

Heisey's Amber

Great Plains Heisey Club, November 2017, Eric Tankesley-Clarke

Heisey's amber can be divided into two broad categories. First is amber made for Fred Harvey Restaurants and not offered otherwise. This began as early as the 1920's, although some sources think possibly even as early as 1918. (Other sources give a date of 1902, but this was based on some incorrect assumptions.) The second category is amber made for Heisey's own catalogue. This was made around 1951-2. The price list calls it Sultana. Today, we use Sultana to mean the dark shades made in this late period; the pale shades made around the same time are called Honey Amber. In fact, Heisey amber, whether made for Harvey or sale to the public, comes in many shades and tones.

Fred Harvey orders used lead amber, at least part of the time. Much Harvey amber

does have a clear resonance when tapped that is lacking in Heisey's usual soda-lime production. Late formulas did not have lead, and some of the late Sultana production probably reflects this. Some Sultana and Honey Amber does not have the resonance. Some pieces of late Heisey amber are so rare that they may represent experimental pieces.

When Imperial bought the Heisey assets, they acquired a recipe for amber, but this is not necessarily a recipe used for any of Heisey's production. Furthermore, Imperial had Cambridge's amber formula, plus others of their own. Imperial may not have used Heisey's formula at all. Much Imperial amber does not have the same lustrous red glow of most Heisey amber.

Items made by Heisey in amber, including all shades and periods
(Comprehensive list, but other items or shades may exist)

- #12 Small Eight Flute salt
- #24 Medium Panel salt
- #198 (#602 Marsa) tumbler
- #201 Harvey Colonial tumbler
- #300 Peerless individual decanter
- #337 Touraine goblet, parfait, unhandled custard (star bottom), all narrow optic
- #337 (or #586) Touraine 5-oz. juice
- #337½ Touraine sherbet, narrow optic
- #353 Medium Flat Panel goblet, jug, tray
- #373 Old Williamsburg footed soda, 14-oz.
- #398 Hopewell nappy, 5-in.
- #586 12-oz. soda, narrow optic
- #1106 custard, unhandled, narrow optic (Touraine shaped, plain bottom)
- #1125 Starburst plate, 7½-in.
- #1150 Colonial Star plate, 8-in. (possibly Imperial)
- #1170 Pleat and Panel oil
- #1184 Yeoman goblet, deep amber and unusual golden amber
- #1184 Yeoman oil, 8-in. diam. opt. plate, 6¼-in. plain plate (small plate not marked)
- #1186 Yeoman 4-in. individual ash tray
- #1216 Roman punch, 4½-in. nappy
- #1217 finger bowl
- #1238 Beehive plate 8-in. plate (there is a 9-in. look-alike by Duncan and Miller)
- #1404 Old Sandwich mugs (12-oz., 16-oz., 18-oz.)
- #1417 Arch tumbler
- #1469½ Ridgeleigh salt
- #1503 Crystolite cigarette box, candle block (rosette), 4-in. coaster, individual swan nut dish
- #1503¼ Crystolite candle block (melon)
- #1509 Queen Ann triplex relish (the only colored piece of Queen Ann)
- #1519 Waverly candy jar, sugar, footed cheese (compote) (all in honey amber)
- #1540 Lariat champagne
- #1566 Banded Crystolite candle block
- #1567 Plantation ash tray and coaster
- #1593 Prism 4½-in. ash tray
- #1624 Patio, all pieces (mainly Sultana, but also made in crystal)
- #1951 Cabochon plate
- #1951A Elephant mug (sometimes put under #1591)
- #1952 Dumbo mug (Sultana only, no crystal production)
- #2351 Newton soda
- #2514 concave soda, handled
- #3304 Universal parfait (not marked)
- #3350 Wabash goblet, crystal bowl, amber stem
- #3390 Gascony champagne (foot only)
- #3404 Spanish champagne

