

PROGRAMME 2011

EXHIBITIONS

PERMANENT :

The feature of the month

During 2011, we invite you essentially to discover a treasure in the collection exhibited in the new section of the museum, L'homme et le temps (Man and time) which portrays time measurement before its mechanical measurement.

January: Monumental planisphere made for the watchmaking section of the National Exhibition 1964

February: A functioning copy of the Karnak clepsydra (1400 B.C.) (2004, Cantonal Laboratory of archeology, Laténium, Park and Museum of Archeology, Hauterive-Neuchâtel)

March: Scale model of Stonehenge (1974), megalithic site in Great Britain built between the 3rd and 1st millenniums B.C.

April: Five-phial hourglass (1 hour divided into four times ¼ of an hour) wood, glass, metal, late 17th C.

May: Oval diptych ivory sundial with garnets and emeralds, early 17th C.

June: Dragon-shaped Chinese fire timekeeper made of lacquered and gilt wood, early 19th century

July: Exceptional noon cannon, dated 1776, decorated with fleurs-de-lis and with the inscription « canon de midi, ne tonne qu'une foy, mais tonne en l'honneur du Roy » (noon cannon fires only once, but fires in honour of the king)

August: Persian Astrolabe in brass with 5 discs, 18th C.

September: Oil hour-lamp made of pewter and glass, late 18th/early 19thC..

October: Hourglass with 7 phials (1 hour divided into 6 times 10 min.) glass and metal, late 18th C.

November: Equatorial solar ring in its transport case, gilt bronze and wood, signed GCA, 1732.

December: Renaissance table clock « Memento mori », late 16th C. integrated in a display presenting the Vanities, paintings consecrated to the evocation of the transitory nature of life.

MUSEUM IN MUTATION : MAN AND TIME

from 20th January 2011

An important phase in the renewal of the permanent exhibition of the Musée international d'horlogerie, this section introduces the subject of the sub-title of the museum, Man and Time, and deals with a theme not present until now, the perception of time by man before watch- and clock-making.

THE HISTORY MUSEUM INTRODUCES ITSELF

from 17th March 2011

During its renovation, the History Museum is a guest at the MIH and presents 4 thematic displays in connection with the watch-making and social history of the town of La Chaux-de-Fonds

DONATIONS AND PURCHASES 2010

from 17th March 2011

The items received from generous donors during the year 2010 and also purchased by the Musée international d'horlogerie thanks to the support of the amisMIH are exhibited for one year : a fascinating discovery of the enrichment of a collection.

THE ECHO OF THE SKY

Linked to the history of the CERN, the history of cosmology or the Universe in all its states.

URA TAVO, THE WOODEN CLOCK FROM DAVOS

from 18th March to 18th September 2011

Discover this particularity in Swiss watchmaking : precious and delicate clocks with nature-inspired decoration.

WRITING THE TIME ? TWO CENTURIES OF HISTORY OF THE CHRONOGRAPH 7th April – 2nd October 2011

For the first time, the history of the chronograph from its origins to this day is traced back in a synthetic exhibition thanks to the presentation of a hundred pieces from all origins.

PHILADELPHIA 1876: THE AMERICAN CHALLENGE IN WATCHMAKING

6th May–30th September 2011

An exceptional exhibition presenting a very rich collection of pieces of American origin and concentrating more particularly on the impact of the American industrial development on the Swiss watch production at the end of the 19th C. The didactic and visual aspects will show the simplification of the operations thanks to mechanisation : where 10 handlings were necessary, one machine, in action during the exhibition, will produce the same piece!



EVENTS:

Thursday 17th March **6.30 pm** **Public ceremony**

THE HISTORY MUSEUM INTRODUCES ITSELF

Thursday 17th March **6.30 pm** **Public ceremony**

DONATIONS AND PURCHASES 2010

Event organised jointly with the amisMIH, the donations and purchases 2010 are revealed.

Thursday 17th March **7.00 pm** **Public ceremony**

INAUGURATION OF THE EXHIBITION URA TAVO, THE WOODEN CLOCK FROM DAVOS

March

LAUNCHING OF INVITATION TO APPLY FOR 17TH GAÏA PRIZE

7th April **6.30 pm** **Public ceremony**

INAUGURATION OF THE EXHIBITION WRITING THE TIME? TWO CENTURIES OF HISTORY OF CHRONOGRAPHS

Thursday 5th May **6.30 pm** **Public ceremony**

INAUGURATION OF THE EXHIBITION PHILADELPHIA 1876: THE AMERICAN CHALLENGE IN WATCHMAKING

Saturday 14th May **7-12 pm** **free admission**

NIGHT OF THE MUSEUMS

Sunday 15th May **10am – 5pm** **free admission**

INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM DAY 2011 THEME " MUSEUM AND MEMORY "

1st – 7th July 2010 **10am – 5pm** **free admission**

CULTURAL WEEK IN LOCAL MUSEUMS

For the 3rd time, an opportunity to get to know the 5 museums of the town of la Chaux-de-Fonds : 7 days of free admission at your own liberty.

Saturday 27th August

The slow steps of time...

The traditional excursion of the supporters of the watchmaking museums of the region, les amisMIH, those of the Musée d'horlogerie of Le Locle and of the Musée de la Montre of Villers-le-Lac.

Thursday 15th September **6.30 pm** **Public ceremony**

Gaïa Prize

The 17th presentation of this distinction will reward a personality who has carried out work and research bringing recognition to watchmaking.

Sunday 6th November ***CAREFUL! : CHANGE OF DATE***

35th Swiss Watchmaking Fair

Organised together with Chronometrophilia, the watchmaking fair will be held for the first time on the first Sunday of November to coincide with the Journées de la Métropole horlogère de La Chaux-de-Fonds. More than fifty watchmaker-tradesmen, antique dealers and collectors offer for sale : watches, clocks, tools and various items related to watchmaking.

Thursday 1st December **6.30pm** **Public ceremony**

St-Eloi

Together with the museum partners of the *Time-measurement Route* - Musée du temps de Besançon, Musée d'horlogerie du Haut-Doubs de Morteau, Musée de la montre de Villers-le-Lac and Musée d'horlogerie du Locle-Château des Monts -the Musée international d'horlogerie commemorates the patron of goldsmiths and watchmakers by inviting watchmaking students to present their work.

