

Annual report of the Gutenberg Museum for 2018

With unique special exhibitions, high-ranking scientific conferences, sensational appearances at events and trade fairs, and numerous attractions for visitors from all over the world, the Gutenberg Museum moved through the Gutenberg Year 2018, which marks the 550th anniversary of Johannes Gutenberg's death. The anniversary celebrations, which were to begin with the first construction phase of the *Museum of the Future* in January, began instead with the grand ceremony that took place in March with numerous guests of honour in the Small House of the State Theater under the motto "Mainz celebrates Gutenberg". Head of the City Archive Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Dobras and Museum Director Dr. Annette Ludwig held the ceremonial speeches. The celebrations continued in the museum with the specially conceived anniversary exhibition "*Gutenberg beyond any doubt? The invention of letterpress printing in Europe and Asia*", which, in this form, presented for the first time in dialogue the peculiarities, significance and effects of printing in the Eastern and Western worlds from a technological-historical perspective. Dr. Volker Benad-Wagenhoff, a historian of technology, was engaged as curator to work on the show with Dr. Cornelia Schneider and co-curator Dr. Claus Maywald. In 2018, the museum recorded a total of 130,992 visitors, including 26,093 children and young people. The figures thus remained at the high level of previous years (2017: 140,400 visitors, including 26,895 children and young people).

In addition, the first months of the year were marked by the first citizens' decision of the city of Mainz, in which a vote was held on April 15th on the structural expansion of the museum by the first construction phase, which was quickly promoted in popular

parlance as the "Bible Tower". For various reasons, but with an overwhelming majority of 77.3% of the voters (49,700), the people of Mainz rejected the planned expansion. In an externally moderated workshop, which was preceded by an expression of interest procedure, representatives of all parliamentary groups, both citizens' initiatives, the Gutenberg Foundation, the city administration and the Gutenberg Museum are now working on a basis for a renewed architectural competition.

The exhibition year 2018

The highlight of the series of special exhibitions was the aforementioned show "*Gutenberg beyond any doubt?*" Interactive and digital installations, two reconstructed printing workshops - a 500-year-old Gutenberg workshop and a 600-year-old Korean workshop, as well as numerous top-class loans, especially from our partner museum in South Korea, explained the individual methods, work steps, tools and materials in detail to technology enthusiasts.

A few weeks before the opening, which was attended by numerous guests of honour from Germany and abroad, the special exhibition "*Absolument moderne!*" (22.09.17 - 25.02.18) had bid farewell with an extraordinary finissage, which dealt with Arthur Rimbaud's poem *Le Bateau ivre* (*The Drunken Ship*) in a multinational way. For almost half a year, this show, which was supervised by Dr. Elke Schutt-Kehm, presented for the first time in Germany in a multilingual ensemble 35 new artist's books and prints from eight countries as well as translations and poetic translations of the long poem in 25 languages. For this project, French artist Serge Chamchinov had been calling since 2012 for the presentation of Rimbaud's famous appeal "il faut être absolument moderne!" (one must be uncompromisingly modern) to think anew. The accompanying logbook, created by communication designer

Mathilda Mutant, which combined 27 interpretive graphics, drawings, paintings and collages to create an independent work of art in its own right, was awarded the Design Preis Rheinland-Pfalz 2018.

Looking ahead to 2019, the so-called "*bauhaus.labor*", which was placed in the museum's courtyard in the summer thanks to funding from the German Federal Cultural Foundation and the state of Rhineland-Palatinate, was a great success. In preparation for the special exhibition "*ABC. Avantgarde - Bauhaus - Corporate Design*" curated by the museum director to mark the 100th anniversary of the Bauhaus in 2019, the pavillion, which was designed in the style of the small-scale architecture of the Bauhaus architects, was "used" artistically from November 2018 onwards: As the first of four presentations in the context of a cooperation with the Hochschule Mainz/Institut Design-Labor-Gutenberg, the "*bauhaus.labor*" showed postcards designed with Bauhaus vocabulary and developed by communication-design students in the show "*how to spell bauhaus: 100 years of bauhaus - 100 cards*" in December.

