

# Elsi Post

english edition

Edition: December 2023

since 2023

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## Foto of the Time

### Results of the photo challenge

Which photo do you like most? / Welches Foto gefällt dir am besten?

- 20% Foto # 1
- 11% Foto # 2
- 7% Foto # 3
- 26% Foto # 4
- 11% Foto # 5
- 0% Foto # 6
- 5% Foto # 7
- 16% Foto # 8
- 2% Foto # 9
- 2% Foto # 10



SWISS ARMY KNIFE S. 2



Wenger Gravity Knife S. 13



Victorinox Angler S. 23

Schweizerisches Handelsamtblatt - Feuille officielle suisse du commerce - Foglio ufficiale svizzero di commercio  
Band 43 (1925)



Cutlery Schättli, Horgen S. 30



Foto-Challenge S. 45

**SALE S. 46**

## The *Swiss Officer's Knife* or the *Swiss Army Knife*

There is always confusion and misunderstandings when it comes to the terminology surrounding the Swiss Army Knife. What is an officer's knife, what is a Swiss Pocket Knife, what a Swiss army knife? Is everything the same? Why are there always unclear or imprecise terms?

To explain and understand it, you have to go back in history to the beginning. The year 1897 is always mentioned as the starting point for the Swiss officer's knife. In this context it should be noted that Karl Elsener - founder of the Victorinox company - patented a 6-part pocket knife and thus laid the foundation for the Swiss pocket knives that are so well known today. However, these claims are false in various respects. In 1897, Karl Elsener received model protection for a pocket knife, which he called the "Swiss officer and sports knife". It was the now known "Spartan" model with 6 tools, 2 on the back and 4 on the front. This more delicate model compared to the model 1890 soldier's knife was a further development by Karl Elsener for officers and was the first time that back springs were used, which allowed tools to be mounted on the back. Basically, Karl Elsener received model protection, that is undisputed. Model protection is comparable to today's design protection. This is not a technical advancement or new development that solves a problem - which is the basis for a patent application - but rather a 3-dimensional structure whose shape and composition received a certain level of protection in order to be legally enforceable against imitations can. Karl Elsener did not develop anything completely new, but rather created a special design of a pocket knife. Like many of the pocket knives he produced, he gave this knife a name, namely "Swiss officer and sports knife". However, he did not register this name as a word mark in the commercial register and it was therefore not protected. The rest of the history of officer's knives is legend. This "Spartan" model obviously sold very well and was popular. Other similar models were quickly added, some of whose designs Karl Elsener also had legally protected. A wide range of models emerged. Over time, the term "Swiss officer and sports knife" was no longer used for a single model, but the term "officer's knife" emerged for all of the company's similar pocket knives. While the scales were originally made entirely of brown fiber, other materials such as horn or aluminum were gradually added. In 1909, Karl Elsener had the Swiss cross legally protected, the so-called "Cross and Shield". At the end of the 1930s, red celluloid/Cellidor was used as a scale material for the first time. Thus, the basic elements have been present for almost 100 years to form the myth of the officer's knife or Swiss Army Knife, namely:

- Red scale material
- Cross and shield on the scale
- Size of 91 mm and 84 mm (large and small officer's knives)
- Model width in very different variants
- Very good price-performance ratio

The officer's knife then continued its success story to this day. Much of what happened back then still exists today. These are the reasons why around the world a red pocket knife is almost always referred to as a "Swiss Pocket Knife", or simply as a "Swiss Army Knife". Although this term "Swiss Army Knife" became established internationally, the name is actually incorrect. Because these officer's knives - even if they are labeled like that - had and still have nothing to do with the Swiss Army. The only fact is that Victorinox - formerly Elsener - continues to supply the Swiss Army with soldiers' knives to this day and these are an official piece of equipment there. But they were completely different models than those of the officer's knives. Whatever. Victorinox also takes advantage of this "myth" and actively advertises using these terms, which can lead to further confusion. Personally, I may be a bit too strict and too precise, but I would never call a car an airplane, because ultimately the name suggests something completely different. The term "Swiss Army Knife" literally means "Swiss army knife". In the case of officer's knives, these are not the case. The Swiss Army knives - which actually exist - are a completely different type of pocket knife.

If you go to the Victorinox homepage you can currently read sentences like:

*“The Swiss Army Knife turns 125*

*Karl Elsener invented the Swiss army knife 125 years ago*

*125 years ago Karl Elsener patented the original officer's and sports knife. A reason to celebrate!”*

For me, none of these sentences are true. Because Swiss pocket knives - if you mean pocket knives made by a cutler in Switzerland - have been around for much longer than the Victorinox company. For example, the Klötzli company in Burgdorf has a history that goes back further than that of Victorinox. And most of the early knife makers, some of whose stories go back to the Middle Ages, no longer exist today. Furthermore, as mentioned above, it was not an “invention,” and certainly not a “patent.”

Basically, I can well understand that such sentences can be used for good advertising. But in my opinion it simply gives a wrong picture. If you read the sentences above you can come to the conclusion that Karl Elsener basically and alone developed the pocket knife as such. Whatever. Some is myth and some is fact. And some things are the company, which has now obviously become very large, and not all areas can be completely controlled and monitored by the Elsener family. And the areas of marketing and social media have certainly gained enormously in importance recently, and since these are mostly qualified professionals who hold these positions and not necessarily knife enthusiasts, exactly such marketing images can emerge. And as long as there is no opposing party (possibly Wenger Delémont in the past) who has an interest in revising certain positions, there are no legal consequences. But I also see it as part of my task with this brochure to try to convey as neutral and objective an image as possible without discrediting any manufacturer. Because one must not forget: Victorinox and the Elsener family have achieved an enormous amount for the entire cutlery sector in Switzerland, which was and is absolutely not a given and cannot be valued highly enough. This is evident from the fact that many of the smaller cutlers who were still active and ran cutlery until the 1950s had completed their apprenticeship or at least parts of it at the Victorinox company in Ibach. As far as I know, the takeover of Wenger by Victorinox was never about eliminating a competitor, but rather about preventing the Wenger company from falling into foreign hands.

The Wenger company already owed a lot to Victorinox, even if they were competitors. For example, Wenger adopted the name officer's knife from Victorinox for parts of their pocket knives, which probably would not have been so easy without Victorinox's consent. As with Victorinox, red celluloid/Cellidor was also used as the scale material for these pocket knives, which replaced the materials fiber, horn and others. The coat of arms or trademark of the two companies were very similar: cross in a shield. This was how the pocket knife scales were embossed and the companies were marketed with these symbols. The models - although different in size - were practically identical in structure between Victorinox and Wenger. The "classic" officer's knife had 6 tools, 4 at the front and 2 at the back. Then there were narrower officer's knives with only 3 tools, as well as various larger ones when tools such as scissors, saws, fish scalers or magnifying glasses were added to the standard model. All of these similarities meant that officer's knives - or Swiss Army Knives - were able to conquer the world and soon the pocket knives of the two companies were seen as equivalent, and many people no longer knew the difference.

In my opinion, the English-language term “Swiss Army Knife” has the same meaning as the term “Swiss Officer's Knife”. Since there is no “official” definition of what a Swiss Army Knife is and is not, here is an attempt at a definition as I see and understand it, and how it is my impression that it is perceived by professionals.

- A Swiss officer's knife (English: Swiss Army Knife) refers to a pocket knife from Victorinox (and formerly Wenger) in the sizes 82 mm (Wenger, early models), 84 mm (Victorinox, only the "wide" line), 85 mm (Wenger, Victorinox Delémont, Victorinox), 91 mm (Victorinox, only the “wide” line) and 92 mm (Wenger, early models).

This definition deliberately excludes many other similar pocket knives, such as pocket knives from SWIZA, from Dedelley (ERINOX Brand), or from foreign manufacturers such as Puma or Henckels.





Classic early officer's knife from Wenger on the left (82 mm and 92 mm) and Victorinox on the right (84 mm and 91 mm)

The term “Swiss Army Knife” is generally also used by some for any Swiss pocket knives, and sometimes also for knives from foreign companies that produce similar pocket knives. I think a large portion of the general population in English speaking countries would define or view a Swiss Army Knife like this:

- Red pocket knife with various tools

I don't think this definition or perspective is useful for articles in the Elsi-Post, as they are aimed more at a specialist audience or at least people who are not just superficially interested in pocket knives.

Historically, the term “officer's knife” had its origins at Victorinox. Since Wenger developed very similar models at the same time and certainly later, when both manufacturers used red plastic scales for these pocket knives, these types of knives could hardly be distinguished from one another by a large part of the population. This contributed to the fact that the term “officer's knife” was generally used for both manufacturers. In order to avoid certain confusion later and to differentiate themselves from one another, Wenger used the term “Genuine Swiss Officer's Knife” and Victorinox used the term “Original Swiss Officer's Knife. In 2021, Victorinox submitted applications for trademark protection to the commercial register for the names “Swiss Army Knife” and “From the Makers of the original Swiss Army Knife”. There was also an entry for the name “Wenger. A Brand of Victorinox, Maker of the Original Swiss Army Knife”. A decision has not yet been made and the applications are still pending. The thrust seems clear. In principle, we would like to be recognized as the de facto sole manufacturer of officer's knives, and the term "Genuine Swiss Army Knife" should disappear. In



general, the names Wenger and Delémont should disappear. From Victorinox's point of view, this makes a lot of sense and is easy to understand. I think the term "officer's knife" should basically disappear completely. Even with the replica of the officer's knife for the 125th anniversary, people often simply refer to it as the "Swiss Army Knife" and communicate accordingly. The blade embossing "Officer Suisse" has long since disappeared from all pocket knives. It is very challenging for an internationally active company like Victorinox to choose a general term that has the same linguistic meaning everywhere. Small Switzerland with its 4 national languages has its own challenges. In addition, in the dialect language spoken in German-speaking Switzerland, the term "pocket knife" or "officer's knife" does not appear, but rather terms such as "Sackmesser" or "Sackhegel", or simply "Hegel" as a synonym for "knife". Nobody here talks about the Swiss Army Knife, or SAK for short. Personally, I find the term Swiss Army Knife generally difficult and problematic. This has grown historically and nothing will change, I assume, which is to be accepted. Descriptions like "From the Maker of the Original Swiss Army Knife" would be factually correct, but a very long term and therefore hardly applicable in everyday life. I don't understand why the term "Swiss Pocket Knife" or simply "Swiss Knife" didn't catch on.

It would probably be welcome if the name "Swiss Army Knife" were registered and thereby protected. In fact, Victorinox has been the sole supplier of Swiss soldiers' knives since 2008. But what about other knives? The knives that are used in the army in the kitchen or for field work, are they also exclusively from Victorinox? What if, for example, the Henckels company from Solingen supplies butcher knives to the Swiss army. Then Henckels could also call these knives "Swiss Army Knives" because they are actually Swiss army knives?



Here is a video about the beginnings of the officer's knife



English

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0XSBWERLr5c&t=7s>



























German

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0XSBWERLr5c&t=7s>

I find it important and essential that an "original" officer's knife can be correctly identified as such. This also requires knowing what constitutes such an original officer's knife and how it can be distinguished from a "copy" or "imitation". One possibility is to use the blade embossing as a distinguishing feature. However, these are not always clearly recognizable or legible and, for example, they do not always clearly say "Made in China". In addition, sometimes you only have photos of the knives in front of you when they are closed, which is why identification based on the embossing is not possible. Here is a list of the features on the scales of the original officer's knives that can be used to differentiate and identify them. A distinction is made between the two manufacturers Victorinox and Wenger.

## Victorinox Scale-Crosses regular

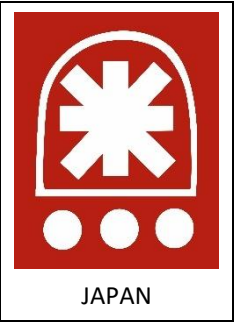
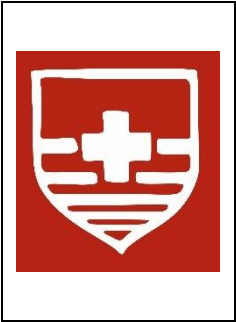
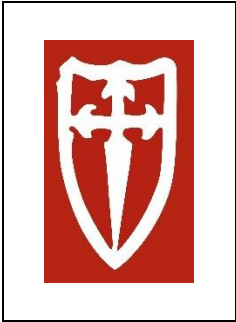
<p>A ca. 1905 - ca. 1915</p>  <p>nickel-silver on: fiber</p>	<p>B ca. 1910</p>  <p>nickel-silver on: fiber</p>	<p>C ca. 1915 - ca. 1941</p>  <p>nickel-silver on: fiber</p>	<p>D ca. 1939</p>  <p>nickel-silver on: cellidorwood, alu</p>	<p>E ca. 1935 - today</p>  <p>nickel-silver, alox after 1980 on: cellidor nylon,</p>
<p>F ca. 1935 - today</p>  <p>nickel-silver on: cellidor</p>	<p>G ca. 1960</p>  <p>nickel-silver on: cellidor</p>	<p>H 1973 - 1994</p>  <p>printed on: cellidor</p>	<p>I 1994 - 2007</p>  <p>printed on: nylon</p>	<p>J 2008 - today</p>  <p>base material on: nylon</p>
<p>K 1982 - today</p>  <p>printed on: cellidor</p>	<p>L 1982 - today</p>  <p>printed on: cellidor</p>			

Wenger scale crosses						
CIVIL						
 <p>1907 - ca. 1920 <small>© WIP</small></p>	 <p>ca. 1930 - 1945 <small>© WIP</small></p>	 <p>ca. 1930 - 1945 <small>© WIP</small></p>	 <p>ca. 1930 - 1955 <small>© WIP</small></p>	 <p>ca. 1940 - 1960 <small>© WIP, WIP/ST, WIP</small></p>	 <p>ca. 1940 - 1950 <small>© WIP</small></p>	 <p>1940 - 1964 <small>© WIP, WIP/ST</small></p>
 <p>1940 - 1964 <small>© WIP, WIP/ST</small></p>	 <p>ca. 1966 - 1980 <small>© WIP/ST</small></p>	 <p>ca. 1975 - 2008 <small>WIP</small></p>	 <p>ca. 1975 - 2008 <small>WIP</small></p>	 <p>ca. 1975 - 2008 <small>WIP</small></p>		

Caution! Not every knife that has a coat of arms/cross in the table above is automatically an officer's knife. These coats of arms/crosses were also used for completely different pocket knife models and other tools/watches.

Here is a list of some inlays or prints on scale material, which have crosses or cross-like drawings, usually with the intention of giving the impression that it is an original Swiss officer's knife.

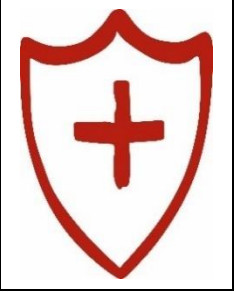
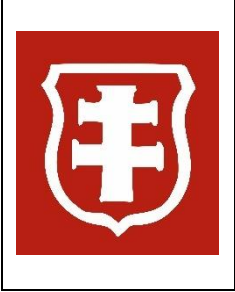
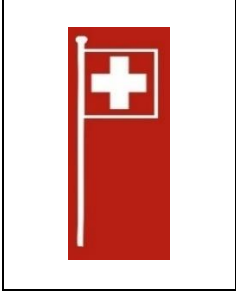




JAPAN



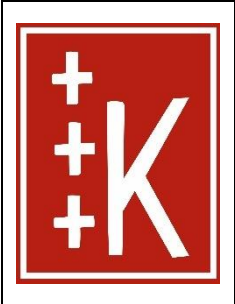
Jordan C. and son,  
Solingen



SYRACUSE



AITOR



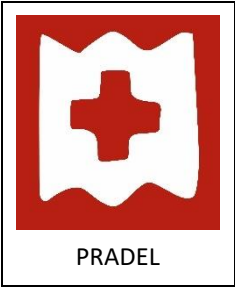
CHINA



SWIZA



PUMA, Solingen



PRADEL



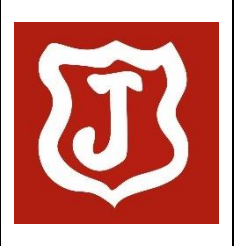
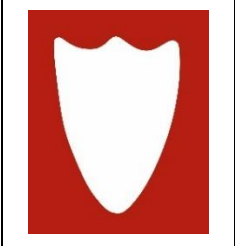
Henckels, Solingen



FACO



CHINA



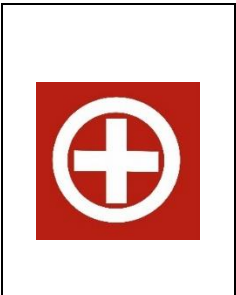
RICHARTZ,  
Solingen



Dedelley, Les  
Friques



Dedelley, Les  
Friques



Basically, pocket knives can be assessed based on various criteria. If you follow these and apply and compare them correctly, you will probably come to a result that is almost 100% correct. Often a single criterion is not enough, but rather it is the sum of evidence that gives you an idea of whether something is original or not.

- Correct blade embossing (see Tang-Stamps Victorinox/Wenger)
- Correct engraving, inlay or printing on the scale
- Correct size and shape
- Tool in form and function (see tool development)

Of course, there are always special cases that make identification difficult, especially if the knives have been repaired and not equipped with the correct spare parts. There are also many advertising knives that do not have the usual scale printing or scale inlay, but rather a logo of the advertising company, and they can still be original Swiss army knives. In unclear situations, it is therefore always advisable to seek the opinion of a specialist. This means someone who has many years of experience in collecting and identifying Swiss Army knives. Correct identification can determine whether a pocket knife is worth several 100 or even several 1,000 CHF, or is only valid as a paperweight.

## Unglücksfälle und Verbrechen.

— Uster, 4. April. (Korresp.) Unsere Gegend ist, abgesehen von dem Unfall auf dem Greifensee durch ein schweres Verbrechen in große Aufregung versetzt. In Hegnau wurde heute früh der 22-jährige Landwirth Winkler mit durchschnittenem Halse in seinem Blute schwimmend gefunden. Ob Mord oder Körperverletzung mit tödtlichem Ausgang vorliegt, ist noch nicht ermittelt. Der Thäter, ein junger Kaminfegerbursche, soll jedoch bereits ein theilweises Geständniß abgelegt haben.

*Neue Zürcher Zeitung, number 96, April 5, 1892*

Accidents and crimes.

Uster, April 1st. (Corresp.) Apart from the accident on Lake Greifen, our area is in great turmoil due to a serious crime. In Hegnau this morning, 22-year-old farmer Winkler was found swimming in his blood with his neck cut. It has not yet been determined whether murder or bodily harm resulted in death. However, the perpetrator, a young chimney sweep boy, is said to have already made a partial confession.

## Comparative example with an imitation from Henckels, Solingen

Basically, you always have to assume that when officer knives are copied, counterfeited or passed off as such, it is always about making a profit from a very successful product. This is fundamentally not objectionable and is legally acceptable in most cases. For example, when the Nestlé company revolutionized the coffee market with the development of the Nespresso series, there are now a lot of imitation products, some of which are probably even better than the original. The fact that many, some of them very well-known, knife manufacturers have developed and produced imitations of officer's knives themselves indicates that there was/is demand among many customers for precisely such knives.

