

A Centennial Exposition

The 100th meeting of the Great Plains Heisey Club looks back 100 years at A.H. Heisey & Co. in 1919.

Eric Tankesley-Clarke, based on a suggestion from Tom Files, for Great Plains Heisey Club, September, 2019

This 100th Great Plains Heisey Club program is dedicated to the Club's founders, Mary Cameron and Marilyn Sampson. Those of us who have attended meetings at their homes no doubt admired much stemware. What a lovely coincidence that so many well-known stems and decorations seen on them came out in 1919.

Setting some background

World War I, known at the time as the Great War, broke out in 1914. The US finally entered the war in 1917. Germany had been sinking merchant ships, some of which may well have been carrying shipments from A.H. Heisey & Co. Old A.H. himself was, by 1918, president of the American Protective Tariff League.

Inflation hit about 18% in both 1917 and 1918 and was nearly 15% in 1919, amounting to 60% total over those three years. At the Heisey factory, prices for many items approximately doubled between late 1916 and early 1919. The war was over but challenges remained high.

Nevertheless, Heisey kept expanding. In the better days of 1914, they had opened their blownware shops. In 1915, the company began producing cuttings. By 1917 they issued their first catalogue devoted mainly to blown tumblers, stems, jugs, and vases. 1917 saw the first etches, both needle and plate.

On the other hand, economic upheaval and the war effort led to discontinuing many pressed ware patterns. In 1918, all the glass manufacturers agreed to reduce the number of patterns and pieces being offered and not to make any new moulds,

all part of a conservation effort for the war.

The 18th Amendment, Prohibition, passed. Nebraska put it over the top.

Production in 1919

Against this background, it may seem startling that in 1919 the company issued its second all-blownware catalogue, introducing a number of new patterns and decorations. Not all were successes, but a surprising number were so popular that they are still relatively easy to find today.

In pressed ware, there seems to have been very little new activity. An exception was that in 1919, Heisey marketed their Visible Cooking Ware. The line had 45 pieces. This enterprise was cut short when Heisey failed to receive a patent and could no longer compete with Corning's Pyrex. All pieces of Visible Cooking Ware are quite hard to find. Most Visible Cooking Ware is vaseline-colored. By the way, this borosilicate vaseline probably was the only color being produced at the Heisey factory at this time.

Otherwise, pressed ware had little increase in variety in 1919. Unless you count 14 door knobs added to their already extensive list of these inscrutable items.

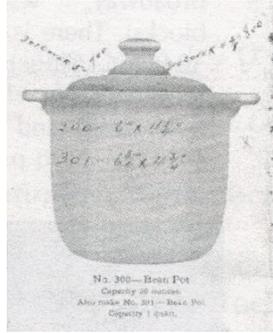
Meanwhile that year, among the hundreds of workers, one was hired for the lowly job of grinding stoppers to fit. He only stayed at that job for a few months. We don't know whether he proved unsuitable there or perhaps he showed promise elsewhere. At any rate, he was soon moved to the area where they mixed raw ingredients for the glass. His name was Emmett Olson.

Possibly as early as 1919, Heisey began providing glass to one customer especially important to Heisey collectors. Fred Harvey placed his first orders about 1919 or 1920. Although those first orders were for crystal, they led to a relationship so close that in later years Heisey developed its own color formula of amber especially for Harvey. By that time, Emmett Olson was close at hand as Heisey's in-house chemist.

Patterns introduced circa 1919

Introduction dates are often guesswork. We can get pretty close for many items, but there is often room for doubt. The following items were almost certainly new in or about 1919. I have omitted some obscure items. Names with an asterisk (*) are assigned by researchers.

Pressed items.



Visible Cooking Ware, 45 pieces, #100-
#398 (with many numbers skipped)



#1180 Debra*
hotel set of covered sugar and cream;
mustard

Door knobs, 14 additional styles, mainly in the #2000 range, some for the Sargent Company. In total, Heisey is known to have made at least 54 different door knobs. Most knobs were not marked.

