

Heisey Bottoms (And a Few Tops)

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#1205 Fancy
Loop—Covered
butter, orange
stain



Excellent example
of elaborate early
bottom design



#1235
Beaded
Panel &
Sunburst
—Butter
(bottom
only)

Chrysanthemum type star combined with other fancy elements; note rays in very center of star—items without the rays are probably another maker.



Even when the base wasn't the prominent feature, a fancy design was used.



#1255 Pineapple
and Fan—Vase,
emerald, 6"

#160 Locket on Chain—Nappy, emerald, 4"



A slightly later ornate bottom design, but showing signs of simplifying.





The “Heisey Star”
struggles to emerge.
Note the alternating
longer and shorter rays.

#325 Pillows—Butter
(bottom only)



#335 Prince of Wales, Plumes— Butter (bottom only)

One of the last of the ornate bottom designs, with a star intermediate between a chrysanthemum and simpler rays. The <H>, while still a “large” one, is smaller than on the #325 Pillows butter.

Where
Have All
the Flowers
Gone?

#1201

Fandango—Hotel sugar



If the bottom was not a focal point, the tendency was to have a simpler star. Note the squareness of this one.



#1201 Fandango— Tooth pick



Few early
pieces had an
utterly plain
bottom.





A transitional piece in Heisey star history; still some fanciness on the outside, but a simple star on the bottom. This piece is marked.

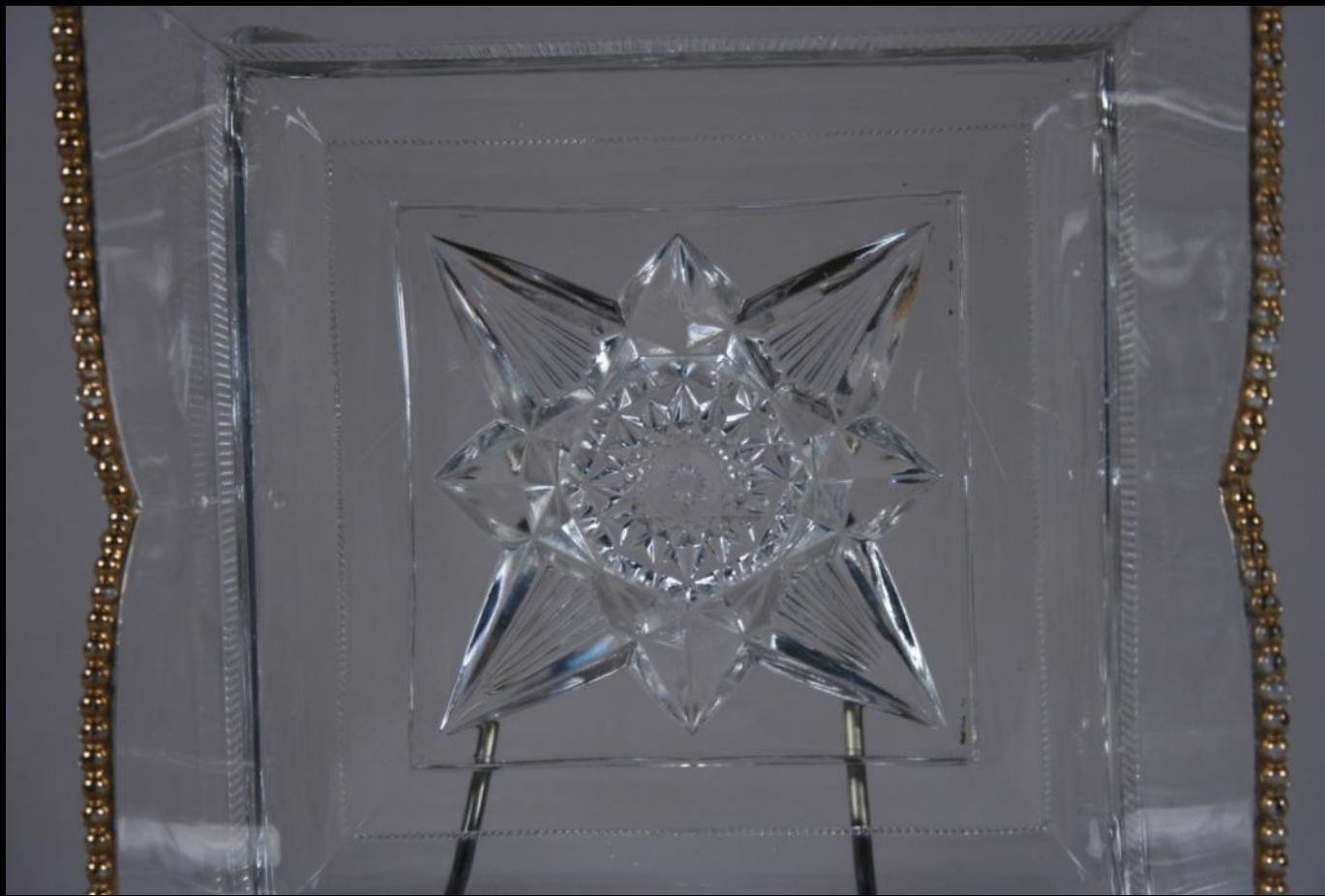
#1220 Punt & Diamond Point—Nappy, crimped, flashed marigold, 4"



A semi-ornate star unique to #1220 and #1225 square or rectangular pieces, with a simpler rayed star inside the larger 8-pointed one!