Using a concrete example, I would like to show that the similarities are sometimes very strong and identification can be difficult. This is a copy of the "officer's knife" or the "Swiss army knife" in general from Zwilling JA Henckels AG from Solingen, Germany. The imitation is so deceptive that even the renowned knifemaker author Neal PUNCHARD writes in his book "JA Henckels Knives" that the Victorinox company made these pocket knives for Henckels, which was not the case. An inquiry to Victorinox revealed that they never produced pocket knives for the Henckels company.

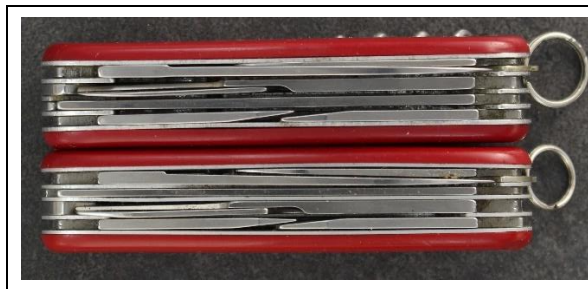
Henckels has developed a whole range of imitation officer's knives, which are still manufactured and sold. Here is a model, according to the previous name at Victorinox a model no. 135 f or 235 f, on the left the original, on the right the copy:

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The two models (Victorinox on the left, Henckels on the right) look very similar at first glance. It is the identical size (91 mm), the same tools (except the corkscrew/Philips screwdriver), the same scale color, the same structure. The printed logo on the Henckels knife is barely recognizable, while it is still clearly visible on the Victorinox model.



In this view, both pocket knives look very similar. In the Henckels model below, round pieces have been cut out of the liners to make it easier to open the tools.



The small cutting blade (the photo above left) are virtually identical. With the large cutting blade (the photo above right) you can see grooves in the surface of the Henckels model on the left from grinding. Victorinox also previously had these grooves on the Elinox and Economy lines, a lower cost line. Among other things, the tools were not polished. Here you can already see a difference in quality between the two pocket knives.





The large cutting blades appear practically identical. The only thing is that Henckels' model is a bit dull towards the end. The nail impact is also smaller than with Victorinox.



At first glance there are hardly any differences between the two scissors. These are only recognizable at second glance (including the screw with which the Victorinox scissors are secured, the different nail cut and the different ground surface)



When it comes to fish scalers, the differences are immediately noticeable. The one from Henckels on the left is very simple, without a scale, without an inclined surface.

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When it comes to screwdrivers, the differences between the two pocket knives are minimal



There are a few differences in the can opener, apart from the basic shape, which is practically identical.



The awls of the two pocket knives are completely different. The awl from Henckels on the left is very simple without any advanced functions.



There are big differences when it comes to the eyelet for the key ring. When it comes to liners in general, there are big differences (picture above right). While the liners on Victorinox (lower pocket knife) are partially continuous, on Henckels they are largely cut out.

Overall, a big difference in the quality of many tools can be seen in the photos. This becomes even more apparent when you hold both pocket knives in your hands and use them. It is not entirely clear whether Henckels produces their imitation officer knives themselves or has them produced.

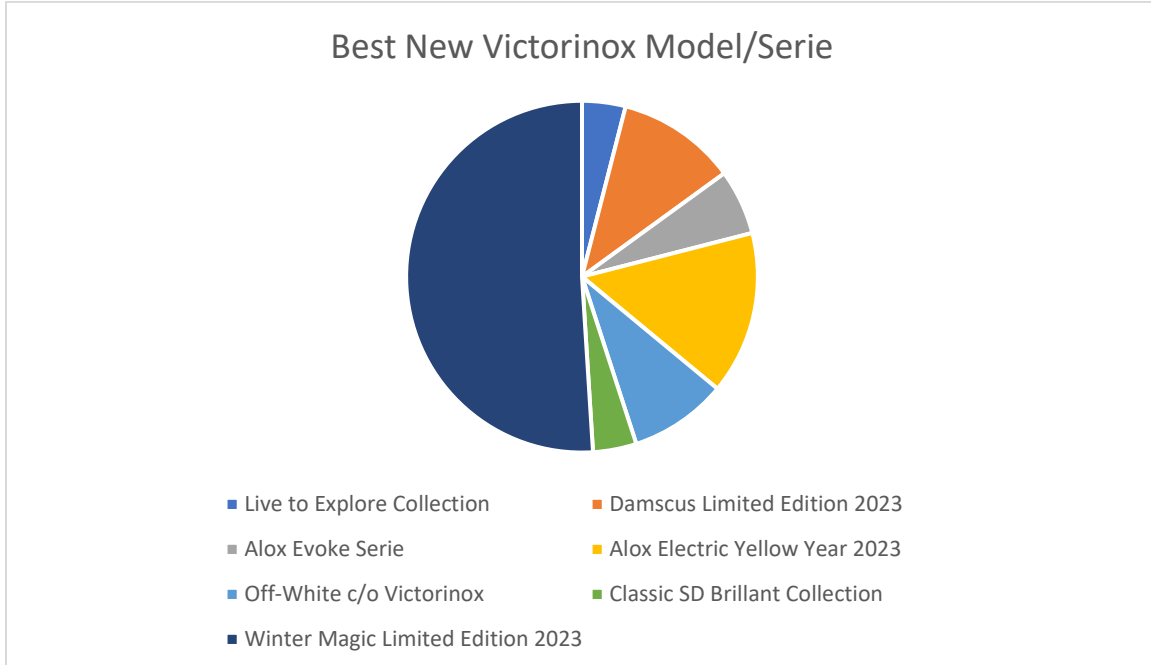
In my opinion, these differences in quality exist with all imitations of officer's knives, even with renowned manufacturers from Germany such as Henckels or Puma. Unlike Victorinox (with the exception of certain locking knives), Henckels and Puma have many of their products produced cheaply in Eastern Europe or Asia, with all the losses in quality that this entails. That's why my tip: it's better to spend a little more money and buy a quality product that you will enjoy for years.

## Survey results from Elsi Post issue 1 from November 2023

### Best New Victorinox Model/Serie

Which recent Victorinox model/series did you like the most? / Welches Victorinox Modell/Serie der letzten Zeit hat dir am besten gefallen?

- 4% Live to Explore Collection
- 11% Damascus Limited Edition 2023
- 6% Alox Evoke Serie
- 15% Alox Electric Yellow Year 2023 Collection
- 9% Off-White c/o Victorinox
- 4% Classic SD Brilliant Collection
- 51% Winter Magic Limited Edition 2023



The results of the survey are clear. Over half of all people who voted chose the Winter Magic Limited Edition 2023. It's nice to see that there are fans for all the new models or series. For example, almost one in 10 people chose the Off-White c/o Victorinox, a model that received a lot of criticism from collectors. In addition, the two annual series 2023 Alox and Damascus are very popular.



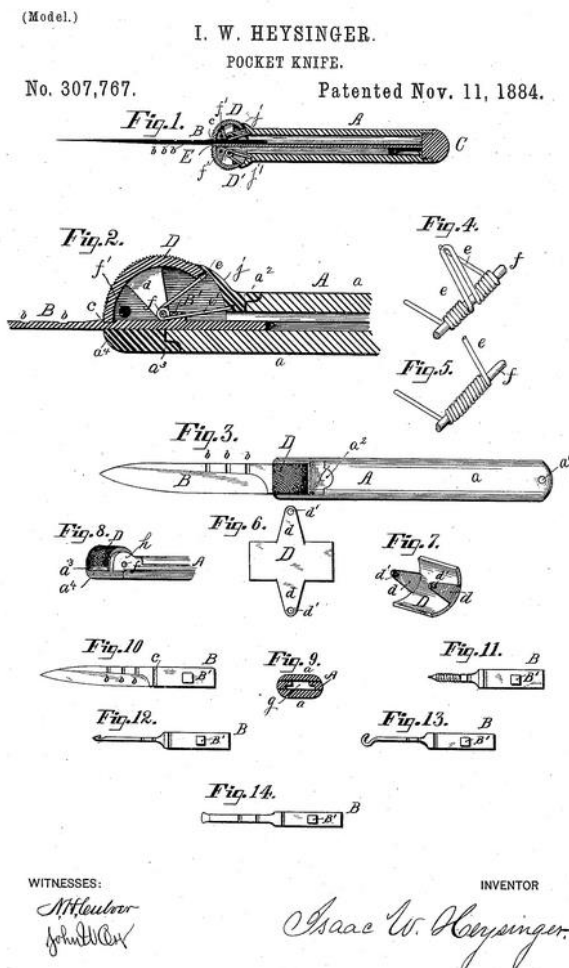
## The Heysinger-Wenger gravity knife

In November 1884, Captain Isaac Winter Heysinger received the patent for a special pocket knife that he had developed. Isaac W. Heysinger, recovered in 1842 and died in 1917, had been a captain in the 19th Pennsylvania Cavalry. At the same time, Mr. Heysinger also received 4 other patents, for a gas burner, a pen holder with a palette for painters, a patent for improving the safety of cable car routes, and for an inkwell. This shows that Isaac W. Heysinger was obviously a very creative person with many ideas in various fields of activity. What is still known today is his patented pocket knife.

It was a pocket knife that could be operated with one hand, a so-called gravity or falling knife. The knife blade was not under spring tension as is usual with a pocket knife, but could be sunk into or removed from the handle purely by gravity. The blade was secured to ensure that this did not happen uncontrollably.

From Heysinger's point of view, this special design had several advantages over other knives. The knife could be operated with one hand. In addition, the knife handle could be equipped with various other tools. If a tool or knife blade broke, not the entire pocket knife, but only 1 workpiece had to be replaced. The pocket knife could be completely taken apart and cleaned so easily. This pocket knife was probably one of the first so-called automatic knives or switchblades.

Here is a copy of the original drawing that was attached to the patent application.



Here is the complete, very detailed description of the patent:

## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ISAAC W. HEYSINGER, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

## POCKET-KNIFE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 307,767, dated November 11, 1884.  
Application filed April 28, 1884. (Model.)

## To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ISAAC W. HEYSINGER, of Philadelphia, in the county of Philadelphia and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Pocket-Knives, &c., of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the drawings accompanying and forming a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a longitudinal vertical section of a knife embodying my invention, in which double parallel blades are shown. Fig. 2 is an enlarged similar view in section of the front portion of a single-bladed knife of my construction. Fig. 3 is a view of the knife as it appears when in use. Figs. 4 and 5 show slightly different forms of the catch-actuating spring. Fig. 6 is a view of the metal blank out of which I prefer to form the catch which holds the blade when the same is projected and closes the opening against foreign bodies when the same is retracted. Fig. 7 shows the catch in its completed form. Fig. 8 exhibits the forward end of the knife with the blade-slot closed by the front edge of the spring-catch. Fig. 9 is a cross-sectional view of the handle, showing the top and bottom plates *a*, *a*, and the riser *A*, to which they are attached. Figs. 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14 show samples of various similar tool-blades, which are adapted to be used interchangeably, if desired.

The lettering in all the figures is uniform. My invention relates to a pocket, dirk, or hunting knife, or similar tool in which the blade is carried in a longitudinal slot or channel in the handle, opening externally at one end, and is adapted to be projected point foremost from the open end of the said channel and held thus projected by a stop or catch, upon releasing which the blade is retracted into the handle, where it lies concealed until required for use. The advantages of this form of tool are obvious, especially in emergencies, as it can be readily operated with one hand, which is not the case with pocket-knives or like tools as ordinarily constructed.

The first part of my invention consists in providing the handle of the knife or other tool with a spring-catch pivoted at or near

the open end of the blade-slot, said catch being so constructed as to turn upon a central pivot alongside the blade, so that the knife as ordinarily held in the hand for use will present immediately under the thumb and over the pivot a segment of a cylinder or other elevated part, which, being properly roughened, will be rotated by drawing the thumb backward tangentially to the thumb-piece along the axis of the handle, and thus raise the front edge of the catch and uncover the end of the blade-slot, whereby the blade will drop out by gravity if the handle be held downward, and conversely, or may be projected by a sudden jerk, or by the action of a concealed spring. This tangential motion of the thumb in opening the knife, which combines the ordinary pressure of the hand against the handle, as when using it habitually, with a simple slight backward pull, is so easy and without effort, and almost without thought, while its action is instantaneous, either for opening or closing up the blade.

The second part of my invention consists in providing the front part of the thumb-piece with a broad flap or edge as wide as the blade used therein, which is adapted to close over the open end of the blade-channel and act as a perfect valve, completely closing the slot against the entrance of foreign substances—such as dirt or moisture—which usually in time render this class of tools inoperable if he used for purposes to which a long blade is not adapted—as for sharpening pencils, as an eraser, for surgical uses as a lancet or bistoury, or to secure increased strength for heavy work upon the part of the blade required to be exposed.

The third part of my invention consists in providing the blade with transverse grooves at various points along its length, in addition to the groove which stops the blade when fully projected, so that the blade can be firmly fixed at various distances, whereby the knife may be used for purposes to which a long blade is not adapted—as for sharpening pencils, as an eraser, for surgical uses as a lancet or bistoury, or to secure increased strength for heavy work upon the part of the blade required to be exposed.

the thumb and above the pivot, a segment of a cylinder or other raised part, which, when properly roughened, can be rotated can be done by pulling the thumb tangentially backwards. Move the thumb piece along the axis of the handle, thus raising the front edge of the latch and developing the normal pressure of the hand against the handle as is so easy and natural in ordinary use by simply pulling back slightly. Opening the knife is absolutely effortless and almost thoughtless, while the action is instantaneous, be it opening or closing the blade.

The second part of my invention is to provide the front part of the thumb lock with a wide flap or edge, as wide as the blade used there, adapted to close the open end of the blade channel and serve as a perfect Valve that completely closes the slot against the ingress of foreign substances such as dirt or moisture, which usually render this type of tools inoperable over time when carried in the pocket, the said edge also acting as a stop against the ingress when raised of foreign bodies. They secure the blade and prevent it from retracting by engaging a transverse groove in the shaft of the blade.

The third part of my invention is to provide the blade with transverse grooves at various points along its length, in addition to the groove that stops the blade when it fully protrudes, so that the blade can be firmly fixed at various distances, thereby making the Knife can be attached.

To all whom it may concern, be informed that I, Isaac W. Heysinger, of Philadelphia, in the county of Philadelphia, and in the state of Pennsylvania, have invented a certain new and useful improvement in pocket knives, of which the following is a complete, clear, and accurate description is, reference being made to the accompanying drawings which form a part of this specification, in which: Figure 1 is a vertical longitudinal section of a knife embodying my invention in which double parallel blades are shown. Fig. 2 is an enlarged, similar sectional view of the front portion of a single-edged knife of my design. Figure 3 is a view of the knife as it appears in use. Views 4 and 5 show slightly different shapes of the detent actuation spring. Figure 6 is a view of the metal blank from which I prefer to form the latch that holds the blade when it is extended and closes the opening against foreign objects when it is retracted. Figure 7 shows the closure in its finished form. Figure 8 shows the front end of the knife with the blade slot closed by the front edge of the spring latch. Fig. 9 is a cross-sectional view of the handle, showing the upper and lower plates *aa* and the edge *A* to which they are attached. Figures 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 show examples of various similar tool blades that can be used interchangeably if necessary. The labeling of all figures is consistent.

My invention relates to a pocket knife, dagger or hunting knife or similar tool in which the blade is carried in a longitudinal slot or channel in the handle, opening outwardly at one end, and is adapted to fit with the Tip protrudes forward from the open end. The blade is pulled out of the channel and held forward by a stop or latch. When released, the blade retracts into the handle, where it lies hidden until needed for use. The advantages of this form of tool are obvious, especially in an emergency, as it can be easily operated with one hand, which is not the case with pocket knives or similar tools of a conventional design.

The first part of my invention is to provide the handle of the knife or other tool with a spring latch pivotable at or near the open end of the blade slot, the latch being constructed to revolve around a central pivot point next to the blade, so that the knife, when normally held in the hand for use, has, immediately below

The fourth part of my invention consists in adapting a handle substantially of the class of knives specified to receive interchangeably various analogous tools—such as crochet-needles, Brad-awls, screw-drivers, marking-pencils, button-hooks, &c.—which may be inserted and used at pleasure with a handle common to all, by which means relative cheapness as well as convenience is secured, the blades in themselves being comparatively inexpensive and easy to make.

In addition to the foregoing, my invention consists of other peculiarities of construction, which will be hereinafter indicated in detail.

Referring to the drawings, Fig. 3 shows a knife constructed in accordance with my invention and having the blade projected. As will be seen, it consists of a hollow handle, *A*, forward end of which is provided with a lateral thumb-catch, *D*, by which the blade is held in place, as shown. The blade *B* is provided with a number of cross-notches, *b b b*, along its length, by means of which the catch *D* is enabled to seat itself therein and lock the blade at various distances of projection. These notches are formed in the body of the blade at its thickest part, and where beveled off to an edge they run out to nothing, as is shown.

In addition to the notches shown in Fig. 3, which I sometimes dispense with in practice, there is another or principal notch, *c*, (shown in Fig. 10,) which holds the blade when fully projected, and the Shank of the blade in rear of the notch *c* is made rectangular or solid in cross-section, to slide freely in the groove of the handle and support the edges of the blade from knocking against the sides thereof when retracted. Near its rear end is a stop-ling, *B'*, whereby the forward motion of the blade is arrested when the cross-groove *c* lies beneath the forward edge or lip of the catch *D*, by abutting against a projection within the handle *A*, whereby the blade *B* is allowed to drop out only to its proper position when the handle is held downward.

The slot, groove, or channel in which the blade travels is shown in Fig. 2. It extends nearly from end to end of the handle, and is of a shape to correspond to the solid Shank of the blade *B*, which reciprocates like a plunger longitudinally therein. Near its open end (see Fig. 8) are raised lateral ears *h*, one upon each side, through which passes the cross-pin *f*, upon which turns the catch *D* when acted upon by the thumb. This catch *D* may be of various forms within certain limits, but is preferably formed in the manner shown, with an elevation above the pin *f*, which I usually make the segment of a hollow cylinder (see Fig. 7) having lugs *d d* pierced with holes *d'*, through which passes the pin *f*, upon which the catch turns. The front edge or lip of the catch (see *e'*, Fig. 8) closes completely over the slot in the forward end of the handle against the opposite side of the said blade-

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slot, so as to make a symmetrical finish and present only a solid end, as habitually carried in the pocket; but when the elevated or roughened surface of the catch *D* is turned upon its pivot, by a tangential pull thereupon to the rear, the forward edge or lip of the catch is raised, so as to open the groove and allow the blade to drop, when the front end of the handle is held downward, until the forward motion thereof is arrested by the impingement of the stop *B'*, Figs. 2 and 8, against a lug or projection within the handle provided therefor. I sometimes project the blade by a concealed spring, but prefer to use gravity, as being more safe and more simple.

To actuate the catch *D* and hold it firmly closed against the blade *B* when projected, or against the opposite side of the blade-slot when the same is retracted, I provide the catch *D* with a spring. (Shown in Figs. 4 and 5 as detached, and in Figs. 1 and 2 as in place.)

