

HISTORY
ARTS
CULTURE

DOCUMENTARY
30 MIN.



VERSIONS

English, German, Spanish

RIGHTS

Worldwide, VOD, Mobile

RUNNING TIME

18 x 30 min.

ORDER NUMBER

Diverse

Profiles

“Touching the Soul” – The Photographer Gerd Ludwig | 56 4693-08

His photographs appear on the covers of Geo, National Geographic, Time-Life, Newsweek. Born in Hesse and now resident in Los Angeles, Gerd Ludwig is one of the world’s leading documentary photographers. In his adopted home, he works on a documentary about the 40-kilometre long Sunset Boulevard. We visited Gerd Ludwig and accompanied his work on another project, “A Day in the Life of Africa”.

“Behind the Camera I’m Braver” – In the World’s Trouble Spots with the War Photographer Ursula Meissner | 56 4693-09

“With Camera and Bullet-proof Vest” is the title of Ursula Meissner’s first book. These two pieces of equipment are essential for Meissner as one of the few female war photographers. Always concerned to show “both sides of the coin”, she was in Bosnia, Kosovo, and Albania, disguised herself as a man to photograph Afghan freedom fighters, and in Sierra Leone captured images of child fighters. We portray a woman whose images of despair, mourning, death and hope eloquently communicate in a world where war is ever present.

The Treasure Hunter – Hermann Parzinger, Archeologist and Culture Manager | 56 4693-06 English, German

He is renowned as Germany’s leading archeologist: Hermann Parzinger, former president of the German Archeological Institute. His most recent success has been the discovery of a Scythian nobleman’s grave in Mongolia, riddled with golden ornamental objects. It was his passion for excavating that led him to the treasure and world fame. In March 2008, Hermann Parzinger became president of the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation and master of Germany’s largest cultural institution.

The Toy Town | 00 0907

Nuremberg has been a toy town since the 17th century, especially famous for its playthings of tin. It wasn’t until the end of the 1960s that the introduction of plastics, and finally, competition from East Asia put an end to the Nuremberg toymakers’ halcyon days. Now, it’s no longer the children who clamour for the tin toys, but collectors from all over the world. And Nuremberg is still the premier toy town, if not as a manufacturing base, then as host to the world’s largest toy trade fair.

Ludwig II | 00 0581

The fairy-tale King of Bavaria: with fantastic castles and palaces, Ludwig II of Bavaria (1845-1886), known as the “fairy-tale” king, built his own world far removed from the political realities of his day. But Ludwig’s obsession was expensive, and this, coupled with signs of advancing mental illness, led to his being certified mentally unstable on June 9, 1886. Four days later, Ludwig II mysteriously drowned in Lake Starnberg. Even today, we remain fascinated by the “fairy-tale” king.

Manfred Heller – Eco-Manager in an Automobile Corporation | 56 4525-39

English, French, German, Russian, Spanish

Firms which fail to pay attention to environmental protection in their production processes are increasingly attracting public criticism. They risk serious damage to their public image and loss of consumer confidence, which can go as far as a boycott of their products. More and more companies are nowadays recognizing the relevance of ecological measures as a strategic factor in competitiveness. BMW is the first automobile manufacturer to have all its production plants throughout the world certified as conforming to the internationally-recognized environmental protection standard ISO 14001. The man responsible for this is Manfred Heller, who has built up a system of ecological management unmatched anywhere else in the automotive industry.

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Carl Fabergé – The Man with the Golden Hands | 00 0350

Carl Fabergé (1846-1920), court jeweller to the Russian czars, has ensured his place in art history with his “fantasy objects”, fashioned in enamel and gold. Today the products of his expert goldsmithing are some of the most expensive and sought-after items anywhere. With historic film footage and interviews with the master’s granddaughter and art curators, we fashion a portrait of this unique man and his influence on the goldsmith’s craft.

Mimerle, Fifi & Co: Käthe Kruse Dolls – A German Trademark | 00 1773

Käthe Kruse really just set out to make a doll for her daughter Fifi. She wanted to make it soft and cuddly, not cold and stiff like the dolls that were available in the shops. But at a toy exhibition in Berlin in 1910, her dolls caused a furore. Suddenly, all the world wanted a Käthe Kruse doll. She always stuck to one principle: her dolls were hand-made, not mass-produced. And that is still the way it is today in the factory at Donauwörth in southwest Germany.

