



# PORTLAND'S *Rain* OF GLASS, INC.

A non-profit organization formed to stimulate interest in collectible glass and to provide educational resources and events for the members and the community at large.

## JULY

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### JULY

Every Friday-Sunday – Tigard Flea Market, 14365 SW Pacific Hwy

4 – Polk Flea Market, Polk Co. Fairgrounds, Rickreall

4, 11, 18, 25 – Portland's Indoor/Outdoor Flea Market, 5400 N. Lombard

10-11 – Palmer/Wirfs Portland EXPO, EXPO Center

23-24 – Pacific Northwest Fenton Convention, Salem Convention Center

#### AUGUST

1 – Toledo Antiques & Collectibles Street Fair

7 – Historic Brownsville Antique Fair

14 – Aurora Outdoor Antique Faire

14-15 – Sisters Antique Faire, Village Green Park, Sisters

29 – Oregon City Open Air Antique Fair

**WHERE:** Friendship Masonic Center  
5626 NE Alameda Street  
Portland, Oregon 97213  
N.E. 57<sup>th</sup> & Sandy

**WHEN:** Tuesday, July 20, 2010,  
6:30 to 9:00 p.m.  
(Library open at 6:00 p.m.)

**GREETERS:** Emma Lee Weibel and Jan Baxter  
(Come early to set up—6:00 p.m.)



## Hoedown Hootenanny Indoor Potluck Picnic

Join Portland's Rain of Glass club members for the annual picnic potluck. Bring a side dish, salad, dessert or appetizer. PROG will provide ham and beverages. Paper plates and plastic utensils provided. Bring your own place settings if you wish. Set up begins at 6:00 p.m. Dinner is at 6:30 p.m. Special Sing-A-Long contest with live guitar music from the 1940s, 50s and 60s provided by Fred Leeson. Pictured at top is Fred's 1973 Chet Atkins Gretsch hollow body electric guitar. He will be playing it at the potluck.

### **SPECIAL: "Spring and Summer Treasures":**

Bring your garage sale finds or the treasures you won at the May PROG Convention auction. Be prepared to talk about your find/treasure. Don't forget, it's also our Semiannual Food Drive - Bring non-perishable food items for donation.



**HOSPITALITY:** July Committee listed on page 2

**BOARD MEETING:**  
Tuesday, July 13, 2010,  
at the Friendship  
Masonic Center, 7:00 p.m.  
**ALL MEMBERS WELCOME**

Visit the Portland's Rain of Glass Website for more interesting Club news:

[www.rainofglass.com](http://www.rainofglass.com)

**Mailing Address:**  
Portland's Rain of Glass  
C/O Friendship Masonic  
Center, 5626 N.E. Alameda  
Street, Portland, OR, 97213



## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

### HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE:

The month of July we celebrate our membership in Portland's Rain of Glass, Inc. and our love of glass with a potluck. Please help set up when you arrive and clean-up before you leave.

Here are the members that signed up to bring some of the potluck dishes. All other members attending please bring other potluck dishes to share.

Gyrid Hyde-Towle	Buy Ham, Cook Ham
Diana Jones	Fresh Fruit/Veggie Tray
Mavis Case/R. Cox	Dessert
Suzanne Lemon	Dessert
Joi Shervey	Asparagus/Artichoke dip
Mariam Morehead	Turkey or Beef dish and potato salad

Thank you and hooray for us!

*-Mariam Morehead*

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## PROG SEMI-ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE AT THE JULY 20 POTLUCK

**The need for food donations  
doesn't end with the holidays,  
so we are instituting  
a second food drive in July  
to help those in need.**

**Please bring your food donations  
to the July meeting (or to the June  
meeting if you will be away in July).**

**THANK YOU!**

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### **Portland's Rain of Glass, Inc.**

publishes 12 newsletters a year.

*If you would like to contribute an article, contact:*

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## HEISEY FAKES and CONFUSING ITEMS

by Dennis Headrick

Because of its success in the marketplace, Heisey glass products were widely imitated by other companies, and Heisey did its own share of following styles and designs when another company was first in the market. When possible, a Design Patent was obtained, and the fact that a patent had been applied for or granted was often prominently given notice in a circle around the Heisey trademark.

