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Magazine of the Herend Porcelain Manufactory

No 63

# Herend

HERALD

Glamour in the  
comfort of our home

—  
Vieux Herend in olden  
times and today

—  
Unique museums



*Herend*

HEREND PORCELAIN  
TRADITION-INNOVATION







## Dear Herend Herald Reader,

There are weekdays and there are holidays when we adorn our souls with jewellery. Holydays are a gift to us so that our lives do not just pass by but are fulfilled with meaning. The activities of everyday life prepare us for the holidays, and holidays give us the strength for our daily work. Holidays do not mean that there are no more weekdays, but the monotony of weekdays can be overcome by the splendour of celebration. Holidays rise above everyday life, like a plateau where we come to rest at the junction of *past*, *present* and *future* and leave the difficulties of the past and the worries of the future behind us. Only the moment of celebration matters. We gather experiences and memories from the holidays. Holidays help us quiet down the noise of everyday life, calm the soul and give us opportunity for reflection and contemplation. Holidays create community, a community of love with our loved ones, a community of togetherness. The festive laughter reaches into infinity, and the tears of laughter are in fact telescopes through which you can see as far as the heavens.

Herend porcelain helps turn everyday life into celebration. It enriches the flavour of our morning coffee, our tea becomes a ceremony and adds elegance to the festive table. The richness of the Herend colours and the sophistication of the patterns are astonishing; each piece stems from tradition, yet stands for constant innovation. Herend porcelain springs from the past and points to the future with its timeless, eternal value. It adorns our home, and we admire the craftsmanship behind it with love. When we look at it, the art winks back at us.

If you own a piece of Herend porcelain, you are never alone, there is always someone to celebrate with you.

With warmest of regards,

Dr Attila Simon  
CEO

—  
On the cover  
Magic stone 08550000SP751;  
Golf balls 07803000VA, 07803000AV

—  
On this page  
Elephant with candle holder  
15487091SP1220

—  
On the back cover  
Music box  
07849091FTQ



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# HAPPY NEW YEAR!

There is more to a new year than just hanging a new calendar onto the wall. A change of the year represents the beginning of something new, a hope for a better and brighter future. Whether or not you are superstitious, you might as well try out the traditions of various countries.

## Let everything be round

In the Philippines, people await the new year with all things round, as they consider roundness a symbol of prosperity. To ensure that all twelve months abound in wealth, they place twelve round fruits into a bowl and they fill their pockets with coins. And as for the pattern of their garment with those pockets? Dotted counts as the luckiest.

## Ever since antiquity

As far back as in ancient Greece, onions have symbolised growth and rebirth – hence their major role at New Year's Eve in Greek households ever since. Families typically hang onions above their front door together, hoping for personal growth and new opportunities for all of them.

## A sonorous greeting

In South Korea, the new year is celebrated by ringing bells. The bell tolls thirty three times after the clock has struck midnight on 31 December. According to tradition, the sound of the bell rings out the old and rings in the new year, which will be full of hope and happiness. Japan has a very similar custom, too, except that their bells toll one hundred and eight times.

## Just be careful!

Let's leave the bad behind and focus on the good in the future – in the Republic of South Africa, this life advice is not meant figuratively. Many people in the country greet the new year by tossing defective objects and broken furniture items out of the window. Well, that's one way of letting go of the past...

## The first journey in the year

If you visit Columbia at the time of New Year, you might think everyone is setting out on a journey. Why else would so many of them be dragging suitcases behind them? In truth, Columbians believe that grabbing their suitcases on New Year's Eve to make a large circle around the house will bring them a year abundant in travels.



### Did you know?

In Hungary, most beliefs on the subject of New Year relate to eating. Your main concern should be to reconsider your choice of meat: poultry scratch your luck away, fish swim away with it, in the light of which, putting the meat of young pigs on the table seems sound advice, as pigs use their snouts to root up good luck from the ground.





# UNIQUE MUSEUMS

Thinking of museums, our minds' eyes see relics from antiquity, Baroque paintings, and contemporary works of art. There are, however, collections and exhibitions worldwide that are dedicated to less conventional subjects.

## Idaho Potato Museum

Potatoes are to Idaho what oranges are to Florida or peaches to Georgia. The variety grown here is aptly called Idaho potato, and the museum operated in the town of Blackfoot reveals all about this tuber – starting from its spread through its harvest to its processing. One of the glass domes showcases the largest potato crisp in the world, which is exactly sixty-four centimetres across. No wonder

that seeing so many delicacies related to potatoes makes one hungry – luckily, the museum boasts a small restaurant, too, where all kinds of potato dishes are served.

