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Stories from past times.



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OPENING HOURS K-Hof KAMMERHOF MUSEEN GMUNDEN

Wed-Sun 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., every first Wednesday in the month open from 10 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., in the months of June till August and during the Christmas holidays extended opening times: Tue – Sun 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m

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A historical guide
through Gmunden
Old Town

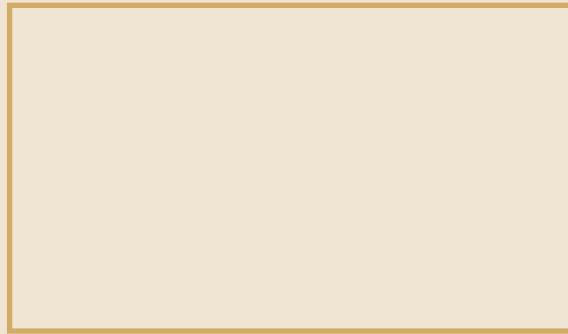


The View Finder

An indispensable aid for setting motifs and perspective for painters and photographers since the beginning of photography and art.

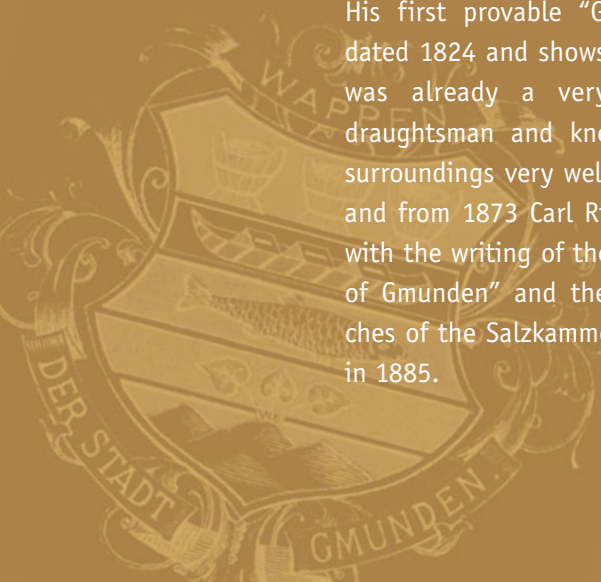
Try for yourself: hold the view finder with your arm outstretched in front of you. Sight a section of the view and draw the view finder slowly towards you. You will immediately notice the steady change in the perspective. You are now on the trail of the old masters, for example, Jakob and Rudolf von Alt, Ferdinand Waldmüller, Gustav Klimt and other painters from the Imperial era.

We wish your many
interesting new / old impressions
of Gmunden!



Carl Ritter (1807-1885)
Draughtsman, water colourist and chronicler

Worked as a clerk in the headquarters of the Imperial and Royal Salt and Forestry Management from July 1853. His draughtsmanship is of great historical importance to the topography and history of Gmunden because of his precise depiction of places and his systematic documentation of the views of towns and building complexes. His first provable "Gmunden Drawing" is dated 1824 and shows that the 17 year old was already a very intensively active draughtsman and knew Gmunden and its surroundings very well. He retired in 1869, and from 1873 Carl Ritter occupied himself with the writing of the six band "Chronical of Gmunden" and the accompanying sketches of the Salzkammergut. Carl Ritter died in 1885.



to be given up at the "K-Hof" museum

7

When did the peasant war start, causing heavy casualties around the city of Gmunden?
Tip: look at the memorial pillar!



8

In which year was the Saint George monument erected?



9

What is the name of the oldest chemist in the Salzkammergut, and when was it founded?



10

How many arches had the Traun Gate earlier?



11

When was the Town Charter bestowed upon the Town Council of Gmunden?
Tip: take a closer look at the Traun Gate!



When you have filled in the quiz, bring the view finder into the K-Hof Museum. Adults and children will receive a small surprise reward for their efforts!
The museum opening hours are on the back page!





k.k. plan sketch coloured by hand



11 excellent Information Boards for your kind attention!