A good example of following the marketplace was Imperial's Candlewick with a beaded edge that became very popular. Heisey's answer was Lariat that had an edge formed with loops extending from the edge. The overall effect was somewhat the same and even though I can hardly believe it, some people think the patterns are the same!

The usual tactic was to make minor changes like adding or subtracting panels on colonial pieces, changing the handle shape, or changing an edge treatment slightly – the goal was to make just enough difference that the company would not receive a notice that they were being summoned into court for design infringement. Most often there was “saber rattling” in the form of letters from company lawyers. Heisey sent and received their share of letters and if it got that far, they won or lost in court.

Many times the item was not only a “look-a-like” pattern, it was machine-made and thus could be sold at the five and dime store. Hazel-Atlas's take-off on the Ridgeleigh individual cream and sugar is a good example. Even though they are distinctly different in shape—Heisey is sway-backed and Hazel-Atlas is flat on top—the H-A version constantly appears on eBay and in shops as Heisey's Ridgeleigh, and if it happens to be in blue, it becomes “rare cobalt.” Fenton and Imperial also made patterns that mimic Ridgeleigh and vary primarily in shapes. Mikasa is currently

making a pattern that can be confused with Ridgeleigh.

After the Heisey factory closed for Christmas 1957 never to reopen, the moulds, glass formulas, trademark, and current stock were sold to Imperial Glass in the spring of 1958. They continued filling orders for Heisey production items under the promotional name of "Heisey by Imperial." As the years passed, Imperial started making several of the Heisey items in their unique colors. Old Williamsburg was made in crystal and nine colors, and the pattern is credited with much of Imperial's success in later years.

Because they bought the rights to the Heisey trademark, it was left in the moulds as production continued. In 1968 Imperial announced that the Heisey trademark would be removed from all moulds going back onto the production line. Less than honest dealers were selling marked Imperial production as "real" Heisey. The most confusion happens when a marked colored piece is found and the person has no clue that Imperial made items in their unique colors or a color that can be confused, such as Imperial's Sunshine Yellow for Heisey's Sahara. Most Heisey reference books fail to make mention of the Imperial production using the Heisey moulds. Prior to their closure, the Heisey Collectors of America contracted with Imperial to produce limited edition items, primarily animals, using the Heisey moulds. These usually do not cause confusion with collectors because they were always made in non-Heisey colors and are often dated.

A relatively few deliberate fakes have been made that include a representation of the Heisey trademark. In these cases, the glass and workmanship is inferior and they pose little problem to the experienced Heisey collector who is familiar with Heisey's overall quality and finishing standards. The fakes usually have rough mould seams, bubbles in the glass, a less than smooth finish, and are sometimes in colors never made by Heisey.

One of the most often seen fakes is a group of animal covered dishes that have been imported since 1983 in several colors by AA

Importing. Heisey made no animal covered dishes, but they did make a scarce small trinket box with a reclining lion on the lid. In this case the fake "mark" is more of a square set on its corner than Heisey's vertical diamond that is twice as high as it is wide. The Heisey Collectors of America, the current owners of the Heisey trademark, started legal action against AA Importing in the late 90s, and AA agreed to remove the fake mark from the moulds. But there are still thousands of the previously made fakes out there in the market. AA also imported a 2-lite candlestick and a chamberstick with the fake mark.

Other trademarks on glass also cause confusion. One is the elongated horizontal diamond with an "I" in the center that was the trademark of Illinois Glass until 1929 when they merged with Owens to become Owens-Illinois—still one of the largest glass container manufacturers in the world with a branch right here in Portland. Heisey didn't make commercial bottles, but the Illinois diamond is easily visualized as vertical and the "I" becomes an "H."

Other companies have used an "H" alone and in combination with various shapes. One English company used a trademark virtually identical to Heisey's in the late 70s and early 80s, but the source was unknown until Tom Felt happened to find an advertisement for the pattern while doing research at the Library of Congress.

Mosser has made a look-a-like to the toothpick holder in Heisey's Bead Swag pattern. The Heisey original has a thin wall and was made only in crystal, Opál, and Emerald. The top rim of the original Heisey one was cupped in after coming from the mould. The Mosser copy has thick walls with straight interior walls so the plunger can be withdrawn and no hand tooling is necessary. They were made in several colors and many are found with hand painted designs, making them collectible in their own right.

