E. GUTZWILLER & CIE BANQUIERS 140 YEARS 16 PARTNERS

Carl Gutzwiller left Basel after completing his studies to work for a French trading company in India. Upon his return in 1886—some 140 years ago—he founded the bank in Basel together with Casimir Meyer, his father-in-law. The bank's activities were mainly focused in Switzerland.

His son Ernest (2nd generation) went to Paris in 1910 and launched O. de Lubersac & Cie, Paris, in 1922. It became one of the main French merchant banks before World War II. He was both a banker and an industrialist. When his father passed away in 1928, he inherited the bank in Basel. Shortly thereafter, the bank was merged with Paravicini, Christ & Co and moved to its present location at Kaufhausgasse 7.

Since Ernest Gutzwiller's main business was still in Paris, the bank in Basel was managed by Theophil Speiser until his death in 1940 and thereafter by Charles Bourcart and Benedict Staehelin. Ernest's two sons, André and Philippe (3rd generation), were both raised in France. When they joined the business in the early '50s, André came to Basel while Philippe stayed in Paris with his father. With the help of partners (François Bungener, Archduke Robert von Habsburg and Claude Burrus) they managed the business.

In 1984, the bank in Paris was sold to Crédit Commercial de France. Philippe left for Geneva, where bank Gutzwiller Kurz Bungener had been launched in 1968. Philippe's two sons, Stéphane and François (4th generation), joined the business in 1986 and have managed the bank since 1990 with their partners Archduke Lorenz von Habsburg and Peter Handschin. The latter two retired in 2021, while Amedeo von Habsburg et François Boulte joined the business (5th generation).

The bank's guiding principle has consistently been to deliver high quality at a reasonable and competitive price. To this end, operational efficiency was enhanced through the modernization of the back office using a technological proprietary solution. In parallel, the firm sought to strengthen investment processes by identifying and attracting specialized investment talent. In 2001, this effort culminated in the launch of Gutzwiller Fonds Management AG, a Swiss-based asset management company offering two investment funds—Gutzwiller ONE and Gutzwiller TWO—designed to reflect the disciplined investment philosophy of a traditional Swiss private banker on US stock markets and in event-driven strategies. In 2026, E. Gutzwiller & Cie, Banquiers will expand its range of Public funds with EG Swiss and EG Europe.

Today E. Gutzwiller & Cie, Banquiers remains a member of the Swiss Private Bankers Association, which includes five of the most prestigious Swiss banks. Private bankers are structured as partnerships with at least one partner with unlimited liability. The bank is present exclusively in Switzerland, with offices in Basel (E. Gutzwiller & Cie, Banquiers) and an affiliate in Geneva (Gutzwiller SA Genève).