

PRESS RELEASE

With the illustrated book »GDR Daily Life in 200 Objects«, the DDR Museum Verlag provides an interesting and educational insight into the history of the GDR.

Objects of everyday life and consumption had a high value in GDR society – they were used for a long time and frequently repaired. In contrast to today's »throw-away society«, the GDR could be called a »society of keepers«. In part, the material heritage of the SED state enjoys an almost cult-like veneration today.

The objects presented here reveal a cross-section of 40 years of everyday life in the GDR. There is a story behind each of these everyday objects. Shopping was a daily adventure full of disappointments and successes. Anyone who came home in the evening with a full net of oranges could tell everyone where and when they were lucky enough to buy the tropical fruits. Purchasing a fan heater was worth at least a short tale, renovating the bathroom could equal a novel. These accounts create collective and individual identities: places of memory.

The sometimes inconspicuous exhibits – from the K 109 coffee machine to the refrigerator to the mantelpiece clock – provide an insight into the everyday life of the people of the vanished state. In this book, we bring the past into the present. The detailed photographs by Thorsten Heideck and Adrian Serini and the texts by historian and GDR expert Dr Stefan Wolle offer a broad spectrum of life in the GDR.

Quirin Graf Adelman v.A. | Gordon Freiherr von Godin | Dr Stefan Wolle

GDR Daily Life in 200 Objects

DDR Museum Verlag

Photos: Thorsten Heideck | Adrian Serini

Illustrated book/non-fiction book

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€20.00

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Quirin Graf Adelman v.A.

studied law at East Berlin's Humboldt University in 1993. In 1995 he founded an East Berlin football club in Berlin-Oberschöneweide. For decades, he has been interested in post-reunification changes in the lives of people, businesses and society in the former territory of the GDR. He is also the managing partner of the DDR Museum.

Gordon Freiherr von Godin

born in 1970 in Berlin, grew up in the Berlin district of Prenzlauer Berg and now lives in Karlshorst. The trained hotel manager most recently lived in Munich, where he was responsible for the European sales of an international hotel chain. Since 2016 he has been the director of the DDR Museum, where he is responsible for an exhibition concept that is known for its lively and interactive presentation of everyday life in the GDR.

Dr Stefan Wolle

born in 1950 in Halle (Saale). Studied history at Humboldt University. From 1976 to 1989, he was a staff member of the Academy of Sciences of the GDR, and in 1989/90 he was active in the dissolution of the Stasi, after which he worked at Humboldt University and the Free University of Berlin. Since 2006 he has been the academic director of the DDR Museum. He has published numerous books on GDR history.

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