

at Nonnenstrasse 38 in Leipzig-Plagwitz



### How to get there

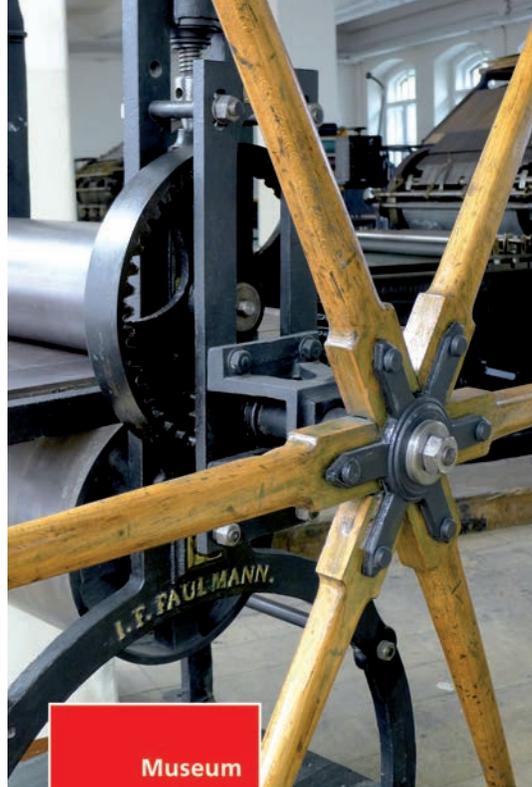
Tram lines 1 and 2:  
alight at Holbeinstraße  
Tram line 3:  
alight at Elsterpassage  
Tram line 14:  
alight at Nonnenstraße

Approximately five minutes' walk in each case  
Car-parking opposite the Museum (parking charge)

### Museum of the Printing Arts Leipzig

Nonnenstrasse 38, D-04229 Leipzig  
Phone +49 (0) 341-231 62 0  
[www.druckkunst-museum.de](http://www.druckkunst-museum.de)  
[facebook.com/museumfuerdruckkunst](https://facebook.com/museumfuerdruckkunst)  
Mon - Fri 10-17, Sun 11-17, closed Saturday  
Special arrangements on public holidays  
Groups and guided tours by arrangement

Photos: Klaus-D. Sonntag, Kai Hofmann, Archive Museum - Translation Hugh Keith



Museum  
of the  
Printing Arts  
Leipzig

Experience  
Industrial History  
at First Hand



A living and working museum





## A living example of industrial culture

When the printing presses at the Museum of the Printing Arts roll into action and the air begins to fill with an aroma of lead and printer's ink, you can experience some 550 years of printing history at first hand. The museum staff – trained book printers, typefounders and typesetters – will give you an interactive introduction to various techniques and machines and will explain the relationship between technology and history.

The museum is housed in a listed building in the former industrial district of Plagwitz. As one of the last historic print workshops in Leipzig, the four-storey building can look back on a hundred years of tradition in the industry. The core exhibits date back to the Schumacher-Gebler Collection, which is a unique assemblage of lead type, steel stamps, typesetting matrices and printing presses put together over several decades.

In 1994 it opened as a working museum, and at the end of 1999 it was transferred to a private foundation mainly funded by Giesecke & Devrient Foundation in Munich, as well as by the printing industry and the City of Leipzig.



## Experience lead casting, typesetting and printing for yourself

During a tour of the permanent exhibition visitors can experience for themselves just how complex and laborious the crea-



tion of printed matter was, right up to the mid-twentieth century. At the heart of the collection is the type foundry – one of the last of its kind in Germany. Here lead letters are still cast as the basis for printing texts. The collection showcases around 4,000 different typefaces in the form of lead and wooden letters, steel stamps or typesetting matrices.

Another important part of the museum contains some 100 working machines for casting, typesetting and printing. There are different designs dating from several eras, including printing presses and machines for letterpress, gravure and flatscreen printing. The colotype workshop, which is unique in Europe, can be visited by prior arrangement. Selected hand presses invite you to try your hand yourself. And the transition to modern printing techniques is represented by an offset printing press dating back to 1978.

Various exhibits also depict the development from hand to computer typesetting. The typesetting machines (linotype, monotype), as well as the phototypesetters and various generations of Apple Macs are particularly impressive



## Pictures – from original to reproduction

Preparing an image for printing was an even more complicated process than for a text. In the fully-functioning woodprint workshop you can find out, step for step, how illustrations for newspapers and journals were created in the 19th century. Leipzig-based artists often use the museum's antique presses to print out their own etchings, woodcuts, lithographs or collotypes. It is here that the link between art and technology becomes most tangible.



## Printing sheet music

Production of printed music is a challenge even nowadays. Compared with text, musical notation is much more complex. The cabinets contain a wide range of rare exhibits showing the main developments in setting and printing techniques for sheet music. An account of the history of these techniques in Leipzig demonstrates the important role played by the printing and publishing industry in this city of music.

## Manual craftsmanship in the bookbinding workshop

Cutting, folding, stitching, gilding – the main tasks of the bookbinders have now been automated, but for many centuries were carried out painstakingly by hand. The museum's authentic bookbinding workshop offers an impressive demonstration of what was involved – and workshops give you an opportunity to use the tools and equipment yourself.



## Education

A wide range of guided tours and workshops are available to enable children, young people and adults to experience the »black art« close at hand. The main focus is on practical work and experimentation with graphic techniques in a genuine workshop atmosphere. For registration and information contact +49 (0)341/231 62 0 or [info@druckkunst-museum.de](mailto:info@druckkunst-museum.de).

## Museum Shop

Lead type, decorative ornaments, postcards, wrapping paper, posters and books – many of them produced in the museum's own workshops – can all be purchased in the shop. Alternatively on-line at [www.druckkunst-museum.de](http://www.druckkunst-museum.de).

## Why not become a Friend of the Museum?

You will be part of a lively network of experts and enthusiasts in the field of printing, and your annual subscription of € 55 will support the museum's activities. Further information on the benefits of membership can be found at [www.druckkunst-museum.de](http://www.druckkunst-museum.de).

