

Elsi Post

english edition

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What is Elsi Post?

The Elsi -Post is intended to be a magazine that appears on a regular basis and focuses on the following topics:

- Swiss knife makers and their products (past and present) as well as souvenir knives with Swiss themes.

The boundaries should not be set too narrowly, so for example it shouldn't just be about the manufacturers Victorinox and formerly Wenger, but other former or current cutlery makers should also be included. Products other than pocket knives – e.g. cutlery, kitchen knives, razors – can also be presented.

The magazine is available online for free on the homepage, or is automatically delivered to you free of charge by email after registration. If you would like to change this automatic delivery, you can do this easily via email, Facebook Messenger or via the contact form on the homepage www.elsinox.com. Anyone who would like to have the magazine printed out and delivered by post must pay a contribution of CHF 9.90 plus shipping costs in advance.

The magazine is independent.

The contributions come from Elsinox unless explicitly stated otherwise. In principle, all people and companies are free to contribute articles to the magazine and submit them to Elsinox at an early stage. Requests and suggestions regarding content, format, etc. can also be made at any time. The editorial team is Elsinox, and he/she decides on any content of the magazine. This is intended to achieve and maintain the greatest possible independence.

The magazine will also have content about the sale and exchange of products from Swiss cutlers. If a person has something to offer, they can register their products with Elsinox early on. In principle, however, there is no requirement for these to be published. In particular, special, valuable or unusual products should be offered that appeal to a specific circle of collectors. The products are offered anonymously. If interested, the person contacts Elsinox, who then passes on the contact details depending on the agreement. In principle, there are no brokerage fees when buying/selling. Elsinox rejects any liability, but only has an intermediary function. Elsinox has no influence on whether a deal is concluded, whether the goods were described correctly, and whether the buyer ultimately pays and the goods are actually delivered and declines all liability.



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Wenger Delémont "Emperor's Knife"



At the beginning of September 1912 - shortly before the outbreak of the First World War - the German Emperor Wilhelm II visited Switzerland. This was a major event. The focus of the visit was the observation of military maneuvers. However, the visit certainly also had political motives. The Swiss themselves were very divided. German-speaking Switzerland largely sympathized with Germany, while French-speaking Switzerland oriented itself strongly towards France. It was already foreseeable back then that there would soon be military conflicts.

The Wenger Delémont company produced a special so-called "Kaiser knife" for this special event and announced it back in August, including the following article.

Tagblatt der Stadt Thun, Band 36, Nummer 195, 18. August 1912
Mit dem Hauptstich gewunken.
Anlässlich des bevorstehenden Besuchs des deutschen Kaisers hat die Stahlwarenfabrik Wenger & Co. in Delémont ein Taschenmesser gefertigt, welches allgemeinen Beifall finden und sich leicht Absatz verschaffen dürfte. Das Messer trägt auf der Vorderseite der Schale die Portraits des deutschen Kaisers und des Bundespräsidenten Forrer in getreuer, wohlgegriffener Wiedergabe der Wägnisse mit Aufschrift links und rechts „Kaiser Wilhelm II, 1912, Bundespräsident Forrer.“ Die Rückseite der Schale zeigt ebenfalls in sehr schöner Ausführung den Bundespalast in Bern. Das ganze Messer, besonders Krönung und Ausarbeitung der Portraits, sowie des Bundespalastes, ist in geschmackvoller, künstlerischer Ausstattung gehalten und ist eine der Wechsen, von den vielen auf diesen Anlass erzeugten, welche als Souvenirs bezeichnet werden darf.
Das Messer würde auch ein hübsches Souvenir bilden für jeden die Wander mitmachenden Soldaten, falls der Kaiser auf diese gute Idee kommen sollte. . . . meint die Erzeugerfirma.

A broad Hint
On the occasion of the impending visit of the German Emperor, the steel goods factory Wenger & Co. in Delémont has manufactured a pocket knife, which will be widely applauded and easily sold. The knife has the portraits of the German Emperor and Federal President Forrer on the front of the bowl in a faithful, well-made

reproduction of the portraits with the inscription on the left and right "Kaiser Wilhelm II, 1912, Federal President Forrer." The back of the bowl also shows a very beautiful design the Federal Palace in Bern. The entire knife, especially the embossing and elaboration of the portraits, as well as the Federal Palace, is decorated in a tasteful, artistic manner and is one of the many works created for this occasion that can be described as successful. The knife Would also make a nice souvenir for every soldier taking part in the maneuvers, should the emperor come up with this good idea, says the producer company.

An "Emperor's knife". Well understood: Imperial knife, not cheese knife. The small industry is making every effort to produce souvenirs of the German Emperor's visit to Switzerland. It is also quite understandable. All sorts of concerns are raised in the press, especially from the Republican point of view But after all, what does our republican conviction have to do with it! It is not based on such weak grounds that we have to fear that we will stumble over it because of an imperial postcard or even because of an imperial knife. And last but not least, we are or should be chauvinists not be, we Republicans. But now back to the imperial knife. The steel goods factory Wenger & Co. in Delémont made one, a pretty, delicate knife that has the portraits of the German Emperor and Federal President Forrer on the front of the bowl in faithful, well-taken reproduction of the portraits, with an inscription on the left and right: "Kaiser Wilhelm II. 1912. Federal President Forrer".

The back of the bowl also shows the Federal Palace in Bern in a very beautiful design. The whole knife, especially the embossing and elaboration of the portraits, as well as the Federal Palace, is quite tasteful. The emperor's knife should make a nice souvenir for the emperor's visit.

Neue Zürcher Nachrichten, Nummer 227, 21. August 1912

Neue Zürcher Nachrichten, Nummer 227, 21. August 1912
Kleiner Zeitung.
* Ein „Kaisermesser“. Wohlüberstanden: Kaisermesser, nicht Kaisermesser. Die Kleinindustrie gibt sich alle Mühe, Nebenbei an den Besuch des deutschen Kaisers in der Schweiz heranzukommen. Es ist auch ganz begreiflich. Über erheben sich in der ganzen Schweiz allerlei Meinungen, besonders vom republikanischen Standpunkte aus. Aber was hat schließlich unsere republikanische Liebesmeinung damit zu tun? Sie baut sich doch nicht auf so schwachen Grund auf, daß wir fürchten müßten, wegen einer Kaiserpostkarte oder gar wegen eines Kaisermessers darüber zu stolzen. Und Chauvinisten sind aber selten wir zu gutartig und nicht zu sehr republikanisch. Nun aber zu dem Kaisermesser zurück. Ein solches hat die Stahlwarenfabrik Wenger & Co. in Delémont gefertigt, ein hübsches, herrliches Messer, das auf der Vorderseite der Schale die Portraits des deutschen Kaisers und des Bundespräsidenten Forrer in getreuer, wohlgegriffener Wiedergabe der Wägnisse trägt, mit Aufschrift links und rechts „Kaiser Wilhelm II, 1912, Bundespräsident Forrer.“ Die Rückseite der Schale zeigt ebenfalls in sehr schöner Ausführung den Bundespalast in Bern. Das ganze Messer, besonders Krönung und Ausarbeitung der Portraits, sowie des Bundespalastes, ist recht geschmackvoll. Das Kaisermesser würde also ein hübsches Souvenir bilden für den Kaiserbesuch.

The pocket knife is a model no. 112 with metal scales in different alloys. This model No. 112 was a standard model from Wenger Delémont measuring 85 mm when closed and had 2 blades, a small and a large cutting blade. As mentioned in the newspaper articles, on the front of the knife you can find the two images of Kaiser Wilhelm II on the left and Federal President Forrer on the right and on the back of the knife the Federal Palace in Bern.



Small messages.

The steel goods factory Wenger & Cie. in Delsberg, on the day of the emperor's visit, a pocket knife is put on sale, which has the Federal Palace in Bern and the portraits of the Federal President and the Emperor on the handle; it may be considered a delicately crafted souvenir.



