



## LEIPZIG'S MUSEUMS: CELEBRATING THE 'BLACK ART', LEIPZIG'S MUSEUM FOR THE PRINTING ARTS

So ... when was the last time YOU wrote a letter – a proper one with ink on paper? Weeks ago? Months, or maybe even years? Ever since emails, chat rooms and mobile phones have found their way into our everyday life, not many people now take the time to sit down and write letters. This is no surprise. In a hectic world like ours, spare time seems to have become a valuable and rare treasure.

Today's dominance of digital media and rapid means of communication might be a relief for those of us who don't have much time to hand, but there are those (maybe the wiser among us), who have already expressed concerns that one day the art of printing will be forgotten. And that, once, not so long ago, fonts and letters did not simply appear out of nowhere by pressing a key on the keyboard. Well, they have a point. As the digital revolution spreads and the written word seems destined for the likes of Kindle and other electronic gadgets, preserving the original methods of the printing arts becomes ever more poignant. Future generations should have the chance to understand how it all started and that life once was manageable (who would believe it these days) without computers ...

Leipzig's Museum for the Printing Arts is one of those places that has taken on the role to keep history alive and tangible. In this remarkable museum the visitor can find a unique and diverse collection of printing tools. Presses of various kinds, including original lead and wood (for hand composition) presses, type matrices, and composing and casting machines are not merely on display, as you might

expect. On the contrary, within the walls of this fascinating museum it is possible to get hands-on experience - for many of the devices can still be used today.

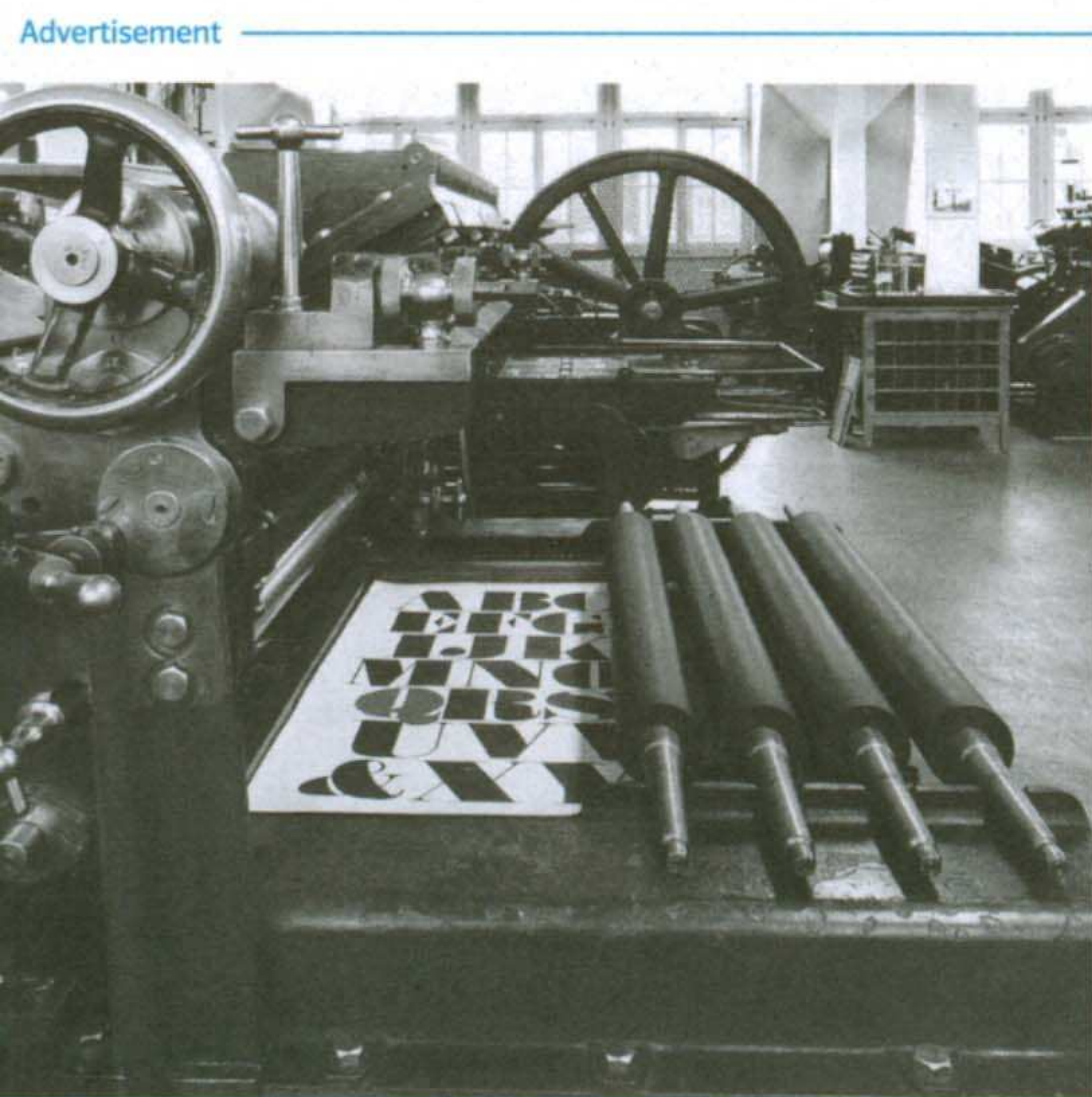
The museum offers courses for all those who are interested in the "Black Art" of printing, and who want to step back to a time when nobody could have imagined that one day it would be possible to print a document with the simple click of a button. Apart from the unique opportunity to get an insight into printing methods that nowadays seem very old-fashioned, there are a lot of other things to marvel at in the museum.

