



UNDERCOVER HEMINGGRAYS



At first glance, this may look like just your average display of Hemingray insulators. But look again! Not a single insulator here bears the iconic name “Hemingray” or even “H.G.Co.” Did you know that out of 170+ CDs attributed to Hemingray, only about 60% of them identify their manufacturer by name?

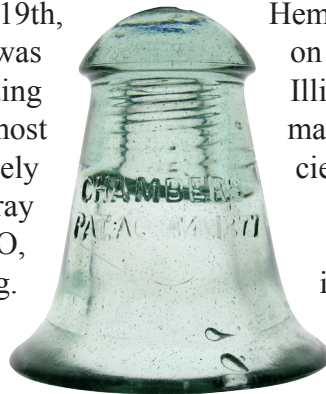
Flash back to the year 1871—December 19th, to be exact. On this day, Robert Hemingray was granted a patent for a glass insulator molding technique (U.S. Patent No. 122,015). Almost all of Hemingray’s earliest pieces are solely embossed with this patent date. Hemingray also manufactured insulators for A.U., B&O, Chambers, Seilers, T-H.E.Co., W.E.Mfg. Co., and W.U.

In the 1880s, Hemingray began embossing their insulators with “H.G.Co.” During this time period, they also manufactured insulators for other companies as well: F.M. Locke & Co., New Eng. Tel. &Tel. Co., S.S.&Co., and S.B.T.&T.Co. are some notable examples.

1893 was another significant year for Hemingray: on May 2nd, Ralph G. Hemingray and James C. Gill were awarded the patent for drip points (U.S. Patent No. 496,652). Hemingray began embossing virtually all of their drip-pointed products with the May 2, 1893 patent date. Beginning in the 1900s, Hemingray used stamped lettering, making embossed products easily recognizable from this point on. In the case of styles that were produced by both Hemingray and Brookfield, such as the CD 121 Am.Tel.&Tel. Co. and CD 147, the embossing style will give away a Hemingray every single time.



In 1933, Hemingray became a division of Owens-Illinois. Consequently, any insulator bearing the Owens-Illinois logo was manufactured by Hemingray. In the 1940s, Hemingray produced a line of insulators bearing the “Lowex” trademark, which stood for Low Expansion—Low Expense, a reference to a new type of glass being used. The trademark appeared on several Hemingray-embossed styles, but also appeared on its own. And finally, in the 1950s, Owens-Illinois’ Kimble line of power insulators was manufactured at the Hemingray plant in Muncie, Indiana.



Despite all this talk of embossings, many insulators manufactured by Hemingray were never embossed at all! For example, the majority of Hemingray’s break knob spools and floor/wall tube insulators were never embossed, despite catalog drawings showing the contrary. There are also many Hemingray insulators considered to be “no names” due to an engraving error. For instance, the CD 154 No Name in which “Made in U.S.A.” appears on both sides of the insulator. These types of embossings are often quite scarce and demand a premium over their correctly-embossed brethren.



Put all of these insulators together, and you have quite a wide variety of styles manufactured by Hemingray from the 1870s to the 1950s that never even mentioned the glass company that produced them. These are the Undercover Hemingrays.

TURN OVER FOR “THE LIST” 