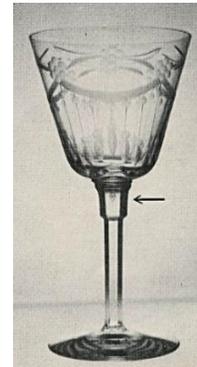
Stemware with blown bowls and pressed stems (probably all will be marked). All complete lines except #3438 Ironton.



#3330 Hanover*



#3332 Six Side*



#3334 Sexton*



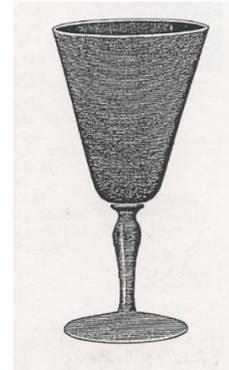
#3336 Lady Leg*



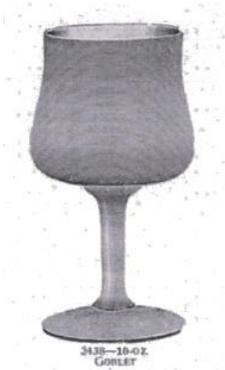
#3331 Statuesque*



#3333 Old Glory



#3335 Lady Leg*



#3438 Ironton*
(goblet only)

Comports and a candy jar, blown bowls, pressed stems.



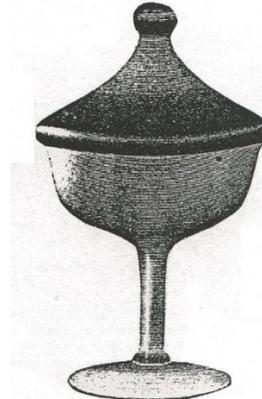
3947—4-IN.
WITH COVER

#3947, pressed stem
(marked), two sizes



3948—8-IN.
ALSO MAKE 4½-IN.

#3948, pressed stem
(marked), two sizes



3949—4-IN.
MINT AND COVER

#3949, pulled stem (not
marked), one size



#4291 Marlene* (with #657
Liberty cutting), two sizes;
sugar and cream came later

Blown barware (and a sherbet).



3476—12-oz.
HANDLED AND FOOTED
ALSO MAKE 10-oz.

#3476 Temple*, footed sodas, handled
and unhandled. Cast-on foot. Three
sizes. Not marked.



#3477 Isaly's*, footed sodas, handled and
unhandled. Cast-on foot. Probably only
one size. Not marked.



3542—4-oz.
FOOTED SHERBET
ALSO MAKE 3½-oz.

#3542 Hazelwood* oyster cocktail
(also used in #3333 Old Glory; started
out being called a sherbet). originally
two sizes, later one size only. Pressed
stem and cup foot. Sometimes marked.

Blown stemware with pulled stems. None marked, similar to other companies' ware, very difficult to identify, and probably none were made with Heisey decorations. All probably goblet only, except for #3351 Mon Ami*, champagne only.



#3429 Empire*



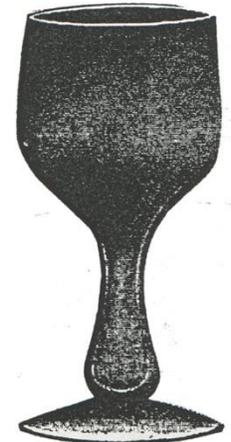
#3431 Loraine*



#3433 Basque*



#3435 Le Caron*



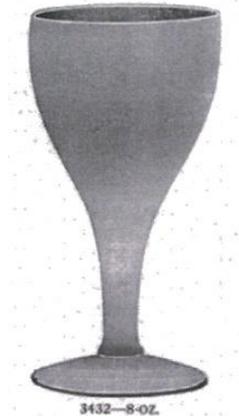
3351-5 1/2-OZ.
HOLLOW STEM
CHAMPAGNE

#3351 Mon Ami*

(Many blown, hollow-stem champagnes can be found now, but most are not quite the right shape for Heisey, and would be hard to identify even if the correct shape. Similar ones are still being made today.)



#3430 Brauhaus*



#3432 Conesque*



#3434 Esther*



#3436 Pigalle*

Vases. Footed ones may be marked; others will not. Most in more than one height.