"Rathausplatz" and Gmunden Town Hall



**Dear visitors to Gmunden
and those interested in
the history of Gmunden.**

It gives me great pleasure to be able to present to you the Theme Route which takes you round the historical old town of Gmunden. The Theme Route provides the visitor with a view of the past through the stories of Gmunden town steeped in history and tradition.

The tour takes you past many traditional buildings and sights of the town and many historically important places. The Theme Route ends at the K-Hof Museum, which offers you even more information about the origins and roots of Gmunden town.

I wish you an enjoyable time on the trail of the history of Gmunden.

Sincerely



Heinz Hörmel
Mayor of Gmunden

- 
- ① Rathausplatz
 - ② Esplanade
 - ③ Kaiser Franz Joseph-Park
 - ④ Theatergasse
 - ⑤ Kirchengasse
 - ⑥ Rinnholzplatz
 - ⑦ Am Graben
 - ⑧ Kirchenplatz
 - ⑨ Marktplatz
 - ⑩ Kammerhofgasse
 - ⑪ Museumsplatz with „Trauntor“
and „Traunbrücke“



The footprints on the ground will assist you in finding the correct view perspective and will lead you in the direction of the next information board.



① The „Rathausplatz” — A square steeped in history of trade and power.



The „Rathausplatz” (Town Hall Square), Carl Ritter, about 1865



The „Rathausplatz” today, Mediterranean lifestyle in Gmunden town centre

The „Rathausplatz”, formerly known as the ‘Lower Square’ or the ‘Lower Market Square’, once covered the area from the ‘Trauntor’ (Traun Gate), now the Kammerhofgasse, to the ‘Christophstor’ (Christopher’s Gate), now known as Stadttheater/Theatergasse. Since 1st May 1839 it has been the dock for the Traunsee fleet which takes numerous people to the places of interest along the banks of the Traunsee, the neighbouring towns and the most southern end of the Traunsee. From 1835 to 1871 the „Rathausplatz” was the terminal for the freight cars of the horse-drawn railway, Budweis - Linz - Gmunden, which transported the salt. The longboats carrying the salt were unloaded here, and the blocks of salt were temporarily stored in the salt cellar of the Gmunden Town Hall



Pic. An early salt carrying boat

and subsequently loaded onto the freight cars of the horse-drawn railway. The present Gmunden Town Hall was built in 1574 and extended in 1676. There is a Glockenspiel made of Meissen China decorated with the typical Gmunden ‘Green Stripes’, dating back to 1959. In 1874, the waters of the lake still reached as far as a few metres from the Town Hall. It was not until that year that the banking up of the lake bed was started, in order to extend the „Rathausplatz”. The construction of the Schubert Square and the erection of the stone lake wall were completed in 1884.



Quiz Question

Which building dating back to Imperial times houses the Gmunden ceramic bells? Tip: lay the view finder over the picture on page 4.



The „Rathausplatz” in the direction of Kammerhofgasse about 1910

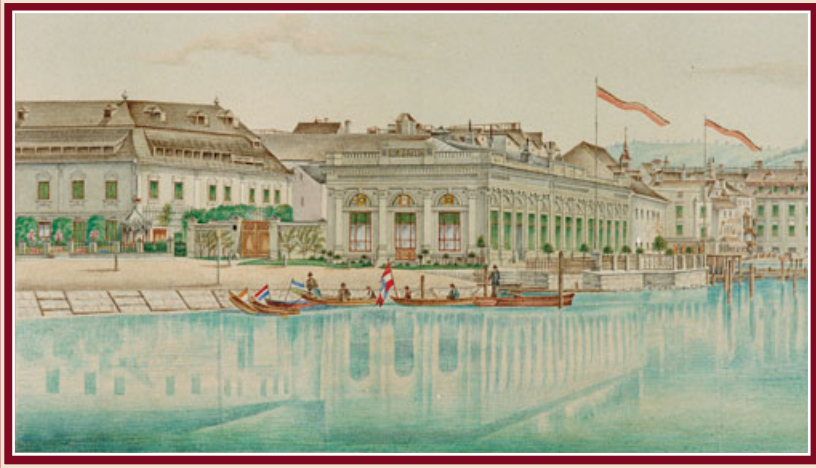


The „Rathausplatz” and the freight cars of the horse-drawn railway, about 1867

To the next Information Board No. 2

Go lakeside about 180 m along the Esplanade to the next Information Board No. 2 ‘The Esplanade’

