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english edition

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since 2023

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Result of the vote

Welche der Victorinox Collections gefällt dir besonders und würdest du heute noch kaufen? / Which of the Victorinox Collections do you particularly like and would you still buy today?

Collection:

50% No.1

14% No.2

0% No.3

7% No.4

29% Fan-Collection

0% Flag-Collection

0% keine / none



Wenger Minathor, p. 2



Victorinox Razor, p. 18



Souvenir Knife, Lion Monument p. 25



Cutler Bühler, Langenthal, p. 32

Wenger Minathor

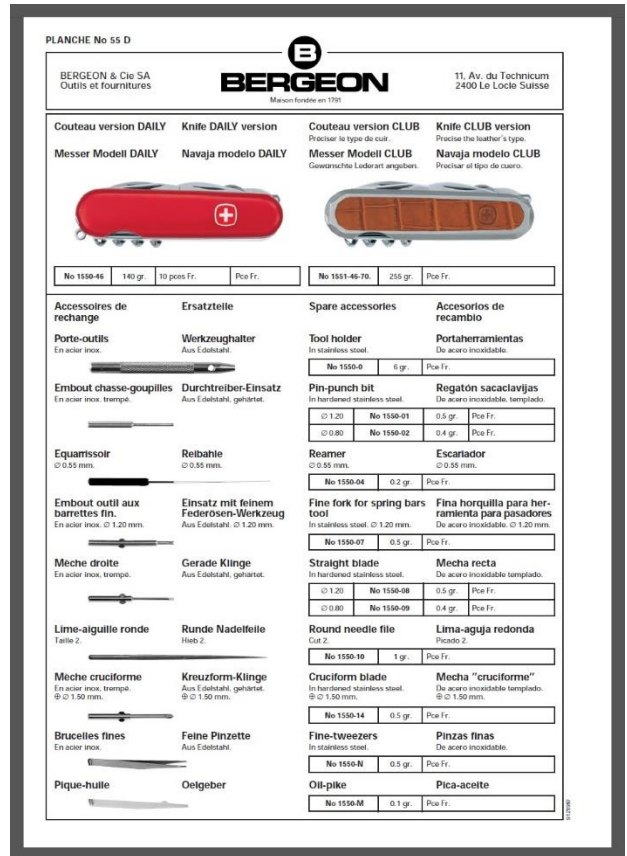
History

The Wenger Delémont company produced a special watch knife, the so-called Wenger Minathor, around 1997 until the end of its operations in 2005. There was close cooperation with the Bergeon company. Bergeon has existed since 1791 and is a leader in the production of tools for watchmakers, engravers and goldsmiths. Bergeon tools impress with their outstanding quality and are valued worldwide. Collaboration made perfect sense here, as the two companies could complement each other perfectly.

Minathor model is a pocket knife in the standard size 85 mm, as Wenger has produced many different models. The pocket knife had some tools that were also found in other pocket knife models, as well as two specific layers in which the Bergeon company tools were stored. One layer contained a tool holder, and the other layer contained a fold-out plastic insert that could be equipped with Bergeon tools on both sides. These tools fit into the tool holder. In addition to the Wenger Minathor model, this tool holder and the insert with the tools were also available for 2 other specialized Wenger pocket knives, the Wenger SGT Fix- It and the Wenger SGT Shortix Plus. Even though the Bergeon inserts in the Wenger Minathor are professional tools for trained watch mechanics, the target group was more likely watch lovers and watch collectors who wanted a special tool.

Tools numbered 1 – 14 could be stored in the fold-out tray. The basic designation was No. 1550 with the corresponding numbers, which were as follows:

- No. 1550-0: Tool holder
- No. 1550-01: Punch 1.20 mm diameter
- No. 1550-02: Punch 0.80 mm diameter
- No. 1550-03: Punch 0.40 mm diameter
- No. 1550-04: Reamer 0.55 mm diameter
- No. 1550-05: Philipps screwdriver 1.50 mm diameter
- No. 1550-06: Philipps screwdriver 2.00 mm diameter
- No. 1550-07: Spring eyelet tool 0.12 mm diameter
- No. 1550-08: Screwdriver flat 1.20 mm diameter
- No. 1550-09: Flat screwdriver 0.80 mm diameter
- No. 1550-10: Round needle file
- No. 1550-11: Screwdriver flat 1.00 mm diameter
- No. 1550-12: Screwdriver flat 1.50 mm diameter
- No. 1550-13: Screwdriver flat 2.00 mm diameter
- No. 1550-14: Philipps screwdriver 1.50 mm diameter
- No. 1550-N: Fine tweezers
- No. 1550-M: Oil dispenser



There was a standard configuration of existing tools. These included the numbers 0, 01, 02, 04, 07, 08, 09, 10, 14, N and M (see picture above right). In principle, the tool holder could be individually equipped and the individual tools could be reordered from Bergeon. This was of course an interesting idea, but probably had little application in practice. Enclosed with the Wenger Minathor was a short description that explained some of the tools. Here are a few pictures of certain tools being used:

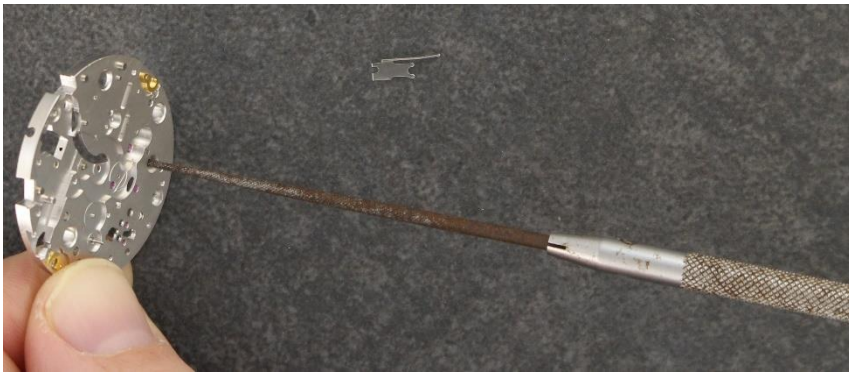
Watch scale opener



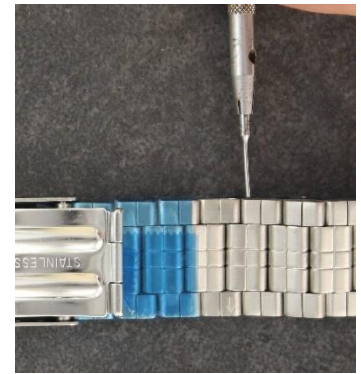
Belt dismantling tool



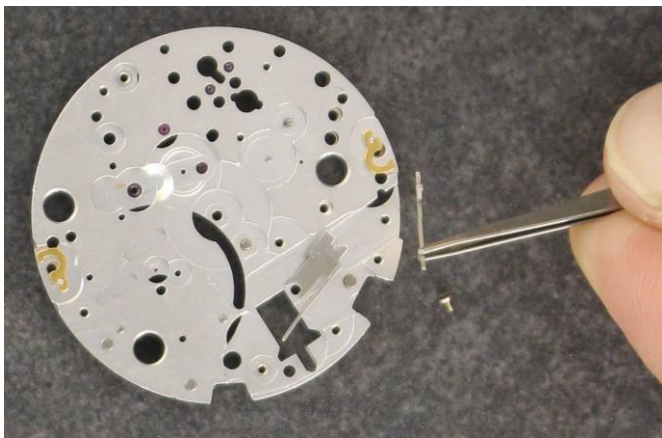
Round needle file



Pusher

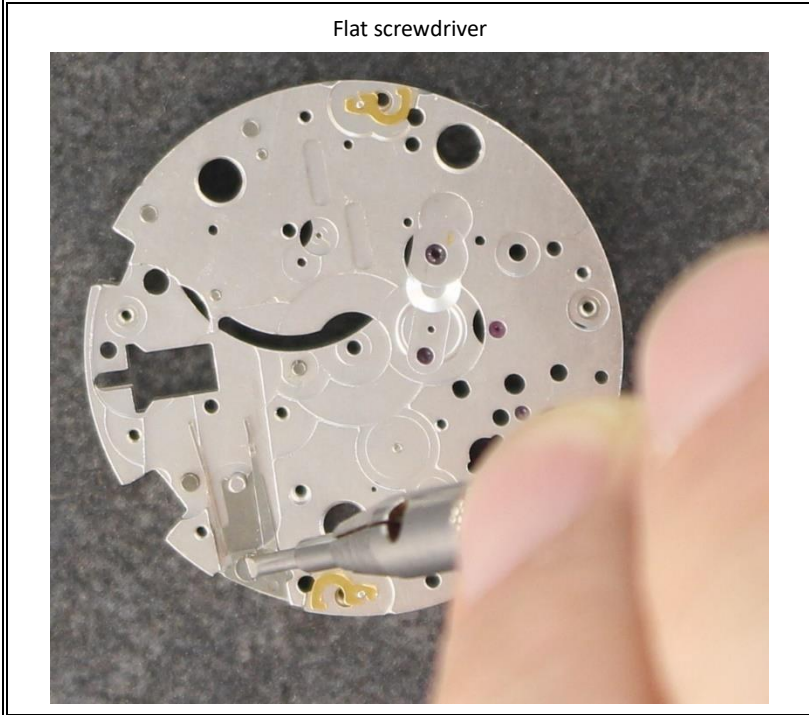


tweezers



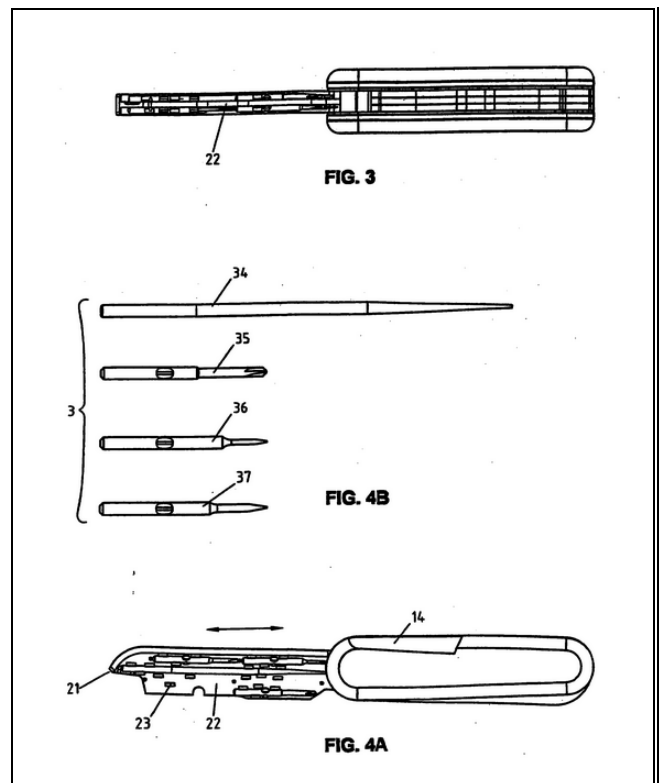
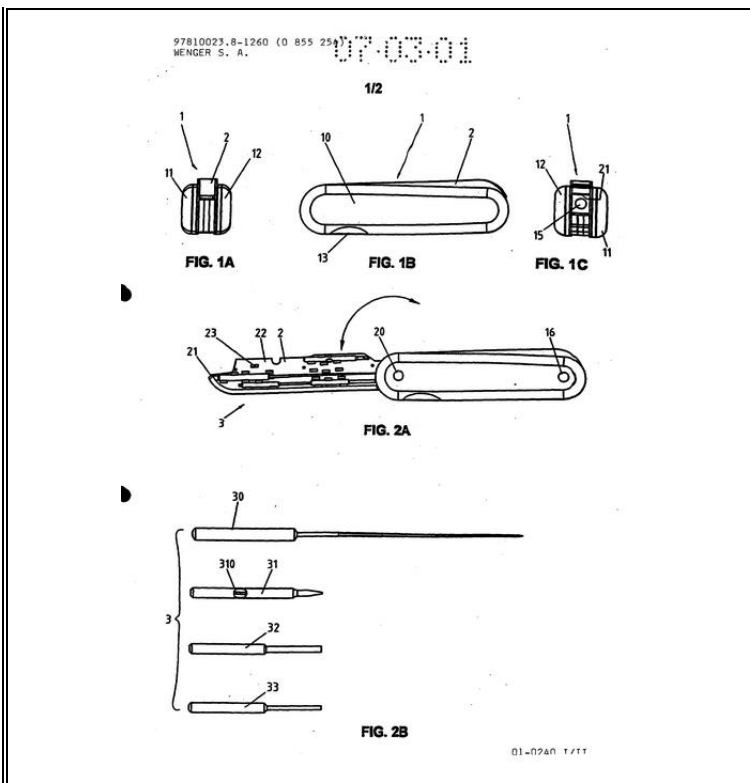
back of the tweezers





Patent Wenger Delémont

On January 17, 1997, the Wenger Delémont company submitted the so-called “pocket tool magazine” for patenting. It was released on July 19, 2001. Below you can see the images of the patent application as well as the detailed description of the patent. As usual, the description is left very open. However, the pictures clearly show that this was exactly the magazine with the Bergeon tools. No other application/execution of the patent is known.



6,014,786



US006014786A

United States Patent [19] Cachot

[11] Patent Number: 6,014,786 [45] Date of Patent: *Jan. 18, 2000

[54] POCKET TOOL MAGAZINE 4,285,556 8/1981 Loeffel 205/372 X
[75] Inventor: Maurice Cachot, Delémont, Switzerland 5,203,469 4/1993 Chang et al. 206/372 X
5,259,502 11/1993 Chan 206/372 X
5,511,261 4/1996 Collins .
5,553,340 9/1996 Brown 7/118 X
[73] Assignee: Wenger SA, Delémont, Switzerland 5,711,194 1/1998 Anderson et al. 7/118 X

[*] Notice: This patent issued on a continued prosecution application filed under 37 CFR 1.53(d), and is subject to the twenty year patent term provisions of 35 U.S.C. 154(a)(2).

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

1030874 3/1953 France .
9400187 5/1995 Germany .

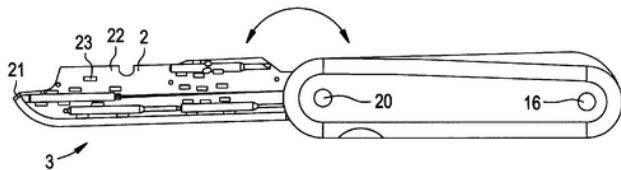
Primary Examiner—James G Smith
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Goodman & Teitelbaum, Esq.

ABSTRACT

The tool magazine has the general shape of a "Swiss knife"; it comprises essentially at least one stocking implement or blade extractable from the body, fixing means being provided on at least one face of said stocking implement or blade in order to receive a plurality of removable tools. Means being provided, on the body or on the tool, respectively, in order to provide a handle for the tool on the body.

12 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets

[21] Appl. No.: 08/991,965
[22] Filed: Dec. 17, 1997
[30] Foreign Application Priority Data
Jan. 17, 1997 [EP] European Pat. Off. 97810023
[51] Int. Cl. B26B 11/00
[52] U.S. Cl. 7/118; 81/440; 206/372
[58] Field of Search 7/118, 158, 165; 206/372, 373, 376; 81/440
References Cited
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS
2,980,996 4/1961 Beran 7/118 X



6,014,786

The same hooking means 310 can also be adapted, for example, to a chucking device of a tool actuator such as, for example, a battery-powered wrench or screwdriver, or to an implement powered by any other energy source.