The collection of typefaces on display is possibly the largest and most diverse in Europe and includes fascinating characters like Hieroglyphs, Chinese characters and Runes.

Guests can also visit a type foundry, a fully equipped workshop for wood engraving and a bookbindery, whose machines and devices were given to the museum in 2006 and are now used to teach those interested in binding books in the original way.

Spend some time in this fascinating museum and let your creativity run wild!

**Babette Jesionka**



### Museum für Druckkunst Leipzig

#### Museum for the Printing Arts

Experience type casting, type setting and printing processes in a working museum

Nonnenstrasse 38 · 04229 Leipzig  
Mon-Fri 10-17 Uhr · Sun 11-17 Uhr  
[www.druckkunst-museum.de](http://www.druckkunst-museum.de)

### ADMISSION FEES

**Adults:** 3.00 €, **Children, students:** 1.50 €

**Groups (more than 9):** 2,50 €

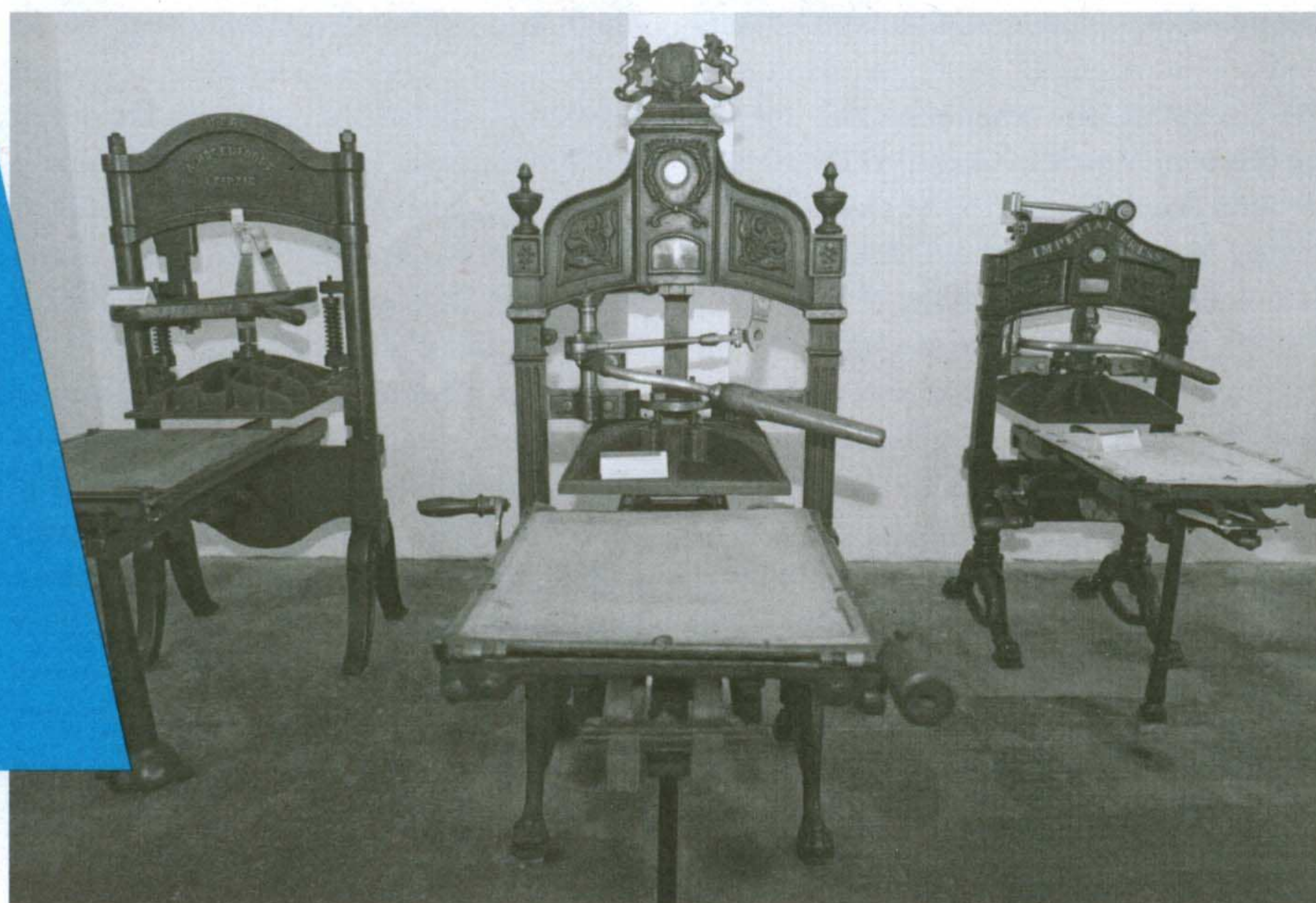
**Family card:** 8,00 € (2 adults + 2 children)

**Guided tours (prior notification, at least 5 people):** 1,50 € (per person plus admission)

**Workshops:** 1,00 € (for groups per person plus admission)

The museum is proud of its unique mixture of exhibits, and welcomes everyone who is interested in the art of printing.

For more information visit the museum's website ([www.druckkunst-museum.de](http://www.druckkunst-museum.de)) or call directly on: 0341 - 231620.



The elegance of a bygone age: printing presses on display. Photo credit: Martina Rühl