For cheapness I prefer to use a coiled spring, which is wound around the central pivot-pin, *f*, having its two ends extended, so as to engage by one extremity, *e*, against the catch *D*, Fig. 2, and by the other extremity, *e'*, against a projection of the fixed handle *A*, so that its resistance or tension may hold the catch firmly forward and downward against the backward pull required to open it. I sometimes insert a flat spring in the handle, its point impinging against the rear edge of the catch to sustain it, or use other forms of spring, as circumstances may require. This catch *D* may be cast, molded, drop-forged, or formed otherwise. I prefer to make it of gun-metal or steel, and it may be dropped up from a blank of the form shown in Fig. 4, or cast in its finished form and dressed up; or it may be struck up from a sheet of brass or other material. I usually roughen or check its surface like the hammer-head of a pistol, which in form and mode of action it somewhat resembles.

To resist the side pressure upward of the blade against the forward lip of the catch *D*, I use a screw or rivet or other form of blade-support *f'*, Fig. 3, across the front of the open end of the blade-slot, and immediately behind the lip of the catch *D*, so that the Shank of the blade will abut against the said support and be thus securely held. The front edge of the catch *D* is also supported by this cross-piece, lying directly behind it, against a hard backward thrust of the blade in its 200

piece onto the handle, and when I use a screw or removable pin *I* sometimes so arrange the stop *B'* on the Shank of the blade *B* that it may abut against the said pin *f'*, so that by withdrawing the said pin the blade *B* may be removed and others substituted therefor.

In constructing the handle, while I sometimes cast or mold it of brass, malleable iron, white-metal, vulcanite, or other substances, in 130

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one solid piece, yet for neatness, strength, and lightness I prefer to make it with an open metal rim (see Figs. 2, 3, and 9) extending around the handle, within which rim the blade lies, and having formed upon it the elevated part *f'*, the function of which is to allow the requisite motion of the catch D without uncovering its rear edge, and also the lug or ear *a'*, Fig. 2, on the front end of the lower surface of the blade-slot, which will readily draw out of the sand in ordinary castings, these two projections *f'* and *a'* supporting the blade laterally. I usually form an ear, *a'*, at the rear part of the cross-pieces *j*, Fig. 2, to avoid the use of more than a single rivet. These ears *a'* and *a* do not extend entirely down to the surface of the rim A, Fig. 9, but allow a clear space beneath. (See Fig. 2.) I close the sides of the rim by plates of vulcanite, wood, horn, bone, or metal, to conform to the appearance of an ordinary pocket-knife, and secure lightness and strength. These plates, being notched or countersunk partly through their thickness at the front, are inserted so that the ears *a'* engage and lock them in place, while the binding rivet or screw *a'* is inserted at the rear. I also sometimes rivet the plates *a* at the sides as well as the end, or form them in other various and well-known ways.

Figs. 11, 12, 13, and 14 show several interchangeable tools, which may be inserted when the pin *f'*, the screw-plug C, Fig. 1, or the screw *a'*, Fig. 3, is removed, so that the blade-slot is opened.

In Fig. 1 I show a double construction, whereby two blades are adapted to lie parallel with each other, and to be projected from the same end of the handle, and independently of each other. These blades may be both knives, blades of different sizes, or different tools of the forms indicated in the figures below or others. For rapid changes I close this double barrel with a screw-plug, C, by withdrawing which the blades are drawn to the rear end, and can be replaced or others substituted therefor.

Where made very light for use—for instance, as an eraser—I provide the female thread at C for attachment to a pen-holder or pencil, or other like device; or I insert, instead of the plug C, a rubber eraser-head.

My invention, while more convenient for use than a knife requiring the use of two hands to open it, is especially useful when applied to dirt or bowie knives, or those in use by hunters, fishermen, &c., as the blade can be instantly projected by a turn of the wrist if it be possible to secure possession of the handle, while in sudden emergencies an ordinary clamp-knife could not be opened. It is also more useful for glove and shoe button hooks, and for various purposes where it is desirable to instantaneously open and close the blade by the use of a single hand—as, for instance, in cutting the cord while tying up packages, for

entering the leaves of books while reading, and for many other miscellaneous purposes which are constantly being met with in almost every one's experience.

Having now described my invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In combination with the handle A, having an internal longitudinal blade-slot open at the end *a'*, the blade B, having a guiding-shank at its rear end, and adapted to reciprocate to and fro in said slot, together with the blade-holding catch D, pivoted at *f'* near the open end of said slot, said catch being provided with an elevated or partly cylindrical thumb portion above the pivot, so as to adapt the catch to be partially rotated and opened by a backward pull of the thumb thereupon, substantially as described.

2. In combination with the hollow handle A and blade and shank B, having the stop *c*, the spring thumb-catch D, pivoted at *f'*, and provided with an edge or lip to engage with the said stop *c*, and an elevated or partly cylindrical thumb-portion adapted to be rotated upon its pivot by a backward tangential pull of the thumb against the same, so as to release the blade, the thumb-surface of the said catch being checked or roughened, to adapt it to be readily actuated by the thumb, substantially as described.

3. A lip or edge at the forward part of the rotating thumb-catch D, adapted to engage with a stop, *c*, upon the broad surface of the blade B when projected from the hollow handle A, and extending entirely across the said blade, and to close down when the blade is retracted, so as to entirely cover the open end of the blade-slot, substantially as shown and described.

4. In combination with the hollow handle A and thumb-catch D, the reciprocating blade B, provided with detents or stops *abb* at various points, adapted to engage with the catch D, whereby the blade may be fixed and securely held when projected to different distances, substantially as described.

5. In combination with the outer open metallic rim, A, provided with opposite terminal ears *j*, in combination with the thumb-catch D, pivoted at *f'*, and adapted to have its rear end pass down inside the ear *j* when the front edge is raised, substantially as described.

6. The hollow handle A, provided with the raised ear *j*, in combination with the thumb-catch D, pivoted at *f'*, and adapted to have its rear end pass down inside the ear *j* when the front edge is raised, substantially as described.

7. The thumb-catch D, dropped up from a metal blank, Fig. 6, into the form shown in Fig. 7, substantially as described.

8. In combination with the hollow handle A, having the solid supporting-ear *a'* at its forward end beneath the blade-slot, and the

It can be used for purposes for which a long blade is not suitable - for example, for sharpening pencils, as an eraser, for surgical purposes as a lancet or bisture, or to provide increased strength for heavy use to the part of the blade that needs to be exposed To lend work.

The fourth part of my invention is to adapt a handle essentially to the specified class of knives so that it can interchangeably accommodate various analogue tools - such as crochet hooks, awls, screwdrivers, marker pens, button hooks, etc. can be introduced at will with a handle common to all and are used, ensuring both relative cheapness and convenience, as the blades themselves are comparatively inexpensive and easy to manufacture. In addition, my invention has further special design features, which will be discussed in more detail below.

Referring to the drawings, Figure 3 shows a knife constructed in accordance with my invention with the blade protruding. As will be seen, it consists of a hollow handle A, the front end of which is provided with a side thumb fastener D, by which the blade is held in place as shown. Blade B is provided with a series of cross-shaped notches along its length which allow detent D to snap into it and lock the blade at various projection distances. These notches are formed in the body of the blade at the thickest point and taper off to nothing where they are beveled to an edge, as shown.

In addition to the notches shown in Fig. 3, which I sometimes forego in practice, there is another or main notch, O, (shown in Fig. 10), which the blade, when fully protruding, and the shank of the blade holds behind the notch c has a rectangular or solid cross-section to slide freely in the groove of the handle and prevent the edges of the blade from hitting the sides when retracted. Near its rear end is a stop lug B, by which the forward movement of the blade is stopped when the transverse groove O is below the front edge or lip of the detent D by abutting a projection in the handle A, thereby allowing the blade B only fall out into the correct position when the handle is held downwards.

The slot, groove or channel in which the blade moves is shown in Fig. 2. It extends almost from end to end of the handle and is of a shape corresponding to the solid shaft of the blade B, which reciprocates longitudinally within it like a piston. Near its open end (see Fig. 8) are raised lateral ears h, one on each side, through which passes the cross-pin f, on which the bolt D rotates when operated by the thumb. This latch D may, within certain limits, be of various shapes, but is preferably formed in the manner shown, with an elevation above the pin f, which I usually make from the segment of a hollow cylinder (see Fig. 7) with pierced lugs d, d with Holes O1 d, through which the pin f passes, on which the bolt rotates.

The front edge or lip of the latch (see Fig. 8) closes completely over the slot in the front end of the handle on the opposite side of the blade slot to create a symmetrical finish and provide only one fixed end, as usual in the pocket carried. However, when the raised or V-roughened surface of the bolt D is rotated about its pivot point and is then pulled tangentially rearward, the leading edge or lip of the bolt is raised, so as to open the groove and allow the blade to drop, when the front end of the handle is held downward until its forward movement is stopped by the impact of stop B, Figs. 2 and 8, against a lug or projection within the handle provided. Sometimes I project the blade through a hidden spring, but I prefer to use gravity because it is safer and easier.

To operate the latch D and keep it firmly closed against the blade B when extended, or against the opposite side of the blade slot when retracted, I spring-loaded the latch D. (Shown as removed in Figures 4 and 5 and attached in Figures 1 and 2.)

For reasons of cost, I prefer to use a coil spring wrapped around the central pivot f, with both ends extended so that one end 6 engages the bolt D, Fig. 2, and the other. The other end 6 presses against a projection of the fixed handle A so that its resistance or tension can hold the shutter firmly forward and downward to counteract the backward pull required to open it. Sometimes I insert a flat spring into the handle with the tip abutting the trailing edge of the bolt to hold it in place, or I use other forms of spring depending on the circumstances. This bar D can be cast, formed, drop-forged or otherwise shaped. I prefer to make it of gunmetal or steel, and it may be cut from a blank of the shape shown in Fig. 6, or cast and machined in its finished form; or it may be made from a sheet of brass or other material. I usually rough or test its surface like the hammer handle of a pistol, which it somewhat resembles in shape and action.

To resist the upward sideways pressure of the blade against the front lip of the latch D, I use a screw or rivet or other form of blade retainer f, Fig. 3, over the front of the open end of the blade slot and immediately behind the lip of the latch D, so that the shaft of the blade rests on the said support and is thus held securely. This web directly behind it also supports the front edge of the snapper D against hard recoil of the blade in its handle. Sometimes I forge or cast this cross piece onto the handle, and if I use a screw or a removable pin, I sometimes arrange the stop B on the shaft of the blade B so that it can abut against said pin f, so that one can can pull out. The blade B pin can be removed and replaced with others.

In constructing the handle, I sometimes cast or form it into a solid piece from brass, malleable iron, white metal, vulcanite, or some other substance, but for cleanliness, strength, and lightness I prefer to finish it with an open metal rim (see fig. 2, 3 and 9) extending around the handle in which the blade lies and is molded thereon, the raised part whose function is to allow the required movement of the bolt D without exposing its trailing edge, and also the nose or ear a4, Fig. 2, the front end of the lower surface of the blade slot, which supports these two projections j and a4, which laterally supports the blade, can be easily pulled out of the sand in ordinary castings. I usually form an ear a2 a3 (see Fig. 2) on the back of the cross pieces to avoid using more than a single rivet. These ears a2 and a3 do not extend completely to the surface of the rim A, Fig. 9, but leave a free space underneath. (See Fig. 2.) I cap the sides of the rim with plates of vulcanite, wood, horn, bone, or metal to match the appearance of an ordinary pocket knife and to ensure lightness and strength. These plates, which are partly notched or recessed at the front due to their thickness, are inserted so that the tabs snap into place and lock them in place when the connecting rivet or screw is inserted at the rear. Sometimes also rivet the plates both on the sides and at the end or shape them in other, well-known ways.

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thumb-catch D, adapted to close by its forward edge or lip down against the said solid ear *a'*, the cross-pin *f'*, extending across the blade-slot immediately behind the said edge *f'* or lip of D, so as to sustain the blade against pressure upon its flat side, substantially as described.

9. In a pocket-knife adapted to have the blade drop out from a hollow handle and to be held by a spring-catch, the cross-pin *f'* or

*f'*, in combination with the blade B and stop B', said stop being adapted to impinge against the said cross-pin and arrest the forward motion of the said blade, substantially as described.

ISAAC W. HEYSINGER.

Witnesses:

W. S. HOLZER,  
F. M. ROGERS.

Figures 11, 12, 13 and 14 show several interchangeable tools that can be used when pin f, locking screw 0, fig. 1 or screw (0, fig. 3) is removed so that the blades are loose .

In Fig. 1 I show a double design in which two blades are adapted to lie parallel to each other and protrude independently from the same end of the handle. These blades can be both knife blades of different sizes and different tools of the shapes indicated in the figures below or of other shapes. For a quick change, I close this double cylinder with a screw cap, O, by pulling it out the blades at the rear end fall out and can be exchanged or replaced with others.

If it is very light, for example to be used as an eraser, I provide the internal thread at O for attachment to a pen holder or pencil or other similar device; or I insert a rubber eraser head instead of plug G.

My invention, while more convenient to use than a knife that requires two hands to open, is particularly useful when applied to dagger or bowie knives or those used by hunters, fishermen, etc., as the blade opens instantly It can be projected by a turn of the wrist whether it is possible to secure possession of the handle, while in sudden emergencies an ordinary folding knife cannot be opened. It is also more useful for glove and shoe button hooks and for various purposes where it is desirable to open and close the blade instantly with one hand, such as cutting the cord when tying packages or cutting the leaves of books in reading and for many other various purposes that occur constantly in almost every human being.

Now that I have described my invention, what I claim and what I would like to secure through a letter patent is

1. In combination with the handle A, which has an internal longitudinal slot for the blade, which is open at the end a, the blade 13 having a guide shaft at its rear end and being adapted to move into the slot together with the blade slot - and move around. Retaining latch D pivotable at f near the open end of the slot, the latch being provided with a raised or partially cylindrical thumb portion above the pivot point to adjust the latch to be partially rotated and opened by a backward pull of the thumb can then be essentially as described.
2. In combination with the hollow handle A and the blade and shaft B, with the stop 0, the spring-loaded thumb catch D, which pivots at f and is provided with an edge or lip for engaging the stop 0, and a raised or Partial cylindrical thumb grip capable of being rotated about its pivot point by withdrawing the thumb tangentially against the same to release the blade, the thumb surface of the latch being ridged or roughened to allow easy movement thereof, operated by the thumb, substantially as set forth.
3. A lip or edge on the front part of the rotating thumb catch D, designed to engage a stop 0 on the broad surface of the blade B as it projects from the hollow handle A, and extending completely over the Blade extends and closes when the blade is retracted to completely cover the open end of the blade slot substantially as shown and described.
4. In combination with the hollow handle A and the thumb lock D, the reciprocating blade B, which is provided with detents or stops 0 b Z) Z) at various points, is adapted to engage the lock D , which allows the blade to be fixed and held securely when projected to different distances, essentially as described.
5. In combination with the outer open metallic rim A provided with opposite end eyelets j and a, the removable side plates aa are adapted to cover the open sides of the rim and essentially form the inner slot or groove 9 as described.
6. The hollow handle A, provided with the raised eyelet j, in combination with the thumb lock D, is pivoted at f and adjusted so that its rear end extends downward into the eyelet j when the front edge is raised, substantially as described.
7. The thumb fastener D lowered from a metal blank (Fig. 6) into the shape shown in Fig. 7, substantially as described.
8. In combination with the hollow handle A, which has the fixed support ear a at its front end below the blade slot, and the thumb lock D, which can close with its front edge or lip down against the fixed ear a, the cross pin f, which extends over the blade slot immediately behind the edge or lip of D to maintain blade pressure on its flat side, essentially as described.
9. For a pocket knife in which the blade emerges from a hollow handle and is retained by a spring catch, the cross pin f or f` in combination with the blade B and the stop B, the stop being adapted to abut against the cross pin and stopping the forward movement of the blade, essentially as described.

ISAAC W. HEYSINGER.

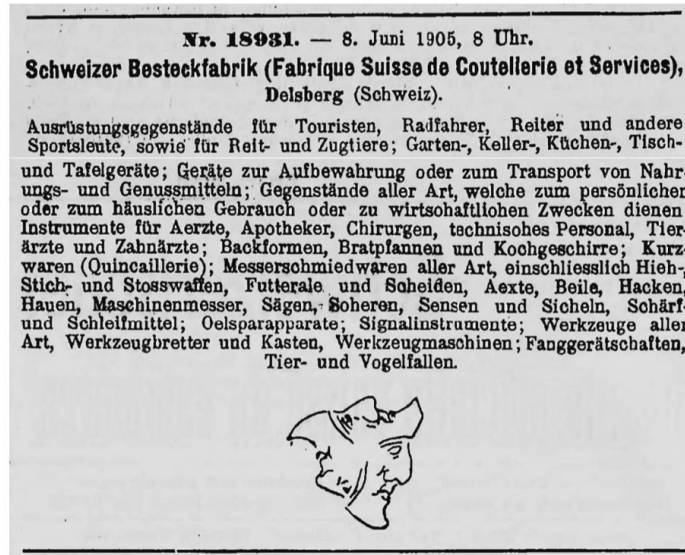
Witnesses: WS HOLZER, FM ROGERS.

The patent description is very comprehensive and shows many different options that come with this patent. From the description it is also clear that Isaac Heysinger himself was very intensively involved in the manufacturing process and developed various ideas about what else could be done with this patent. He had apparently also developed specific pocket knives based on this patent, which were equipped with a spring mechanism. However, there are mainly two sizes of pocket knives known based on this patent, and they are usually equipped with a cutting blade. Variants with different notches, for example, are not known. Other tools besides the cutting blade were certainly variants with a screwdriver. The material was usually a cast brass base, fitted with wooden scales that were screwed together and could be easily dismantled. The pocket knives are usually embossed with the following: "Hunting Knife" and/or "NOVELTY PAT. NOV. 11. 84", or "NOVELTY HUNTING KNIFE PAT. NOV. 11. 84», either engraved/stamped on the cutting blade, or on the back of the brass body.

The patent claim expired on November 11, 1901. From then on, any manufacturer was legally able to produce pocket knives based on this patent. However, it is not known that many other knife manufacturers would have produced large quantities based on this patent. In the meantime, there were also various other similar patents and other options for producing pocket knives that could be operated with one hand, which may be why Heysinger's patent had lost its importance.



Now we are coming back to Switzerland from the USA. Here the Wenger Delémont company itself manufactured such gravity knives, based on Heysinger's patent. These knives are marked with the Wenger trademark with the "3 heads". This logo was registered in the commercial register in 1905.

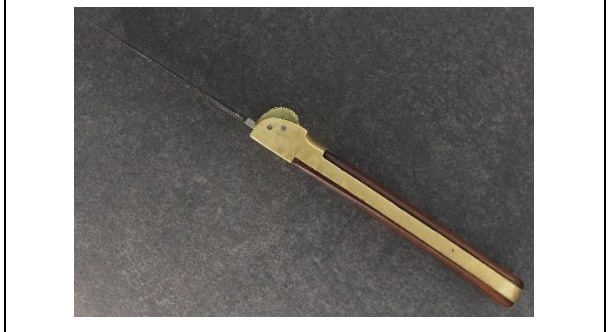


It is therefore clear that these pocket knives were produced at the earliest from 1905 onwards. These gravity knives are not shown in an old Wenger catalog from around 1910. This suggests that either Wenger manufactured these pocket knives between 1905 and 1910, or only in very small quantities. Since further markings and inscriptions are missing, it cannot be assumed that this was a customer order.

