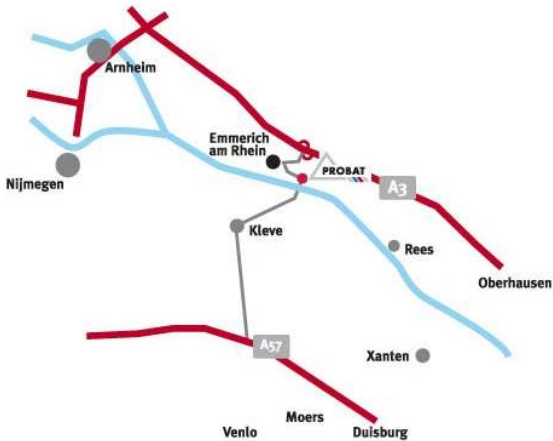


Company employees searched for suitable models and came across roasters of all ages that had managed to survive the war. These efforts lead to the preservation of know-how acquired in the past and the old machines that were discovered. PROBAT recognised that “the wheel had not to be invented again”. In the course of the year C. Hans von Gimborn had collected historic roasters of different sizes and ages – among which were types manufactured by both PROBAT as well as rival companies – and decided to make them accessible to the interested public. Important was also the decision to demonstrate to company employees and particularly to trainees the solutions developed and advances made in the field of roasting technology from the very beginning until today.



With a company history that goes back more than 140 years, PROBAT has accompanied the cultivation of coffee and contributed to the shaping of its development. Our „Museum for coffee technology“ is a testimony to this development. Historic roasters from our own production and of others demonstrate the development of roasting technology as tangible evidence of the continuous optimisation of coffee processing over the years.

Museum for coffee technology



Opening hours: On appointment from Monday to Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Contact person. Ms. Martina Fandrei, Tel. 02822 912-331, m.fandrei@probat.com

Entry fees: Visits and guided tours are free.

A **museum catalogue**, that describes the history of coffee roasting technology and contains many pictures of displayed exhibits is available for € 5.00.

The museum is **handicapped accessible**.

E 00106 Subject to changes! 06/08



History

Roasting equipment/roasters were manufactured on an industrial scale for the first time from 1864 onwards. They replaced different types of bins that were placed over an open fire and had probably been made for over a thousand of years, in a more or less primitive fashion.

One of the European pioneers in the manufacturing of coffee roasting equipment was the Emmerich businessman and leading green coffee exporter, Alexius van Gülpen. When Emmerich was linked to the railroad operating between Amsterdam and Basel, he realised that he could now supply his retail customers with freshly roasted coffee; however, this required large-capacity roasters. Together with 28 year old Emmerich engineer Theodor von Gimborn and the Emmerich businessman Johann Heinrich Lensing, the "Emmericher Maschinenfabrik & Eisengießerei van Gülpen, Lensing & von Gimborn" was founded in 1868. Van Gülpen has previously attempted to make a usable coffee roaster by adding a roaster bin to a room oven. Von Gimborn then took over the design and construction on an industrial basis from which the Emmerich spherical roaster for capacities from 2 ½ to 120 kg evolved and soon became legendary. The success of these first "roasting machines" was unstoppable. Already in 1880, the Emmerich-based company sold over 600 of such roasters annually to all leading coffee trading companies and houses in Europe and overseas. The 50,000th roaster left the company in 1900 and the 100,000th in 1938. The company continued on a steady course of growth so that the predecessor to the present day PROBAT-Werke, became world market leader in this sector. Trading under the name PROBAT, the company rich in tradition is today represented in over 60 countries worldwide; 80 per cent of production is exported.



The exhibition

Spherical roasters of the first generation are among the most conspicuous exhibits of the "Museum for coffee technology" that was established in 1977 in a wing of the administration of PROBAT-Werke in Emmerich.

In the main room of the over 600 square metre large museum section as well as outside the works about 1,000 historic exhibits are on display, among which are roasters from home and abroad as built in Emmerich and elsewhere in the world; some of these have been in operation in leading coffee trading companies over many decades. They document the various stages of development from the spherical roaster via the Emmerich high-speed roaster that was patented in 1884 and revolutionised coffee roasting technology, through to the fully-automatic roasting plants from the first half of the twentieth century. These also give an insight into modern roasting systems with hourly capacities up to 5000 kg and more per line which are delivered to large-scale roasting plants in Germany and abroad.

The interested visitor awaits an exceptional exhibition of more than 560 domestic and industrial grinders, whereby the first-mentioned in particular clearly reflect the devotion to coffee in the home in the highly imaginative designs of the small kitchen grinders. In as much, they are part of a bygone coffee romance era. The crowning glory of the industrial grinding technology is a roll mill which can also be seen in this exhibition. The exhibition is completed by a shop that was found in large numbers in our country and elsewhere around in 1900.

The origin of the collection

The origin of the collection of historic roasters is unusual: Extensive knowledge and numerous documents were destroyed through the bombardment of Emmerich in 1944. After the war, the company was faced with the necessity of obtaining the technical documents for the earlier developed machines in order to satisfy the growing demand for spare parts and new coffee roasters as well as machines for roasting cocoa, malt and cereals.