Confirmed Hemingray Products

* = Represented in this display

CD 24 U.S. Light & Heating Co.*
CD 24 National Battery Co.*
CD 33 No Embossing
CD 100 Surge*
CD 100.2 Surge
CD 100.6 No Embossing*
CD 104 N.E.T.&T.Co. [075]*
CD 106 Am. Tel. & Tel. Co.
CD 106 Patent-Other*
CD 112 S.B.T.&T.Co. [010]*
CD 113 No Embossing*
CD 113 Patent-Other
CD 116 A.U.
CD 116 Dec. Pat.*
CD 116 Patent-Other
CD 118 No Embossing*
CD 120 Dec. Pat.*
CD 121 Am. Tel. [095,110-130]*
CD 121.4 A.U.*
CD 122 No Embossing*
CD 124 Dec. Pat.*
CD 124.1 Dec. Pat.
CD 124.2 Dec. Pat.*
CD 124.3 Dec. Pat.*
CD 124.5 Chambers
CD 125 W.U. [all except 010]*
CD 126.3 A.U.*
CD 126.4 W. E. Mfg. Co.*
CD 127.4 No Embossing*
CD 127.4 Dec. Pat.
CD 130.2 Seilers
CD 131.4 No Embossing*
CD 131.4 Dec. Pat.
CD 132 Dec. Pat.*
CD 132.4 Dec. Pat.*
CD 133 No Embossing [020-025]*
CD 133 Dec. Pat.*
CD 133.1 Dec. Pat.*
CD 133.4 Dec. Pat.*
CD 134 No Embossing
CD 134 Dec. Pat.*

CD 134 Standard
CD 134 T-H.E.Co. [010]*
CD 136 B&O [040-070]*
CD 137.5 No Embossing*
CD 142 No Name*
CD 142.4 No Name
CD 142.4 No Embossing*
CD 145 No Name [010-020]*
CD 147 No Embossing*
CD 147 Patent-Other
CD 150 Barclay
CD 154 No Name [020-030]*
CD 160 S.S.&Co.*
CD 162 S.S.&Co.*
CD 162 No Name [020-030]*
CD 167 No Name
CD 167 Owens-Illinois*
CD 176.9 No Name
CD 185 Jeffrey Mfg. Co.*
CD 185 Mine Insulator*
CD 185.2 B.E.L.Co.
CD 190/191 Am. Tel. & Tel. Co.*
CD 190/191 Two Piece Trans.*
CD 204 F.M.Locke
CD 216 Lowex*
CD 221 No Name
CD 230 Lowex*
CD 230 No Name*
CD 230.1 No Embossing
CD 231 Kimble*
CD 231.2 Kimble*
CD 239 Kimble*
CD 239.2 Kimble
CD 257 Patent-Other*
CD 283 V.G.Converse*
CD 286.9 Westinghouse
CD 287.1 F.M.Locke*
CD 287.2 F.M.Locke
CD 299.7 Lowex
CD 304/310 No Embossing*
CD 309 Beal's
CD 309.5 Westinghouse
CD 310 No Embossing [Sleeve]*
CD 311 No Embossing [Sleeve]
CD 313.1 No Embossing [Sleeve]

CD 317 Chambers*
CD 317.5 Chambers*
CD 317.8 Patent-Other
CD 317.9 No Embossing
CD 732.2 Dec. Pat.
CD 1025 Patent Applied For
CD 1030 No Embossing
CD 1032 Owens-Illinois*
CD 1034 No Embossing
CD 1045 No Embossing*
CD 1046 No Embossing
CD 1049 Owens-Illinois*
CD 1052 No Name*
CD 1052 No Embossing*
CD 1052 St. Louis Malleable*
CD 1053 No Name*
CD 1057 No Embossing
CD 1073 C.&P.Tel.Co.
CD 1073 S.B.T.&T.Co.*
CD 1074 No Embossing
CD 1080 No Embossing*
CD 1085 No Embossing*
CD 1085 S.B.T.&T.Co.*
CD 1085 The E.S.G.Co.*
CD 1085 S.S.&Co.
CD 1087 No Embossing*
CD 1090 No Embossing*
CD 1094 No Embossing*
CD 1095 No Embossing
CD 1103 No Embossing
CD 1104 No Embossing*
CD 1104.1 No Embossing*
CD 1106 No Embossing*
CD 1138 No Embossing*
CD 1140 No Embossing*

Suspected but Unconfirmed

CD 144 No Embossing*
CD 185 No Embossing
CD 210 Postal [030]*
CD 219 No Embossing*
CD 1049 No Embossing
CD 1049 No Name
CD 1087 M.A.Knapp
CD 1110 B.E.L.Co. [005]*