② The Esplanade ≈ An impressive lakeside promenade since imperial times.



Casino or Spa, Carl Ritter, about 1868



The Esplanade today, meeting place for young and old, for a walk by the Traunsee

The building of the Gmunden Esplanade by banking up the lake bed was started during the winter months of 1850/51 and was not completed until 1862. Since then, this unique lake promenade has been a popular walk for guests and local people who can enjoy the magnificent views from here. From 1867 to 1868 the Gmunden Casino was built on the site of the former 'Fasslhaus' (Barrel House) from plans by the engineer Franz Schuppler.

This served as a meeting place for the international Gmunden spa society and as a venue for public functions. In 1898, a 50 meter long extension with a small tower was built onto the "Cursalon". On the ground floor there was a large concert hall,



a conversation- and readingroom and a dining room. Unfortunately, in the March 1941, the building was burnt down and destroyed. In 1874 the Hotel Austria, also designed by Franz Schuppler, was opened next to the casino. It offered its guests 100 rooms appointed to the highest standards as well as salt water and pine essence baths.



Quiz Question

Turn towards the lake Traunsee, use the view finder as a guide and pull the section from left to right over the lake. Which castle appears in the view finder?



Hotel Austria, on the left
the Casino about 1880



Casino or Spa about 1900

To the next Information Board No. 3

Go lakeside about 60 m along the Esplanade to the next Information Board No. 3 'Kaiser Franz Joseph-Park'

③ Kaiser Franz Joseph-Park ≈ „The gnome with the mountain crystal”



„Seestadt” in Gmunden, Carl Ritter, about 1868



The “Kaiser Franz Joseph-Park” today, pause and relax as in Imperial times

Up until 1850, the waters of the Traunsee reached as far as where the houses along “Franz Joseph Platz” and Café Grellinger are now standing. The banking up of the lake bed began in 1851. During the winter months of 1888/89 the square was considerably extended and a double row of chestnut trees was planted.



It was named ‘Kaiser Franz Joseph Platz’ with the permission of the monarch in 1890. In the winter months of 1893 this square was extended out towards the lake, and this work was further continued in the winter months of 1893/94, linking the Schubert Square to the Town Hall Square.

Pic. Bust of Emperor Franz Joseph I. by Heinrich Natter

This reclaimed land was used to create a magnificent park with a fountain, but it was not until 1953 that the fountain was adorned with the admired sculpture ‘the crystal’, by the sculptor 1892). The daughter of Marie Valerie, and her Salvator, were present at the official inauguration of the Kaiser Franz Joseph Monument (designed by Heinrich Natter) on 16th



much photographed and gnome with the mountain Heinrich Natter (1844-the emperor, Archduchess husband, Archduke Franz the official inauguration Monument (designed by June 1894.

Quiz



Frage

What type is the largest tree in the Kaiser Franz Joseph-Park?
Tip: this tree originated in North America.



Official inauguration of the Kaiser Franz Joseph Monument on 16th June 1894.