As a further special exhibition, the Gutenberg Museum presented works by the current 19th Mainz city printer Franca Bartholomäi (born 1975) until March. Under the title "*Von Tieren. Die träumen. (Of animals who dream.)*" (15.01. - 25.03.2018), a selection of woodcuts by the graphic artist, who has received several awards, was on display. Bartholomäi, who was born in Hohenmöslen in southern Saxony-Anhalt and now lives in Halle, creates enigmatic works with the highest precision. In 2018, the museum continued its exhibition series "*Our Most Beautiful*", which showcases hidden treasures from the museum depot: The selection of inkpots from the 19th century (July 2, 2017) was replaced in July by selected Gutenberg portraits of various genres and epochs.

From May to August, we presented the results of the international youth performance competition of the bookbinding trade and the award-winning designs of the German Hardcover Award 2018 in an exhibition of the Bund Deutscher Buchbinder. Awards were given to designs from a German-speaking country that demonstrate innovative solutions in the field of bookbinding technology in terms of their artistic and functional design and the use of selected materials.

Under the title "*It was 40 years ago*", documents presented in the museum foyer commemorated April 27, 1978, when the two-volume Gutenberg Bible from New York was returned to its place of origin.

Events at the Gutenberg Museum (selection)

Also in 2018, numerous events took place in the Gutenberg Museum.

Long before the beginning of the year, the focus was on the citizens' decision (15.04.) on the planned extension building. In numerous lectures and discussions in community centers, lecture halls, information booths and in the Gutenberg Museum itself, Marianne Grosse, head of the department of building and culture, and Dr. Annette Ludwig, director of the museum, as well as the architectural office DFZ and other parties involved in the process informed several times a week about the project. Support came from many sides, including from "Guddi Gutenberg" himself: in this parade role, Hans-Peter Betz, former president of the Fastnacht television meeting, climbed the museum's cultural rostrum several times to promote the new building. At the same time, the citizens' initiative "Mainz for Gutenberg" was formed, which actively supported the project with information stands and

numerous other activities. The 880 visitors were able to obtain information, including on the construction project, at the open day in March. In addition to presentations, including those by Prof. Dr. Gregor Wedekind and the director on the planned new building, guided tours of the bookbinding department, the history of the press or the miniature book collection, printing campaigns and many other events attracted visitors. The media highlight of the public debate on the extension building was the SWR recording "*Klartext*" a few days before the citizens' vote, in which Marianne Grosse, head of the department of building and culture, cabaret artist Lars Reichow and constitutional law expert Prof. Dr. Friedhelm Hufen in the lecture hall of the Gutenberg Museum defended the plans against representatives of the "counter citizens' initiative".

On February 23/24, a conference of the Institute for Historical Regional Studies *Reviewing Gutenberg* on the personal and local history of Mainz in the Gutenberg area took place. At the beginning of November, the International Working Group for the History of Print and Media (IADM) met at the Gutenberg Museum (November 1 - 3) at the invitation of the museum director, who is also a member of the working group's board of directors, to examine the history of technological innovation in Gutenberg's inventions as a flanking measure to the special exhibition "*Gutenberg beyond any doubt?*"

Together with the Interdisciplinary Laboratory "*Bild Wissen Gestaltung*" of the Humboldt University of Berlin and the cooperation partners Verein für die Schwarze Kunst e.V. and Offizin Haag-Drugulin, Dr. Ludwig also hosted a public conference on the topic "*Haptics. Transformations of Letterpress Printing II*"

(15./16.11.). International scientists discussed in an interdisciplinary round about questions of haptics - for example about the consequences of the change from manual turning of a page to simple finger printing on a touch screen. During a panel discussion, Ludwig formulated the basic principles of a "Mainz Impulse" for the protection of the material and immaterial heritage.

A truly unusual publication on Gutenberg was presented by the Lord Mayors of Mainz and Strasbourg, Michael Ebling and Roland Ries, as well as Christian Riehl from the Alsatian publishing house "*Editions du Signe*" in the Gutenberg Museum: the "graphic comic" entitled "*Gutenberg and the Secret of Sybille*", for which preparatory work had been done in the Gutenberg Museum.

