

355 QUATOR SMOKING ITEMS AND 1435 INDIVIDUAL ASH TRAY

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In that same conversation where Walter mentioned creams and sugars (see my piece on 355 Quator on that topic), he also suggested ash trays as a recurrent subject. Well, guess what I collect even less of than creams or sugars? Nevertheless, I couldn't say no. Since I'd just written about the 355 sets, I decided to continue with this pattern for ash trays.

While 355 Quator was named for its four-sidedness - not by Heisey but by Vogel - this item is anything but. Despite being included in a usually angular pattern, the 355 ash tray and match holder is all roundness and curves but for its broad, ground and polished bottom. It was first shown in Catalog 75. This dates the ash tray's introduction to about 1913. (Heisey rarely, if ever, wrote "ash tray" as one word.) It is tempting to think that it was just an accident of numbering that put this piece in the Quator pattern. Cat. 75 shows it not with other 355 items, but relegated to the back of the catalog with other miscellaneous pieces, none of which were part of extensive pattern lines. In Catalog 76, the comparatively slim supplement to Cat. 75, it is shown with other smokers' gear, including what may have been seen as a series of pieces: 352, 353, 354, 355, and 356. (In later years, additional ash trays numbered 357 and beyond made it clear that a series was indeed underway.) Nevertheless, the 355 ash tray was shown with the rest of the more typical 355 pieces in Catalog 102, ca. 1924. Even though it was produced for a number of years, this ash tray is not very common today. It is known only in crystal.

In Catalog 76, no fewer than seven smokers' items served to hold matches, one as a covered box, and the other six as match holders or match stands. Uniquely, the 355 piece holds loose matches in the center; the other five holders (or stands - Heisey was not consistent. Zut alors!) provided ways to support a box of matches upright. Quator's central match holder is a column rising in a graceful curve from the ash tray below, like a volcano rising from the plain. The column is coarsely ground completely around, but not polished, to leave the glass translucent and slightly rough. The somewhat foolhardy intent may have been to

provide a striking surface - I can imagine that more than one bundle of matches went up in a spectacular conflagration, bringing the volcano image to life, as well as nearby frantic observers. Like several other of the large ash trays, the 355 piece is massive. The ash tray base is thick, but the match holder itself has an extra-thick triple sham, adding to the weight of the piece while raising the match heads farther above potential trouble. The example in the photograph is marked inside the bottom of the match holder. This example also has a metal mount around the base; the glass base underneath is plain.

Now, what about that little square piece on the left? That is the 1435 individual ash tray, never named. While the one in the photo is plain, one often finds these etched with 507 Orchid or 515 Heisey Rose. They are nothing more than the 355 individual butters resurrected to a new purpose. There is a difference in them in that the 355 individual butters have a star bottoms and are marked, while the 1435 individual ash trays are plain. Such a plain little ash tray hardly merits its own article, so I'm throwing it in here. The catalogs tell us that 355 individual butters were ground on the bottom. 1435 is fire polished all around, and is not marked. 1435 is made of the very bright crystal characteristic of much late Heisey production, but has also been seen in experimental blue. If yours has a ground bottom and star, you should probably think of it as 355; if not, it's likely 1435. If it's blue, send me a picture and call it whatever you want.



1435 Ash Tray and 355 Quator Ash Tray and Match Holder

Vital statistics

355 ash tray and match stand - Base diameter, 5"; Height to top of holder, 3 1/8"; Mouth diameter, 1 5/8".

1435 individual ash tray - Top (side-to-side), 3"; bottom (side-to-side), 2"; height, 1/2".

Quickly, tell me when you got frantic over some