Following the visit, the following articles appeared in the Swiss daily newspapers:

Der Bund, Band 63, Nummer 415, 4. September 1912 Ausgabe 02
 ... Delsberg. Im "Bund" wurde erwähnt, daß anlässlich des Besuchs des deutschen Kaisers die Geschliffenwarenfabrik Wenger & Cie. in Delsberg, ein Taschenmesser mit den Porträts des Kaisers und des Bundespräsidenten Forrer fabriziert hat.
 Ein solches Messer aus Wallisgold soll auch dem Kaiser überreicht werden, als freundliches Andenken an seine Schweizreise.

Delsberg. It was mentioned in the "Bund" that on the occasion of the German Emperor's visit, Wenger & Co., in Delsberg, manufactured a pocket knife with the portraits of the Emperor and Federal President Forrer. Such a knife made of solid gold should also be presented to the Emperor, as a friendly souvenir of his trip to Switzerland.

Delemont. — On the occasion of Kaiser Wilhelm II's visit to Switzerland, the Swiss cutlery factory Wenger et Cie manufactured a knife with portraits of the imperial visitor and the Federal President. A golden copy of this knife is given to the emperor as a souvenir of his trip. At the same time, it is a testament to the perfection that Wenger et Cie has achieved in the manufacture of its products.

L'Impartial, 6. September 1912
 DELEMONT. — A l'occasion de la visite de l'empereur Guillaume II en Suisse, la fabrique de coutellerie suisse Wenger et Cie avait fabriqué un couteau aux portraits de l'impérial visiteur et du président de la Confédération. Un spécimen en or de ce couteau sera remis à l'empereur en souvenir de son voyage. Ce sera en même temps une preuve de la perfection à laquelle la maison Wenger et Cie est arrivée dans la fabrication de ses produits.

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Both articles mention that such an “emperor’s knife” made of solid gold should be presented to the emperor. At the same time, this is proof of the perfection that the Wenger company has now achieved with its products.

It is unclear where this solid gold knife is now located. If it still exists, it can probably be found in a museum or their warehouse.

The company “Wenger Delémont” was founded in 1893 and existed until 2005.



In addition to the different scale material, there were also 2 different designs of the Kaiser knife. In the pictures on the right and above you can see the differences compared to the other models. This version appears to be significantly rarer.



Various commemorative knives from the Wenger Delémont company

The company “Wenger Delémont” produced various commemorative knives, mainly between 1910 and 1915. Unlike other manufacturers of souvenir knives that used aluminum as the shell material - such as the German company Feist & Co - Wenger chose the shell material for these commemorative knives other, harder metals or metal alloys.

Advertisements

Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Nummer 153, 3. Juni 1912

Wenn Sie reisen

vergessen Sie nie, einen **Gillette-Rasier-Apparat** mitzunehmen.
Er sichert Ihnen die grösste Bequemlichkeit. — Mit 12
Klingen in ff. versilberter Ausführung, im Etui **Fr. 25.—** bei

F. Kienast, Nachf. v. S. Tresch, Contellerie
Sonnenquai, z. Raben — **Zürich I** — Sonnenquai, z. Raben

Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Nummer 296, 24. Oktober 1912 Ausgabe 04



Spezialgeschäft
feiner
Messerwaren:
Feine Taschenmesser
Feine Scheeren
Rasierapparate und
Rasiermesser erster Qual.
Feine Tisch- u. Dessert-
messer
Reparaturen u. Schleiferei täglich.

A. Riethmüller
Messerschmied
Zürich I, Rennwegplatz 58
vis-à-vis dem Brunnen

La Tribune de Genève, Band 34, Nummer 204, 31. August 1912 Ausgabe 04



G. Goehler
rue Paul-Bouchet
Genève

Coutellerie en tout genre
**Spécialité : rasoirs et acces-
soires, tondeuses et fourni-
tures pour coiffeurs.** T5835

— Demandez catalogue —
Grand choix en couteaux bouchers, etc.

Swiss knife maker

Jacot – Neuchâtel – Chronicle

Mr. Charles, Jacot, cutler, has the honor to announce to the public that he continues to operate a shop at the fair, equipped with items of the highest quality, the latest taste of Paris, guaranteed to withstand the tests; namely: fine and ordinary cutlery, table, dessert and pocket cutlery, fine and ordinary

FAN - L'Express, 1. Juli 1813
6. M. Charles Jacot, coutelier, a l'honneur de prévenir le public, qu'il continue de tenir une boutique en foire, assorti d'articles de première qualité, dernier goût de Paris, et garantis à l'épreuve; savoir: coutellerie fine et commune, de tables, de dessert et de poche, ciseaux fins et communs, mouchettes, tire-bouchons, tire-bottes en tous genres, rasoirs à l'épreuve, etc. canifs simples et compliqués, et quantité d'autres articles. Il se recommande aux personnes qui voudront bien l'honneur de leur confiance. Il sera très-modique dans ses prix.

scissors, small knives, corkscrews, boot pullers of all kinds, sharp razors, etc. simple and complicated pocket knives and many other items. He recommends himself to people who will

honor him with their trust. He will be in his prices very be modest.

The first reference to the cutler Charles Jacot comes from 1814. Mr. Jacot presumably died in 1838, as it is from this time that the widow Jacot continued to run the cutlery despite her husband's death. A certain Charles Sautter ran the cutlery in 1865.

Mr. Courvoisier Richard, manufacturer and dealer of hats, warns the public that he has just left his business under the Treasury; that he currently occupies the house of Mr. Charles Jacot, cutler, in the house of Mr. Fabre, watchmaker, at the entrance to Rue des Moulins, near Croix-du-marché; and that it continues to be combined with hats of all kinds, both from his factory and those in Paris and Lyon. He will always do his best to put people who trust him first.

FAN - L'Express, 3. November 1814
58. M. Courvoisier Richard, fabricant et marchand de chapeaux, prévient le public qu'il vient de quitter son magasin sous le Trésor; qu'il occupe actuellement celui de M. Charles Jacot, coutelier, dans la maison de M. Favre, pendulier, à l'entrée de la rue des Moulins, près la Croix-du-marché; et qu'il continue d'être assorti en chapeaux de tout genre, tant de sa fabrique, que de celles de Paris et Lyon. Il fera toujours son possible p. contenter les personnes qui l'honoreront de leur confiance.

99. Le Sr. Charles Jacot, coutelier, a l'honneur de prévenir les personnes qui ignorent qu'il a changé de boutique, qu'il est actuellement à la Grand'rue, en face de la fontaine, où l'on trouvera pendant et après la foire un assortiment de coutellerie de sa fabrique, ainsi que de véritables rasoirs anglais, à l'épreuve. Ses occupations l'empêchent de tenir une boutique sur la Place.

genuine English razors. His job prevents him from running a business on the Place.

Sr. Charles Jacot, cutler, has the honor of pointing out to people who do not know that he has changed shops that he is currently located on the Grand'rue opposite the fountain, where during and after mass a selection of Dou will find cutlery from his factory as well as

Mr Chs. Jacot, the knife manufacturer, has the honor of informing the public that the knife remains equivalent in all aspects of its condition and that it will be in the same store as at previous shows. He also does all kinds of finishing work, mending, ironing, etc. He sells ironing stones, razors and pocket knives and will always do his best to satisfy the people who put their trust in him.

FAN - L'Express, 7. Juli 1814
32. M. Chs. Jacot, fabricant coutelier, a l'honneur de prévenir le public, qu'il continue à être assorti en tout ce qui a rapport à son état, et qu'il occupera la même boutique que les foires précédentes. Il fait aussi toute sorte d'ouvrages de fantaisie, raccommodage, repassage, etc. Il vend des pierres à réparer les rasoirs et les canifs, et fera toujours son possible p. satisfaire les personnes qui l'honoreront de leur confiance.

J. J. H. Lambert, Communications Secret.

Charles Jacot, cutler, has the honor of announcing to the public that he now has his shop in the Grand'rue, opposite the fountain; and that he continues to work Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, mending metal and silverware. He also makes pretty dessert knives with silver blades, pocket knives, etc.

