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Chronicle: Rieter's 200 years 1795–1995

- 1795 Johann Jacob Rieter (1762–1826) opens his first trading establishment for foreign spices and cotton in the weigh-house 'zur Glocke' in Winterthur's Marktgasse, thus laying the foundation for the future company.
- 1809 Heinrich Rieter (1788–1851), son of the company's founder, joins the firm.
- 1812 Wildbach spinning mill in Winterthur founded, only to cease operations five years later.
- 1817 Spinning mills in St. Gall (at Augarten and Schönthal) and at Buchenthal near St. Gall-St. Fiden.
- 1823 Johann Jacob Rieter and Hans Ulrich Graf put the St. Georgen spinning mill back on its feet.
- 1825 Heinrich Rieter founds the fine spinning mill in Niedertöss.
- 1827–1831 Rieter becomes a member of the Winterthur city council.
- 1833 Purchase of the Töss Dominican convent.
- 1835–1925 Diversification phase; in addition to spinning machinery, production of transmissions, turbines, machine tools, electrical machinery such as generators, motors, railways, trams, rifles, bridges, looms, embroidery machines, doubling and winding machines, etc.
- 1843 Coarse count spinning mill established in the Töss convent.
- 1851 After the death of Heinrich Rieter, his son Heinrich (1814–1889), later colonel and senator, takes over the various businesses.
- 1852 Rieter is the first Swiss industrial company to build a workers' housing estate.
- 1854 Transfer of the engineering workshops to the Töss convent.
- 1863 Emmenhof spinning mill in Canton Solothurn equipped with turbines, transmissions and spinning machines.
- 1868 First telegraph at Rieter in the Töss plant.
- 1880 Doubling mill set up in Niedertöss.
- 1891 'Actiengesellschaft vormals Joh. Jacob Rieter & Cie.', consisting of the Obertöss engineering workshops, the Niedertöss and Glattfelden spinning mills and the Buchenthal spinning mill.
- 1897 Electrification of the tram route between Winterthur railway station and the Töss convent by Rieter.
- 1899 Benno Rieter (1870–1925) becomes general manager as the last representative of the family in management.
- 1895–1905 Construction of various bridges and erection of major steel structures.
- 1905 Construction of the Vesuvius railway.
- 1907 Construction of the grey-iron foundry on Klosterstrasse in Töss.
- 1914 The spinning mills become independent as part of a reorganization scheme under the name of 'Spinnerei und Zwirnerei Niedertöss AG'.

- 1877–1915 Delivery of 85 turbines of different systems to Sulzer Brothers in Winterthur.
- 1947 Rieter subsidiary Maschinenfabrik Effretikon AG (MEFAG) produces sophisticated spinning machinery components, so-called know-how components.
- 1948 Introduction of a punched card system as the forerunner of electronic data processing for commercial purposes as from 1959.
- 1951 American Rieter Company (ARC) founded in Arlington.
- 1962 Rieter spinning machines produced under licence by Lakshmi in Coimbatore, India.
Research centre opened in Niedertöss.
- 1964–1966 Aluminium foundry and pressure die-casting in Töss.
- 1971 Electrical controls built by Schaltag AG in Effretikon.
- 1973 New electric smelting unit at Rieter-Toess Foundry.
- 1975 Employee share ownership scheme launched.
- 1980 Production plant in Aiken, S.C. (USA) (Buy American).
- 1982 Purchase of Ernest Scragg & Sons Ltd. from the Platt assets, and formation of subsidiary Rieter-Scragg Ltd. in Langley (UK).
- 1984 Purchase of Unikeller AG for noise control and thermal insulation in motor vehicles, etc., with fibre mats. Unikeller Division formed.
- 1985 Organization of the textile machinery operations into the staple fibres and man-made fibres/continuous filament divisions.
- 1987 Long staple spinning operations discontinued.
Rieter Holding Ltd. acquires a majority interest in Schubert & Salzer Maschinenfabrik AG, Ingolstadt (Germany).
- 1988 Purchase of Chemiegesellschaft Gundershausen (Germany) for noise control and thermal insulation using foamed plastics.
- 1990 Training centre opened to provide basic and further training of customers and company personnel.
- 1992 Acquisition of Automatik-Apparate-Maschinenbau GmbH in Grossostheim (Germany).
- 1994 Purchase of Firth Furnishings Ltd. (UK) for preformed carpets to round out the Unikeller product range.
Joint venture agreement with Jingwei covering the Chinese market.
Acquisition of Elitex, Usti nad Orlici in order to utilize the Czech market and OE rotor know-how.
- 1995 Rieter celebrates its bicentenary (1795–1995).

Acknowledgments

Rieter Historical Archives.

Rieter Jubilee Publication 1945 (150th anniversary).

Rieter Jubilee Publication 1970 (175th anniversary).

Rieter house magazines since 1956.

Rieter annual reports.

Dr. Peter Dudzik: Innovation and investment – technical development and corporate decision-making in the Swiss cotton spinning industry 1800–1916.

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