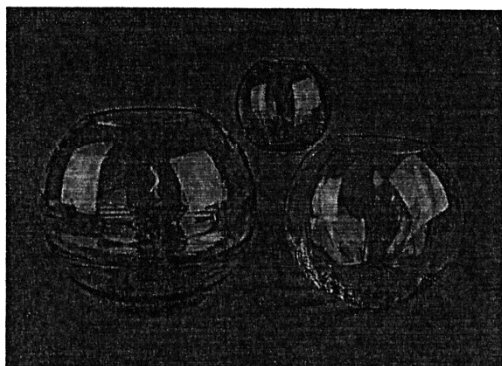


# Heisey Ball Vases, Rose Bowls, and Other Round Bowls

Eric Tankesley-Clarke for Great Plains Heisey Club

## The classic Heisey ball vase

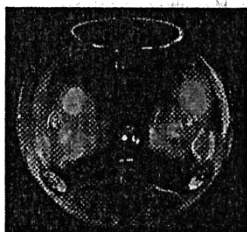


When most people say "Heisey ball vase," the one that comes to mind is #4045 Heron. Until recently, this was simply known as the Ball Vase, and that is how you will find it in most reference books and research articles. In 2010, it was named Heron.

A Heron ball vase has a vertical wide optic. With one exception, all sizes up through 7" have 10 optics. The 9" and 12" vases have 12 optics. The curious exception is the 6" Tangerine ball vase, which also has 12 optics, unlike all the other 6" ones. Sizes of ball vases, by the way, are determined by diameter at the widest point; height is usually about ½" shorter. They were introduced about 1935.

Heisey also made ball vases with Saturn optic. When they first introduced the Saturn optic on ball vases, they put them in their catalogue with #4085 Kohinoor. After Kohinoor was dropped, they continued to use #4085 for ball vases with Saturn optic and simply listed them as "miscellaneous."

To further confuse matters, by the early 1940's Heisey used #4045 for all ball vases. Price lists then showed two prices for each size offered, one for W/O (wide optic) and one for S/O (Saturn optic). (Saturn optic was a little more expensive than wide optic.) By the 1950's, only 6" and 9" ball vases were being made, all with Saturn optic and all sold under #4045. As with many Heisey things, it is difficult to be "absolutely correct" because the company didn't bother to be consistent. Nowadays, collectors enforce some consistency and use #4045 Heron for ball vases with vertical optic, and #4085 Saturn or #4085 Kohinoor for ball vases with Saturn optic.



Often forgotten among the other ball vases are those made with spot optic, #4004 Impromptu, pictured at left. These vases are known in 7" and 9" sizes and were made from the corresponding #4045 ball vase moulds.

The table below indicates which ball vases are known to have been made. Twelve-optic vases are noted parenthetically.

	Crystal (Wide)	Crystal (Saturn)	Crystal (Spot)	Moongleam (Wide)	Flamingo (Wide)	Sahara (Wide)	Alexandrite (Wide)	Stiegel Blue (cobalt) (Wide)	Tangerine (Wide)	Zircon (Saturn)
2"	x							x		
3"	x									
4"	x	x		x		x	x	x		x
6"	x	x		x		x	x	x	x (12)	x
7"	x	x	x	x		x	x	x		x
9"	x (12)	x	x	x (12)		x (12)	x (12)	x (12)		x
12"	x (12)			x (12)		x (12)	x (12)	x (12)	x (12)	



Some with no "x" may exist but the ones x'd above have been confirmed. Flamingo has never been seen and it is possible that the color was never used for ball vases. However, a very good look-alike has been seen in pink. Turquoise vases are probably all Zircon dating from the 1930's; none are known to have been made in mid-1950's Limelight, and ball vases were discontinued about 1953, just before Limelight came out. Supposedly, some 9" cobalt vases have no optic, but skepticism seems in order.

The museum owns a 7" vase in crystal, cased in cobalt.

The 2" size does not appear in any price list or catalogue and for a time some doubted these were Heisey. However, the mould exists and HCA owns it. The mould was also used to make the salt shaker for Eva Zeisel's Roundelay pattern. Most examples of the 2" ball vase are in cobalt, but a few have been seen in crystal. The salt shaker differs from the ball vase in having a short neck.