Below are pictures of the Wenger gravity knife.

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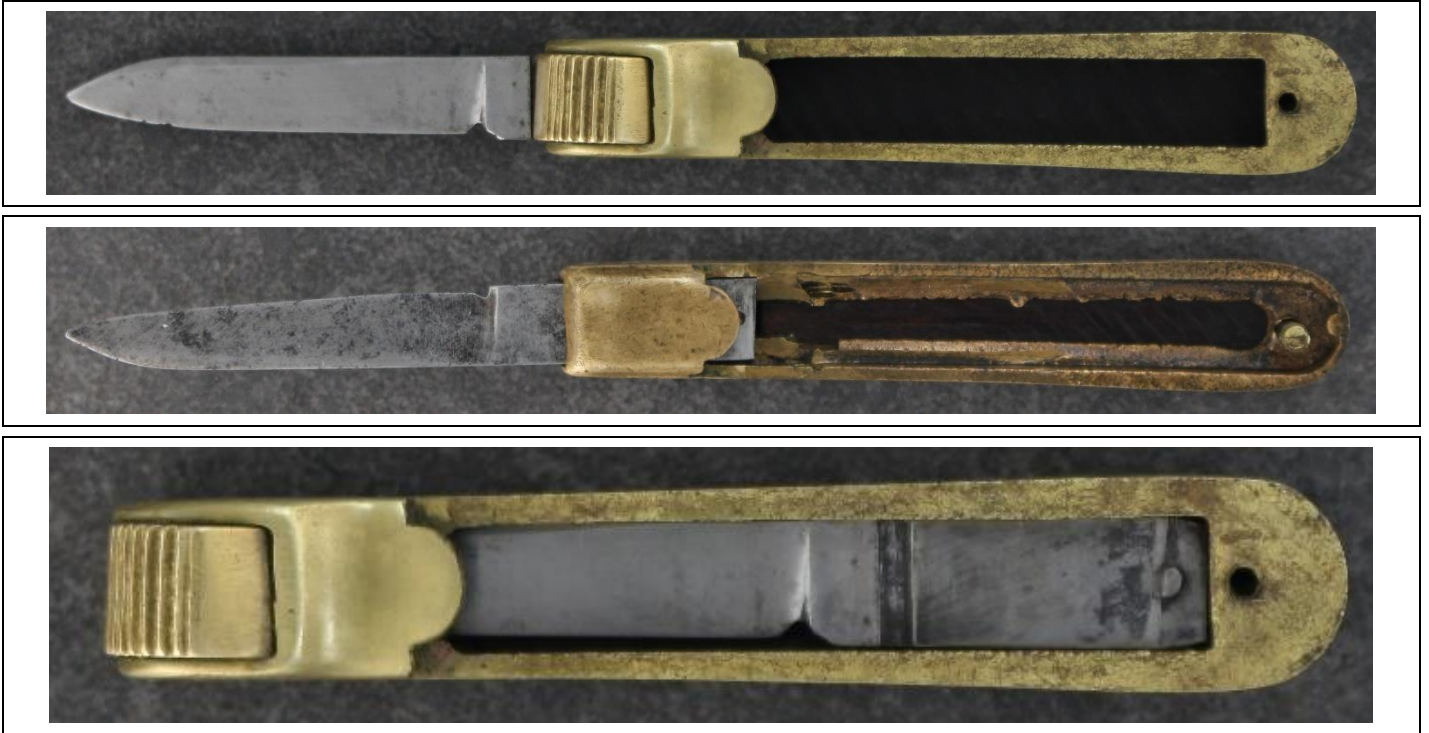




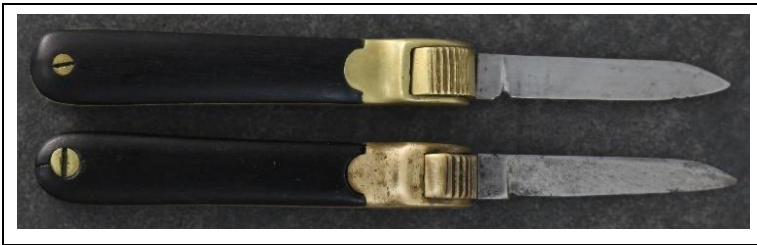
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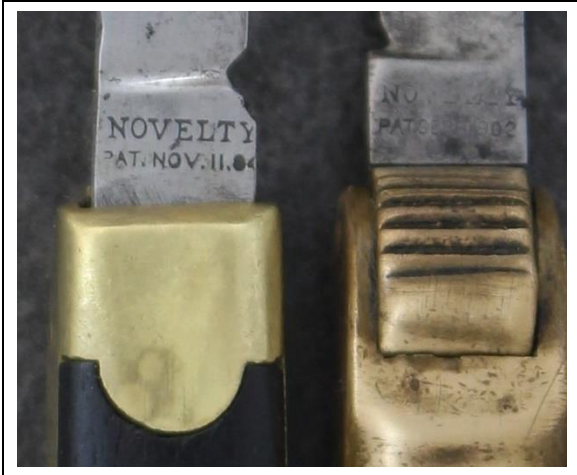
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Comparison of the "Wenger" model to the original "Heysinger" model



Above images of the "Heysinger" model





If you compare the Wenger gravity knife with the original Heysinger one, then the Wenger one makes a much more stable, solid impression, and not just because of the difference in size. The Wenger gravity knife has a closed length of 125 mm. The Wenger gravity knife has a cast brass body. The screws and the pusher are also made of brass. The scales are made of wood, probably walnut. A screw fixes both scale parts on the knife body. The Heysinger models had variants in which each scale was individually fixed with a screw.

## Legal situation of the gravity meter

The legal situation for such knives is often a bit unclear or vague, and it varies from country to country. The legal situation in Switzerland is as follows, based on the Federal Law on Weapons, Weapon Accessories and Ammunition 514.541. The following is stated here under Article 4 Section 1 on the subject of knives:

<sup>1</sup> *Knives are considered weapons if they:*

- a. *have a one-handed spring or other automatic release mechanism;*
- b. *when opened are more than 12 cm long in total; and*
- c. *have a blade that is more than 5 cm long.*

<sup>2</sup> *Butterfly knives are considered weapons if they meet the requirements of paragraph 1 letters b and c.*

<sup>3</sup> *Throwing knives and daggers are considered weapons if they have a fixed, tapered, symmetrical blade that is more than 5 cm and less than 30 cm long.*

Now what about in this case, is it a weapon and therefore a prohibited item or not? In a clarification of the law in the canton of Schwyz, the following is stated regarding fall knives:

Fall knife

Definition: Folding knives are a special type of knife in which the...

Knife handle hidden blade falls out of the handle due to gravity or a spinning movement and locks.

Folding knives are not considered weapons within the meaning of Article 4 Paragraph 1 Letter. C Weapons Act (WG; SR 514.54). If they are worn improperly, they can be confiscated as dangerous items (Art. 4 Para. 6 WG) and be confiscated.

<https://www.sz.ch/public/upload/assets/60041/DIV%20Entscheidshilfe%20Messer.pdf?fp=1>



The second section of the federal law sets out the restrictions regarding the use, purchase, etc. of knives.

2nd section: <sup>33</sup> knives and daggers, striking and throwing devices

<sup>33</sup>Inserted by point I of the V of June 14, 2019, in force since August 15, 2019 ( AS 2019 2377 ).

Art. 13a Bans and approvals for knives and daggers

(Art. 4 Para. 1 Letter c, 5 Para. 2 Letter a and Para. 6 as well as 28b WG)

<sup>1</sup> The following may not be transferred, acquired, transferred to recipients within Switzerland or brought into Swiss territory:

a.

Daggers in accordance with Article 7 paragraph 3;

b.

Knives whose blade is automatically triggered by a trigger mechanism that can be operated with one hand, namely a spring, gas pressure or rubber band;

c.

butterfly knife;

d.

Throwing knife.

<sup>2</sup> The responsible cantonal authorities issue exemptions for knives in accordance with paragraph 1, in particular if they are used by people with disabilities or certain professional groups.

<sup>3</sup> Swiss orderly daggers and bayonets may only be purchased commercially, brokered or brought into Swiss territory with a permit.

This means that these gravity knives, as presented here, are legally legal in Switzerland and can be collected and purchased. As long as you don't walk around with it in public with it in plain sight, there shouldn't be any problems.

**Neue Zürcher Zeitung, number 110, April 19, 1892**

## Unglücksfälle und Verbrechen.

— In der Strafuntersuchung gegen den bis jetzt leugnenden Maurer Hitz, der des Mordes an Hrch. Winkler in Hegnau angeschuldigt wird, ist wie das „Neue Winterthurer Tagblatt“ meldet ein wichtiges Beweis-Indizium entdeckt worden. Man hat nämlich ein mit Blutflecken ganz bedecktes Sackmesser gefunden, das zwei Zeugen im Besitze von Hitz gesehen haben wollen.

## Accidents and crimes.

In the criminal investigation against the bricklayer Hitz, who has so far denied the murder of Hrch. Winkler is accused in Hegnau, as the “Neue Winterthurer Tagblatt” reports, an important piece of evidence has been discovered. A pocket knife completely covered in bloodstains was found, which two witnesses claimed to have seen in Hitz's possession.

## No. 235 fm

### Story

The model no. 235 fm was developed by Victorinox around the mid/late 1950s. It first appeared in the Victorinox catalog in 1959. *It was probably the best-known model in a series called "fishing knives"*. Characteristic of this model were blue scales made of Cellidor, although the model was also produced with red Cellidor scales, as well as the inlay made of rust-resistant steel with the depiction of a fish. This model was produced until around 1985. Then the metal file was replaced by the newly developed pliers.

The first models still had the old external awl, which disappeared in 1961. This model was offered with toothpicks/tweezers and a hanger/key ring as standard.

### Functional parts

The model no. 235 fm had a small and a large cutting blade, a can opener, a screwdriver, a metal saw/file, scissors and a fish scaler and on the back a corkscrew and an awl. The model no. 235 fm was only available with toothpicks/tweezers and a bracket/key ring.

### Material thickness

Large cutting blade: 2.7 mm; small cutting blade: 1.7 mm; Scissors: 2.5mm; Metal saw/file: 1.8 mm; Fish scaler: 1.4 mm; Screwdriver: 2.0mm; Can opener: 2.0 mm; Corkscrew: 2.7mm; Awl: 2.0 mm

### Construction

Model No. 235 fm is a 5-layer pocket knife. The top layer consists of the can opener, screwdriver and an awl on the back. The bottom layer consists of a small and large cutting blade and a corkscrew on the back, the second layer consists of the scissors, the third layer consists of the metal saw/file and the fourth layer consists of the fish scaler. The latter is fixed to the foot rivet together with the small cutting blade, scissors, metal saw/file and screwdriver. The awl and corkscrew rotate around the center rivet.

### Scale material

Victorinox produced model No. 235 fm with scales made of red or blue Cellidor.

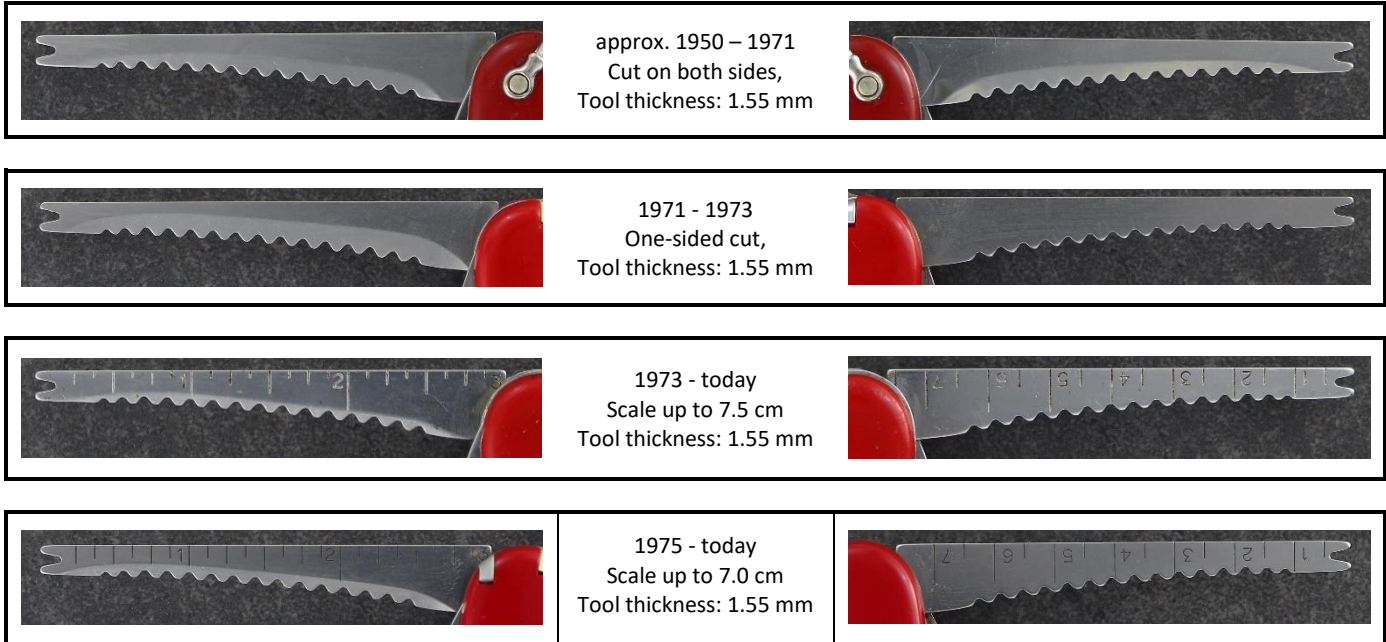
### Circuit boards/interlayer/rivets

The liners of model no. 235 fm are made of aluminum, the intermediate layer is made of nickel silver or aluminum.

**Trade name:** Angler

## Fish scaler

The fish scaler, the most important tool in the Angler model, was developed by Victorinox around 1950 and incorporated into its models. This went through various developments.



## variants

Over the course of development, there were different variants of model no. 235 fm with the same tool configuration. The one with the external awl is very rare as it was only made for a short time. Then there were different models of scissors, different small cutting blades, different inlays of the fish logo (nickel silver, steel, position of the logo), etc. For collectors, it is of course exciting to have different versions. In general, the old Angler model is relatively rare, and models with blue handles are sold very expensively in good condition (CHF 500 to CHF 1,000).



## Fishing Knives from Victorinox

Victorinox had its own category of fishing knives, among which the model No. 235 fm fell. These are mentioned for the first time in catalogs and illustrations around 1954 (shortly after the introduction of the fish scaler around 1950). Here's an advertisement.

The classic fish knife appears to have been model no. 235 f, which is also shown in the picture. Other fishing knives were the models No. 234 f (very rare; Spartan with fish scaler) and No. 135 f (Phillips screwdriver instead of the corkscrew). In 1959 the models No. 235 fm, No. 136 f and No. 236 f were added to the catalogs. Model No. 136 f disappeared from the catalog in 1964. Later, a distinction is made between knives for sport fishing and fishing knives. In several catalogs the two models No. 235 fm and No. 236 fm are mentioned as fishing knives with the characteristic blue scale. When it comes to model no. 236 fm, I am skeptical as to whether it even existed that early. This is a model no. 246 fm (Champion) without the long nail file. It made little sense to create your own model for this. In addition, I am not aware of any such blue early



für Sportfischer 246ka  
 235fa \*\*235fa U  
 236fa U \*135fa U  
Fischermesser blau mit "Fisch"-Intarsie  
 235fmaU 236fmaU

models No. 236 fm. In catalogs from the early 1970s, the Angler is only shown with red scales. There was also the model called "Fisherman", a model no. 135 f. These two models no. 235 fm and no. 135 f seem to have been the most popular overall.

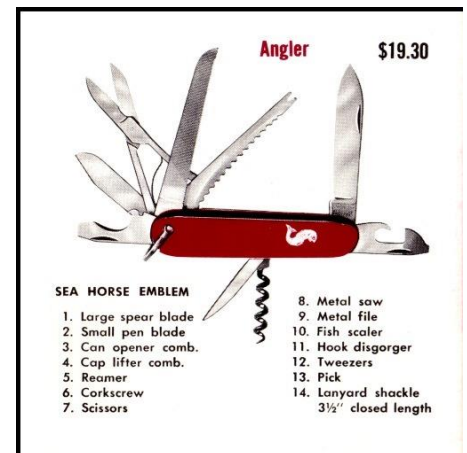
As was usual with Victorinox at the time, almost all combinations that were not in the catalog could be ordered individually. So it was certainly possible to have the blue handle scales fitted to other models. For

example, model no. 234 f with blue handle scales is known.



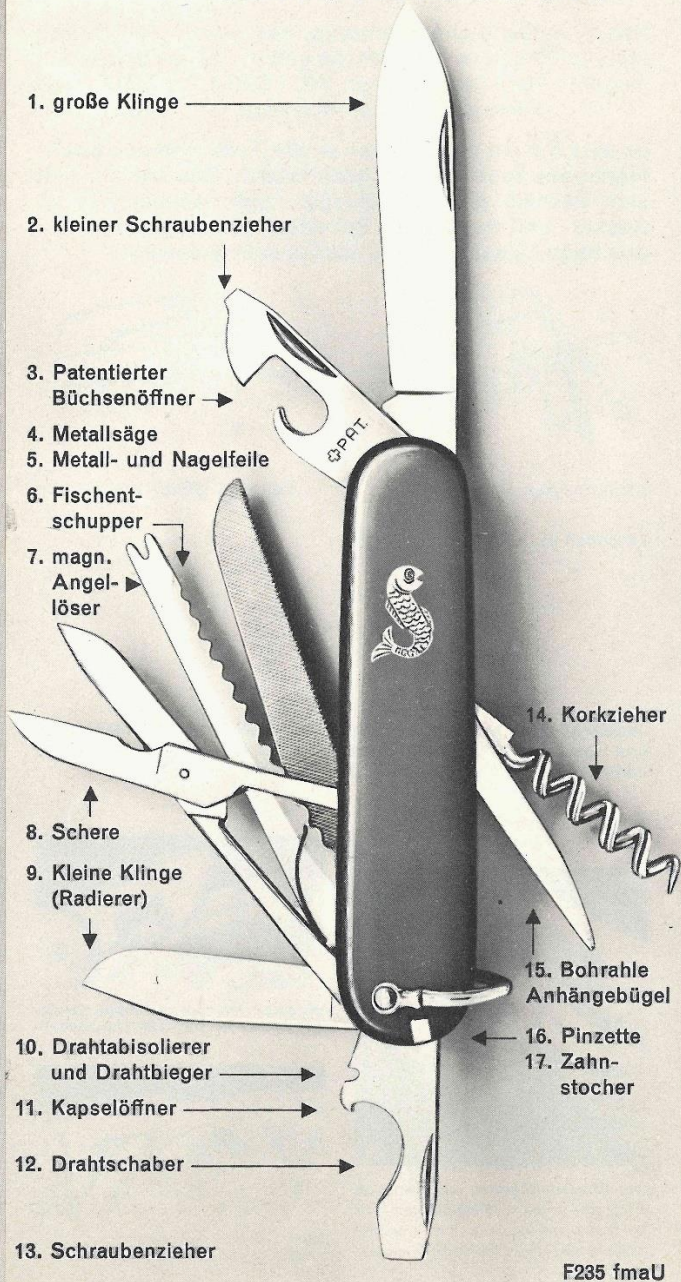
The model no. 235 fm can be viewed as a classic "fishing knife". In many promotional items, model no. 235 fm is advertised as "the fishing knife", with its own fold-out flyer and description. All individual tools and special features are also mentioned and described, such as the special scissors. Even if the scissors are supposed to have a so-called "clamping jaw" in advertising, this does not exist in reality, at least not as shown in the advertising flyer.

