

# #364 Pedestal Ash Tray

Heisey collectors are snobs.

There. I've said it. Actually, *they* say it, those people who don't quite know what all the fuss is about. We who truly are Heisey collectors know that we simply appreciate the finer things. That doesn't stop *them* from trying to take advantage, of course. Look in any antique mall or your favorite online auction site. There, with the Heisey name prominently attached, are the Hazel-Atlas pieces, the Illinois Glass pieces, the unmarked pieces of questionable origin and deplorable taste. Hopeful or crafty, the sellers claim their wares to be Heisey, trusting that the illustrious name from Newark will spread its glittering aura over their offerings and trap the unwary. While *they* may call us snobs, *they* hope to benefit from Heisey's well-earned status. You might say they put the Heisey name on a pedestal.

Was that too obvious? You knew where I was headed, didn't you? We're here to examine Heisey's own self-made Pedestal, the #364 ash tray.

Considering the number, you'd expect to find this one illustrated in Catalog 109, where we've turned for many of this series of 350- and 360-somethings. But we've already seen that #362 wasn't in that catalog. Neither was #364. They skipped right over those two numbers. I've also discussed how no price list we know of mentioned #362. However, we are luckier with the Pedestal ash tray. Catalog 109 was in use for quite a while and went through at least a couple of editions. The price list that accompanied it, Price List 209, similarly had several supplements. In the very first supplement, about 1930, we find a listing for the #364 ash tray. It was given the name Pedestal later, but not by Heisey. But at least we have a listing.

In Catalog 211, the catalog that dates from 1935 and the one that first introduced Ridgeleigh, for instance, there is a picture of the #364 ash tray. While many of the ash trays of the late 1920's and early 1930's eventually got names of cigarette brands, you can see why this one did not. The geometric design, square stacked on square stacked on square, almost begs to be called by its eventual name. I've included a couple of perspectives so you can appreciate the rigid simplicity from above and the side, each giving different effects. Despite Pedestal's small size, roughly 3" on a side, the price lists did not bill it as an individual ash tray, although it obviously was.



By 1938, the #364 Pedestal ash tray had disappeared from the price lists and catalogs, so that gives us a good eight-year production period. Nevertheless, it is not particularly easy to find. The design is strikingly Art Deco. Coming out when it did, when Deco was close to its peak, perhaps Pedestal was just a little too late to appeal to changing tastes. Maybe that contributes to its scarcity now. My guess is that the instepped foot made it harder to get out of the mould, so that might have curtailed production numbers, too. Furthermore, at least part of the time, the ash tray is not marked. The Bredehofts report that #364 Pedestal is marked. I only have the example photographed for this article to go on, and it is not marked. There may be more unmarked ones out there, just not noticed as Heisey. The company did keep it in the lists for a while, so either #364 Pedestal sold better than I think or someone wasn't ready to give up on it.

Regardless, Pedestal is a distinctive design that you won't soon forget once seen. When you do see it, Pedestal will be in crystal, Moongleam, or Flamingo. Given its production dates, it might even be possible that Sahara would show up, but other colors aren't very likely.

### Vital Statistics

#364 Pedestal ash tray

Square, 3 1/8". Height, 1 3/8". Cigarette rest, 1" long.

Crystal, Moongleam, or Flamingo. Fire polished. Unmarked or reportedly marked.

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