

Video transcript: History of the Allianz share

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Allianz was founded as a shareholders' company. So Allianz has had shares since day one. That day one was back in the year 1890. That is 134 years ago.

Every year, the company invites its owners, that is, its shareholders, to the Annual General Meeting. At this meeting, the management explains, describes and analyzes the performance of the company. The bond that binds the shareholders to Allianz is trust. The sign, the tangible proof of that trust, is the share paper. Today, I would like to invite you to the storage room of the historical archives of Allianz. Here, we keep all kinds of documents from Allianz's past, and that includes shares, as well. That is, I would like to take you back to a time when shares were not digital units, but printed certificates on paper. Some of these papers were real pieces of art, but let's just have a look. The first one is a founding share of Allianz. That takes us back to the year 1890. 4000 of these registered shares were issued when the company was founded. The shareholders were exactly 12 persons or institutions under or surrounded by all kinds of stamps that document the further history or the further development of this share. You can read this hand-written name, and that is the name of one of the 12 initial shareholders, Hugo Ritter von Maffei. It's a printed, colored document, with names, stamps, the face value of the initial share, that were 1000 marks, which was an awful lot of money back in those days.

And that also says something about the social background of the shareholders. So shares were something for the well-off. And if you open the share, it's like a little book, a directory, and it mentions all the names of the shareholders that followed later. All these people, with the names of who you can read here, were the shareholders between 1890 and 1940.

The second share takes us to a different era, to the 1920s, a time of great economic trouble and of hyperinflation. That was the context when Allianz Life Insurance – *Allianz Lebensversicherungs AG* – was founded. And this is the founding share of the Allianz Life Insurance Company. It's the same principle again. It's actually meticulously printed and colored, different or an interesting typography. Stamps have been added, some text has been added. This text refers to the actually to tell the story. It's about the hyperinflation and how under the influence of the hyperinflation, the company had to rework, actually, the reporting on the shares in 1920. Open it, then you can see who owned the share after the founding shareholder sold it. The first holder of the share was a local bank here in Munich that was one of the main investors into Allianz Life.

And the third one, and you can easily see it's only a photocopy, a color photocopy, it was given to us just a few days ago from some colleagues that keep supporting us here with our work, from Adeus, the company that looks over the organization of the Annual General Meeting. And this document or this copy of the document, takes us to the year 1997. It was for the last time that an Allianz share was actually issued as a printed certificate on paper.

These were three examples from the history of the Allianz share.

Thank you for being interested. Now, after this historical sketch, you can focus again on the future of Allianz.