The 3" size has never been seen except in crystal.

Ball vases in 2" and 4" size are occasionally seen in medium to light blue, similar to Heisey's Trial Blue from the 1930's. The vases have 10 optics. These were probably made by Tiffin in their Copen Blue color. However, one is illustrated in Coe (*The Colors of Heisey Glass*) as a Heisey product.

Imperial used the #4045 moulds to make ball vases, but they are easy to distinguish from Heisey. They are 4", made in crystal or Imperial's colors of Plum, Ultra Blue, or Sunshine Yellow. Only crystal or Sunshine Yellow could be mistaken for Heisey, but the optics quickly give them away; Imperial vases have a spike optic, which had 18 vertical optics, not 10.

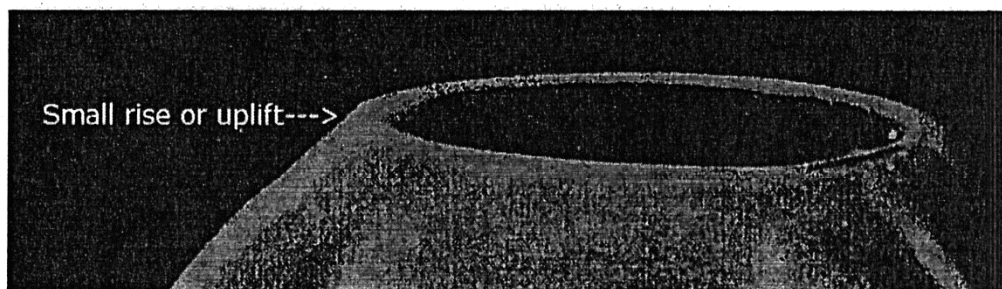


Imperial also used 4" ball vase moulds to make vases with spiral optic. These would never be mistaken for Heisey, because of the optic and the shape—the mouth is very wide so the vase is less of a ball shape. (Shown at left)

Duncan and Miller made their Festive pattern in a color very similar to dark Zircon shades and with a Saturn-like optic. If the color is very deep and rich and the optic very crisp, suspect you have Duncan and Miller. Many companies made ball vases. Some, such as Tiffin, were high quality.

The #4045 and #4085 vases are blown, so they aren't marked. And you know you can't trust a paper label. How can you be sure? Things to look for in an authentic Heisey vase:

- Mouth not too wide or too narrow; it should be roughly the same size as the base, sometimes slightly smaller, sometimes slightly larger.
- Correct color, only the colors listed in the table. No Heisey ball vases were made in amber. Be suspicious of pink ball vases.
- Correct optic, but don't just count optics. All the other factors must be there, too.
- Ground rim of substantial thickness, not a fire-polished rim.
- Subtle uplift right at the rim. This is difficult to see without practice (sometimes easier to feel) and sometimes almost non-existent, especially in Saturn optic examples. (See below).
- Flat, fire-polished bottom, no ground and polished punty.
- Heavy weight. Heisey's ball vases are never thin, light-weight glass.
- Decorations from the Heisey factory guarantee a vase is Heisey, and probably all those from Krall. Keep in mind, however, that Krall and his studio did work on other glass, as did Max Seidel and Mark Pickerell.



Even catalogue illustrations showed the uplift. It is clearly visible in the detail above from the illustration to the left. On the previous page, the vase shown next to the table of colors and sizes also nicely exhibits the uplift. You could see it, if only the picture were larger!

## Decorations on #4045 and #4085 ball vases

Carvings (4"-12"): #5013 Nymph and Satyr, #5015 Stripes, #5016 Stars and Stripes

Cuttings (4"-12"): #825 Sea Glade, #888 Madeira, #889 Sheffield (not #985 Sheffield), #890 Churchill, #891 Pembroke, #892 Berkeley Square, #900 Saratoga