Thus, the user has a range of tools, taking up a limited space, which tools can be adapted to his needs, the tools being easily accessible individually, and, if necessary, certain of them being easily usable in cooperation with the body of the magazine as a handle or a support of said tool.

What is claimed is:

- 1. A tool magazine comprising:
a body including two longitudinally extending, spaced apart, parallel lateral sides to provide an interior space therebetween, said body having a pocket knife configuration for carrying in a pocket of a garment;
means securing said lateral sides to each other in a fixed relationship;
at least one extractable implement being disposed in said interior space in an inoperable position, opposing lateral faces of a longitudinally extending wall of said at least one extractable implement being essentially parallel to said lateral sides of said body;
at least one of said opposing lateral faces of said wall being provided with fixing means for removably securing a plurality of tools to said wall when said at least one extractable implement is in said inoperable position;
said fixing means permitting said plurality of tools to be removed from said at least one of said opposing lateral faces of said wall when said at least one extractable implement is extracted from said body to an operation position; and
said fixing means being a plurality of fixing pins, said fixing pins having a predetermined arrangement to permit said plurality of tools to be inserted between a selected number of said plurality of fixing pins.
2. A tool magazine according to claim 1, wherein said body is provided with pivot means to allow said at least one

extractable implement to pivot out of said interior space, said pivot means including a pivot extending through one end of said at least one extractable implement, said pivot being fixed between said lateral sides of said body.

3. Tool magazine according to claim 2, wherein said at least one extractable implement includes grasping means to facilitate extraction of said at least one extractable implement from said body to said operable position.

4. Tool magazine according to claim 1, wherein said body is provided with slide means to longitudinally slide said at least one extractable implement out of said interior space to said operable position.

5. A tool magazine according to claim 1, wherein said fixing pins are provided on both of said opposing lateral faces of said wall, said fixing pins arranging said plurality of tools in a parallel relationship to each other.

6. A tool magazine according to claim 1, wherein at least one tool of said plurality of tools being provided with hooking means for securing said at least one tool in said body, said hooking means being disposed on a rear portion of said at least one tool.

7. A tool magazine according to claim 6, wherein said body is provided with accommodation means for receiving said rear portion of said at least one tool.

8. A tool magazine according to claim 7, wherein said accommodation means snaps onto said hooking means to secure said at least one tool to said body.

9. A tool magazine according to claim 7, wherein said accommodation means is disposed on an end of said body and on one of said lateral sides of said body.

10. A tool magazine according to claim 1, wherein at least a second extractable implement is disposed in said interior space of said body adjacent to said at least one extractable implement.

11. A tool magazine according to claim 10, wherein said second extractable implement is a knife blade.

12. A tool magazine according to claim 10, wherein said second extractable implement is a punching implement.

* * * * *

1 POCKET TOOL MAGAZINE

This invention concerns a magazine or container for tools of sufficiently reduced dimension to be easily put into a pocket, there are generally two ways to do so. The first way is to use a container, generally of cylindrical shape, whose one end forms a lid and where the different tools are contained inside a hollow part of said cylinder. Generally, a tip provided at the other end of the container enables an adaptation to be made for each tool, the container then functioning as a handle for the tool being used. Such a device has several drawbacks, in particular the fact that the container must be emptied completely in order to select a particular tool since the tools are packed in a jumble inside the container. At the same time it is generally necessary to put the tools back in a predetermined order inside the container so that there is enough space for all of them. With such a device moreover it is not easy to determine whether a tool is missing.

Another way consists in joining together the different tools at one of their ends and of mounting them between two lateral sides in order to form a device of the pocket knife type or "Swiss knife" type. In this case, certain implements, for example a toothpick or tweezers, can be slipped into an adapted accommodation. When the number of implements is large, however, the knife becomes prohibitively wide. Moreover the user does not have a selection of tools suited to his needs at a particular time, the different implements being mounted at the factory by the manufacturer of the knife. A first object of the invention is to propose a magazine for tools which does not have the drawbacks of the known devices, but instead permits easy access to a particular tool such that it is possible to take the tool out easily, put it back easily or easily check whether all the tools are there, but still maintaining pocket-size dimensions.

A second object of the invention is to propose a magazine for tools which can be adapted to suit the needs of the user, while giving the user a choice of tools to be included in the device. These different objects are attained through a tool magazine made up of a body comprising two lateral sides surrounding an interior space, at least one implement extractable from said tool body being disposed in said space, wherein at least one of said extractable implements is shaped to receive at least one removable tool.

A preferred embodiment having two variants of the opening means is described below with reference to the attached drawing containing the figures where:

FIGS. 1A, 1B and 1C represent an embodiment of the tool magazine in the closed state, seen from one end, seen from the side, or seen from the other end, respectively;

FIG. 2A is a lateral view of the same magazine, opened, according to a first variant of the opening means;

FIG. 2B shows a range of tools visible in the preceding figure;

FIG. 3 shows the same opened magazine, seen from above;

FIG. 4A is a lateral view of the magazine according to a second variant of the opening means; and

FIG. 4B shows another range of tools visible in the preceding figure.

As can be seen in the figures, the tool magazine 1 according to the invention has the general shape of a "Swiss knife". From FIGS. 1A and 1C it can be seen that its

2

dimensions, in particular its width, remain rather small. The tool magazine is thus made up of a body 10 comprising two lateral sides 11 and 12 held together in a known way and leaving a space between them. Besides a tool stocking implement 2 which will be described further below, the magazine 1 can further comprise one or more other implements or blades, for example a knife blade 13 or a punching implement 14, these other tools or implements being mounted and being usable in a known way.

The tool magazine 1 includes a stocking implement or blade 2 disposed in the space between the two lateral sides 11 and 12 and which can be extracted from, or respectively introduced into, the body 10 according to two variants. In the case of the first variant, represented by the double arrow in FIG. 2A, a first end of the stocking implement 2 is mounted in a way so as to pivot on a pivot 20, which permits the implement to be removed from, or respectively introduced, between the two lateral sides 11 and 12 of the body 10 in the same way as an ordinary knife blade. To this end, the other end of the stocking implement 2 has grasping means 21 (see FIGS. 1C and 2A) allowing it to be seized in order to make it pivot.

According to another variant, indicated by the double arrow in FIG. 4A, the implement 2 is longitudinally sliding between the two lateral sides 11 and 12, along sliding means 28 (not shown in the figures). The stocking implement 2 can thus be taken out of the body 10 completely and can be separated therefrom, or can be retained, by known means, in the body 10. In the same way as in the foregoing, grasping means 21 can aid in taking the stocking implement 2 out of the body 10.

The stocking implement 2 is made up in particular of a wall 22 having on one or both of its faces a plurality of fixing pins 23. The fixing pins 23 are preferably grouped together in such a way as to permit a plurality of tools 3 to be inserted, by pinching each between two or three pins 23. In can be seen in FIG. 2A that the face shown of the stocking implement 2 has eighteen pins 23 disposed in groups of three in such a way as to be able to stock six tools 3 parallel to one another. Although it is not absolutely necessary, the other face of the stocking implement 2 visible in FIG. 4A likewise bears the same number of pins 23 for accepting the same number of tools 3. Shown in FIGS. 2B and 4B, by way of example of the tools which can be stocked in such a device, are: a fine file 30, a first slotted screwdriver 31, two hexagonal screwdrivers 32 and 33, a needle-like implement 34, a Phillips-head screwdriver 35 and two other slotted screwdrivers 36 and 37. It is to be noted that all the tools 3 are independent from the tool magazine 1, they can therefore be easily selected by the user when buying the magazine or otherwise selected for a predetermined task from among a full range available to the user.

The tool magazine has been described with a stocking implement 2 equipped on its two faces with fixing means 23; it is evident however that it is also possible to have just one face adapted to receive tools. It is likewise possible to provide more than one stocking implement 2 between the two lateral sides 11 and 12, each of the implements being equipped with fixing pins on one or both of its faces. A hooking means 310 can be noted on the rear portion of some of the tools, in particular on the screwdriver 31. This rear portion of the tool 31 can be inserted in an accommodation 15 which can be provided on one end of the body 10 or in an accommodation 16 which can be provided in the lateral side of the body 10. By snapping the hooking means into a known device provided for this purpose on the inside of the accommodation or accommodations 15, 16, it is possible to use the body 10 as a handle for the tool 31.

Wenger offered the Minathor in two versions, the “Messer Model DAILY” and the “Messer Model CLUB”. The “Daily” model is the Wenger model Minathor with scales made of red Cellidor, standard scales. The “Club” model has steel scales with leather inserts. Another collaboration arose here, now with the company “Schweizer & Schoepf”, which produced the leather inserts and the matching leather case. The relatively small company “Schweizer & Schoepf” specializes in the production of leather watch straps. The three companies that worked together for the Wenger Minathor of the CLUB series were all based in the French-speaking part of Switzerland and were only an hour's drive away from each other. This certainly also had something to do with the mentality of this language region of working closely together in order to survive, as all three places are far away from the Swiss industrial and commercial centers of Basel, Zurich or Geneva.

The Club version was presented at the BaselWorld watch and jewelry trade fair in 1997. There were 4 versions with leather inlays from the animals crocodile (brown), shark (green), lizard (red) and caribou (blue). Each of these versions came in a special presentation box and, in addition to a 1 centime piece, contained a matching case made of the same leather as the insert in the knives' scales.

Later, other club versions were added, such as versions with calfskin insoles in black or brown and with caribou insoles in black. These versions came in a different presentation box without an additional leather case. According to the homepage www.timedesign.de, these versions were limited to 20 pieces (Karibou black) and 10 pieces (calfskin brown; calfskin black). Another limited version, which, however, did not have a leather insert and is therefore not one of the club versions, came with smooth steel scales and was limited to 20 pieces.

variants

The following versions/variants with the corresponding model numbers are known for the Wenger Minathor.

Daily version

- No. 1.550.46 (red Cellidor scales)
- No. 1,550,300 (red Cellidor Evolution scales)
- No. 1,551,46,830 (EvoWood)

Another version without a known model number

Green Cellidor scales

Club version

- No. 1,551,46,700 (crocodile leather brown)
- No. 1.551.46.701 (shark green)
- No. 1.551.46.702 (red lizard)
- No. 1,551,46,703 (caribou blue)

Special models

- Wenger Minathor Eka Wood for Blancpain
- Wenger Minathor EvoWood for Blancpain
- Wenger Minathor Stainless Steel for Vacheron Constantin
- Wenger Minathor Cellidor Yellow for Bergeon
- Wenger Minathor Cellidor Black for Eterna Porsche Design
- Wenger Minathor Cellidor Blue for Longines

No. 1.551.46.704 (caribou black)
No. 1.551.46.706 (calf black)
No. 1.551.46.707 (brown calf)
No. 1,551,46,799 (Stainless Steel)

There were certainly other special models that are not listed here. The prices on the market for

Perspective of a master watchmaker

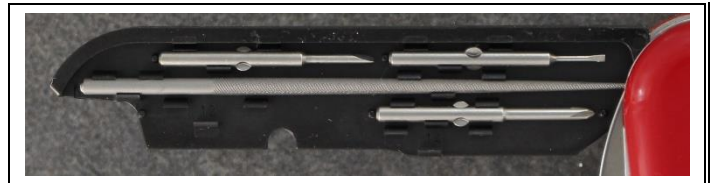
The Wenger Minathor was shown and used by a master watchmaker to test functionality and obtain his personal, subjective opinion.

naturally knew the Bergeon company and its tools. However, the Wenger Minathor was completely unknown to him, including the specific tools in this version made for it by Bergeon. Although he has been active in the watch business at all levels (watchmaker apprentice, watchmaker, apprentice trainer) for around 20 years and has worked in various very renowned watchmaking companies in Switzerland, he has never met Wenger Minathor. However, the quality of the product itself, as well as the specific tools, impressed him; there were no noticeable losses in quality compared to the "normal" tools used for watchmaking. From his point of view and based on practical experience in use, the Bergeon tools can be used to carry out the most common tasks on watches, such as changing a watch strap, opening a watch case, or even loosening/tightening screws. However, he considers the tools unsuitable for everyday operation in a watch workshop. There are much more practical and ergonomic tools here. In a watchmaker's workshop you don't have to carry all your tools with you in your pocket.

Since some of the variants of the Minathors were made for specific watch brands such as Blancpain or Vacherin Constantin, he assumes that these were given to customers as a "free" addition to very high-priced watches. From my point of view, this makes sense and it is also clear that there are no Minathors for watch manufacturers in the low or medium price segment. Blancpain, for example, offers various watches in the price segment over CHF 100,000 per piece, while at Vacheron Constantin the price even goes up to over CHF 400,000 per piece.

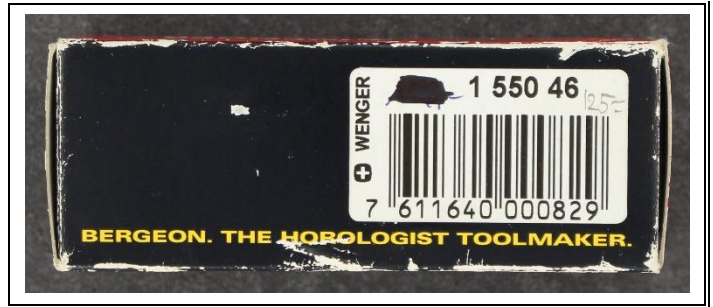
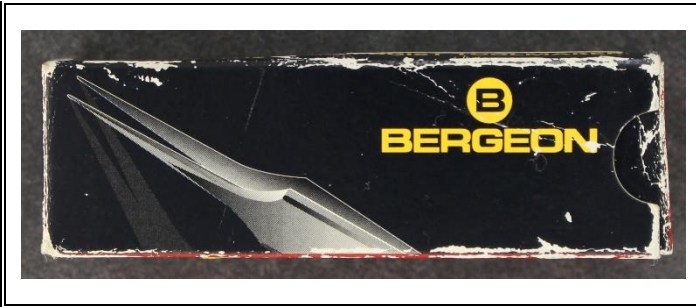
Conclusion: the Wenger Minathor, especially in the Club version, was a product for watch lovers who wanted to have the right accessory in addition to a high-priced watch and got it with this knife. If something small on a watch actually needed to be repaired or a strap needed to be changed, the Minathor was ideally equipped to do it and probably stage it in front of impressed people. But it also turns out that many of the Wenger Minathors that appear on the market are still in the original packaging, and if not, the Bergeon tools are still complete and usually still arranged in the magazine as they were when delivered. This shows that these tools were rarely if ever actually used.

