



Some personal information about Ove Thornblad

I was born in Helsingborg, in southern Sweden, on December 12, 1935. My first job was at one of Sweden's most famous ceramic factories Andersson & Johansson where I made potteries at piece-rates at the age of 17. After five years at the factory I started to work with research and development for ceramic materials at Höganäs AB. During the early years I was studying chemical engineering in my spare time. At Höganäs AB I became responsible for optical microscope and electron microscope analysis and educational training for 30 years. In all I stayed with the company for 44 years, before I started my consultant agency.

At Höganäs AB I developed my knowledge within the ceramic chemistry field, where Dr Norin, geologist and mineralogist, became my mentor for several years. I also studied different ceramic fields at the University of Leeds in England, Swedish Silicates Research Institute, Chalmers Technical High School in Gothenburg and a specialist course in clay minerals in Llandudno, Wales. I have also been a teacher at Nordic Ceramic Supervisor School, for 17 years.

I have given lectures, about refractory materials for primary aluminum furnaces, around the world. (USA, Australia, Bahrain etc).

It is now 55 years since I began my ceramic hobby making potteries, which started with a picture I saw in a book. The book told me how important it was to have a hobby to get variation in life, not at least in the old days. That influenced me. When I one day saw an advertisement for tools for ceramic manufacturing, I got really interested. I built an electrical furnace and potters wheel and started to make potteries in my parent's cellar and later in my garage. Later on I bought an electrical potters wheel and a ball mill for milling my own glazes. Since 25 years I have my own studio in the small village of Väsby

I have learned most of the pottery techniques myself although I, at young age, went to a special ceramic school in the city of Höganäs.

Although I did not work full time as a professional ceramic artist I still think that I am quite good after 55 years. I am very grateful to still be able to feel like a child and develop my creativity and experience in the old days of my life.