

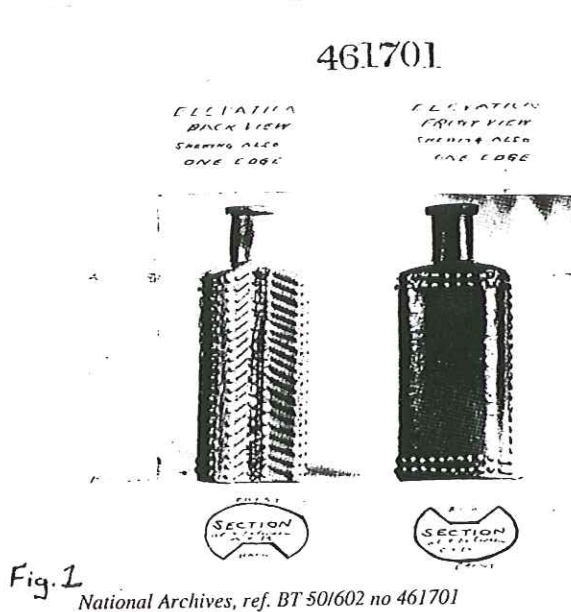
THE FOULSTON'S CRESCENT POISON

BY
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On July 29th, 1905, William Lawson Foulston from the city of Hull in central England, registered his poison patent known as the Foulston Crescent Poison. The "Crescent" has a very unique shape in cross section and is distinctive to the touch. (see figure 1) Generally rectangular with a slightly rounded back label panel, with "Not To Be Taken" or "Poison" (2 dram size), embossed down the center panel, with slanted horizontal ribbing and vertical rows of circular bumps on either side of the center panel and horizontal ribbing along the sides and a tooled lip, The registration number, 461701 is either found on base of the bottle or on the rear panel near the base. The only variation of the embossing is a 6 oz. aqua example embossed Robins Embrocation. (See figure 2) If you closely examine different sizes of the Not To Be taken embossing on the front panel, you will notice slight variations in the font styles. I have a cobalt 8 oz where all of the embossing is in capital letters and a green 8 oz where only the first letter of each word is capitalized. One of the more intriguing things about bottle collecting is finding the subtle differences between examples that initially appear to be the same.

The Crescents come in a number of sizes: 2 dram, 1/2 oz, 1 oz, 1.5oz, 2 oz, 3 oz, 4 oz, 6 oz, 8 oz & 12 oz. The 12 oz size seems to be the most difficult to find, with the green 2 dram being the next hardest to acquire. The middle sizes as with most poisons are the most common and can be found at most shows or on ebay. I have been looking for the 12 oz size in any color and the green 2 dram for many years. I have never had the opportunity to buy either bottle. One of the most fascinating aspects of the Foulston's Crescent is the wide variety of colors this poison is available in. The colors range from cobalt to cornflower blue to sapphire, teal, dark green to light green, aqua to medium aqua to bluish aqua, amber and finally the rarest of the rare, rosewood. (see figure 3)

I have included a photo of all of the sizes and colors currently in my collection. If you have other variations not shown in the photos or listed here in this article, please let me know. (see figure 4) This information will be forwarded on to Brian Thatcher who is compiling the data for his English Poison book. Once again I would like to thank Brian for his research on the Foulston's Crescent poison.



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Fig. 1



Fig. 3



Fig. 2



Fig. 4