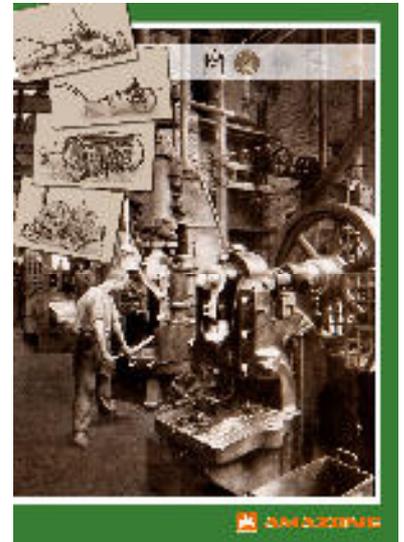


1863 – 2013

2013 is a historic moment for AMAZONE subsidiary, BBG Bodenbearbeitungsgeräte Leipzig, as it reaches the milestone of being 150 years old. The roots of the company originate from the foundation of Messrs. Rud. Sack by Rudolph Sack in 1863.

Rudolph Sack was a pioneer of agricultural technology who nowadays is regarded as the inventor of the iron plough and at the same time as father of the industrial manufacture of agricultural machinery in Germany. The development of the business of Messrs. Rud. Sack, from back then until current times, also represents a mirror image of the industrial and political development in Germany today.

When Rudolph Sack was born in 1824 as the second son of a farmer in Klein-Schkorlopp (Saxony) it was usual for cartwrights and village forges to build individual ploughs, consisting mainly of wood, in accordance to the experience and wishes of the relevant farmers. The desire to improve this technology fascinated the technically gifted Rudolph Sack from his early youth.



At the age of between 18 and 24, he gained experience with different machinery, initially as a manager on various estates and then back home on his parent's farm, whereby he became more and more an expert in soil tillage implements and realised that the current, mainly wooden ploughs were too difficult to pull and impractical.

With the aid of local blacksmith, Mr. Knopp, he succeeded around 1850 to develop and build the first self-guiding and iron gallows plough in Germany. This plough did not only require half the pulling power of the ploughs built up until then but, in addition, it could invert and crumble the soil better. Rudolph Sack also dealt with implements for seedbed preparation and sowing and, in addition to the gallows plough, he applied for patents on other soil tillage implements.

It was especially the ploughs, which were initially built by that local blacksmith, Mr. Knopp, which were very popular with farmers in the area. When Rudolph Sack then, in 1857, got an order for 120 ploughs from the Earl of Bobrinsky in Ukraine, this large-scale order could no longer be fulfilled with the aid of the small forge. So, Rudolph Sack had his first large plough series manufactured in England because, as he had personally supervised the production locally, he got to know the industrial capability which already existed over there.

Finally, in 1863, at the age of 39, he gave up his parent's farm in order to found the factory Rud. Sack in Leipzig-Plagwitz. Here he now started as an entrepreneur based on the industrial production of ploughs and seed drills. Already then, the important features of his production were the design of modular system implements and the continuous rationalisation of their manufacture, ensuring efficient production and resulting in accordingly high sales figures.

In the course of a few years now the biggest German and, at the same time, one of the world's biggest factories for agricultural machinery grew. In particular, the business with the gallows plough, developed by Rudolph Sack, and a turning plough started very well. So, in 1883, with the company already employing 650 staff, the 100,000th plough was built. Even then around 50% of

150 years of agricultural technology from Leipzig

the production was exported to European countries, because in many countries, as it was in Russia, commercial agents of Messrs. Rud. Sack already existed.

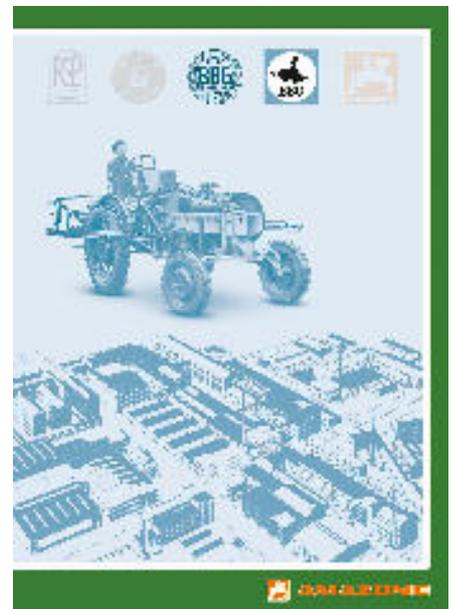
One milestone was set when its own foundry was put into operation in 1889, enabling the manufacture of plough bodies from cast steel, resulting in a longer durability. Meanwhile, above all, the gallows plough set standards in the product programme of Messrs. Rud. Sack and was copied by many other manufacturers. Remarkable is the number of, in total 700,000, ploughs which were sold until the new millennium.

Own trials site

In addition, by 1877, Rudolph Sack had already installed a 17 ha trials site to test newly developed machines and new systems. At this location, later on called “Höhere landwirtschaftliche Lehranstalt (Higher Agricultural Institute) – Plagwitz Leipzig”, he also cooperated with the University of Leipzig. In 1896 he tested here Sack’s first steam plough system. Later on the trials site was extended to a 200 ha model farm which was regarded by farmers and agricultural scientists as exemplary.

