

A Brief Survey of Selected Glass Companies, Colors Used, Reamers Made, Part Five

By

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(This is the fifth and final article in a series the National Reamer Collectors Society has graciously allowed us to reprint here for our membership. The first was published in our September/October 2010 issue)

Part Four in this series appeared in the June 1998 issue of the National Reamer Quarterly Review. This study lists some of the reamers, which are illustrated in Mary Walker's book Reamers (200 Years). The Walker letter/number system is used. Some references are to the Gene Florence and Hazel Marie Weatherman publications.

L. E. Smith

Lewis E. Smith, Mt. Pleasant, PA in 1907 developed a special recipe for mustard, so it has been reported. To market his product, he began manufacturing his own containers in an abandoned glass factory. By 1911, Smith was producing glass products for the popular market. He left the company in that year. Through the following years, the company changed ownership a number of times, but kept the name. Succeeding company owners produced cooking articles, fruit jars, tableware, aquariums and other novelty items, and some of the initial automobile lenses.

Colors: The company is known mainly for its black glass, which began production in the late 1920's.

Mid-1920's - green, amber, canary, amethyst

1926 - blue

1927 - pink

Reamers: **N-115** - blue, clear, green, pink

N-133 - off green reamer and pitcher. Tops may have 9 or 10 drain holes, and with or without lugs.

Macbeth - Evans

The Macbeth and Evans glass companies merged in 1899 in Charleroi, PA, later with factories in IN and OH. Early products were lamp chimneys, shades and globes. The company mechanized early with glass blowing machines and automation. Water and tumbler sets were introduced in the mid-1920's, along with miscellaneous table items in crystal and colors. Mold etched tableware in colored glass was created in 1930. Corning Glass Works, Corning, NY, bought the company in 1937, but continued manufacturing with the name Macbeth-Evans Division into the 1940's. In 1939, a new line of dinnerware was created out of Chinex, an opaque white meant to compete with china.

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Colors: Prior to 1920's - white translucent Monax, an ideal glass for illumination, used widely in street lamps.
1928 - pink, emerald
1931 - topaz, some pieces in amber
Mid-1930's - ruby, Ritz blue, fired-on red, green, yellow, and blue decorations and with gold or platinum trims.

Reamers: N-340 - clambroth

McKee

The McKee and Bros. Company started its pressed tableware production in 1853 in Pittsburgh, PA. In 1888, the company moved to Jeannette, PA. In 1903, the firm was reorganized and called the McKee Glass Company until 1951 when it changed hands and became the McKee Division of the Thatcher Glass Company. In 1961, it was bought by the Jeannette Glass Corporation, which moved into the McKee factory in 1962. Much kitchenware was produced during the 1920's and 30's, including the large Glasbake line in the teens.

Colors: Very early in the 1920's McKee was using colors

1923 - Jade yellow, Japan blue, amethyst, later that year - blue, amber, canary, green.

1925 - sky blue, grass green

1926 - Rose pink

1927 - ruby, orchid

1930 - Jade, Ritz blue, black

1931 - topaz, opaque Seville yellow, Skokie green, Chalaine blue, Old Rose (tan)

1933 - opaque French ivory

1936 - opaque Poudre blue

1937 to 1942 and continuing after World War II - white opal

Reamers: The popular Sunkist reamers in the basic opaque Seville Yellow, Skokie Green, and Chalaine Blue were advertised in 1931.

N-309 - opaque blue, custard, green, WMG, some with colored trim. (Note: McKee cone ribs swirl to the right; the McKee logo is embossed near side.)

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N-315 - Unembossed opaque green, custard. (Note: sharp cone tip.)

N-316 - Embossed opaque blue, custard, green, WMG. (Space between rim roll at bottom and saucer is wider than N-317)



N-317 - unembossed opaque custard, green (Handle is rounded on all sides.)

N-318 - unembossed green opaque. (Distinguished by the flat sides on the handle and the narrower space between bottom roll and saucer.)



N-330A in Chalaine Blue

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N-330A - See Walker pp. 66-69. (See also Sunset Glass and Pacific Coast Glass to be covered in future articles.)



Seville Yellow (above), Skokie Green (right)



N-358 - the "grapefruit reamer" opaque in blue, black, custard, green, beige, chocolate, yellow; transparent in turquoise

N-372 - embossed on handle "Glasbake" in clear

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For more information on reamers, visit www.reamers.org