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Brand history: CENTURY through time

CENTURY TIME GEMS LTD was founded in 1966 by Hans Ulrich Klingenberg in Biel, in the heart of the region that is home to Swiss watchmaking. From a very young age, Hans U. Klingenberg harboured a vision of creating a truly exceptional watch, thus laying the foundations for the present-day CENTURY sapphire collection. He dreamed of creating a timepiece that would unite eternal beauty and a technically perfect construction in total harmony. In 1959, he developed a brilliant invention based on the principle of creating a vacuum to ensure a totally water-, air- and dust-tight seal. This exclusive system lies at the heart of many designs and has been the object of numerous patents registered by CENTURY. By exploiting various licences relating to his innovations, Hans U. Klingenberg was able to pursue his quest to invent new techniques. In 1977, after many years of intensive research and development, Hans U. Klingenberg found the solution that allowed him to fulfil his vision. He invented two unique construction systems, "Megalith" and "Monolith", for producing scratch-proof sapphire cases, and combined these with the exclusive sealing system he had developed several years earlier. These two innovative constructions systems were patented worldwide and are used to this day in our workshops. Thanks to his revolutionary inventions, Hans U. Klingenberg has left his mark on the Swiss watchmaking industry, as time and again, he amazed the international watch market with his technical brilliance. Today, our family firm remains independent and is now headed by the founder's son, Philip Klingenberg, who is actively pursuing the development of the company and the CENTURY brand. In 1995, we built new premises to bring our watch manufacture, cutting atelier, polishing workshops and administration department under one roof. This unification of all our activities has ensured that CENTURY timepieces will continue to be produced exclusively in Switzerland. Philip W. A. Klingenberg has remained true to the corporate philosophy introduced by his father, while successfully combining it with a modern spirit of the times.

--- JAPANESE TEXT ---

時計製造産業と深く関わりを持つ一家に1929年に生まれたハンス・ウルリッヒ・クリンゲンベルグは、1966年スイス時計製造の中心地であるビエンヌにセンチュリータイムジェムズを創立しました。ハンスは、時計作りを始めた初期の頃から、他にはない特別な時計を作ることに想いを寄せ続け、その想いが今日のセンチュリーのサファイアウォッチコレクションの源となっています。ハンスが夢んでいたことは、永遠の美しさと技術的に完璧な構造を調和させた時計の開発でした。何年もの試行錯誤を経て、ハンスはついに彼の理想とする時計のあり方を見出しました。「メガリス」と「モノリス」と呼ばれる2種類の画期的な構造システムを考案したことにより、傷のつかないサファイア製ケースが誕生しました。この2つの革新的な構造方法は世界中で特許を取得し、現在に至るまでセンチュリーの宝飾時計製造に用いられています。ハンス・ウルリッヒ・クリンゲンベルグの革命的ともいえるこれらの発明は、スイス時計製造業界に名を残し、時計マーケットに世界的なセンセーションを巻き起こすことになりました。今日では、創業者の息子であるフィリップ・クリンゲンベルグが、指揮を取り、ブランドとして発展させるべく、積極的な活動を繰り広げています。フィリップは、父ハンスより受け継いだ企業理念を忠実に守りながらも、それに現代という時代性を持たせるよう努めています。