FAN - L'Express, 22. September 1814
J.-J.-H. LAMBERT, secrét. de Comm.
71. Charles Jacot, coutelier, a l'honneur de prévenir le public, qu'il a maintenu sa boutique à la Grand'rue, vis-à-vis la fontaine; et qu'il continue à faire les raccommodages en soier et en argent, qui ont rapport à son état. Il fait aussi de jolis couteaux de dessert à lame d'argent, dits de poche, etc.

The widow of the cutler Charles Jacot, who wants to continue the condition of her late husband with the help of good workmen that she retains, commends us for the continuation of the trust that we have shown in them to date and assures us that they are making every effort to justify this in every respect. We will also always be well stocked with all items sold at satisfactory prices.

FAN - L'Express, 17. Mai 1838
70. La veuve de Charles Jacot, coutelier, se proposant de continuer, à l'aide de bons ouvriers qu'elle conserve, l'état de feu son mari, se recommande à la continuation de la confiance qu'on a bien voulu leur accorder jusqu'à ce jour, assurant qu'elle fera tous ses efforts pour la justifier à tous égards. On la trouvera d'ailleurs toujours bien assortie de tous les articles relatifs à cet état, qu'elle cédera à des prix satisfaisants.

FAN - L'Express, 19. November 1839

41. Chez M^{me} Jacot, à la Grand'rue, un nouveau choix très-varié de couteaux et canifs simples et compliqués, dans tous les genres, ciseaux fins et ordinaires, mouchettes de toute grandeur, et généralement tous les articles relatifs à la coutellerie, qu'elle vendra à des prix satisfaisants. Elle se recommande à la continuation de la confiance qu'on a bien voulu lui accorder jusqu'à présent.

At Mrs. Jacot in the Grand'rue there is a new and very varied selection of simple and complicated knives and pocket knives of all kinds, fine and ordinary scissors, knives of all sizes and in general all items related to cutlery, which are there at satisfactory prices sold. She recommends us to continue the trust that we have kindly placed in her so far.

, the cutlery's original name "Jacot" remained. Apparently the cutlery's reputation was very good, which is why there was no name change despite the change in ownership.

FAN - L'Express, 5 August 1871

Au magasin de coutellerie Jacot
rue du Temple-Neuf 15, outils pour ôter les noyaux aux cerises, couteaux spéciaux pour effiler les haricots.

In the knife shop Jacot, 15 Rue du Temple-Neuf, tools for removing pits from cherries, special knives for chopping beans.

For Cutlers.

Der Bund, Band 25, Nummer 16, 17, Januar 1874
Für Messerschmiede.
Zwei tüchtige Arbeiter finden dauernde Beschäftigung bei Jacot, Messerschmied, in Neuchâtel.
(179)

Two skilled workers find permanent employment at Jacot, a cutler, in Neuchâtel.

FAN - L'Express, 16. Dezember 1876

Au magasin de R. HOWALD, coutelier

ANCIENNE MAISON JACOT
15, Rue du Temple-Neuf, 15
Un grand assortiment de patins

ainsi qu'un grand choix de couteaux de table, dessert et à découper, dans les formes les plus variées et de tous prix. Un beau choix de cuillères, fourchettes et poches à soupe, en métal alpaca. Couteaux de poche fantaisie et lames en argent. Un choix varié de ciseaux avec étui en cuir de Russie, ainsi que chaînes pour ciseaux. Rasoirs à sonnette, cuirs à rasoirs, pierres à affiler.

Couteaux de cuisine, à hacher, couperets, haches, couteaux pour les huîtres et à sardines, ciseaux pour les boîtes de conserves, fourchettes pour escargots, pinces pour le champagne, stahls-aiguiseurs. Tire-bouchons de tous systèmes.

Outils pour jardiniers, sécateurs modèle Rieser, sécateurs à scie, sécateurs échenilloirs. Poudre à polir les services.

Fait les commandes et réparations. Aiguillage tous les jours.

Der Bund, Band 36, Nummer 180, 2. Juli 1885

Für Messerschmiede.
Herrn Witwe Howald, Nachfolgerin von Jacot, Messerschmied, Neuchâtel, sucht zu sofortigem Eintritt einen gewandten Arbeiter, der mit Schleifen und Rhabillage gut vertraut ist.

is well acquainted with grinding and rhabillage to join immediately.

For cutlers.
Mrs. Widow Howald, successor to Jacot, cutler, Neuchâtel, is looking for a skilled worker who

Charles Sautter, cutler, successor to Mrs. Widow Jacot, 15 rue du Temple-Neuf, has the honor to warn the people of the city and surrounding areas who own secateurs, table and pocket knives and other items to repair at his place Place for more than a year that they have to come and pick them up before the end of February this year. After this period has expired, he will dispose of it and make use of this termination if necessary.

FAN - L'Express, 3 Février 1885
Charles Sautter, coutelier, successeur de Mme veuve Jacot, rue du Temple-neuf 15, a l'honneur de prévenir les personnes de la ville et environs, qui ont des sécateurs, couteaux de table et de poche, et autres articles concernant son état, en réparation chez lui depuis plus d'un an, qu'elles doivent venir les réclamer avant la fin de février courant. Passé ce terme il en disposera, et se prévaut au besoin du présent avis.

Grätianer, 19. März 1873

Für Messerschmiede.
Ein arbeitsfähiger Arbeiter findet dauernde Beschäftigung bei Jacot, Messerschmied in Neuchâtel.

For cutlers.
A decent worker finds permanent employment at Jacot, a cutler in Neuchâtel.

FAN - L'Express, 28. Januar 1875

Au magasin de coutellerie Jacot
rue du Temple-neuf 15, grand choix de sécateurs, greffoirs, serpettes, gratte-mousse, etc., ainsi qu'un choix de coutellerie en tout genre. On se charge de toutes les réparations; aiguisage tous les jours.

In the cutlery shop Jacot Rue du Temple- neuf 15, large selection of secateurs, secateurs, garden knives, moss scrapers, etc.

as well as a selection of all kinds of cutlery. We take care of us all repairs; sharpen every day.

In 1876 the cutlery was run by a certain R. Howald, and in 1885 after his death by the widow R. Howald. The following year, Hermann Lüthi took over the « Coutellerie Jacob ». The Lüthi cutlery was active until the 1970s. Hermann Lüthi and later his successor Felix Lüthi put their own names on their products. Previously under Charles Sautter, R. Howald and their wives, the name "Jacot" seemed to have continued to exist. The knife examples include a pocket knife that is embossed with both the "Jacot" and "Lüthi" brands. It can be assumed that Hermann Lüthi had completely taken over the cutlery and still had material from the Coutellerie Jacot continued to use. This may be how this double imprint came about.

FAN - L'Express, 24. Dezember 1885

COUTELLERIE JACOT

Veuve de Rod. HOWALD, successeur
15, Rue du Temple-Neuf 15

Assortiment complet et varié de couteaux de table, de dessert et à découper, couteaux de poche, ciseaux dans tous les genres et de tout prix.

Étuis de ciseaux garnis, depuis deux places; ciseaux de poche modèle nouveau, chaînes pour ciseaux.

Grand choix de sécateurs à bas prix, échenilloirs, gratte-mousse, jardiniers, greffoirs et serpettes formes et lames variées. Coutellerie anglaise.

Aiguillages des patins en travers (à l'américaine); réparations. — Clefs et fournitures pour tous genres de patins, etc.

Réparations et aiguillages chaque jour.

Expédition prompt et soignée.

FAN - L'Express, 7. Dezember 1886

COUPELLERIE JACOT
H. LUTHI

Successeur de Mme veuve HOWALD, 15, rue du Temple-Neuf 15

Bel assortiment de coutellerie en tous genres et de tous prix.
Étrennes utiles et de fantaisie.
Patins pour dames et messieurs.
On se charge de réparer et d'aiguiser promptement toutes espèces de patins.
Aiguisage des tondeuses.
Réparations en tous genres, aiguisage tous les jours.

Expédition prompte et soignée.

