

GERMAN NEWSPAPER MUSEUM

Some Facts

Opening:	16 th of May 2004
Holder:	Foundation Heritage of Saarland (Saarländischer Kulturbesitz)
Permanent exhibition:	500 sq.m.
Temporary exhibition:	500 sq.m.
Visitors May – November 2004:	over 6000
Staff:	5 full time staff and ca. 10 volunteers and part-time people

The Building

Our building at Wadgassen is situated on the area of an ancient Premonstratensian's abbey having its roots already in the 12th century. It was heavily damaged during the War of Thirty Years, having been built up again during the 18th century as a construction of baroque style. The house was a part of a complex of economically used buildings in front of the abbey. In 1792 the settlement was solved up during the French Revolution and in the major part destroyed. Our building has been maintained being the last intact part of the former abbey until present. Having got a new name "Abteihof Wadgassen" it contains the German Newspaper Museum and also the representative celebrations' hall of the village.

The collection

The exhibits, the library and the archives base essentially on the following stocks:

The collection of the newspaper historian Dr. Martin Welke (donation of the newspaper of Saarbrücken)

The collection of the former "Center for Print- and Book-Culture" (donation of the Society of Promoting the book culture)

The aims

Place of Museum

The idea behind our exhibition is to provide a fascinating journey through the world of the newspaper. The presentation starts with the predecessors of the newspaper and continues through all the technical and organizational stages needed to bring a paper to the readers.

Spread over two storeys, the museum clearly shows visitors the manifold aspects of the most important information medium of our day and age. Time and again, the visitor discovers something new, something unusual and unexpected. Every room has its own special appeal.

Place of Learning

Another aim of the German Newspaper Museum is, as an extracurricular, experience-oriented place of learning, to convey the significance of the newspaper as well as other forms of print media in an interesting and lively manner. This is intended to attract students, trainees, experts and the general public alike. And the events are already booked out weeks in advance.

Place of Communication

Our house presents itself also as an optimal place for conferences, scientists' meetings and discussion forum and joins by this way in an ideal manner the historic dimension of the museum with current and future topics. For such events we can offer in our building different locations from 20 up to 250 seats.

Section 1: History of Newspaper

To help visitors find their way around, illuminated information boards in each room provide a quick overview of the topics covered there. In the first area there are showcases in which individual topics or exhibits are presented which can be changed out in regular intervals. More indepth information and valuable original copies of old newspapers can be found in the newspaper cabinets with drawers. This system enables a large number of exhibits from the extensive collection to be presented, all carefully preserved of course.

Section 2: Techno-historical Aspects

In the second area one finds threedimensional exhibits. Under the guidance of the museum staff, visitors are permitted to get acquainted with historical presses and machinery through „hands on“ operation of the technical artifacts. All our machines are still working, not from 9 to 5, but daily. Here we work together with volunteers including part-time people.

Section 3: Our Newspaper today

By our formal principle and the various “hands-on-stations” we animate to a playful learning. Here in this section the visitors are expressly invited to touch all things. Nowhere the visitors will find the advice “Hands off”. For example here we have developed a basketball game which shows how - in a newspaper publishing house today - the various sections must work together to bring the newspaper every morning to the reader.

Learning by doing

The museum's pedagogic programme includes many activities for all age groups. These range from papermaking for kindergarten children through to training young people in media skills. Advanced training for teachers, workshops and other events such as birthday parties round off the things that the museum can offer.

Future plans

1. Temporary exhibitions concerning all topics about newspaper and communication.

First exhibition in 2005, opening 21st of January 2005 (until 06th of March 2005)

Images that lie. X for U.

This travelling exhibition from the House of History of the Federal Republic of Germany investigates the objectivity of images and shows the different methods of manipulation of and by images. Around three hundred exhibits demonstrate the breath of the subject, taking the visitor through an "ABC of lies".

2. Collecting of today

We started to collect not only old newspapers and old printing presses, but also

- competing media as radio, TV, electronics newspapers
- technical equipment of journalists like cameras, recorders, mobile phones, note-books, hand-held-computers
- printed competing media as magazines, advertisers, etc.
- Donations, send in by our visitors, f.e.
 - o Promotional free gifts of the newspapers
 - o Supplements of newspapers
 - o Postal exhibits
 - o Pictures of people, reading newspapers
 - o even memories of readers, collected as cuttings and clippings

Contact

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