## Cravaticum

Despite its role as a significant symbol played for centuries, it has only recently received the attention it deserves: in the summer of 2024, the first museum dedicated to the tie (cravat) opened in Zagreb. The playful and interactive exhibition offers a host of facts and stories about this basic item in every man's wardrobe, from the 17th century to our days. In the boutique museum located in the Croatian capital, visitors certainly have the opportunity to view truly unique ties – one, for example, that is made of a bulletproof material, and they can also learn a few techniques of how to tie them.

## Underwater Museum of Cancún

There is a museum in Mexico, where the galleries located at a depth of three to six metres underwater showcase a total of five hundred sculptures for snorkelers and scuba divers. If you do not have the courage to dive, no problem, you can look around also from a glass-bottomed boat. The works of art were made of pH-neutral concrete above ground, and were cleaned





**Did you know?**  
 The Herend Porcelain Museum showcases the world's largest collection of works of art by Herend, called the "Herend Treasure Trove". The two-storey building from the late classical period that accommodates the museum is a monument building in its own right as it is where the first Herend porcelain pieces were made in 1826.

before being submerged to ensure that their surface is not covered by any chemical that may harm the water or the wildlife of the reef.

### Museum of the Future

Dubai is a city of superlatives; it's little wonder that it accommodates the most modern museum – and it offers quite a futuristic sight from the outside, too. In the toroid-shaped building, visitors are assigned an artificial intelligence-aided museum guide. The Museum of the Future examines how society can develop with the help of science and technology in the next few decades. Of course, children, "future heroes" are also addressed: those between the ages of three and ten can find inspiration and learn by playing games in a dedicated space on a separate floor.

### Museum of Miniatures

The largest collection of the tiniest things – goes the simplest description of what you find in the Museum of Miniatures established in the Strahov district of Prague. Here you can see the world's smallest (1.2-millimetre) bicycle made of pure gold, the world's smallest (0.9x0.9-millimetre) book, and even a flea clad in horseshoes. And how visitors are able to see all these, you ask? Given that the exhibition would not

be visible to the naked eye, magnifier glasses are provided in the rooms. The exhibits on display are numerous, but it comes as no surprise that the whole lot can fit in a single hall.

### Cup Noodles Museum

Each year, over a hundred billion portions of noodle soup from packs and cups are consumed worldwide – or, more precisely, galaxy-wide, as even astronauts take with them such instant food to space. The secret to its popularity is that you only need to add hot water and that's it! This Japanese museum that opened in 1999 has more to offer than just information about the inception of instant soups in 1958, their evolution and production: you can also prepare your own version out of the available 5,460 combinations. Leaving the museum, visitors' path leads through a tunnel showcasing another eight hundred different versions of packaging for ramen, i.e. Japanese noodle soup.



### Herend Porcelain Museum

Scan the QR code to visit the Herend Porcelain Museum website. Click on the virtual tour to explore the museum's interior spaces.



# VIEUX HEREND

in olden times and today

Originating from the Far East, the fishnet design of painting applied by Herend Porcelain Manufactory has become widely known by the name “Vieux Herend (VH)” and has grown to be one of the most popular motifs of Herend today.

## The origin

This stylised ornament resembling feathers or fish scales was introduced in the 1850s by Mór Fisher, who made the manufacturing of porcelain prosperous in Herend. The first figurine with such fishnet painting was a porcelain rooster that Fischer gifted to the famous writer, Mór Jókai – who used the pen name Márton Kakas [meaning “Rooster”]. It is still on display in the Herend Porcelain Museum today.

In the second half of the 19th century, not many statuettes were made with the VH fishnet design, whereas starting from the second half of the 20th century, their number and popularity was growing rapidly. Since that time, hundreds of porcelain figurines have been produced with this painting design in various colours, and today innumerable animal figurines and tableware sets are painted with this pattern. “VH” is an abbreviation of the French expression “Vieux Herend” which signifies “old Herend”, the name of this pattern design.

## Neat scales and dots

VH figurines are labour-intensive, require lots of pen drawing, which calls for drawing skills, a sense of form, and spatial vision. The fish scales are sketched with a drawing pen, and the middle part of each scale is often filled with the same colour as the scale outline, using a brush. Due to their difficulty of handling, fish scale figurines generally involve multiple rounds of firing. For larger-size ones, both the fish scale drawing and the painted colour filling (dotting) need to be fired more than once, given that the scale painting extends over the entire body surface of the porcelain animal, which must also be hand-held while being painted. Additional firing may be required if any of the colours is about to get a gold décor, too.

