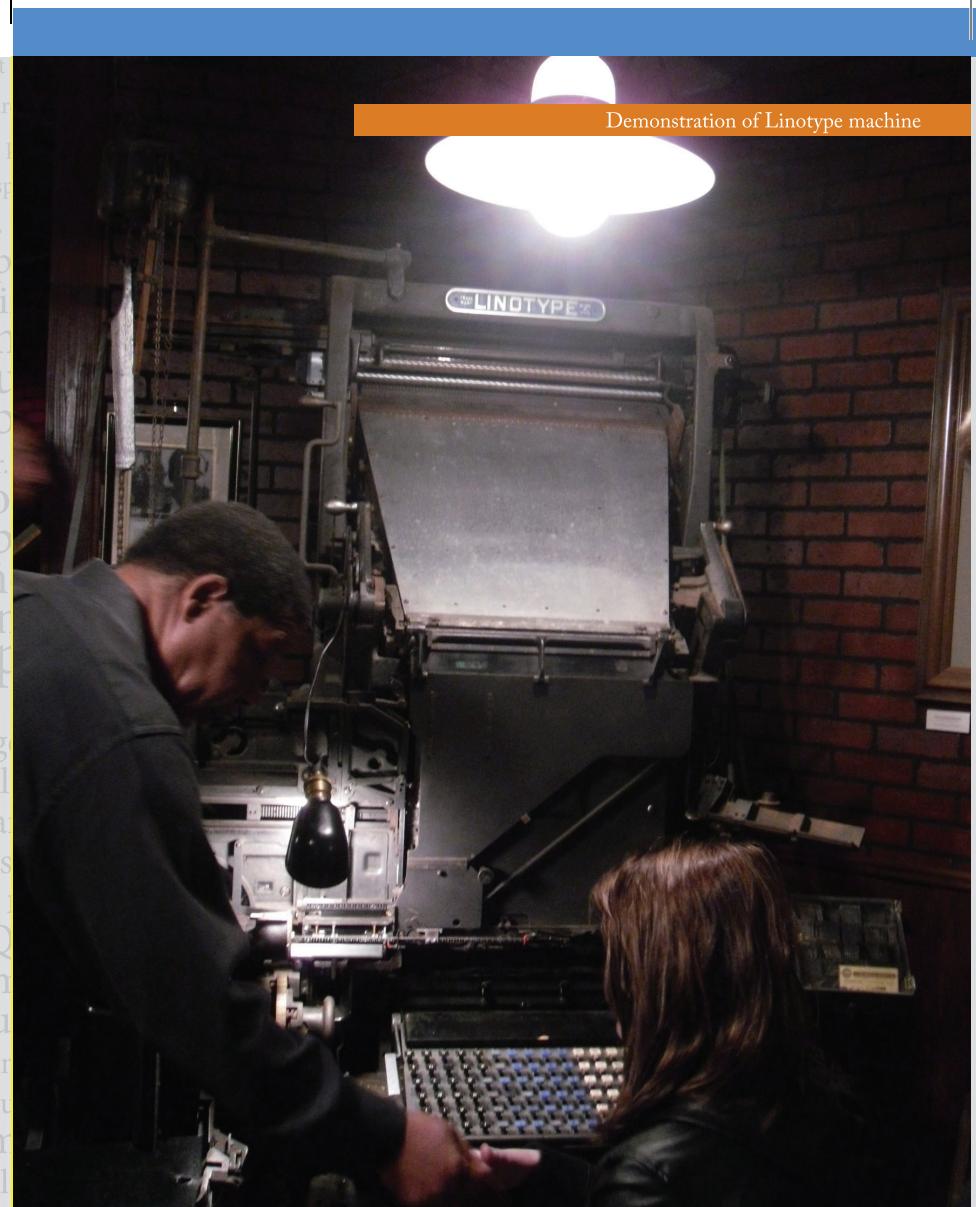


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The Vernon P. Hearn Printmaker's Workshop houses two 1830's star wheel stone lithopresses, and early 20th century proof press, and a late 19th century engraving press.