Such "mistakes" or "carelessness" happened again and again, which is entirely human. In advertising photos it could also happen that someone forgot to open a tool. Suddenly there were new models that were so unknown. It is therefore always advisable to examine different aspects and weigh them up against each other.





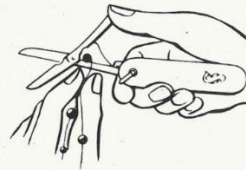
## Das Fischermesser!



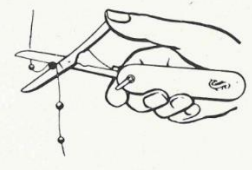
## Sportfischer!

Das unentbehrliche Werkzeug, das unzertrennlich und stets griffbereit in Ihre Tasche gehört, ist das solide und elegante Mehrzweckmesser VICTORIA F235 fmaU mit zusätzlicher Holz säge = F236 fmaU

Es wird Sie nie enttäuschen — alle Teile sind aus **hochlegiertem rostfreiem Spezialstahl**. Das Messer läßt sich deshalb mühelos reinigen und waschen; es ist wasser- und tropenfest. Schweizer Qualitätsarbeit! Ein prächtiges Geschenk und zudem sehr preiswert!



Klemmbacken zum Verbleien



Keil zum Öffnen der Schrote

Erhältlich bei:

Jedermann ist begeistert von unserm patentierten, wirklich leicht und sauber schneidenden Büchsenöffner. Keine verletzten Hände mehr und keine Metallspäne in der Konserve!

Gebrauchsanweisung:



Den Büchsenöffner so ansetzen, daß der Haken unten am Büchsenrand Halt bekommt, und dann durch leichtes Heben des Messergriffes die Schneide in den Deckel drücken.



Wichtig! Mit der Schneide immer ganz nahe am Büchsenrand bleiben.



Nicht tiefer einschneiden als bis zum angebrachten kleinen Schraubenzieher.



Examples





# Elsi Post

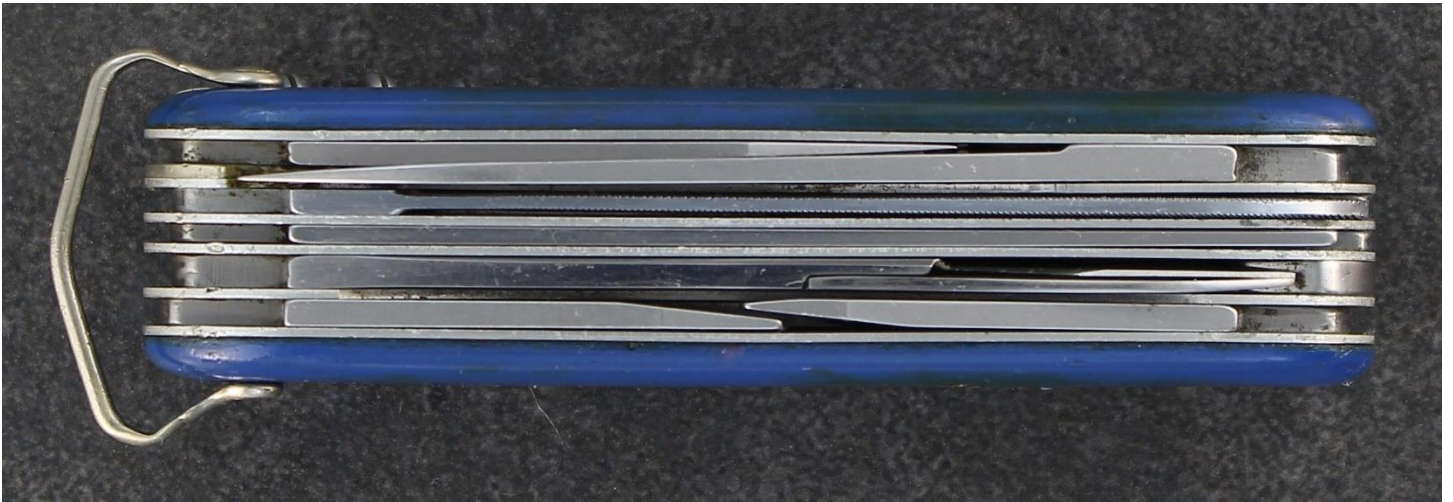
~ 28 ~





# Elsi Post

~ 29 ~





## Schäppi, Horgen

Jakob Schäppi founded and built up a cutlery shop in Horgen on Lake Zurich in 1860 or 1861. The first reference comes from 1862, when Mr. Schäppi was looking for an apprentice to train as a cutler. The name of his profession was “knife smith and instrument maker”.

Neue Zuger Zeitung, Band 17, Nummer 14, 5. April 1862

### Lehrlingsgeſuch.

Ein Knabe von rechtſchaffenen Eltern, der gute Zeugniſſe aufzuweiſen und das 16. Altersjahr zurückgelegt hat, kann bei Unterzeichnetem unter günſtigen Bedingungen ſogleich in die Lehre treten. Nähere Auskunſt ertheilt  
**J. Schäppi,**  
Meſſerſchmied und Inſtrumentenmacher  
in Horgen.

### Apprentice request

*A boy of upright parents who has good references and has reached the age of 16 can immediately begin an apprenticeship with the undersigned under favorable conditions. Further information is available from: J. Schäppi, cutler and instrument maker in Horgen.*

The following advertisement from 1886 makes it clear that Mr. Schäppi not only manufactured knives, but also other utensils:

*For woodworkers.*

*Moulding Cutter*

*In any size and shape, - steeled, easy to sharpen, manufactured after sending in an exact wood model with a guarantee of a durable cut*

*J. Schäppi, cutler Horgen*

*Only the best quality Belgian sharpening stones are recommended for acceptance.*

Illustrierte schweizerische Handwerker-Zeitung : unabhängiges Geschäftsblatt der gesamten Meisterschaft aller Handwerke und Gewerbe, Band 2 (1886)

### Für Holzarbeiter.

#### Kehlmesser

in jeder beliebigen Grösse und Façon, — angestählt, leicht schärfbar, verfertigt nach Einſendung eines genauen Holzmodells mit Garantie für haltbaren Schnitt

**J. Schäppi,** Messerschmied  
Horgen.

Nur beste Qualität **belgische Abziehsteine** werden zur Abnahme bestens empfohlen. (689)

The first entry in the commercial register dates from 1895. From then on the company was officially called “J. Schäppi & Söhne”. “Schäppi Horgen” stamps on products most likely date from before 1895; Embossed stamp with the designation “Schäppi Söhne” from after 1895.

Schweizerisches Handelsamtsblatt = Feuille officielle suisse du commerce = Foglio ufficiale svizzero di commercio.  
Band 13 (1895)

18. Dezember. Jakob Schäppi, Vater, und Wilhelm und Ernst Schäppi, Söhne, alle von und in Horgen, haben unter der Firma **J. Schäppi & Söhne** in Horgen eine Kollektivgesellschaft eingegangen, welche am 1. November 1895 ihren Anfang nahm. Fabrikation von Messern und Werkzeugen. Dorfasse 13.

*December 18th. Jakob Schäppi, father, and Wilhelm and Ernst Schäppi, sons, all from and in Horgen, entered into a general partnership under the company J. Schäppi & Söhne in Horgen, which began on November 1, 1895. Manufacture of knives and tools. Dorfasse 13.*

In 1896 the major Swiss national exhibition took place in Geneva. This was a major event, and everyone of rank and name wanted to exhibit there and draw attention to themselves.

Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Nummer 243, 1. September 1896 Ausgabe 0

## Schweizerische Landesausstellung.

### Metallindustrie.

Metallverarbeitung für gewerbliche, landwirtschaftliche und häusliche Zwecke.

A. J. Die zweite Abteilung der „Metallindustrie“ ist zwar vielfältig und in ihren Details sehr interessant, aber sie entzieht sich, eben ihrer Mannigfaltigkeit wegen, einer übersichtlichen Beschreibung. Auch bietet sie, weil sie wie bei allen Ausstellungen größtenteils nur von Ausstellern aus der nächsten Umgebung besichtigt ist, durchaus kein Bild dessen, was hierin in der Schweiz geleistet wird. Wir werden uns demgemäß darauf beschränken, die interessantesten Ausstellungen daraus hervorzuheben, es dem Leser anheimlassend, je nach seiner Neigung bei Besichtigung der Gruppe sich bei einer oder der andern Richtung gründlicher zu informieren.

Alle denkbaren Gewerbe bestimmt. Auch M. Schwarz in Winterthur hat eine reiche Kollektion seiner Feilen zusammengestellt. In noch größerer Anzahl als die Feilenbauer haben sich die Messerschmiede eingefunden, darunter solche mit sehr reichen Zierbeständen, schönen Ziermesser, Messeressern und Scheren. Am vollständigsten ist die Vitrine von G. F. Schneider in Genf ausgestattet mit eleganten und geschmackvoll gearbeiteten Messerschmiedearbeiten. Dann Forestier Freres in Genf, welche beim Eingang in die Gruppe neben ihrer Ausstellung fabrizieren. Auch Joh. Grieshaber von Schaffhausen und J. Schäppi u. Sohn in Horgen haben schön ausgestellt. Aug. Knecht in Hinwil bringt in einer kleinen Vitrine eine Zusammenstellung sehr korrekt ausgeführter Holzbohrer. Aus Luzern hat sich G. Duder, welcher dort eine Diamantschleiferei betreibt, mit Diamantwerkzeugen für Glaser, zum Abstreifen von Papierwalzen u. s. w. als Vertreter dieses besondern Gewerbes eingefunden. Weglinger u. Cie. in Sombredifon stellen ihre großen Sägebänder für Gatterlägen und Birkularlägen aus. Mit ihren für Feinmechaniker berechneten kleinen Schrauben und Schneidzeugen sind S. Delamure u. Fils und J. Martin Fils aus Genf hervorzuheben, ebenso J. de Mas in Vevey mit seinem Universalschraubenschlüssel. Ueberhaupt ist an Werkzeugen und Geräten aller Art, auch an solchen für Holzverarbeitung, eine namhafte Zahl Aussteller mit zum Teil recht beachtenswerten Ausstellungsobjekten in

Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Nummer 68, 9. März 1900

## Kleine Mitteilungen.

— (Korresp.) In Horgen starb Messerschmied Schäppi, der Typus eines echten, tüchtigen Handwerkers, welcher aus bescheidenen Anfängen sich durch rastlose Thätigkeit und Einsicht zum angesehenen Industriellen emporgearbeitet hat. Seinen zwei Söhnen gab er eine tüchtige Erziehung, und nachdem er sie in seinen Beruf eingeführt hatte, schickte er sie in die weite Fremde. Den neuen Ideen, die da gesammelt wurden, war der alte Meister zugänglich; neue Gebiete wurden in die Werkstatt eingeführt, so die Fabrikation von Utensilien für die Seidenindustrie und façonierte Schneidwerkzeuge für den maschinellen Betrieb in Möbel-, Rahmen- und Fensterfabriken. Der Erfolg blieb nicht aus: An der kantonalen Gewerbeausstellung in Zürich wurden die Produkte mit der Ehrenmeldung, an der Landesausstellung zu Genf mit der goldenen Medaille belobt.

Of the Swiss knifemakers, only 4 manufacturers were mentioned in an article in the Neue Zürcher Zeitung. In addition to “Schäppi & Sohn”, these were the companies CF Schneider from Geneva, Forestier from Geneva and Joh. Grieshaber from Schaffhausen. This shows that the company “Schäppi” from Horgen has already made a big name for itself in its 15 years of existence. The company even received a “gold medal” at the state exhibition, the highest award given. Such awards were very important back then and they adorned all catalogs and advertising brochures.

### Swiss national exhibition

#### Metal industry

*...the cutlery have arrived in even greater numbers than the file cutters, including those with very rich cutlery, beautiful pocket knives, razors and scissors. ... Joh. Grieshaber from Schaffhausen and J. Schäppi and Son in Horgen also exhibited beautifully....*

An article from 1900 showed that the Schäppi company was very innovative. Jakob Schäppi was strong at the time, but he left an innovative and well-positioned company to his sons, which quickly specialized in areas other than knife production.

### Small messages.

*The cutler Schäppi died in Horgen, the type of real, skilled craftsman who worked his way up from humble beginnings to become a respected industrialist through restless activity and insight. He gave his two sons a good education, and after introducing them to his profession, he sent them abroad. The old master was accessible to the new ideas that were collected there; New areas were introduced into the workshop, such as the manufacture of utensils for mechanical operation in furniture, frame and window factories. Success was not to be missed: the products were awarded a medal of honor at the cantonal trade exhibition in Zurich and a gold medal at the national exhibition in Geneva.*

The fact that the sons had taken over the company was revealed in an announcement in the Commercial Gazette in the same year.

Schweizerisches Handelsamtsblatt = Feuille officielle suisse du commerce = Foglio ufficiale svizzero di commercio, Band 18 (1900)

5. April. Die Firma **J. Schächli & Söhne** in Horgen (S. H. A. B. Nr. 313 vom 21. Dezember 1895, pag. 1310) — Gesellschafter: Jakob Schächli, Vater, Wilhelm und Ernst Schächli, Söhne — ist infolge Hinschiedes des erstern und daheriger Auflösung dieser Kollektivgesellschaft erloschen. Wilhelm Schächli und Ernst Schächli, beide von und in Horgen (bisherige Gesellschafter), **haben** unter der Firma **J. Schächli Söhne** in Horgen eine Kollektivgesellschaft eingegangen, welche am 24. März 1900 ihren Anfang nahm und die Aktiven und Passiven der erloschenen Firma «J. Schächli & Söhne» übernimmt. Mech. Messer- und Werkzeugschmiede. An der Dorfgasse.

defunct company "J. Schächli & Söhne" takes over. Mech. Knife and tool forge. On the village street.

April 5th. The company **J. Schächli & Söhne** in Horgen from December 21, 1895 - partners: Jakob Schächli, father, Wilhelm and Ernst Schächli, sons - has expired as a result of the passing of the first and therefore dissolution of this general partnership. Wilhelm Schächli and Ernst Schächli, both from and in Horgen (previous partners), entered into a general partnership under the company **J. Schächli Söhne** in Horgen, which began on March 24, 1900 and incorporated the assets and liabilities of the

Schweizerisches Handelsamtsblatt = Feuille officielle suisse du commerce = Foglio ufficiale svizzero di commercio, Band 23 (1905)

A trademark was registered for the first time in 1905. It was a swan looking to the side. This symbol was also the coat of arms of the municipality of Horgen, where the company was based. But this symbol dates back much earlier, at least since 1486.



Schweizerisches Handelsamtsblatt = Feuille officielle suisse du commerce = Foglio ufficiale svizzero di commercio, Band 23 (1905)

Kl. 76, Nr. 31619. 17. Oktober 1904, 7 Uhr p. — Säge. — **J. Schächli Söhne**, Horgen (Schweiz). Vertreter: E. Blum & Co., Zürich.

In the same year, the company patented a saw with registration number 31619. The patent made it possible to change and fix the saw blade quickly and easily.

Säge  
CH31619A • 1905-05-15 •  
SCHAEPLI J SOEHNE [CH]  
Früheste Priorität: 1904-10-17 • Früheste Veröffentlichung: 1905-05-15

J. Schächli Söhne. Patent Nr. 31619. I Blatt.

SCHWEIZERISCHE EIDGENOSSENSCHAFT  
EIDGEN. AMT FÜR GEISTIGES EIGENTUM  
PATENT-SCHRIFT

Patent Nr. 31619 17. Oktober 1904, 7 Uhr p. Klasse 76  
J. SCHÄPLI Söhne, in Horgen (Schweiz).

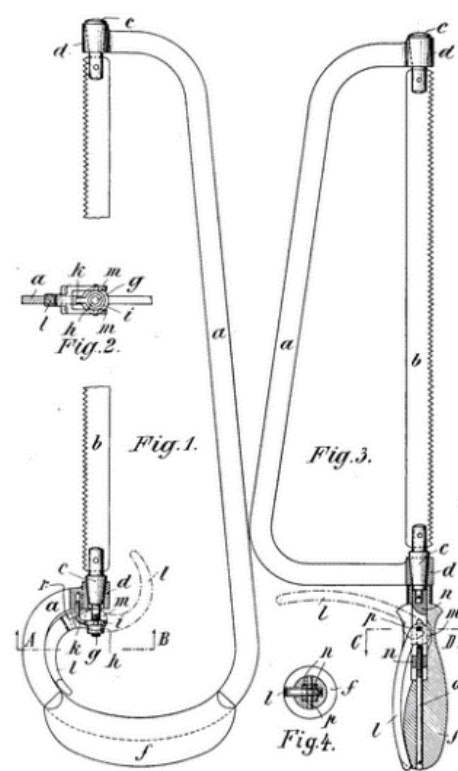
Gegenstand vorliegender Erfindung ist eine Säge, deren Sägeblatt an seinen beiden Enden mittels Kesseln in einem Bügel gelagert und um seine Längsaxe drehbar ist. Bei demselben sind die Kesseln beide nach derselben Seite gerichtet, zum Zweck, durch Zug an einem der Kesseln beide gleichzeitig in ihre Lager pressen und so durch einen Handgriff das Sägeblatt feststellen zu können.  
In anliegender Zeichnung ist die Säge in zwei beispielweisen Ausführungsformen dargestellt und zeigen:  
Fig. 1 und 2 Ansichten der beiden Ausführungsformen der Säge mit teilweisem Schnitt.  
Fig. 2 einen Schnitt nach A-B der Fig. 1, Fig. 1 einen Schnitt nach C-D der Fig. 2. Das im Bügel a gespannte Sägeblatt b ist bei beiden Ausführungsformen an seinen beiden Enden mit gleichgerichteten kegelförmigen Zapfen c (Kesseln) verbunden und sind die zur Aufnahme der Kesseln c bestimmten Osen d des Bügels a entsprechend ausgebildet.  
Beim Ausführungsbeispiel nach Fig. 1 und 2 ist an dem Handgriff f am nachstehenden Kissen e ein Schraubenbolzen g befestigt, auf dem sich eine Mutter h befindet. Auf dem Schraubenbolzen g sitzt lose ein Ring i, der

durch die Führung seines Stüßes k in einer Anbohrung des Bügels a gegen Drehung gesichert ist, so daß er sich nur in Richtung des Schraubenbolzens g bewegen kann. An diesem Ring i ist um seitliche Stifte der gabelförmige Exzentersattel l drehbar angeordnet. Bei Umlagen des Hebels f aus der positionierten Stellung der Fig. 1 in die ausgezogene, drückt derselbe mit seinen beiden seitlichen Exzentern an den Ring i von der Ose d ab und schiebt daher beide Kesseln c gleichzeitig fest in ihre Lager ein, wodurch die Feststellung des Sägeblattes k erreicht ist. Die Exzentere an sind bei f etwas abgewandt, damit der Hebel f in seiner jetzigen Lage gehalten ist.  
Die Feststellvorrichtung ist beim zweiten Ausführungsbeispiel in den Griff f verlegt, wie dies die Fig. 3 und 4 zeigen.  
Bei dieser Ausführungsform ist der eine Kissen e in einem Bolzen n verlagert, welcher durchbohren ist mit dem Griff f hinseits. Eine von außen drehbare Stellschraube o ist in dem als Mutter ausgebildeten Teil des Bolzens n eingeschraubt und ragt mit ihrem oberen Ende in die Durchbohrung des Bolzens n hinein. Der Exzentersattel l ist nun einen im Griff f festgelegten Stütz p drehbar. Bei Drehung des Hebels f aus der strichpunktir-

ten in die vollgezogene Stellung, in welcher er in einer Nut des Griffes liegt, drückt der Kissen e den Schraubenbolzen g und damit den Bolzen n herum, schiebt somit die beiden Kesseln c gleichzeitig in ihre Lager d hinein, spannt damit das Sägeblatt b und stellt es fest.  
Durch Verstellen der Schraube o (Fig. 5), bzw. der Mutter h (Fig. 1) kann die Spannung geregelt werden.