La Suisse Libérale, Band 23, Nummer 292, 11. Dezember 1886

COUPELLERIE JACOT
HERMANN LUTHI

Successeur de M^{me} veuve HOWALD, 15, rue du Temple-Neuf 15

Bel assortiment de coutellerie en tous genres et de tous prix.
Étrennes utiles et de fantaisie.
Patins pour dames et messieurs.
On se charge de réparer et d'aiguiser promptement toutes espèces de patins.
Aiguisage des tondeuses.
Réparations en tous genres, aiguisage tous les jours.

Expédition prompte et soignée.

For sale is a used but well-preserved stroller. Contact cutler Jacot, Temple-Neuf no. 15.

FAN - L'Express, 18. August 1892

A VENDRE une poussette d'enfant, usagée mais bien conservée. S'adresser coutellerie Jacot, Temple-Neuf n° 15.

The knife maker Jacot manufactured various pocket knives. She mainly produced pocket knives for craftsmen and for fruit and wine growing. There are also very high-quality, elegant pocket knives with silver blades and also multifunctional pocket knives with up to 15 tools. Pocket knives embossed with " Jacot " must have been manufactured before 1886, as the Lüthi cutlery took over the business afterwards.

State exhibition –
Geneva

At the cutler Jacot we see the articles that were published in Geneva, group 30, and for which a silver medal was awarded.

La Suisse Libérale, Band 33, Nummer 268, 11. November 1896

EXPOSITION NATIONALE
GENÈVE

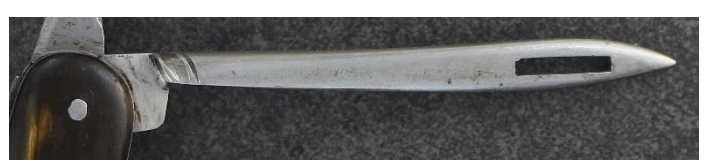
On peut voir dans la nouvelle vitrine de la Coutellerie JACOT les articles qui ont figuré à Genève, groupe 30, et pour lesquels une médaille d'argent a été décernée. (Hc. 10872 N.)

Neuchatel (German: Neuenburg) is a small Swiss town in French-speaking Switzerland . Around 20,000 people lived there around 1900, today just over 40,000.

The address "Temple Neuf 15" in Neuchatel no longer exists. There is still the street "Temple Neuf", but no longer number 15. This street is located in the middle of the old town of Neuchatel .

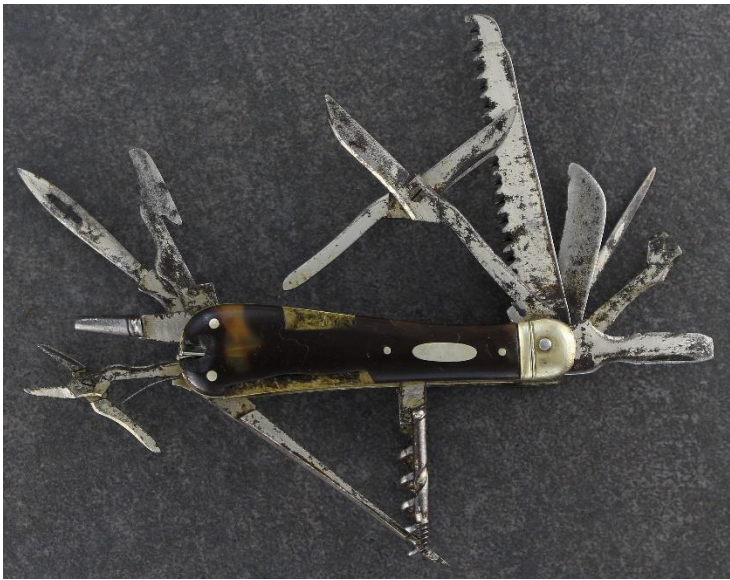
Swiss knife maker

Jacot – Neuchatel - examples



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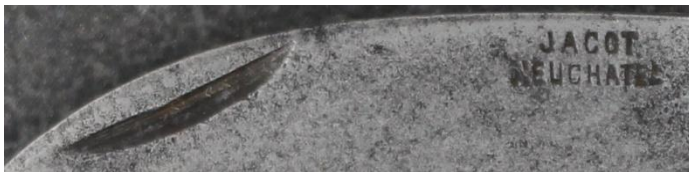
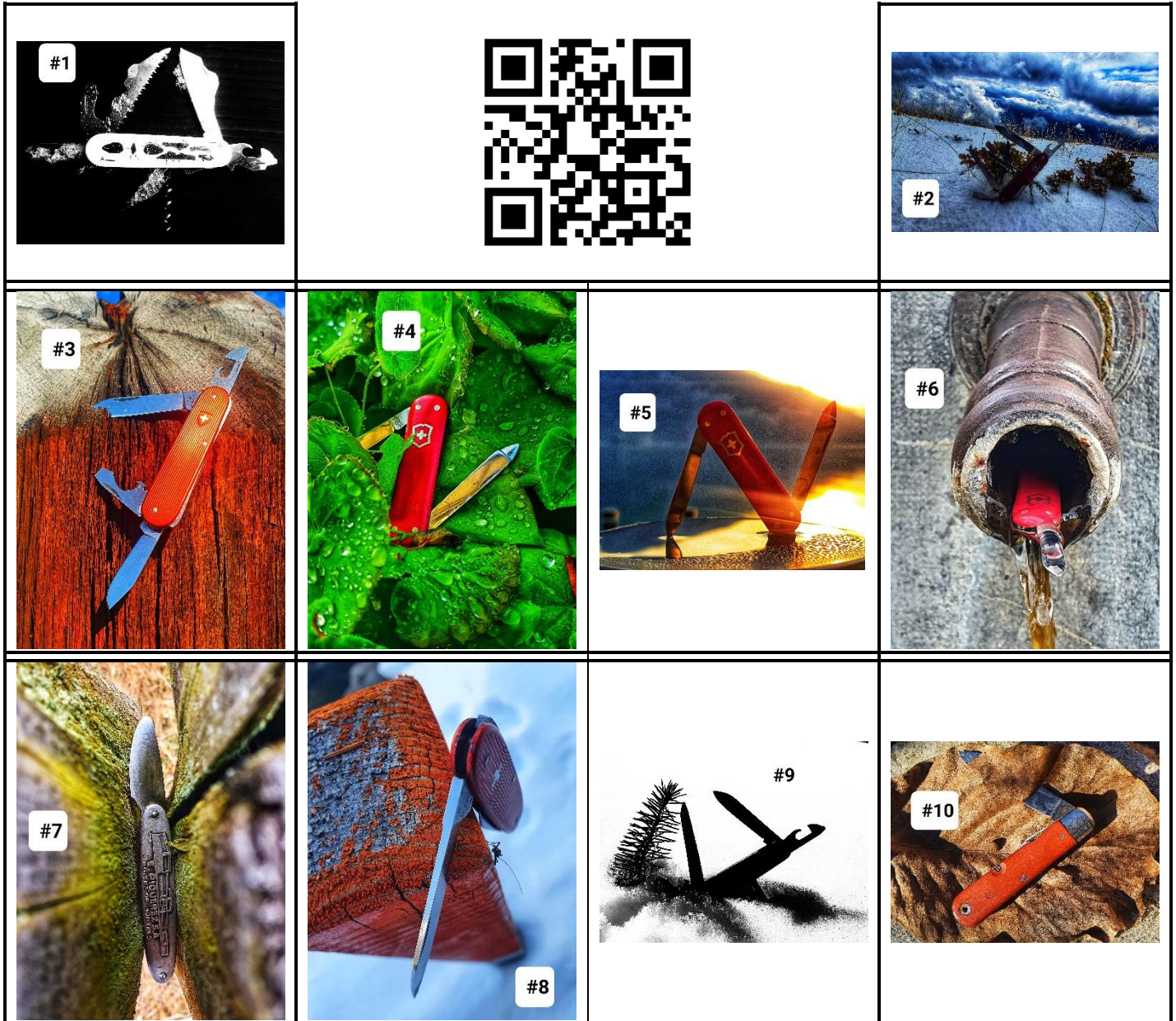


