

**MEDIA RELEASE**

Olten, 29 August 2013

**Foundation Collection of  
Historical Securities**

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**Ten years of Wertpapierwelt – a new exhibition with a new concept**

**To commemorate its ten-year anniversary, the world's most prominent collection of historical securities has come up with a new exhibition concept: a two-part permanent exhibition will in future shed light on the origin and spread of the joint stock company and explain how financial instruments function. It will be accompanied by a changing special exhibition that examines subjects of relevance to society, which this year takes the form of the globally networked nature of business. The anniversary exhibitions will feature 140 selected securities spanning the period from the very beginnings of the joint stock company to the present day, all displayed in an area of 300 m<sup>2</sup>.**

In summer 2003 Wertpapierwelt - the Museum of Historical Shares and Bonds - in Olten became the first international museum of its kind to make the world of shares and bonds, not to mention their influence on economic history, accessible to the public. Using historical securities, the museum has since showed in a generally understandable manner how shares and other financial instruments have influenced our economy.

The stock exchange, shares and bonds remain a mystery for many people. How do these financial instruments function anyway? How did the idea of a joint stock company on which our economy is based arise and catch on? How has capitalism and in turn the share changed our world? These key questions have been addressed by Wertpapierwelt - the Museum of Historical Shares and Bonds - to mark its tenth anniversary. The new permanent exhibition displays in its "Shares & Co - How financial instruments function" section the multifaceted nature of financial instruments and their workings. The second section "History of capitalism – How the share changed the world" is devoted to the origin and spread of the joint stock company throughout the last 400 years. Using historical and modern securities, the additional special exhibition entitled "The networked economic world – Globalization through shares" provides an impression of just how globally interconnected the economy is with the most varied areas of our lives.

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**Wertpapierwelt**

Wertpapierwelt is the museum run by the charitable Foundation Collection of Historical Securities, an initiative of SIX.

The collection currently consists of some 10,000 securities from more than 130 countries.

Wertpapierwelt conveys the highly diverse nature of historical securities in changing thematic exhibitions. In so doing, the museum hopes to make the public more aware of the economic significance of the joint stock company from its beginnings to the present day.

**Address**

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**Opening hours:** Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 9:30 am to 5:00 pm. Guided tours for groups can be arranged upon request. Further information: [www.wertpapierwelt.ch](http://www.wertpapierwelt.ch)