

Heisey's Functional Figurals

Based on an article in the National Capital Heisey Collectors Club Newsletter dated January, 2006

Heisey collectors are very familiar with the animals produced by A. H. Heisey & Co. From barnyard critters to house pets to fish to fowl to birds to wild animals. But the Heiseys evidently were so enthralled with animals that they also incorporated them into functional pieces. And this program will not even include animals Heisey worked into their etches, cuttings, and carvings.

In 1925, Heisey acquired wooden models from Boston and Sandwich glassworks. Heisey designed molds based on those models. The first items produced were the # 110 Dolphin candlesticks [See Display Item 1] and the # 1236 Eagle Plate [2]. The # 1238 Beehive plate is a close relative but it's hard to spot the little bees [3]. Another copy is the # 109 Petticoat Dolphin candlestick produced from 1925-1935 in Crystal, Moongleam, Sahara, Flamingo, and Cobalt and made with the skirt flattened or cupped [4]. Using a # 109 Petticoat Dolphin candlestick as a base, Heisey made comports by adding either a bowl or a plate as a top [5,6]. Heisey's affinity for the dolphin was evidenced by the # 1550 Dolphin candlestick [7], match holder [8], and (Fish) bowl [9] all produced from 1941 to 1946.

The # 1401 Empress pattern included 19 figural animal items that were made from 1930 until 1938, in numerous colors [10, 11, 12]. The # 1509 Queen Ann pattern offered 12 figural animal items and was produced from 1938 to 1957. This pattern resulted from a re-work of the Empress molds by adding an internal optic and a few new items. Queen Ann was made only in crystal [13]. Originally known as the Oceanic pattern because of its ocean theme, # 1519 Waverly had 5 animal figural items. Produced from 1940 until Heisey's closing, some Empress molds were again re-worked by adding a new optic, plumes, waves, and other sea animal motifs to create Waverly. The Waverly animal pieces were designed by Horace King and were made in crystal and light amber [14, 15, 16, 17]. Many of the Empress, Queen Ann, and Waverly pattern pieces were produced with Heisey's Orchid and Rose etches and several of Heisey's other deep plate etchings.

The next uses of animals in functional pieces were the # 14 Kingfisher flower holder and the #15 Duck floral block made from 1926-1930 in Crystal, Flamingo, Moongleam, and Hawthorne. The Kingfisher [18] is a single piece while the Duck [19] is a removable insert for the separate floral block # 15. The floral block was offered with an interchangeable # 112 Mercury candlestick that was renumbered # 123 when redesigned to fit in the floral block base # 15. Around 1928 the next Heisey functional animal appeared – the # 357 Duck ashtray – a rather stylized Art Deco design [20]. Similarly, the # 77 Duck stopper for the # 4035 Seven Octagon cologne was introduced in 1929 [21]. Production of both items stopped about 1933.

About the same time Heisey switched from rather ugly ducklings to graceful swans. The # 133 Swan handled console bowl and candlestick were produced from 1929-1935 in Crystal, Moongleam, Flamingo, Marigold, Sahara, and Alexandrite [22, 23]. In 1935 (and for only 2 years thereafter) the mold for the Swan handled floral bowl was re-worked to produce the bowl for the # 1469 Ridgeleigh pattern line, in crystal only.

The # 1503 Crystolite pattern had animals incorporated into three pieces: Swan candy or jelly or master nut (6 ½"), individual Swan nut dishes [24], and the # 1503 ½ Swan jug [25]. In 1939 Heisey continued its "fowl" play with the introduction of the # 1557 Chanticleer (rooster) vase [26].

The # 1540 Lariat pattern includes two figural animal items: The Horse Head finial candy box 8" [27] and the 8" footed bowl with Horse Head feet [28]. The Horse Head candy cover was evidently difficult to make. In 1948 turn reports, it was reported in a four month period 1179 covers were made but 285 or 24% were bad.

Heisey's Puritan pattern offered five figural animal items in crystal from 1949 until closing. The toy or small Horse Head is found on the # 1489 Puritan ashtray (4 ½", sometimes seen frosted) [29], as a standalone piece [29A], the double Horse Head ashtray [29B], and the 1489 ½ cigarette boxes (two sizes, 4" & 6") [30]. Very rare and desirable, the # 1489 ¾ Sitting Colt finial cigarette box (6") was only made in 1953 [31].