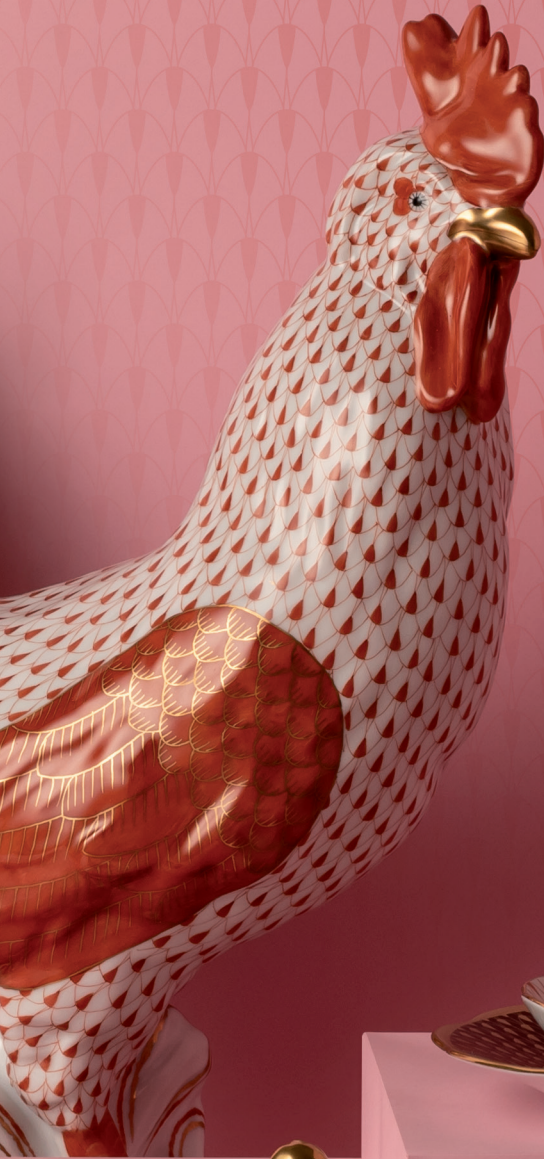
## New versions coming out back to back

For a long time, VH figurines were decorated in line with precise rules of logic, and, with the passing of the years, their number increased to hundreds. Owing to the most recent product development, various groups of scales are painted with more than one colour (combined with a technique called C painting), in an effort to imitate the natural play of colour and look of feathers, yielding an even more lifelike or modern result. Inspired by zentangle, a trend popular in recent years, an innovative design for a dragon figure has also brought great success.





Big rooster 05030000VHM; Snail 15375000VHJ;  
Lemon shaped bonbonier 06071012VHN-OR;  
Coffeecup and saucer 20711000VHN;  
Teacup and saucer 20706000VH;  
Dessert plate 20517000VHN-OR;  
Fox 15303000VHSP27



**Did you know?**  
Painting the largest figure with the VH design took over three hundred hours as its body is covered in more than two thousand scales. The VH design may come in nearly two hundred hues worldwide.





# GIGANTIC DISCOVERIES

Giants have always excited the popular imagination. Proof that tales and myths about colossal figures may actually have a basis in reality was found also in China.

Atlas, who holds up the sky on his shoulders. The giant Goliath, who David ultimately managed to defeat. Gulliver, who the people of Lilliput called “man-mountain”. One can equally encounter giants in Greek mythology, in the *Bible*, and in literature, which seems to give some credibility to the idea that our planet actually used to be home to people well over the average in height and stature.

At an excavation in eastern China, archaeologists have recently found five-thousand-year-old bones that may have belonged to unusually tall and robust persons. At the archaeological site located in the Province of Shandong, multiple graves were explored, and the size of the bones led the experts to conclude that those may be the remains of men who were 1.8m or even 1.9m tall. Although today it is nothing out of the ordinary, as the average height of Chinese men today is 172cm, people thousands of years ago were considerably shorter, and those men may have counted as true

giants. No explanation was found as for why they were able to grow to that size but based on the objects found there, the conclusion suggested that those people may have led comfortable lives and consumed high-quality foods. As for whether giants still live in the area today, the residents of the province are still above the average in height, even if merely by a few centimetres compared to the average in China.

