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Short history of the Hamelin Museum

In **1898**, the museum association is founded on 22nd October. The founders are, amongst others: Senator Junge, pharmacist Kerstein, Building Councillor Koch, Major General Köhler, Dr. Paul Lohmann, Councillor of Valentini and Pastor Uhlhorn. Ernst Köhler becomes the first chairman.

In **1899**, the grandson of Friedrich Haspelmath entrusts the so-called Haspelmath tower to the museum association. The donation includes associated objects. Friedrich Haspelmath was a Hamelin citizen who collected numerous objects in his “cabinet of curiosities“ which was presented in the tower of the old city wall.

A smaller collection about the city is shown separately in the town hall.

In **1910**, the siblings Adolph and Friederike Wallbaum bequeath the Leisthaus on Osterstraße to the museum association. The large house provides enough space for both collections.

In **1912**, the museum in the Leisthaus is opened as the local museum. It is run by the museums association and volunteers.

In **1941**, major parts of the collections are moved to the Bismarck Tower and other parts as a precaution for the ongoing war.

In **1946**, the association transfers ownership of the Leisthaus to the city of Hamelin, as it is not able to maintain the building which was damaged during the war. The city is contractually obliged to use the building exclusively for the museum.

In **1949**, the parts of the collections that had been relocated up to now are brought back to the museum and are made fully accessible again.

In **1977**, for the first time the museum is given a full-time director. After two years of renovation, including an extension to the upper floors of the Stiftsherrenhaus, it is reopened with a new presentation of the collections.

In **1990**, the name “Museum Hameln” is established for the museum.

In **2002**, a renovation and modernisation project is planned, which aims to improve the permanent exhibition by setting up a tour and make the museum accessible for people with disabilities.

In **2004**, a special exhibition showcases 105 years of the museums and associations history.

In **2007** the renovation and modernisation project of the museum concretise.

In **2008** the preparations for the museum renovation begin. The museum moves to the new storage facility in October and November. The entire collection stock and office equipment is relocated to new premises. In December, archaeological investigations begin in the hall of the Leisthaus.

In **2011**, the newly designed permanent exhibition is reopened in the restored museum buildings. The state minister for Lower Saxony McAllister is also present. The objects found during the archaeological excavations are exhibited in the new museum.