

"By dreaming the butterfly of Beijing-Greetings."

Since publishing our magazine "VIN No. 1", half a year has already passed. Many customers in and outside the country, and the persons concerned with glass products were distributed with our paper. The reaction is unexpectedly favorable with a lot of words of encouragements and opinions, and we are relieved with confident feelings that the concept of the publication is accepted. Although there were a few difficulties for making the first edition, our thoughts of "the benefit of glass products and to produce more better things" was also encouraged.

During this half a year, the world moved busily. Especially, the contents of the 3rd appraisal of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climatic Change (IPCC), held in Bali Island in Indonesia in November 2007, were with shocking results. They by far exceed the warnings of the Kyoto Protocol in 1997, and prove the serious situation scientifically of the present earth, urging the awareness to the environment of each country, areas and individuals as well as their prompt action. Moreover, the similar matters even in Davos Congress in January 2008, became a much more big theme. It will become further big issues in the Toya Lake summit scheduled in Hokkaido in forthcoming July.

For example, it will cause the collapse of the glacial lakes and the destruction of the sources of the rivers, and will cause the water shortage to ten hundreds of millions of people, when the dissolution of the Himalayas glaciers goes as it is. As for the clever people, they seem to be busy in trying to make money by securing water. It may become ugly "scramble for water".

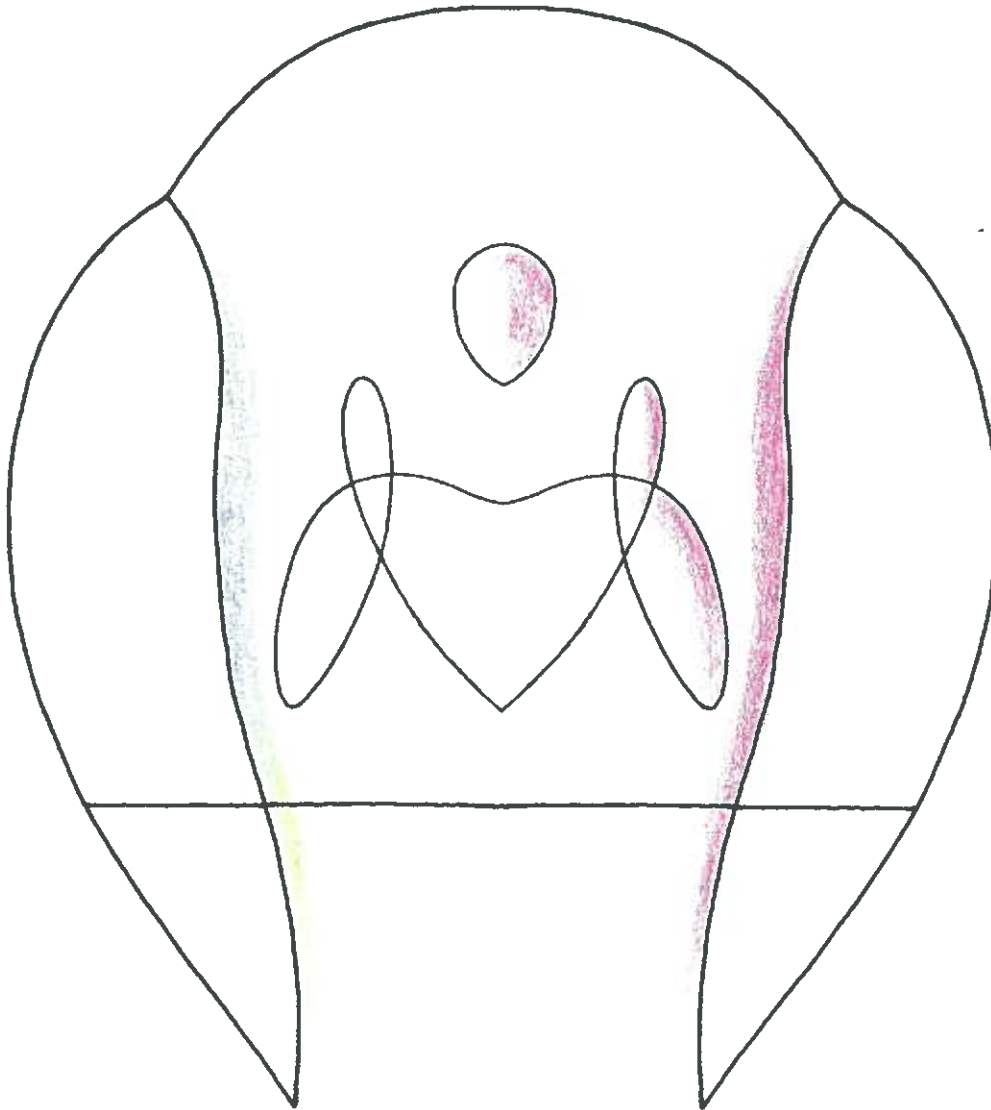
There are words called "butterfly of Beijing." If a butterfly flutters in Beijing, it is said that there will be a terrible storm in the world. It is a metaphor used in the calculations, in the world of the computers in particular. While in the beginning very small calculation errors and mistakes, but if operations are repeated continuously it changes to the phenomenon which appears with a huge number of changes and realized, and this language is used for the metaphor. I think, "A human being has both the wisdom and power that can correct our conventional accumulation of small mistakes". I believe that the good big changes beyond expectation may be brought about like this metaphor, if small efforts of people towards environmental improvement are stacked and repeated in daily life activities. The awareness of a person is like the fluttering of a small butterfly, and it moves the surroundings, moves an area, moves a country and moves the world, and the earth changes and then returns.