#1220 Punt
Band—
Pickle tray,
ruby flashed





#1225
Plain
Band—
Nappy
(berry),
square, 8”

The #1220/#1225 star on a square nappy.
Note how the central star now is less rayed
and more like a chrysanthemum, compared
to the rectangular version.

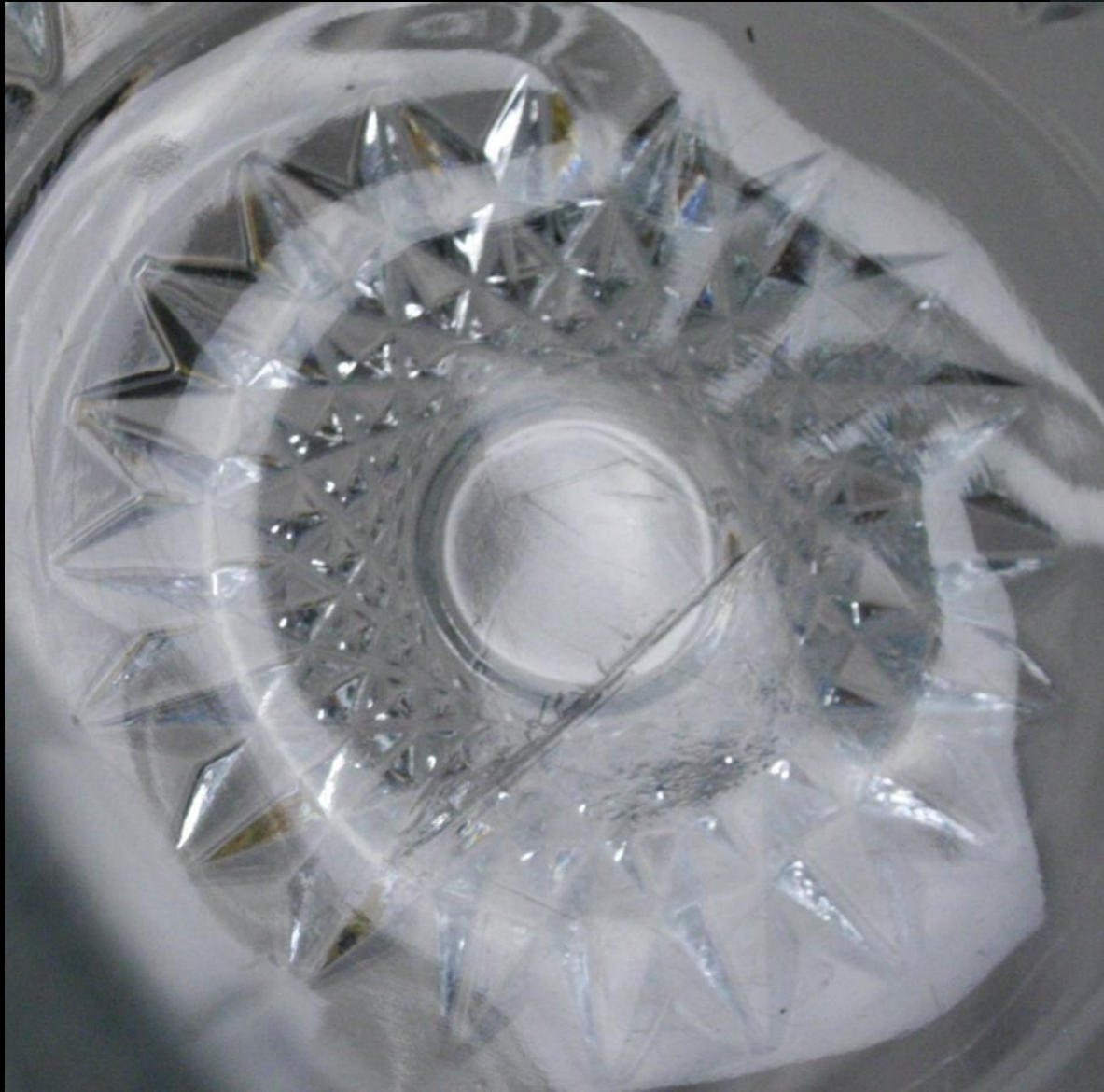


#1245 Star & Zipper—
Nappy, emerald, 9”

Another
chrysanthemum
star very similar
to the ones on
#1235. Here,
however, the
star is isolated,
not integrated
into further
elaborate
design.