Foto Challenge

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



Take part in the photo challenge for the next issue! Topic: Winter is coming

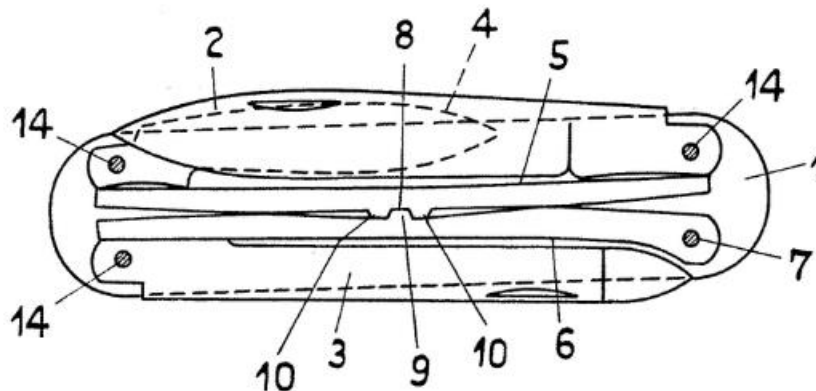
Send your photo to info@elsinox.com

Remember Victorinox 74mm series

Victorinox has decided not to continue the series of pocket knives in the 74 mm size and has therefore stopped production. Although there are not very many collectors of pocket knives of this size, many enthusiasts and collectors are still disappointed with this decision, as is always the case when models are removed from the range. The exact reasons for stopping production were not communicated. Here Victorinox runs its own line as in the past. Certain models suddenly fall out of the range without giving clear reasons or communicating transparently. Therefore, one can only speculate that the demand for this size of pocket knife has decreased or that continuing production was not profitable enough. The fact that certain models have gradually disappeared in recent years certainly has something to do with the fact that Victorinox took over the Wenger company in 2005, where they took over and continued producing a range of other models and sizes of pocket knives.

Pocket knives in this size are still available in many stores, but there are no longer any supplies from Ibach . This is reason enough to look back a little at the series and to introduce a model of it - the model no. 656 or "Executive".

Victorinox developed the series of pocket knives in size 74 mm at the beginning of the 1950s, at the same time as the Classic series in 58 mm. Although these two forms appear similar on the outside, they are very different in structure. The construction of the 74 mm pocket knives with several layers of tools goes back to a design by Carl Elsener , who applied for a patent in the USA in 1952. With this design, a spring did not have to be fixed with a rivet, but was mounted in a "floating" manner, a so-called " floating spring". This meant that one tool could move around the spring base and around the spring head. Below is the original drawing that was included with the patent application (see <https://worldwide.espacenet.com/patent/search/family/007066704/publication/DE913392C?q=de913392>).



In the 74 mm size there were essentially four different tool configurations and therefore different types of pocket knives. In addition, model number 651 was a combination that was only available for a very short time at the beginning and then disappeared again.

The 74 mm series never achieved the popularity of the 58 mm pocket knife series and therefore did not achieve the great variety. The special size was probably the decisive factor for this, as it was between the very small and fine pocket knives of the 58 mm series and the larger officer's knives in 84 mm and 91 mm. For most people, the 58 mm size was sufficient for a handbag, a bunch of keys and for the occasional use of tools, as it was easier to store and at the same time cheaper to purchase.

Cellidor / Celluloid and Alox, mother-of-pearl, horn and gold were used as shell material . There was also a large range of steel bowls with various guilloche patterns . The addition of toothpicks and tweezers was offered as an option for certain bowls.

Exclusive tools were developed for the 74 mm series, which, in this form and function, were not found in any other pocket knife. This particularly included the orange peeler with the special screwdriver, which was used in model no. 656.

Similar to the 58 mm models, the majority of 74 mm pocket knives also disappeared over time until 2023, when production stopped completely.

In photos, the two sizes 58 mm and 74 mm can be easily distinguished based on their tools. Except for the large blade, all other tools are completely different. This is particularly because the design and construction is different. In the 58 mm series, each tool has its own spring, while in the 74 mm pocket knives two tools can share a spring because it is mounted "floating".

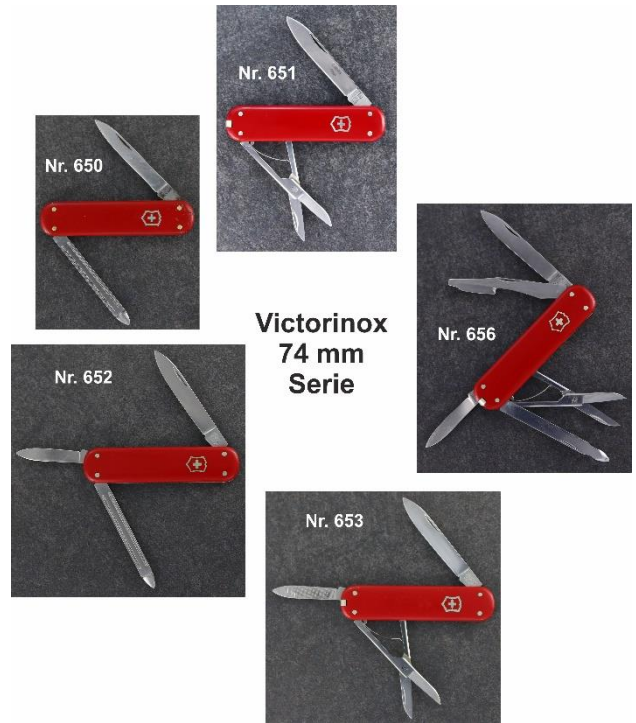
The 74mm series was similarly popular for promotional use as the smaller 58mm series. The advertising space for the pocket knives was larger, but so were the prices in stores. In contrast to the 58 mm series, the use of steel shells was very popular with the 74 mm series. These could be ordered in very different patterns, with an additional engraving on the knife blade or directly on the bowl in the engraving field provided.

Below is a comparison of sales prices in 1958 and the impact of whether a model had scissors or not.

Sales prices of certain models in 58 mm and 74 mm in the 1958 catalog

Model	No. 620 r+	No. 650r+	No. 652 r+	No. 653 r+	No. 656 r+
Price	CHF 4.30	CHF 4.80	CHF 6.40	CHF 9.60	12.80

Due to the large price difference, it can be assumed that the 74 mm models without scissors in particular were used for advertising purposes.



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Model No. 656



History of Model No. 656 "Executive"

Victorinox developed model number 656 in the 1950s. The 1958 catalog already lists the four basic models of the series. For a long time, model no. 656 remained the only 2-layer pocket knife in the 74 mm size and was still manufactured until 2022.

Functional parts

Model No. 656 had the same tools as Model No. 652, with the addition of scissors and a screwdriver/ orange peeler . Victorinox developed its own nail file for this model. The screwdriver/ orange peeler tool cannot be found on any other knife and was developed and manufactured exclusively for this model type. In addition to the nail file mentioned and the screwdriver/ orange peeler , model no. 656 had a small and a large cutting blade as well as scissors. As standard, model no. 656 came with toothpicks and tweezers, optionally with a bracket/key ring.

Blade strength

Large blade: 2.3 mm; small blade: 1.25 mm; Orange peeler : 1.25 mm; Scissors: 2.3mm; Nail file: 1.25 mm

Construction

orange peeler and nail file are on the bottom layer . The upper layer is constructed identically to model no. 653, although the small blade from model no. 652 was installed instead of the small nail file. An intermediate board was inserted between the two layers.

With the exception of the variants with steel, aluminum and gold scales, all pocket knives were offered with or without toothpicks and tweezers.

The floating back springs only make sense if two tools rotate on one back spring, like the small and large blades on the second layer here. On the first layer, the same back spring (with the recess) was used for the nail file as on the 1st layer, although it would not be necessary here. Due to the simplification of the manufacturing process, an already developed back spring could be used.

