

# The history of glass in Sweden

## THE MIDDLE AGES

The glass reached Sweden in the first century e. kr. In the Nordic countries it has been found that glass was imported from the Rhineland, where it also was produced. The glass in the Middle Ages was not used as stoup or for household chores. In first place it was for window to the churches and nobility as glazing was used.

### 1500-1600

Only in the 1500's started to produce glass in Sweden. The initiator of the glassworks was Gustav Vasa and aristocracy. The facilities were small with no more than a glassworkers.

The production consisted of drinking glasses, decorative glass, container glass, bottles of various types and window glass. The court had begun to use glass at festivities and the habit of breaking the glass since they drank from it gave a comprehensive production.

Production was attached to the court, aristocracy and churches. Glass production was pure luxury production.

### 1600-1700

Even during the 1600s, Mälardalen, Stockholm primarily with immediate surroundings, the center of the Swedish glass production. Skilled workers brought from Italy and the Continent. It is during the 1600s that glass production began in Smaland of Charles IX's son on the side line, Karl Karlsson Gyllenhielm and holland creditor Arnold de Rees, who is seen as the initiator of the two mills Trestenhult and Midningsbråte where Paul Gaukunkel accounted for vocational skills. Glass production was during the 1600s primarily for the highest social classes. Production is to be of the same kind as the last century.

### 1700-1800

During the Revolutionary period examined superpowers to stimulate domestic production of various goods, including glass, protected by tariffs. During this century it was built 16 Glass Mills. Production was largely designed for regional and local markets. Production had come over the previous problems, while the general stabilization of the country's economy, the growing capital assets and increased technical knowledge also affected the glass manufacturing. It was also not in the same degree as before in need of foreign skills, it has now begun to have an indigenous tribe by skilled workers.

### 1800-1850

Glass Production broadly followed the same lines as before, with a few notable exceptions, they now began to specialize. The number of products increased rapidly. From the 1830s began to publish price lists, which meant that one better equipped to follow the manufacturing

changes. Cut glass becomes more common, pressed glass, plates, sugar bowls and salt shakers, etc.. The use of glass spread now through the various social classes, resulting in increased demand.

1850 -1870

This period marks the modern industrialization breakthrough, both the Swedish industry and in the manufacture of glass. 16 new glassworks was established, while one could begin to see an industry concentration. Initiator service establishment was primarily managers and glass blowing masters.

The dependence on immigrant skilled workers were now pouring. Production became increasingly differentiated, olive abrasive mixture softer forms became more common especially in carafes and tumblers. It also began to paint glass with enamel colors. Imitations of ground glass is now starting to emerge. Even drinking glass began to be manufactured with pressed-glass technology.

Decade after 1850 meant the beginning of the modern glass manufacture: emergence. The larger units increased capacity at the mills.

From being a luxury becomes the glass in its various forms more and more a daily commodity.

1870-1880

During the 1870s, was started out no less than 23 glassworks, including 10 in intensive Småland region. From this time began to talk about the "Kingdom of Crystal".

The founder of the new mills were often entrepreneurs and glassblowers. In many cases, it is clear that farmers have invested capital in new companies, thereby creating a market for the forest that could be difficult to set aside otherwise than as a fuel in glassworks furnaces. That period was the period was worried and mills unstable evidenced by no less than 11 mill were laid down during the decade. The glassworks could be easily changed. The staff lived in cottages and small farmhouses and had relatively easy to return to work in agriculture and forestry, when the furnaces were turned off. Glass mills smallness and archaic structure was often an advantage and strength in these turbulent times in the industry.

1880-1890

In the 1890s started out no less than 30 new glassworks, of whom 18 in the intensive glassworks region called the "Kingdom of Crystal" in Småland. Meanwhile, it was closed down 10 Glass Mills. Funding was bonding capital. The majority of the workforce recruited locally, however, began again to import skilled workforce ex. engravers, glass painters and polishers. The number of workers barracks increased markedly during the 1890s. Living standard was low. More common was that with the cut polished glass. It was made patterns with deeper cuts that will break the surface in a prominent way. Even the stained glass began now to have a large market.

## 1900-1920

Early 1900s decade represented a new era for glass manufacture. A number of new methods reached Sweden from the continent, primarily flat glass manufacturing. A significant overproduction occurred that resulted in the merger of various glassworks. It was built 36 new glassworks, 15 in glassworks, while 30 older glassworks closed down. The buildings changed, labor barracks were reduced and replaced by residential homeowners with higher standards. These had consistently great plots that could produce food, husgris and cow were not uncommon. The glassworks began at this time to hire glass artists. These artists' works were limited to a small production of exclusive glass. The regular household jars searched his model from abroad.

## 1940-1960

The war years caused problems for glass factories, the export market fell almost completely away, while domestic demand grew.

The first post-war years were characterized by a marked economic boom and rising global demand. By 1950, increased competition as Europe rebuilt. Between the years 1945-60 were built 15 new glassworks and 13 were closed.

Wood-burning stoves were replaced by oil and electric furnaces.

The artistic education intensified gradually, with each glassworks with self esteem remained with graduating artists.

On the whole, changed the glass industry during this time. The big bulky workshops organized by new designs and more functional lines. One can observe a more diverse dynamics within the Swedish art glass production, a dynamic that would be even more noticeable during 1960-70's.

## 1960-1985

This was a period characterized by extremely many start-ups and closures. It was started not less than 57 glassworks and 37 older glassworks disappeared. The majority establishments were glass studios with a few employees.

## 1970s

Were characterized by transformation 'time with industry restructuring and mergers. The result was stable establishments and glassworks with better competitiveness, and rising profitability

## Today

The increasing competition by foreign industrial glass led to increased specialization of the Swedish glassworks, especially on glass side, where we are today is the world leader and trend rewarding both in design and technology.