

“New” Pattern Appears In 8100 Horseshoe and Bull’s Eye

By Eric Tankesley-Clarke

It isn't often one gets to write about a pattern new to Heisey collectors. Oh, sure, I could write about patterns that are new to me, and bore the rest of you. But new to everyone else? This way, I can bore only some of you. Imagine my delight when just such a new-to-everyone pattern cropped up recently. Its timing was good because I had been thinking about the problem of numbering undocumented patterns.

It can be generally agreed that it was a problem that newly discovered items weren't being numbered. In thinking about and researching the issue, it can also be agreed that it was time to start numbering again, and that we'd start catching up on older published items and new ones as they appear. To avoid confusion with older 8000's assigned by HCA,

we'd start with 8100. And here we are.

New patterns — new to us collectors, at least — do appear now and then. Obviously, someone knew about them once upon a time, but they have been forgotten. How is it, with collectors ransacking the countryside for over 50 years, that some patterns and pieces are just now coming out of hiding? Some were produced so long ago that no one remembers them from when they were still fresh and new. If they didn't get their likenesses into catalogs or if the catalogs didn't survive, then their identities stood a good chance of becoming lost to us. Others simply were never very popular, or were experimental, and so not many pieces were made. If only one or two turns

were made of a piece and the salesmen couldn't move it, I'm sure the company didn't bother giving over catalog space to it.

Either way, we can be grateful that Heisey marked so much of its glass. There are several unmarked pieces around that are suspected to be Heisey. Unless there is something else about the piece that ties it to the company — distinctive design or technique or impeccable history, for instance — it makes it hard to build a compelling case to accept these into the fold. Marked ones, on the other hand, present fewer problems. As long as the mark doesn't look peculiar and the glass looks good, we can at least be satisfied that A. H. Heisey & Co. actually made the thing. (Chickens on nests, anyone? Just how many of those clumsily marked, wretched-glass atrocities did they make in Taiwan?) Accepting that a well-marked, brilliant piece is Heisey isn't hard. Just what pattern it is proves to be another matter.



FIGURE 1:
*The piece
is marked
with the
large
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production.*

Here we have something that meets the basic qualifications. 8100 Horseshoe and Bull's Eye (figure 1) is marked, with the large Diamond H typical of pre-1920 production. The metal (that's just a highfalutin' term for the glass itself, without regard to the shape or pattern) is excellent, with high brilliance that shows off the detail of the design. The thickness of the glass and its heft leave no doubt this is an authentic Heisey product.

Nothing with this design appears illustrated in any of the known Heisey catalogs, advertisements, or price lists. We'll have to rely on whatever we can conclude from looking at the piece. It is a nappy, eight inches across, in a style that



*In general shape, the new nappy (**FIGURE 2** at left) closely resembles #343 1/2 Sunburst (**FIGURE 3** at right).*

tells us it must have been made before 1920, probably no later than about 1917 or 1918. It is unlikely it dates any earlier than about 1909. For reasons I'll mention later, I'm guessing it is on the late side of this range.

The nappy has features of Early American Pattern Glass. There was a revival of taste for more elaborate patterns in the teens, and many of those patterns drew on influences from the 19th century. Of course, even with the popularity of the colonial patterns in the first decade of the 20th century, the EAPG or imitation cut patterns had not completely died out. Patterns such as 335 Prince of Wales, Plumes, and 350 Pinwheel & Fan prove that. But there was a brief resurgence in the teens of patterns that often placed more complex features in a simpler setting, either with more open space or with colonial paneling. Some examples are patterns in the upper 300s and the 400s, such as 385 Grid & Square, 423 Diamond Band, 433 Greek Key or 449 Thumbprint and Panel. Even more elaborate floral designs arose during that period, such as 427 Daisy & Leaves or 435 Juniper, reflecting Arts & Crafts and Art Nouveau influences. There are several gaps in the 300s and 400s, particularly in the 380s, and some price lists show a few 8" nappies of unknown appearance in the 480s. This is just when these later stylistic influences were coming into play.

Either of those number ranges present plausible candidates for this nappy's proper place in the Heisey universe.

Horseshoe and Bull's Eye shares much with other Heisey nappies. I've already mentioned the glass quality; it is also well finished, as you would expect. The nappy shares in the artistic sensibility of the Heisey designs of the time — solid, straightforward, and not over decorated, at least not for the norms of the time. Where possible, I favor descriptive names, and the design easily suggested a name for this pattern. Not that a lot of Heisey reminds me of livestock. In general shape (figure 2), the new nappy most closely resembles 343½ Sunburst (figure 3), although my intuition says that Horseshoe & Bull's Eye is several years later than Sunburst.

Nevertheless, Horseshoe and Bull's Eye shares four prominent characteristics with Sunburst:
(1) The shape is about the same, more open and broadly rounded than typical nappies of the period, but not so broad as to be called shallow;
(2) Each has the same basic composition of a several broad panels, each topped by a finely scalloped curve, interspersed with tongued lobes that lacks the fine scallops. Sunburst, however, is divided into five sections this way, whereas Horseshoe & Bull's Eye is divided into six;
(3) The main design

in each section centers around an eye of sorts in both patterns. In Sunburst, the eye at the center of the sunburst motif is round and simply concave in the center. In Horseshoe and Bull's Eye, the eye is vertically oval and has a convex, prominent cabochon as the pupil of the eye (figure 4, next page). With the broad oval band surrounding the center cabochon, it is truly eye-like;
(4) Each has imitation cut design elements. A large sunburst or chrysanthemum surrounds the eye in 343 Sunburst. In 8100 Horseshoe and Bull's Eye, the eye sits in isolated splendor. Rows of small pyramids, each divided again into four, give a grated or diamond-point effect and are swagged around the eyes at a respectful distance (figure 5, next page).

Unlike nappies in the earlier fancy designs of the 300's, this nappy has a simple star in the base. This and the relative simplicity of the design lead me to think that one of the numbers in the 400's is more likely to belong to this nappy. Earlier patterns with imitation cut or EAPG designs tended to have chrysanthemum stars of various types in the base, and their motifs tended to cover more surface. The bottom of the Horseshoe & Bull's Eye nappy is ground and polished.

I doubt there are other pieces in the pattern, but unless we can ever pin this one down, it's hard to be sure. There might be another size or two of nappy, or perhaps a plate. Some of the price lists show pattern numbers with nothing in them but an 8" nappy. A few other patterns of unknown design list only a large nappy and a small one, and maybe a plate of a size suggesting it was made from the small nappy mold. 8100 Horseshoe & Bull's Eye could fall into either category, but I'm hoping for the single-piece group. If it took nearly a 100 years for this one to show up again, I don't want to wait that long for any more pieces!

There we have it. A new pattern, named, numbered and published. How many more can we find? Everyone, keep on looking!

Have you got an unusual piece of Heisey squirreled away, something that doesn't look like anything else? (There I go with the animal references again.) Unnumbered doesn't mean unloved. Let's hear about it, at heisey@embarqmail.com.



FIGURE 4: In Horseshoe and Bull's Eye, the eye is vertically oval and has a convex, prominent cabochon as the pupil of the eye.



FIGURE 5: Rows of small pyramids, each divided again into four, give a grated or diamond-point effect and are swagged around the eyes at a respectful distance .