The A.V. Emmott Bookbinder's Workshop displays book binding tools and bound volumes in various stages of creation. Visitors can observe the processes of paper cutting, stitching and binding, and the cutting and application of leather, lettering and gold leaf.

The Raoul Barton Beasley Letterpress Workshop houses the Anita and Edward Bader type collections and numerous presses and equipment for traditional letterpress production.

The papermaking shop is a production area fitted with contemporary equipment for making paper by hand. The Museum periodically offers classes in papermaking and paper marbling.



the Museum's working Gutenberg Press model

the Museum of Printing History

by

Wes Hightower

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Printed in Houston, Texas

the Museum of Printin

The Museum of Printing History was founded in 1979 by Raoul Beasley, Vernon P. Hearn, Don Piercy, and J. V. Burnham, four printers with passions for preserving their vast collections and sharing them with the community. It was chartered in 1981 and had its official opening in 1982 with Dr. Hans Halaby, Director of the Gutenberg Museum in Mainz, Germany, cutting the ribbon.

The mission of the Museum is to promote, preserve, and share the knowledge of printed communication and art as the greatest contributors to the development of the civilized world and the continuing advancement of freedom and literacy.

Featured in the July 2006 issue of Texas Highways, the Museum is described as "a honeycomb of intimate gallery spaces . . . with a stunning

collection of objects and artifacts devoted to the history, science, and art of printing." The portrait of the Museum concludes with the observation that "printed text may be taken for granted these days, but a visit to the Museum of Printing History ... makes it seem magical once again."

With a variety of historical and working technological examples of the advances in printing from its very beginnings, everyone can gain a new appreciation for the obstacles present and the inventive ways they were overcome with a visit to the museum. The various presses are put into approximately historically accurate rooms which gives a major sense of context to these machines. While everyone stands to gain insight, no students of the arts should go without seeing this museum.



Artifacts in the collection range in time from humanity's earliest writing through the twenty-first century. Our exhibitions document history from the origins of printing on Mesopotamian clay tablets around 3000 B.C., through pre-Gutenberg manuscript production. The collection reflects the beginning of printing in Europe with Gutenberg's invention of movable type, and illustrates printing of the Renaissance, the Age of Enlightenment, and beyond.

The Museum features artifacts like:

*Mesopotamian Cylinder Seals
Ancient Papyrus Fragments
Asian Movable Type
& early Asian Printing
Illuminated Manuscripts
1450 Gutenberg Press Replica
Old Master Etchings & Engravings
Ben Franklin's
"Pennsylvania Gazette"
Historical Newspapers
Documents printed by Samuel
Bangs, first printer in Texas,
with one of his presses
1830 Star-wheel Oak
Lithography Press
Letterpress & Type Collection
Antique Bookbinding Equipment*

The Museum features four working galleries with vintage equipment. The crafts of stone lithography, letterpress printing, papermaking, and bookbinding are demonstrated by resident artists. Check our classes page for upcoming workshops.

The Museum also presents rotating exhibitions highlighting fine art prints, rare books, and artifacts. Keep an eye out for our educational and entertaining programs, lectures, and special events.

Past Events and Exhibitions

8th Annual Houston Book Fair

Literary Effigies: Woodcuts by Charles Jones

Poems and Pictures: A Renaissance in the Art of the Book (1946-1981)