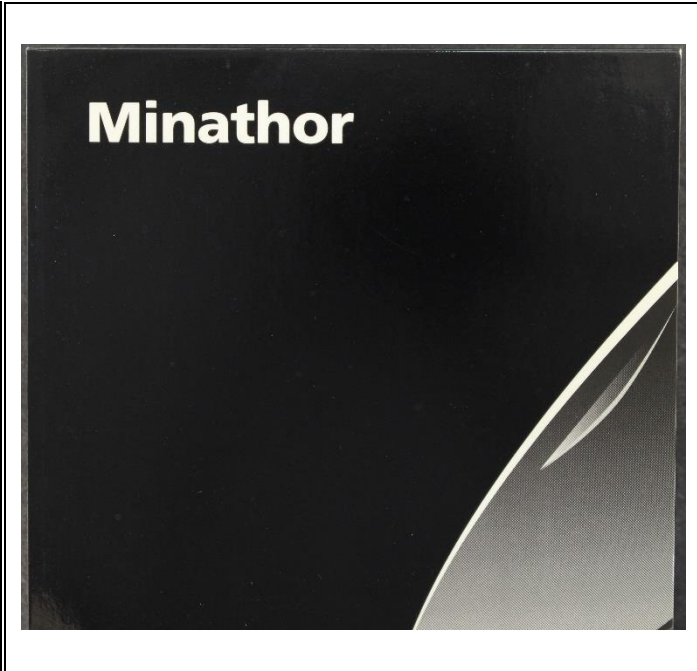
Wenger Minathor examples



Elsi-Post

~ 9 ~





Près **WENGER** Minathor 702
 0102 80 1 551 48 702
 7 611640 805480

Symbole d'amitié
UNE MONNAIE D'ÉCHANGE...

En exclusivité, découvrez une authentique pièce en cuivre d'un centime suisse! Elle permet au destinataire du couteau de «payer» celui qui l'a donné, car une vieille croyance affirme que «couteau donné coupe l'amitié». Mais un conseil d'ami: donnez une autre pièce en échange du couteau et gardez le centime pour vous-même: n'ayant plus cours, ces centimes sont très recherchés - et on dit qu'ils sortent bonheurs!

Freundschaft-Symbol
DIE TAUSCHMÜNZE...

Exklusivität: Entdecken Sie ein echtes Schweizer Eintappen-Kupferstück! Damit kann der Empfänger des Messers dieses dem Spender zurückzahlen, denn ein altes Sprichwort besagt, ein geschenktes Messer trennt Freunde. Doch hier ein Rat unter Freunden: Legen Sie Ihnen Gastschenk eine andere Münze bei und behalten Sie das Rückstück für sich, da diese Münzen offiziell keine Gültigkeit mehr haben, sind sie schon heute sehr begehrt. Sie sind Objekte- und Glücksbringer obendrein.

Friendship Symbol
READY MONEY...

Exclusiv! Discover a genuine Swiss one centime copper piece! The idea is to allow the receiver of the knife to «pay» it to the giver in return to the old adage «a gift of a knife cuts the friendship». But, just a piece of friendly advice, however, give another coin in its place, and keep this one for yourself. As these one centime pieces are no longer legal tender, they are very much in demand - and they say that they bring good luck!

WENGER Expert • MINATHOR

Série MINATHOR de WENGER: das echte Schweizer Messer entdeckt ein Feuer für die Uhrmacher und Mikrotechniker. Neben allen üblichen vielfältigen Aufgaben sind 14 klassische und funktionale Werkzeuge und Kleinfunktionen, die speziell für den neuen Autoklemmen-System entwickelt wurden, wartet es nun mit einer weiteren Qualität auf dem integrierten Werkzeugmagazin, in dem die 14 authentischen Uhrmacherwerkzeuge von BERGEON Platz finden. Funktion in den Versionen Daily und Club mit der Handgelenk- und Schalen aus Metallwerkstoffe, die absoluten Locksystem.

WENGER Expert • MINATHOR
The MINATHOR series by WENGER: a genuine Swiss Army knife specifically designed for watchmaking and microtechnology. In addition to its range of 14 classic tools and functions, optimized for its particular vocation, it features an exclusive, integrated toolmag, containing up to 14 authentic, specialised BERGEON tools. Available in two versions: Daily, with functional top synthetic scales, and Club, with fine metal leather scales and matching leather sheath quality crafted by S&S.

WENGER Expert • MINATHOR
Serie MINATHOR de WENGER: la verdadera navaja para relojeros y microtecnología. Además de sus 14 herramientas clásicas y funciones típicas, optimizadas para su destino especial, ofrece una innovación: una caja de herramientas integrada que contiene hasta 14 auténticas herramientas especializadas BERGEON. Disponible en dos versiones: Daily, con escalas superiores de plástico funcional, y Club, formada por S&S, con escalas y funda de cuero de calidad.

MINATHOR version Daily

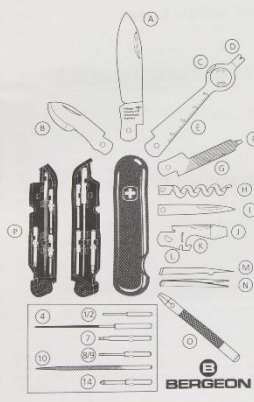


MINATHOR version Club







MINATHOR - outils et fonctions / Werkzeuge und Funktionen / Tools and functions / Herramientas y funciones




A. Grande lame / Grosses Klinge / Large blade / Hoja grande. **B.** Lame ouvrière / Gewissensmesser / Case-cooper / Hoja obrero. **C.** Loupe / Lupe / Spinn bar tool / Herramienta para pasadores. **E.** Règlette graduée en mm / Masstab mit mm-Skala / Small rule, graduated in mm. **F.** Graduated pen nib / Tournevis N° 0 / Schraubenzieher N° 0 / Screwdriver No. 0 / Destornillador N° 0. **G.** Lime à métaux / Metallfeile / Metal file / Lima para metales. **H.** Ten-bouchon / Korkenzieher / Concrete / Sacacorchos. **I.** Lime para metales. **J.** Leve / Leve / Leve / Leve. **K.** Leve / Leve / Leve / Leve. **L.** Leve / Leve / Leve / Leve. **M.** Leve / Leve / Leve / Leve. **N.** Leve / Leve / Leve / Leve. **O.** Leve / Leve / Leve / Leve. **P.** Leve / Leve / Leve / Leve. **Q.** Leve / Leve / Leve / Leve.

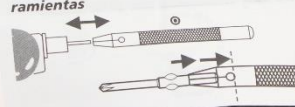
Extraction des outils du magasin / Entnahme der Werkzeuge aus dem Magazin / Removing Tools from the Box / Extracción de las herramientas de la caja de herramientas



Exemples d'utilisation / Verwendungsbeispiele / Examples of Use / Ejemplos de utilización



Utilisation du porte-outils / Verwendung des Werkzeughalters / Using the Tool Holder / Utilización del portaherramientas



Comment prendre soin de votre couteau / Wie Sie Ihr Schweizer Messer pflegen / How to care for your knife / Cómo cuidar su navaja

Tips für die Pflege

Ihr echtes Schweizer Messer, hergestellt in den modernen Fabrikationsstätten der WENGER S.A. in Delémont/Schweiz, ist ein Präzisionsinstrument und verlangt für das einwandfreie Funktionieren eine richtige Pflege. Es genügt, wenn Sie von Zeit zu Zeit einen Tropfen Öl auf die Laufflächen geben.

Conseil d'aiguillage

Pour l'aiguillage, veuillez utiliser une pierre à huile de bonne qualité ou une pierre carbonilium.

Tips zum Schärfen der Klinge

Die Klingen schärfen Sie vorzugsweise auf einem feinen Carbonilium- oder Ölstein.

How to sharpen your knife

To sharpen, use a good oilstone or carbonilium stone.

Consejos para afilarla

Para afilar su navaja, utilice una piedra de aceite de buena calidad o una piedra carbonilium.



Tournevis avec sécurité (patenté) / Sicherheits-Schraubenzieher (patentiert) / Safety screwdriver (patented) / Destornillador de seguridad (patentado)

1. Une pression exercée sur la tête de la vis bloque le tournevis; le système de sécurité empêche la fermeture de l'instrument.

2. Le relâchement de la pression annule l'effet du système de sécurité.

3. Ein Druck auf den Schraubkopf blockiert den Schraubenzieher. Solange der Druck anhält, verhindert das Sicherheitsystem das Schließen des Instruments.

4. Once Druckausübung löst sich die Sicherheitsblockierung.

5. Pressing the screwdriver into the screw head automatically engages the safety lock system and prevents the tool from closing.

6. The safety lock disengages once pressure is released.

7. La presión ejercida sobre la cabeza del tornillo bloquea el destornillador; el sistema de seguridad impide el cierre involuntario del instrumento.

8. Relajando la presión se anula el efecto del sistema de seguridad.

GARANTEE valable 5 ans

La Maison WENGER S.A. garantit la qualité et la fabrication de ce véritable COUTEAU SUISSE. Cette garantie couvre toutes les pièces de matériel de fabrication. Tout couteau défectueux retourné sera réparé gratuitement ou remplacé. Nous recommandons notre adresse grâce à la Grande Lame. Les cuir et outils amovibles ainsi que les dommages provoqués par accident, par une utilisation abusive ou un traitement inapproprié sont exclus de cette garantie.

GARANTEE gültig für 5 Jahre

Die Firma WENGER S.A. garantiert für erstklassiges Material und gründliche Verarbeitung dieses echten SCHWEIZER MESSERS. Die Garantie umfasst alle Werkzeuge und Fabrikationsstücke. Defekte Messer werden gratis instandgesetzt oder ersetzt. Die Fabrik-Adresse ist auf dem grossen Klinge eingraviert. Lederstücke und abnehmbare Werkzeuge sowie Schäden, die auf missbräuchliche Verwendung, unsachgemässe Behandlung oder Unfall zurückzuführen sind, fallen nicht unter diese Garantie.

WARRANTY valid for 5 years

The WENGER genuine SWISS ARMY KNIFE is warranted against all defects in materials and workmanship for a period of 5 years from the date of purchase. We will repair or, at our option, replace any defective knife returned to our factory. You will find our address printed on the tool or on large blade. This warranty specifically excludes all leather and detachable tools, and damage caused by misuse, abuse or accident.


GARANTÍA válida durante 5 años

La Casa WENGER S.A. garantiza la calidad y buena fabricación de esta verdadera NAVAJA SUIZA. Esta garantía cubre cualquier defecto de material o de fabricación. Toda navaja defectuosa devuelta se reparará o reemplazará gratuitamente. En nuestra dirección grabado en la hoja más amovible así como los daños provocados por un uso indebido, por un tratamiento inapropiado o por accidente.

GARANZIA, valida 5 anni

La WENGER S.A. garantisce la qualità e l'accurata manifattura di questo vero COUTELO SVIZZERO. La garanzia si estende a qualsiasi difetto del materiale o di fabbricazione. Tutti i coltelli difettosi rimossi verranno riparati gratuitamente o sostituiti. L'indirizzo della fabbrica è inciso sulla lamina grande. Sono esclusi da questa garanzia le parti in pelle e gli utensili amovibili così come i danni provocati da incidente e da uso indebito o improprio.

WENGER S.A.
Cutlery Works since 1893
CH - 2800 Delémont/Schweizland
T 032 - 422 61 81
Fax 032 - 433 38 02



LE VÉRITABLE COUTEAU SUISSE DE L'HORLOGER.
Série MINATHOR

DAS ECHE SCHWEIZER MESSER FÜR DEN UHRMACHER. Serie MINATHOR

THE GENUINE SWISS WATCHMAKER'S KNIFE. MINATHOR Series

LA VERDADERA NAVAJA SUIZA DE RELOJERO. Serie MINATHOR

WENGER Expert
of Switzerland

16 665 97-M

Elsi-Post

~ 12 ~



Elsi-Post

~ 13 ~



Elsi-Post

~ 14 ~



Elsi-Post

~ 15 ~



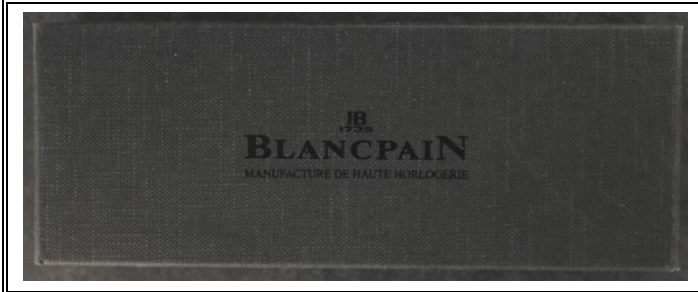
Elsi-Post

~ 16 ~



Elsi-Post

~ 17 ~



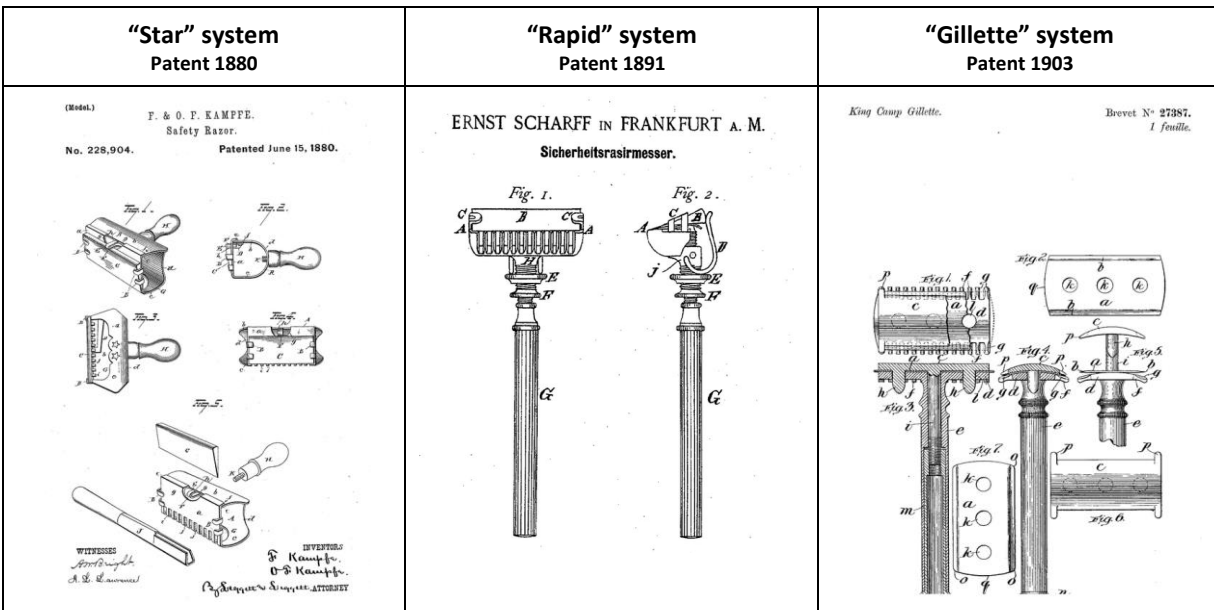
Victorinox razor

What is generally known is that Victorinox and Karl Elsener not only manufactured pocket knives, but also many other items. Right from the start, this also included razors. Newspaper articles talk about “the first Swiss razor factory”.

As early as 1880, a certain Frederic Kampfe in the USA invented a safety razor that made it possible to shave one's beard relatively safely at home without having to resort to a "normal" razor. Over the next decades, this product was continually developed and improved. The actual razor blade was a piece of hollow ground metal that tapered to a point. This razor blade was clamped into a razor head, which in turn was attached to a style. This meant that everything could be stored in a space-saving manner and taken with you when traveling, for example. This was the so-called “The Star Safety Razor” system. The razor could be sharpened and was therefore durable.

