

THE ETON STAR POISON

By

BOB BARBOUR #19

William John Child, representing the Eton Glass Bottle Works registered the design known as the "Star" poison on September 17, 1925. (Rd No 716057) The registration protection was extended on August 21, 1930 and finally expired on September 17, 1935. I think most people will be surprised to discover how late the Star poison is in the time line of poison bottle history. It is typically found on tips in the UK that date to the 1920's & 30's. These 20's tips had largely been ignored until rare poisons like the Star began to come out.

The Star poison, so named because of its shape is easily identified by looking at the bottle in cross section. It has a star shape with a flat back serving as the label panel. Looking at the bottle from the base end you can envision a square vial with another square vial superimposed upon it and rotated 45 degrees. One of the projections is missing to allow for a flat label panel. The stars are found in shades of green, cobalt blue and amber. They range in size from 2.75in, 3.6in, 4.1in, 4.25in, 4.75in, 5in, 5.25in, 5.75in & 6.75in. Their corresponding capacities are 1 dram, 2 dram, ½ ounce, 1oz, 2oz, 4oz, 6oz, 8oz & 16oz. They are typically found with horizontal ribbing, but a few amber examples have vertical ribbing. One known cobalt example in the collection of fellow collector Heather Reeves, has vertical ribbing. The vertically ribbed examples are typically found in the smaller sizes. The fronts of the star poison are embossed vertically on either side with Not To Be Taken & Poison. The registration number (Rd 716057) is generally embossed at the base on most examples; however a few of the smaller examples have the registration number embossed on the base. The larger variants have an E on the base for Eton Glass Bottle Works. Narrow and wide neck examples are found in cobalt blue and amber, but not in green. Some of the narrow necks have been ground to accept a glass stopper with and without a dauber. Please see the following page for photos of some of these variants.

As you can see there is a large number of potential variations of the "Star" poison. Here is a challenge for all you poison collectors who enjoy collecting all of the variants of a particular poison. Try collecting all of the variants of the "Star" poison. If you succeed, you will be the Only collector in the world to have amassed the lot.

I would like to thank Brian Thatcher for his impeccable research and photos of his Star poisons: I would also like to thank John Ault for the photos of his collection of Star poisons. Much of what you find here was borrowed from Brian's Summer 2006 article in the ABC magazine. I have added a few bits of my own and hopefully added something useful to the information regarding the Eton Star poison.

BRIAN THATCHER COLLECTION



JOHN AULT COLLECTION

