

MUSEUM ALPIN PONTRESINA
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THE LIFE AND WORK OF PONTRESINA'S SCHOCHER FAMILY

Mountaineering / Photography / Filming

From December 2019 to October 2020 the Museum Alpin Pontresina is showing the history of three generations of the Schocher family.

Their impact as mountaineers, photographers and film makers is showcased in large-format photographs, film clips and exhibits.

Mountain guide Martin Schocher (1850-1916) was one of the pioneers of alpinism. His mountain guide logbook preserved at the Museum Alpin shows that he completed more than 1,000 high-alpine tours, including 19 first ascents and a challenging first ascent of Piz Palü via the Bumiller ridge. He climbed Piz Bernina no fewer than 234 times. Martin Schocher was born in Safien Thalkirch and lived in Pontresina from 1884 onwards.

In addition to his activities as a mountain guide he also ran a sports shop in the Laret area of the village.

Pioneering film-maker and photographer Bartholome Schocher (1901-1979), the youngest son of mountain guide Martin Schocher, opened his first photography shop in Pontresina in 1923.

His landscape and animal photographs that are an integral part of the special exhibition at the Museum date from that period.

He shot his first 16 mm short films in 1929 and, ten years later, colour films on the fauna and flora in the Engadin and rural life in Switzerland. In 1936 Bartholome Schocher began touring his films throughout Switzerland, providing his own commentaries for his silent films.

After the war, he travelled throughout Europe accompanied by his **son Martin (1929-1955)** and made three trips to Africa under arduous and challenging conditions. For his final film entitled *Ferner Osten* [Far East] Bartholome Schocher travelled to Asia.

Following the death of his oldest son Martin following a mountaineering accident on Piz Palü, he never made another film.

In 1958 he decided to set up a screening facility in the community hall and opened the Cinema Rex.

Photographer and film-maker Christian Schocher (*1946) took over the Cinema Rex in 1968 from his father Bartholome Schocher. For 45 years he screened not just commercial feature films but also arthouse and indie studio films.

By 2013 Christian Schocher had shot 10 documentaries and feature films with a minimum of resources. The film *Christian Schocher, Filmemacher* by Marcel Bächtiger and Andreas Mueller documents his creative output and is to be shown as part of the special exhibition.

Stationery and bookshop owner Ursula Schocher (*1944) ran the photography shop with its own photo lab and picture postcard publishing company from 1968.

The retail premises were gradually converted and expanded from a specialist photography shop to a modern stationers. In 2007 the added sales space was remodelled to create an extensive book department.

The current special exhibition, as well as the other permanent exhibitions and rooms, can be visited from 16 December 2019 to 18 April 2020 and from 15 June to 17 October 2020, Monday to Saturday, 3.30–6.00pm. The Museum Alpin Pontresina looks forward to your visit!