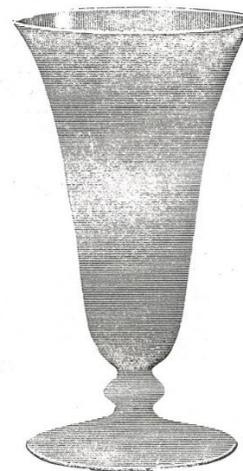
4191—8-IN.

#4191 Olympia*
Later came with Moongleam
foot. Also made as an
automobile vase without foot



4193—8-IN.

#4193



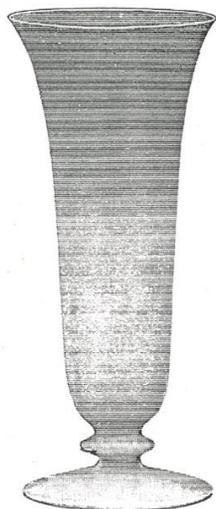
4195—8-IN.

#4195 Neva*. Footed.



4197—8-IN.

#4197 Rebecca*



4192—8-IN.

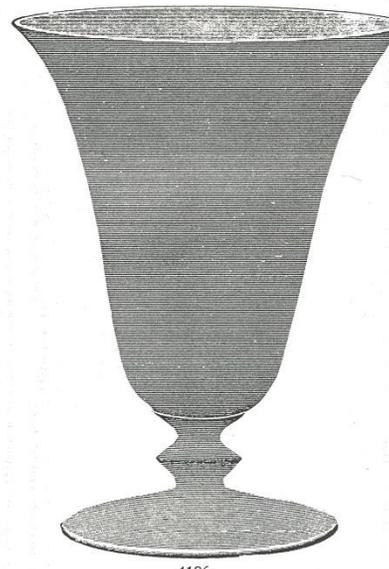
#4192 Hanna*. Footed.



4194—8-IN.

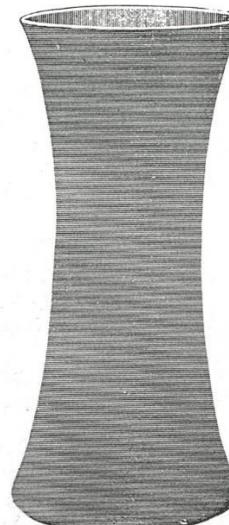
ALSO MAKE 6 AND 10-IN. SIZES

#4194



4196-

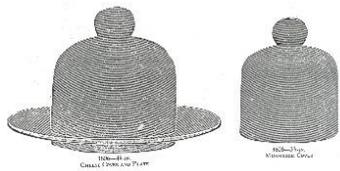
#4196 Rhoda*. Footed.



4198—10-IN.
ALSO MAKE 12-IN. SIZE

#4198 Cynthia*

Other blown pieces, all unmarked, but often identifiable either by shape or by factory-applied decoration.



#3806 and a few other mushroom and cheese covers



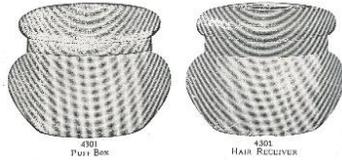
#124—4 1/2-IN. PRESERVE AND COVER

#4124 covered preserve (bottom probably same as #3335 Lady Leg* finger bowl, which is the same as the #3404 Spanish finger bowl)



4125 INDIVIDUAL MARMALADE

#4125 individual marmalade



#4301 puff box and hair receiver



4048—6-oz. OIL CUT NECK—No. 67 CUT STOPPER

#4048 Cut Neck* oil (not well named, since neck isn't necessarily cut)



#4063 Oval* water bottle (front and side views)



4162—PINT

#4162 Genie* jug, several sizes (vases came later)



4163—54-oz.

#4163 Whaley* jug one size in 1919, later two sizes plus ice-lip style



4164—12-GAL. JUG ALSO MAKE 9-IN. AND 12-IN.

