were using plain Hamiltons in the 1790's. Schweppes moved to 51 Berners Street in 1832 and remained there throughout the 19th Century.

ROUGHSEDGE & SUMMERS OF BRISTOL

Bristol was the place where the first mold-embossed bottles were made by the company of Ricketts, probably the earliest of the Schweppes bottles. Schweppes Hamilton bottles were used for aerated (soda) and for aerated lemonade later in the century when flavoring was added to the soda water.

H. D. RAWLINGS LTD., NASSAU STREET, MARYLEBONE, LONDON

This company started in 1784 in Colchester, Essex, but moved to Nassau Street, London in the early 1800's. They became part of R. White Ltd. later in the century, but they still used their own name on the bottles. During the last twenty years of the century, Rawlings used an embossed eagle on their bottles as a trademark.

FLEET'S, WALWORTH, LONDON

No date for the company, but we should have it when Mr. Dale finishes his research. Their trademark was the emblem or crest of the Prince of Wales, later to become King Edward VII. The P. o. W. feathers are seen on Fleets bottles after 1884 when trademarks were first used.

W. CULVERHOUSE & Co., WHITECHAPEL, LONDON E.

The company was established in 1808.

MAYO WATSON & CO.

Came from the same street as J. Schweppe & Co., Berners Street, and Oxford Street.

MUMBY & CO., PORTSMOUTH AND GOSPORT

Trademark on bottle means it had to be after 1884. No information on company.

BARNETT & FOSTER

(See Codd Bottle) This firm made many of the round-bottom or cylinders as they were called in the trade.

CANTRELL & COCHRANE

The rounded base bottles of Cantrell & Cochrane were used from 1869, the year of their amalgamation, until the beginning of the 20th Century. (The Ulster Aerated Water Industry included three well-known firms: Grattan & Co. -1825; Corry & Co. -1849; and Cantrell & Cochrane -1869). The bottles contained either seltzer water or dry ginger ale. Dr. Cantrell is credited with the origin of the latter. To insure that the cork stopper which was wired to the bottle remained moist, the bottle was made with a rounded base so it could not be stood up. This firm, originally Cantrell & Co., was established in 1852.

Notation: Numbers on late Victorian or Edwardian bottles, if long, referred to the trademark. The smaller numbers were either the code number of the bottlers, the month or year it was manufactured or even if the bottle had a deposit or not. The number 10755 on bottles is probably the registration number of the trademark. This was first registered in 1884. It merely tells when the patent for the trademark or design of bottles was first registered.

The following is a list of "Flat Hamiltons" which we have in our collection.

These bottles have the following characteristics:

Height:

6¾ to 8½ inches

Color:

Aqua

Contents: Soda & Mineral Water

Origin:

English

Date:

1870 - 1900, Machine made: 1900's

Made:

34) Blown in Mold

35) Machine Made

36) Blown in Mold37) Machine Made

34) IDRIS LONDON

Bottom: Shield with L in middle

Plate 3

35) By Appointment

The King

Prince of Wales

Schweppes

Bottom: JL & Co C

4

308

Plate 4

36) Bottom: B 10755

Plate 5

37) Bottom: K B Ld T

972

Plate 6

CODD STOPPER ON MARBLE BOTTLE

The Codd was often referred to as a "pig bottle" as held on its side it resembles a pig's snout. In 1875, Hiram Codd of Kembewell, London introduced a flat-based bottle for soda water that would stand upright because of an ingenious marble stopper. It had a separate chamber in the neck of the bottle which housed a marble. The carbonation would push the marble up against a washer and lodge it there until by use of a wooden dowel or plunger, the marble was pushed down and released the carbonated pressure. These bottles were filled upside down and when turned upright, the carbonated pressure would lock the marble in position. The marbles were generally aqua in color, but we have found blue, black, white, green, brown and clear. Mr. Codd designed fifty different variations of the bottle. He even tried to use an oval marble to discourage children from breaking the bottle for the marble. We have several different types of Codds in our collection ranging from 1 pinch (dimple) to 2, 3 and 4 pinch (dimples). A pinch is an indentation in the glass made by the blower to lock the marble in the neck region. The Codds are full height molds with an applied top, unlike the blob top because of the obvious reason that the marble was the sealer and no wire was needed to hold an external stopper. (Plate 7) Many Codds have the name of the maker embossed on the bottle, and most of these are in the North of England in Yorkshire or Lancashire where the bottle works were situated for the cheapness of labor. The first few early Codds had no dimples or pinches, being ordinary mineral water bottles with two bulbs sticking out of the neck to hold the marble (very rare).

There is a Hamilton Codd hybrid, which is an egg-shaped marble bottle. We

have not found one to date.

The following is a list of "Codd Stopper" or "Marble Bottles" we have in our collection. Of interest to the Virgin Islands is most of them are from bottlers in St. Thomas, St. Croix and Tortola. Most bottles fit the following characteristics:

6 - 91/2 inches Height:

Color: Aqua

Various: Aqua, Green, Brown, etc. Marble:

English Origin: 1880's Date:

How Made: Blown into a mold with an applied top.

