

International Hygiene Exhibition (1911)

Abstract

Held from May to October 1911, the Dresden International Hygiene Exhibition featured displays on modern technology, medical science, and public health. The brainchild and creation of the industrialist and manufacturer Karl August Lingner (1861-1916), the exhibition was the first of its kind and drew more than five million visitors, with 30 countries participating. The event led to the 1912 founding of the German Hygiene Museum [Deutsches Hygiene-Museum]. This footage documents some of the 100 buildings constructed for the event, its international pavilions (including England, France, Italy, Switzerland, Austria, Hungary, Russia, Spain, Brazil, Japan, and China). Only the exteriors of buildings were filmed because of the need for bright lighting, namely sunlight. The footage also shows the electric tram line connecting different parts of the exhibit, the wave pool (a technical innovation that was part of the exhibit on baths and spas), restaurants, beer gardens, a gymnastics demonstration, and an “Abyssinian village.” This ethnographic exhibit was part of the amusement park also housed on the exhibition grounds. Visitors could watch “Abyssinian natives” (who had been hired for this show) practice traditional crafts, music, cooking, and war games before visiting “King Menelik’s beer garden” for refreshments afterwards.

Source

Source: Internationale Hygiene-Ausstellung in Dresden, 1911. Bundesarchiv Filmarchiv

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