

## A trip to the Watchmaking School of Morteau in September 2023

- A professional mobility of four watchmaking students from Uhrmacherschule Hamburg funded by an Erasmus+ scholarship of the European Union
- A cooperation within the OSOW network (Open Schools of Watchmaking)



Our trip to Morteau should have started on Sunday at around 9:30 at the main station in Hamburg and after a journey to Hannover the second half of our group was to enter the train as well. But as always. Those plans didn't take in account the company of 'Deutsch Bahn' so that the train departed from Hamburg almost an hour delayed.

A short phase of panic quickly dissipated in hopes the train might still catch up on time, so we would be able to still get on the next train in Mannheim. Our hopes let us down so we prepared for an uncertain and strongly delayed arrival, hopefully the teacher would still be available to drive us to our accommodation.

About an hour late we arrived in Hannover so Tjalf and Fiona could join our little group. Sadly, we did in fact not catch up on the delay, thus missing our TGV to Besançon and having to spend an hour and a half in what has to be the most unspectacular town of Germany, Mannheim.

We used that mandatory break to strengthen ourselves for the rest of the trip and got out of the train station to sit in the sun and eat some snacks from the food corner.

After the journey towards Morteau finally resumed, we had a somewhat extended stop in Besançon before reaching our accommodation after a 15-hour drive.

But at least it's not the destination it's the journey that counts.



On the initial day we experienced French hospitality when a teacher, though lacking proficiency in German or English, drove us to school as soon as he made himself understood.

At school, local watchmaking teachers introduced themselves, they provided a small breakfast with some coffee and juice, followed by a school tour. Afterwards, in different classes with different teachers, they presented and elaborated on the project we were supposed to do there for the next weeks. In the afternoon, to avoid overextending French hospitality on the following days, we rented a car to independently get to school and enhance our overall mobility.

The remaining week passed swiftly as we practiced assembling and disassembling our new movements, planned our design for the watch and after a few days of going shopping for food in Morteau we started to get more familiar with the surroundings. On Thursday we commenced the skeletonizing of the movements starting with the “Coeur ouvert”, the open heart of the watch.

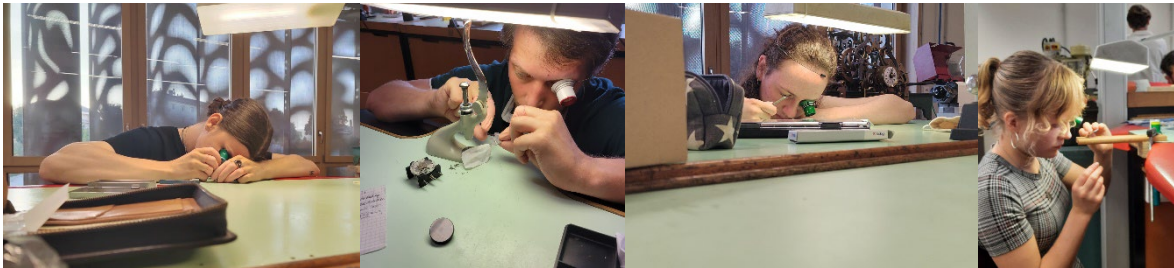


In the following week we diligently drilled, sawed and filed to get everything done for the galvanisation of the parts. Also, we learned to work with the French version of “SolidWorks”, created our dials with the part for the open heart, the division for the dial markers and labelling the dials with our own names. We couldn't spend the weekend in school, so we decided to make a trip to Switzerland and visited the Omega Museum. Unfortunately, the payment terminal didn't work, so we couldn't bring some souvenirs on our way home.



In the last week time became scarce: we cleaned our movements by hand, assembled and lubricated them, only to realize that our dials won't fit. Once again, we experienced French hospitality as the teachers collectively endeavoured to obtain suitable dials for us. The error in the CAD file was corrected, the dials were cutout newly, painted, and were engraved again.





At the end of the last day, we managed to fully assemble the watches and even put them in their cases. With a heavy heart, we left Morteau on Saturday morning, returning home once again by train, including the German one, and, of course, experiencing delays.

In conclusion, we are all very grateful to have spent these three weeks in France. We appreciate the wonderful hospitality of the teachers and students there. We have experienced a lot and learned many new things.



Uhrmacherschule Morteau / France

[Lycée Edgar Faure Morteau : Formations horlogerie, bijouterie, microtechniques, usinage \(lycee-morteau.org\)](http://lycee-morteau.org)

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<https://www.bs19hamburg.de>

OSOW network: Open Schools of Watchmaking

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