After Prohibition ended in the early 1930s, barware, stemware, and animals became major components of Heisey's business. In 1932 the # 4225 Cobel cocktail shaker was introduced. Four figural animal head stoppers were developed for the Cobel and Marshall shakers: A Rooster, a Ram, and two different styles of Horse Heads [32, 33, 34]. To match the stoppers, the following cocktail stems were produced:

5038 Rooster Tail (Chanticleer) [35]

5048 Rooster Head [36]

5063 Bantam Rooster [37]

5065 Colt [38]

5066 Horse Head [39]

Two different styles of Penguin containers were made from 1942-1944 as # 5039 decanters and sherry bottles and reintroduced 1948-1953 [40, 41]. The # 5074 Seahorse stemmed cocktail was made in 1950 in Crystal and with a Amber stem [42].

The # 5058 Goose decanter with a Goose stopper along with matching Goose stemware was introduced in 1948 [43, 44].

Animals were worked into the design of other Heisey pieces. The # 1591 Child's mug designed by Horace King was made from 1947-1950 and featured an Elephant handle and nursery rhyme characters in the panels [45]. A larger Elephant handled beer mug with plain panels was made in 1952 in Crystal and Amber [46].

Other uses of animals in Heisey pieces included: # 1210 Frog handled 6" cheese dish made from 1929-1933 in several colors [47], # 1593 four Horse Head ashtray that is of questionable Heisey ancestry [48], and the # 1601 Sleeping Fox ashtray [49]. We have included the Fish, Horse Head, and Rearing Horse bookends as well as the Tiger and Rabbit paperweights in this presentation although one could argue they have the appearance of standalone animals and not animals incorporated into the design of functional pieces [50, 51, 52, 53, 53A].

So..... when people talk about Heisey animals and figurines, we need to realize Heisey's love for animals extended into numerous functional pieces as well. They were sometimes so cleverly incorporated into the item's design that we look right past them.

Heisey Functional Figurals - Program Examples

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For Presentation - In Program Item Order

5/8/2010

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>PATTERN</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>	Program Item Order #
110		Sandwich Dolphin Candlestick		1
1236		Eagle Plate		2
1238		Beehive Plate		3
109		Petticoat Dolphin Candlestick	2 Styles	4
109	Herringbone	#109 Petticoat Dolphin Stand	(#416 Herringbone Bowl)	5
109	Yeoman	#109 Petticoat Dolphin Stand	(#1185 Yeoman Bowl)	6
1550	Dolphin	Candlesticks, Matchholder, Bowl		7,8,9
1401	Empress	Dolphin Finial Lemon Dish		10
1401	Empress	Dolphin Footed Candlestick		11
1401	Empress	Lion Head Bowl		12
1509	Queen Ann	Dolphin Footed Item		13
1519	Waverly	Seahorse Finial Butter Dish		14
1519	Waverly	Seahorse Handle Candy Dish		15
1519	Waverly	Lion Trinket Box		16
1519	Waverly	Seahorse Handled Cigarette		17
15	Floral Block	Kingfisher Insert		18
15	Floral Block	Duck Insert		19
357		Duck Ashtray		20
77	Octagon	Duck Stopper for Cologne		21
133		Swan Handled Bowl		22
133		Swan Handled Candlestick		23
1503	Crystolite	Swan Nut Set		24
1503	Crystolite	Swan Handled Jug (Pitcher)		25
1557		Chanticleer Vase		26
1540	Lariat	Horse Head Finial Candy Dish Lid		27
1540	Lariat	Horse Head Footed Bowl		28
1489	Puritan	Ashtray		29
1		Toy Horse Head		29A
1489	Puritan	Double Horse Head Ashtray		29B
1489	Puritan	Horse Head Cigarette Box		30
1489 3/4	Puritan	Sitting colt finial Cigarette Box		31
	Rooster Head	Cocktail Shaker Stopper		32
	Rams Head	Cocktail Shaker Stopper		33
	Horse Head	Cocktail Shaker Stopper		34
5038		Chanticleer Cocktail		35
5048		Rooster Head Cocktail		36
5063		Bantam Rooster Cocktail		37
5065		Colt Cocktail		38
5066		Horse Head Sherry		39
5039		Penquin Decanter	2 Sizes	40,41
5074		Seahorse Cocktail		42
5058		Goose Decanter		43
5058		Goose Cocktail		44
1591		Elephant Handled Baby Cup		45
1591		Elephant Handled Beer Mug		46
1210		Frog Handled Cheese Dish		47
		Four Horse Heads Ashtray		48
		Sleeping Fox Ashtray		49
1554		Fish Bookends		50
1		Horse Head Bookends		51
		Rearing Horse Bookends		52
		Tiger Paperweight		53
1538		Rabbit Paperweight		53A