

Cecelia and Stanhope: Zircon or Limelight?

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The #4057 Cecelia vases and #4083 Stanhope stems with colored bowl and crystal stem and foot are perhaps the only Saturn Optic pieces that were made in both Zircon and Limelight. (I wouldn't be surprised, though, if #4085 jugs were made in Zircon; the jugs certainly were made in Limelight.) Most turquoise Heisey can be labeled one or the other by date of production. If you have Stanhope stems or Cecelia vases in your collection, however, what color should you call them? Was Limelight the same as Zircon?

For all practical purposes, Limelight and Zircon are the same. While there may have been minor differences in formulas, many shades occur in both periods of production. This color was difficult to control; it varied with the batch and how the molten glass was handled during the making.

If the foot of a Stanhope stem is colored, then it is probably Zircon, because those are thought to have been made only in the 1930's (see photo). If only the bowl of a Stanhope stem is colored, there is no foolproof test to

know when it was made. Ditto for the turquoise Cecelia vases.

Ultraviolet light, either fluorescent or LED, may help. Some—but certainly not all—pieces of undoubted Zircon react very strongly to UV, a strong, brilliant uranium green, sometimes as strong as the reactions of Emerald or Marigold. By undoubted Zircon, I mean turquoise pieces and patterns made only during the 1930's, such as Ridgeleigh, Fern, Kohinoor, or foot-colored Stanhope. I have never found a piece of known Limelight (1950's pieces such as Mid-Century or Whirlpool) which reacts to UV with more than a moderate yellow-green, if at all.

The conclusion? With some hesitancy, I suspect that when it comes to Cecelia vases or Stanhope stems with colored bowls and crystal feet, a strong UV reaction indicates a piece is Zircon. Lack of a strong uranium-like UV reaction, however, does not argue for either Zircon or Limelight; in that case, call these turquoise pieces by whatever Heisey color name appeals to you most.



Goblet, cocktail, and champagne in #4083 Stanhope. The cocktail and champagne are Zircon (note the colored feet). The goblet glows strongly under UV but the champagne does not. The crystal-footed goblet does not react to UV and could be either Limelight or Zircon.