

DIAMOND CANDLE COMPANY

by Lloyd & Jim

We have all seen them and perhaps collected them. Dorothy Tibbetts had at least one in her collection in 1951 (T-VI-18) marked Diamond Candle Co., Brooklyn, New York, which also included a candle cup. They are not particularly attractive but they are intriguing in their diversity, which suggests they were made over an extended period of time and thus must have been popular in their time. It is a mystery that we know so little about the company that made them or even when they were made. It is the purpose of this review to solicit further clues about their origin from other collectors.

There are only three basic types of domes; 1000-eye, smooth, and beaded as seen in Figure 1. Each type is found with and without an embossed logo around the bottom edge.



Figure 1. Three types of Diamond Candle Company domes

Two variations of the logo that have been seen on the beaded type are "DIAMOND CANDLE COMPANY INC. BROOKLYN, N.Y." and the same except with no period after the "N" in "N.Y."



The only logo that has been seen on the 1000-eye type is "DIAMOND CANDLE

COMPANY INC. PAT. APPL'D. FOR."

The beaded domes with the logo have been seen in blue, green, pink, red, white and in blue and red without the logo. These were all made by pressing in a 4-part mold. The 1000-eye domes with the "---PAT. APPL'D. FOR" logo have only been seen in clear and clear with a red paint or dye on the outer surface. These were pressed in a 2-part mold. The ones without logo were pressed in a 4-part mold and have a base diameter consistently 0.05 to 0.10 inches larger so they do not fit all of the many types of bases that are found. These have been seen in amber, clear, green and red.



Figure 2. Candle cups and votive holder.

The two types of candle cups that have been found are shown in Figure 2 along with a metal holder for their use as votives. The vertically ribbed one is embossed on the bottom "DIAMOND CANDLE CO INC" in a circle around "BROOKLYN N Y" in a smaller circle. The punctuation shown is as it appears. This candle cup has only been seen in clear glass. The red one has a diamond optic pattern impressed on the inner surface to refract the candle light. Embossed on the bottom is "DIAMOND CANDLE CO INC BROOKLYN, N.Y." in a circle around "FOR 15 HOUR CANDLES" on the outside of a triangle and "DIAMEX HEAT RESISTING GLASS" on the inside. It has also been seen in a white marbled glass. It is believed that the red and white candle cups were made by the Akro Agate Company sometime after the mid-1930s and before the company stopped production in 1949. The metal base has no logo.

There are many types of bases, which provide the great diversity in the styles that are found. Only two of the many types have a logo. These are shown in Figure 3. The deep well type on the left is stamped on the bottom of the well "DIAMOND CANDLE CO." in a circle around "BKLYN N.Y." and could also be used to hold a taper.



Figure 3. Base styles with logo.

The medium well type on the right is stamped on the inside bottom "BUY DIAMOND CANDLES IF YOU WANT THE BEST", somewhat reminiscent of Clarke's advertising in an earlier era.



Both of these types had an inside shoulder of the right diameter to support a candle cup and 13 air holes for ventilation although the medium well type with logo has been found with only three somewhat smaller holes and a slightly smaller diameter. These types were all made of pressed brass, some left with the brass finish and some painted.



Figure 4. Base styles without logo.

There are some similar bases found that have no logo. Two of these, called shallow well bases, are shown in Figure 4. These have no flat bottom for imprinting a logo but still have the inside shoulder for supporting a candle cup. They are all made of pressed steel. The brass plated one has 13 air holes the same as the ones with a logo but the gold painted one has only 12 holes.

Additional types of bases are shown in Figures 5a – 5b.



Figure 5a. Glass beaded base

The glass beaded base has been found in all the same colors as the beaded domes. (This is the same base that was used with a different dome for the "Lenox Ice Crystal Candle Lamp" made by the Brooke Glass Company, FL-XX-4.)



Figure 5b. Variety of metal bases and accessories

The other metal bases and accessories are quite varied. Were they all made for the Diamond Candle Company or are they just cheap rip-offs?



Figure 5c. Unmarked cast metal base with colored glass flowers and leaves



Figure 5d. Unmarked cast and pressed metal base with clear glass posey holders

The base of the "epergne" in Figure 5d is a white metal casting embossed on the bottom "L&L 6848". Two other pieces, shown in Figure 6, marked similarly, are the "tulips" (R-712) embossed "L&L 7007" and the standard for a table centerpiece embossed "L&L 111".



Figure 6. Types with L&L cast bases.

These are apparently from the same era but are they also Diamond? Wouldn't it be interesting to discover that the Diamond Candle Company emulated Samuel Clarke by providing a variety of appliances for the public to use to sell more candles?

One final note — I have been trying to make contact with the Brooklyn Historical Society through their website,¹ but to no avail. In addition, I contacted the Brooklyn Library and asked them a couple of questions related to the Diamond Candle Company. Their responses are below.

Our full-text online version of the Brooklyn Eagle², Brooklyn's major daily newspaper, covers the period 1841-1902, but does not show any listing for Diamond Candle Company, Inc.

Likewise, the Thomas Register³ (a national directory of manufacturers and distributors) does not list this company in its 1905-06 edition, which is the oldest edition owned by the Business Library.

Our next most recent edition for 1945, however, lists Diamond Candle Company, Inc at 19 Park Place, New York, NY (which means Manhattan, not Brooklyn). There is no description of their products or line of business, however, the entry does mention a factory in Newburgh, NY. Also mentioned is a cable address "Diacandle," which might indicate that the company was soliciting export trade.

In the 1947 edition of the Thomas Register, the company is listed in Newburgh, NY, only mentioning a "branch" in New York, NY. The cable address is the same and is probably the same company.

The company is listed continuously in the Thomas Register at the Newburgh location through the 1991 edition. There is no explanation as to why it is not listed thereafter. It may have gone out of business or merged into another company.

For what it's worth, the earliest Thomas Register entries estimate the minimum capital of the company at \$100,000, but the last entries estimate the sales to be over \$1 million.

The earliest listing for Diamond Candle Company is in the October 1919 New York City Telephone Directory. The address is listed as 324 Leonard St, Brooklyn, which was in the Greenpoint neighborhood. I subsequently found the company listed at 992 Metropolitan Avenue (in 1926) and 1073 Metropolitan Avenue (in 1933-34), still in what I believe would be considered Greenpoint.

So, to summarize, from 1919 to 1934 the Diamond Candle Company was in Brooklyn and after 1945 in New York with a gap in info from 1935 to 1944. I plan to follow progress of the Historical Society and see what additional information they can provide.

If you have additional information related to the Diamond Candle Company or its products, please let us know.

¹ www.brooklynhistory.org

² www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/eagle

³ www.thomasregister.com/