The tallest skeleton ever discovered in prehistoric China was also unearthed in this province: the young man presumed to be between sixteen and eighteen years of age, who, over four thousand years ago, may have been 193cm tall, has been dubbed the “Longshan Giant”. Moreover, Confucius, one of the most outstanding sages in eastern culture, also comes from the Province of Shandong, and his extraordinary height is mentioned in multiple books. Born in 551 BC, the philosopher was at least 189cm tall.

–  
Sugar basin with mandarin knob  
03353021PVFP-X1



## Did you know?

At 251cm, the tallest man in the world, Sultan Kösen, comes from Turkey, while the shortest one is a lady from India, Jyoti Amge, who is a mere 62.8cm tall.



# A CARRIAGE ROLLS UP

An ornate, upholstered four-wheeled, horse-drawn carriage with springing, mostly made of wood. Counterparts to today's luxury cars in the Middle Ages and in the Modern Era were carriages; such vehicles were exclusively used by members of the upper class.

According to historical records, a Hungarian invention of the 13th century was a "rocking carriage", which later was abbreviated to carriage. The structure of the carriage was developed from century to century, its level of comfort enhanced through modern springing, which made travelling easy and fast. Carriages were grouped by the type of their bodies; members of the 19th century elite preferred open carriages on official events, while ladies' favourite was the chaise, also excellent for pleasure carriage rides; there were completely enclosed versions with roofs, as well as ones with hoods (fixed or folding tops); some were drawn by two, others by four horses.

The favourite queen of Hungarians, Austro-Hungarian empress Elisabeth, travelled in all kinds of lavish and sumptuous carriages. The imperial carriage was in essence a throne rolling on wheels, symbolising the power of the monarch's family; however, it was only used on notable events, such as weddings and ceremonies. Most certainly, Sissi arrived in this gorgeous Baroque carriage to her coronation held in the Matthias Church in Budapest on 8 June 1867.

The best option for those less privileged in the 19th century was a passenger vehicle called omnibus: also drawn by horses, it accommodated many more passengers (eight to fourteen) which is why it is considered a forerunner of autobuses and trolleybuses and a pioneer in public transport. Omnibus tickets were bought mainly by shopkeepers, clerks, craftsmen, and white-collar workers. The first omnibus in Budapest was launched on 1 July 1832, while the last service to transport passengers in Budapest ran on 30 April 1929.



Chocolatecups with saucers  
00722000CBTA, 00712000BFR-1

## Did you know?

Herend Porcelain Manufactory's product range still includes cups dubbed "trembling cups" ("zittern Tasse" in German, today more frequently referred to as hot chocolate cups) that come with saucers designed with special lips. The original design ensured that ladies and gentlemen can safely nest their cups into the saucers during their carriage rides.





**Did you know?**

The word "glamour" recalls Hollywood for many, while Hollywood glam is an existing version of this home decor style: it finds its inspiration in the 1920s and 1930s, which is dubbed as the golden age of Hollywood; accordingly, its hallmarks include lavish glittering, gold details, geometric lines and art deco motifs.

# GLAMOUR IN THE COMFORT OF YOUR HOMES

This elegant and brilliant home decor style is one of the most voguish trends in this autumn and winter season.

It is not even difficult to be passionate about this ornate and extravagant trend that keeps coming back into fashion from time to time. Applying intricate details, large contrasts and luscious materials, glam style speaks to those who think that sometimes more is more, while also believing that it is possible to strike a balance between refinement and lustre.

There are two ways for glam style to appear in modern homes: in a sophisticated or in a dramatic way. Soft pastel hues – such as baby pink, mint green, or light blue can yield just as much sense of luxury as lavish jewel colours (ruby red, sapphire blue, or emerald green) can. In addition to a well-chosen colour palette, it is the right textures and ample glittering that constitute the backbone of this trend. Mirrors, glass, furniture with high-gloss finish, and décor elements all provide for a stylish atmosphere, while luscious upholstery and fabrics (such as silk, velvet or bouclé) add thrill to the space. Porcelain ornamental objects by Herend





are a perfect match for this style: the refinement, artistry and elaborate painting of which can shine as accents in both low-key and extravagant glam homes.

No interior can be luxurious without plenty of light, which calls for added attention to the styling of lighting. You need a sufficient number of light fixtures, on the one hand, and not just any kind: crystal chandeliers, lamp shades with metallic finishes are properly glam, and so are porcelain candle holders, which, owing to their shiny finish, are seen as the epitome of graceful elegance. For a maximum amount of light, place your light fixtures near mirrors or objects that shine like mirrors, which will make them glisten even more.