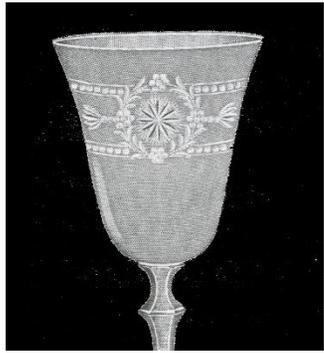
#4164 Gallagher* jug (Bryce made an identical jug in different sizes; Gallagher was probably made in only one size)



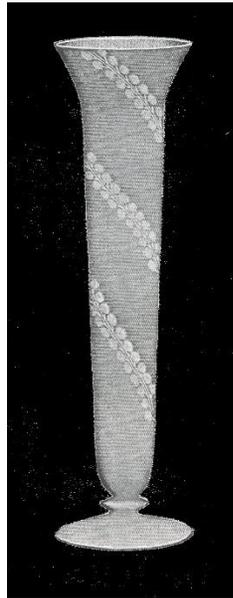
4182—8-IN. PLATE ALSO MAKE 9-IN. AND 12-IN.

#4182 Thin* plates several sizes (later also used in #3350 Wabash)

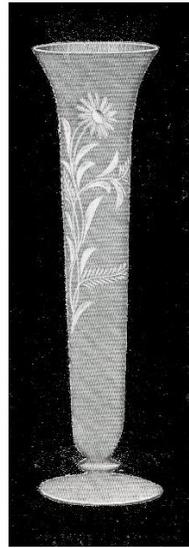
Cuttings introduced in 1919. Probably all cuttings from about #657 to about #698. Only ones of known appearance listed below.