Shell material

Over time, different versions of the shell material have been used. While the model was initially only offered in aluminum shells in blue-green, gold and red with a cross, a short time later various other colors and materials were added. In the 1959 catalog a total of 10 different bowl variants are listed as available for ordering: aluminum blue-green (abbreviation: "b"); Aluminum gold «g»; Aluminum red with Swiss cross "r+"; Imitation tortoiseshell in Cellidor «CT»; Imitation mother-of-pearl in Cellidor «CP»; Cellidor red with Swiss cross « Cr +»; steel «St»; horn «H»; mother-of-pearl «P»; Gold 14 carat « gold ». The 3 Cellidor variants as well as the bowls in horn and mother-of-pearl were available with or without toothpicks/tweezers. All variants could be ordered with a bracket. 5 years later, in the 1964 catalog, the bracket no longer existed, only the "ring" option. This was only available for 4 variants: Alox red, Cellidor red, Cellidor red with toothpicks/tweezers and guilloched steel. The model no. 656 in variant b was only available while stocks lasted.

circuit boards

The circuit boards, which were originally made of brass or nickel silver, were later replaced by aluminum. If aluminum was used as the shell material, the outer boards were omitted.

Trade names : Executive, Director (steel shells), Companion



In the picture above you can see the first layer (nail file + screwdriver/ orange peeler) open and the second layer underneath. The small blade lies behind the large blade.

Screwdriver/ orange peeler versions

Version I



Smooth rounded cutting edge



Version II



Finely serrated, rounded cutting edge



Version III



Coarsely serrated cutting edge, smooth surface



The screwdriver/orange peeler was available in 3 different versions. The original version I had a smooth cutting surface. The cutting blade was flattened on both sides.

After a short time, version II followed. In this version, the cutting blade was finely serrated with around 18 teeth. The surfaces towards the cutting edge were still flattened on both sides.

Version III, which is still produced in this form, also had a serrated cutting blade. However, the teeth were more pronounced with 8-9 teeth. The back also remained completely smooth.

With this tool you can see the development from complex production to the simplest possible machine production. Version III ultimately only required the front to be sanded, while the back of the previous models also needed to be sanded.

Nail file versions

Version I



Rounded tip
90° and 45° grooves



Specific version



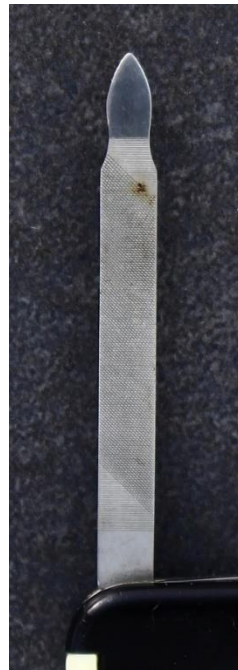
Rounded tip
90° and 45° grooves on both
sides



Version II



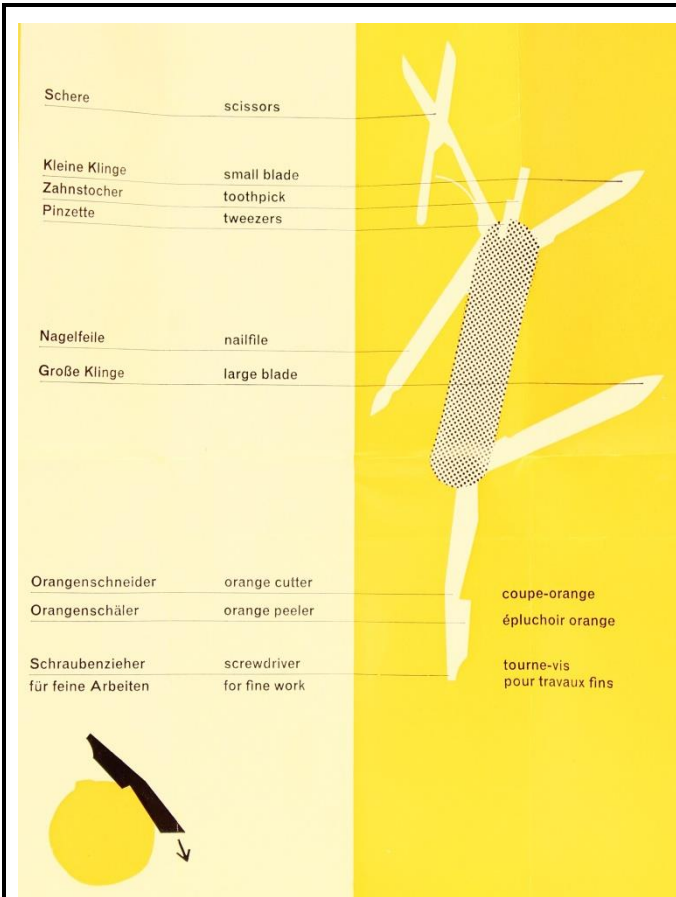
Flat tip
90° and 45° grooves



The nail file for model No. 656 was unique. Although it would have been technically possible to use the one from model no. 650, a separate, model-specific nail file was developed.

Version I only differed from version II in that the tip was no longer rounded but was flat. This made production easier because one work step could be eliminated.

The special version was a particular exception. Whether it was a production error or was deliberately manufactured that way can no longer be said with certainty. In any case, this nail file has an identically hatched nail surface on both the front and back.



Left and above photos of the package insert for model no. 656



Variants of model no. 656 r+



Different scales for model no. 656 "Executive"

from left to right: Cellidor, 14k gold, rosewood, aluminum, guilloched steel, buffalo horn, mother of pearl



Above: Model No. 656 with shells with visible rivets (Exposed Rivets)

Collection area 74 mm

At first glance, the collection of 74 mm models from Victorinox appears to be very manageable, as there were only 5 basic models. Due to the different shell materials and configurations (with toothpick/tweezers or without; with bracket/key ring or without), there are several more variants, as shown in the image below from a Victorinox catalog from 1964 :

Côtes	No.:	<u>pour Dames</u>				épluch. orange	
		ciseaux		ciseaux		tournevis	
		lime lame	lime lame	lime lame	lime 2 lames	lime lame	lime 2 lames
		<u>620</u>	<u>623</u>	<u>650</u>	<u>652</u>	<u>653</u>	<u>656</u>
Alox bleu-vert	b	3.40*	7.60*U	4.90*	5.90*	9.60*	13.60*
Alox couleur or	g	3.50	7.70 U	5.--	6.--	9.70	13.70
Alox rouge av. croix	r+	3.50 U	7.70 U	5.-- U	6.-- U	9.70 U	13.70 U
Cell. écaille	CT	3.60 U	7.80 U	5.10	6.10	9.80	13.80
idem avec P et C	aCT	-	-	-	-	10.60	14.60
Cell. nacre	CP	3.70 U	7.90 U	5.20	6.20	9.90	13.90
idem avec P et C	aCP	-	8.70 U	-	-	10.70	14.70
Cell. rouge av. croix	Cr+	3.80 U	8.-- U	5.30 U	6.30 U	10.-- U	14.-- U
idem avec P et C	aCr+	-	8.80 U	-	-	10.80 U	14.80 U
Acier inox guilloch.	St	6.80 U	11.-- U	6.30	7.30	11.--	15.-- U
Corne véritable	H	7.80 U	12.-- U	-	10.30	14.--	18.--
idem avec P et C	aH	-	12.80 U	-	11.10	14.80	18.80
Nacre véritable	P	-	17.-- U	-	20.30	24.--	28.--
idem avec P et C	aP	-	-	-	-	27.--	31.--
Or véritable 14 kt. Gold		-	40.-- U	-	-	70.--	74.--

Tous les canifs marqués U sont fabriqués aussi avec anneau ; majoration :

-.20

There are 15 different variants, and an additional 4 with the "shackle/key ring" option. Here is a picture of the different variants (not all of them are model number 656).



