



The mule deserves a museum!

The mule, as a versatile and reliable partner of man, has at all times proven its qualities as a pack-, draught- and riding-animal. For this reason, the «Mule Museum Switzerland» has opened in Törbel/VS complemented with a Satellite in the «Freilichtmuseum Ballenberg».

These ambitious projects are realized by the association and the foundation of the «Mule Museum Switzerland».

The Mule

For thousands of years mules and hinnies have been tightly connected with the human culture, also with our European one. They carried the Romans across the Alps, along with the crape-vine, the chestnuts, the floor heating, new words and new techniques for constructing streets. They pulled tow-boats along the channels of Europe and America and carried the first tourists to the first hotels in the high mountains. Without mules the settlers might never have reached the «Wild West».

Mules carried wine-casks and pressure pipes, abbeses and cow-boys, pulled ploughs or market-carts, post-sledges or cannons and they still do it in



many regions of the world. They are used and misused, beloved and disdained.

During mountain- and jungle-wars their physical and mental abilities made them their reliable comrades of soldiers of all colors. And if, because of the territory or the weather, jeeps and helicopters reach their limit, one remembers even today these proved four legged helpers.

Their work might seem rather small at first sight, but they have a decisive advantage: their fuel grows at the side of the road almost all over the world.

No, the mule and hinny will not die out as long as there are existing donkeys and horses. But the knowledge of the nature of this animal could die out, the knowledge of the interesting and versatile techniques, which are connected with its use, and its work in favour of our human culture.



THE MUSEUM CONCEPT

In order to reflect the diversity of the "Mule in Switzerland", the museum in Törbel/VS and the satellite in the FLM Ballenberg/BE will be supplemented with travelling exhibitions in the future. In this form, synergies with other museums, cultural projects and tourist offers will be used.

A part-time curator is responsible for the scientific management. The current collection comprises over 600 objects, supplemented by a specialist library with over 3000 documents. Both collections are already partially accessible to the public.

MUSEUM AND SATELLITE

The museum was opened in 2021 in Törbel/VS and is integrated into the guided tours of the local museum association "Urchigs-Terbil". A satellite was opened in the open-air Museum Ballenberg/BE in 2012.

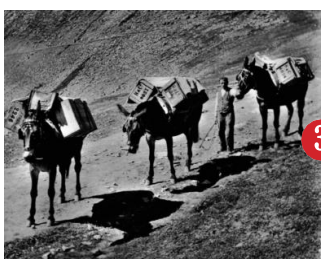


TRAVELLING EXHIBITIONS

These are implemented at specifically selected sites in Switzerland. Depending on the location, they address the topics of agriculture (1), tourism (2), transport (3), army (4), leisure (5).



The result is a lively museum world that is unique in Switzerland.



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Foundation

The Swiss foundation „Mule Museum Switzerland“ was founded in January 2017. It aims to safeguard historical as well as the present and the future of the mule, and to provide broad public access in the form of a museum.



4



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Association

The association «Maultier Museum Schweiz» is responsible for the implementation and operations of the project



Patronage

The «Mule Association» (IGM) as the initiator of the project “Mule Museum” has assumed its patronage and supports its realization according to their statutes.

Support

For the realization of the project we need help, which can be provided in different ways:

- to become a member of the association “Mule Museum Switzerland”
- make a financial contribution in the form of an individual donation or become a donor
- help as a working hand at the installation of exhibition-rooms, at the restoration of exhibits or helping more generally in the project.
- Contact us - we will be happy to provide you with more information.



Thank you for your support !

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