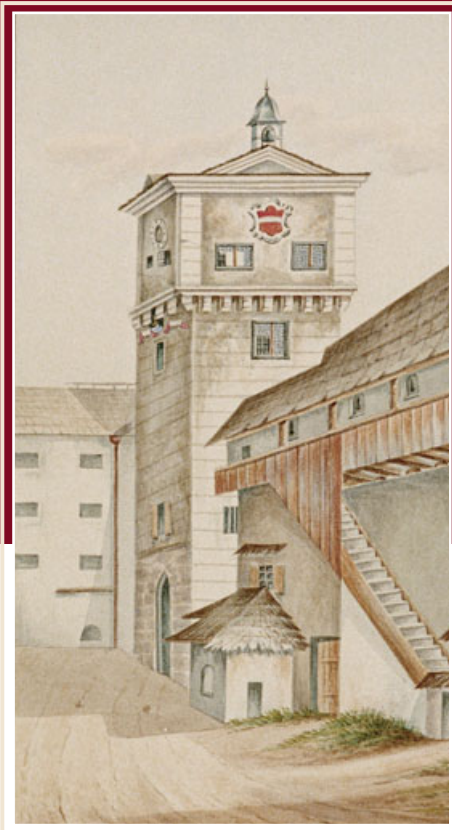
Fountain in the “Kaiser Franz Joseph Park” about 1895



To the next Information Board No. 4

Go through the park, past the giant redwood tree, over the two zebra crossings. Keeping to right side of the road, go straight ahead to the next Information Board No. 4 ‘Stadttheater - Theatergasse’

④ Theatergasse Summer holiday, Opera, Operetta in Imperial times.



"Christophsturm" tower, Carl Ritter, 1867



In the year 1871/72, the theatre director, Josef M. Kotsky, had a prestigious theatre built

at his own cost, designed by Franz Schuppler, on the former site of the salt cellar near the Christopher Tower. Here he could offer his sophisticated international spa guests, who often spent many weeks in Gmunden,

a varied programme of opera, operetta, theatre and comedy, from June to September each year. Many famous actors and singers from the imperial court theatre and opera and other Viennese theatres made guest appearances.



The "Theatergasse" today, the main business centre of Gmunden

One outstanding occasion in the eventful history of the Gmunden Theatre was the Austrian premier of Schnitzler's play 'Freiwild' (Fair Game), on 22nd July 1897, in the presence of the author.

Saisontheater in Gmunden.

Direktion: Hans Glar.

Quiz  Question

What is the name of the famous Austrian author, who was present as a spectator by the premiere of his play 'Freiwild'.



The Gmunden Theatre which was opened on 22nd June 1872

View of the "Theatergasse" in the direction of "Rathausplatz" and "Kammerhofgasse", about 1900

 To the next Information Board No. 5

Keeping to this side of the street, go straight on about 170 m, cross the road at the second traffic lights (town hall) and turn right to the next Information Board No. 5 „Kirchengasse“

⑤ Kirchengasse The oldest and most venerable street since the Middle Ages.



Kirchengasse (Churchstreet), Carl Ritter, 1867

The Kirchengasse stretches from the Town Hall Square to the Parish Church, and it is one of the oldest streets in Gmunden dating back to the Middle Ages. The picturesque view of the Kirchengasse from the Town Hall Square, with its old salt traders' houses, has always been a popular motif for artists and photographers.



Kirchengasse today, a colourful mix of gastronomy, fashion, art and handicrafts

The corner house, Kirchengasse 2, was the Town Hall in the second half of the 16th century. On the wall of this house in the Kirchengasse are two units of measurement, the 'Gmundner Elle' and the 'Gmundner Klafter' as well as some interesting high water marks. The building, 3 Spiesberger) was already documented in 1602 as a Salt Trade Administration building. After the great fire in Church Street in 1896, the building was given its present appearance. The outside wall is adorned with the ceramic relief 'The Grape Carriers' by Emilie Schleiss.



Quiz Frage

Which flood caused the most damage to the town of Gmunden and its citizens -the storm of 1897 or 1899?
Tip: look at the high water marks!



Kirchengasse with a view of the parish church about 1900



Kirchengasse with a view to the "Rathausplatz" and the "Traunsee", about 1897

To the next Information Board No. 6

Go straight on uphill about 100 m. At the fork in the road keep left to the next Information Board No. 6 'Rinnholzplatz'

⑥ Rinnholzplatz Prof. Kubiena and the salt carrier at the Rinnholz fountain.