Collection variants

- Visible rivets – invisible rivets
- with bracket – with key ring
- Tweezers with heads made of nickel silver, aluminum or plastic
- Cross and Shield inlay made of nickel silver or steel
- Variants of nail files
- Variants of the orange peeler

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If you go even deeper and into even more details, the variants become almost countless. For example, there were various different designs of model number 656 St with steel shells. There were probably 30 different designs of guilloche patterns in total, although probably not all of them were used in the 74 mm series. Then there were different variants of the models depending on the era. During development there were also countless advertising knives with corresponding engravings or prints on the shells, different embossing stamps from the Victorinox company, etc. So you can see that even from just one model (model no. 656 "Executive") the variety of variants is so great that collectors definitely won't get bored.



Illustration of various 656 models in different versions

News

Winter Magic Limited Edition 2023



In October 2023, Victorinox launched the Winter Magic model Cadet in size 84 mm, another new model in the entire Victorinox Christmas series. The model has 4 tools and aluminum bowls in a relief surface in colors blue to gold. The model is limited to 10,000 copies. It has nice packaging as well as a key ring.

Weeks before the model was officially presented, various photos of the knife were already circulating and some of the knives could already be purchased.



This preliminary information before the official presentation by Victorinox has already happened several times. Many collectors are bothered by this. Especially people who are waiting with anticipation for this model want to find out about it, purchase it and hold it in their hands at the same time as all other enthusiasts around the world. So you can understand the frustration. Why is this happening?

There are definitely various reasons. For the first time, Victorinox is very generous when it comes to tours of their factory premises, where you can get an insight into the entire production process. At the same time, employees and superiors are sometimes very euphoric about new products and their developments and understandably want to share this with those around them. And finally, some retailers do not adhere to Victorinox's guidelines when it comes to launching new products. This probably has little or no consequences, which is why they will not comply with it in the future. It is clear that these 10,000 pocket knives could not be produced all at once, and delivery worldwide also took a long time. Despite understanding the frustration of some people, on the other hand, it is also sympathetic in a certain way that not everything works the same way at Victorinox as it does at other companies. They just do it their way. It is and remains a family business that develops its products with great pride and enthusiasm. And these countless very satisfied employees of the company want to share their joy and passion. That's human. This is Victorinox. And that's a good thing in my opinion.

To the series

Depending on how you count, this model from 2023 is the 13th knife in the series, or the 5th. The series began in 2015 with the launch of the limited model White Christmas. From 2018 onwards, the limited edition knife was called Winter Magic. It can be assumed that the term "Christmas" was no longer used in order not to exclude certain religious groups. Winter Magic, on the other hand, refers to winter, snow and cold, which excludes almost the entire southern hemisphere of our world. That's why: no matter what you call it, certain people will always be bothered by it.



The series certainly has its fans. Personally, I don't really like the series. Firstly, they are very different models with different scales and packaging, some of which are not coordinated with each other at all. Then individual models seem rather cheaply manufactured. Just because a model is limited - with 10,000 pieces being a fairly high limit - it does not necessarily have to be special and justify a high price. I think Victorinox doesn't sell 10,000 of many of the unlimited pocket knife models per year. In my opinion, a limited edition knife in this quantity - if only a special print motif makes the difference - should not cost more than 20% more than the standard model.



Conclusion

In my opinion, Victorinox has hit the mark with this model. In general, Alox models are always very popular. Here, however, this different colored relief process was used for the first time, which resulted in a very beautiful knife. The design is great, as is the choice of model. Unlike previous models in the series, this is no longer available in many branches and online just weeks after it went on sale. I think the official retail price of CHF 69 is absolutely justified. Unlike other limited editions of recent times (e.g. the Off-White project or the Replica 1897), Victorinox has hit the nerf of the times here.

Which of Vicorinox's newer products do you personally like best? Vote here and share your opinion.



sale

In principle, special and unusual, rare or curious products should be offered for sale. Only Elsinox decides what this includes and what does not. It is clear that in many cases it is a personal judgment whether something is considered special, rare or curious. For example, a Victorinox Spartan from the 90s with an advertising inscription for an electronics store may objectively be very rare and correspondingly rare in this exact version, but from Elsinox 's point of view it is still very common and uninteresting for the majority of collectors. How many collectors are there who collect promotional knives from electronics stores? Only products from former or current Swiss cutlers should be offered, i.e. no custom-made products.

Price: the seller is generally free to specify a fixed price or a negotiated price in the appropriate amount for his products. If, from Elsinox 's point of view, a price is significantly above the market price, this will result in the product not being put on sale. Basically, the motto should be that as many as 70 – 80% of the products offered for sale actually find a buyer.

The products listed below are private sales. Elsinox assumes no guarantee or responsibility in this regard. If you are interested in a product, contact Elsinox directly by email, Facebook Messenger or using the form on the homepage, who will then forward the contact details to the seller. Elsinox has no influence on whether a deal is concluded or not.

Elsinox will do this: the requests will be forwarded in a ranked list after a certain amount of time depending on how I manage to process the input. This would then look like this for an example product X:

<i>Interested party A from country CH</i>	<i>pays CHF 350 for product B.</i>
<i>Interested party B from country D</i>	<i>pays CHF 200 for product B.</i>
<i>Interested party C from country UK</i>	<i>pays a total of CHF 500 for products B and C.</i>
<i>Prospect D from country CH</i>	<i>is interested, but wants more photos</i>

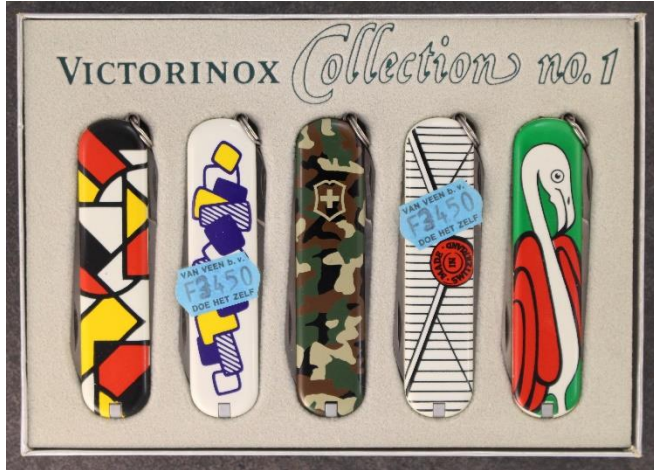
Seller A now sees that interested party A is the most likely to get in touch. Whether he takes this fact into account (which I recommend) or not is up to him. Whether he prefers prospect B, who comes from the same country D and therefore shipping is easier, or prospect C, who wants two products at the same time, is decided solely by seller A. The seller also receives the contact details straight away so that he can contact interested parties directly. Elsinox 's recommendation is: quickly process inquiries from interested parties, quickly conclude a deal, quickly inform Elsinox that the product has been sold. After a deal, it is also recommended to contact all interested parties personally and inform them that the product has already been sold.

Which guarantee agreements are made, which specific sales amount, which insurance, etc. are solely up to the seller and buyer. The comment FP is a fixed price with no room for negotiation, the comment VP is a negotiated price with room for maneuver upwards and downwards. Basically, a fixed price is recommended for all items with the request that both buyers and sellers stick to it. If an item is no longer available, the seller should contact Elsinox immediately so that they can make the appropriate note. In principle, only Elsinox decides whether an item is included in the sales offer or not. Negative/positive experiences with buyers/sellers are crucial here. Elsinox relies on feedback from buyers/sellers.

Legally in Switzerland: if the buyer/seller says yes to a deal, this is considered a purchase contract that both parties must adhere to. It is sufficient for this agreement to be concluded verbally. Specifically, this means: if seller A tells buyer B that he agrees to the deal (e.g.: "It's good, you can have knife X for sum Y"), then buyer B is obliged to buy the knife and seller A to pay the sum Y; Seller A is in turn obliged to give knife X to buyer B. Why is that? As soon as a sales contract is concluded, legally the product no longer belongs to the seller, but to the buyer. What always happens is that seller A suddenly gets a better offer and backs out of the deal, or buyer B suddenly doesn't want the product anymore. Both are legally inadmissible without the consent of the other party. Because the logic is actually clear: according to the sales contract that has been concluded, product get out of the contract. I ask everyone to use appropriate logic when selling/buying.