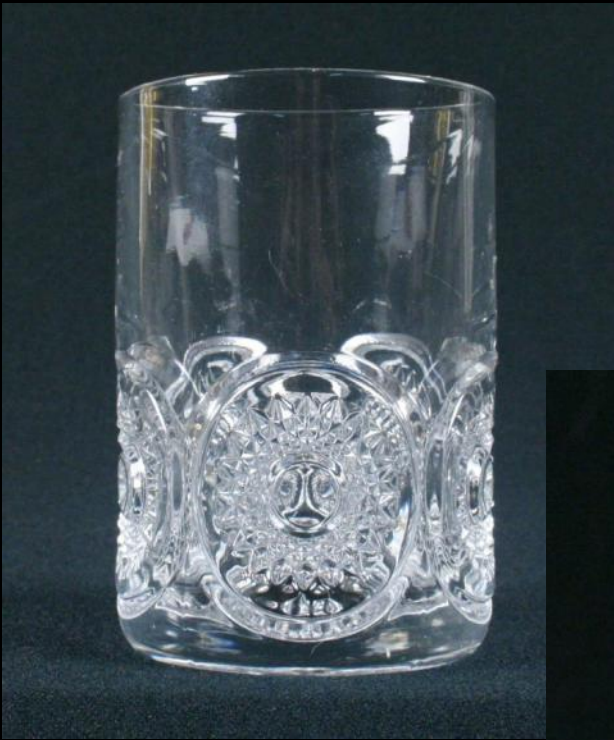


#1250 Groove & Slash— Jug, ½ gal.



This chrysanthemum is closely related to that of #1245, but note there are no central rays. Are there any #1250 jugs that do not have the off-center <H>?

#343½ Sunburst— Tumbler



The chrysanthemum star lived on in a few later designs. Again, the center is open, without rays.



Perhaps the last of the chrysanthemum stars, and not quite like any of the earlier ones. The center is neither open nor rayed, but another chrysanthemum!



#350
Pinwheel—
Tumbler



How did Heisey decide when to be simple...



#1255
Pineapple
& Fan—
Tumbler,
emerald



...and when to be fancy?



#1255
Pineapple
& Fan—
Mug

A Star Is
Born

From the very beginning,
there was the “Heisey Star,”
that is, one with rays of
equal length with a
distinctive widest point
about $\frac{2}{3}$ of the way out.
Perhaps a plain star
because this pattern was so
plain....



#1200 Cut
Block—Covered
butter

Another early use of the Heisey Star.