PATENT-ANWENDUNG:  
1. Säge, deren Sägeblatt an seinen beiden Enden mittels Kesseln in einem Bügel gelagert und um seine Längsaxe drehbar ist, gekennzeichnet dadurch, daß die

Kesseln beide nach derselben Seite gerichtet sind, zum Zweck, durch Zug an einem der Kesseln beide Kesseln gleichzeitig durch einen Handgriff in ihre Lager pressen und so das Sägeblatt feststellen zu können.  
2. Säge nach Anspruch 1, gekennzeichnet durch einen in einem der Kesseln angeordneten Exzentersattel, durch dessen Umlagen das Einziehen beider Kesseln in die Lager des Bügels gleichzeitig erfolgen kann.  
J. SCHÄPLI Söhne.  
Vertreter: E. BLUM & Co., in Zürich.





In 1908, the union-affiliated newspaper SMUV of the Swiss Metal and Watch Workers' Association wrote an article about the Schäppi company, which obviously opposed the union and forbade workers to join.

SMUV-Zeitung, Band 7, Nummer 7, 15. Februar 1908

— **Horgen.** Den Herren Schäppi, Söhne, Messerschmiede, scheint die hiesige Metallarbeiter-Gewerkschaft nicht zu behagen, denn diese freien Tellensöhne entblöden sich nicht, mit den Arbeitern Verträge abzuschliessen, nach denen es dem Arbeiter verwehrt ist, seiner Gewerkschaft anzugehören. Einen Beweis dafür erblicken wir in folgendem uns zugestellten Schreiben:

Horgen, den 5. Januar 1908.

Tit. Herr Vorstand!

Gestatte mir, Ihnen mitzuteilen, dass ich gezwungen bin, laut Vertrag mit den Herren Schäppi, Söhne, vom 1. Januar an aus dem Verband auszutreten.

Achtungsvollst

Wilh. Rättich, Messerschmied.

*Anmerkung der Red.* Es müsste nun doch vorerst festgestellt werden, ob der Rättich die Wahrheit sagt oder ob das vorgebrachte Argument bloss eine faule Ansrede ist. Wer sich sein Selbstbestimmungsrecht so wegstehlen lässt, wie nach vorstehendem Brief der Rättich, verdient unsere Anerkennung so wenig wie die Herren Schäppi, wenn sie durch Vertrag dem Arbeiter gesetzlich garantierte Rechte wegstibitzen.

*Horgen. Mr. Schäppi, sons and cutlers, do not seem to like the local metal workers' union, because these free Tellensons do not hesitate to conclude contracts with the workers, according to which the worker is not allowed to belong to a union. We see proof of this in the following letter sent to us:*

*Horgen, January 5, 1908*

*Ti. Mr. Board of Directors!*

*Allow me to inform you that, according to the contract with Messrs Schäppi, Söhne, I am forced to resign from the association from January 1st.*

*Respectfully.*

*Wilh. Rättich, cutler.*

*Editor's note. It would now have to be determined first whether the rat is telling the truth or whether the argument put forward is just a lazy excuse. Anyone who allows their right to self-determination to be stolen away like Rättich did in the above letter deserves our recognition as little as Mr. Schäppi when they steal legally guaranteed rights from workers through a contract.*

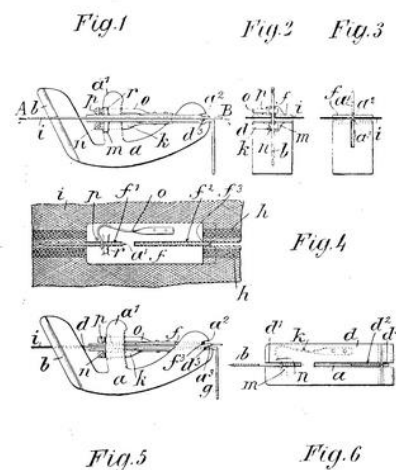
In 1909, the

Schäppi Söhne company patented a new development. This is an apparatus for cutting apart several pieces woven next to each other.

Although I have read the patent specification, I hardly understand what it is about. To me, this shows that this is a complex matter and an obvious difficulty in the industry, for which the company had a solution ready and was so innovative that it even managed to get a patent. It can be assumed that in this case the textile industry specifically approached the company to look for a solution to a problem, which the company then offered.

J. Schäppi Söhne.

Patent Nr. 42497.  
1 Blatt.

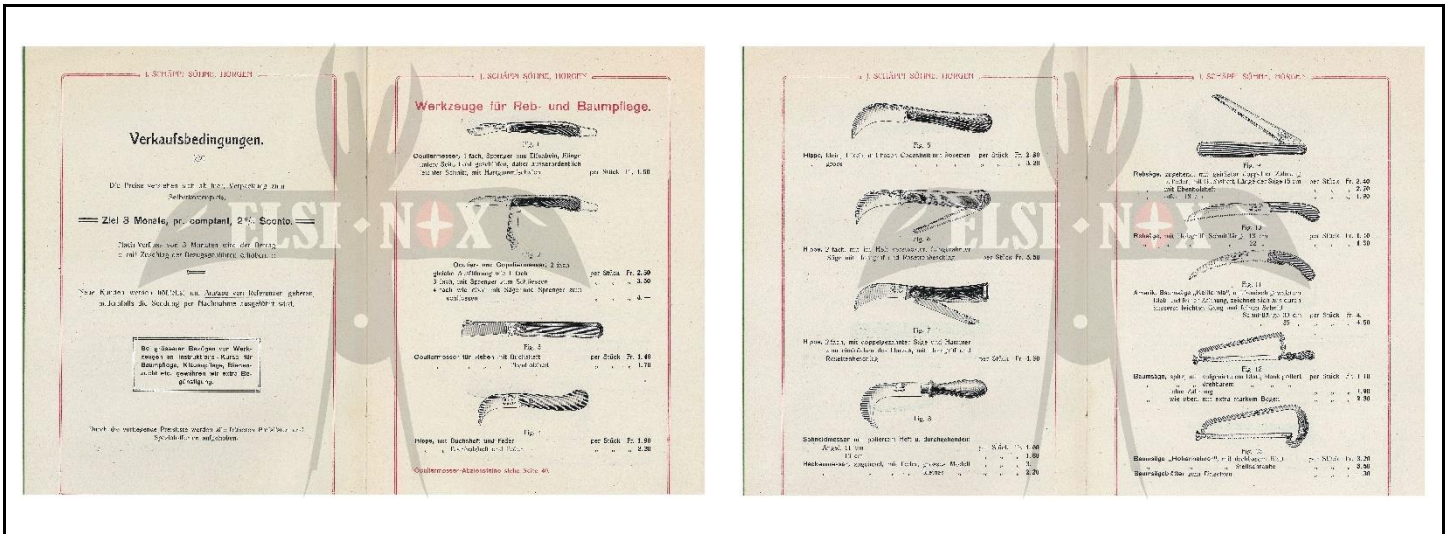


Schweizerisches Handelsamtsblatt = Feuille officielle suisse du commerce = Foglio ufficiale svizzero di commercio.  
Band 27 (1909)

Kl. 24 f, Nr. 42497. 2. Juli 1908, 7¼ Uhr p. — Apparat zum Auseinanderschneiden mehrerer nebeneinander gewöbener Stücke. — **J. Schäppi** Söhne, Horgen (Schweiz). Vertreter: E. Blum & Co., Zürich.



A catalog from J. Schächli Söhne, Horgen, is known from 1909. This makes it clear which different professional groups the company developed and manufactured products for. Of the 45+ pages, folding knives only appear on just 2 pages. <https://elsinox.com/Swiss-Pocket-Knives-Schweizer-Armenmesser/RS/SCHAEPII,-Horgen/>

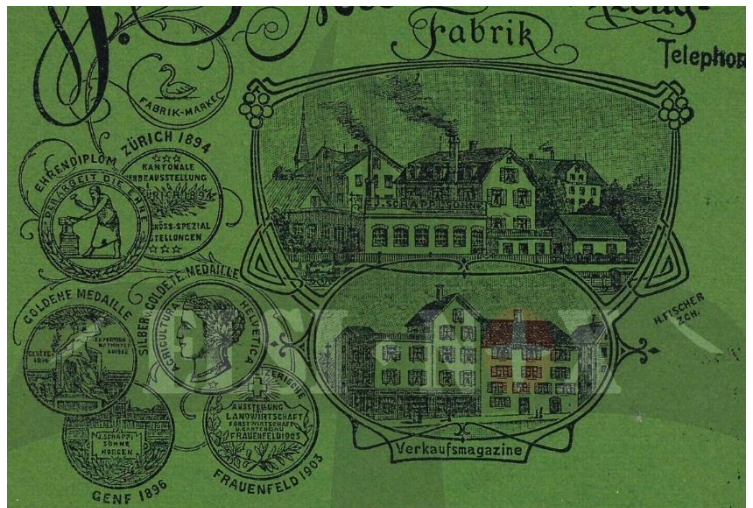


Schächli & Söhne manufactured products in the following segments:

- Vine and tree care
- forestry
- Dairy farming
- Hoof care
- Coercive means
- Veterinary instruments
- Castration instruments

The company also sold third-party products, especially horse scissors and lawn mowers.

According to the catalog cover, the company had a larger production workshop and a separate sales magazine at the time.



Schweizerisches Handelsamtsblatt = Feuille officielle suisse du commerce = Foglio ufficiale svizzero di commercio.  
Band 38 (1920)

Kl. 79 I, Nr. 88009. 22. Mai 1920, 8 Uhr p. — Säge. — J. Schächpi Söhne, Messer- und Werkzeugfabrik, Horgen (Schweiz). Vertreter: Fritz Isler, Zürich.

Säge.  
CH88009A • 1921-01-17 •  
SCHAEPPI SOEHNE J [CH]

SCHWEIZERISCHE EIDGENOSSENSCHAFT

EIDGEN. AMT FÜR



GEISTIGES EIGENTUM

## PATENTSCHRIFT

Veröffentlicht am 17. Januar 1921

Nr. 88009 (Gesuch eingereicht: 22. Mai 1920, 20 Uhr.) Klasse 79 I

### HAUPTPATENT

J. SCHÄPPI Söhne, Horgen (Schweiz).

#### Säge.

Die den Gegenstand vorliegender Erfindung bildende Säge ist in beiliegender Zeichnung in einer beispielsweise Ausführungsform schematisch dargestellt, und zwar zeigt:

Fig. 1 eine Seitenansicht der Säge;

Fig. 2 zeigt die Einstellvorrichtung des Sägeblattes in größerem Maßstabe, zum Teil im Schnitte;

Fig. 3 ist ein Querschnitt dazu.

Ein Sägeblatt 1 ist an seinen Enden je mit einem Konus 2, 3 verbunden. Die Konusse 2, 3 sind gleichgerichtet, um ihre Längsaxe drehbar und sitzen in entsprechenden Aussparungen eines mit Handgriff 5 versehenen Bügels 4. Konus 3 ist mit einem nach unten ragenden Bolzen 6 versehen, der einen Schlitz 12 besitzt und im Schlitz einen zweiarmigen Exzenterhebel 7 trägt. Hebel 7 ist drehbar auf einem Querschlitz 8. Zwischen dem obern Ende des Hebels 7 und dem Auge 9 des Bügels 4 ist eine geschlitzte, federnde Scheibe 10 vorgesehen. Die Scheibe 10 besitzt einen Steg 11, der durch den Schlitz 12 geführt ist, und der auf dem Hebel 7 aufruhet. Die Teile 13, 14 der Scheibe 10 sind nach oben gebogen und liegen gegen

das Auge 9 des Bügels 4 an. Wird der Hebel 7 aus der in Fig. 3 gezeigten Lage in die Lage nach Fig. 1 umgelegt, so wird das Blatt 1 im Bügel 4 festgelegt, wobei die Scheibe 10, die als Feder wirkt, gespannt wird und ein Festsitzen des Blattes 1 sichert.

#### PATENTANSPRUCH:

Säge, deren Sägeblatt an seinen beiden Enden mittelst Konussen in einem Bügel drehbar gelagert ist, wobei zum Festlegen der Konusse und damit des Sägeblattes im Bügel ein Exzenterhebel vorgesehen ist, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß zwischen Exzenterhebel und Bügel eine Feder vorgesehen ist.

#### UNTERANSPRUCHE:

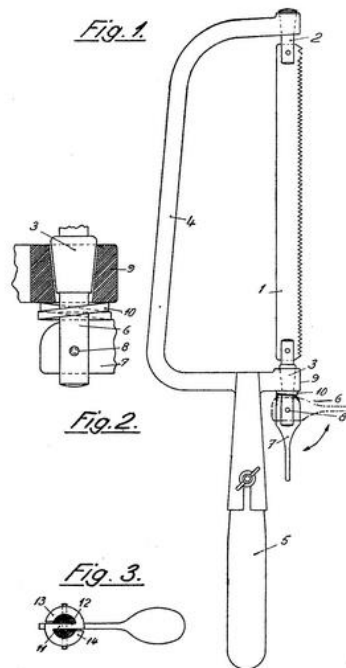
1. Säge nach Patentanspruch, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß als Feder eine geschlitzte, mit Steg versehene Scheibe vorgesehen ist.
2. Säge nach Patentanspruch und Unteranspruch 1, wie in der Zeichnung dargestellt und in bezug darauf beschrieben.

J. SCHÄPPI Söhne.

Vertreter: Fritz ISLER, Zürich.

J. Schächpi Söhne

Patent Nr. 88009  
1 Blatt



This saw represented a further development of the previously patent-pending saw.

2 years later, the company Schächpi & Söhne registered 2 brands in the commercial register. On the one hand, there was the name "Le Couteau Economique Suisse" adopted by the Dür company in Herzogenbuchsee, applied to paring knives, and the name "Blitz", also for paring knives and peeling machines.

Schweizerisches Handelsamtsblatt = Feuille officielle suisse du commerce = Foglio ufficiale svizzero di commercio.  
Band 40 (1922)

Nr. 52924. — 23. Oktober 1922, 8 Uhr.

J. Schächpi Söhne, Fabrikation,  
Horgen (Schweiz).

Schälmesser.

**LE COUTEAU ÉCONOMIQUE SUISSE**

(Übertragung mit Gebrauchsausdehnung der Nr. 46782 von Hans Dür,  
Herzogenbuchsee).

Nr. 52925. — 23. Oktober 1922, 8 Uhr.

J. Schächpi Söhne, Fabrikation,  
Horgen (Schweiz).

Schälmesser und Schälmaschinen.

**Blitz**



Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Nummer 1388, 18. September 1924 Ausgabe 03

**Schweizerischer Messerschmiedemeisterverband.**  
 Am 6., 7. und 8. September hielt der Verband in Burgdorf seine gutbesuchte 34. Jahresversammlung ab. Am Samstagabend erledigte die Einkaufsgenossenschaft des Verbandes ihre Geschäfte. Am 8. Sept. morgens trat die Jahreshauptversammlung zusammen, die den Verbandsvorstand mit Messerschmied Klöbli in Burgdorf als Präsident bestätigte. Jahresbericht und Jahresrechnung wurden genehmigt und ein Bericht von J. Diener von der Geschäftsstelle des Verbandes in Winterthur über das Einfuhrwesen angehört. Die Versammlung war der Meinung, daß von einem Abbau der Einfuhrbeschränkungen noch nicht die Rede sein kann, weil Deutschland mit seinen viel niedrigeren Arbeitslöhnen immer noch billiger produzieren kann als wir. Dem Bericht von Wilhelm Schäppi in Horgen war zu entnehmen, daß die Vorschläge der Zolltarifkommission des Verbandes von der nationalrätlichen Kommission akzeptiert worden sind. Das Haupttraktandum bildete die Behandlung des Lehrlingswesens. Der Verband ist gewillt, dieses für die ganze Schweiz im Messerschmiedegewerbe auf einheitliche Grundlagen zu stellen, allseitig auszubauen und die fachliche Ausbildung der heranwachsenden Generation mit aller Sorgfalt auszugestalten. Es wird ein Leitfadens für die Hand der Lehrlinge zur Vorbereitung auf die Lehrlingsprüfung ausgearbeitet (von Ernst Schäppi, Messerschmied, Horgen). An die Lehrlingsprüfungen ernannt der Verband zu den gesetzlichen kantonalen Experten noch besondere Verbandsexperten. Am Sonntagnachmittag wurde eine Autofahrt ins Emmental ausgeführt, am Montag die kantonalerntliche Ausstellung besichtigt.

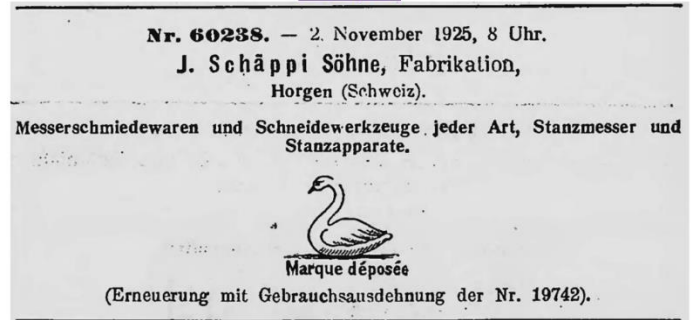
An article from 1924 shows that the brothers Wilhelm and Ernst Schäppi were also active beyond just knifemaking work. Both brothers were active members of the Swiss Master Knifemith Association.

Swiss Master Knifemith Association.

...The assembly was of the opinion that there can be no question of reducing import restrictions because Germany, with its much lower wages, can still produce more cheaply than we can. The report by Wilhelm Schäppi in Horgen showed that the proposals of the association's customs tariff commission had been accepted by the National Council commission. The main agenda item was the negotiation of the apprenticeship system. The association is willing to put this on a uniform basis for the cutlery industry in Switzerland as a whole, to expand it on all sides and to carefully design the professional training of the rising generation. A guideline is being developed for apprentices to prepare for the apprenticeship examination (by Ernst Schäppi, cutler, Horgen). ...