In 1891, an Ernst Scharff from Frankfurt patented a safety razor. The JA Henckels company from Solingen took over the patent and further developed the product. This resulted in the “System Rapide”. It was basically very similar to the “System Star”, with a sharpenable and long-lasting razor blade.

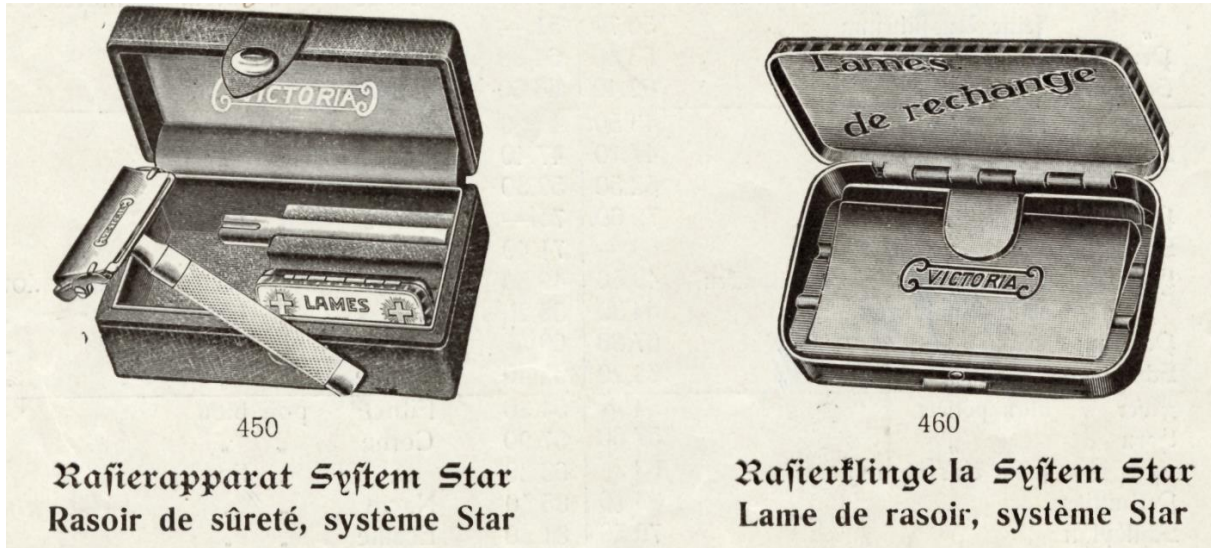
In 1901, a certain King Camp Gillette in the USA invented a so-called safety razor with replaceable razor blades, which no longer required sharpening a razor. The razor blades were simply thrown away when they became dull. This is still the case today. The safety razor was called “The Gillette Safety Razor” and was a groundbreaking success.



At the beginning of the 20th century there were these 3 popular systems in Switzerland (and this probably also applied to the rest of the industrialized countries). Karl Elsener, like other cutlers around the world, sold these systems in addition to their own razors because the demand for them was very high. There were also many copies of it. These razors are presented in an old brochure by Karl Elsener from around 1910. An original “Gillette” system with 12 blades cost CHF 25 at the time and the so-called “Gillette imitation” with 3 blades cost CHF 4. The “Star” system cost CHF 14 with 1 blade, a replacement blade cost CHF 5, the “Rapide” razor cost CHF 6.50, and the replacement blade cost CHF 2.50. The prices are around 10 times higher than today's purchasing power.

You can see that it was then as it is today: you pay the most for Gillette, and there were and still are a lot of imitation products or competing products, some of which are significantly cheaper.

In a catalog by Karl Elsener from 1922, his own product was advertised, called the “Shaving System Star”. As can be seen, Karl Elsener oriented himself towards the “Star” and not the “Gillette” product. There was only one version in a box and razor blades could be purchased separately. The cost was around CHF 5.-



450

Rasierapparat System Star
Rasoir de sûreté, système Star

460

Rasierflinge la System Star
Lame de rasoir, système Star

The “System Star” was manufactured by Victorinox until the 1930s. Only the replacement blades are shown in the 1942 catalog.

This razor is extremely rare to find today. It must be assumed that Karl Elsener, with his razor based on the Star system, had no real chance of asserting himself against Gillette and the original Star. Basically you have to say that this was a kind of copy of the Star razor. As usual, it is made in Victorinox quality, very high quality, and silver-plated. Karl Elsener may have used the wrong system at the time and would probably have been better served with the “Gillette” system. The “System Star” was long-lasting, but expensive to purchase for the first time. The razor blades also needed to be sharpened regularly. There was also a special device that made this easier, but it had to be purchased separately. The “Gillette system” on the other hand was relatively simple and uncomplicated. The replacement blades were relatively cheap, as was the initial purchase.

It's still the same today. Gillette is the absolute market leader when it comes to wet razors in many parts of the world. In Switzerland, Wilkinson follows in second place. There are countless other providers, some of them much cheaper, but so far they have hardly been able to establish themselves. Even though the quality is probably comparable, the majority of people want Gillette, the original, and will pay the price for it. The margin is enormous. A Gillette Fusion Power blade, for example, costs CHF 0.10 to produce including packaging, while it is sold in stores for around CHF 5 (see <https://www.20min.ch/story/start-ups-kreuzen-with-gillette-the-blades-796125307496>). Who knows, if Karl Elsener had also relied on disposable razors back then, whether the market situation in Switzerland would be different today.

Basically, throughout its history, the Victorinox company has relied almost exclusively on its own products and developments. It was only rarely that something was copied and imitated. This was the last time on a large scale with Swisstool. For a long time, Victorinox struggled to copy the original “Leatherman” or produce anything comparable, even though demand for it was very high. When they finally decided to do it, the condition was that they didn't just copy the original, but create something that was better. In my opinion, this was very successful and the intention could be implemented. The Swisstool is still produced today in large quantities, practically unchanged.

Swiss cutlery advertised razors in countless advertisements at the beginning of the 20th century. The Gillette system was almost exclusively advertised and hardly or not at all the Swiss product from Karl Elsener.

Der Bund, Band 68, Nummer 590, 18. Dezember 1917

**Wichtig für
! Selbstrasierer !**

✱

Die bevorzugte Marke „Gillette“ mit
12 doppelschneidigen Klingen zu
Fr. 25.— netto hat noch am Lager

Alf. Simon, Messerschmiede
✱ Oschwind's Nachfolger ✱
Bern ✱ 11 Weissenhausplatz 11

29175

Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Nummer 82, 22. März 1908 Ausgabe 03

Der nachweisbar grosse Absatz
in
Rasierapparaten

Star und Gillette

lässt den Wert derselben voll und ganz erkennen.
Verlangen Sie Prospekte durch
S. Tresch, Messerschmied, 14 Sonnenquai, Zürich I.

Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Nummer 339, 7. Dezember 1906 Ausgabe 04

Weihnachts-Anzeiger

Auf bevorstehende Festzeit empfehlen nachfolgende Spezialgeschäfte ihre

„GILLETTE“



Natürliche Grösse.

Prima Messerschmiedwaren

Taschenmesser
Scheeren jeder Art
Tafel- und Dessertmesser
mit und ohne Etnis
Tranchierbestecke etc. vom
gewöhnlichen bis feinsten Genre

als
Spezielle Geschenke für Herren
Rasierapparate
„STAR“ „RAPIDE“
„GILLETTE“
mit 12 Klingen

„STAR“



Natürliche Grösse.

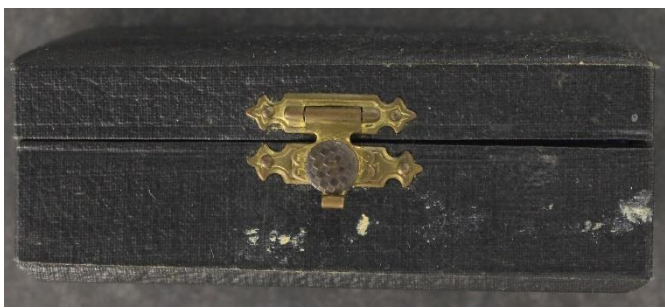
Die vereinigten Messerschmiede Zürichs:

J. Bleuler, Hindermarkt 13 und Poststrasse 8	Dolmetsch-Riethmüller, Limmatquai 74	A. Riethmüller, Rennwegplatz 58
S. Tresch, Sonnenquai 14	F. Waser, Rennweg 33	Gustav Waser, Rädtenplatz 4

In the last advertisement you can see that the Zurich cutlers - traditional companies with some very long histories of their own as cutlers - did not advertise their own products in the Christmas Advertisement, but rather the "Gillette" and "Star" systems. That's how popular these razors were back then.

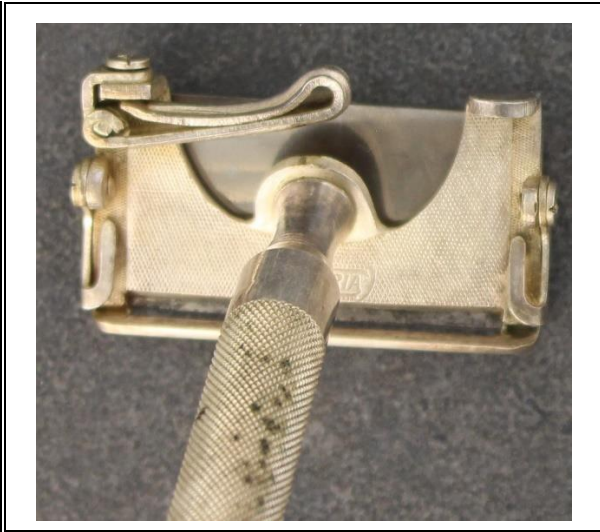
Regardless of the system, these razors had the great advantage that shaving at home could be carried out safely and inexpensively for everyone, and a trip to the barber was no longer necessary. Of course, they were in competition with the "ordinary" razors, which Victorinox continued to produce in various versions for a long time. However, Victorinox has withdrawn completely from the razor and shaving equipment market for some time now. Wet razors in general are still available on the market and are very popular, even though there is now a wide range of electric razors on the market. In recent years, at least in Switzerland, new barbers have opened all over the place, which are once again relying on traditional shaving with a razor and shaving brush. Wearing and maintaining a beard is generally back in fashion. There are still or are still traditional companies in the knife industry that produce and sell classic razors. That might be the moment when Victorinox could start doing it again. The know-how would probably still be there.

Example Victorinox "System Star" model no. 450



Elsi-Post

~ 22 ~



Elsi-Post

~ 23 ~



This additional small metal box could accommodate 2 replacement razor blades.



Souvenir fair at the Lion Monument in Lucerne

The Lion Monument in Lucerne is one of the most famous tourist attractions in Switzerland. It is located in the middle of Lucerne. For Swiss students it is a place that is visited very often on school trips. If you go to Lucerne, you visit the Lion Monument. It is located at the foot of the so-called Glacier Garden, an exhibition in which, among other things, glacier pots are shown and which also includes a mirror labyrinth.

The classic route for school classes is the tour from Lucerne train station over the Chapel Bridge through the old town to the Lion Monument, up to the Glacier Garden and back over the city walls. This tour allows you to experience many of the attractions and sights of the city of Lucerne, which is a tourist magnet. There is a large car parking lot right next to the Lion Monument. Mostly Asian tourists get out there every day and flood the city and its sights

Back to the Lion Monument. Although the Lion Monument is one of Switzerland's top tourist attractions, hardly anyone knows the story behind it. Unlike, for example, the story of the national hero William Tell, the story surrounding the Lion Monument has little anchoring, neither in history lessons nor in the general consciousness of the population. How did this monument come about and what is the story behind it?

As the name suggests, this attraction is a monument. It is intended to commemorate the fact that on August 10, 1792, around 750 Swiss guardsmen in the service of the French king died in the so-called storming of the Tuileries as part of the French Revolution. The Swiss Guard had a very long history in the service of the French kings. In contrast to large parts of the French troops, the Swiss Guard defended the Tuileries Palace - which had previously been abandoned by the royal family - until the last. Many found death. The storming of the Tuileries, which ended in victory for the insurgents, resulted in the French king being deposed and the surviving Swiss guardsmen murdered. This also ended the history of the Swiss Guard in the service of France.

A certain Karl Pfyffer von Altishofen, who was an officer in the Swiss Guard at the time and was working in France, but was on holiday in Switzerland at the time of the storming of the Tuileries, had the initiative to build a monument in honor of and in memory of the fallen comrades. He received permission from the city of Lucerne to have the monument erected in a rock face on his leased property. His idea was, based on antiquity, to have a dead lion carved into the rock on resting weapons. It took a long time to create and various drafts were rejected. The finally completed monument depicted a resting or dying lion measuring approximately 10 x 6 m, carved in sandstone, pierced by a spearhead, lying on weapons and 2 shields, one with the Swiss cross and one with the French Lilies. Above it is the motto: *HELVETIORUM FIDEI AC VIRTUTI* (To the loyalty and bravery of the Swiss), as well as the names of the Swiss Guard officers who were killed in the storm and who survived. The monument was inaugurated in 1821.

From the very beginning, the place, which was henceforth called the Lion Monument, was a tourist attraction and attracted many celebrities and personalities to Lucerne. Mark Twain is said to have said of the monument: "The saddest and most moving piece of stone in the world."



https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/0/0b/Luzern_asv2022-10_L%C3%B6wenzentrum_img1.jpg/1280px-Luzern_asv2022-10_L%C3%B6wenzentrum_img1.jpg

There is a water basin in front of the monument and a garden area around it, which overall gives the monument a somewhat romantic appearance. Early on - and still - numerous souvenirs with images of the lion monument, carvings, pictures and even pocket knives with the lion motif were and are offered throughout the city of Lucerne. The monument

is not without controversy in Switzerland; after all, it is a war memorial and, moreover, a “foreign” affair. In 2021 the Lion Monument celebrated its 200th anniversary.

Lion Monument Souvenir Fair

A lot of so-called souvenir knives were made and sold from the Lion Monument. These are mostly German-made pocket knives with aluminum scales, which depicted the lion monument in relief form. Most of these pocket knives come from the workshops of the A. Feist company in Solingen and date from the beginning of the 20th century.

Along with the depiction of William Tell, it is probably the best-selling souvenir pocket knife with a Swiss motif. Today, Victorinox – and previously Wenger – still produces souvenir pocket knives with images of the Lion Monument. 1.4 million people visit the Lion Monument every year. These souvenirs can be found all over the world today.

Below are different versions of these souvenir pocket knives. There are countless variations and they are a popular collecting area. The pocket knives in good condition are traded between CHF 100 and CHF 200 each. Most of these souvenir pocket knives have scales made of aluminum, which is very soft. As a result, there is often a lot of abrasion simply because the pocket knife was in a trouser pocket. This causes the relief to become “dull”, flattened.



It is also exciting to see how closely the replicas were based on the original, or how they were designed relatively freely. For example, there are depictions that show the lion from a perspective from behind. Behind the lion is actually the rock wall, which means there is no rear view in the original.

Many of the souvenir pocket knives also have the inscription *HELVETIORUM FIDEI AC VIRTUTI*, although hardly anyone can simply translate it like that.