In May, the Federal Minister of Agriculture, Julia Klöckner, presented her publication "*Non-negotiable*" at the Gutenberg Museum. In her speech at the opening of the exhibition "*Gutenberg beyond any doubt?*" Klöckner again pointed out the relevance and the very good work of the Gutenberg Museum. Several readings attracted literature lovers to the Gutenberg Museum. In April, for example, the former Mainz city writer Ilija Trojanow discussed the role of dictatorship and humanity in the novel "*The Seventh Cross*" by Anna Seghers with SWR editor Alexander Wasner. As an introduction to the Bauhaus Year, in October Theresia Enzensberger read from her debut novel "Blaupause" (Blueprint), which is dedicated to the most important art school.

With Anna Katharina Hahn, the 34th city writer-in-residence of Mainz moved into her apartment in the Gutenberg Museum in March.

At the start of the Johannisnacht, Marianne Grosse, head of the department of culture, and her predecessor Peter Krawietz read from the early satirical bestsellers "*Das Narrenschiff*" (1494) by Sebastian Brant and "*Lob der Torheit*" (1509) by Erasmus von Rotterdam. On the occasion of the festival in honor of Gutenberg, the winners of the artistic school competition were also honored, which had set the task of "Get a picture of Gutenberg - design a special stamp for Gutenberg's 550th anniversary of death." 581 children, including a school class from Moscow, which also came to the award ceremony, took part.

During the 1st Mainz Science Week in May, Professor Dr. Ulrich Pöschl, Managing Director of the Max Planck Institute for Chemistry, gave a lecture on the topic "*From letterpress printing to Open Access - science communication in the Gutenberg Year*" - the Gutenberg Museum was officially admitted to the Mainz Science Alliance on January 1, 2018.

All the town twinning associations from Mainz presented their respective contributions to a lively exchange in the Gutenberg Museum. Hartmut Flothmann, who repeatedly made in-kind donations to the museum, gave the lecture "*From the rise of Count Adolf von Nassau to the patron of Gutenberg and his printing invention*".

In November, the museum presented itself to the public with an event format that was quite unusual for a museum: language artists were called upon to deal with the most famous Mainz native and present their results in a poetry slam.

On the 100th birthday of the late Hermann Zapf, the documentation "*Alphabet Magic*" was premiered by the Gutenberg Museum in the presence of the 100-year-old Gudrun Zapf von Hesse. The film pays tribute to the life and work of this

extraordinary couple of type and book artists. In this context, the president of the International Gutenberg Society, Lord Mayor Michael Ebling, awarded honorary membership to Gudrun Zapf von Hesse at the museum; the certificate was produced in the print shop.

Away from home: Travel, trade fairs and lectures (selection)

In 2018, the Gutenberg Museum was present at both the Leipzig and the Frankfurt Book Fair, and for the second time at the ART Karlsruhe.

Under the motto "Book ahead", the museum presented itself with the large travel press, museum education and together with the International Gutenberg Society and the Gutenberg Shop from 13 to 18 March in Leipzig and from 10 to 14 October in Frankfurt/Main. At the "ART" art fair, the museum presented itself on the "Museum Mile" - in keeping with the fair's focus on printmaking - with works by the city printer Franca Bartholomäi and offered the opportunity to print.

Even beyond the trade-fair presentations, the museum offered a wide range of services for various occasions outside the city limits. For example, it was a special honour for the museum director to again accept an invitation to Bellevue Palace and, as representative of the state of Rhineland-Palatinate, to raise the "Voice of Democracy" with Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier and First Lady Elke Bündenbender - and to draw attention nationwide to the cultural techniques of typesetting and printing, which are threatened by oblivion (June 26).

She represented the museum on an international stage during a work visit to South Korea, during which she spoke on October 1 in the Central Library Cheongju about "*Culture Heritage in the 21st Century. Sharing heritage - living human treasure*" at the Cheongju Central Library, and in an impressive "Signing Ceremony" she sealed with the University President her intention to cooperate closely in the research and preservation of the printed documentary heritage of both cultures. At the same time, the Gutenberg Museum, in the presence of eighty delegates from twenty countries, including Dr. Annette Ludwig, became a founding member of the International Association of Printing Museums (IAPM). Its aim is to bring together printing museums and related institutions around the world to preserve and communicate both material and immaterial knowledge about the art of printing. The return visit of a 13-member delegation from Cheongju City to the museum followed at the end of October.