This time, our theme of the environment is miraculously enough "water", the "Water" of "New York", "Paris", and "Tokyo". The people of the Waterworks Bureau who we visited had the confidence "with the motto not to lose to mineral water". If it is cooled in a carafe and drunk it is more delicious, the people of Waterworks Bureau in Paris are proud of that. Trying hard every day for people's "happy faces", and "relieves", I think that it is great. For sparing valuable time for our booklet, I would like to express my gratitude to the Waterworks Bureaus of each country. Moreover, meeting "people of the Lalique art museum in Hakone", encounter with the great "woman of India Mumbai" by the celebrity-like interviews, provoked us in a relation with Rene Lalique again. May this encounter lead to further new good encounters! Prose on "fragrance" is presented to the cover "Muse". Hope that the great and splendid role of our glass bottles wrapping the fragrances will without fading last for a long time.

Spring in 2008

Koa Glass Co.,Ltd.
President and CEO Tatsuhiko Idei

Glass, the gift from the earth repeating its rebirth



“Lovely things;

Sekku, (a seasonal festival) is supreme in May among others. At the court, as well as in the houses of ordinary people, everyone decorates their places with those fragrant herbs such as Calamus or Mugwort around that time of year.”

Sei Shounagon, the talented female essayist of Heian Era admired the time of late spring and its various seasonal scents in her essay ‘ Makurano-Sousi ’

She vividly described the world that nowadays, so-called “aroma-therapeutic”, expressed the enjoyment of “burning incense and having a relaxed nap alone ” or “putting on a nicely fragrant kimono”, in the book.

Since ancient times, people have enjoyed the traditional sachet of fragrance and the imported clove, musk or kapur have been the favorites.

The ‘sachet’ with “potpourri” inside came from the western culture, and the typical favorite contents are roses, lavender, osmanthus, clover, mint etc.

A woman soaking up in the lovely fragrance and stages herself for the day in front of a mirror.

Perfume “ fascinates ” people. It has a “mysterious attraction” people cannot ignore.

And a glass bottle can be called a “cradle” for the “mysterious attraction”.

Running Exclusive Society

Orient Express - unexpected destination



A heart-broken English lady was on the train, which just left the town of Calais in northern France. She has been creating a sensation with her "mysterious disappearance" due to a temporary amnesia state of mind, caused by the stresses from her husband's infidelity and loss of her mother in the previous year. She was a woman of scandals who was just divorced with that husband, a few months ago. She was in fact Ms. Agatha Christie, a very popular crime fiction novelist at that time. She was on a trip to heal her heart, on a trip to leave the issues of the past behind- just changing the destination from the resort of Bermuda islands to Baghdad. "This was my long-time dream to travel on this train", she said. Simplon Orient Express was increasing the speed to take her, long distance first destination of Istanbul.

It was a very long trip from Calais, Milano, Belgrade to Istanbul. Here you'd travel across the Bosphorus, then change the train to Damascus through Haidar Pasha and Aleppo, after running across the desert by bus, finally arrive in Baghdad. Friendly chats she'd had with other passengers, the scenes she has never seen before, the beautiful landscapes and just this attractive train itself, all must have been comforting her on this trip.

After this trip, those experiences she had, were written beautifully like scattered jewels in her novels. Since then she has been a passenger of this train every time she met someone of a destiny. There she dramatically met and married to the up-and-coming 27 years-old archeologist Max Mallowan, who was younger than Christie and involved with the excavation at the site of Ur, at some distance from Baghdad.

The new chapter of her life as a mystery novelist started there, and she was contented and enthusiastically published many great books including the "The Murder on Orient Express" during 1930's.



