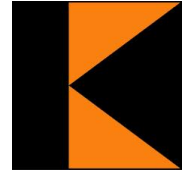


The Kolpingsfamily Steyr introduces themselves:



Our organisation was founded on the 22nd of May 1852 in the Magarethenkapelle next to the current city church of Steyr, under the presence of founding father [Adolph Kolping](#) himself. Adolph Kolping was born on the 8th of December 1813 in Kerpen near Köln where he died on the 4th of December 1865.

The Kolpinghouse was built by the catholic "Gesellenverein" Steyr, which is now the [Kolpingsfamily Steyr](#). Before the house was build there were dormitories in Gleinkergasse 30, Kirchengasse 6 and Gleinkergasse 20. Because of the great popularity of our organisation and the great teaching activity those houses became too small for us. 1887 the house Sierningerstraße 56, former restaurant "Zum Blauen Bock" was bought. This house had to be sold in 1947, planning mistakes were made during the building of the "Colluseumskino" (a theatre).

The Kolpinghouse Mittere Gasse 19 was built in 1888. The building permit is from the 19th of March 1888, the opening celebrations followed on the 21st of September 1888 with chief of chaplains Dr. Anton Gruscha after a building period of 6 month. (Not much later Gruscha became cardinal and archbishop of Vienna).

The house Mittere Gasse 17 was bought 1913, rebuild 1914 and connected to the original house. The opening ceremony had to be cancel because of the beginning of the First World War. From the beginning of the organisation 1852 onwards, the financial foundation of the organisation was created through donations and performances of the "Gesellenvereinsbühne". Ferdinand Schmidinger sen. was director of the "Gesellenvereinsbühne" from 1887 to 1938.

Originally the house was used, additional to the accommodation for traveling students, for the further development of theatre. In 1842 the Gesellenverein was already a kind of people's university, where the members were able to educate themselves. Next to German, Maths, Drawing, Natural History, etc. also Law, Religion and Music were taught. The main leisure activity was the theatre.

1998-1999 the house was renovate under the supervision of Dr. Alexander Kronsteiner und Herbert Schmiedinger sen.. The company ALPINE was responsible for the building works and the number of beds was increased to 74. The student dormitory was opened on the 1st of October 1999.

For the renovation of the Kolpinghouse to a student dormitory Dr. Kronsteiner und Herbert Schmidinger received the "Goldene Kolping- Ehrenzeichen" an honorary award for services around the Kolpingwerk. The Kolpingsfamily Steyr, as responsible organisation of the student dormitory, was awarded the "Steyrer Panther" by the magistrate of the city of Steyr for the exemplary renovation of the Kolpinghouse Mittere Gasse 17-19.

[Kolping Steyr](#) is a member of

[Kolping Austria](#)

[Kolping Europe](#)

[Kolping International](#)