Rinnholzplatz (Rinnholz Square), Carl Ritter, about 1865



"Rinnholzplatz" today, a square which invites you to linger for a while

The name of this square, formerly call 'Rinderholz' or 'Rinnerholz' comes from the cattle for trading or slaughter stakes to await their fate. Up until a few years ago there were still two butcher's shops in the year 1868, the Rinnholzturm, stood at the exit to the Rinnholzplatz (Schleiffergasse).



Pic.. Guild crest of the salt carriers

As legend would have it, the in the Rinnholzplatz as from Ebensee, over the the Christ Child, in fountain was adorned carrier made by the Keramikmanufaktur" sculptor Prof. Kubiena as important status of the salt



Holy Three Kings made camp they broke their journey Traunsee, in search of Gmunden. In 1948, the with the figure of a salt " G m u n d n e r from a design by the a memorial to the once so trading town of Gmunden.

Quiz Question

Which spring supplies the Salt Carrier Fountain in the Rinnholzplatz?

 To the next Information Board No. 7

Go right, past the "Haus der Farben" (paint shop) about 60 m to the next Information Board No. 7 'Am Graben'



The ceramic "salt Carrier Fountain"



This house was documented in the 16th century

⑦ Am Graben The fortification trench of the old salt trading centre.

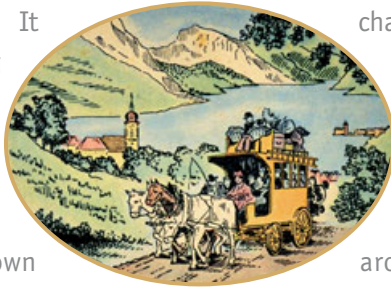


Coffee house & post office, (today corner "Bahnhofstraße" / Habertstraße), Carl Ritter, 1865



"Am Graben" today. Gmunden main Post Office is still there

The name of this uphill street comes from the 15 – 22 m wide trench which used to run along here. This trench started at the Christopher's Tower near the present theatre and continued uphill. It the right along which is now court house. As dually lost its salt trading town fortification was no longer necessary. The filling in of the trench started in 1841, the chestnut trees were planted in 1847, and in 1853 the fortification trench was completely filled in.



On the site of the building 1 Graben, which is now the Citizens' Information Office, was once the dungeon and the town grain store. Next to this, the Badgasse or smithy tower was erected, completed in 1896, which contained the prison for the simple peasants and criminals. Today an apartment building belonging to Gmunden council stands there, containing various business premises on the ground floor.



Pic. Imperial and Royal postage stamps about 1900

Quiz Question

When did the peasant war start, causing heavy casualties around the city of Gmunden?
Tip: look at the memorial pillar!



Hotel Post am Graben about 1900, since 1929 the location of the Gmunden main post office



View from the Upper Graben down to the Gmunden town theatre about 1897

To the next Information Board No. 8

Go half right, on the right side, 130 m along to the next Information Board No. 8 'Der Kirchenplatz'

⑧ The “Kirchenplatz” ➤ The parish church and Thomas Schwanthaler.



Parish church, Gmunden, Carl Ritter about 1867



The “Kirchenplatz” (Church Square) today, a place for both reflection and activity

The parish church, which was erected towards the end of the 13th century, is consecrated to the Holy Virgin Mary and the Holy Three Kings. The High Altar, created in 1678 by the sculptor Thomas Schwanthaler from Ried, depicts the worship of the Holy Three Kings. Numerous gravestones and walled in plaques are to be found outside the church, reminding one that the church was once surrounded by a graveyard, and the church square was once called ‘am Freythof’. The town wall and fortification trench ran parallel alongside.

In 1553 the graveyard was moved to an area outside the town wall towards the north (where various schools and the tax office are now situated), where it stayed until 1873.