#1205

Fancy Loop—
Tooth pick,
emerald

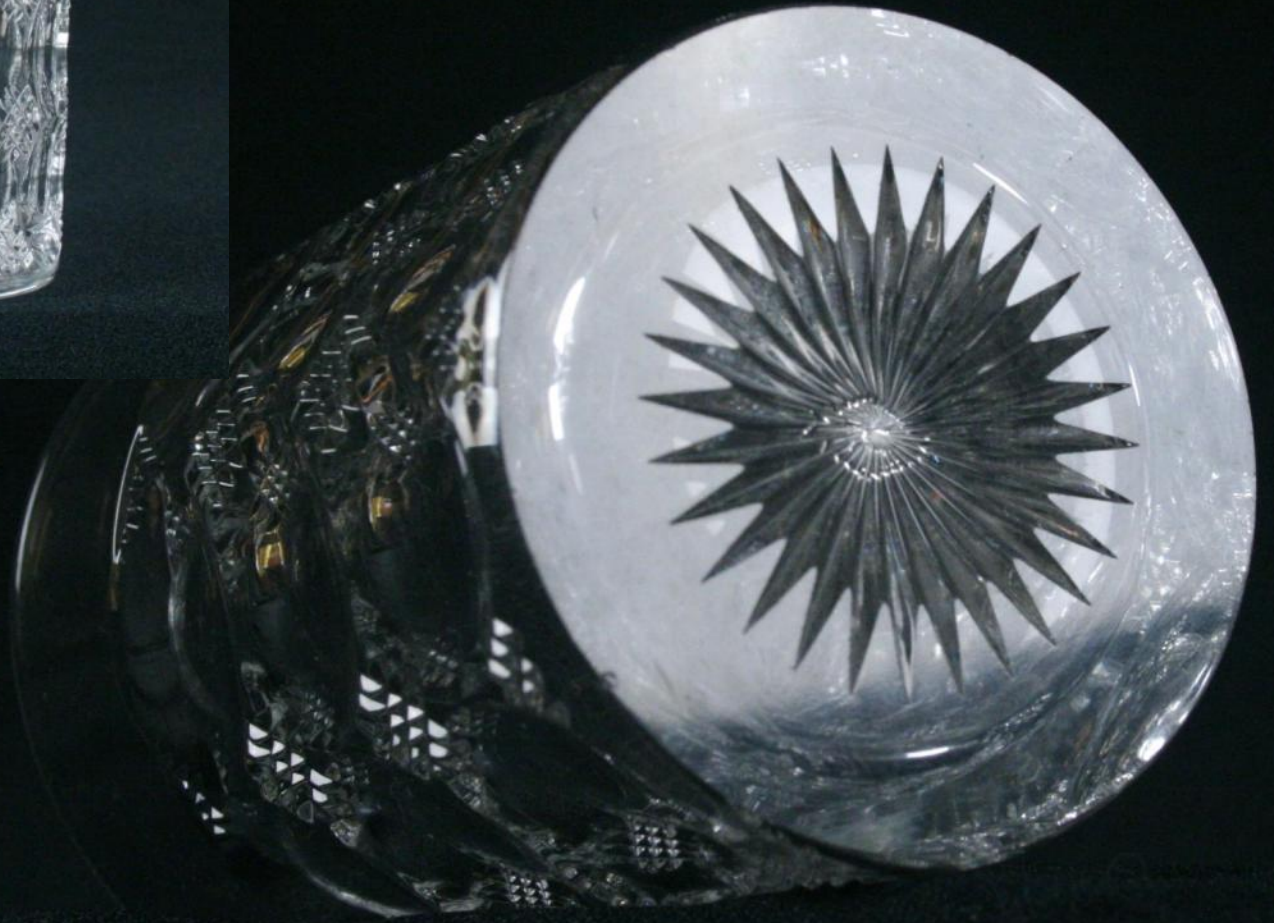


The Heisey Star had a variable number of rays, even on pieces of the same size. Nearly all #1295 tumblers in opal have 18-point stars; they also predominate in the other colors.



#1295 Bead Swag—
Tumbler, 16pt. star
(usually 18pt. star)

The Heisey Star in 28 points, about as many as seen on tumblers. Some small pieces, such as some #1183 Revere salts, have stars with as few as 12 points.



#385
Grid &
Square—
Tumbler



On a large piece, the Heisey Star can be spectacular, both because of the length of the rays and the number of them. There are 60 rays on this piece.

#393 Narrow Flute—
Japanese garden tray, 12"

#325 Pillows— Rose bowl, 3½”



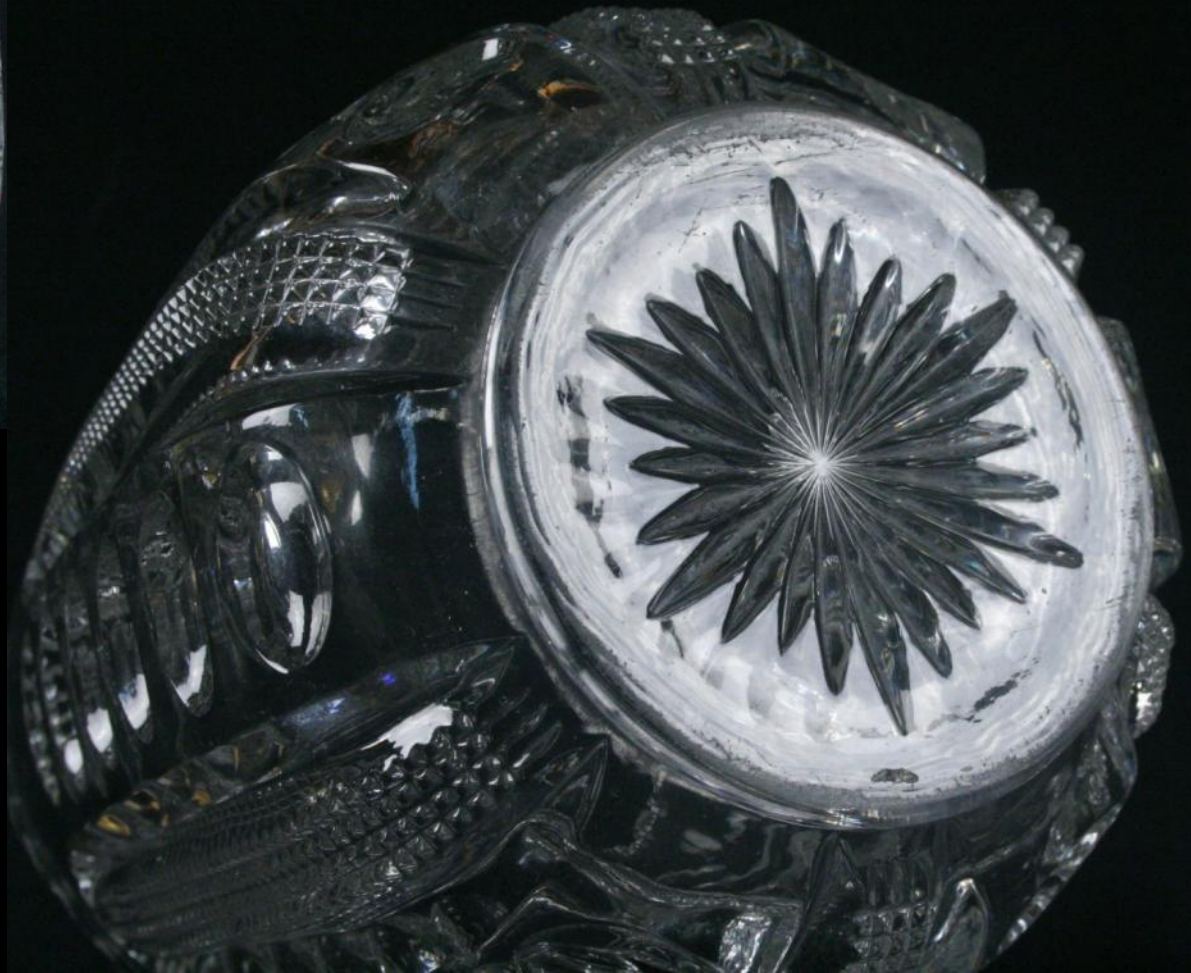
An early
variation of
the Heisey
Star. Rays
alternate,
long and
short.
Common on
#325 Pillows.