After a short trip from the historical town of Odawara by the local train, there is Hakone Yumoto on the outskirts of Mt Fuji. From Hakone Yumoto,



The Orient Express around that time was 'de luxe'. The interiors were decorated in the 'Art Nouveau' or 'Art Deco' style, and there were many luxurious offerings that would make your trip ritzy and comfortable. Because the rich celebrities of various fields and countries were regulars on the passengers list, it created the legend of "running exclusive society"

The Orient Express was started by Georges Nagelmackers, a young Belgian banker who was inspired by the transcontinental railway he saw when he stayed in the U.S. He improved the trains further and started "International Sleeping-Car Company (Wagons-Lit)".

After that, it enjoyed its heyday around 1930's, the Orient Express expanded to the main four routes.

The glass art master René Lalique who was breaking new grounds in the field of architectural art from the decorative art at that time, was commissioned to design the de luxe salon-car "Côte d'Azur Pullman Express 4158 type". Together with the other beautiful interiors, his glass panel of a revelry celebrating Bacchus with the background pattern of scattered bunches of grapes was splendidly displaying young men and women enjoying the music and dancing. His glass works reflected and projected the room lights and sun light from outside and created ever-changing colorful atmosphere.

This train would later be led to a strange destiny.



with the mountain railway repeating a few switchbacks and threading through the mountain hills, it would take you to Gora Spa. Gora is a historical resort area for royals and nobles, too. Further taking a little bus trip to the central area of Sengokuhara, you would reach to the "Lalique Museum, Hakone". Together with the residence of Prince Asaka Yasuhiko in Mejiro (the current Tokyo Metropolitan Teien Art Museum), this is one of the destinations of Lalique's journey. There, many of his jewelries, his first perfume bottle featured a cyclamen, the dragonfly mascot for the famous Bugatti and those architectural interior ornaments would talk to you in the words of his era. And the Côte d'Azur Orient Express, after running so many ages, has climbed up to the far end of the orient through Otome Toge, ending up this place. Now it sits with the other Lalique works silently like a guardian of time. The glass panel of the young men and women in "Figurines and grapes" decorating the train interior are still ceaselessly celebrating the revelry of Bacchus with the passions of Lalique and his age there.

A moment in the three-ways mirror

"The reason why I have changed to a smaller mirror"

A lady in Mumbai, India (60 years of age)

Climbing up the gently curved slopes in the exclusive residential area, Malabar Hill in Mumbai, there are a series of elegant houses. It is located in south Mumbai, going to north along the Marine Drive (Queens Necklace) through the India Gate. During the colonial days of England, this was almost English-only suburb, and it is still a well-heeled area.

I visited an Indian lady who lived in one of those exclusive apartments. Pressing the doorbell, a maid in the traditional costume sari appeared and showed me the way in. Inside the room, the first thing you'd notice is a harmony. The table, sofa, cushions and pictures are all color-coordinated in blue and green. A Buddha statue is by the window.

The lady of this place has started her make-up when she became 18. Nowadays she uses imported make-up products, but is not really interested in the famous brands and their packages. What is the important point in them to her, is that they have to be allergy-free. She uses products she feels natural and gentle to her skin. In the morning, she washes her face with a warming face-wash, takes a shower, puts one of the two moisturizers depending on the condition of the day, then applies some sunscreen. If she has a party or lunch during the day, she puts some face powder and a lipstick. No eyeliners. Her perfume has not changed for 20 years. At night, she uses some moisture-cream. She usually purchases her cosmetics of import brands when she travels overseas. She feels that her daily life is the best now. Before she goes for a walk in the morning, she stands in front of her mirror, asks herself in the mirror, and controls her feeling, by telling herself that it will be a nice day again. She has learned to control her emotions through her walk and meditation.

She goes for a walk around the hilly area where five Dakhma: the Parsi Zoroastrianism's Tower of Silence are scattered. The oldest tower was built in 1673. She walks in the nearby park for about an hour. After her walk, she does her meditation. She has started it in 1987.

It is an exercise of retaining calm mental status. As a result, she has achieved the point that she accepts even more wrinkles as natural sign for aging, and they are showing her happiness.

Because of the meditation, she now can control the problems she faces everyday. She can calmly choose to go through some way, confronting with others.

This is in a way separating yourself from the world and not thinking about things you do not need to think. The idea is that yesterday has gone, tomorrow is still yet to come, so treasure your precious today. This is the key to live happily.

She has intentionally a small mirror in her powder room.

The mirror on the washbasin is small, too. Actually she used to have bigger mirrors, but changed to the current mirrors 7 years ago.

She feels calmer looking to a smaller mirror. She thinks the size of a mirror reflects the size of one's ego. A person's inner self is proven with the size of one's mirror. She feels that a smaller mirror is better for her. She believes that getting a larger mirror means that you are letting your egos become larger.

She controls her body through walking and meditation, and checks her facial expressions that exercise brings to her, on a smaller mirror that reflects her egos.

She says, that is the checkpoint of happiness, and 99% of the time she spends her day smiling. She gave a very nice smile.

