



KINDERMANN (CANADA) INC.

Importers of Photographic Equipment and Sports Optics

PRESS RELEASE

APRIL 2002

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE KAHLES COMPANY

One of the oldest optical manufacturers in the world, the Kahles reputation for high quality, durable Austrian hunting optics is well-established globally

In 1898, Karl Robert Kahles took over the optics and mechanics workshop of Karl Sebastian Fritsch. At this time, he also acquired the workshop (established in 1823) of Simon Plossl, the famous Austrian optician. Plossl was the designer of a highly efficient ocular, a revolutionary invention in those times, and the inventor of the first telescope with telephoto lenses. Both of the acquired workshops were located in Vienna, Austria.

In his acquired "Optical Manufactory", Karl Kahles began producing telescopes for use in astronomy. As

Unfortunately, Karl Kahles died suddenly in 1908. At this time, his wife Anna Marie took over the management of the company. When their sons Karl Jr.



and Ernst were old enough to take an active part in the production and management of the company, Anna relinquished much of the responsibility.

The brothers took over different responsibilities within the company: Karl Jr. supervised the production of riflescopes and made a great number of improvements, while Ernst directed the sales department in Vienna's sixth district and nurtured contacts with the

authorities in charge of that district. Apart from riflescopes, the Kahles company also produced prismatic binoculars for use in sports and hunting. During World War I, the "Optical Manufactory Karl Kahles" supplied sniperscopes and gunsights to the Royal and Imperial Army and Navy.

In the period between the World Wars, the production of riflescopes and

binoculars for non-military purposes resumed. In addition to the sports and hunting binoculars, Kahles expanded its binocular line to include a newly developed opera glass. Riflescope production continued with products introduced under the "Mignon" design-

early as 1900, Kahles produced his first telescopic rifle sights. In this period before World War I, these scopes, sold under the name of "Telorar", were well-known and highly esteemed by hunters throughout Europe.



nation. Some of these are still being used by hunters today.

World War II once again imposed the requirement on Kahles to manufacture optical devices for military use only, thus stopping consumer production. In the last days of WWII, a bomb attack on the Kahles factory killed Karl Kahles Jr. and completely destroyed the facility. Immediately after his death, his widow, like his mother, engaged herself in the reconstruction of the company.

After World War II, Kahles resumed its production of lenses. Friedrich Kahles, the son of Karl Jr., who had recently completed his studies in applied physics, took over management of the company. By specializing in riflescopes, he led the company to new success well into the early 1970's. In 1972, Kahles was among the first to apply an anti-reflective multi-coating on the optical lenses of the Kahles line of riflescopes and binoculars. This procedure enhanced light transmission and continued to set Kahles apart from other optics manufacturers.

With no heir in the family to take over the company, Kahles was sold to Swarovski in 1974, and in May of 1989, Kahles Limited, GmbH was registered as an independent company within the Swarovski Group of companies.

"Today", says Johann Peternel, Managing Director of Kahles Ltd., "we do not believe in sticking rigidly to tradition. It is our intention to cultivate traditional knowledge, develop a specific know-how, using new

technology, and to apply this energy in the development of new products."

Kahles started using CNC-Machinery in 1974, no small accomplishment for a medium-sized company at that time. These machines made it possible to increase the quality of the product parts and to achieve higher productivity. Today, Kahles continues to produce high-quality optical components using this CNC technology.

"All Kahles riflescopes, in 30 mm and 1" tubes, incorporate the newest technology and materials. Our one-piece alloy tubes are machined and anodized inside and out. They contain the finest, fully multi-coated lens systems, are nitrogen purged, and are waterproof-submersible. The scopes are manufactured through the most modern means of production. This also applies to our new 8x42 and 10x42 premium, phase-corrected roof-prism binoculars assembled in the Vienna facility," adds Johann Peternel.

Today, Kahles has expanded its operations to include both a U.S. headquarters and an exclusive Canadian agent for the marketing and distribution of its products. The U.S. Headquarters are located in Cranston, Rhode Island, while the exclusive Canadian agent, KINDERMANN (CANADA) INC., covers the very lucrative Canadian outdoor market from Markham in Ontario.

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