Switzerland - now known worldwide for its pocket knives - was only really developing its knife industry around 1910 - 1940, especially the two large manufacturers Victorinox and Wenger. Back then, they probably didn't have the opportunity or even the interest to offer souvenir pocket knives in large quantities at favorable conditions. They would probably have had no chance against companies like A. Feist and Co from Solingen, which had extensive experience in industrial production.

Souvenir pocket knife Lion Monument, examples



The pocket knives pictured above are all from Victorinox. The pocket knife at the top left has Cellidor scales with a print, the other 3 pocket knives have scales from Edisona S.A. in bimetal at the bottom and a silver metal at the top right.



Schalen aus 0.800 Silber



Elsi-Post

~ 28 ~





Elsi-Post

~ 30 ~

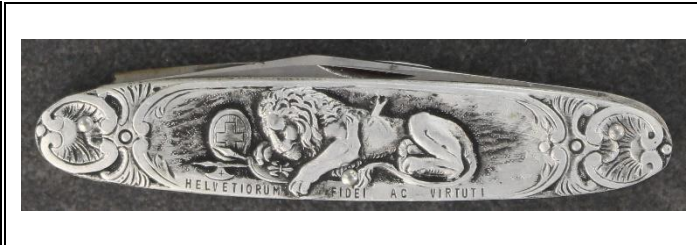


Die beiden Taschenmesser oben haben Schalen aus massivem Metall, nicht aus Aluminium



Elsi-Post

~ 31 ~



Cutler Bühler, Langenthal

Grütliener, 19. Mai 1888

Zwei solide
Messerschmiede
 finden dauernde Beschäftigung bei 836
J. Bühler, Messerschmied,
Langenthal.
 Auch könnte ein zugleich ein **Lehrjunge**
 angenommen werden. 837

1888

Two solid cutlers find permanent employment at J. Bühler, Messerschmied, Langenthal. One could also be accepted as an apprentice.

1897

For mechanics, blacksmiths, etc. "Hardening agent" cans of 100 liters each.

10 sent cash on delivery

L. Widmer, Drog., Langenthal

We tried the above hardening agent and found it to be excellent and recommend the same to Christen, Mechan., Langenthal. Bühler, cutler.

Illustrierte schweizerische Handwerker-Zeitung: unabhängiges Geschäftsblatt der gesamten Meisterschaft aller Handwerke und Gewerbe, Band 13 (1897)

**Für Mechaniker,
 Schmiede etc.
 ,Härtemittel'**
 Dosen zu 100 Liter à Fr. 10
 versendet gegen Postnachnahme
**L. Widmer, Drog.,
 Langenthal.**
 Obiges Härtemittel haben pro-
 biert und ausgezeichnet befunden
 und empfehlen dasselbe (2129
**Christen, Mechan., Langenthal.
 Bühler, Messerschmied, "**

Grütliener, 24. April 1897

520] Zwei tüchtige Messerschmiede,
 auf ordinäre Taschenmesser geübt,
 finden dauernde Arbeit bei Bühler,
 Messerschmied, Langenthal.

1897

Two skilled cutlers, trained in ordinary pocket knives, find permanent work at Bühler, Messerschmied, Langenthal.

Schweizerisches Handelsamtsblatt = Feuille officielle suisse du commerce = Foglio ufficiale svizzero di commercio, Band 17 (1899)

Auf Frage 330. Apfelhöher fabriziert Bühler, Messerfabrik,
 Langenthal.

1899

On question 330. Apfelhöher manufactures Bühler, Messerfabrik, Langenthal.

Schweizerisches Handelsamtsblatt = Feuille officielle suisse du commerce = Foglio ufficiale svizzero di commercio, Band 17 (1899)

20. November. Inhaber der Firma **J. Bühler** in Langenthal ist Jakob Bühler, von Riedthelm bei Zurzach (Aargau), wohnhaft in Langenthal. Natur des Geschäftes: Fabrikation von Messerschmiedwaren und Handel mit solchen und Schleiferei.

1899
20th November. The owner of the company J. Bühler in Langenthal is Jakob Bühler, from Riedthelm near Zurzach (Aargau), who lives in Langenthal. Nature of the business: Manufacture of cutlery and trade in cutlery and grinding.

Grütliener, 13. März 1900

Für Messerschmiede.
Ein fleißiger Arbeiter findet dauernde Stelle bei **J. Bühler**, Messerschmied, Langenthal (Bern). Elektrischer Betrieb. [1916]

1900
A hard-working worker finds a permanent job at J. Bühler, cutler, Langenthal (Bern). Electric operation.

Schweizerisches Handelsamtsblatt = Feuille officielle suisse du commerce = Foglio ufficiale svizzero di commercio, Band 42 (1924)

Langenthal: IIIa. 458 Bühler, Hans, Messerschmied.

Schweizerisches Handelsamtsblatt = Feuille officielle suisse du commerce = Foglio ufficiale svizzero di commercio, Band 48 (1930)

Bern — Berne — Berna

Bureau Aarwangen

Messerschmiedwaren. — 1930. 22. Oktober. Die Firma **J. Bühler**, Fabrikation von und Handel mit Messerschmiedwaren, Schleiferei, in Langenthal (S. H. A. B. Nr. 363 vom 23. November 1899, Seite 1461), ist infolge Verzichtes des Inhabers erloschen.

Handelsregister — Registre du commerce — Registro di commercio

I. Hauptregister — I. Registre principal — I. Registro principale

Bern — Berne — Berna

Bureau Aarwangen

Messerschmiedwaren usw. — 1930. 29. Oktober. Inhaber der Firma **Hans Bühler**, in Langenthal, ist Hans Bühler, von Riedthelm bei Zurzach, in Langenthal. Fabrikation und Handel mit Messerschmiedwaren, Schleiferei. St. Urbanstrasse.

1930
Knifsmiths. 1930. October 22nd. The company J. Bühler, manufacturing and trading in cutlery, grinding, in Langenthal, has ceased to operate as a result of the owner's resignation.
Knifsmiths, etc. - 1930. October 29th. The owner of the company Hans Bühler, in Langenthal, is Hans Bühler, from Riedthelm near Zurzach, in Langenthal. Manufacture and trade in knife smithery, grinding. St. Urbanstrasse.

Illustrierte schweizerische Handwerker-Zeitung : unabhängiges Geschäftsblatt der gesamten Meisterschaft aller Handwerke und Gewerbe, Band 47-48 (1931)

Neuerungen im autogenen Schweißen

Totentafel.

+ **Jakob Bühler, alt Messerschmied in Langenthal,** starb am 26. November im 70. Altersjahr.

1931

Death tablet.

Jakob Bühler, a former cutler in Langenthal, died on November 26th at the age of 70.

Berner Tagwacht, Band 65, Nummer 289, 10. Dezember 1957

**Bestecke — Stahlwaren
Elektrische Rasierapparate**



Messerschmied

Langenthal

Schweizerisches Handelsamtsblatt = Feuille officielle suisse du commerce = Foglio ufficiale svizzero di commercio, Band 83 (1965)

Bern - Berne - Berna
Bureau Aarwangen

25. Oktober 1965. Messerschmiedwaren usw.

Hans Bühler, in Langenthal, Fabrikation von und Handel mit Messerschmiedwaren, Schleiferei (SHAB. Nr. 256 vom 1. November 1930, Seite 2239). Die Firma wird infolge Geschäftsüberganges gelöscht.

25. Oktober 1965. Messerschmiedwaren usw.

Hans Bühler, in Langenthal. Inhaber der Firma ist Hans Bühler, von Rietheim (Aargau), in Langenthal. Fabrikation von und Handel mit Messerschmiedwaren und Bestecken, Schleiferei. St. Urbanstrasse 18.

1965

October 25, 1965. Blacksmiths, etc.

Hans Bühler, in Langenthal, manufacture and trade in cutlery, grinding. The company will be deleted as a result of the business transfer.

October 25, 1965. Blacksmiths, etc.

Hans Bühler, in Langenthal. The owner of the company is Hans Bühler, from Rietheim (Aargau), in Langenthal. Manufacture and trade of cutlery and cutlery, grinding. St. Urbanstrasse 18.

Shab.ch: swiss official gazette of commerce = Fosc.ch: feuille officielle suisse du commerce = Fusc.ch: foglio ufficiale svizzero di commerce ,

Volume 124 (2006)

■ **Hans Bühler**, in Langenthal, CH-053.1.001.886-0, Fabrikation von und Handel mit Messerschmiedwaren und Bestecken, Schleiferei, Einzelfirma (SHAB Nr. 255 vom 01. 11. 1965, S. 3422). Die Firma ist infolge Geschäftsaufgabe erloschen.

Tagebuch Nr. 168 vom 27.01.2006
(03224844 / CH-053.1.001.886-0)

In 2006 the Bühler Messerschmiede company in Langenthal went out of business. Hans Bühler retired and since there was no successor, the company went out of business. Hans Bühler still lives in Langenthal.

Bühler cutler interview

I met Hans Bühler at his home in Langenthal. He was very happy to answer my questions. Overall it was a very pleasant atmosphere and Mr and Mrs Bühler were very nice, lovable people. The interview was hold in swiss german. The following sequences are a reasonable reproduction from immediate memory and based on notes and written in standard German.

Elsinox: *"I would like to find out more about the history of the Bühler cutlery in Langenthal."*

Hans Bühler: *"I took over the business from my father in 1965. The father was born in 1894. The grandfather founded the cutlery in Langenthal in 1882. We are therefore 2 years older than the Victorinox company. So we were, we don't exist anymore. You're going to laugh now, I'll show you something."*



"He pulls out a book, the one about the 100th anniversary of Victorinox, The Knife and its History. He opens it to a certain page and points to a man in a photo. «I took out this book and looked at it, I have time. That's when I found my grandfather on it. I don't have any photos of my grandparents myself, I didn't know them. I was born in 1940. I already had an old father." The father was around 46 years old when Hans Bühler was born. «My father's birthday was on the same day as mine, May 6th. The last birthday we celebrated together, I was 46 and he was 92. That was a celebration. The father died in 1986."



Elsinox: *"It was also exciting to see how many cutlers you recognized in the photo from the cutlery association, as it is very blurry and very old."*

Hans Bühler: *"I learned a lot in the book that I didn't know myself. They also published a book by Wenger on the 100th anniversary. They all just complained about how they had gone bankrupt. And the union. It was still interesting, the whole structure and stuff. How the union was active, with wages, short-time work. Just like it is today."*

Elsinox: *"The Bühler family does not come from Langenthal, but from Rietheim, near Zurzach. A cutler, August Bühler, also comes from there. Does the name mean anything to you? Or do you know other relatives who worked as cutlers?"*

Hans Bühler: *"No, that doesn't mean anything to me. The father had 5 sisters. I don't even know whether my grandfather had any siblings. Probably already during this time."*

August Bühler: Not much is known about August Bühler. In 1862, a "Karl August Bühler" settled in St. Gallen as a cutler, who went bankrupt in 1868, married again in 1875 and died in 1882. In 1893 there is an entry that shows that an August Bühler - possibly the son of Karl August Bühler - was a cutler and cashier at the Grütliverein Schwyz at the time. From 1965 there is another entry from a cutler



August Bühler from Rietheim near Zurzach, who then died and was born in 1892. Hans Bühler's grandfather was born in 1862. I have a pocket knife marked "August Bühler, Zurzach". I assume that an August Bühler - just like Jakob Bühler, who originally came from Rietheim - was employed by Karl Elsener around 1893 and had run a cutlery forge before/after in Rietheim or Zurzach (right next door). His son, in turn, was born in 1892, also became a cutler, but was then presumably

Elsi - Post

~ 37 ~

employed without owning a business. I firmly assume that Jakob Bühler and August Bühler were related, if not brothers, then probably cousins.

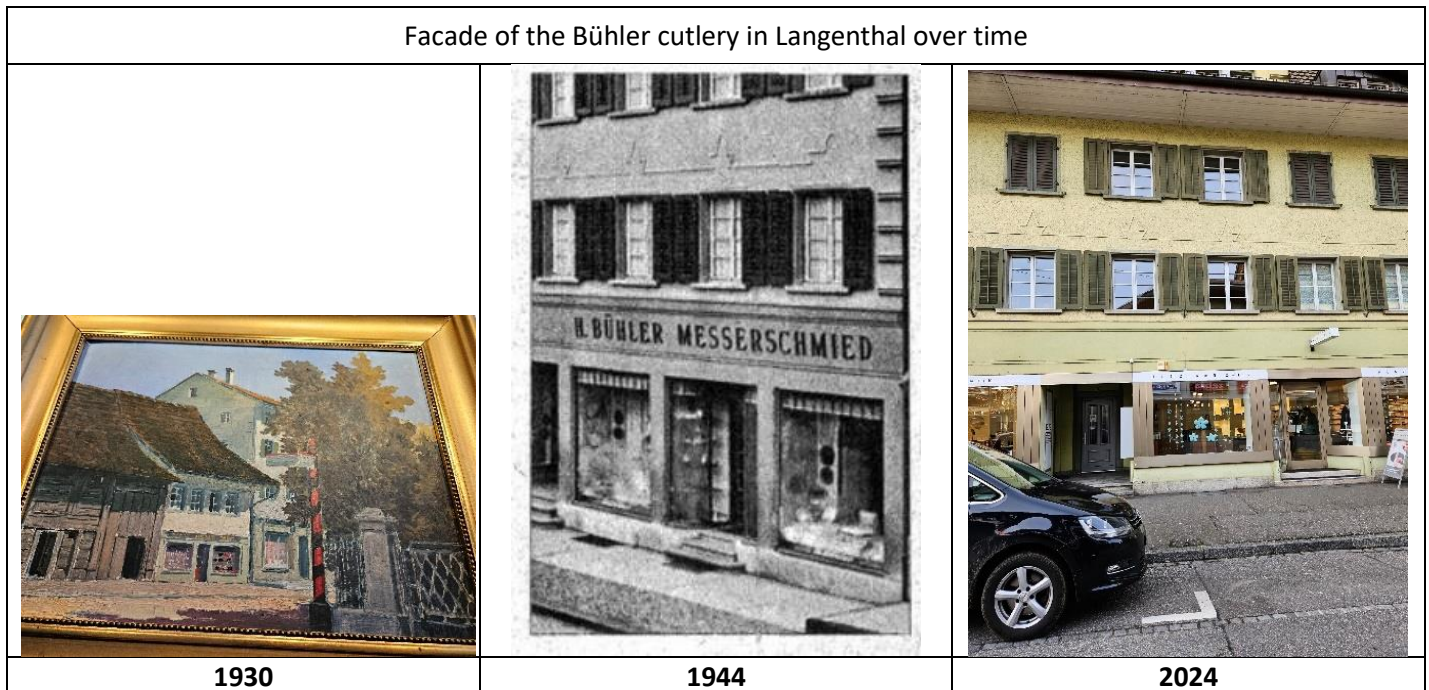
It can be assumed that the Bühlers were a knife family with origins in Rietheim near Zurzach with later branches and employment in Langenthal, St. Gallen and Schwyz.