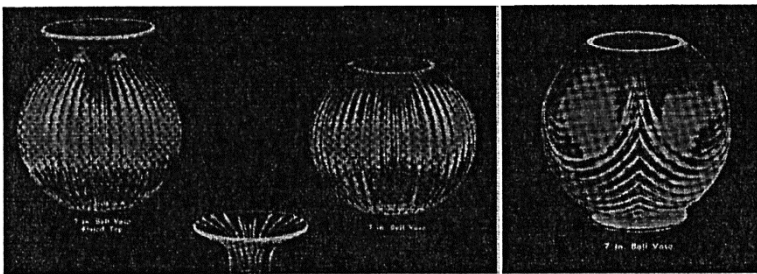
Etchings: #469 Mermaids (4"-12"), #9022 Jack Frost (4"-12"), #507 Orchid (7")

Engravings, all by Krall: #2508 Lily, #2509 Bird and Rose, #2510 Robin in the Tree, #2511 Lighthouse and Boat, monograms, special order pieces (often with "E. Krall" signature and sometimes dated)

Some of these are said to have been on 3" ball vases, but sources differ on that point and none have been seen. Sea Glade cutting and Mermaids etching are the most common of the decorations (if any of them can be said to be common), and some, such as the Orchid etched ball vase, are so rare as to have never been seen.

*Thanks to Norm Thran with his extensive knowledge of the #4045 and #4085 ball vases for his help in answering several questions for me.*

## Other Heisey Ball Vases



- #1469 Ridgeleigh ball vase and ball vase with flanged top
- #1483 Stanhope ball vase
- #1503½ Crystolite ball vase (not pictured); there is a Duncan and Miller look-alike in their Radiant pattern.

The Ridgeleigh ball vase is uncommon, and the others are rare to extremely rare.

## Rose bowls

Rose bowls were generally more or less globe-shaped. Some were nearly as spherical as the ball vases. Rose bowls of one sort or another were made from some of the earliest patterns and into the 1930's.

**Footed rose bowls** were listed in four patterns: #325 Pillows, #335 Prince of Wales, Plumes, #343 Sunburst, and #1776 Kalonyal. All date from before 1910. The bowls are all about 3" across.



Few people realize there was a footed rose bowl in #1776 Kalonyal. It is often said there are three footed rose bowls. Until recently it had gone unnoticed that one factory pride list gives Kalonyal alongside the other three. It has never been seen to my knowledge. Alas, no catalogue picture.

The footed rose bowls are probably all made from the same moulds as the footed jellies. It is possible that footed jellies from other early Heisey patterns were also made into footed rose bowls, although none have been reported.

(At the other extreme, footed jellies can also be flattened out into what appear to be miniature salvers, for example #1235 Beaded Panel and Sunburst.)



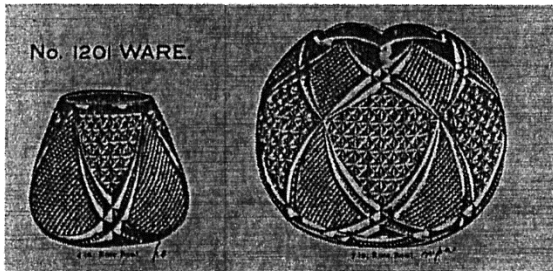
Much later, Heisey included a footed vase in #1511 Toujours which, for all practical purposes, is a footed rose bowl, although it was not called that. It is called a 5½" vase, but is actually only about 4¾" tall with a bowl about 3½" in diameter. Less ball-shaped, but worthy of mention, is the #1519 Waverly vase, which sits on low feet with no stem.

◀ #1511 Toujours

#1519 Waverly ▶



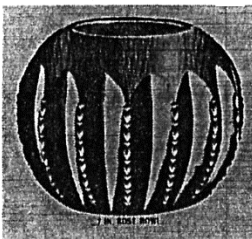
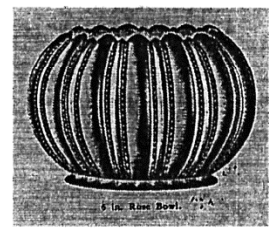
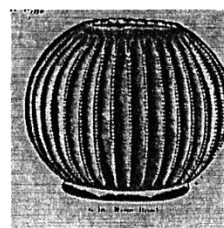
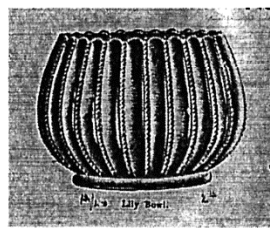
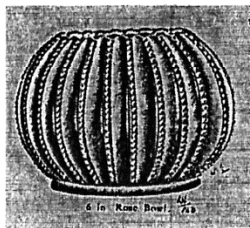
**Ball-shaped rose bowls** were made in at least ten older patterns.



