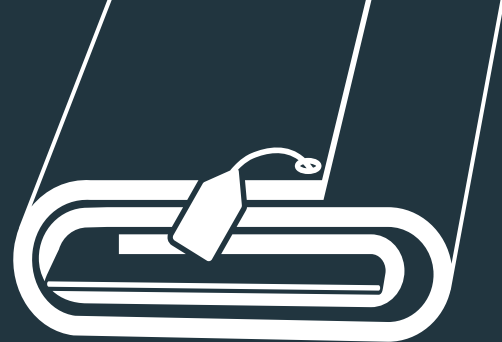



# LINEN FASHION



## EXHIBITION





The organiser of the exhibition:

**Philippe de Girard Linen Museum in Żyrardów**

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96-300 Żyrardów

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Photographs presented in the brochure come from  
the collections of the Linen Museum in Żyrardów

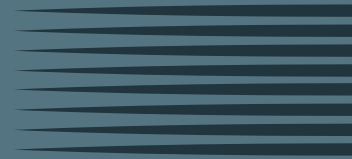
A free copy

Żyrardów, 2021

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Ministry of  
**Culture**  
and National  
Heritage of  
the Republic  
of Poland



**Philippe de Girard Linen Museum in Żyrardów** is one of the most interesting post-industrial tourist attractions in Poland. It presents the cultural heritage of Żyrardów, closely connected with the Factory of Linen Products established in 1833, which became the most powerful centre of the linen industry in Europe at the end of the 19th century.

The factory in Żyrardów prospered successfully for over 170 years. The introduction of economic reform in 1989 led to the gradual closure of individual branches of the factory and the final collapse of the business in 1999.

The Linen Museum is housed in the former printing house (one of the factory's branches), which is now part of the complex of the historic 19th century factory settlement in Żyrardów, recognised as a monument of history. It is a living museum filled with industrial atmosphere, the smell of the old factory and the sound of machines, which capture the spirit of history and allow visitors to experience new feelings.

In 2021, the latest exhibition entitled 'Linen Fashion' was opened, which presents the last production process carried out in the Linen Factory, namely the finishing stage, i.e. sewing and embroidering, during which the products acquire their final appearance. The exhibition also presents the manufactured goods and their distribution network, as well as the awards won by the factory.

**We kindly invite you to visit the exhibition.**

Zakłady Przemysłu Lniarskiego  
im. Rewolucji 1905 r.  
„ŻYRARDÓW”  
Żyrardów, ul. Marchlewskiego 44

Nazwa tkaniny **PERWETA**  
Symbol kot.

Mr wzoru  
Art.  
Szerokość 135  
Nr partii/szuki  
Długość 175  
Gatunek II  
Cena  
Waga  
Data produkcji

**THE HIGHEST QUALITY  
OF PRODUCTS FROM ŻYRARDÓW**

At the end of the nineteenth century, the factory was recognized as the largest linen factory in Europe and the third largest in the world, becoming a monopolist on the linen market, as evidenced by numerous awards and medals received at international exhibitions, among others in London, Moscow, Vienna and Philadelphia. In 1900, during the world exhibition in Paris, the Factory in Żyrardów received the highest honourable mention at that time - the gold medal and the Grand Prix award.

The factories manufactured products mainly from linen, and the most luxurious products from fine linen (tablecloths, serviettes and towels with the emblems of the ruling courts), which were supplied to the richest Tsarist families, gained the greatest renown.

In the post-war period, mainly linen and linen-cotton fabrics were manufactured, including jacquard fabrics. The factory's assortment offered a wide range of clothing, decorative and upholstery fabrics. Government ordering for tablecloths with the national emblem of Poland were realised and exclusive products for renowned companies, such as LOT, PKP or the Polish furniture brand Kler were manufactured.

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The exhibition presents original tablecloths, serviettes and pattern books, which were manufactured in the factory in the second half of the 20th century, as well as embroidery patterns designed and made by the Central Laboratory of the Linen Industry in Żyrardów. Two sets of garments from Xymena Zaniewska's collection of women's clothing, which were made from linen fabric produced in the factory in Żyrardów, are presented on mannequins.





# INTERNATIONAL DISTRIBUTION NETWORK

Initially, in the first half of the 19th century, two thirds of the production of the factory in Żyrardów was oriented towards the domestic market. The situation was changed under Karol Teodor Hiele and Karol August Dittrich, who modernised the factory and decided to increase production for foreign markets, even to Persia, China and Japan.

The products from Żyrardów were distributed through a specially created marketing network, which was a model worth following at the time. Omitting middlemen in sales, the factory owners organised their own branches, wholesalers and retail shops, as well as warehouses.

An exhibition board with a graphic map of the world presents a spatial representation of the distribution network of Żyrardów products from the second half of the 20th century. Linen yarn was used to connect the map with the most important countries to which the products were exported: USA, Canada, as well as Italy, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, France, Venezuela and Great Britain.

WIELKA  
BRYTANIA

SZWECJA

ZYRAŁDÓW

RFN

ANCJA

WŁOCHY

GRECJA





## FINISHING PROCESS

The products from Żyrardów gained their final appearance during the finishing process, which was carried out in the sewing department. It included the cutting room, the sewing room, the embroidery room, the quality controlling room and the folding room, which housed dozens of machines used for finishing products.



The exhibition presents several sewing machines dating from the 1970s and 1980s, including lockstitch machines, overlocks and decorative stitch machines, such as 'kroszetka', 'baratto' or 'merezkarka'. Among the machines there is also an embroidery machine and a pattern copier, which were used by the Central Laboratory of the Textile Industry in Żyrardów for embroidering monochromatic patterns on fabrics in order to test them before they were put into industrial production.

# ŻYRARDÓW LINEN INSPIRES

After the final closure of the Linen Factory in 1999, there began a short period of saving the production of linen in Żyrardów, led by a private company, which began operating in the building that houses the Linen Museum. In the hall where the 'Linen Fashion' exhibition has been prepared, a sewing room was opened in 1999–2012, making it possible to sew bed linen, tablecloths, serviettes, bags, etc., on site.

The Linen Museum in Żyrardów, as the only institution in the city, makes an attempt to preserve local heritage by engaging former factory workers to run antique machines and produce fabrics, which become an inspiration for future generations to create linen products. The fabrics are used during various workshops, such as sewing clothes or accessories, the effects of which are presented during fashion shows organised in the post-industrial space of the Museum.

In the exhibition showcase, which was made from the original cutting table, there are bales with plain and jacquard fabrics, which were woven on looms being the exhibits at the Museum.





The exhibition 'Linen Fashion' starts the tour around the Linen Museum in Żyrdów, allowing visitors to get acquainted with ready-made goods, whose technological cycle of production has been discussed at the other exhibitions.

### The order of visiting the exhibitions presented at the Linen Museum in Żyrdów

1. Linen fashion
2. Żyrdów – the linen town
3. Spun into thread
4. Jacquard patterns
5. A thread linking the past with the present
6. The finished fabrics
7. Silkscreen & Textile





### Visiting the exhibition

Monday  
**closed**

Tuesday – Friday  
**10:00 – 15:00**

Saturday – Sunday  
**11:00 – 18:00**

*(open at weekends only from April to the end of October)*

Guided tours require prior telephone contact

**Muzeum Lniarstwa im. Filipa de Girarda w Żyrardowie**

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