



Carl Zeiss (1816-1888): A Pioneer in Promoting the Collaboration between Science and Technology

Youth and education

11 September 1816	Born in Weimar as the fifth of twelve children of Johanna Antoinette Friederike (1786–1856), née Schmith, and the art wood turner Johann Gottfried August Zeiss (1785–1849)
1832	Graduated from grammar school
1834-1838	Apprenticeship under University Mechanic Dr. Friedrich Körner (1778–1847) in Jena while studying mathematics
1838-1845	Journeyman years: travels to Stuttgart, Darmstadt, Vienna (Rollé & Schwilqué, lectures at the Royal Polytechnic Institute) and Berlin
1845-1846	Period spent in Jena "to primarily study chemistry and advanced mathematics" and to acquire citizenship of and right of abode in Jena

Establishment of the mechanical workshop in Jena

17 November 1846	Opening of a workshop ("atelier for mechanics") on Jena's Neugasse
1 July 1847	Relocation to a larger workshop on Wagnergasse
1847	The first simple microscope is produced
29 May 1849	Marries Bertha, née Schatter (1827–1850)
23 February 1850	Birth of their son Roderich (1850–1919); Bertha dies in childbirth
17 May 1853	Marries Ottilie, née Trinkler (1819–1897)
25 February 1854	Birth of their son Otto (1854–1925)
27 September 1856	Birth of daughter Hedwig (1856–1935)
1857	Builds the first compound microscope.
1 May 1858	Relocation to a workshop on Johannisplatz
12 July 1858	Becomes deputy Master of Weights and Measures in Jena
10 September 1860	Appointed university mechanic
23 July 1861	First honorary prize and gold medal at the 2 nd General Thuringian Trade Exhibition
1 October 1861	Birth of daughter Sidonie (1861–1920)
1863	Zeiss becomes court mechanic
28 May 1866	Production of the 1,000 th microscope

Collaboration with Ernst Abbe

3 July 1866	Dr. Ernst Abbe is brought in to assist Zeiss as an independent researcher (in 1870 also a professor at the University of Jena)
From 1872 onwards	All ZEISS microscope optics are built in line with Abbe's calculations

- 1 January 1875 Creation of Carl Zeiss health insurance
- 15 May 1875 Ernst Abbe becomes a silent partner
- 1876 Son Dr. Roderich Zeiss joins the company
- 1877 First microscope lens with homogeneous immersion produced
- 1878 Daughter Hedwig marries the grammar school teacher Konrad Sagawe (1858–1935)
- 1880 Carl Zeiss receives honorary doctorate (Dr. phil. h.c.) from the University of Jena
- 1880 Construction of a private residence on Littergässchen, today Carl-Zeiss-Strasse, and first factory building on what will later be the site of the main factory

A growing family

- 1881 Son Otto marries Franziska Thierbach (1862–1885)
- 1882 Daughter Sidonie marries the physician Johann Lucas Siebert (1841–1913)
- 26 January 1882 Birth of granddaughter Charlotte (1882–1945)
- 20 May 1882 Birth of grandson Franz (1882–1882)
- 1883 Son Roderich marries Therese Schatter (1864–1949)
- 2 July 1883 Birth of granddaughter Johanna (1883–1943)
- 6 July 1883 Birth of grandson Berthold (1883–1945)
- 1 January 1884 Founding of the *Glastechnisches Laboratorium* (Glass Laboratory), later to become *Jenaer Glaswerks Schott & Gen.* (today SCHOTT AG) by Otto Schott, Ernst Abbe, Carl Zeiss and Roderich Zeiss
- 16 March 1884 Birth of granddaughter Elisabeth (1884–1958)

Old age and death

- Dec. 1885 Carl Zeiss suffers a minor stroke
- 24 September 1885 10,000th Zeiss microscope produced
- 19 November 1886 The Grand Duke of Saxe-Weimar-Eisenach names Carl Zeiss the Knight's Cross, First Class, by Order of the White Falcon
- 25 November 1888 Birth of granddaughter Elisabeth (1888–1958)
- 3 December 1888 Carl Zeiss dies in Jena

More information at:

www.zeiss.com/carlzeiss200

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