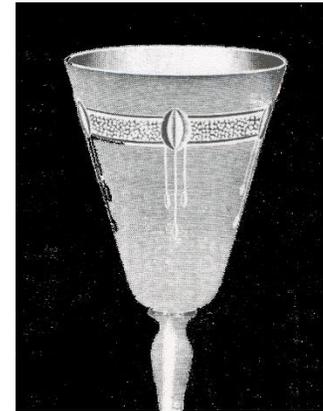
#657 Liberty



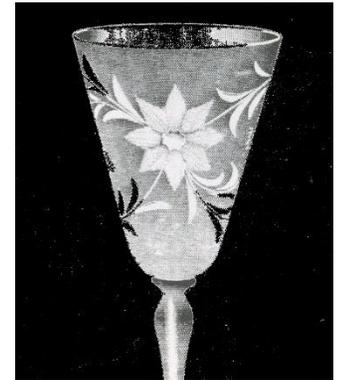
#671 Entente on
#4191 Olympia*



#672 Bachelor's
Button*



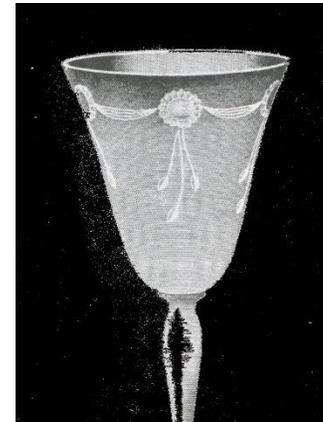
#680 Crusader



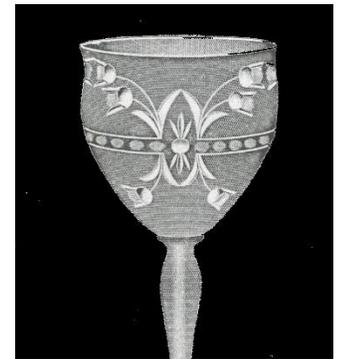
#693 Cloister



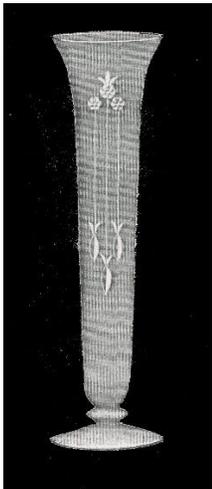
#662 Constellation



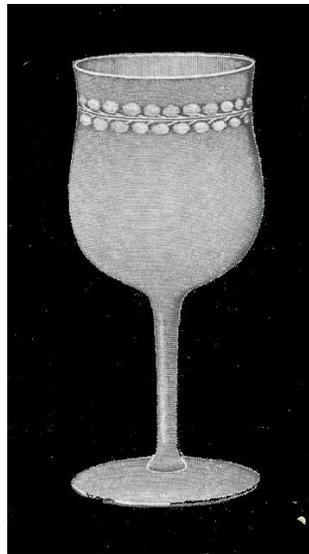
#682 Greenbriar



#694 Balboa



#667 Sir George*



#671 Entente on
#3320 Ritz



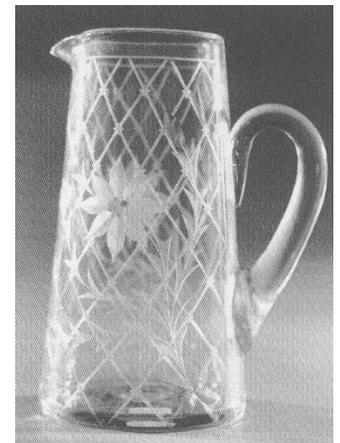
#674 Adams



#688 Cassaba

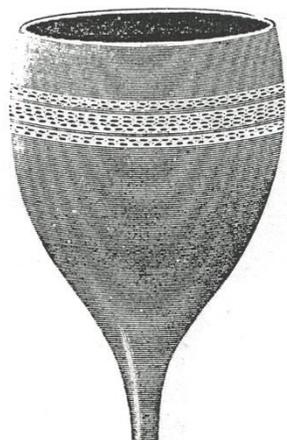


#679 Windsor

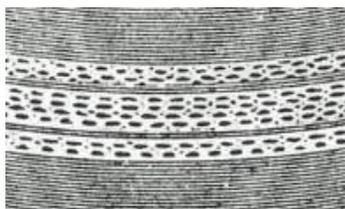


#697 Trellis*

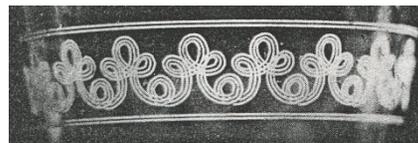
Needle etchings introduced in 1919. Take care with needle etchings. These were done by machine, often with pre-supplied designs. That means several companies might have produced the same etching. This is especially true of many that resemble or are identical to #9001 Trefoil (probably a 1919 introduction), #33 Tatting, and #36 Ric Rac (both from 1917).



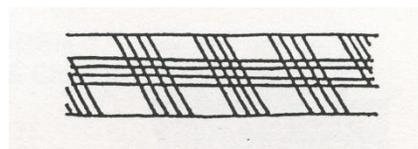
#27 Crochet* (detail below)



#31 Roman Key*



#9001 Trefoil*

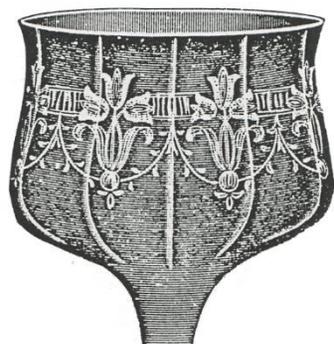


#38 Tallahassee*

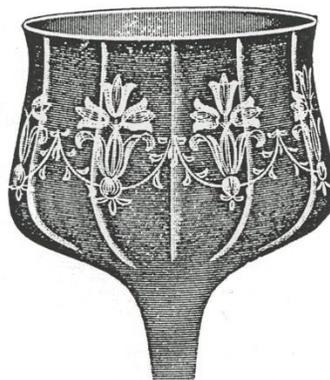


#41 Braided Loop*

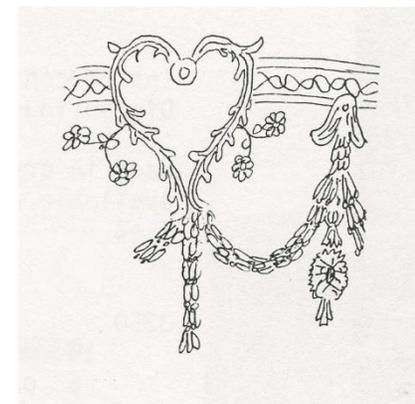
Pantograph etchings introduced in 1919:



#163 Monticello



#164 Salem



#165 Dundee

Plate etchings introduced in 1919. Probably all plate etchings from #414 to about #434-438.



