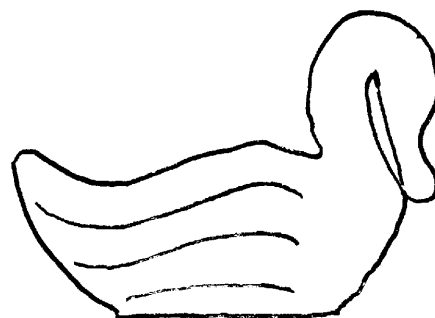


View from the Salt Box -- #26

In 1984, the Imperial Glass Co. went out of business. One of the assets which was sold was the old molds from the Heisey Company, which they acquired about 25 years earlier when Heisey closed. In a bold move, the Heisey Collectors of America club raised about \$240,000 and bought all of the Heisey molds except one pattern from Imperial so they would never be reproduced. At least they thought they got them all.

Recently we were surprised to see a Heisey CRYSTOLITE swan in color. The original swans came only in clear, and this one had the mark of the Boyd Crystal Art Glass Co. on the bottom. Since the Heisey Collectors owned the mold, we thought, something unusual was going on. We guessed that maybe it had been sold or leased to raise money. During our May trip to Ohio we stopped at the Boyd Crystal Art Glass Co. and heard the complete story from Bernard Boyd.



CRYSTOLITE Swan

Bernard told us that before the Heisey molds were acquired by Heisey Collectors, he had visited Imperial and bought a small assortment of molds for future use.

One of these was the small CRYSTOLITE pattern swan, which Heisey had sold as part of a nut set. The mold remained unused in the Boyd inventory until recently, when they decided to activate it. When the Heisey people saw it on the market they were surprised, and made contacts to see what was going on. The upshot was a delegation being sent to Boyd, including a man who had worked at the Heisey factory and was able to identify their codes on molds. They established that the CRYSTOLITE swan mold and several others did belong to Heisey originally. They offered to buy them back from Boyd, but he generously gave the molds to them at no cost.



Current Boyd Mark

The Boyd CRYSTOLITE swans are being sold as open salts, and come in 7 colors:

Vaseline	Cobalt
Mint Julep (light green)	Crystal Carnival (iridized clear)
Capri Blue (milky blue slag)	Milk Chocolate (chocolate glass)
Bernard Boyd Black (dark smoky teal, not a true opaque black)	

All have the Boyd mark on the bottom, and have their necks bent in the same fashion as some of the Cambridge swans. No more will be made, since the mold has gone back to Heisey. They are still available from the factory or from one of our members - Ed Bowman, 2411 West 500 North, Hartford City, IN 47348, phone (317) 348-4542. A complete set of 7 costs \$46 including shipping by UPS. If you want just one, the cost is \$6.00 (\$7.00 for the iridized one) plus shipping.

The CRYSTOLITE swans might have been sold as nut dishes originally, but Boyd called them open salts. This is more than enough to earn them a place on our shelves - we have quite a few other cute little dishes with less pedigree than this.

Ed Berg
401 Nottingham Rd., Newark, DE 19711

May 1996