The ‘Sternsinger (Holy Three Kings) Fountain’ which stands in the “Kirchenplatz” was cast in iron by the sculptor Sepp Moser from Neukirchen. The presbytery next to the church dates back to the 14th century, and in 1588 it was extended to the magnificent building it is today. In 1965, the Gmunden Riding Club erected a monument depicting Saint George and the Dragon which you will find on the garden wall of the presbytery.



Quiz Question

In which year was the Saint George monument erected?

➡ To the next Information Board No. 9



The fortification trench having just been filled in with the partly demolished town wall. On the left, the graveyard wall which stood between 1553 and 1873



The Habertstrasse with the school building about 1905

Go right, across the “Kirchenplatz”, about 140 m, down the steps and straight on to the Upper Market Square. Then turn left, go across the square past the first Gmunden Town Hall to the next Information Board No. 9 ‘Marktplatz’ (Market Square)

⑨ The “Marktplatz” ➤ Location of the first Townhall.



Marktplatz (Market square) in Gmunden, Carl Ritter 1865



The “Marktplatz” today, still a small trading area for farm produce.

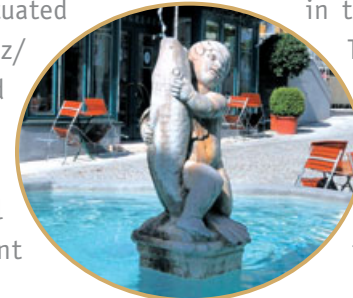
The “Marktplatz” is one of the oldest squares in Gmunden and used to be called the ‘Upper Square’ or the ‘Upper Market’. Since the 13th century, a weekly market has been held there every Tuesday.

The “Marktplatz” was paved by order of Archduke Ferdinand as early as 1524. In 1844 a fountain was built with pipes and a pool. In 1952, the fountain was adorned with a figure of a boy with a fish in his arms, out of the mouth of which water flows. This is by the sculptor Prof. Kubiena.



On the corner of Marktplatz 5 and Johannesgasse 2 is the first Gmunden Town Hall which was used well into the 14th century.

The ‘Salzkammergut Apotheke’ (chemist) which was founded in 1604 has been situated in the Eckhaus (corner house) Marktplatz/ Traungasse since 1669. This served the requirements of the Kammergut workers and therefore came under the jurisdiction of the Imperial Trade Management and Royal Salt in the Gmunden Kammerhof.



Quiz Question

What is the name of the oldest chemist in the Salzkammergut, and when was it founded?

➤ To the next Information Board No. 10

Go straight on down the Traungasse about 140 m and over the zebra crossing on the right, in the direction of the K- Hof Museum to the next Information Board No. 10 „Kammerhofgasse”



View from the “Marktplatz” down the Traungasse. The “Salzkammergut Apotheke”, founded in 1604 is on the right.

View of the “Marktplatz” in the direction of Kirchengasse about 1870. On the left the so-called “Querstrasse” (side street) which connected the Kirchengasse and the “Marktplatz” until 1881.

⑩ Kammerhofgasse — The seat of the powerful Salt Trade Chamber Administrators.



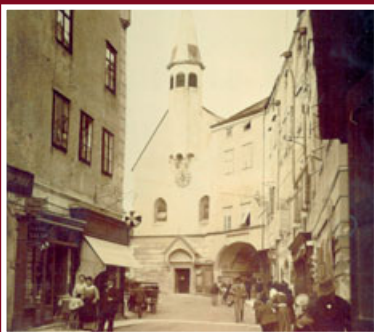
Kammerhofgasse with the Bürgerspitalkirche, and the Trauntor, Carl Ritter 1865

The Bürgerspitalkirche (citizens' hospital church) was built in 1343 and was connected to the Kammerhof building, the former seat of the Salt Trade Chamber administration, by the Trauntor (Traun Gate).



