



Sewing Machine Museum

Albrecht Mey Collection

- HOMEPAGE

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In May 2009, the Sewing Machine Museum first opened its doors to visitors. Here, visitors can discover the development of the sewing machine over time.

Rarities such as the Opel No. 1, the Peugeot No. 1, the Krems sewing machine, the fascinating Kerzdörfer, the very early Gibbs and many other rare and interesting pieces are on display at the museum. The collection, which is managed by Martin Mey, son of the museum founder Albrecht Mey, contains more than 420 rarities that were lovingly collected over many years and form the basis of the museum's international renown.

Opening times:

Monday to Thursday: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm | Last entry: 4:00 pm
Friday: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm and by appointment
The museum is closed during summer holidays, on public holidays and during company holidays.

Admission fees:

Adults: € 3.00
Groups of 10 or more: € 2.00 per person
Children and students: free admission

The guided tours are conducted by Renate Stöckert, Walter Eyth or Martin Mey.

Contact:

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What is the idea behind the Sewing Machine Museum?

In 1948, writer Zimmermann reported in his text 'Development of the Württemberg Knitwear Industry' that knitwear factories had been founded as early as the middle of the nineteenth century in the area now known as Albstadt.

He goes on to describe how the industrial production of knitwear was complemented by the introduction of American sewing machines, which made it possible to replace arduous manual labour with machine-based manufacturing. As the German sewing machine industry did not manufacture machines suitable for the purpose at that time, the first machine for use in knitwear production was obtained from America with active assistance from the royal central office.

Entrepreneur and collector Albrecht Mey founded the Mey Sewing Machine Museum with the aim of exhibiting the numerous models on display in the Albrecht Mey Collection as a means of showing the development of the sewing machine from its beginnings to the present day.

The Mey Sewing Machine Museum is dedicated to the many hard-working seamstresses in the textile industry!

VIEW CHRONOLOGY

A collector's passion

A collector's area of interest is often heavily influenced by their profession. And that is indeed what led to the development of this collection. In the beginning, decommissioned industrial machines were collected. It was not until later that historical domestic sewing machines were also obtained. The nucleus of the collection was formed by the Hanspeter Luzzi Collection from St. Gallen in Switzerland and then by the Roger Frey Collection from Cannes in France. A substantial portion of the collection consists of rare American sewing machines. They are one-of-a-kind or rarities that are found only in very limited numbers in the world.

Fascinating sewing machines were also produced in France in the second half of the nineteenth century. The French machines were of a high technical standard and of excellent quality. This might be attributable to the fact that the French sewing machine industry, even in those days, did not become internationally competitive in terms of price. The sewing machine trade in France was mainly defined by imports from North America and Germany. On the basis of this experience, French engineers turned to new areas of design engineering, manufactured bicycles and, above all, cars. They also became involved in the construction and development of aircraft.

Antique French sewing machines are therefore highly sought-after by collectors as, apart from a small number of exceptions, they were never mass produced.

VIEW FOUNDATION

We look forward to seeing you at the sewing machine museum in Albstadt.



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