Elsinox: *"The shop in Langenthal was always at Bäregasse 18?"*

Hans Bühler: *"Yes, exactly. It still looks exactly the same today. The name changed once, from Bäregasse to St. Urbangasse. The shop and the cutlery were always at the same address. I have to say, I don't have any documents left at all. My grandparents, like Victorinox, started with a hat shop. (gets up, takes a picture from the wall). There's Bühler, and there used to be a tombstoner in there. There used to be a large garden, then there was the hat shop, and then the window of our cutlery shop. The workshop was probably behind it."*



Facade of the Bühler cutlery in Langenthal over time



Elsinox: *"Bühler Messerschmiede was always a manufacturing company, not just a goods store?"*

Hans Bühler: *"Yes. So the father made a lot of things himself, knives. But what the grandfather did, I have no idea, I never knew him."*

Elsinox: *"I have a few photos of pocket knives with 'Bühler' markings. Can you assign these?" (show photos)*

Hans Bühler: *"Yes, they are definitely homemade. The name was engraved on the blades. This is only possible before hardening. Afterwards it won't work anymore."*

Elsinox: *"What exactly does homemade mean? Were the parts all made by hand, or were they worked with pre-finished/semi-finished products? Ordered pre-made?"*

Hans Bühler: *"I did something like that in my apprenticeship, with a saw, a sack awl and a blade. But I don't know where that is anymore. With horn scales. Only the circuit boards and intermediate layers came ready. Then we filed the saw, all by hand."*

Elsinox: *"That sounds like an enormous effort"*

Hans Bühler: *"Yes, but we also had two days to do it."*

Elsinox: *"It wasn't worth it later, was it?"*

Hans Bühler: *"Yes, back then they didn't charge CHF 150 per hour. There was still time."*

Elsinox shows further photos of farmer's knives with horn scales

Hans Bühler: *"We didn't make anything like that at Victorinox back then, farmer's knives."*

Elsinox: *"Was it always clear to you that you would join your father in the cutlery business, or did you have siblings?"*

Hans Bühler: *"Yes, a sister. Yes, I just did it. It was like clear. Even when I was little, I was always "thinking" about something in the booth."*

Elsinox: *"And then when you took over the company, what else did you do yourself?"*

Hans Bühler: *"We produced a lot for Bally. Bally shoe factory. By the thousands. Cutting knife to cut leather. We used to do something like that. But not much else. Even back in my day, it was no longer profitable to make your own knife. But before, in my father's time, they didn't do anything different. My father once wanted to make military knives, but decided against it. There were only 3-4 who made military knives. The Röthlisberger from Bärau also did it, I still remember that."*

Elsinox: *"I also found one (show him) marked H. Bühler. But I think that Bühler only repaired them."*

Hans Bühler: *"Yes, exactly. We had thousands of these repaired."*

Elsinox: *"So where, here or at Victorinox?"*

Hans Bühler: *"No here, at home. And then there was the stamp on it, the double one. A Jörg Rätzer came from Bern each time. He always came to take the knives to see if they were good. He looked at every knife. There was always this double stamp, even when changing scales. They then came back into the army. We had had many of the Wenger military knives. Every knife we had had the springs broken. They had huge problems with it. They just couldn't get the springs to hold. They had to show that the feathers held by - which you shouldn't do - opening the large blade and the awl at the same time. "*

Elsinox: *"And how did you repair the knives, with your own blades?"*

Hans Bühler: *"We received the boxes with the military knives from the federal government, 1000 pieces each. I don't know who else repaired it. We then ordered the spare parts from Victorinox: blades and awls. And the Wengers said we won't send you any more spare parts, you're not a customer of ours. I was against law anyway, not bringing them any money. But I also had Wenger knives in the shop. And we could also use the Victorinox springs. However, they were always a little too long. These were then sanded down and fitted, and that was it."*



Elsinox: *"Ok. But that was a big job. Just opening the knives."*

Hans Bühler: *"Yes, we broke them apart. Here a blade was inserted in between and hewn open, then the rivets were taken out. Then repaired and re-riveted. I don't know exactly how long we had. But it's also different whether you repair one piece or hundreds. We simply hadn't done anything differently."*

Elsinox: *"You were alone then, or did you still have employees?"*

Hans Bühler: *"I still had an employee. It was then simply no longer profitable to do something yourself. This was only possible on a larger scale, mechanically, like at Victorinox. We basically only had grinding work. We then also made evaluations for others. Riethmüller from Zurich and Ackermann from Basel, the big ones. They then sent the grinding shops to us because they no longer had a workshop themselves. There was also the cutler Meng from Zurich. He took my final apprenticeship exam together with Klötzli from Burgdorf."*



Elsinox: *"You did the training at Victorinox, the whole thing?"*

Hans Bühler: *"Yes, exactly. They didn't want to train anyone for 20 years, but now they're training cutlers again. They were able to persuade them. But they also learn something and can use it. During my training I only sharpened and repaired knives. It was a great time at Victorinox. I often say that those were the best four years of my life (laughs). I was an apprentice with the second Kari (Karl Elsener). When I was there, in 1958 or 1959, the third Kari had just been born. There was a celebration, I still remember that. The Kari was incredibly social. Great company. I had many suppliers who only wanted Victorinox, nothing else."*

Elsinox: *"You didn't train any metalsmiths with you?"*

Hans Bühler: *"No, not me anymore. The father still does. It was just a different time back then."*

Elsinox: *"There are only a few cutlery makers in Switzerland that still produce their own. Like Klötzli, for example, with one-handed blades."*

Hans Bühler: *"Yes. Have you ever been to the Klötzli museum? The hammer. Victorinox now also wants to create a museum. You have 35,000 pieces."*

Elsinox: *"And you retired in 2005 without a successor?"*

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~ 40~

Hans Bühler: *"Yes, exactly, in 2005. The daughter was in the business for 20 years. Knives were just a side business. It had become more of a household business. Lots of cutlery. When I see the prices today, I'm glad she didn't continue with them. Hardware stores, home stores, they stop everywhere."*

Elsinox: *"Can you say something about this special 50-piece pocket knife marked H. Bühler?"*

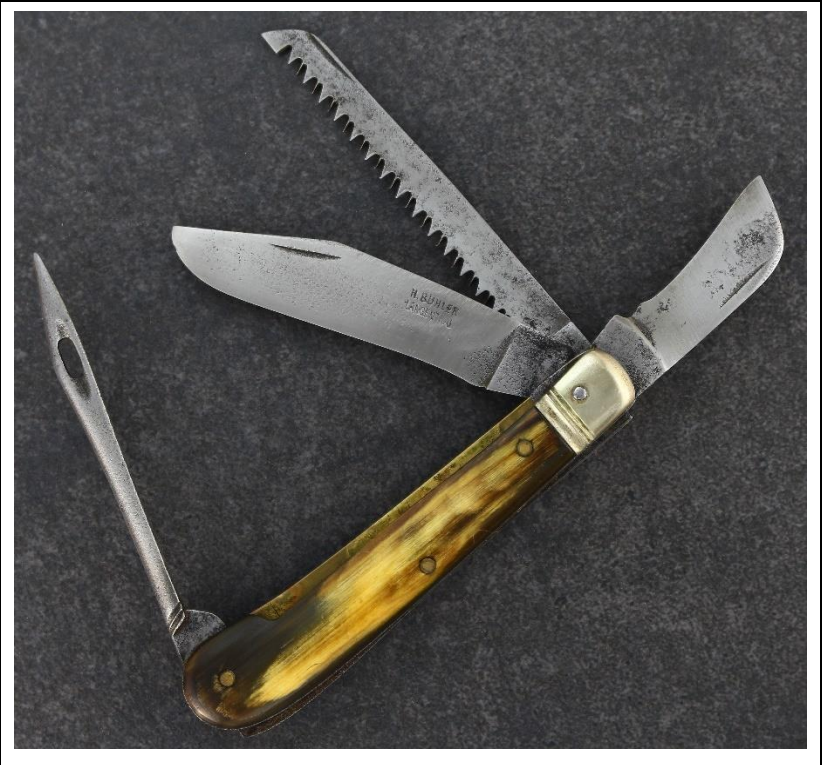
Hans Bühler: *"I took over this knife along with other things in the business from my father. I don't know much more about it, including how old it is. However, the blade was definitely made by my father, because you can only hammer it in before hardening and assembly."*

Elsinox: *"Thank you very much for your time and what I found to be a very informative interview"*

Hans Bühler: *"No problem, you too have a great time"*



Bühler Langenthal, examples of pocket knives



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~ 42 ~



Elsi-Post

~ 43 ~



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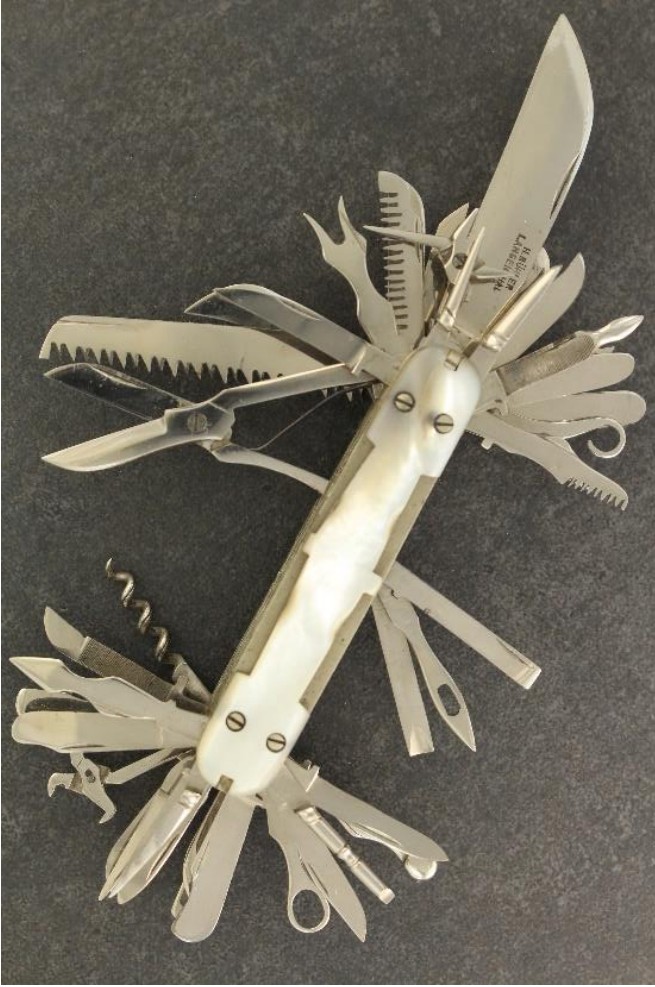
~ 44~



Blade stamp Bühler, Langenthal

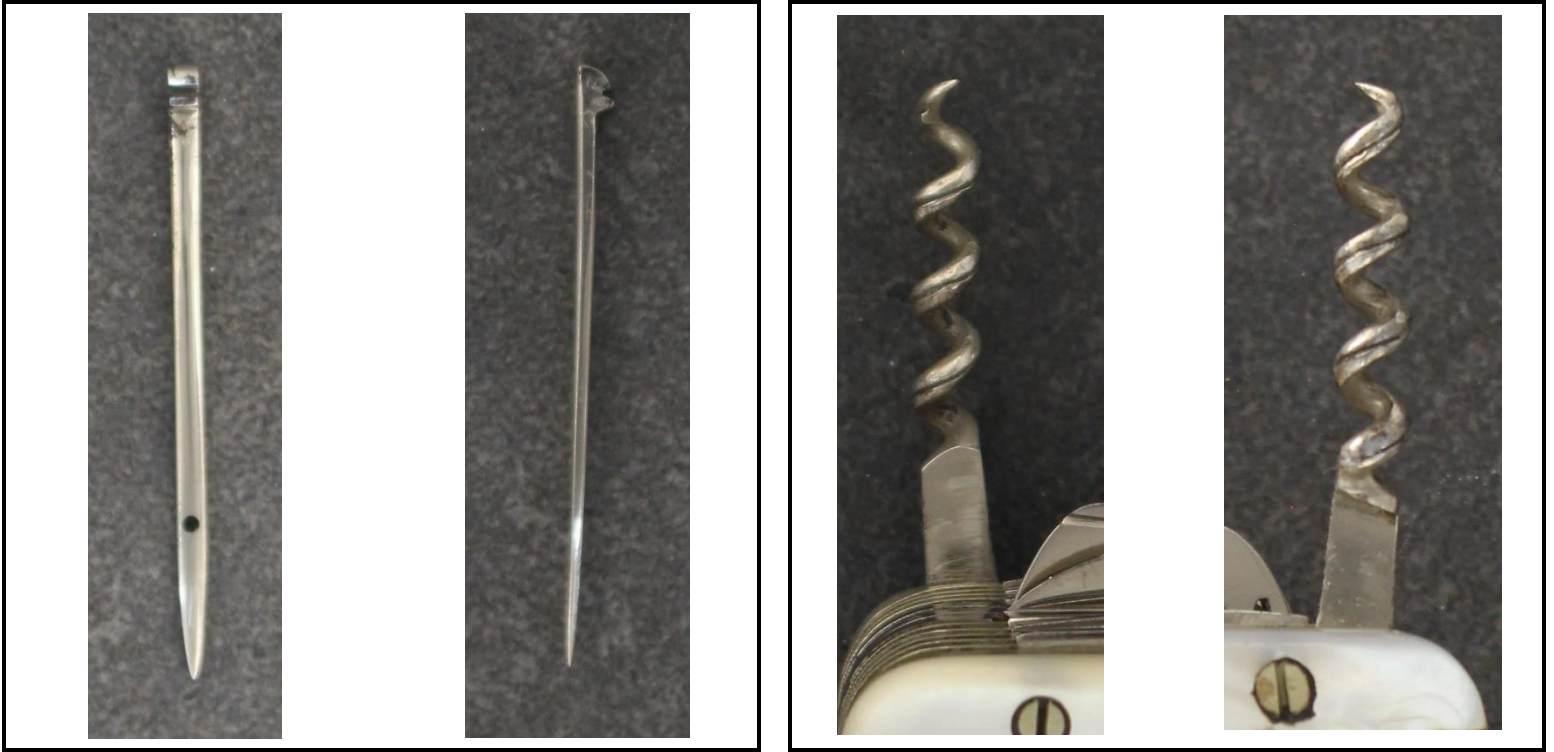


50-piece pocket knife from Bühler, Langenthal. The 50 tools



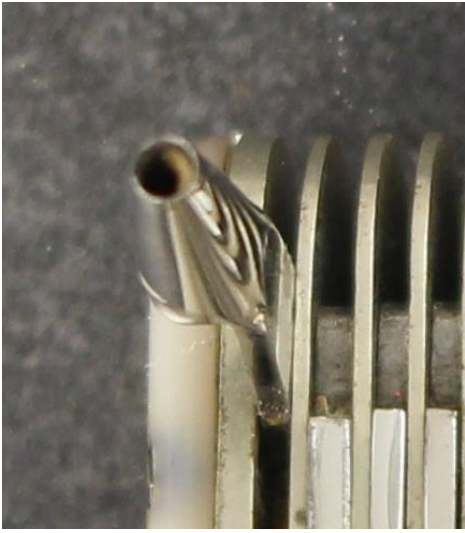
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~ 47 ~