Guernsey Glass of Cambridge, Ohio, cast a miniature of the Winged Scroll Butter dish. The late Harold Bennett, the



owner of Guernsey was a former employee of Cambridge Glass. Primarily he made souvenirs and novelties and some of those are confusing because they mimic EAPG patterns, but Harold was careful to make them distinctively different from the earlier patterns. There is a hard-to-see "B" for Bennett on the angled bottom rims. They were made in many colors and the crystal ones were often ruby stained in a turn-of-the-century style. The real confusion comes when they have an inscription reading "A. H. Heisey Company, Founded 1896." (Some are misspelled "A. J. Heisey Company.") They are found with hundreds of different inscriptions, but the ones with various glass company names and founding dates were made only by Mr. Bennett and were sold as souvenirs at his glass museum in Cambridge. Some of the Cambridge material in the PROG library came from Harold.

The real protection against fakes comes from knowledge of actual production items gleaned from the study of reference material mixed with close observation of finish and glass quality—and a healthy dose of common sense.



Above are toothpicks, mugs and a pitcher made by Guernsey Glass in the 1970s and inscribed with "A. H. Heisey & Co., Founded in 1896." The same items with names of other glass companies were also made. They were sold as souvenirs at a glass museum. At right in front are two original Heisey Bead Swag toothpicks in Opal (milk glass) and crystal. The three behind are reproductions made by Mosser Glass in the 1970s and 1980s.

Below is a Heisey Crystolite Mustard and in front is a Crystolite Individual Cream and Sugar on a Tray. Behind it is a look-a-like known as Capri Swirl (unknown maker) and at right a Horseshoe spoonholder by Princess House.



In front of the photo below is a Heisey Ridgleigh Individual Cream and Sugar on a Tray that was made only in crystal. In back are look-a-like sets made by Hazel-Atlas. H-A also made the set in crystal.



All items below are confusing items or look-a-likes with the exception of the Heisey Yeoman Sugar Bowl in Marigold in upper center. The marigold-stained Heisey Coarse Rib Mustard at lower left is often thought to be marigold colored glass.



*Photos by Neal Skibinski*

# TEAR DROP

## by DUNCAN & MILLER

by Sandra Millius



“Tear Drop” was Duncan & Miller’s “best known tableware pattern” or so it is stated by Gail Krause author of “The Encyclopedia of Duncan Glass.”

George Duncan & Sons Glass Company was formed in 1865 when the founder, George Duncan, bought the Ripley and Company glass works located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The company flourished over the years – and changed its name to Duncan & Miller in 1900.



“Tear Drop” was introduced in the mid 1930s. The tableware pieces are known as pattern No. 301. The lead blown crystal carries the No.5301 number pattern,

and the tumblers carry the No. 5300 pattern number.

Due to its great popularity, it was produced until the factory closed in 1955. After that date, Tear Drop molds were acquired by Tiffin. Stemware and selected tableware pieces were continued in production through their Duncan & Miller Division.



During the nearly 30 years of production, some 155 pieces were made, making this pattern one of Duncan’s most extensive efforts. Stemware included such staples as water goblets and saucer champagne stems, as well as the small whiskey and footed ale. There were a relish dishes aplenty in a variety of sizes and shapes from the simple 9” olive to the six-part “star” server.

The pattern is elegantly simple. The motif consists of rows of graduated hobs. The only color pieces were made during the Tiffin years; otherwise, all pieces were made in a clear crystal.

I began collecting Tear Drop over 15 years ago, having been intrigued by the simple, but elegant pattern and by its reasonable cost. It mixes well with china patterns, which may account for its great popularity and longevity. Here’s to Tear Drop!

*Photos by Neal Skibinski*



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❖ INSIDE ❖

*Portland's Rain of Glass, Inc.*

- ◆ Calendar of Events
- ◆ Membership Information
- ◆ Food Drive
- ◆ Heisey Fakes and Confusing Items
- ◆ Duncan Miller's Tear Drop



*Photos by Neal Skibinski*



**Enlargement of actual Heisey trademark in glass. Catalogs from AA Importing—the source since 1983 of several animal covered dishes with a fake Heisey trademark. They are also the source of some Depression Glass and EAPG reproductions**