The "Kammerhof" today, popular meeting place for young and old in shops and bars

It therefore also served as the local church and burial ground for the senior civil servants and their families. This church, which had often been rebuilt, now in the neogothic style, has been part of the new Kammerhof Museums of Gmunden since 2008 and can be seen within the framework of a guided tour of the museums. The building Traungasse 2/Kösslmühlgasse served as the local barracks until 1822. Situated in the building Kammerhofgasse 7, from the 2nd half of the 18th century, was a small theatre, in which the court actor Josef Lang, the brother-in-law of W. A. Mozart, performed. If you follow the "Kammerhofgasse" in the direction of the Town Hall Square, you will come to the building 3 Kammerhofgasse, which has an arcade, accessible to the public, which is really worth seeing.



Kammerhofgasse with the Bürgerspitalkirche (citizens' hospital church) about 1940



View from the Kammerhofgasse into the Traungasse and the upper market square

Quiz Question

How many arches had the Traun Gate earlier?

To the next Information Board No.11

Go through the "Trauntor", keeping to right side for about 50 m to the next Information Board No. 11 „Museumsplatz und Trauntor“

11 Museumsplatz Once the garden of the royal salt trade offices.



Kammerhof building with Trauntor (Traun Gate), unsigned, about 1865



Pic. Historic seal of the town 1301

The present Museumsplatz was once the garden of the Kammerhof, which was erected in around 1450 as the headquarters of the royal salt trade. It was from here that the extraction, the processing and the marketing of the salt from the whole of the imperial “Kammergut”, stretching from Hallstatt

to Gmunden was managed. The residential buildings of the civil servants were the social centre of Gmunden. Apart from numerous members of the royal House of Habsburg, many artists were invited, for example, the composer Franz Schubert in 1835. After the salt trade management was changed to the imperial and royal salt and forest management in 1850 and was given a new headquarters in Klosterplatz (Monastery Square), the



The “Museumsplatz” (Museum Square) today, home of the newly laid out K-Hof Museum

the Kammerhof building experienced many changes. As well as apartments and a bed and breakfast restaurant, cold water baths, shops and, since 1942, the Gmunden Museum were located here. After the erection of the new Traunbrücke (Traun Bridge) the part of the Kammerhof which belonged to the Town Council was converted to a town museum and a gallery during a period of nine years (1962 - 1971) concurrent with the building of a second arch to the Trauntor. The Kammerhof was again extensively renovated in 2008 and now serves exclusively as a museum with an exhibition area of over 2000 m² which includes 14 showrooms documenting local history.

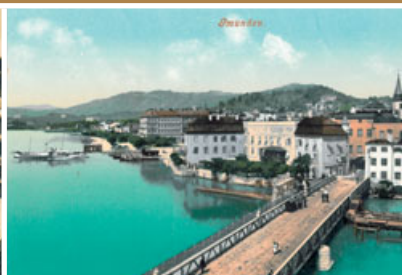
Quiz Question

When was the Town Charter bestowed upon the Town Council of Gmunden?

Tip: take a closer look at the Traun Gate!



The Kammerhof building, in front of which lies the garden which is now the Museumsplatz, about 1930



The Traun Bridge with the Kammerhof building and the Traun Gate, about 1910



To the counter into the K-Hof Museum

This is the end of the Old Town Theme Tour. We hope you liked it. When you have filled in the quiz, bring the view finder into the K-Hof Museum. Adults and children will receive a small surprise reward for their efforts!

Supplementary page of Quiz Questions

1

Which building dating back to Imperial times houses the Gmunden ceramic bells? Tip: lay the view finder over the picture on page 4.



2

Turn towards the lake Traunsee, use the view finder as a guide and pull the section from left to right over the lake. Which castle appears in the view finder?



3

What type is the largest tree in the Kaiser Franz Joseph-Park? Tip: this tree originated in North America.



4

What is the name of the famous Austrian author, who was present as a spectator by the premiere of his play 'Freiwild'.



5

Which flood caused the most damage to the town of Gmunden and its citizens -the storm of 1897 or 1899? Tip: look at the high water marks!



6

Which spring supplies the Salt Carrier Fountain in the Rinnholzplatz?