In February, Dr. Elke Schutt-Kehm presented the museum in a panel discussion at the National and University Library of Strasbourg, whose special edition of the "*Revue de la Bibliotheque Nationale Universitaire*" (BNU) is dedicated to Gutenberg. It contains contributions by Dr. Annette Ludwig and Ulla Reske, among others. The museum's restorer, Annette Lang-Edwards, took part in the 28th meeting of graphic restorers at the Historisches Museum Frankfurt (26.-28.10.).

The museum director participated in the preparatory board of trustees meetings for the awarding of the Gutenberg Prize to Alberto Manguel in June, was a jury member of the *DAM Book Award* presented by the German Architecture Museum and the Henry Kahnweiler Prize Rockenhausen, and was also a juror in the dictation competition "*Mainz writes 2018*". She gave the laudatory speech at the vernissage of the exhibition "*100 Years of Mainz City*

Printer" in the Gallery Mainzer Kunst. In March, the Protestant Church in Hessen-Nassau called Ludwig to the Great Convent of the Evangelical Academy in Frankfurt/Main, where she spoke in November on the topic "*Language Culture. How we should communicate with each other.*". In September, Ludwig was a guest in the "*Doppelkopf*" series of the Hessischer Rundfunk. Numerous other interviews, including printed ones, in the press, on radio and television, as well as shooting dates in the museum cannot be mentioned here. Ludwig was appointed to the advisory board of Munich Book Science.

Awards and especially noteworthy visitors

The Gutenberg Museum received three other important awards in 2018 for the publication "Futura. The Typeface", which accompanied the large Futura special exhibition in winter 2016/17. The 520-page book, designed by Stephanie Kaplan, which has already won several awards, received the 2018 IF Design Award (March 9) and the Designpreis Rheinland-Pfalz (November 21) and was included in the selection for the international exhibition "28th International Biennial of Graphic Design Brno 2018" in Brno, Czech Republic (May 10-26 August).

This year again, a number of special guests were welcomed to the Gutenberg Museum. Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier had already been a guest at the celebrations for the Day of German Unity last year; in March, the head of state visited the museum again on the occasion of his trip through Germany and had the treasury and the print shop in particular shown to him, where he produced a specially prepared print together with the First Lady. France was a clear focus of the international meetings: in May, a

group of mayors from France visited the Gutenberg Museum, and in June the French ambassador to Germany, Madame Anne-Marie Descôtes and Consul General Pascale Trimbach followed suit. The museum director was a panelist at the "*Table Ronde*" "Variations Gutenberg" at the Institut Français, which was linked to a cooperation with the print shop.

Shortly before the end of the year, guests from the twin city of Valencia visited us. Señor Enrique Fink Hurtado, President of the Señado del Museo de la Imprenta in Valencia, and his wife were just as enthusiastic about the diversity of the exhibits as the delegation a few days later, led by the Deputy Mayor of Valencia and Department of Economic Development Sandra Gómez and the Director of Tourism, Miguel Angel Pérez.

Further tours were held for members of diplomatic and consular corps of various countries, for the police presidents of the German states, for the heads of protocol of the states and for former Rotary governors from Germany, Switzerland and Austria. The American journalist Jeff Jarvis, together with journalists from Mainz, also took a guided tour and had the contents, requirements and future plans of the house explained in detail.

Special acquisitions, gifts and donations

In 2018 the Gutenberg Museum was able to enrich its holdings with important exhibits. A special exhibit moved into the department "Graphic Techniques" at the end of November: a woodcut covered with gold leaf showing the portrait of Jürgen Klopp. The jury, which includes the museum director, had awarded the former coach of Mainz 05 the *Mainz Media Prize for sustainable media work*. At the festive award ceremony, Ludwig honored Klopp's merits and brought the first copy of the prize-winning portrait created by Cyrus Overbeck and the printing block to the graphic-arts collection.

