



History of the collections

In the 19th century, local scholars started a veritable craze for **regional archaeology**. This prompted a rapid increase in the number of excavations and foundations of numerous science associations. On the initiative of the Colmar archivist and librarian Louis Hugot, the Musée Unterlinden began to assemble an archaeological collection.

Since the archaeological collection was inaugurated in 1853, the extraordinary Gallo-Roman mosaic from Bergheim, one of the first pieces to be brought to the museum, has formed one of its centrepieces.

Thanks to **public funding and donations**, mainly from private individuals, the archaeological collections have constantly been expanded. Initially, they were housed in the chapel and monastery and later also in the Fleischhauer Hall (the present-day entrance hall). In the mid-20th century, the old cellars of the 13th-century Dominican Convent, which had been buried under detritus after the Sinn Canal burst its banks, were rediscovered and subsequently restored. The archaeological collections were transferred into the newly restored part of the building and have been on display there since 1962.

The addition of this new exhibition area in the cellar of the convent also made it possible to move the Bergheim mosaic and the Roman lapidary into their own space in an adjacent room in 1975.

