

Foreword

I am pleased to present you this booklet here, which is a result of great supports and guidance from the specialists in various fields, together with tireless efforts of our staff members.

It was three years ago when the idea of a booklet came to my mind -- I felt those forerunners of the industry were pushing my back to pursue it. It was a half year ago when we could actually start the project.

Looking back the last few years, I have been "a sky traveler" having many opportunities to travel overseas for meeting with customers, participating in international exhibitions or business meetings with our Shanghai-plant management staff and so on. During those trips, I have had many meetings of "Ichigo-Ichie" -- a Japanese saying meaning "A once-in-a-lifetime chance"

Through those trips and the opportunities to meet people, a feeling was growing inside me. It was gradually filtered and condensed, then started forming a shape. It was precisely "deep attachment to glass".

We have a sort of a "glass database" storing stories about glass with our attachment to them. And I have shared them, for example on the occasion of customer visits, but only on a limited, irregularly basis.

This booklet now gives us an opportunity to share our attachment to glass, "the true value of glass" and "the attraction of glass", with people not only domestically, but also with people overseas. This is only the first step of a small endeavor. But I believe this will bring us great pleasure in the near future.

We believe that if we could successfully enable this "natural materials", which is "a gift from the Earth", to make use of it more and more, it would bring new era of glass, fits to call "renaissance of glass". This is our humble wish, as craftsmen who have taken over the tradition of "human heritage" whose history goes back to 4000 years ago.

The "environmental concerns" is now a global urgent issue. In this booklet, we would like to try our best to gain more understandings of our attachment to glass, through introducing the history of "glass container" and its utilization in the various fields and so on.

While we produce glass products for medicine, food or sundry articles etc., our specialty is producing bottles and jars for cosmetics. We are planning to interview "international female celebrities" representing our customers, and introduce their valuable opinions.

It would be our great pleasure if this booklet could convey our passion for glass, even if only slightly, to the domestic and international readers.

In the hope that one day, this booklet would reach to the lady and the gentleman who I have happened to sit at the same table and enjoyed the talk of Lalique, at the restaurant said to be associated with Napoleon on the street of Hafenstrasse in the old city of Duesseldorf, in autumn three years ago.