In addition, a newly purchased collection of fossil embossed prints complements this department. The chairman of the Croatian-German Society Split, Prof. Dr. Zoran Ribarović, gave the Gutenberg Museum a copy of the publication "Gutenberg's Revolution" during his visit, and as a guest gift at the opening of the exhibition "*Gutenberg beyond any doubt?*" the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, H.E. Dr. Bum Goo Jong, brought with him the promise of setting up an audio track in Korean for the audio guide of the Gutenberg Museum.

Thirty-six bookplates were brought to the house, along with three related publications: For example, the Swiss Ex Libris Club donated its annual edition to the Gutenberg Museum, a publication on Alfred Soder, Basel master of the art of etching. Ingrid Vöckt from Säckingen sent the museum a photo album with 28 portraits taken by photographers from Mainz around 1880, and an article appeared in the "*Zeitschrift für das Bergische Land*".

Dr. Hans-Jürgen Hereth donated printing plates for the expansion of the collection. Angela Scherer offered numerous books, also for the benefit of expanding the collection. Three further donations in kind were received from Ingrid Behrend. *Torquato Tasso: Il Goffredo overo Gierusalemme liberata Poema heroico del Signor Torquato Tasso, 1655, Savary: Lettres sur l'Egypte par Mr. Savary, 1786, vol. 1* and finally a parchment document with a seal from 1544.

Ernst Wadewitz donated various consumables and illustrative materials to our museum education, including a pen, graver, charcoal and compasses. In addition, the museum education was supported by the Mainzer Volksbank with a monetary donation.

A nyloprint combination device for the exposure and development of polymer printing plates for letterpress printing was donated by

the Bode print shop. Peter Höling also donated a proofing press (A3) and various books and brochures from the graphic-arts industry to the print shop. Edgar Klingel donated components of a Linotype typesetting machine to the print shop. Werner Riede donated a historical lithographic stone made of Solnhofner limestone slate measuring 60 x 90 cm. Rainhard Matfeld donated a "Gautschbrief". Angelika Betzfeld made various clichés and printing blocks available to the print shop. Udo Beisel gave the print shop a total of three Helvetica semibold type cases. The museum received several Linotype machines and other items from the collection of the Museumsgesellschaft Schopfheim e.V. as a donation.

Numerous monetary donations were collected. Thus the International Gutenberg Society Mainz, the Gutenberg Foundation, the Stadtwerke Mainz, the Rotary Club Weilheim, Harro Neuhardt and Senator Wolfgang Hartmann from Barcelona generously contributed to the financing of the special exhibition "*Gutenberg beyond any doubt?*". For all donations, even those not mentioned, our sincere thanks!

Loans

In 2018, the Gutenberg Museum continued to support other institutions with loans. The print shop lent the reconstructed Gutenberg press to the cathedral museum in Frankfurt/Main (26.2.-29.6.18). The book object "Brandbuch IV" by Hubertus Gojowczyk was lent to the Altana-Kulturstiftung Museum Sinclair-Haus Bad Homburg for the exhibition "Bücherwelten". An ex-libris by Alfred Kubin (for A. Pachinger) and an ex-libris by Michel Fingesten (Eigenblatt) was shown at the MAMUZ Museum Centre Mistelbach/Austria for the exhibition "*Fascination Pyramids*". Finally, three works of the Kelmscott Press were shown in the

exhibition "*Like a fertile rain after a long drought... Book art of the early 20th century in Germany*" at the Heidelberg University Library.

Library

613 new volumes were added to the Gutenberg Library's collection. Among the new acquisitions were the works "*Editio princeps: a history of the Gutenberg Bible*" by Eric Marshall White and a copy of the limited and numbered "*Berliner Gutenbergbibel*" (888 copies) by Eberhard König.

In addition, the year 2018 was marked by the migration of the library's catalogues to the information system HeBIS, the electronic information and service network of the academic libraries in Hessen and parts of Rhineland-Palatinate. The first part of the catalogue data migration to the HeBIS network with 28,215 records, including 1,397 journals, 1,283 articles and 128 online resources, was completed in May - under the leadership of Regina Kania with the generous administrative assistance of the Mainz Public Library. At the beginning of 2019, the library of the Gutenberg Museum will be represented with about 62,000 records.

