

1180 DEBRA CREAM AND SUGAR

Eric Tankesley-Clarke

This set belongs to one of those very small patterns that helped fill out the Heisey catalogs, price lists, and (presumably) coffers. In Catalog 102 (1924), we find illustrations of the 1180 cream and sugar in a grouping of “Miscellaneous Hotel Creams and Sugars.” Later in the same catalog, again on a page of “miscellaneous” items, is a covered mustard. And that’s about it. (In Cat. 109, we also find the 1180 nut dish, now called 1180 Brazil. It isn’t unthinkable that the nut dish was considered by the company as part of the same pattern as our cream and sugar, but they share little in design and collectors typically do not group them together.) We know the cream and sugar, as well as the mustard, as 1180 Debra, though no pattern name was ever used by the company.



Debra is typical of the range of pattern numbers from about 1180-1189, those that included Revere and Yeoman, all with simple, fluid lines. Using a frequently employed trick, Heisey got the most out of this particular design. The handles of both the cream and the sugar were stuck; that is, they were separate pieces of glass, formed and stuck to the body while both pieces were still hot. Thus, using only one style of body, two handles created a sugar, one handle gave us the cream (along with some handwork to make a spout), and no handles – voilà - the mustard. The cover got multiple use, too. Popped right out of the mold, as is, it covered the sugar; cutting a notch in the piece yielded the mustard cover. Two molds, five easy pieces.

Much more than for other covered sugars, 1180 sugars often appear with no covers. In fact, the large majority are coverless, leading one to suspect that Heisey sold many of these with no

covers to begin with. The rim is finished simply, with no lid-supporting ledge, so even topless, the sugar doesn’t look embarrassed, and if you are its owner, neither should you be. This seems to be an early example of what became a normal practice, offering some sugars both ways to suit the buyer. The lid, when you find it, has a simple, six-sided knob, wider at the top than at the bottom. The top of the knob is not perfectly flat, but has a slight circular depression in the center.

The photographed set of Debra is marked, on the outside of its plain concave bottoms. (I have seen a few plain-bottomed pieces in other patterns that are double-marked, both inside and outside the bottom. I don’t know whether 1180 Debra is ever marked this way.) The lid in the photographed set, at least, is not marked, but some possibly could be. So far as I know, 1180 Debra has not been seen in color. It is frequently decorated, usually with other companies’ cuttings, although I wouldn’t be surprised if someone’s collection had a piece with a Heisey factory cutting of the 1920s. Well, maybe I’d be a little surprised. So, surprise me already. (Editor’s Note: No, Eric, do not be too surprised. In the back of Catalog 102 are a few pages showing pieces with Heisey cuttings and there is the 1180 Debra cream and sugar – without the lid – with 679 Windsor cutting.)

Vital statistics:

Diameter at rim (each piece, not including handles), 2 3/4”; Height (without cover, each piece), 2 3/4”; Height of sugar with cover, 4 1/2”.

Got a surprise for me? I can be surprised at heisey@embarqmail.com.