
TIME SHAPERS

ALBERT PELLATON

Albert Pellaton was born in 1898 in Travers in the western part of Switzerland. His grandfather and uncle were already talented watchmakers, so it came as no surprise that young Albert chose the same career. After completing his training, he worked for various Swiss watch manufacturers, before he took up his job as a Technical Director at IWC in 1944. His first stroke of genius came in 1946 with the development of the hand-wound 89 calibre. Later, Pellaton designed the first IWC-manufactured automatic movement – calibre 85 – with a highly efficient pawl-winding system that uses revolutions of the rotor in both directions to wind the mainspring. Many automatic calibres from Schaffhausen are still based on this visionary invention. Under Pellaton's guidance, IWC not only developed and perfected countless new watches, but also optimised production processes. After 22 years with IWC, Pellaton retired in 1966. He died in 1976. His ideas and visions, however, continue to be an inspiration for every young watchmaker.

KURT KLAUS

Kurt Klaus was born in 1934 in St. Gallen. As a teenager, he was interested in technology and mechanics, and so he decided to become a watchmaker. He started his career at IWC in 1957. Even though Klaus is most famous for his perpetual calendar, there has hardly been a development during his time that he did not make an important contribution to. During the 1970s, this mechanical visionary developed a calendar with a moon phase display for a Lépine pocket watch. After the launch of the iconic Da Vinci Perpetual Calendar in 1985, the Grande Complication, the Il Destriereo Scafusia, the 5000 automatic calibre, the split-seconds mechanism, the world time module and the mechanical depth gauge all carried his signature. Klaus also helped to adapt the perpetual calendar to the Portugieser and contributed to the development of the perpetual calendar with a digital date and month display. He retired in 1999. To this day, the charming Swiss is regarded as one of the most popular personalities in the watch industry.

HANNES PANTLI

Hannes Pantli was born in 1942 in Dübendorf. In 1972, the young visionary started at IWC. He became Sales Representative for the Benelux and Scandinavia region and later also for Switzerland. When working as a Sales Director for Europe & the Middle East, Pantli recognized the strong and world wide demand for women's and jewellery watches. With the sale of such models, IWC successfully navigated through the crisis in the watch industry. At just 34 years of age, Pantli was promoted to the executive board and became responsible for marketing and sales. He played a major role in securing VDO as an investor for the manufacture, but also in getting Günter Blümlein on board. Later, he oversaw the restructuring of the product portfolio. He developed the sporty-elegant SL Collection and initiated the collaboration with Porsche Design. With the Portofino, Pantli created one of the most successful watch families from Schaffhausen. Since retiring in 2002, he is a member of the IWC Board of Directors.

IWC SCHAFFHAUSEN

With a clear focus on technology and development, the Swiss watch manufacturer IWC Schaffhausen has been producing timepieces of lasting value since 1868. The company has gained an international reputation based on a passion for innovative solutions and technical ingenuity. One of the world's leading brands in the luxury watch segment, IWC crafts masterpieces of Haute Horlogerie at their finest, combining supreme precision with exclusive design. As an ecologically and socially responsible company, IWC is committed to sustainable production, supports institutions around the globe in their work with children and young people, and maintains partnerships with organisations dedicated to environmental protection.

DOWNLOADS

Images of the new "IWC Tribute to Pallweber" models from the Jubilee collection can be downloaded free of charge at press.iwc.com

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