Museum education and print shop

18,977 guests visited the print shop and the museum education department. 241 times, daycare or other groups of children came with a total of 1,203 visitors. 14 evening events "à la carte" attracted 219 visitors.

Among the groups of visitors in August were the Friends of the Dortmund City and State Library, as well as exchange students from Rwanda. In October, the KidsClub of Mainz 05 was a guest in the print store.

Once again, the “combination package offers” that combine a visit to the museum with practical work were particularly popular. A total of 6,304 visitors took part in the 281 packages booked. At 72 children's birthday parties, 755 visitors joined in the celebrations.

A total of 11,868 visitors took advantage of offers outside the museum. The art fair ART KARLSRUHE (February 21-25) attracted 1500 visitors, the Rhineland-Palatinate exhibition (March 10-11 and 17-18) 400, the Leipzig book fair (March 14-18) 3500 and the Stijl Markt Mainz (April 14-15) 500 visitors.

Further events were the Johannisnacht in the Maria-Ward-Schule (June 23/24) with 150 guests, the Streetkickturnier (June 2) with 118 and the Wissenschaftsmarkt (September 8/9) with 700 visitors. At the Frankfurt Book Fair (10.-14-10.) 3000 guests visited the stand of the Gutenberg Museum, at the Mainz Book Fair (17.-18.11.) the number was 2000.

The mobile printing workshop was loaned out by a total of 20 institutions: six schools, two parishes, two institutes, two educational institutions, a day care center, a library, an art association and a fan project. The workshop was used four times for museum educational events.

Personnel matters

At the end of the year, the Gutenberg Museum had 45 employees, ten of whom were full-time and 35 part-time. Twenty-one employees worked as cashiers and supervisors, and four as part of the voluntary social year (culture). The museum administration is training an office management assistant.

Fabian Lenczewski (Exhibition Assistant), Reinhard Matfeld (Print Shop), Petra Nikolic (Press and Public Relations), M`Harned Amar Dahman (Supervisor) and Dr. Claus Maywald (Curator and head of the library department) left the museum in 2018, Reinhard Matfeld

on June 30, Petra Nikolic on August 31, M`Harned Amar Dahman on September 30 and Dr. Claus Maywald on December 31.

On September 1, the museum welcomed Melanie Huber as exhibition assistant and Christel Schulte as employee of the print shop. Since October 15, Wolfgang Neumann has been working as a printer at the Gutenberg Museum. Since 1.11., the employees of the Natural History Museum Somayeh Emami, Manuel Siesto and Helmut Krukow have been temporarily employed in the supervisory area.

The voluntary social year (FSJ) – culture - ended on 31.03. for Alessa Grigull (public relations) and Elena Simsch (museum education). On August 31, FSJ members Jana Kwiecinski and Kim Deimer and on October 14th Clara Filippov (all museum education) said goodbye.

On April 1, we welcomed Marie-Luise Pauz as the new FSJ student for public relations. On September 1, the FSJ in the museum education began for Zoe Adolff and Hannah Tritschak, on October 1 for Sophie Eberle.

In 2018, about 25 people volunteered to work in the workshop and office of the print store. We had to bid farewell to the honorary employees of the print shop Veronika Wölfle († 29.09.2018) and Manfred Henn († 01.10.2018), to whom the Gutenberg Museum owes a great deal and whose memories it honors.

Seven young people completed an internship. In the two stores of the Gutenberg Foundation, 31 volunteers helped out free of charge.

A very warm thank you to all supporters, visitors, colleagues, friends and public and private sponsors for your support. We are especially grateful to all citizens for their encouragement. It has

given the museum team a lot of strength, especially in view of the long prepared departure to the "Museum of the Future". The knowledge of strong support continues to be our incentive to look for ways to lead the museum into a secure future. We look forward to welcoming you all back to the Gutenberg Museum soon - after being awarded the Certificate of Excellence for the fifth time in a row, our house has now risen to the Hall of Fame of the tourism website Tripadvisor.

The annual report of the Gutenberg Museum 2017 is available at gutenberg-museum@stadt.mainz.de.

Dr. Annette Ludwig

Director of the Gutenberg Museum