

The history of Staatl. Fachingen

A unique water that never stands still

*“Whoever wants to shape the future
must understand the past”*

(Anon.)

The history of Staatl. Fachingen stretches back more than 265 years. The spring has been in continuous commercial use ever since it was discovered.

- 1740 Discovery of the Fachingen spring near Diez (on the river Lahn) – probably by Diez Counsellor of Justice and surgeon Mr Bender. Contemporary accounts tell of a sailor from Cologne who was reportedly healed of his digestive complaints upon drinking from a spring near the bank of the river Lahn.
- 1742 In October of this year, the government of Dillenburg is presented with a medical opinion from the physician Dr Forell – the oldest written evidence of the Fachingen spring.
- 1746 In July of this year, Prince Christian of Orange-Nassau approves plans by master mason Baltzer from Diez for a wall around the spring. By the autumn, Fachingen water is being dispatched to customers in specially manufactured clay jars, featuring a Nassau lion in a blue circle just below the neck of the jar.
- 1747 Samples are dispatched free of charge to well-known doctors and merchants. The newspapers ‘Kayserliche Reichs-Post-Zeitung’ and ‘Extraordinaier samstägiger Reichs-Courier’ print the first advertisements for the water.

- 1748 Publication of the first scientific paper on the benefits of Fachingen water. A jar costs five kreutzers – the daily wage of a labourer. Mineral water remains very much a luxury product right up until the end of the 19th century.
- 1750 Just eight years after the spring was discovered, as many as 23,000 jars are being sold annually.
- 1765 The Diez merchant Kasimir Herborn leases the spring. After ten years under his management, Fachingen water enjoys an excellent reputation not just throughout Germany, but also in the Netherlands.
- 1791 August Theodor Pilgrim, likewise a merchant from Diez, takes over operation of the spring. The war in the late 18th century between France and Prussia on one side and Austria-Hungary on the other is not without its impact on the Fachingen spring. However, from 1806 sales once again continue to grow distinctly favourably.
- 1809 By now sales have risen by a further 7,000 clay jars per year, putting production at some 300,000 jars annually – a record, for the time being. Between 1815 and 1866, the Nassau ducal administration takes charge of operation of the state springs.
- 1817 In a letter dated 27 June 1817, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe writes: “... *but I wish to be favoured with Fachingen water and white wine: one to liberate the mind, the other to animate it.*”
- 1834/1835 More than 400,000 jars are now sold per year, but over the years to come sales are to fall dramatically.

- 1848 Sales drop to a low of 157,451 jars. Westerwald clay jars are to remain the preferred vessel for transportation of the water until as late as the end of the 19th century.
- 1866 With the defeat of Austria-Hungary in July of this year, the Nassau springs become the property of the Prussian treasury.
- 1870 Fachingen introduces the glass bottle. Initially it is offered as an optional alternative to the clay jar.
- 1886/1887 The spring enjoys a new sales upturn.
- 1892/1893 608,414 jars and 118,137 bottles are sold – a new record, achieving net profits of 76,091 marks. But the competition is also growing.
- 1894 The Fachingen spring is leased to the inventor and manufacturer Friedrich Siemens.
- 1895 For the first time in Fachingen's history, more than one million litres are bottled.
- 1901/1902 3,233,101 vessels are sold. The cork now bears the stamp 'Tafel- und Gesundheitswasser' (table water for health).
- 1904 The four million mark is exceeded.
- 1906 Work commences on constructing new buildings, laying a connecting line to the Lahn Valley Railway, equipping the bottling hall with new machinery, and installing an electrical system and a steam engine.

- 1907 Operation of the new complex begins.
- 1913 During the last year of peace before the First World War, 6,329,480 litres of Fachingen water are sold – almost eight times as many as when Siemens bought the lease 20 years previously. However, due to trade restrictions and reduced income during the War, sales between now and 1918/1919 drop again to barely two million litres annually.
- 1929 The spring benefits from a brief macroeconomic upturn in the mid-1920s, resulting in a new record: more than ten million bottles are sold.
- 1933 The global economic crisis sends sales plummeting downwards once again: just 2,526,689 bottles are sold this year.
- The Second World War strikes: the buildings and equipment at Fachingen do not suffer any war damage, but production is rendered immensely more difficult, as much of the machinery and equipment is defective. After the end of the war, the state of Rhineland-Palatinate takes on ownership of the spring. The lease agreement with Siemens Erben OHG remains in place, however.
- 1946 The hundred-year flood forces the spring to cease operation for three months.
- 1971 Instead of wooden crates, plastic crates are now used for transporting the bottles.
- 1973/1974 The number of bottles shipped has grown by ten times since 1957. By the beginning of the 1970s, production is starting to reach its natural limit due to the capacity of the spring. Work on

tapping new sources of Fachingen-type water begins. By 1974, a further seven springs are being exploited. From 1975 onwards, sales increase without interruption.

- 1989 Switch from cork closures to screw caps.
- 1990 Mineralbrunnen Überkingen-Teinach AG purchases the Fachingen spring from the state of Rhineland-Palatinate.
- 1993 The individual green faceted bottles for the catering industry are introduced.
- 1995 The lease agreement with Siemens Erben OHG ends. All rights pass to Mineralbrunnen Überkingen-Teinach AG.
- 2003 Construction and inauguration of the new bottling plant for Staatl. Fachingen CLASSIC (sold under the name Staatl. Fachingen STILL from June 2007), a naturally pure premium medicinal water, which from September onwards is sold in an elegant faceted glass bottle. This slim green bottle with contemporary-style label is modelled on the deeply traditional Bordeaux bottle, in which Fachingen water was sold a century ago.
Fachingen conquers the mineral water market with its new Staatl. Fachingen MEDIUM mineral water in a clear faceted glass bottle. The Staatl. Fachingen Gourmet range, developed exclusively for the catering industry, is launched. This range is available in the 0.25-litre, 0.5-litre and 0.75-litre sizes.
- 2004 In March of this year, Staatl. Fachingen Gourmet MEDIUM is added to the Fachingen range, specially for the catering business.

2009

Germany's premium mineral water brand adds a further product to its exclusive range for the catering industry: Staatl. Fachingen Gourmet NATURELL, a non-carbonated water with low mineral content, complementing the existing products Staatl. Fachingen Gourmet MEDIUM and Staatl. Fachingen Gourmet STILL. Towards the end of this year, Staatl. Fachingen launches a new advertising campaign based on the theme of 'Bringt Leben ins Leben' (Bringing life to life), highlighting the premium brand's vitality and joie de vivre. The campaign also focuses on the water's proven proactive health-promoting benefits – which it has always offered thanks to its valuable combination of mineral nutrients and naturally high level of hydrogen carbonate. These qualities allow this premium mineral water to help regulate the body's acid-base balance and promote well-being on a daily basis.

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