Be brave and play with bold patterns, too – on wallpapers, rugs, or even wall painting, among others, - because they add a lot to a refined atmosphere of the space and create an inviting ambience. But it is advisable to keep an eye on

the proportions: large patterns in small spaces may be overwhelming. Porcelain objects with patterns, however, look good in any room...

If you are just familiarising yourself with this style or you do not feel like a dramatic makeover in your home, then spice your spaces with accessories to add some glam. Obtain metallic décor elements (porcelain vases and figurines), cover your cushions in velvet, and retrieve your gilded-edged or gold-painted porcelain objects from your glass cabinet, all of which are synonymous with timeless luxury. Décor objects by Herend Porcelain Manufactory are now available in a platina finish to please also those who prefer cooler tones.

-  
**Vase with fish scales** 06862000COUBARD2; **Clock plate** 075560470-ROE-PT;  
**Cheetah** 15145000PTVH; **Vase with armour** 06870000A-OR; **Birds** 05372000JH-15,  
 05373000JH-15; **Limited teaset** VIT



# ROME, AN EMPIRE OF WATERS

With their many innovations, ancient Romans were well ahead of their time – with, among others, bringing water into their cities. The water pipe plumbing of ancient Rome supplied clean water to almost a million people.

Ancient Romans must have loved water – judging by the presence of fountains, public baths, and street wells that were fed with water often supplied from many kilometres away. Although ancient Egyptians also constructed water pipes, Rome's complex networks relying on gravity and covering the whole of the empire are proof of amazing engineering performance and technical expertise. The construction of the first water pipes began under Appius Claudius in 312 BC, and the long water conduits called aqueducts carried water under the ground, as well as over the ground in graceful arched structures.

The primary function of aqueducts was to provide the population with drinking water, but they also fed public baths and fountains – both occurred in fairly high numbers. And although credit for the invention of fountains is not due to ancient Romans, they were the first to construct elegant fountains integrated in stone statues. No wonder Rome was

called the city of fountains! In the 1st century AD, Roman governor and curator (supervisor) of aqueducts Sextus Julius Frontinus, who also authored the book *Aqueducts of Rome* counted thirty nine “monumental” fountains and five hundred and ninety one public baths.

Even today, tourists can marvel at a wealth of fountains in Rome; the most famous and largest of which is the Baroque Trevi Fountain constructed in the 18th century, while the one considered the most beautiful is the Fontana delle Tartarughe, named after the bronze turtles balancing on its upper basin. The heritage of ancient Rome is still alive today, given that a part of the water network in the Italian capital is of ancient origin; however, only one of the old Roman public baths is still functional today: the Hammam Es-salihine, which also existed as many as two thousand years ago, and has been attracting visitors with its 70°C waters rich in minerals ever since.

## Did you know?

The territory of today's Hungary used to be a Roman province, which makes it hardly surprising that aqueduct systems from the Roman era were discovered even in the cities of the former Pannonia. The longest one was in Savaria (today's Szombathely), which supplied spring water to city dwellers from a distance of twenty five kilometres.



# SUBMERGED CITIES

Archaeological findings thousands of years old that tell fabulous stories. Walls, sculptures, columns that used to form ancient cities that have sunk underwater - but not into oblivion, though.

## Baiae

Once famous for its vibrant social life, sulphur springs abounding in water, and magnificent buildings – even Roman emperors Julius Caesar and Nero had luxury villas here. However, the same volcanic activity that produced the thermal water also wrought havoc on Baiae. The ancient resort was built on the top of Campi Flegrei (the Phlegraean Fields), in the vicinity of Naples, and the frequent earthquakes and tides slowly sent the majority of the luxurious town underwater. In 2002, the local authorities declared those areas protected.

## Dwarka

This small town in western India is a significant Hindu pilgrimage site, one of the seven Indian sacred cities. According to popular belief, it was founded by Krishna, but as soon as his soul left his mortal body, a considerable part of Dwarka submerged in the sea. Excavations began in the 1930s, and the first exploration was carried out in 1963. Archaeologists found a number of ancient artifacts and remains of buildings that point to the probable role of Dwarka as an important commercial port. Hence the name of the city, which in the Sanskrit language means “door” or “gate”.