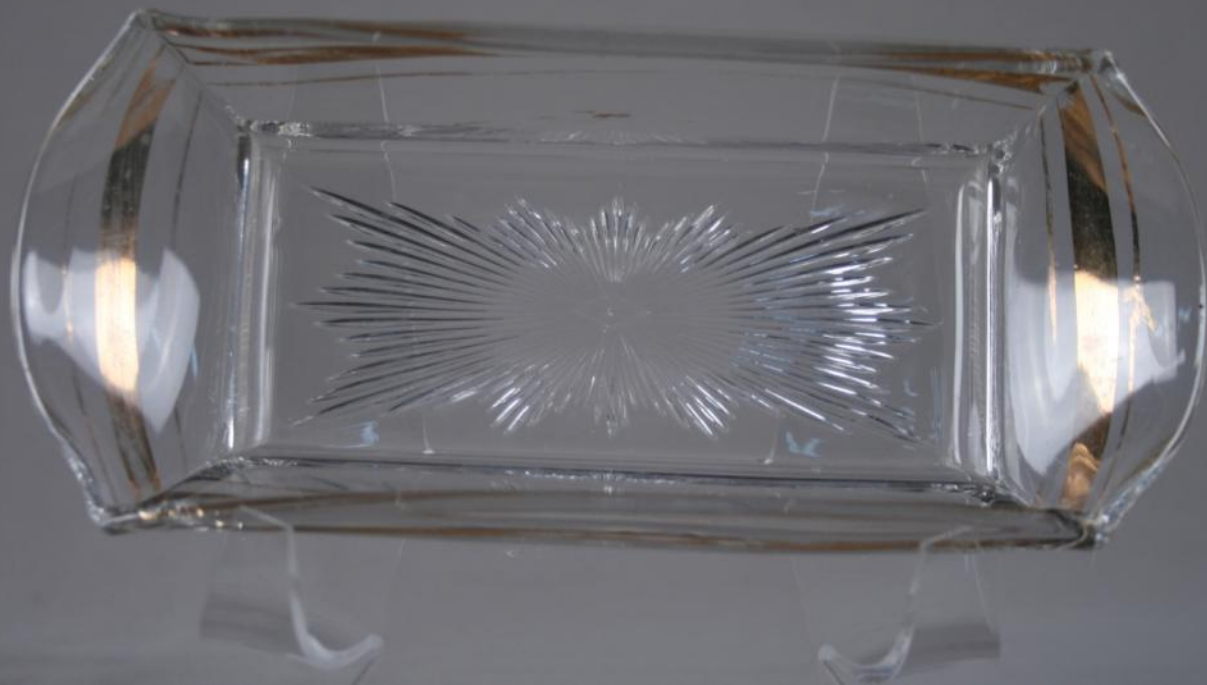


#305 Puntty & Diamond Point—Tall celery



Another variation,
with 6 long rays and
variable length rays
in between. #305
also has some other
fancier stars.