#414 Oxford
(Nefertiti*)



#416 Vintage



#422 Cumberland
(Bead and Fan*)



#425 Dogwood
(Periwinkle*)



#429 Zodiac
(another company
copied as a frit etch)



#432 Londonderry
(Scottish Thistle*)



#415 Classic
(Grecian Urn*)



#418 Acropolis
(misspelled by the
company as
"Accropolis")



#423 Violets
(Violet*)



#426 Mt. Vernon
(Emogene*)



#430 Highlander



#433 Dutchess
(named after the
county in upper New
York State, so
spelled with a "t")



#421 Rose
(Early Rose*)



#424 Cherries



#428 Simplex
(Floral Band*)
(not same as the
much later #602
Simplex matte etch)



#431 Victory



Detail of #428
Simplex

Other happenings in 1919, in no particular order:

Edsel Ford becomes president of Ford Motor Company.

The Great Molasses Flood of Boston spills over 2,000,000 gallons of molasses, killing 21 people.

To the great relief of Amazon and eBay shoppers, United Parcel Service is founded.

The Paris peace conference results in the Treaty of Versailles with Germany, formally ending the Great War. The U.S. does not sign on.

Grand Canyon is designated a National Park.

Benito Mussolini founds the Fascist movement in Italy.

Mohandas K. Gandhi leads a General Strike in India.

The first Transatlantic flight is completed. Later that same year, the first non-stop Transatlantic flight is completed. A solo flight crossing won't be completed until Lindbergh does it in 1927.

The first international airmail is flown, from Seattle, Wash., to Victoria, B.C.

RCA is founded as a division of General Electric.

Carl Sandburg is awarded the Pulitzer Prize for his collection of poems, *Cornhusker*.

Congress approves sending the 19th Amendment, women's suffrage, to the states for ratification. The amendment is ratified in 1920.

Felix the cat becomes the first animated cartoon character.

Adolf Hitler becomes the 7th member of the newly formed German Workers' Party, precursor to the Nazi party.

The pop-up toaster is patented.

The Broadway musical *Irene* opens, the longest running for its time at 620 performances. Its most popular song is "Alice Blue Gown," later sung by, among many others, Frank Sinatra. He changed the pronouns.

The American Legion is founded.

The U.S. Army sends a Motor Transport Convoy cross-country from Washington, D.C. to Oakland, California. It takes about a month. The rough, unpaved roads incite one of the participants, Dwight D. Eisenhower, to champion an Interstate Highway System. Thirty-seven years later, he does something about it.

Racehorse Man O' War suffers his only defeat.

The Baseball World Series is thrown in the infamous Black Sox Scandal. Also in 1919, the National League bans the spitball for new pitchers.

Believe it or not, Ripley's starts running in 1919.

The Volstead Act implements Prohibition, with Congress overriding President Wilson's veto.

Congress votes to severely restrict immigration.

The Boston Red Sox sell Babe Ruth to the New York Yankees for the unheard of price of \$125,000.

A.H. Heisey & Co. offers a dozen 8-lb. #465 Recessed Panel* candy jars for \$21.05. A dozen fills two barrels. A dozen had cost only \$12.00 in 1917.

Born in 1919:

- J.D. Salinger, author
- Robert Stack, actor
- Andy Rooney, journalist
- Edwin Newman, journalist
- Jackie Robinson, baseball player
- Tennessee Ernie Ford, musician
- Nat King Cole, singer
- Strother Martin, actor
- Liberace, pianist
- George Gobel, comedian
- Martin Balsam, actor

Died in 1919:

- Theodore Roosevelt, 26th President and owner of Heisey glassware
- Frank Winfield Woolworth, businessman
- L. Frank Baum, author
- Andrew Carnegie, industrialist