It is generally expected that products offered here in the Elsi Post will not be offered at the same time on other platforms such as Ricardo or Ebay or classified ads. The mediation effort is considerable. If it is discovered that these products are still being sold elsewhere, the chances of products being sold on Elsi Post again in the future will certainly be reduced.

1
74 mm Collection No. 1



FP: CHF 175.-

#2
74 mm Collection No. 2



FP: CHF 175.-

#3
Soldier Knife Wenger 1964



FP: CHF 120.-

#4
Soldier Knife Wenger 1989



FP: CHF 60.-

#5
Soldier Knife Wenger 2002



FP: CHF 90.-

#6
Soldier Knife Elsener 1968



FP: CHF 80.-

#7

Soldier Knife Elsener 1970



FP: CHF 70.-

#8

Soldier Knife Wenger 1959 Grillon



FP: CHF 100.-

#9

Soldier Knife Elsener 1946



FP: CHF 100.-

#10

civic Soldier Knife Victorinox 1949



FP: CHF 80.-

#11

58 mm Victorinox Classic Sterling Silver NIB



FP: CHF 150.-

#12

58 mm Victorinox Classic Perlmutter NIB



FP CHF 100.-

#13

58 mm Victorinox Gold Classic Diamond Cut NIB



FP : CHF 170.-

#14

74 mm Victorinox Ambassador Gold Satine NIB



FP : CHF 190.-

#15

Victorinox 74 mm Modell No. 653 Perlmutter NIB



FP : CHF 200.-

#16

Victorinox 58 mm De Luxe Serie Bordeaux Rot NIB



FP : CHF 90.-

#17

74 mm Rocknife Serie complete (partly NIB)



VP : CHF 750.-

#18

58 mm Fan Collection



VP : CHF 200.-

#19

58 mm Victorinox Rocknife Andeer Granit NIB



FP : CHF 120.-

#20

58 mm Victorinox Rocknife Azul Santa Cruz NIB



FP : CHF 120.-

#21

74 mm Rocknife Bethel White NIB



CHF 150.-

#22

74 mm Rocknife Rosa Bertha NIB



CHF 150.-

#23
74 mm RockKnife Baltic Brown NIB



CHF 150.-

#24
58 mm Classic Sterling hammered NIB



CHF 150.-

#25
58 mm De Luxe Serie Gold Plaqué NIB



FP: CHF 110.-

#26
74 mm Victorinox Modell No. 653 CT NIB



VP : CHF 200.-

#27
58 mm De Luxe Serie scharz NIB



FP: CHF 90.-

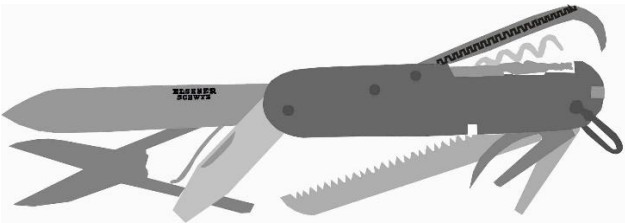

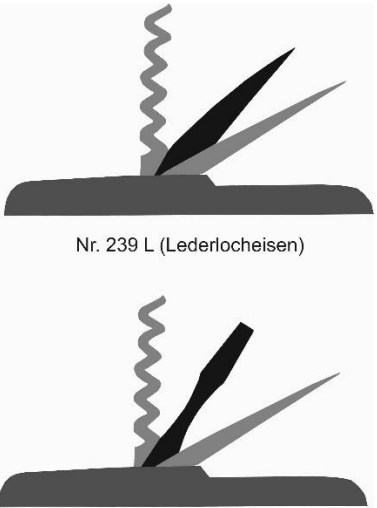

#28
58 mm De Luxe Serie rot marmoriert NIB



FP: CHF 90.-

Search

In the following section, collectors can provide information about exactly what products they are looking for and at what prices. The price should be based on the following principle: Product in original, good, used condition without major defects (broken tools or defective shells, defective back springs are considered defects). Example: Search: "Victorinox SBB Alox "Black Beauty". Pay: CHF 500.-". Such a knife, which is supposed to meet the condition, has signs of wear and may have slight paint chips on the shell. However, it is to be expected that if the knife is new with box (NIB) there will be a correspondingly higher price. Elsinox can provide advice on price expectations. The clearer and more precise the information is and the more realistic it is, the better the chance that it will actually be included in the "Search" section.

<p>#1</p>  <p>Nr. 290</p> <p>Search model no. 290 (see drawing for configuration).</p> <p>Pay: at least CHF 5000.-</p>	<p>#2</p>  <p>Officer's knife 84 mm or 91 mm with the "legally protected" screwdriver</p> <p>Pay: from CHF 800.- (depending on model and condition)</p>
<p>#3</p>  <p>Nr. 239 L (Lederlocheisen)</p> <p>Nr. 239 S (Schmaler Schraubenzieher)</p> <p>Model No. 239 S and L (3 tools on the back see picture above)</p> <p>Pay: from CHF 1000.-</p>	<p>#4</p>  <p>135km «grand prix small»</p> <p>Model No. 135 km (see picture above)</p> <p>Pay: CHF 250.-</p>

#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

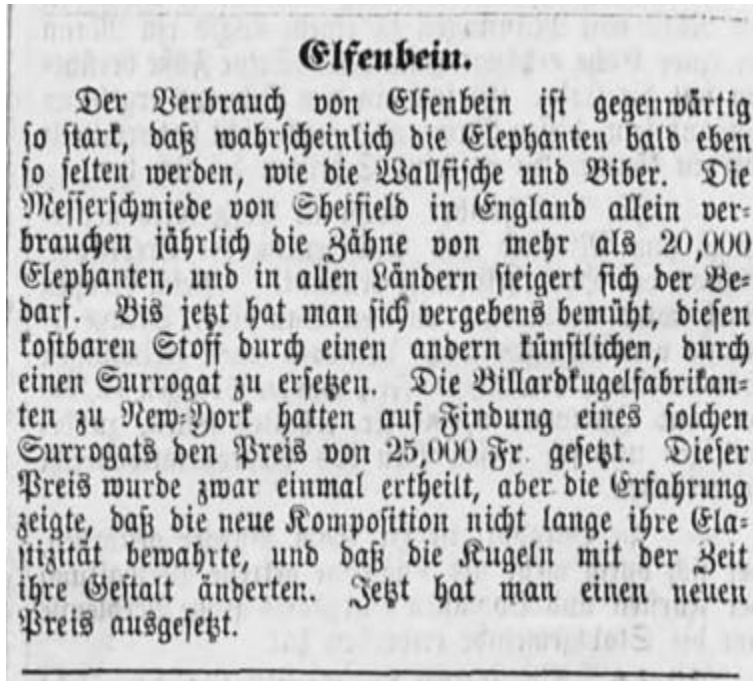


Wenger with this bowl
Pay: from CHF 1000.-

Basic information about **sales** and **searching**

The entire placement is currently free. There are also no plans to charge fees for this in the future. All the answering of inquiries and the mediation take place in my free time. Depending on the effort involved, there will be adjustments. The goal should be to ensure that inquiries can be answered and processed as quickly and quickly as possible. If this is no longer possible due to the abundance of inquiries and topics to be processed, reductions will have to be made. This can result in the sales and search offering being reduced or completely eliminated.

Anecdotes from the past



ivory

The consumption of ivory is currently so high that elephants will probably soon become as rare as whales and beavers. The cutlers of Sheffield in England alone use the teeth of more than 20,000 elephants every year, and the demand is increasing in all countries. Until now, efforts have been made in vain to replace this precious substance with another artificial one, a surrogate. The billiard ball manufacturers in New York had set the price of 25,000 CHF on finding such a surrogate. Although this prize was awarded once, experience showed that the new composition did not retain its elasticity for long and that the balls changed their shape over time. Now a new price has been announced.