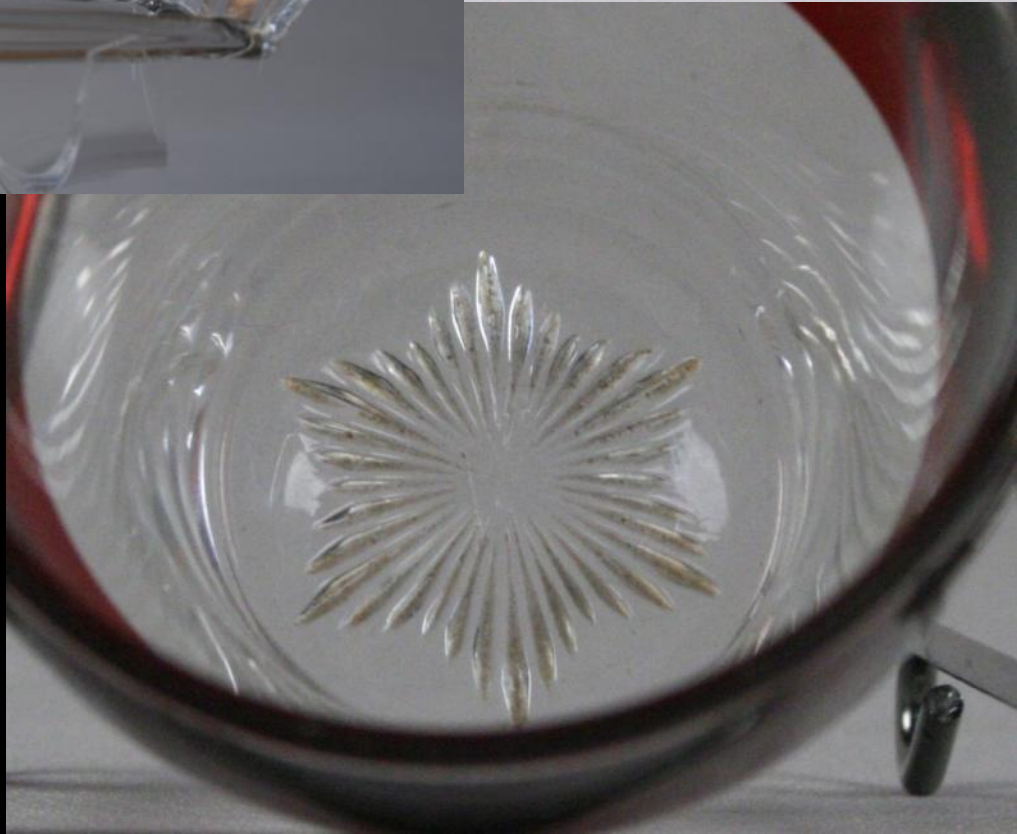




#337 Touraine—

Bon bon, #56 gold; Tumbler,
ruby flashed

The “Touraine” star, composed of
more numerous, thinner rays,
and always with rays of different
lengths. Used only on Touraine
pieces....





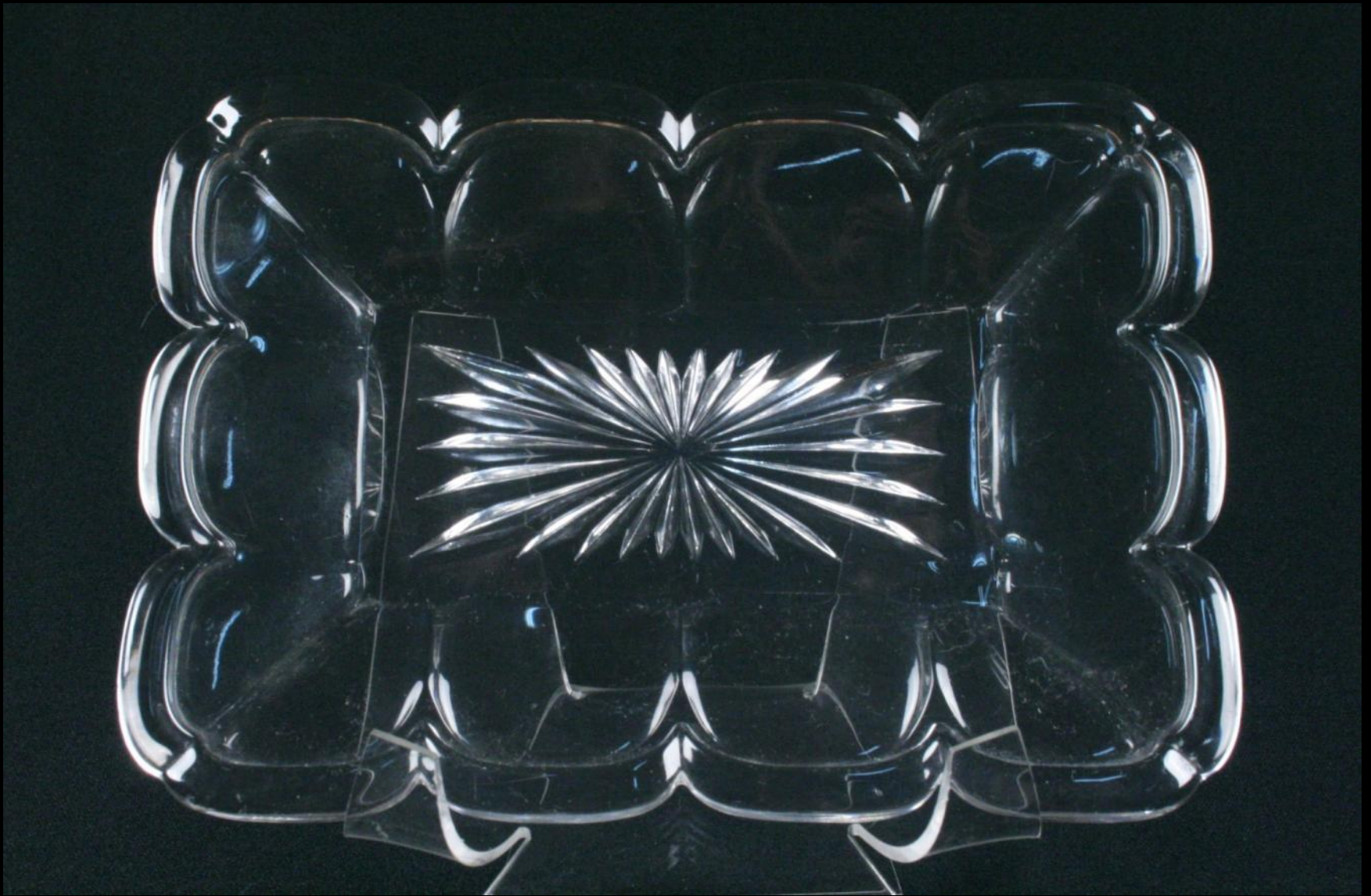
...except when it
wasn't. See the
next picture.