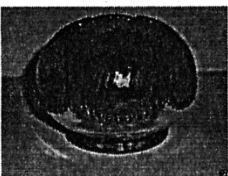
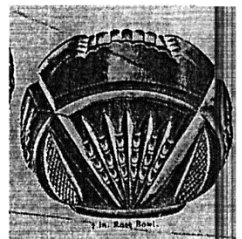
#1201 Fandango had two rose bowls, 4" and 7". The smaller one is unusual in being pear-shaped rather than ball-shaped. #1205 Fancy Loop also had 4" and 7" rose bowls; this time, the 7" is a little different, with high shoulders and broad base.



Six-inch rose bowls were made in #8 Vertical Bead and Panel, #9 Single Slash and Panel, and #12 Double Slash and Panel. These are rarely if ever seen. They are all roughly globe-shaped. Each of them had a corresponding lily bowl, which was the same thing, but with the mouth opened up more. Illustrated below: #8 rose bowl, #8 lily bowl, #9 rose bowl, #12 rose bowl. None of these would be marked.

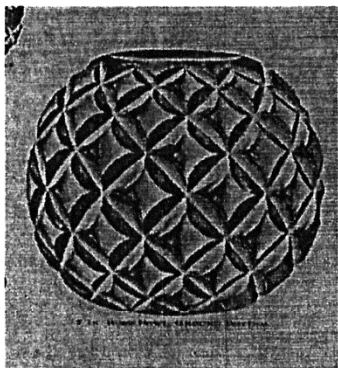


#1250 Groove and Slash was made in 4", 5", and 7" rose bowls, all more ball-like. There is also a squat version of the smallest bowl, looking as though it had been sat on. #1255 Pineapple and Fan featured more rose bowls than any other pattern, with 6 sizes from 2" to 7". The 2" is very hard to find.

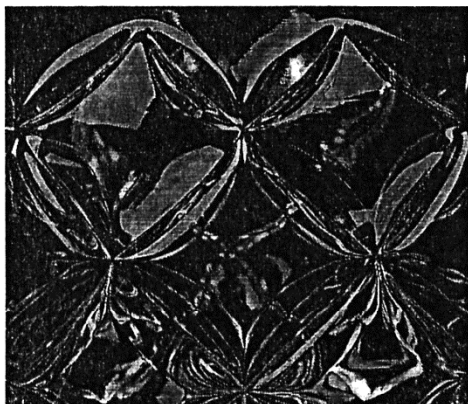


#1295 Bead Swag had a 2" rose bud bowl, a slightly flattened little ball, the only rose bowl of any size in that pattern.

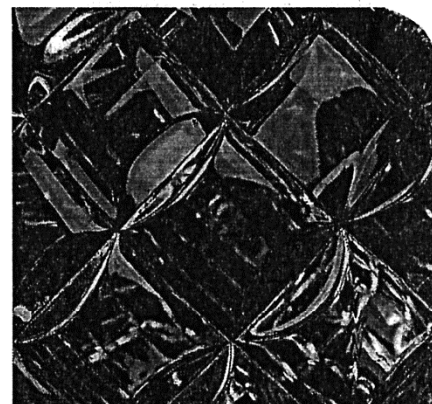
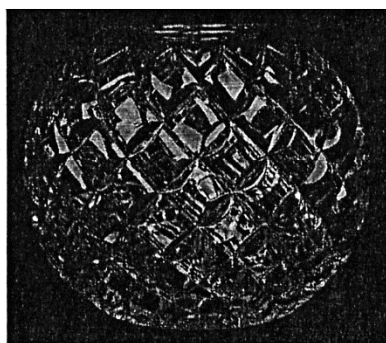




