

Blacksmith Watchmaker Rauffer

History...

Forging or smithing is one of the most archaic human crafts: from red-hot iron, the blacksmith forges equipment, tools, wagon wheels, weapons, and horseshoes.

From the early 1630s, the blacksmith's craft was practised here for generations. In 1637, the farrier Balthasar Gättinger purchased the property, along with a pew for 1 man and 1 woman in nearby St James's church. In the tough years of the Thirty Years' War, troops passing through Dachau ransacked and pillaged the town repeatedly. The blacksmith complained that Swedish soldiers had stolen his anvil. It was only on the death of the nail-maker Leonhard Thoma in the late 19th century that the traditional blacksmith's craft came to an end here.

The property was then purchased by the watchmaker and tailor's son Josef Rauffer. Together with his sister Maria, his son Max continued to run the watchmaker's and jeweller's shop until 1956. To this day, the dwelling-house and shop are owned by their descendants.

... and a story

Pilgrimages and craftsmen's journeyman years following their apprenticeship were often the only opportunity to travel and explore the world. On 2 September 1776, the young farrier Johann Wimmer – *driven by Christian devotion* – set off on a pilgrimage to Maria Einsiedeln in Switzerland. He carried an official letter confirming his being *an honest Christian burgher's son ... with sufficient means of subsistence*, so that he would not have to go hungry or even begging.



1950s shop window design at "Rauffer Watchmaker's"

The picturesque old town of Dachau with its 1200-year history features many sites of historical interest. Special buildings of prominence in the townscape are marked by these historical plaques.

Dachau historical plaques are a joint project by the town of Dachau and the Dachau District Museum.