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MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE



Origin of Christmas Glass Baubles

Everyone loves seeing a Christmas Tree sparkling with pretty glass baubles and other decorations. But when and where did this tradition begin?

In fact, the practice of putting shining ornaments on a Tree dates back hundreds of years but, originally, they were most likely to be ordinary objects – like pea pods, apples, bird's nests or butterflies – either made from or covered in a lustrous metal. It wasn't until the early 19th century, in Lauscha, a small town in eastern Germany, that craftsmen began to reproduce similar things in glass, the first ones being attributed to Hans Greiner.

Glass baubles soon followed and really began to become popular in the 1840s when Prince Albert, husband to Queen Victoria of England, and a German himself, set up a Christmas Tree at Windsor

INTRODUCTION

As we approach the end of 2011, we at Heye International have a very simple message for all our partners: thank you! Thank you for the spirit of trust, mutual respect and professionalism that has cemented all our relationships and helped to make 2011 a highly successful year for all of us. It has been a year full of welcome surprises.



Unfortunately, however, there have also been some unwelcome ones. In addition to many disasters in the our world, earlier in the year we were all shocked by the Japanese earthquake and its aftermath but now we have also had to endure the shock of a second natural disaster – the flooding in Thailand. However, Heye International is proud to have been able to assist the victims of these terrible events, in particular providing onsite support to a client whose employees suffered significantly as a result. Our thoughts go out to all those who have been affected.

And so, we look forward to 2012 with anticipation that it will be a great year for all, both personally and professionally, and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year!

Yours,
Dirk Pörtner

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SUCCESS STORY SUPER SPEED START-UP IN GAOYAO!

In the latest news from China, Heye International, together with the team at Tong Chan Packaging Group, has proved just how fast a start-up can be. Last month, 3 IS-Machines (1 triple gob and 2 double gob machines) were put into operation in a single day! Not only that, but they achieved their target performance in a matter of hours! This outstanding performance goes to show once again that experience not only benefits the mechanical engineering, but is also irreplaceable in production engineering, project management and employee training. Heye International is proud to be in partnership, providing technology to this specialist manufacturer of high-end container glass, and both companies look forward to continuing their cooperation in the future.

Castle, traditionally decorated with German glass ornaments. Photographs were published and popularity soared. So much so that mass production of glass baubles began in Lauscha in 1847.

Amazingly, considering the subsequent history of the region, there are still about 20 small glass-blowing firms active in Lauscha that produce baubles. How's that for a Christmas miracle?



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HEYE AS FOUNDER MEMBER OF GLASS CLUSTER WESER HIGHLANDS



The Weserbergland region of Germany is a centre of the German glass industry, and is not merely home to Heye, which was founded in 1799. These days, the regional association for economic development wants to develop a 'Glass Cluster', comprising companies and expertise from all sectors of the glass industry.

The central goal of this initiative is to further develop the region to become one of the leading centres for economic, innovative and technological achievement for

the glass industry worldwide.

The idea is to build networks and communication between the individual specialist businesses in order to promote innovation and further develop industry qualification and training levels for all skilled workers and specialists.

Heye is delighted to support this enterprise as a founder member.

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