- #3408 Jamestown beer mug (handle only)
- #3419 Cognac brandy (not marked)
- #3801 Texas Pink low comport (not marked)
- #4049 Old Fitz hot whiskey
- #4054 Coronation tankard, amber handle
- #4059 Allen water bottle
- #4164 Shaw jug
- #5012 Urn bud vase (base only)
- #5013 Baroque 5-in. vase for epergne
- #5044 Constellation ice tea
- #5047 Cecelia vase
- #5048 Rooster Head cocktail (stem only)
- #5057 Suez stemware (stem only)
- #5058 Goose cocktail (stem only)
- #5072 Heisey Rose goblet (stem only)
- #5074 Seahorse cocktail (stem only)
- #5077 Legionnaire stemware (stem only) (mainly Sultana, but some Honey Amber)
- #5082 Mid-Century goblet (odd optic, amber bowl)
- #6092 Cabochon tumblers, sodas (foot)
- #8015 Stippled Thumbprint custard (known only in dark amber)
- #1 Rooster (chicken family) (honey)
- #1 Horse Head book end (Sultana)
- #1, 2, and 3 Elephants (Sultana, honey)
- #1 Flying Mare (Sultana and honey)
- #1 and #2 Giraffe (Sultana and honey)
- Doe head (Sultana)
- Colts (#1522 standing, #1527 kicking, #1529 balking) (Sultana and honey)
- #2 Clydesdale (honey)
- #2 Filly (honey)
- #1540 Oscar (honey)
- #110 Dolphin stick (dark amber)

Imperial's amber production using Heisey moulds. Other items are possible.

- #300-2 Old Williamsburg 7½-in. candlestick. Not marked.
- #341 (#373) Old Williamsburg stemware, most pieces (not marked)
- #341 Old Williamsburg, most pieces, sometimes <H>
- #1405 Ipswich candy jar, 11-in. footed bowl, crimped top pecan bowl (this shape never made by Heisey). Marked <H>.
- #1425 Victorian stemware, nappy, plate. Marked <H>. Also 4½-in. compote never made by Heisey
- #1486 Coleport tumbler, possibly other items. Not marked.
- #1506 Provincial (Whirlpool), most items. Marked <H>.
- #1590 Zodiac (amberglo), all items. (IG)
- #1632 Satellite ash tray
- #5067 Plantation goblet and sherbet (stem is Plantation; bowl is borrowed from something else, probably a non-Heisey pattern). Not marked.
- Three animals marked <H>
 - #100 Asiatic Pheasant (marked <H>)
 - #101 Tropical Fish (marked <H>)
 - #1 Large elephant (marked <H>) The large elephant is the only <H>-marked amber animal made by both Heisey and Imperial. #2 Medium and #3 Small Elephants not made in Amber by Imperial
- Four amber animals unmarked
 - #1 Bull (unmarked)
 - #1 Fish bookend (unmarked)
 - Piglet (sitting or standing) unmarked
- Amber animals with various Imperial marks (IG, LIG, ALIG, or NI)
 - #2 Clydesdale (marked ALIG)
 - Colts (all three) (marked IG)
 - #1 Filly (head forward or back) (LIG)
 - #1 Flying mare (ALIG or NI)
 - #1 and #2 Giraffe (LIG or ALIG)
 - #2 Hen (IG)
 - Mallard (all three) (IG)
 - Sow (ALIG)
 - #1 Ringneck pheasant (NI)
 - #1541 Scottie (Sealyham terrier) (ALIG)
 - #5 Show horse (NI)
 - #103 Tiger (ALIG)

Westmoreland, look-alike for 300-2 two-light candelabrum (possibly made from Heisey mould)
 Duncan & Miller, look-alike for #1238 Beehive, pale amber plate, 9-in.

Other makers

- Look-alike for #12 Small Eight Flute S&P
- Look-alike for #337 (#586) Touraine juice
- Look-alike for #1184 Yeoman oil
- Many other examples too numerous to list

Crystal and amber animals by Heisey and Imperial

The following tables are derived from *Heisey and Heisey by Imperial Glass Animals*, Hahn & Kikeli. There is always the chance there are other Heisey animals in Heisey Sultana or in Imperial amber, or that Imperial might have made other, unrecorded Heisey animals in crystal. There even could be attempts to remove marks from Imperial pieces to make them appear as unmarked Heisey. Whenever both companies made an animal in the same color, strong fluorescent UV will make the difference obvious, whether crystal or amber. Heisey crystal animals will glow yellow-green; Imperial's will glow milky white or not at all. Heisey Sultana animals glow with dull flame orange; Imperial's amber is muddier and glows a dull, murky blend.

