

# Gewürzmühle Rud. Schmidt Wwe.



The company's history began in 1873 in Neustadt am Rennsteig, where Marie Schmidt initially ran a business making sponges. In 1899 she then founded **Gewürzwerk Rud. Schmidt Wwe.** (Rud. Schmidt Wwe. spice works) along with her sons Emil, Karl and Friedrich in Unterneubrunn, now called Schönbrunn. Up to the Second World War, an ambitious spice company developed, carried by the following generations, with its own growing regions in Bohemia and Hungary, as well as branches in Cologne, Berlin and Vienna.

As well as importing raw materials, it had its own growing land at that time in the Magdeburg Börde (a region of fertile land located in the German state of Saxony-Anhalt) for marjoram, thyme and coriander, and in Bohemia and Moravia as well as Hungary and Bulgaria for sweet pepper.

The Second World War hit the **Gewürzmühle Rud. Schmidt Wwe.** hard. Almost all production facilities were destroyed by bombs

and in 1948 the parent factory in Thuringia was expropriated when it came under the Soviet occupation zone; the Schmidt family, the owners of the factory, moved their headquarters to Cologne.

In Unterneubrunn, the spice mill initially became a publically owned factory, the 'Konsum-Gewürzmühle', which has belonged to the FUCHS Group since reunification. A spice museum was opened in the former home of the Schmidt family in 2008 after an extensive conversion and renovation phase.



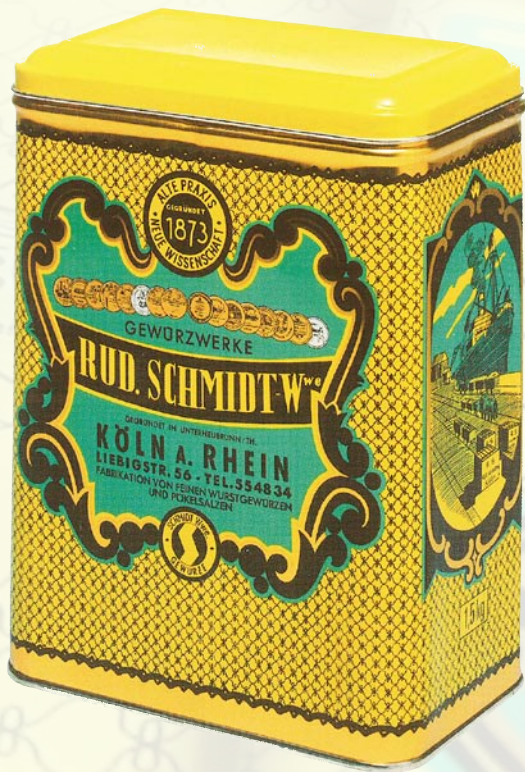
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Meanwhile, the reconstruction of the company in Cologne began from the most modest of beginnings. The bulk of the production was geared primarily to the manufacture of products for the meat processing industry and for the bakery trade, and it was through great personal commitment that the company was once again able to tap into the commercial success of old.

In the post-war period, selected raw materials and exceptional recipes also justified the good name of the family business as a supplier to the butchery and bakery trade and also of spices for the kitchen.



In 2005 the spice mill was bought by **KKS Karl Konrad GmbH**. The machines at the Cologne site were dismantled and integrated into the production at Kirchheimbolanden. Since then **KKS** has been marketing the **Rud. Schmidt Wwe.** range as an independent premium brand under its own company. The products extend **KKS'** proven portfolio in an ideal way, as there is more than 130 years of experience behind the authentic recipes. Some are still made today using the old traditions.

Sources:

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