Otto Lilienthal – On the Trail of a Pioneer of Flight | 00 0047

Otto Lilienthal, engineer and aviation pioneer, had been interested in flight technology ever since he was a little boy. This report reconstructs his life and recalls the early days of aviation history.

Märklin | 00 0893

In 1891, Theodor Friedrich Märklin presented his new model train set at the Leipzig spring trade fair. Today, whether it’s the Märklin mini-club, the world’s smallest electric railway, or 1994’s “Maxi-Bahn” in Märklin’s classic tin style, untold numbers of children young and old have fallen head over heels for the carefully detailed miniature reconstructions of actual locomotives and trains.

Bavaria’s White Gold – The Nymphenburg Porcelain Factory | 00 1208

The Nymphenburg porcelain factory in Bavaria began making fine porcelain figurines, vases and tableware in 1747. The fame of these delicate treasures spread rapidly all around the world, and they are still sought after today. From its beginnings to the present, our feature documents the history of the factory where classical and modern designs are still crafted using traditional methods.

Masterpiece – Montblanc Fountain Pens | 00 1126

Montblanc is a luxury fountain pen still hand-made according to the original methods by master craftsmen, many of them the second generation to work at the Hamburg company. Today, Montblanc is selling twenty times as many pens as it did in the seventies. This feature report witnesses the birth of the Masterpiece, Montblanc’s most renowned fountain pen, and asks just what makes this expensive writing implement so interesting to customers from Brazil to Singapore.

Brockhaus and Meyer – From Lexicon to Multimedia | 00 1484

Germany’s long-established lexicographers, Brockhaus and Meyer, have to make an effort to keep pace with the changing times. But they have reason for optimism. Future encyclopedias can supplement their heavy volumes of hardbound erudition with online updates. This report traces the development of modern lexicography in Germany. The company’s senior editors discuss current problems and prospects.

Master of Words – The Langenscheidts | 00 1270

Gustav Langenscheidt went into business in 1865 with just one product: a correspondence course for learning French. Today, the Langenscheidt publishing house lists over 3,000 titles in thirty languages, including dictionaries and audio, video and multimedia programs. The big blue L on the yellow cover is a familiar sight on bookshelves in many countries.

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Kids and Grown-Ups Love It So: With Jelly-Bears to Market-Leader | 00 1231

Everybody knows those delicious sweets from Haribo, but not many people know who or what is behind the name. Ha-ri-bo is taken from the initials of Hans Riegel Bonn, which started small in 1920 with sugar candies at the corner store and cooked its way up to a 1.5 billion-dollar corporation. This feature report shows how the star of fruit-flavoured gelatine, the golden gummi bear, is born, and reviews the history of the world's largest producer of soft candies.

Nivea – A Cream Conquers the World | 00 1449

Nivea skin-care cream was launched in 1911 by the Beiersdorf company. Nivea – the name derives from the Latin word for snow – was first distributed in a green and yellow tin. In 1925 it was given a new packaging – the legendary blue background with the writing in white. Today, you can buy the blue tin with the unmistakable writing in almost every country on earth. Our film tells the story.

Willy Messerschmitt | 00 0498

In the 1930s, Willy Messerschmitt, a pioneer in aviation and light-weight construction, landed the contract to build the German Air Force's standard fighter plane, the most built and possibly most feared aircraft of World War Two. After the war, Messerschmitt designed houses, cars and, from 1952 until his death, again developed aeroplanes. The broad product spectrum of Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm Inc. – founded in 1969 – gave Messerschmitt the opportunity to turn his new ideas into reality.

Werner von Siemens – Founder of a Global Enterprise | 00 0332

As a 25-year-old artillery officer in the 1840s, Werner von Siemens (1816-1892) decided to use his spare time to become an all-round inventor and his hobby soon became his life's work. Our film documents the life of the man whose company grew to become one of the leading enterprises in the electronics industry, and together with AEG, established Berlin's turn-of-the-century reputation as the world centre of electronic engineering.