There is a wonderful lady living in Mumbai, India.



"It was nice to get married with the archeologist"
Ms Agatha Christie said. She was shy but a quite witty lady.
"My husband loves me more and more as I get older" , she said.

Revival of tap water - the worldwide latest information on tap water

Everybody knows that water is important, especially in this stressful modern society. It is essential to have adequate hydration in order to keep healthy body and mind. The average daily water intake for an adult male is approximately 2.5 liters. Of it, the water intake by drinking is about 1.2 liters per day. Because it is something you take everyday and 60% of human body is water, you would want to drink good water. This must be a sort of common instinct, for every human being.

So I would like to share the outcome of a tap water research in the major cities in the world, Paris, Tokyo and New York, here.

(Paris) I visited the water service administration bureau, which covers 14 wards of the town of Paris, and spoke to the head of the administration bureau,



Monsieur Olivier Jacque.

The half of the source water of Paris's tap water comes from the river Seine and the other half comes from groundwater. The city entrusted both the purification and distribution of the water to private companies. They use the advanced purification treatment method for the purification process. In Paris, there is a second water system in addition to the tap water, which you'd see in use for the Paris's famous "roads washing". This comes directly from the river Seine unpurified, and is mainly used to maintain the trees and plants in the parks. They publish the information of the tap water quality every year. In general, the public seems to be happy with it, but some are annoyed by the smell of chlorine. To overcome it, they have held a design competition for an original water carafe design (photo A) every year. They promote the use of the selected carafe by filling it with water and leaving it in fridge for two hours so that the smell would go away.

The carafe can contain one liter of water. A good, simple design, the glass carafe's shape nicely fits in your hand. They change the logo on the carafe to match the theme of the campaign every year, and this certainly contributes to increase the image of tap water. As a result, the current ratio of the tap water and mineral water consumption is 50 % each; apparently the use of the tap water has been increasing. The reasons of the increasing popularity include the better understanding of the tap water, good price, the increasing awareness of environment issues as well as the fact that the mineral water is heavy to carry home. In the past, they haven't really promoted the fact that the tap water in Paris is safe to drink and tastes good.

But they have determined to do so from now on, communicating to the public that actually its components are close to the Evian's, and even among the other French regions, the tap water in Paris is superior with less calcium.

(Tokyo) In the early 1970's during the time that Japan was achieving its high economic growth, the water contamination in Tonegawa River and Arakawa River systems, which were the source of the tap water for Tokyo, had worsen, so was the tap water quality as a result. The Tokyo's Bureau of Waterworks has received so many complaints in regard to the tap water quality, such as musty smell of it, and gradually it has become a common understanding that the tap water in Tokyo is awful. So the Bureau of Waterworks has been putting its efforts in conservation activities of water quality of the river systems, as well as conducting



"safe and tasty water projects". etc.. adding activated carbon powder and implementing advanced water purification treatment systems. Now, they no longer receive complaints about musty smell, and the taste of the water has been improved. To promote the safeness and good taste of tap water further, in 2004 they released 500 ml. pet-bottled water (photo B), that is treated through the advanced water purification system at Kanamachi purification plant, calling it "world's preeminent Tokyo Water". Its hardness is 88.5mg/L, which would be categorized as medium soft water (according to the WHO standards). It has been well received. "bear a comparison with mineral water pretty well" said people who have tried it. I also confirmed that the tap water of Tokyo is good, when I visited the Kanamachi purification plant myself.



As indicated above, it has been confirmed that the tap water is safe and tasty in Tokyo, Paris and New York. If you have a chance to visit any of these cities, I'd recommend you check it out yourself.

(New York) Does the tap water in New York taste good or not? Generally, people think it tastes good. From my experiences staying over there for a few times, I can definitively say that it tastes good.

I have inquired at the New York City water service administration bureau about the reason and asked for a plant visit, but it was turned down flat, saying no visit is permitted since 9/11. But luckily they have good information on their website, so I started my research from there.

Originally, they took the water supply from the wells in downtown in Manhattan, and as the population has increased, they rely on the Croton System located north of the city, which still provides about 10% of the water supply. The rest, 90% of the source water is brought from the Catskill / Delaware System where they exercise the conservation of water quality in the northwest areas, to the reservoirs in Croton to supply it into the city.

This is one of the reservoirs in Delaware System (photo C). It took so much time to proceed to get their permission for reprinting the photo, but finally they have agreed with my request. It now forms a valuable part of the article.

So far, New Yorkers are lucky, they can drink the tap water that is actually natural mineral water. To ensure the quality, they operate a regular water-quality monitoring program.

Although the source water should always taste good, if they have a problem with the ducts that the water travels through from the source, then the taste may change.

Even so, it is wonderful to be able to drink natural mineral water from tap.



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