

## **Erich Schott (1891 – 1989)**

### **Pioneer of the »Economic Wonder«**

The son of company founder Otto Schott actually wanted to pursue an academic career after his studies in physics and chemistry. But when his older brother Rolf was killed in the war, he chose to follow in the footsteps of his father. In 1917, Erich Schott began working as a scientific specialist at the Jena glassworks. In 1927, he succeeded his father in managing the business, and, in the period that followed, developed the market position of the Jena-based glassworks until it became one of the world's leading specialized glass manufacturers. This effort involved founding new business fields, such as heat-resistant household glasses of the »Jenaer Glas« brand. He was one of the first industrial leaders to seek collaboration with artists. For example, he hired Bauhaus artist Wilhelm Wagenfeld (1900 – 1990) as a designer of »Jenaer Glas«. After the end of the World War II, acting on orders from the American military government, Erich Schott led "The Odyssey of 41 Glassmakers« from Jena to West Germany. In Mainz, he directed the construction of a new, modern glass plant starting in 1951/52, guiding the company back to world class stature. He also introduced internationalization to SCHOTT by setting up the first production and sales sites in foreign countries and growing foreign sales. Based on his life achievements, Erich Schott is considered to be one of the pioneers of the German »Economic Wonder«.

