

**Museum der
Kulturen Basel**

**26 April
2024
– 27 April
2025**

Twelve thousand items



**The beginnings
of the European
collection**

mkb.ch

Twelve thousand items – the beginnings of the European collection

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Roughly 12,000 items from all parts of Europe found their way to the museum between 1900 and 1936. The exhibition sheds light on how they got here and the people responsible. This involved not only members of the museum staff and collectors but also caretakers and even children. Often, pure chance also played a part.

On display are roughly 300 items relating to everyday life, faith, and festivities – many of them from Switzerland. Tools, lucky charms as well as carnival masks paint a picture of the period in question. World War I and the topic of superstition feature prominently in this respect. At the same time, they also tell us something about the museum's acquisition policy at the time.

In part, the stories are told with the aid of multimedia. Occasionally, they come over as slightly bizarre, others include tragic aspects, but they also make us smile.

The exhibition is based on the research publication "Wie die Dinge zusammenkamen" by Tabea Buri. The publication is available at the museum shop.

For further information, guided tours, events, and offers for schools, please visit our website mkb.ch



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Opening hours
Tue – Sun 10.00 – 17.00
First Wednesday of the month
10.00 – 20.00

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