

# SCHWANDORF TOWN MUSEUM

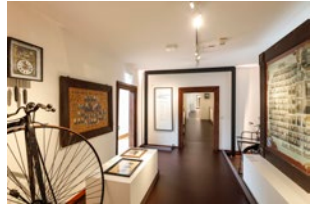
*See how things used to be...*



Stadtmuseum  
Schwandorf

## FREE HOUSE – TOWN HALL – MUSEUM

The listed building complex of the town museum, located within the medieval town walls, consists of three structural elements. Originally a “free house” in the Middle Ages and then serving as the town hall in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century, it was eventually converted into a museum. Today, not everyone can pass upright through all of the doorways, so if necessary, please be ready to bow to the historical structures. We wish you a pleasant time exploring around 800 exciting sqm of town and industrial history, natural science and much more!



## A TOWN MUSEUM FOR ALL ...

Our building is almost completely accessible for wheelchairs: the ground and first floor can be accessed by everyone via an elevator, two platform lifts and wheelchair-friendly ramps. We provide a spacious restroom for persons with disabilities. Our approach to inclusion is also reflected by the design of the texts, through their font size and the highest possible black-and-white contrast. The rooms of the Nature Information Center in the attic, which cannot be explored by wheelchair, are presented and explained in a media station.

## ... AND FOR ALL THE SENSES

Gernot the swan accompanies all visitors, young and old, on an exciting journey through time from the Stone Ages until today. Discover history with all your senses during this journey. At our 15 interactive media stations you can dive even deeper into the history and stories of our town and its surrounding area.



## FISHING VILLAGE – TOWN – MAJOR DISTRICT TOWN

Schwandorf is located at the junction of the oldest roads from Nuremberg to Bohemia and from Regensburg to Central Germany. Additionally, the Naab River, which divides into three arms in this area, used to form a central ford here.

Rare stone tools and ceramic findings in the exhibition prove that people passed through and settled in the Schwandorf region in prehistoric times and early history. The first written reference to “Suainicondorf” as a fishing village is from 1006.



Beginning in the first half of the 13<sup>th</sup> century, the town had been the center of an official seat of the House of Wittelsbach. In 1299, Duke Rudolf I granted it town privileges – a document, translated into modern language, proves this. Did you know? With around 125 square kilometers, Schwandorf is currently (2023) the fifth-largest city in Bavaria in terms of area.



## HISTORY – STORIES – FACES

Historically referenced people and characters give Schwandorf's history a face. For over 137 years, the barons of Quentel would hold the right of succession for the Pfleger position in the district of Schwandorf as well as the exclusive position of the fish master of the Nordgau region. The portraits of Maria Anna Nepomucena and Johann Nepomuk von Quentel remind us of the last Pflegamt officers in Schwandorf.



People born in the current town area include Konrad Max Kunz (1812–1875), the composer of the Bavarian anthem, and Caroline Maximiliane Freiin von Spiering (1815–1859), by marriage Countess of Holnstein aus Bayern, upon her second marriage Freifrau Künsberg von Fronberg. Her portrait was even included in the Gallery of Beauties of King Ludwig I.



Numerous portrait paintings and photographs thus give us interesting insights into past ways of life. They also show us the Counts Palatine Philip the Contentious and his brother Otto Henry as rulers over the “Young Palatinate” to which Schwandorf belonged for around 300 years. Otto Henry brought the Protestant faith to Schwandorf in the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century and thus represents the difficult times of changing denominations, when individual religious freedom was not yet possible.

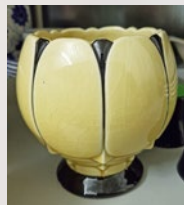


## INDUSTRY – PIONEERS – VISIONS

The construction of the railroad station in 1859 fostered urban development and kicked off the era of Industrialization. Schwandorf was the first town in the Upper Palatinate to be supplied with electric power – thanks to the pioneer of electricity, Oskar von Miller.



Josef Löll was another forward-thinking resident, establishing a pottery factory in Schwandorf in the early 1860s due to the local clay deposits and the favorable traffic situation. From the beginning, the factory benefitted from committed managers with strong personalities who made a special effort for the factory and its economic development, for example Gustav Siewecke. Well-known designers – like Jean Beck and Heinrich Löffelhardt – created household ceramics of the highest quality and in a wide variety of forms.



The farsighted museum founders of 1912 stand for a positive public spirit and sociocultural commitment. For the first time in the history of Schwandorf's town museum, they become visible and also show us the ideas behind this museum – why and how it was established.

## WORLD WARS – DESTRUCTION – RECONSTRUCTION

Due to many new industrial enterprises founded in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Schwandorf town experienced a rapid upturn that increased the number of department stores and shops. For the first time, the history of the Jewish population, who also socially enriched the life in Schwandorf at the time, is told. The First World War brought a sudden end to these optimistic times. Countless people lost their lives. Economically, politically, and socially difficult years followed. This allowed the inhuman ideology of National Socialism to blossom in Schwandorf, too.



One of the worst events in the town's history was the bombing of the town on April 17, 1945, towards the end of the Second World War. Around 1,500 people lost their lives and about 60% of the housing stock was destroyed. Because of this, the exhibited unexploded aerial bomb found in the town area is also intended as a memorial for peace.

The town was rebuilt within just 10 years – the foundation for a positive development during the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Schwandorf benefits from the relationship between locals who have lived here for generations and new citizens who have moved here.

The new citizens started to settle here beginning in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, looking for a new place to call home.



## NATURE INFORMATION CENTER

To conclude our wide-ranging journey through time we will look at the flora and fauna of the unique natural areas of the central Upper Palatinate region. These are the Upper Palatinate Forest in the north and east as well as the charming foothills of the Bavarian Forest in the southeast. In the southwest are the last traces of the Franconian Jura, with its limestone formations as well as varied agricultural, pond, and river landscapes.



## MUSEUM ACTIVITY WORKSHOP

Throughout the year, the Schwandorf town museum offers lectures and special days in its MuseumsAktivWerkstatt venue, based on a pedagogical program created for children, teenagers, and families. We also offer events for school classes as well as workshops here.



*Pictures: town museum*



## SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

Several times a year, the town museum offers attractive special exhibitions in separate rooms on the ground floor.

Discover a colorful array of a broad range of topics and learn more about cultural history, natural science, or photography!



*Picture: Gerhard Götz*





Stadtmuseum  
Schwandorf

## See how things used to be...

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### Opening hours

Wednesdays, Fridays, Sundays 2–5 pm

Thursdays 12–6 pm

and by appointment



Design and pictures: Herbert Bürger

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