## Tiquina

The town called Tiquina is located on the Bolivian shore of Lake Titicaca, which is not only known for being the largest lake in South America but also for being home to an ancient civilisation under the surface – although the latter is a relatively new discovery. In 2008, thousands of objects, including ceramics and gold were found on the bottom of the lake, which, according to researchers, belong to the highly remarkable pre-Inca Tiwanaku culture. The Bolivian government plans to build an underwater museum on the exploration sites.

## Alexandria

Founded by Alexander the Great and remaining prosperous for centuries, Alexandria is considered the centre of ancient civilisation. The port city located in the territory of current-day Egypt was hit by multiple natural disasters, as a result of which the royal quarter of Alexandria was submerged in the 8th century. An international team of archaeologists were exploring the area since the 1990s, and their work yielded not merely coins and amulets brought to the surface: the ruins of Cleopatra’s palace were also discovered!

Barcaccia fountain 06872000VA

Coffee cup (part of a limited edition set) 04264200SP1217;

Bowl 02365000UNIVER3;

Napkin ring 02272000MTFC





# AN OASIS FOR BUTTERFLIES

Their colourful appearance and amazing metamorphosis make butterflies magical in our eyes. These spectacular insects symbolise transformation, beauty and rebirth, reminding us of the wealth of wildlife and the transience of life. This may be the reason why we admire them and are happy to encounter them in our gardens.

Butterflies are not only pretty but also pretty useful: they are an important part of the ecosystem as they participate in the pollination of plants. These attractive insects feed on nectar found deep inside flowers, and the pollen that sticks to their bodies actually spreads to a longer distance than bees' bodies can carry it, given that bees always stay close to their respective hives. And this is also the reason why we need to take care to protect them in order to stop butterfly populations from declining.

One way to do so is to build a butterfly garden inside your own garden – the main positive impact of which will be the spectacular sight you get from spring through autumn. For that purpose, it is advisable to choose a sunny yet protected spot and to plant nectariferous species there – with various kinds of flowers you can attract various butterfly species. Butterflies have a predilection for flowers that have a strong scent and produce a large quantity of nectar.

There are also public butterfly gardens that serve as popular tourist sights attracting millions of visitors each year. The three-hectare area of the Butterfly World in Florida is home to over twenty thousand butterflies, which earns it the title of the largest butterfly garden in the world. The one that boasts the most special atmosphere is located inside Changi Airport in Singapore and stays open night and day: before your flight or when in transit, you can encounter as many as forty butterfly species. In the Mariposario de Benalmádena in Spain, you can walk among waterfalls and flowers while admiring free-flying exotic butterflies, whereas in Vlinderica in Holland, you can catch sight of *Peleides* blue morphos and large tree nymphs.

Ornamental plate 07496000VICTORIA

## Did you know?

Four butterfly species live in Hungary: the clouded Apollo, the southern festoon, the Old World swallowtail and the scarce swallowtail; each of these species is protected.



# SECRETS OF VOLCANOS

Dangerous ruptures on the surface of the Earth, named after Vulcanus, a Roman god of fire. Some of those command respect for their size, while some for their volcanic activity.

There are multiple types of volcanos; but it is safe to say in general that a volcano eruption begins with explosions, followed by rocky debris erupting from the heart of the mountain, amid the issuance of fumes and gases. Then, smouldering molten rock, i.e. magma finds its way through the crater. Volcanos are unpredictable in nature: after a lava flow, they may remain dormant for decades or may cease their activity altogether, after which they are referred to as extinct volcanos.

## Mauna Loa

Mauna Loa means “Long Mountain” in the Hawaii language, and is also one of the largest active volcanos in the world. At seven hundred thousand years, this shield volcano located in the southern part of the Island of Hawaii counts as a young one around there. It last erupted in 2022. Mauna Loa is 4,170 metres high but it also reaches down to a depth of 5,000 metres below sea level, which makes its total height surpass that of Mount Everest.

## Kilauea

It is close to impossible to rank the most active volcanos objectively; what is certain, however, is that Kilauea is among the top candidates. Located in the south eastern part of the Island of Hawaii, the volcano was practically active non-stop between 1983 and 2018, erupting on multiple occasions even since. It boasts over two dozen craters, so there is nothing surprising about the choice of its name: Kilauea means „spewing” or “much spreading”.

