

"Hau den Lukas"

Entertaining Feat of Strength

Manufacturer: Replica, built in the LVR-Freilichtmuseum Kommern

Year of construction: original around 1910

Owner: LVR-Freilichtmuseum Kommern

The first strength testers can be traced back to around 1830 and were used to measure how hard one could hit a cushion with their fist.

When the version of this strongman game with a hammer came up is not known. The earliest picture of it dates back to 1882. The first advertisements of such devices were published in the showmen's journal "Der Komet" in 1893. They are described there as "Schlaghammer".

It is not possible anymore to clarify when the popular name "Hau den Lukas" emerged. One possible theory goes back to a Berlin saying from the revolutionary year of 1848: "Haut ihm, Lukas, er hat en Majistrat jeschumpfen!" (Hit Lucas, he insulted the magistrate!).