

Zeitschrift: Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad
Herausgeber: Organisation of the Swiss Abroad
Band: 43 (2016)
Heft: 3

Rubrik: Images : ticking art from a bygone era

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Ticking art from a bygone era

The first Swiss watches were once made in Geneva. They were ornate, colourful and exquisite. Some of these treasures from the 17th to 19th centuries can now be seen in Basel. The Basel Historical Museum is displaying exhibits from its own collection.

LEH



A “skeletonised” pocket watch from the 1820s designed by Bordier of Geneva. (Photos: HMB / Natascha Jansen)



A pocket watch made of silver jointly created by Michel Spleiss from Schaffhausen and Domaine Dassier from Geneva around 1700.



Circa 1790 watches were also mounted on rings, as this timepiece by an unknown watchmaker proves.



This colourful timepiece made of enameled gold was made jointly by three watchmakers circa 1745.



This watch made of enameled gold in the form of a smelling bottle was produced around 1665 by Auguste Bretonneau.



From 1800: An extraordinary watch in the shape of a lyre from Piguet & Capt.



Watch with a noble lady: This piece with protective casing and gold piqué on leather was created around 1690 by Isaac Perrot.