[Schweizerisches Handelsamtsblatt = Feuille officielle suisse du commerce = Foglio ufficiale svizzero di commercio, Band 43 \(1925\)](#)

On



November 2, 1925, the logo of the J. Schäppi Söhne company was renewed.

Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Nummer 1137, 24. Juni 1934 Ausgabe 02

## Kantone

### Zürich

**Horgen, 22. Juni.** An der Generalversammlung der Freisinnigen Partei erstattete Präsident Fritz Stäger einen nach Form und Inhalt ausgezeichneten Bericht über das politisch ereignisreiche verfloßene Jahr. Der ganze Vorstand trat zurück aus der Ueberzeugung heraus, daß von nun an ein von den Jungen bestimmter Kurs eingehalten werden müsse. Als Präsident wurde Ernst Schäppi-Suter, Messerschmied, gewählt.

Cantons

Zurich

Horgen, June 22nd. At the general meeting of the Liberal Party, President Fritz Stäger presented a report on the politically eventful past year that was excellent in form and content. The entire board resigned out of the conviction that from now on a course determined by the boys had to be adhered to. Ernst Schäppi-Suter, a cutler, was elected as president



Wilhelm Schächli, one of the company founder's sons, died in 1934. The company was then renamed "Ernst Schächli".

*Knife and tool factory. - October, 16th. The Ernst Schächli company, formerly. J. Schächli Söhne, in Horgen, knife and tool factory, has expired due to the death of the owner and the transfer of the business's assets and liabilities to the new company "Ernst Schächli" in Horgen.*

*The owner of the company Ernst Schächli, in Horgen, is Ernst Schächli, from and in Horgen. This company takes over the assets and liabilities of the defunct company "Ernst Schächli, formerly. J. Schächli Söhne" in Horgen. The company grants individual power of attorney to Ms. Berta Schächli-Schächli, from and in Horgen. Knife and tool factory. On the village street.*

Schweizerisches Handelsamtsblatt = Feuille officielle suisse du commerce = Foglio ufficiale svizzero di commercio, Band 52 (1934)

Messer- und Werkzeugfabrik. — 16. Oktober. Die Firma Ernst Schächli, vorm. J. Schächli Söhne, in Horgen (S. H. A. B. Nr. 153 vom 4. Juli 1934, Seite 1844), Messer- und Werkzeugfabrik, ist infolge Todes des Inhabers und Ueberganges des Geschäftes in Aktiven und Passiven auf die neue Firma «Ernst Schächli», in Horgen, erloschen.

Inhaber der Firma Ernst Schächli, in Horgen, ist Ernst Schächli, von und in Horgen. Diese Firma übernimmt Aktiven und Passiven der erloschenen Firma «Ernst Schächli, vorm. J. Schächli Söhne», in Horgen. Die Firma erteilt Einzelprokura an Frau Berta Schächli-Schächli, von und in Horgen. Messer- und Werkzeugfabrik. An der Dorfstrasse.

Schweizerisches Handelsamtsblatt = Feuille officielle suisse du commerce = Foglio ufficiale svizzero di commercio Band 61 (1943)



### Ernst Schächli, knife and tool factory, Horgen

*The company Ernst Schächli, Messer- und Werkzeugfabrik, Horgen, a company that has been run by three generations since 1860, has remained a small business despite all the adaptations to the technical improvements in production. The special nature of the business, in which manual work is still very much in the foreground, requires the owner to be involved as an experienced cutler himself, overseeing the diverse work. A variety of knives and tools, especially for the graphic arts industry, but also for various other industries, leave this company year after year. The Ernst Schächli company has been manufacturing paper cutting machine knives, cardboard scissors knives, circular knives, tin snips knives, in short, all types of technical knives for every industry for many years. As a result, Swiss customers have become independent from abroad. You know that first-class products are manufactured in Horgen that meet all requirements.*

This article shows once again that the Ernst Schächli company was very broad in its production. As a result, unlike various other small cutlery companies, she managed to continue to be successful in business. After this article, things remained quiet around the Schächli company for a long time.

In 1955 another logo was registered in the commercial register.

In the period that followed, things became relatively quiet around the company. In the 1960s, the factory moved to Tödistrasse in Horgen, and Ernst Schächli's son, Hansjürg, increasingly took over the business. The 150th anniversary was celebrated in 2011. In this context, a newspaper article looked back on the company's long and successful period.

Nr. 159055. Hinterlegungsdatum: 7. Dezember 1955, 18 Uhr.  
Ernst Schächli & Co., Dorfstrasse, Horgen (Zürich, Schweiz).  
Fabrik- und Handelsmarke.  
Technische Messer sowie Schneid- und Stanzwerkzeuge jeder Art.

**SCHÄPPI**

## Ernst Schächli & Co. AG: 150 Jahre auf Messer spezialisiert

Schweizer MaschinenMarkt

<https://www.maschinenmarkt.ch/ernst-schaeppi-co-a->

21.11.2011

Firmenjubiläum

### Ernst Schächli & Co. AG: 150 Jahre auf Messer spezialisiert

21.11.2011 | Autor / Redakteur: Rolf Dorner, Fachjournalist BR/SFJ / [lic.rer.publ](http://lic.rer.publ), Susanne Reinshagen | 

>> Nach Wanderjahren in Frankreich gründete Jakob Schächli 1861 in Horgen eine Mechanische Werkstatt und Messerschmiede. Zunächst produzierte er für die ansässige Textil- und Seidenindustrie vor allem Einziehhaken und Forcen. Dann spezialisierte sich Schächli schrittweise auf die Herstellung von Taschen-, Küchen- und Tafelmesser, chirurgische Instrumente sowie Werkzeuge für Landwirtschaft, Reb- und Gartenbau.



Ernst Schächli, VR-Präsident (li.) und Hansjürg E. Schächli, Geschäftsführer. (Bild: Dorner)

1910 war ein Meilenstein in der Firmengeschichte: Im neuen Fabrikationsgebäude wurde die Produktion von Messern für das graphische Gewerbe sowie für Stanzmesser und Stanz-Apparate für die Leder-, Papier- und Metallindustrie aufgenommen.

Während des Zweiten Weltkriegs begann das Unternehmen, Spezialwerkzeuge und Messer herzustellen, die vor dem Krieg aus dem Ausland in die Schweiz importiert worden waren.

1964 konnte das neue Betriebsgebäude an der Tödistrasse 62 in Horgen, dem heutigen Firmensitz, bezogen werden. Eine neue Härterei mit Schutzgas-Atmosphäre und moderne grössere Planschleifmaschinen erschlossen dem Unternehmen neue anspruchsvollere Anwendungen, insbesondere für lange Werkstücke. «Investieren, Modernisieren, Spezialisieren» heisst das Credo des Messer-Spezialisten bis heute. Mit 150-jähriger Erfahrung ist Schächli heute die Victorinox für Industriemesser.

#### Inhalt des Artikels:

Seite 1: Ernst Schächli & Co. AG: 150 Jahre auf Messer spezialisiert

Seite 2: Für jede Anwendung das richtige Messer

#### Für jede Anwendung das richtige Messer

Fazit: Die Kunden erhalten keine Messer «ab Stange», sondern auf das jeweilige Schnittgut abgestimmte Messer aus dem zweckmässigsten Stahl und in der optimalen Härte.

Einsatzgebiete der Schächli-Messer sind u.a. die graphische-, die metallverarbeitende und die Verpackungs- und Lebensmittelindustrie. Weitere Kunden sind Eisbahnbetreiber und andere Spezialbetriebe.

Gemeinsames: Die grosse Auswahl an legierten Stählen, hochlegierten Spezialstählen und Hartmetall- Qualitäten bietet jedem Anwender das für ihn geeignetste Rohmaterial. Dazu kommt DURACUT®: Bei dieser Qualität handelt es sich um ein geschütztes Verfahren von Schächli. Diese Messer erreichen gegenüber herkömmlichen Stahlmessern eine Standzeitverlängerung um das Drei- bis Fünffache. Duracut-Messer gewähren den Kunden eine bessere Auslastung der Produktionsmaschinen, weniger Umrüstzeiten sowie ein geringeres Verkleben der Messer beim Beschneiden von beleimten Folien und Papieren.



Heute beschäftigt der Messerspezialist 12 bis 14 Mitarbeiter und wird in 5. Generation von Hansjürg E. Schächli geleitet. Die von Generationen überlieferten Erfahrungen verschaffen dem Horgener Unternehmen einen sicheren Wettbewerbsvorteil auf dem Markt.



Wie sieht er die Zukunft? Schächli: «Wir gehen voller Zuversicht ins 151. Betriebsjahr unserer Firma. Für unsere laufenden Weiterentwicklungen ist es wichtig, auch die Weiterentwicklungen der Stähle im Auge zu behalten und unsere Härterei permanent den Entwicklungen anzupassen. Eine weitere Stärke liegt in der Lösung und Fertigung von unlösbar scheinenden Schneidvorgängen in verschiedensten Materialien. Dieser Herausforderung wollen wir uns auch in Zukunft stellen.» <<

#### Inhalt des Artikels:

Seite 1: Ernst Schächli & Co. AG: 150 Jahre auf Messer spezialisiert

Seite 2: Für jede Anwendung das richtige Messer

(ID:3042590)

Company anniversary Ernst Schächli & Co. AG: 150 years specializing in knives

November 21, 2011 Author / Editor: Rolf Dorner, specialist journalist BR/SFJ / [lic.rer.publ](http://lic.rer.publ), [Susanne Reinshagen](http://SusanneReinshagen.com) |

*After years of traveling in France, Jakob Schächli founded a mechanical workshop and cutlery workshop in Horgen in 1861. Initially he mainly produced pull-in hooks and forcing for the local textile and silk industry. Schächli then gradually specialized in the production of pocket, kitchen and table knives, surgical instruments and tools for agriculture, vineyards and gardening.*

*1910 was a milestone in the company's history: production of knives for the graphic arts industry as well as punching knives and punching machines for the leather, paper and metal industries began in the new production building.*

*During the Second World War, the company began producing special tools and knives that had been imported into Switzerland from abroad before the war.*

*In 1964, the company was able to move into the new company building at Tödistrasse 62 in Horgen, today's company headquarters. A new hardening shop with an inert gas atmosphere and modern, larger surface grinding machines opened up new, more demanding applications for the company, especially for long workpieces. "Invest, modernize, specialize" is the credo of the knife specialist to this day. With 150 years of experience, Schächli is now the Victorinox for industrial knives.*

*There are three areas in particular that are important for the production of quality knives: a mechanical department, our own hardening shop and a precise grinding shop.*

*In the mechanical department, the large number of processing machines is noticeable, because a wide variety of manufacturing processes are necessary to produce quality knives. Whether drilling, milling, peripheral grinding or cylindrical grinding machines: they are all represented here. Not to forget lathes and saws. Since the focus here is on individual production according to customer specifications, the more conventional machines that are operated by experienced specialists are sufficient.*

*A look into the grinding shop! On surface grinding machines with electromagnetic clamping plates, knives are ground precisely to the hundredth of a millimeter range - up to 4.2 meters long. Additional grinding machines enable efficient, cost-effective production.*

*In the hardening shop, using inert gas, parts up to 2.5 meters long can be treated. Depending on the alloy, the workpieces are heated to the austenitization temperatures specified by the steelworks and then cooled in a salt bath as a quenching medium.*

*The stock of serrated knives for perforating or separating foils, ice planer knives, tin snips, paper cutting knives, etc. is manageable, as only the most common knives are available on demand for replacing deliveries.*

*The right knife for every application*

*Conclusion: Customers do not receive knives "off the shelf", but rather knives tailored to the material being cut, made of the most practical steel and with the optimal hardness.*

*Areas of application for Schächli knives include the graphic arts, metalworking, packaging and food industries. Other customers include ice rink operators and other specialist companies.*

*What they have in common: The large selection of alloy steels, high-alloy special steels and hard metal qualities offers every user the most suitable raw material for them. There is also DURACUT®: This quality is a proprietary process from Schächli. These knives extend their service life three to five times compared to conventional steel knives. Duracut knives provide customers with better utilization of the production machines, less set-up times and less sticking of the knives when cutting glued films and papers.*

Today the knife specialist employs 12 to 14 people and is managed by Hansjürg E. Schächli in the 5th generation. The experiences passed down from generations give the Horgner company a secure competitive advantage on the market.

How does he see the future? Schächli: "We are entering our company's 151st year of operation full of confidence. For our ongoing developments, it is important to keep an eye on further developments in steel and to constantly adapt our hardening shop to developments. Another strength lies in the solution and production of seemingly insoluble cutting processes in a wide variety of materials. We want to continue to face this challenge in the future."

6 years later the traditional company came to an end.

## The end of a traditional company

With the removal of the large grinding machines in Horgner on Thursday, more than 150 years of company history came to an end.

Andre Springer

Published: June 15, 2017, 3:54 p.m

Updated: June 16, 2017, 05:00

The large grinding machines were loaded onto a transporter on Thursday in Horgner at the Ernst Schächli & Co. AG headquarters.

Andre Springer

The company Ernst Schächli & Co. AG was once a leader in the manufacture of knives. However, the cost pressure from cheap knives, especially from Asia, made it increasingly difficult for the innovative Horgner company to assert itself in the highly competitive market. From paper cutting knives for the graphic industry to special knives for metal processing companies to ice planer knives for large ice cleaning machines, the name Schächli was known above all for the precision and longevity of its products.

What began in 1861 by founder Jakob Schächli in a small business in the Horgner village center now ended after 156 years in the Tödi industrial area. On Thursday, Chairman of the Board of Directors Heini Schächli and his son Hansjürg said a sad farewell to the large grinding machines, which were sold to Germany and eastern Switzerland. There is one consolation for the entrepreneurs: the building, which has already been sold together with the land, is in a prime location with a view. In addition to new commercial businesses, the zoning regulations also allow the construction of apartments there.

## Das Ende einer Traditionsfirma

Zürichsee-Zeitung

<https://www.zsz.ch> › [Horgner](#) › [Bezirk Horgner](#)

15.06.2017

## Das Ende einer Traditionsfirma

Mit dem Abtransport der grossen Schleifmaschinen endete am Donnerstag in Horgner eine über 150-jährige Firmengeschichte.

Andre Springer  
Publiziert: 15.06.2017, 16:54  
Aktualisiert: 16.06.2017, 08:00



Die grossen Schleifmaschinen wurden am Donnerstag in Horgner am Firmensitz der Ernst Schächli & Co. AG auf einen Transporter verladen.  
Andre Springer

Die Firma Ernst Schächli & Co. AG war einst führend in der Herstellung von Messerfabrikationen gewesen. Der Kostendruck durch Billigmesser, vor allem aus dem asiatischen Raum, machte es der innovativen Horgner Firma aber immer schwerer, sich auf dem hartumkämpften Markt behaupten zu können. Von Papierschnidmessern für die grafische Industrie über Spezialmesser für metallverarbeitende Betriebe bis hin zu Eishobelmesser für die grossen Eisreinigungsmaschinen war der Name Schächli vor allem für Präzision und Langlebigkeit der Produkte bekannt.



# Elsi Post

~ 40~

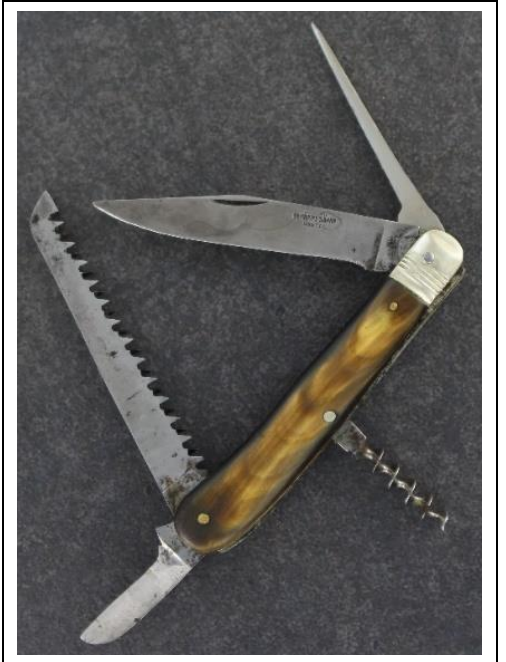
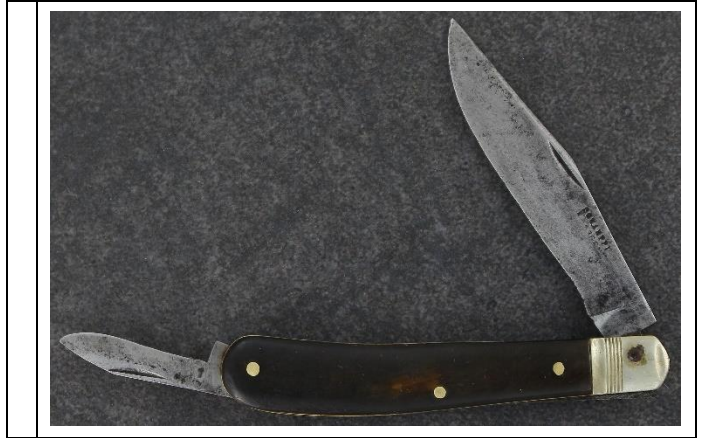
## Schäppi Horgen, examples of pocket knives





# Elsi Post

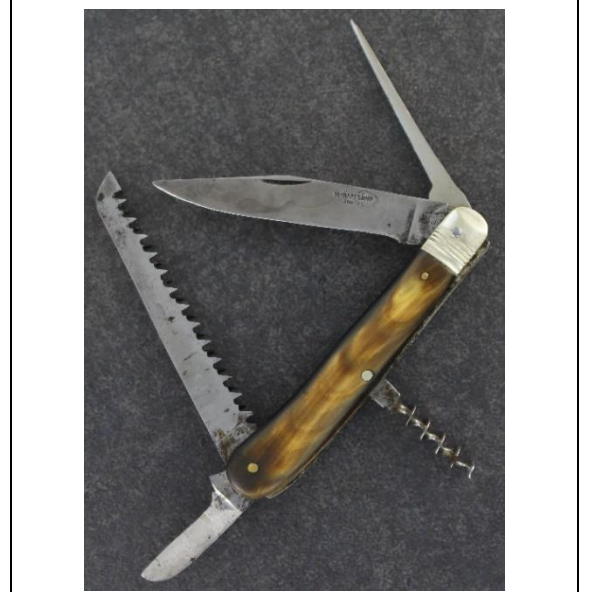
~ 41 ~





# Elsi Post

~ 42 ~







Advertising knives from and in collaboration with the company Victorinox

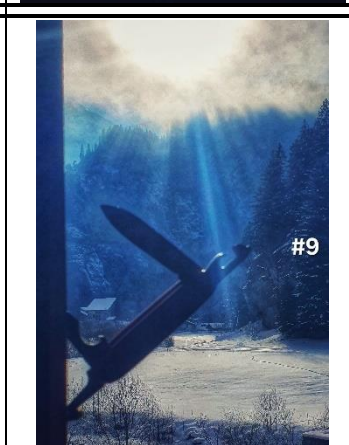
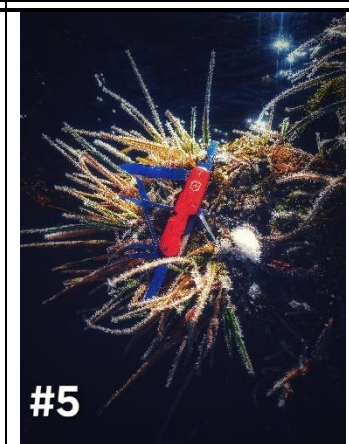
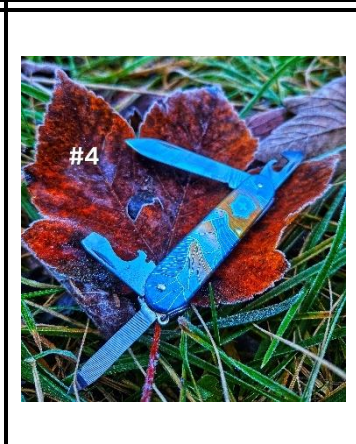
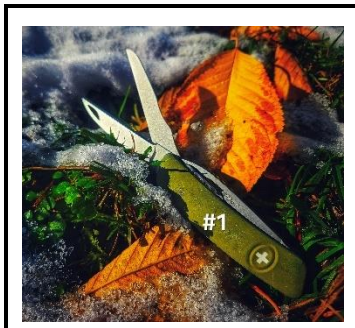




## Photo Challenge

Which is the most beautiful photo? Vote and choose the photo that will be on the front page of the next issue of the Elsi-Post.