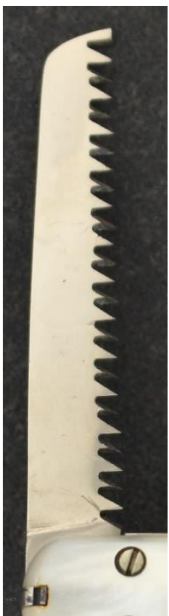
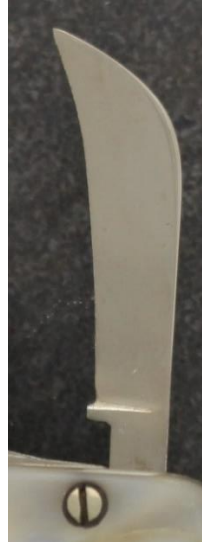
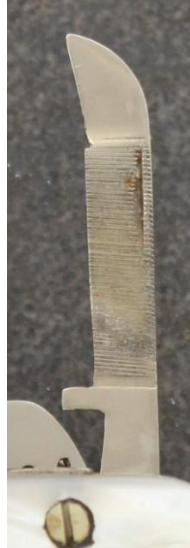
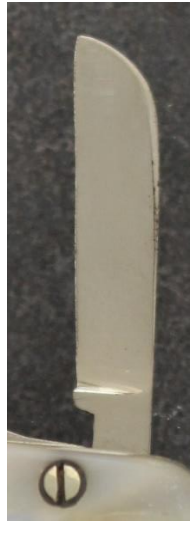
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~ 48 ~



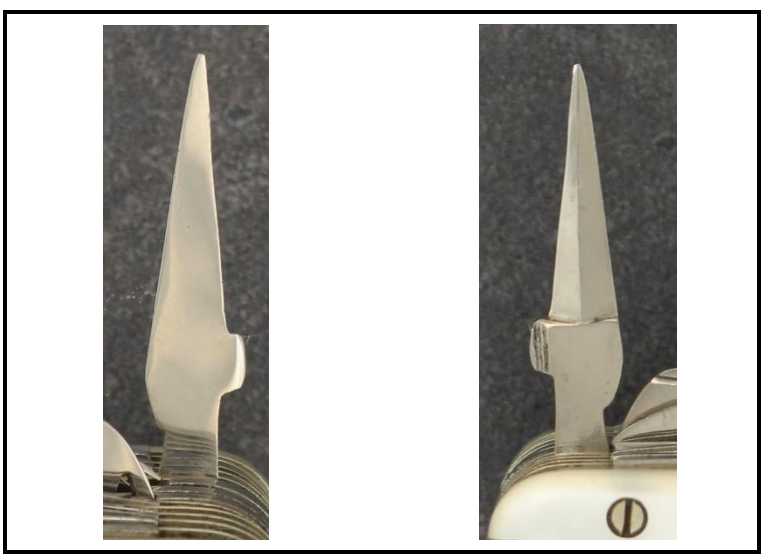
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~ 49 ~



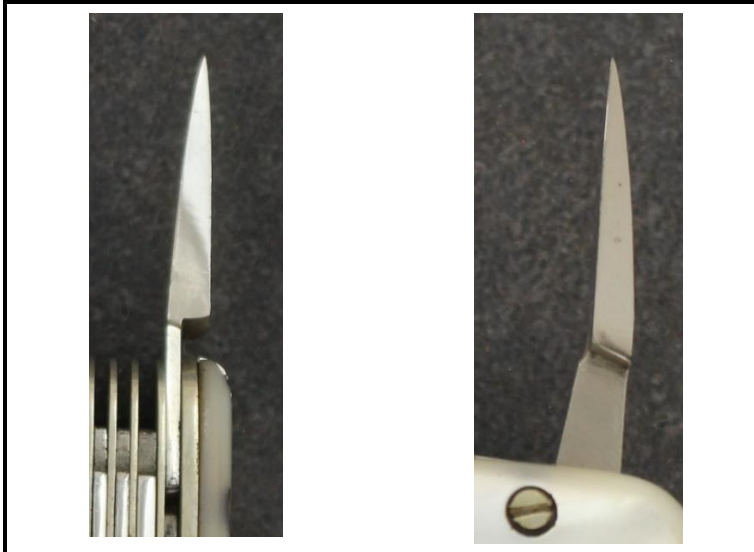
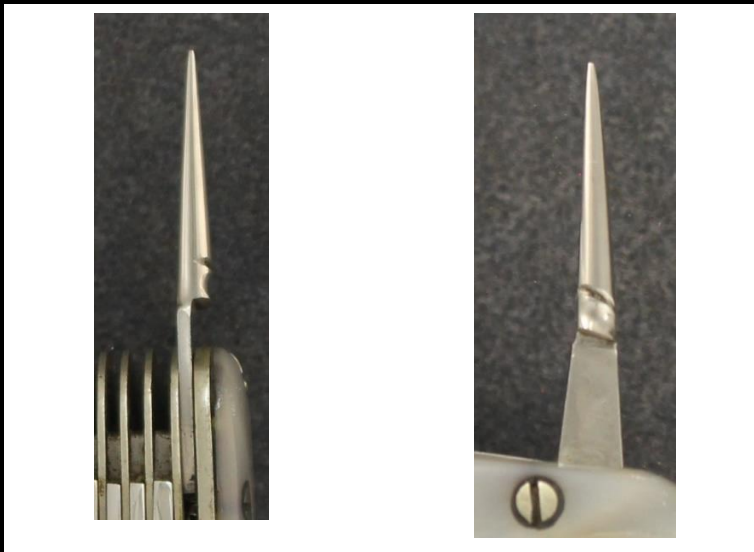
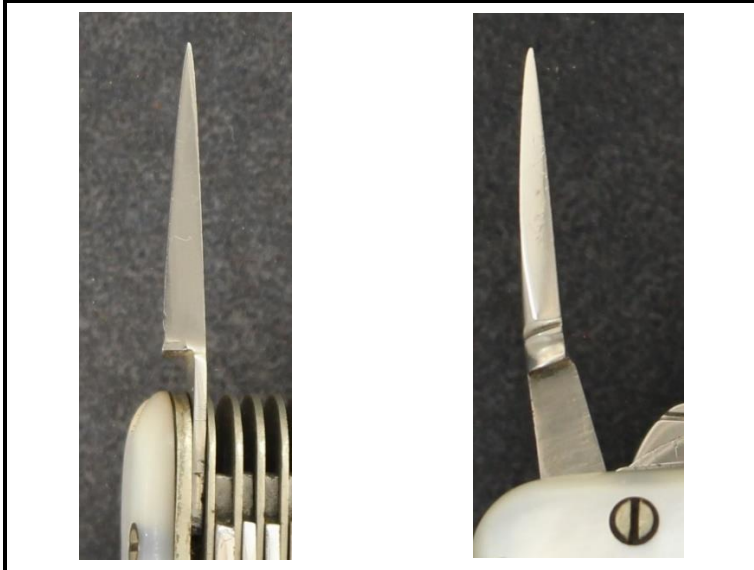
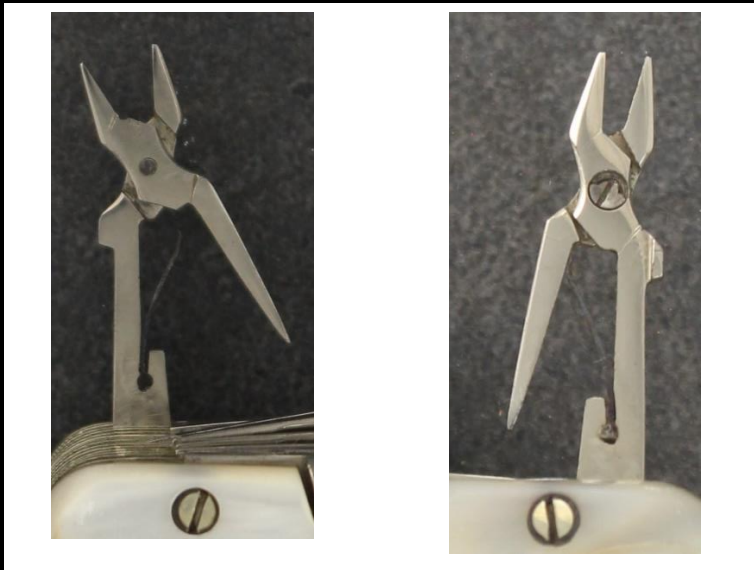
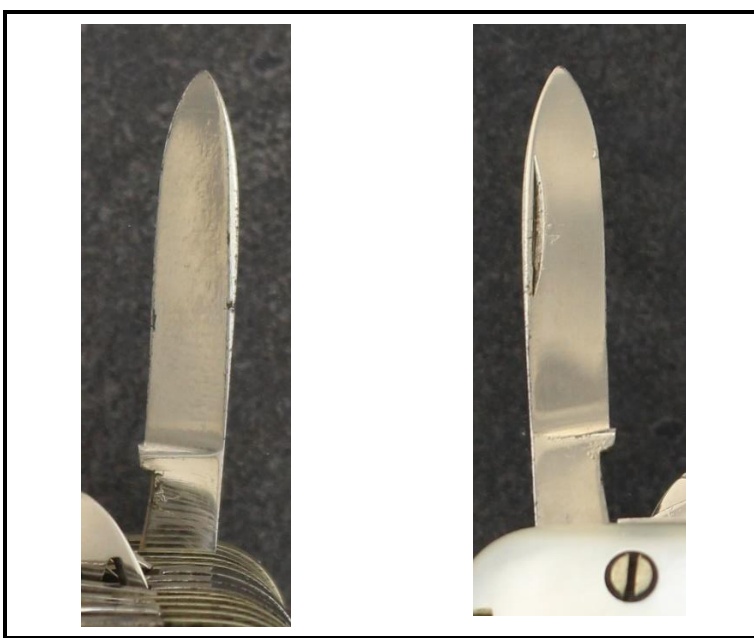
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~ 50 ~



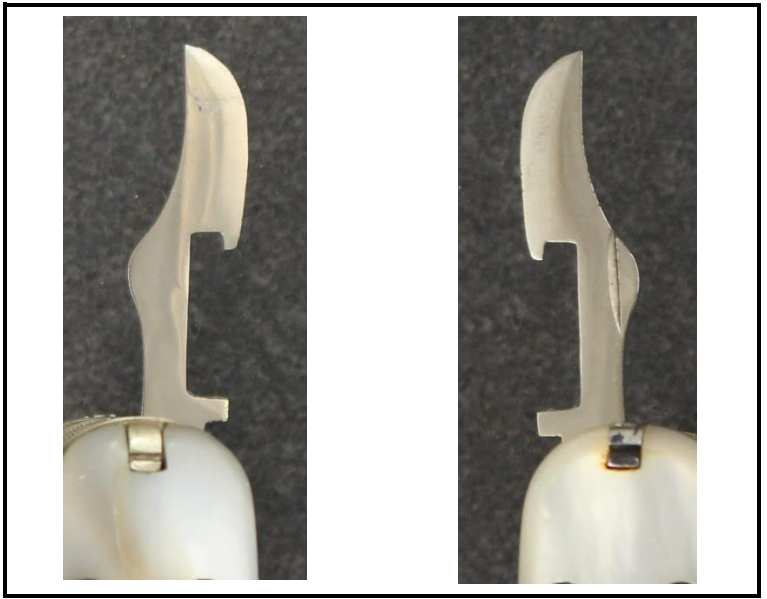
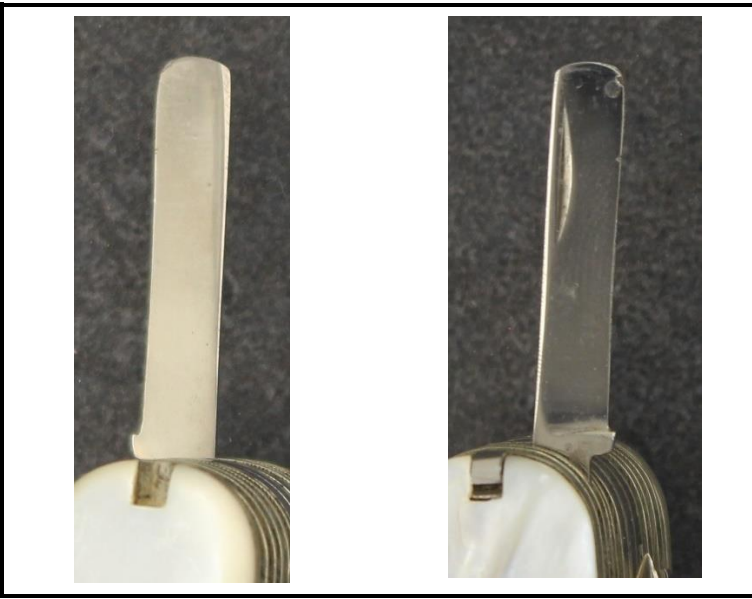
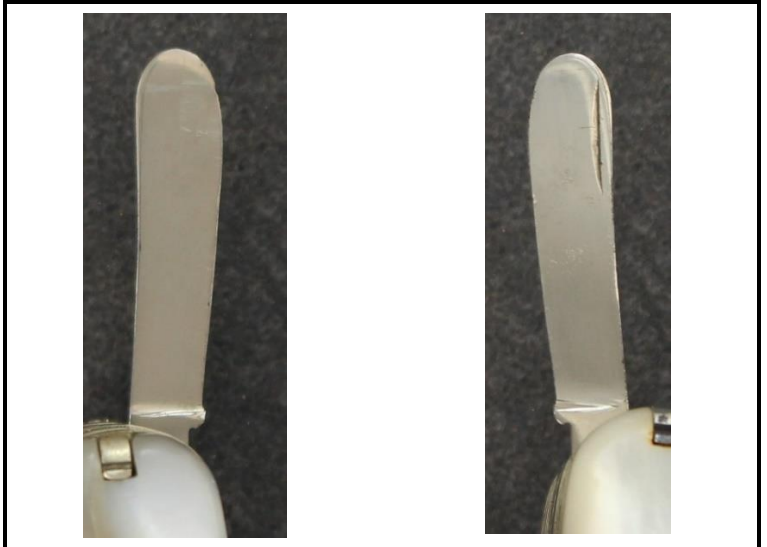
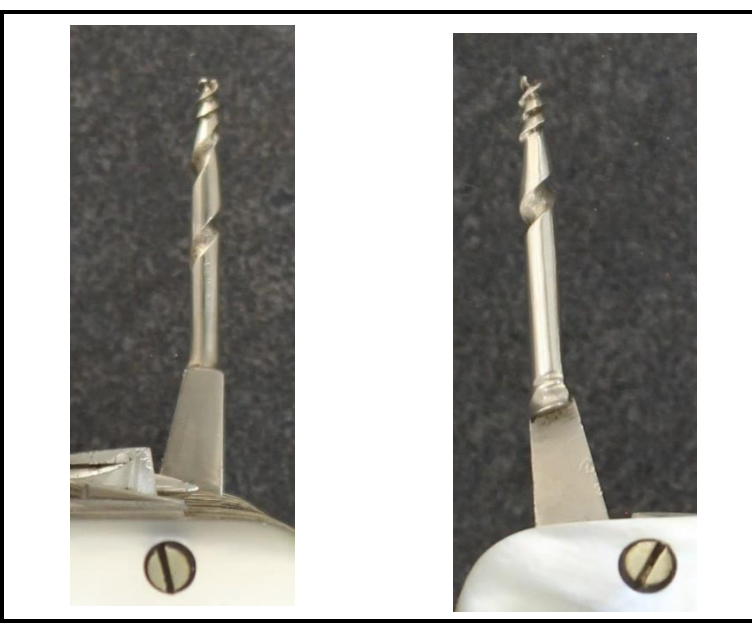
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~ 51 ~