Honey amber (made only by Heisey)

Animal	Heisey mark
Clydesdale	<H>
Colt (Balking)	unmarked
Colt (kicking or standing)	<H>
Elephant (small)	<H>
Elephant (medium)	<H>
Elephant (large)	unmarked
Flying mare	<H>
Plug horse (Oscar)	unmarked
Rooster	<H>

Imperial Dark Blues & Heisey

Imperial made **cobalt** blue, but in #1506 Provincial, not in animals. Nothing that Heisey made in Stiegel Blue was also made by Imperial in cobalt. Heisey made four animals—the three colts and Oscar—in Stiegel blue. All are said to be marked <H>. The three colts were made by Imperial in **Ultra Blue** and were marked IG. Stiegel blue is very dark blue with a purplish cast. Ultra Blue is deep blue, not as dark, with no hint of purple. Side by side, the colors are quite distinct. Ultraviolet helps very little. Even if someone removed an Imperial mark from an Ultra Blue colt, there should be no confusion.

Dark amber (Sultana when made by Heisey for animals)

Blank grey cells mean the company is not known to have made the animal in dark amber.

UV helpful	Animal	Heisey mark	Imperial mark
	Asiatic Pheasant		<H>
	Bull		unmarked
	Clydesdale		ALIG
	Colt (Balking)		IG
	Colt (kicking or standing)		IG
	Elephant (small)	<H>	
	Elephant (medium)	<H>	
x	Elephant (large)	<H>	<H>
	Filly (head back)		ALIG
	Filly (head forward)		ALIG
	Fish bookend		unmarked
	Flying mare	<H>	ALIG or NI
	Giraffe	<H>	LIG or ALIG
	Hen		IG
	Mallard (wings any position)		IG
	Piglet (sitting or standing)		unmarked
	Ringneck Pheasant		NI
	Rooster		IG
	Scottie (Sealyham terrier)		ALIG
	Show horse		NI
	Sow		ALIG
	Tiger		ALIG
	Tropical Fish		<H>

Crystal

Blank grey cells mean Imperial is not known to have made the animal in crystal.

UV helpful	Animal	Heisey mark	Imperial mark
x	Airedale	<H> or unmarked	<H> or ALIG
x	Asiatic Pheasant	<H> or unmarked	<H>
x	Bull	<H> or unmarked	<H>
	Bunny (head up or down)	unmarked	
	Chick (head up or down)	unmarked	
	Clydesdale	<H> or unmarked	unmarked—satin finish only
x	Colt (Balking)	<H> or unmarked	<H>
x	Colt (kicking or standing)	<H> or unmarked	<H>
	Cygnets	<H> or unmarked	
x	Donkey	<H> or unmarked	<H>
	Elephant (small)	<H> or unmarked	IG
x	Elephant (medium)	<H>	<H>
x	Elephant (large)	<H> or unmarked	<H>
x	Fighting Rooster	<H> or unmarked	<H> or unmarked
	Filly (head back)	<H>	ALIG
	Filly (head forward)	<H>	ALIG; in addition, sometimes numbered
	Fish bookend	<H> or unmarked	
	Fish bowl	<H>	
	Fish candlestick	unmarked	
	Fish match holder	unmarked	
x	Flying mare	<H>	<H>
	Gazelle	<H>	ALIG
	Giraffe	<H> or unmarked	ALIG
	Goose (wings down)	<H> or unmarked	
x	Goose (wings half or up)	<H> or unmarked	<H>
	Hen	<H> or unmarked	IG
x	Mallard (wings any position)	<H> or unmarked	<H>
x	Piglet (sitting or standing)	<H> or unmarked	unmarked
x	Plug horse (Oscar)	<H> or unmarked	<H>
x	Pouter pigeon	<H> or unmarked	<H>
	Rabbit	<H> or unmarked	
	Rabbit paperweight	unmarked	
	Rearing Horse bookend	unmarked	
x	Ringneck Pheasant	<H> or unmarked	<H>
	Rooster	<H>	
	Rooster vase	unmarked	
x	Scottie (Sealyham terrier)	<H> or unmarked	<H>
	Show horse	<H>	NI
	Sow	<H> or unmarked	ALIG
	Sparrow (any position)	unmarked	
x	Swan	<H>	<H>
	Tiger	<H> or unmarked	ALIG
x	Tropical Fish	<H> or unmarked	<H>
x	Wood Duck	<H> or unmarked	<H>
	Wood duckling (floating)	<H> or unmarked	
	Wood duckling (standing)	<H>	