Barnett & Foster Bottle Manufacturer:

Niagara Bottles of Barnett & Foster, Niagara Works, London. The registration number quoted for their bottles was 65433, registered in the early months of the year 1887.

Dan Rylands of Barnsley in Yorkshire. Made Codds for many different companies 1890-1895

H. B. Sleeman, London: no information

Nuttall & Co Makers St. Helens England: made bottles from 1872 to 1913

Wm. Barnard & Sons, London: No information

J. W. Dobson's Patent, Barnsley: No information

Dorn & Rylands, Barnsley: No information

38)	Whitfie 15 Broa Barbade (1 dimp	ad Street os		45)	Front:	Lockhart's St. Thomas D.W.I. (Circle with eagle in center)
39	Front: Back:	Theo Estornel St. Croix H. B. Sleeman			Bottom:	N & Co Ltd. (tear drop) 3420
		London (2 dimples)				(2 dimples)
				46)	Front:	J.C. Canegata
40)	Front:	S.M.S. Vineta				St. Croix D.W.I.
	Bottom	: B T B (4 dimples)			Back:	Nuttall & Co Makers
41)	Front:	T. Whusse				St. Helens England
	Back:	The Brewery				(1 dimple)
	Dack.	Netheravon wilts		47)	Bottom:	1124 W
		(1 dimple)				(1 dimple)
42)	Front:	E. Schroder St. Thomas D.W.I. (1 dimple)		48)	J K & S 2964 or (1 dimple	n Bottom e)
43)	Front:	E. Schroder		49)	Bottom:	G.T.B.
	Back:	St. Thomas The Niagara Bottle Barnett & Foster			brand((Pontil Scar) (1 dimple)
		Maker London Rd 65433		50)		C.S. & Co. Ltd. (2 dimples)
		(2) 1:1)		51)	Around:	Luis Aischmann
44)	Front:	E. Schroder St. Thomas, V.I.			4	Importadores Buenos Aires
	Back:	The Niagara Bottle			ort & Hee	(1 dimple)
		Barnett & Foster Maker		52)	Bottom:	G.T.B. (4 dimples)
		London Rd 65433 (2 dimples)				(annipies)
		(2 dillipies)	-37-			
			-31-			

58) Front: E. Fraas 53) Back: The Niagara Bottle Barnett & Foster St. Thomas Makers London Back: The Niagara Rd 65433 Bottle (2 dimples) Barnett & Foster C. Blunch Makers 54) Front: Cafe London International Rd 65433 St. Thomas (2 dimples) P. Thornton Back: The Niagara Bottle 59) Front: registered Barnett & Foster Trade (crown w/arm) Makers Mark London South Shields Rd 65433 Back: Codds Bottle (2 dimples) Maker Dorn & Rylands 55) Front: (In Circle) Barnsley D.H. Jurgensen (1 dimple) Aerated Water Works 60) R.N. Club (Front) Bermuda Back: The Niagara Bottle Bottom: YY (2 dimples) Barnett & Foster Makers Carl V. Le Beet's London 61) Front: (2 dimples) Grocery St. Thomas (in circle) M. Brow 56) Front: Fred St. Croix (star in middle) Back: Wm Barnard Bottom: N & Co Ltd. 3420 & Sons London (2 dimples) (2 dimples) MacNish & Son 62) Front: Jamaica 57) Front: (In circle) Aerated Water Works E J.W. Dobson's Back: Tortola Patent Barnett & Foster Barnsley Back:

(2 dimples)

Makers

London, N

The local bottling plants and grocery owners brought the bottles in from England and filled them. I have been able to get information on just a few; if there is anyone who can supply us with additional information on the others we would appreciate your getting in contact with us or the V.I. Archaeological Society. Lockharts: 1900-1945; M. Brow: 1903-1976 (still operating). Soda water bottles which are not of the same type we have mentioned.

Plate 8

63) Front: Congress & Empire Spring Co.

Hotchkiss Sons New York

Saratoga, N.Y.

Bottom: (four dots)

Congress Water

Height: 734"

Color: Dark Green Content: Mineral Water Bot. Mfg. Mt. Pleasant

Glassworks New York

Origin: Date: 1865 Made:

Mold Blown-Applied Top

Plate 9

Back:

64) Front: Congress & Empire

Spring Co. Satatoga, N.Y.

Bottom: I

Congress Water

Height:

8" Color: Emerald Green Content: Mineral Water Bot. Mfg.: Mt. Pleasant

Glassworks

Origin: New York Date: 1865

Made: Mold Blown-

Applied Top

Plate 10

Back:

65) Front: (10 panels)

W.P. Knicker Bocker Soda Water

164, 18th St. N.Y. 1848

Height: 734"

Color: Cobalt Blue Contents: Soda Water Made: Blown in Mold

Pontil Scar Slight Kick-up Blob Top

This concludes our first chapter with other articles to follow. Our next article will be devoted to the "Case bottle" or "Gin bottle." For additional information concerning our collection, please contact us at the Royal Mail Inn, Hassel Island. We would be happy to show our collection to interested people and ask only to contact us in advance for a chance to view it.

