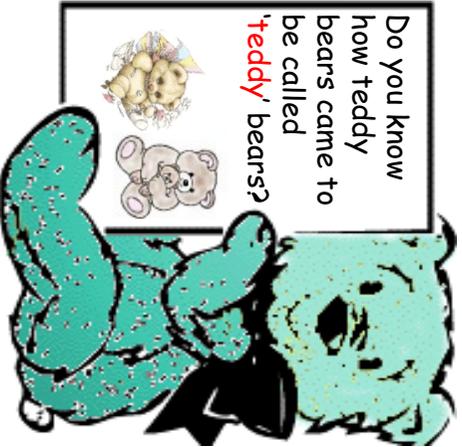


MD 2006



Do you know who made the first teddy bears?



In 1847 in a little town in Germany **Margarete Steiff** was born. When she was two years old she became ill with polio and after that she had to use a wheelchair.



As she got older she enjoyed sewing and taught others how to sew. When she had earned enough money she bought her first sewing machine and started making dresses.

She realised that the leftover bits of fabric could be used to make stuffed toys and when she found a pattern for a toy elephant in a magazine, she started to make and sell stuffed elephants. Soon she was making bears, dogs and donkeys.

In 1892 her nephew Richard visited Stuttgart Zoo and made lots of drawings of the animals that he saw there. When he came back from the zoo Richard started to design toy animals that had moving joints.



Margarete started making his toys in her workshop and Richard took them to an exhibition in the hope that people would buy them.

At first no one seemed interested but on the very last day an American came along and ordered 3000 of Margarete's new toys!

By the end of 1904 the **Steiff bear** had become very popular in America and 12000 of Margarete's toys had been sold.



This photograph is of Richard

Everyone loved the new Steiff bears.

Margarete and Richard were always thinking of new designs for their bears. Other people started to make bears as well but the Steiff bears became the most famous of all.

If you look carefully at this picture you can see a special button in the teddy bear's left ear. All the Steiff bears have a special button in one ear so that people know that they have been made by the Steiff company.

Margarete Steiff died in 1909 at the age of 62.

While Margarete Steiff was beginning to make her first bears, the president of the United States of America, **President Theodore Roosevelt** was enjoying hunting bears with his friends. The president's friends called him **Teddy** which is short for Theodore.

On November 14th 1902, President Roosevelt was out hunting but he hadn't managed to shoot anything.

His friends were not very happy about this and didn't want him to go home without getting a bear so they chased and stunned a black bear. They tied it to a tree so that it couldn't get away and went to find the President.

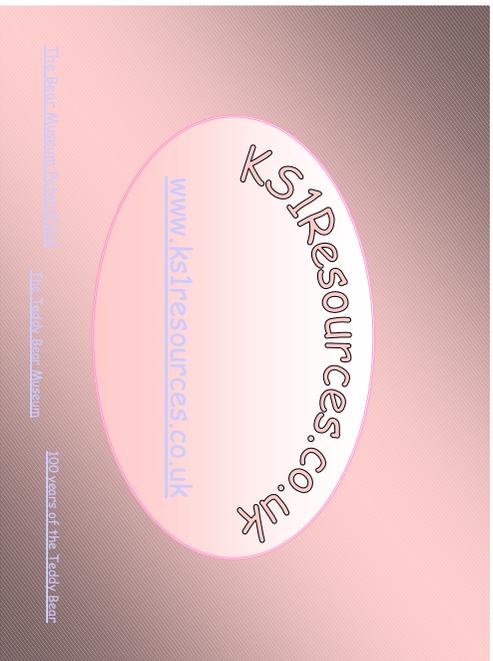
When the President saw the bear tied to the tree he refused to shoot it and made his friends let it go.



.....and that is how the teddy bear got its name!

Next day a cartoon appeared in the newspaper and the bear in the cartoon became known as **Teddy's bear** which of course became shortened to 'Teddy Bear'. After that, because the President saved the bear and in his honour, toy bears were made in America and were called 'Teddy's Bear' - or 'Teddy Bear' for short.....





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The Bear Museum Stafford

The Teddy Bear Museum

100 years of the Teddy Bear