## Ojos del Salado

Second highest mountain in the Andes and the world’s highest active volcano. Located on the border between Argentina and Chile, Ojos del Salado, which rises to 6,893 metres, is a stratovolcano whose peaks are rarely white. How is that possible at such a height? Ojos del Salado is located in the Atacama Desert, which has an extremely dry climate that causes snow to sublimate quickly. The volcano has been dormant for over a thousand years, the last time it was observed to issue ash was in 1993.

## Mount Vesuvius

The only volcano in continental Europe to have erupted in the past one hundred years. It is also the most dangerous one, as three million people live in its vicinity – with a minimum of six hundred thousand of them in the danger zone. Located in the south of Italy, Mount Vesuvius would also be an apt candidate for the title of the best known volcano in the world: the story of Pompeii, which was buried under ash by the formidable volcano of the Gulf of Naples in 79 AD, made it to everyone’s history textbook. And that is precisely why the volcano is a thriving tourist attraction.



Whirlwind dragon (limited edition)  
16154000SP774



# LIFE OF A LEGEND

The Puskás of water polo. The world's first disabled Olympic champion. The athlete who proved the best in both swimming and water polo in Europe. But who was *vitéz* Olivér Halassy?

Born in 1909 in Újpest as Olivér Haltmayer, he was dreaming of a career in football as a young boy; however, this dream went up in smoke at the age of eight when he had to have his left leg amputated from the middle down after suffering a traffic accident with a tram. The limb deficiency soon turned out not to present a disadvantage in water, which is why he started swimming and playing water polo – with growing success.

At only nineteen, he was selected for the national water polo team, which was preparing for the Olympic Games to be held in Amsterdam. That time he earned a silver medal, whereas at the Olympics held in Los Angeles in 1932 and in Berlin in 1936 he won gold with the Hungarian team. In the meantime, he triumphed at Hungarian championships with

the sports club of his native town ten times between 1930 and 1939. He also excelled at swimming: he was victorious eleven times at national championships in river swimming.

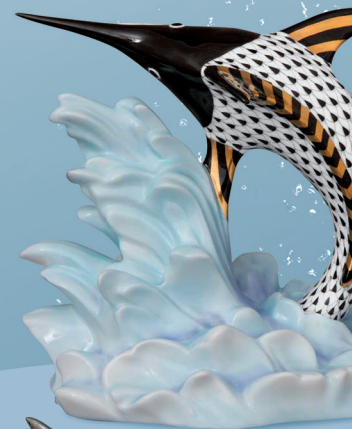
His greatest feat was to make it to the top of the podium at the European Championship in Paris in 1931 not only as a member of the water polo team but also as a swimmer – what's more, he barely had two hours to rest between the 1,500m freestyle swimming event and the water polo final.

Olivér Halassy was a hero not only in water: using his contacts and his title of the order of "*vitéz*" inherited from his father, he helped multiple fellow athletes and friends during World War II. He died at a tragically young age: he was merely thirty seven years old when he was murdered.

Fancy vase with lid 06490023ATQ3-PT;  
Swordfish 15378000VHNM;  
Sail fishes 15273000PTVH;  
Sea-horse 05252000ECABVT;  
Octopus (New in 2025) - 16028000PLATI-M

## Did you know?

According to the Hungarian Olympic Committee's data bank, the number of gold medals won by Hungarian athletes to date equals one hundred and ninety. Hungary has been the most successful in fencing, swimming, as well as kayak and canoe.



# PECULIAR CREATURES IN THE ABYSS

Covering over two-thirds of the Earth's surface, oceans are the most mysterious territories on our planet – the majority of the realm under the waves still awaits to be explored even today. Let's see a few bizarre or rare species that live there.

## The dugong, the gentlest giant

Its body is just as chubby as that of the manatee, to which it is related, its tail, however, resembles the dolphin's much more. A member of the sea cows, the dugong is the only marine mammal on a strictly vegetarian diet: weighing almost half a ton, it peacefully grazes in the shallow waters of the Indian Ocean and the western region of the Pacific Ocean. According to certain sources, dugongs gave rise to the legend of mermaids.

## Christmas tree worm, the Christmas tree of the sea

Displaying vibrant colours, its interesting forms further enhance the beauty of tropical seas - in the light of which it comes as a bit of a shock that this special animal belongs to the group of annelids just as much as earthworms frequenting your gardens do. Reaching a few centimetres in size, the Christmas tree worm lives among corals, and its part reminiscent of a Christmas tree happens to be its organ used for breathing and eating.