#341 Puritan—
Mayonnaise & underplate

#341 Puritan—
Mayonnaise
(left) &
underplate
(below)



These two pieces have the Touraine star, shown in the catalogues. #305 sometimes uses a variant Touraine star, but with the wider rays of the Heisey star. I have not seen other off-pattern uses of the Touraine star.



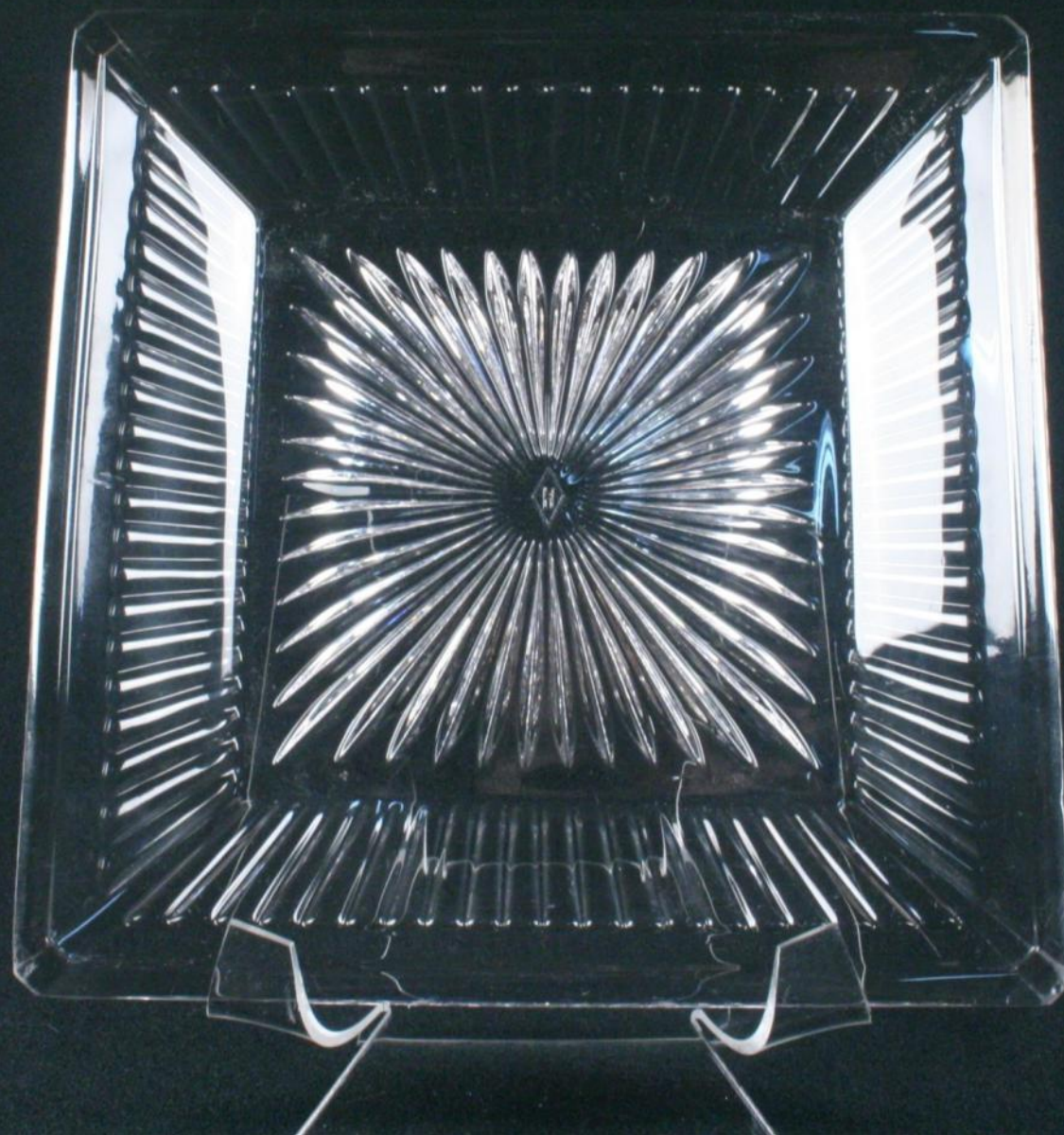
For a while, the Heisey star echoed the shape of the piece. Rectangular.

