



Jewellery on a Chain

Watches and the Philipp Weber Collection

Pforzheim's Jewellery Museum owns a valuable collection of pocket watches, chate-laines, wrist watches and ring watches centred on the watch as a decorative acces-sory. Until the 18th century, the watch was more prestigious than useful as a time-piece because it had not yet technically matured. Watches were pieces of jewellery whose wearers used them to document their social status and flaunt their taste. Watch-case makers used the same craftsmanship and techniques of decoration as those employed by goldsmiths. Chased and chiselled watch cases, which were very popular in the 18th century and especially in England, were decorated in the Rococo style with mythological, biblical, historic and genre scenes.

Moreover, since 2006 pocket watches from the Philipp Weber Collection have been on display at the Jewellery Museum on permanent loan from the Sparkasse Pforzheim Calw. Philipp Weber was a Pforzheim watchmaker, who manufactured the first German quartz wristwatches in 1971 and was himself a collector of watches. The pieces shown were made by important watchmakers such as Berthoud, Breguet and Graham. Other watches on display were made for the Chinese or the Ottoman market. In addi-tion, there is a watch with erotic automata and a mourning watch. Most of these timepieces date from the 18th century.