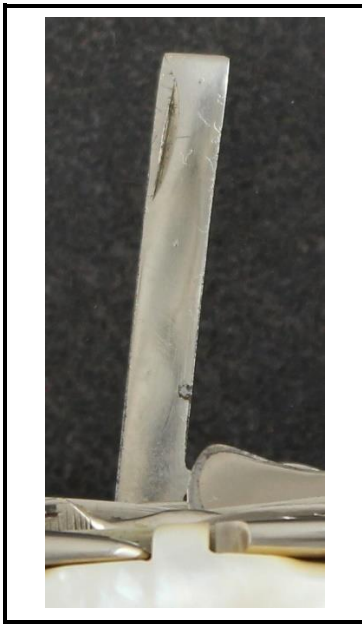
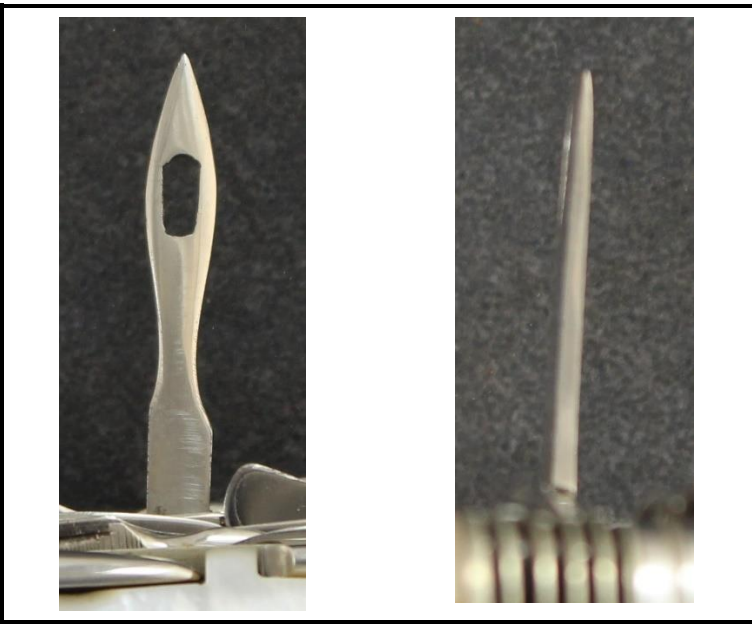
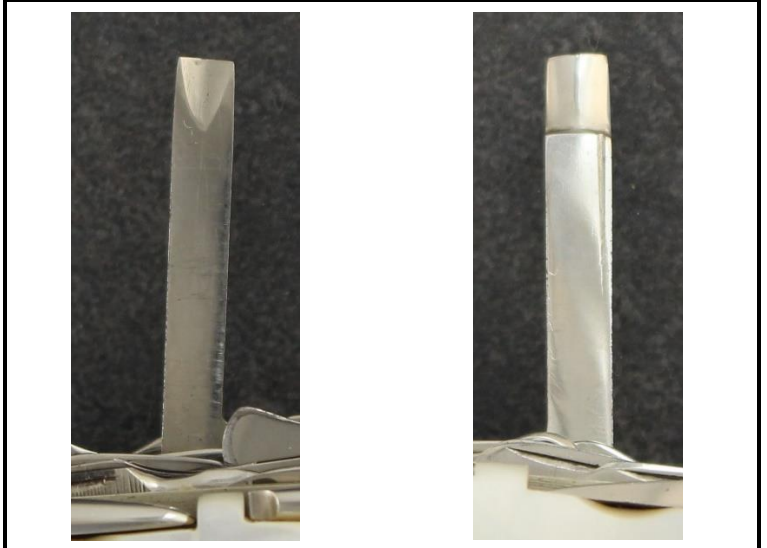
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~ 52 ~



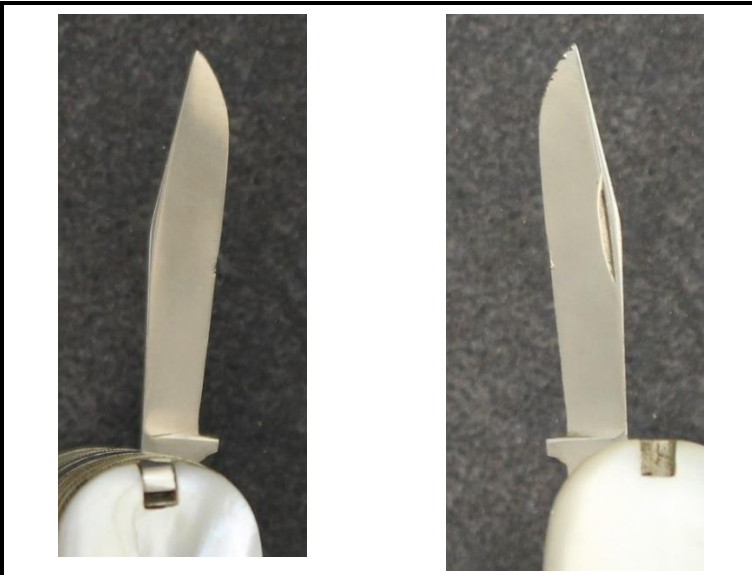
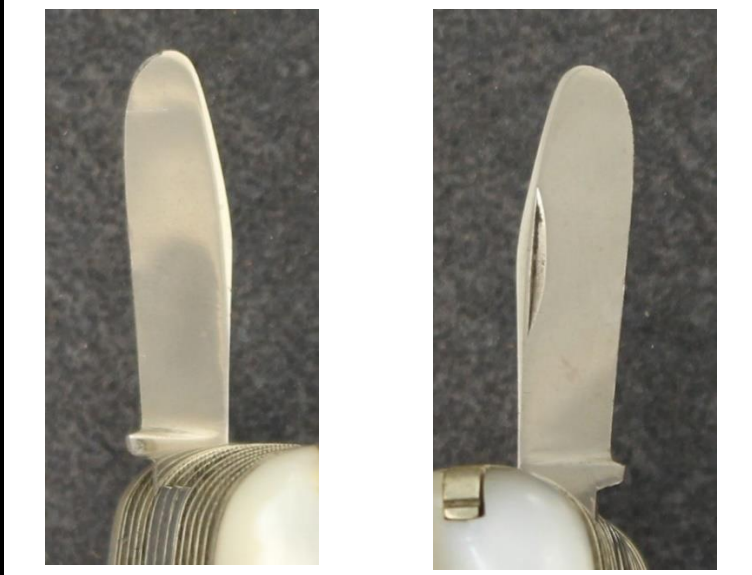
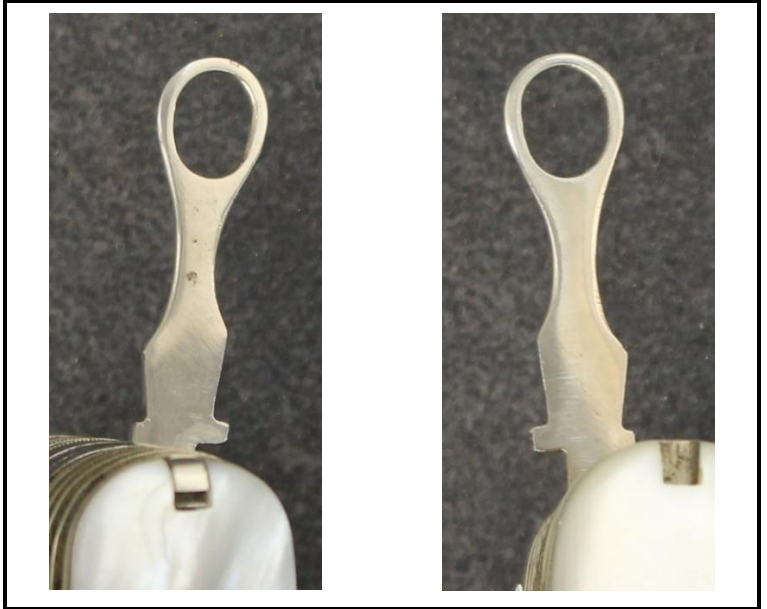
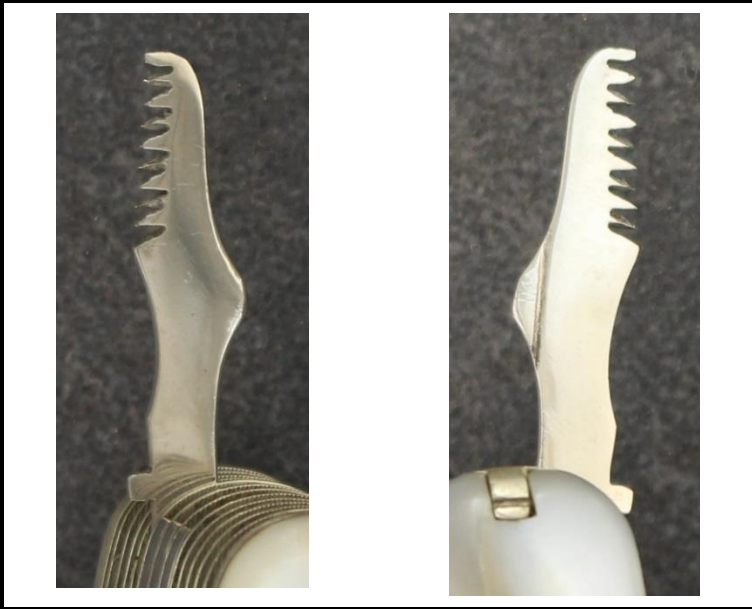
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~ 53 ~



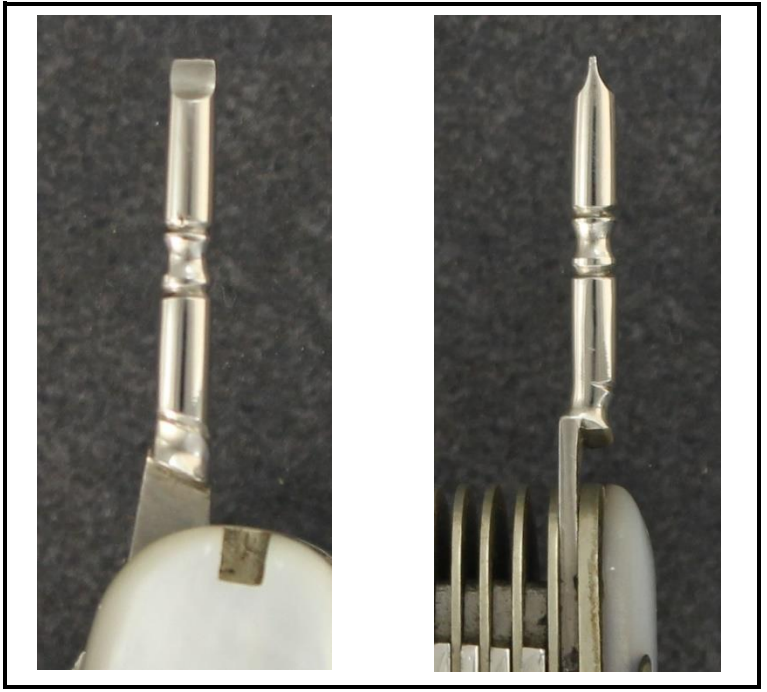
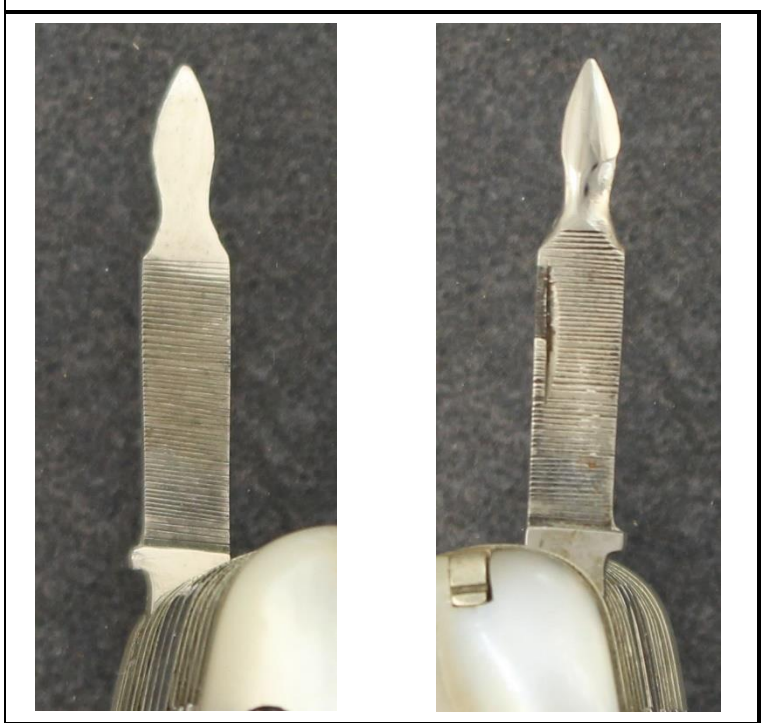
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~ 54 ~



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~ 55 ~



anecdote

▲ Geschäftsblatt für den oberen Teil des Kantons Bern, Band 52, Nummer 83, 18. Oktober 1905

Ein Schmugglertrick. Beim Passieren der Grenze auf einem Seitenwege hielt ein holländischer Zollbeamter den Führer eines kleinen, mit geschmuggelten Waren beladenen Wagens an. Der Fuhrmann jammerte laut um den Verlust seines Eigentums und in der mit großem schauspielerischen Talent zu Tage gebrachten Aufregung ergriff er, noch ehe es der Zollbeamte verhindern konnte, ein Taschenmesser und brachte sich am Halse eine so schwere Verletzung bei, daß das Blut in Strömen floß. Schnell eilte der aufs tiefste erschrockene Beamte nach dem über 2 Kilometer entfernten nächsten Wohnhaus, um Hilfe zu holen. Als er mit dieser nach der Stelle kam, wo er den Schmuggler gefaßt hatte, war dieser mit Wagen, Waren und Pferden verschwunden und blieb es auch in der inzwischen eingetretenen Dunkelheit. Das in Strömen geflossene Blut entstammte einer mit Blut gefüllten Blase, welche der geriebene Schmuggler unter seinem Halstuche trug und die er im Augenblicke der höchsten Gefahr öffnete, um den ahnungslosen Zöllner zu täuschen, was ihm auch glänzend gelang.

A smuggler's trick. While crossing the border on a side road, a Dutch customs officer stopped the driver of a small car loaded with smuggled goods. The carter lamented loudly about the loss of his property and in the excitement, which was revealed with great acting talent, he grabbed a pocket knife before the customs officer could prevent it and inflicted such a serious injury on his neck that the blood flowed in streams. The deeply frightened officer quickly rushed to the nearest house, more than 2 kilometers away, to get help. When he got to the place where he had caught the smuggler, he had disappeared with his wagon, goods and horses and remained so in the darkness that had now set in. The blood that flowed in streams came from a blood-filled bladder which the cunning smuggler carried under his scarf and which he opened at the moment of greatest danger in order to deceive the unsuspecting customs officer, which he succeeded brilliantly.

the end