## The axolotl, the smiling amphibian

This unusual name literally translates as "water dog"; in reality, however, the axolotl of Mexico belongs in the group of mole salamanders. In terms of appearance, it closely resembles the larvae of the tiger salamander, displaying colour variations of brown, pink, black and blue. It rose to fame as a laboratory animal, owing to its amazing ability to regenerate: when it loses a limb, it can easily grow it back.

## The flying fish, a gilled creature on wings

It appears nonsense for a fish to be able to fly – after all, its body is covered in scales instead of feathers and it has fins instead of wings. But then, again, what are the creatures seen worldwide that keep shooting out of the water? The Exocoetid family has long pectoral fins adapted to function as flying organs, and when danger is approaching, they are capable of rising out of the sea up to a height of one or two metres and hover as much as three hundred metres in the air before diving back into the water. What the flying fish does is actually gliding.



### Did you know?

As reported by the World Register of Marine Species (WoRMS), roughly 242,000 known and described marine species live in the world ocean. On average, 2,332 new species are discovered each year.



# FOR CHEESE AFICIONADOS

“You cannot make everyone happy because you are not cheese”, goes the saying that points out the popularity of this dairy product. Even Greek mythology and ancient Egyptian paintings in tombs bear reference to cheese-making, and one can safely say that people all around the world enjoy the consumption of cheese.



**Did you know?**  
According to a survey conducted by the International Dairy Foods Association, the French eat by far the most cheese. The average cheese consumption per capita in France reaches 26.26kg each year.

## Halloumi

The most famous export item of Cyprus, halloumi has been produced in this island country in the Mediterranean – traditionally from sheep’s milk and goat’s milk, but today also cow’s milk is often added to it. It tastes salty, has a chewy texture and a high melting point, which makes it an excellent candidate for baking and grilling, while it is just as tasty when raw. In Cyprus, it is mostly consumed sprinkled with honey or served with watermelon.

## Paneer

This soft, non-aged cheese originates from Indian cuisine, which, similarly to halloumi, does not melt when heated – which is why it is frequently used in vegetarian dishes as a meat substitute. It has a mellow taste and is easy to make at home, the recipe only calls for cow’s milk and citric acid.

## Burrata

“Buttery” is what the name of this cheese from southern Italy translates to, given that its rich, creamy taste and soft texture really does recall butter. As for appearance, it resembles mozzarella a lot; however, if you cut a burrata into two, its soft and creamy inside should ooze out. The outer casing is made of mozzarella, and it encases stracciatella. Extra virgin olive oil, balsamic vinegar and tomatoes make a delicious flavour combination.

## Cotija

Cotija is also dubbed as “the Parmesan of Mexico”, which, similarly to its Italian counterpart has a powerful flavour, it is both salty and crumbly. This semi-hard white cheese made from cow’s milk is named after the town of Cotija de la Paz, where it is produced by local artisans who follow traditional methods passed down from generation to generation. It makes a perfect topping on salads and tacos.

## Tête de Moine

A Swiss cheese with one of the strongest aromas and the sweetest taste, whose name literally translates to “monk’s head”. Produced in the Bellelay Abbey, there is mention of this cheese from as early as the 13th century. A special feature is that, instead of being sliced, this cheese is pared, and is done so with the use of a special tool (girolle). This is where it got the name from: the pared cheese looks like monks’ hairstyle.

# GRILLED RÉVÉREND LE BRIE

The pleasantly buttery flavour of French soft cheese is enhanced even more by mushrooms, garlic and aromatic herbs in this elegant dish.

## Preparation

1. Cut the mushrooms to wedges, and sauté them on a mixture of hot olive oil and butter. Season with salt, pepper, garlic and parsley leaves.
2. Grill the cheese on a mixture of hot olive oil and butter, season with salt, pepper, garlic and the rosemary sprig, and sprinkle with the wine when the grilling is finished.
3. Serve the grilled cheese with the sautéed mushrooms.

## Ingredients (serves 4)

- 4 pieces Revérend le Brie
- 250 g brown champion, cleaned
- 50 g butter
- 50 ml olive oil
- Salt, freshly ground pepper
- Rosemary sprig, parsley leaves
- Garlic, cleaned
- 100 ml chardonnay



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Serving plate  
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Mushrooms  
menu-holder 08973000C;  
Stump mushrooms  
menu-holder 08974000C



## Gift ideas

Let's be maximalists! Indulge in a vibrant mix of colors and patterns, and delight in the harmony between traditional and modern décor pieces.

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- 6 **Vase on stand with button knob** (limited edition) 06690015 SP969



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