PLATE 1: H A M I L T O N Bottle Terms: (Torpedo-Egg-Teardrop)

Characteristics

Ht: 9-92 inches Color: Aqua Thick Glass Air bubbles Indentations Example: Bottles 1 thru 18
Embossments: Varied 1 thru 18
Slug Plate was used for
embossments, Dealers
used embossments for
advertisement.

Seams generally end just after shoulder

Blob top-

Shoulder-

Circa: 1850 - 1900 Trade Mark: 1884-1900

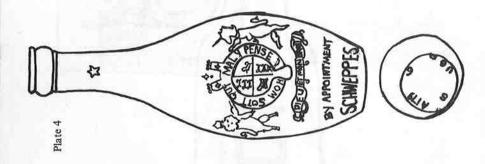
Patent registered by William Hamilton in 1809.

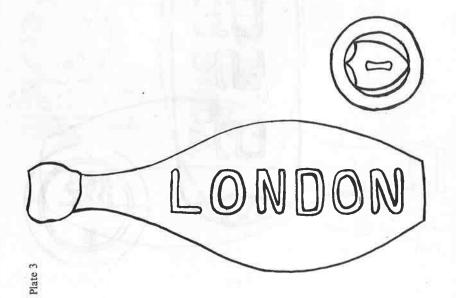
Notes: J. Scheppe was bottling mineral water in plain "Hamiltons" around 1790 Blob-tops came into use on the event of national distribution. 1850

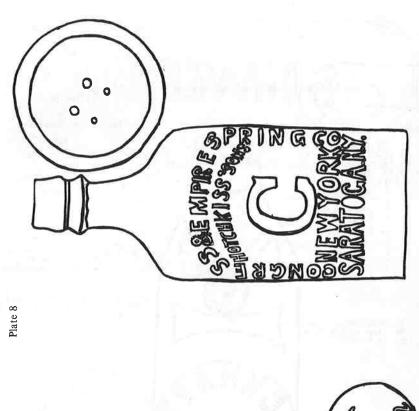
Collection: Tom & Andrea Hannon

PLATE 2: "CYLINDERS" or "ROUND BOTTOM" Bottle Examples Characteristics Bottles 19-23 Hti 9 - 9 3/4 inches Colori Aqua No.20 Light Amber No. 21 Dark Amber Thick Glass Air bubbles Blob-top Embossments: Varied Indentations in glass Very uneven seams Circa: 1880 - 1910 Trade Mark: 1884-1910 Collection: Tom & Andrea Hannon









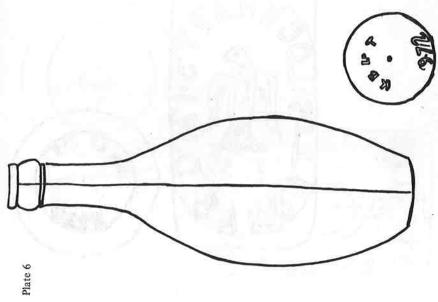


Plate: 7 "CODD STOPPER" (Marble or Pig) Bottle

Examples Bottles 40 -64

Characteristics

Ht: 6 - 9g inches Color: Aqua Marble Color: Varied Number of dimples: Varied Thick Glass Embossments: Varied

-Inside rubber washer to stop marble.

Dimples or Pinches to enable you to drink contents without interference from marble,

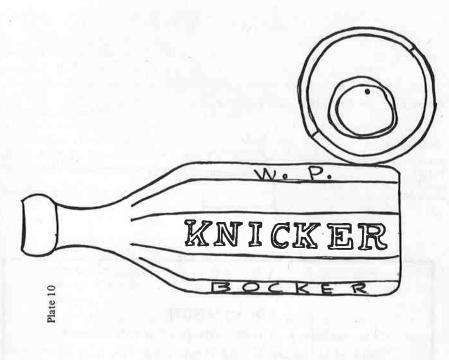
Marble (was held up against rubber washer by the pressure of carbonation

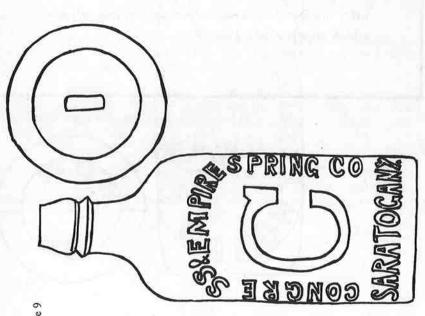
Indentation ----to stop marble from going to bottom



Collection: Tom & Andrea Hannon







45-