Link at: <https://elsinox.com/Elsi-Post/>









Take part in the photo challenge for the next issue!

Send your photo to [info@elsinox.com](mailto:info@elsinox.com)



## sale

<p>#1 Damascus Limited 2011</p>  <p>Limited Edition 2011</p> <p>FP: CHF 1599.-</p>	<p>#2 Damascus Limited 2014</p>  <p>Limited Edition 2014</p> <p>FP: CHF 400.-</p>
<p>#3 74mm RockKnife Baltic Brown NIB</p>  <p>VICTORINOX SWITZERLAND</p> <p>FP: CHF 120.-</p>	<p>#4 74mm RockKnife Rosa Bertha NIB</p>  <p>VICTORINOX SWITZERLAND</p> <p>FP: CHF 120.-</p>
<p>#5 Swiss Art Limited Gold / Silver</p>  <p>verzierungen verguldet. Herstellung und Liehaberrechte: Goldschmied Frank Lüske Messer Weber Lücherbrücke Lüske F. Lüske F. Lüske Copyright © 1996 F. Lüske</p> <p>169.-</p> <p>FP: CHF 250.-</p>	<p>#6 Soldier's knife Wenger 1959 Grillon</p>  <p>FP: CHF 100.-</p>

# 7  
Nr. 0.8040.20 Old Cross



FP: CHF 250.-

# 8  
Silver First Mate Nr. 0.8160.26



FP: CHF 200.-

# 9  
Kingfisher Duo Set NIB



FP: CHF 300.-

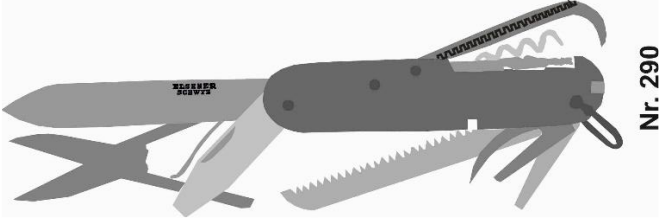
# 10  
93 mm Grossenbacher Blue



FP: CHF 300.-

## Search

#1



Nr. 290

Search model no. 290 (see drawing for configuration).

Pay: at least CHF 5000.-

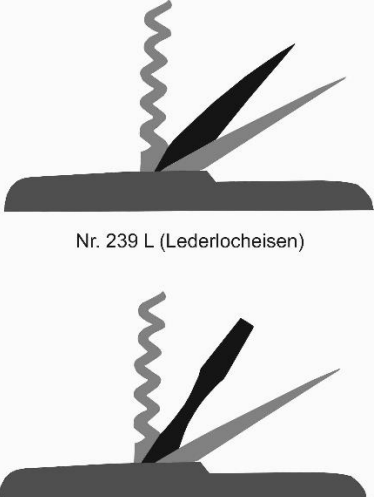
#2



Officer's knife 84 mm or 91 mm with the "legally protected" screwdriver

Pay: from CHF 800.- (depending on model and condition)

#3



Nr. 239 L (Lederlocheisen)

Nr. 239 S (Schmalere Schraubenzieher)

Model No. 239 S and L (3 tools on the back see picture above)

Pay: from CHF 1000.-

#4



135km  
«grand prix  
small»

Model No. 135 km (see picture above)

Pay: CHF 250.-



# Elsi Post

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#5



Any pocket knife with this VICTORIA embossing  
Pay: from CHF 100.-

#6



Officer's knife with this corkscrew. Condition doesn't matter.  
Pay: from CHF 1000.-

#6



Wenger with this bowl  
Pay: from CHF 1000.-

#7



<https://images-prod.anothermag.com/900/azure/another-prod/110/7/117741.jpg>

Horse Shoe Nail Knife  
Pay: CHF 1000.-

## Anecdotes from the past

Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Nummer 147, 29. Mai 1892

**Schwurgericht in Zürich.**

24. und 25. Mai 1892.

Am 3. April fand im sagenumwobenen Hegnau des Abends eine große Trinkerei statt; das Hauptwirthshaus zum „Stammbaum“ war in seinen beiden Räumen angefüllt, im kleinen inneren Zimmer schmauste und sang der Frauenverein, im größeren äußern saß an den drei Tischen die ganze thatenlustige Jungmannschaft beim Jassen, Rauchen und Trinken. Leider waren die Fröhlichen nicht alle harmlosen Gemüthes. Das sollte sich bald erweisen. In den Kreis der Schlimmsten trat ein junger in Hegnau arbeitender Maurergeselle aus dem Aargau, August Hitz von Untersiggenthal, geb. 1867; er war betrunken; denn er hatte den ganzen Tag über mit seinem Meister bei einem Gang über Land die Häuser aufgesucht, die man in den alten Landkarten mit einem kleinen Becherlein zu bezeichnen pflegte. Er trug

ein Gewand seines Meisters, weil sie einer Leichenbestattung beizuwohnen gehabt hatten, und ein eigenes, genug schönes Kleid dafür besaß Hitz nicht.

Neben seinem Rausch, den er gegen den Rath seines Meisters noch in den Stammbaum trug, besaß er noch eine andere den Jungknaben von Hegnau bemerkenswerthe Eigenschaft; er war „kein Hiesiger.“ Er wurde zum Jass eingeladen und gewann natürlich nicht beim zweiten Mal merkte er die Mogelei und warf das Spiel zusammen; da trat Einer auf ihn zu, sagte, er sei der Polizeiwachtmeister Spillmann und wenn Hitz nicht bezahle, so werde er abgefahrt. Spillmann bezahlte die Hälfte. Bald nachher wurde ihm von dem gleichen Spillmann und von einem Gottfried Reutlinger mit Pfannenschlag das Gesicht geschwärzt; alles lachte über ihn; man schlug ihm den Hut herunter, kurz er bekam die ganze Liebenswürdigkeit der „Hiesigen“ zu kosten. Das Trinkfest ging so ungefähr bis um halb drei Uhr; sämmtliche Zeitangaben vom Abend müssen als „ungefähre“ aufgefaßt werden. . . . .

Um halb 5 Uhr morgens fand der bei der Sennhütte Hegnau — welche nordwestlich vom Wirthshaus zum Stammbaum liegt — wohnhafte „Fröschenmann“ Goll bei dem kleinen Schuppen der Sennhütte die Leiche eines jungen Mannes, Jakob Winklers, der sich Abends zuvor auch im Stammbaum aufgehalten hatte, dessen Heimweg aber von da nicht nach der Sennhütte, sondern in der entgegengesetzten Richtung geführt hätte; die Leiche lag mit dem Gesicht nach unten ausgestreckt auf dem Boden, die Hände krampfhaft gegen die Brust heraufbewegt, am Hals einen abgeglitschten und einen tief eingedrungenen

Neue Zürcher Zeitung, number 147, May 29, 1892

Jury court in Zurich

May 24 and 25, 1892

On April 3rd there was a big drinking party in the evening in the legendary Hegnau; The main inn of the "Family Tree" was full in its two rooms, in the small inner room the women's club was feasting and singing, in the larger outer room the whole active young team was sitting at the three tables, chatting, smoking and drinking. Unfortunately, the happy people weren't all harmless in nature. That would soon become apparent. A young journeyman bricklayer from Aargau, August Hitz von Untersiggenthal, born in 1867, who worked in Hegnau, entered the circle of the worst; he was drunk; for he and his master had spent the whole day walking through the country visiting the houses that were usually marked on the old maps with a little cup. He was wearing a robe from his master because they had had to attend a funeral, and Hitz didn't have his own dress that was nice enough for it

In addition to his intoxication, which he carried into his family tree against his master's advice, he also had another characteristic that was remarkable to the young boy from Hegnau; he was "not a local". He was invited to the Jass and of course he didn't win. The second time he noticed the cheating and threw the game together; Then someone came up to him and said that he was police sergeant Spillmann and that if Hitz didn't pay, he would be arrested. Spillmann paid half. Soon afterwards his face was blackened with pan soot by the same Spillmann and by a Gottfried Reutlinger; everyone laughed at him; His hat was knocked off and he was given a taste of all the kindness of the locals. The drinking party lasted until about half past two; All time information from the evening must be taken as "approximate"...

At half past five in the morning, the "Frogman" Goll, who lived at the Hegnau dairy hut - which is located northwest of the family tree inn - found the body of a young man, Jakob Winkler, who had also been in the family tree the evening before, in the small shed of the dairy hut. but whose way home from there would not have led to the dairyman's hut; The corpse lay stretched out on the floor, face down, with its hands cramped up against its chest, showing a slipped and deeply penetrated knife wound in the neck. A few steps from the lifeless body lay a felt hat; He was

immediately recognized as that of August Hitz and soon afterwards this man was arrested; He was found in an upper chamber of his master's house in the "Oedenbühl", which is a property located just north-west of the village on the main

road. Hitz still had the soot on his face; There was a bloodshot spot between his eyes and a bleeding cut running down the inside of his right hand. Traces of blood were also found on the front door, in the hallway, in a straight line on the street and on the corpse in the direction of the tree garden next to the main street.

Winkler's body had been seen earlier, around three o'clock, by a young man returning home from neighboring Fällanden; But he had thought that a drunk was sleeping off his intoxication and had continued on his way in a calm mood.

How did the young, handsome Winkler have to lose his life? The cause of death was the knife stab in the neck, which, according to the medical examiner's report (Dr. Keller in Uster), caused immediate internal and external bleeding. About ten days after the crime, a small pocket knife that had belonged to the master of Hitz was found in the chicken coop in the "Oedenbühl" covered in blood.

Hitz now gives the following account: Returning from the family tree, he was stopped at the school by Spillmann, who called himself the sergeant - who is, after all, a rude and impudent comrade -, threatened with arrest and then hit with two punches between the eyes in such a way that that from then on he knew absolutely nothing, until the moment when he was spoken to by the master in bed at home; He could have stabbed Winkler, but he didn't know it at all; yes, he didn't even know whether there was a knife in the master's garment that he was wearing.

The young people from Hegnauer want to know just as little as he does about the incident at the dairy farm that caused Winkler's death. But their credibility is at least no higher than that of the defendant, who one has to assume believes that he has come up with something particularly clever with his pretended lack of memory. The Hegnau boys were almost all out of the loop, in such a way that Gottfried Reutlinger and the pseudo sergeant Spillmann were arrested in the prison during the lunch break of the trial on the first day and afterwards, because their lies, insofar as they had been reported to them, were not directly confirmed In favor or disfavor of the accused, they were fined 80 and 50 francs, while seven other witnesses, their comrades, received no witness fee. They all want to have gone home peacefully, including Spillmann, each more well-behaved than the other. (Incidentally, you could see why there was so much agreement on lying when you heard from a witness that during the investigation he had not yet been able to tell the truth; today in court he could because he no longer lives in Hegnau).

Messerstich zeigend. Einige Schritte von dem leblosen Körper entfernt lag ein Filzhut; er wurde sofort als der des August Hitz erkannt und bald darauf war dieser Mann verhaftet; man fand ihn in einer obern Kammer des Hauses seines Meisters im „Oedenbühl“, welche Liegenschaft ziemlich vom Dorf ab in nordwestlicher Richtung allein an der großen Landstraße steht. Hitz hatte noch den Ruß im Gesicht; zwischen den Augen zeigte sich eine blutunterlaufene Stelle, über die Innenfläche der rechten Hand lief eine blutende Schnittwunde. Blutspuren fand man auch an der Hausthüre, im Hausgang, in gerader Linie auf der Straße und bei der Leiche in der Richtung gegen den neben der großen Straße liegenden Banngarten.

Die Leiche Winklers war schon früher, etwa um drei Uhr von einem aus dem benachbarten Fällanden heimkehrenden jungen Manne gesehen worden; der hatte aber geglaubt, es schlafe da ein Betrunkener seinen Rausch aus, und hatte ruhigen Gemüthes seinen Weg fortgesetzt.

Wie hat nun der junge, hübsche Winkler sein Leben verlieren müssen? Todesursache ist der Messerstich im Halse, der nach dem Gutachten des Gerichtsarztes (Dr. Keller in Uster) eine sofortige innere und äußere Verblutung herbeiführen mußte. Etwa zehn Tage nach der

Hitz macht nun folgende Darstellung: Er sei, vom Stammbaum heimkehrend, beim Schulhaus von dem sich Wachtmeister nennenden Spillmann — der nach Allem ein roher und frecher Kamerad ist --, angehalten, mit Verhaftung bedroht und dann mit zwei Faustschlägen zwischen die Augen so getroffen worden, daß er von da an absolut nichts mehr wisse, bis zu dem Momente, da er daheim im Bett vom Meister angesprochen worden sei; er könne den Winkler erstochen haben, wisse es aber durchaus nicht; ja, ihm sei nicht einmal bekannt, ob in des Meisters Gewand, das er getragen, ein Messer gesteckt habe.

Genau so wenig wie er wollen die jungen Hegnauer von dem Vorgang bei der Sennhütte wissen, der den Tod Winklers verursachte. Ihre Glaubwürdigkeit steht aber zum mindesten auch nicht höher als die des Angeklagten, von dem man annehmen muß, er glaube mit der vorgeschügten Erinnerunglosigkeit etwas ganz besonders Gescheidtes aufgetrieben zu haben. Die Hegnauer Burschen logen beinahe alle durchs Band weg und zwar so, daß Gottfried Reutlinger und der Pseudowachtmeister Spillmann über die Mittagspause der Verhandlung des ersten Tages in der Strafanstalt in Verhaft gesetzt und nachher, da ihre Lügen, soweit sie derselben überwiesen waren, nicht direkt zu Gunsten oder Ungunsten des Angeklagten lauteten, mit Ordnungsbußen von 80 und 50 Fr. belegt wurden, während sieben weitere Zeugen, ihre Kameraden,

today in court he could because he no longer lives in Hegnau).



keine Zeugengebühr bekamen. Sie wollen alle, auch Spillmann, friedlich heimgegangen sein, einer braver als der ander. (Warum übrigens die Einigkeit im Lügen so groß war, konnte man erkennen, als man von einem Zeugen vernahm, in der Untersuchung habe er die Wahrheit noch nicht wohl sagen können; heute vor dem Gericht könne er es, denn: er wohne jetzt nicht mehr in Hegnau.)

Nun steht aber durch Aussagen unverdächtiger Zeugen fest, daß um die Zeit, da die Todeswunde Winkler beigebracht worden sein muß, auf dem Stück der Kindhauserstraße, an dem die Sennhütte steht, ein Rennen und Laufen von Mehreren, zweien oder dreien, gehört wurde, sowie die Rufe: „Vorwärts! Nehmed e! Haueb e!“ Der Verteidigung (amtlicher Verteidiger Dr. v. Schulthess-Rechberg) gelang es, trotz dem unhaltbaren Standpunkte des Angeklagten selbst, aus der Beweisverhandlung den Schluß festzustellen, daß der Angeklagte, soweit er Aussagen mache, die Wahrheit sage und daß er, wenn er die That überhaupt begangen, offenbar von Mehreren verfolgt, sich zur Wehre gesetzt habe, allerdings dabei leider in einer widerrechtlich hervorgerufenen starken Aufregung die Nothwehr überschreitend; der öffentliche Ankläger (I. Staatsanwalt Koller), ohne gegen diesen eventuellen Standpunkt zu opponiren, durfte mit Recht den Beweis der Thäterschaft des Hitz als geleistet bezeichnen.

*persecuted, the President sent out a telegram in which the police soldier from Volketswil- Hegnau reports that the witness Gottfried Reutlinger had admitted to him the evening before that Spillmann and a certain Brüngger, also a witness and without a witness fee, had followed the crime. The witness Reutlinger was still present in the courtroom; but he didn't want to know anything more about what the policeman had reported.*

*The tribune was packed during both days of the hearing.*

*But it is now clear from statements from unsuspecting witnesses that around the time when Winkler's fatal wound must have been inflicted, a running and running of several people, two or three, was heard on the stretch of Kindhauserstraße where the dairyman's hut is located, as well the shouts: «Forward! Take him! Skin him!» Despite the defendant's own untenable position, the defense (official defense attorney Dr. v. Schulthess-Rechberg) managed to conclude from the evidentiary hearing that the defendant was telling the truth when he made statements and that when he did committed the crime in the first place, was apparently pursued by several people, and defended himself, although in doing so he unfortunately exceeded self-defense in an unlawfully caused strong excitement; The public prosecutor (first public prosecutor Koller), without opposing this possible position, was entitled to rightly describe the proof of the perpetrator of the Hitz as having been provided.*

*We have already announced the verdict of the jury, as well as the verdict. It may have been a strange reassurance for the jury, although in our opinion it was by no means necessary, when, after opening their verdict, which was based on the assumption that Hitz must have been*

Den Wahrspruch der Geschworenen haben wir bereits mitgetheilt, ebenso das Urtheil. Für die Geschworenen mag es eine zwar unseres Erachtens durchaus nicht nothwendige, aber eigenthümliche Beruhigung gewesen sein, als nach Eröffnung ihres Spruches, der auf der Annahme beruht, es müsse Hitz verfolgt worden sein, der Präsident ein Telegramm verlas, worin der Polizeisoldat von Volketswil-Hegnau mittheilt, der Zeuge Gottfried Reutlinger habe ihm gegenüber Abends zuvor zugegeben, daß Spillmann und ein gewisser Brüngger, ebenfalls Zeuge und zwar ohne Zeugengebühr, den Hitz verfolgt hätten. Der Zeuge Reutlinger war noch im Gerichtssaal anwesend; aber er wollte nichts mehr von dem wissen, was der Polizeisoldat gemeldet.

Die Tribüne war während beider Verhandlungstage dicht besetzt.