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Basel Historical Museum: 2018 – An Eventful Year

The first highlight of 2018 was the Museums Night which attracted over 11,000 guests. This was followed by the exhibitions “Medieval Worlds of Faith” and “Wild Boar and Lettuce”, and in the autumn by some stimulating lectures and concerts. The year 2018 also saw the collection further enriched by the addition of several extraordinary new objects. Four exhibitions are being prepared for 2019, among them a major show to mark the Cathedral Millennium.

Two successful shows drew to a close in the first quarter of 2018: “Up Beat!” on 4 February (seen by 7,962 visitors) and “Resurfaced” on 4 March (seen by 28,031 visitors). The first six months of 2018 also saw the opening of three new exhibitions: “Medieval Worlds of Faith” on 22 March, “Desktop” on 4 May, and “Wild Boar and Lettuce” on 7 June. The programme of the Basel Historical Museum also featured various special events such as the Museums Night, a series of talks in honour of Florianne Koechlin, some concerts, and a one-day event in collaboration with the Zurich-based daily, the NZZ.

What members of the public could not see was all the work being done behind the scenes: The installation of the new storage facility and preparations for the transfer of the objects have been especially time-consuming. There are some 30,000 objects to keep track of, including nearly 200 pallets with large stone objects. The year 2018 also saw the collection upgraded by several valuable new additions. Especially noteworthy here is the collection of the Universitäre Psychiatrische Kliniken Basel, a model of the Calatrava Bridge, and a model aeroplane in the Crossair livery.

The Basel Historical Museum will be celebrating its 125th anniversary in 2019 and as a gift to the people of Basel in honour of this occasion will be opening a new permanent exhibition called “Leaps in Time – A Brief History of Basel”. This selection of 90 exhibits and 100 milestones will take visitors on a tour of 100,000 years of history flanked by six short films on recent history and an interactive installation combining facts and images on the city’s development right up to the present. On the weekend of 22/23 June the Barfüsserkirche, Haus zum Kirschgarten and Musikmuseum will be open to the public free of charge.

Another round birthday coming up next year is the Cathedral Millennium. The special show “Gold & Glory – Gifts for Eternity” will turn the spotlight on the origins of Basel Cathedral in ca. 1000 A.D. and its consecration in the presence of Emperor Henry II in 1019. The Basel Historical Museum will be making a guest appearance at the Kunstmuseum Basel for this purpose. There, in a world first, exquisite gold and ivory treasures, monumental bronzes, stone objects and the latest archaeological findings will be exhibited alongside the magnificent Basel Antependium from Paris, unfurling a panorama of one of the most momentous events in the city’s history.

There will be two more exhibitions in 2019: “Sound Pictures – Musical Treasures from 16th-Century Basel” and “Superman – Friedrich Nietzsche and Consequences”.

The most important tasks facing the Basel Historical Museum in 2019 are the new storage facility to be commissioned by mid-April 2019, content realignment, collection strategy, operational analysis and

inclusion. The Basel Historical Museum is also seeking an agreement with Pro Infirmis in pursuit of the "kultur inklusiv" label.

Further information:

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Media folder incl. photos: www.hmb.ch/medien.html

Photos can be supplied by e-mail on request.