#397 Colonial Cupped Scallop—
Candy tray, 8"



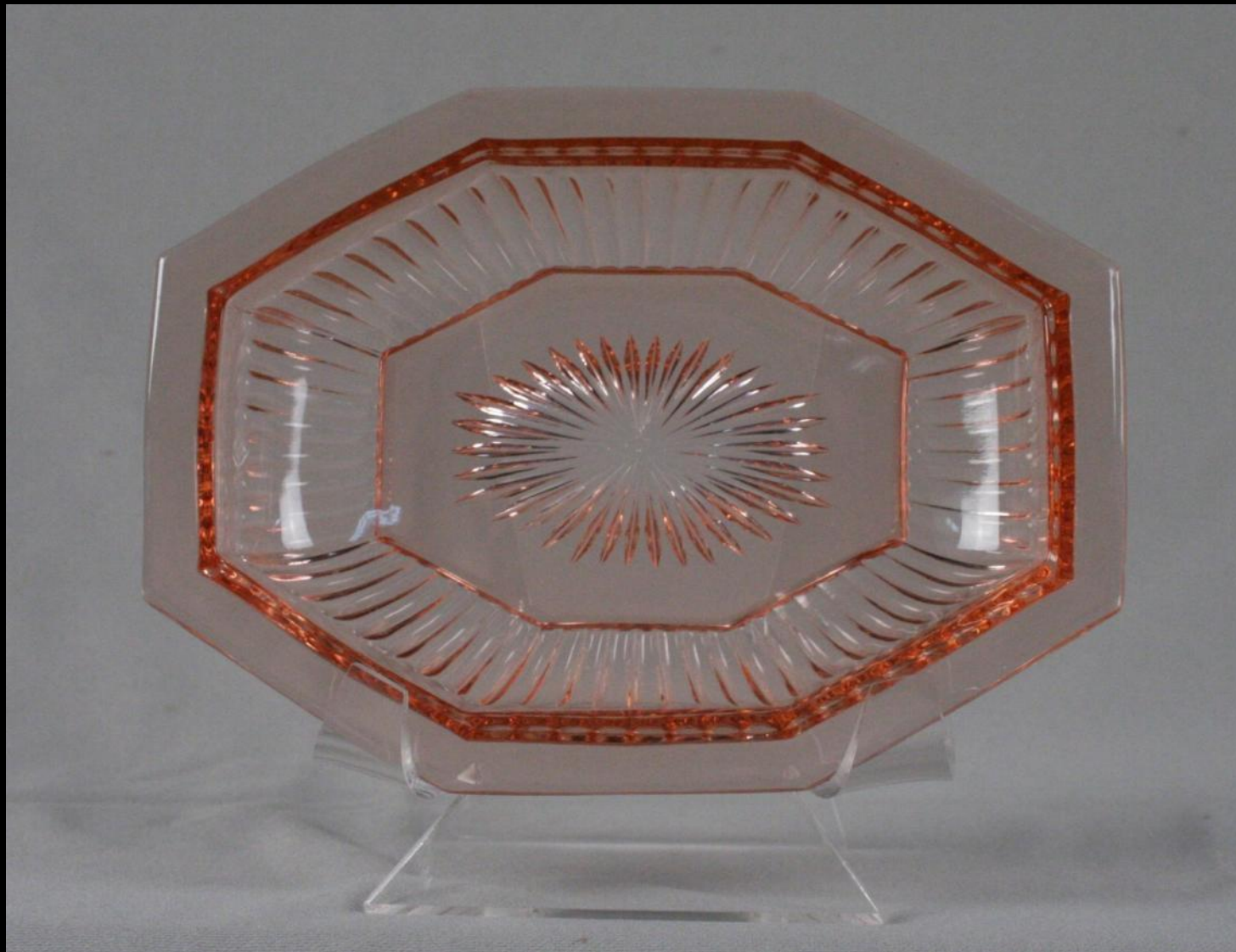
An oval
star for an
oval piece.

#473 Narrow Flute with Rim—
French dressing underplate, canary



Square stars.

#473 Narrow
Flute with
Rim—Plate,
square, 8"



It may not be as obvious, but, yes, even octagonal stars.

#472 Narrow Flute with Rim—
Pickle tray, flamingo, 7"



Of course,
round stars
when the
piece was
round.

#462½ Nail—Nappy, round, 8in.



And
sometimes
even when
it wasn't!

Soon
Heisey
abandoned
most star
shapes
other than
round or
oval.

#462 Nail—Nappy, square, 8"