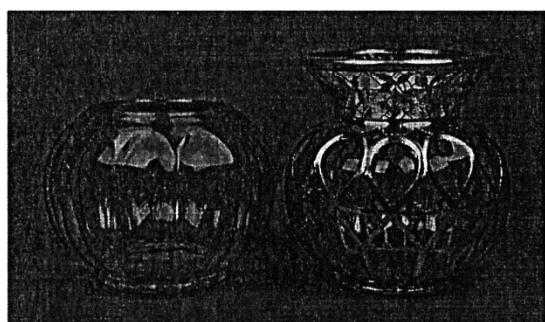
#325 Pillows had two sizes of rose bowl (not counting the footed version), 4" and 7". The 4" size is more common, and there is a modern look-alike made of very heavy glass with a thick, raised rim foot, probably intended as a container for votive candles. The 7" size is usually found finished like the 4" one, with fine-polished top and bottom. The 7" was also made with ground top and bottom or with mitered top and ground bottom, both of which may have been unseen. Be careful not to confuse Heisey with the Gillinder Glass Company's rose bowl. Each "pillow" on the Gillinder bowls has two opposite straight sides and two opposite incurved sides. #325 Pillows has four incurved sides for each pillow, making each pillow look as though it were set in a circle. (To add to the confusion, the Gillinder pattern is called Westmoreland, but it was made by Gillinder Glass Co., not Westmoreland Glass Co.)



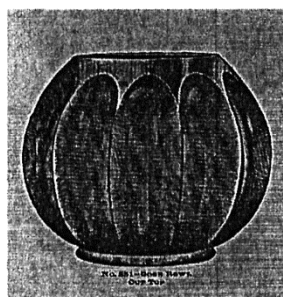
Detail of Heisey #325 Pillows on left. Gillinder's Westmoreland below, with detail on right.



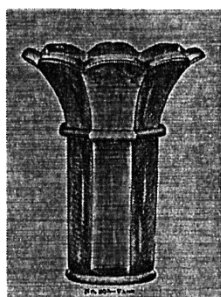
Even though #335 Prince of Wales and #343 Sunburst had footed rose bowls, neither pattern had other ball-shaped vases.



#351 Priscilla had a 7" rose bowl. It may have been made in at least two sizes, though. When made with a flanged rim, it was called a California rose bowl, a difficult piece to find. The flange is sometimes more upright than shown in the catalogue illustration.



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The Priscilla rose bowl could be combined with the #355 collared vase to form a French combination vase. The #355 vase seems to have been made in two variations and only one works with the rose bowl.

## Rose bowls, but not quite ball shaped

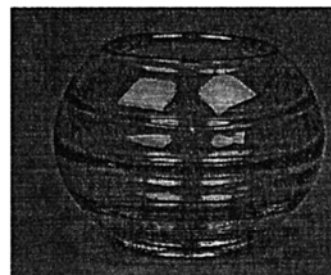
In later years, Heisey made very few rose bowls, and they weren't quite as spherical. The most nearly globe-like were #4157 Steele and #3359 Plateau. Similar, but somewhat squattier, are two shapes of the Genie vase, #4162/2 and #4162/4. All four are shown below in order. Measurements refer to height. Unlike the #4045 and #4085 ball vases, all four have ground and polished punties on the bottom.



A rarely seen shape in #411 Tudor is a cupped and flanged version of the floral bowl. While not in known price lists, this was possibly marketed as a rose bowl or a nasturtium bowl. It is about the right size and shape (8" mouth, but 10½" rim). The example shown is miter cut, which obscures the Tudor ribbing.



#1425 Victorian and #1485 Saturn both had rose bowls (left), both with very wide mouths. Both were made for only a short time. #1485 Saturn also had a much smaller globe-like bowl, the violet vase (right).



## Not quite ball shaped, not quite rose bowls (but pretty close)



#1252 Twist did not have rose bowls by name, but the round nasturtium bowls were about the same size and shape as other late rose bowls. In #1404 Old Sandwich, there is no rose bowl, but there is a footed popcorn bowl which could easily be taken for a rose bowl.



Finally, we should mention #4224 Ivy, elusive in any color. Even though it has a small neck, unlike rose bowls, its body is nearly round and ball vase collectors may well be attracted to it as well.

*Hint for holding ball vases:* Stick one hand in the top and spread your fingers. For security, hold the other hand underneath but not touching. This method avoids fingerprints.