



Carved and turned wood, c. 1850, H 9³/₄," New England. Chris Havey Collection.

A Master Design

THE OBJECT:

This week's object is an example of a simple master design. By the middle of the 19th century the skill involved in glass-making had largely shifted from the gaffer to the mold-maker. This object from the Havey collection is a turned and carved wood model for a two-piece bottle mold. It is square in cross-section with carved Gothic panels on each of the four sides. A plaster-of-Paris mold was obtained from the wood model. Then through a progression of mold making techniques a two-piece metal mold was created and used for mass production. This week's object was probably the master design for a sauce bottle. Gothic panels were popular decoration for this type bottle from c. 1840 through most of the remainder of the 19th century.

For similar glass examples see: McKearin & Wilson, *American Bottles and Flasks*, Crown Publisher, 1978, pp. 274-5, 74 1-4.

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