Turning point for the German agricultural machinery industry

When Rudolf Sack died in 1900 he left behind his life’s work, the beginning of which was a turning point for the German agricultural machinery industry. At times prior to Rudolf Sack, German agriculture mainly used agricultural technology from America and England. Rudolph Sack proved, however, that inventive talent was able to develop and manufacture modern and progressive agricultural technology in his own country. Many other entrepreneurs followed his example and conquered, for their part, various foreign markets in the world. By the way, amongst these entrepreneurs was Heinrich Dreyer, who laid the foundation for today’s AMAZONEN-WERKE with his company “Heinrich Dreyer, Gaste”, which was founded in 1883.



By 1911 already two million ploughs had been sold

After the death of Rudolph Sack his son Paul Sack took over the management of the company, and in meantime changed the company to a limited partnership, Rud. Sack KG, and further extended it to become the biggest manufacturers of soil tillage implements and seed drills in Germany. In 1904 the company had already built one million ploughs, in 1911 the two million mark was reached and in that year Rud. Sack KG had almost 2,000 employees.

With the start of the first world war in 1914 the, up until then, story of continuous success of the company came to a halt. On the one hand many employees had to go to war, and on the other hand, the sale of agricultural machinery deteriorated. Only from 1922 did Messrs. Rud. Sack start again to receive large orders, ensuring full employment.

After the death of Paul Sack in 1923, his sons Otto and Dr. Hans Sack took over the management of the company. The years became more difficult, the order situation was changing and, above all, the political situation was becoming more and more insecure. Meanwhile, the product programme of Messrs. Rud. Sack included various ploughs for tractors and oxen, seed drills, harrows, cultivators, disc harrows and hoes.

Development of new machinery even in difficult times

During the world economic crisis in the 1930s again and again short-time work was necessary, at times the factory had to be shut down completely. In spite of these difficult times at Messrs. Rud. Sack, new implements, such as, for example, a peg wheel seed drill, a potato root harvester, a haulm topper and a crop protection sprayer were developed. Finally, the economic upswing resulted in new recruitment and full employment.

With the beginning of the second world war in 1939 the same problems as with the first world war occurred. From 1943, the organisation of the production got more and more difficult and finally on April 16th, 1945 production was stopped. In 1946 – after a short period of restarting production – the company was expropriated by the Russian military government and dismantled.

Nevertheless, in 1947, again 6,000 ox ploughs, 7,500 weed harrows and 1,000 hoeing implements were manufactured with the remaining lathes, drilling machines and presses. On 1st July, 1948, however, the company then was transferred to public ownership within the German Democratic Republic.



The public ownership company BBG

The new name for the company was “Leipziger Bodenbearbeitungsgerätefabrik, VEB, vormals Rud. Sack” (BBG). At BBG, a team was formed which had, even under these difficult conditions, huge enthusiasm, developed and manufactured, for those times, what were modern implements for the big farms that had in the meantime sprung up in the DDR. Initially the production programme consisted of ploughs, cultivators, disc harrows and other soil tillage implements.

In 1969, BBG, for example, initially introduced the B 501 plough, especially developed for the Russian K 700 large tractor. Later on crop protection implements and root-crop harvesting implements accrued, including the collection and front conveying technology for the famous self-propelled KS-6 root crop harvester. So the company BBG, even in public ownership, managed to achieve many remarkable developments for the mechanisation of agriculture and developed into one of the biggest agricultural machinery factories of the DDR.

Reprivatisation after the reunification

After the German reunification in 1989, BBG transferred under the administration of the Treuhand and went through unsecure times with several change of owners, initially from 1990 as BBG Leipzig AG and from 1993 as BBG Leipzig GmbH. In 1994 the company Rud. Sack in the Karl-Heine Straße in Leipzig-Plagwitz moved to the current site at Rippachtalstraße. Finally, in 1998, BBG became a subsidiary of the AMAZONE Group.

BBG as a subsidiary of the AMAZONE Group

AMAZONE made use of the BBG manufacturing programme, especially the equipment for passive soil tillage and crop protection technology, to complete its product range. The plough programme from BBG, however, which consisted just of conventional ploughs which were no longer applicable, was not manufactured any more.

As an AMAZONE subsidiary, BBG Bodenbearbeitungsgeräte Leipzig GmbH & Co. KG today is a very good example of how it was possible to successfully continue a nationalised business from

150 years of agricultural technology from Leipzig

the DDR after the reunification. The Catros compact disc harrow, built from 2001, for example, has become the new best seller from Leipzig.

Also the tradition of the Sack's trials site is continued in Leipzig. Today, AMAZONE carries out field trials, amongst others, on the farm belonging to Agrarprodukte Kitzen e.G. – in the direct vicinity of the factory area – since 2000 on an arable area of 75 ha. In total approximately an area of 770 ha is available for trials. Directly at the side of the factory is situated a test track where AMAZONE soil tillage implements are subjected to a tough endurance test. In the AMAZONE ActiveCentre on the factory site, lectures, events, training courses and seminars for customers and sales partners from all over the world are held.

In 2013 plough production returns to Leipzig

It meets the philosophy of AMAZONE to successfully continue in the future the spirit of innovation and the entrepreneurship of the founder Rudolph Sack. So, in this sense, the plough returns to Leipzig in 2013 because AMAZONE extends its programme of soil tillage equipment with the newly designed, modern Cayron reversible plough. With this important innovation and extension to its agricultural product programme, AMAZONE continues – exactly 150 years after the foundation of Messrs. Rud. Sack – the long and successful tradition of plough production at this site.