The Workshop of Ernest F. de Soto, Master Printer

Modern Jackpot: Vintage Vegas Signs by Marilyn Davenport

Altered Portraits of the Childhood Cancer Experience

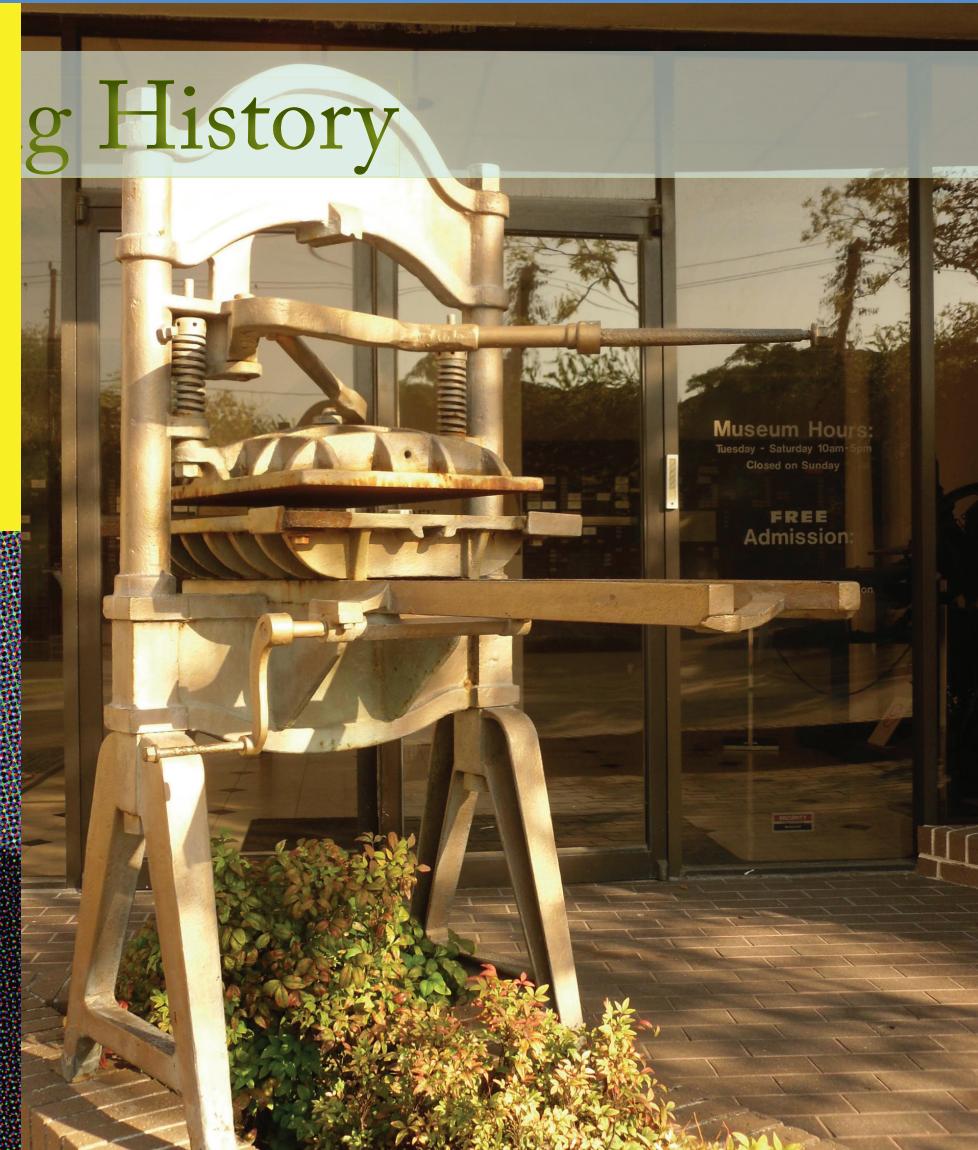
Through our permanent exhibits, the Museum of Printing History narrates the story of written communication and the ways in which the technologies of printing have transformed our lives. Our galleries trace significant developments from ancient Mesopotamian clay tablets, to the Chinese invention of movable type, to Johann Gutenberg's printing press. American history is dramatized through newspaper accounts of major events from the American Revolution to the Civil War; Texas history is told through the life of the state's first printer, with a press he owned and a display of the documents and newspapers he printed. The Hearst

the Xerox 914, their first landmark product

Newspaper Gallery demonstrates the emergence of modern printing, and our exhibit of historic newspapers documents pivotal moments in recent history.

Join us for tours featuring hands-on printing; see a sheet of the Gutenberg Bible pulled just as it was in 1455; see Xerox's first major model, the 914, as shown below; watch the Declaration of Independence printed on a 19th-century iron handpress; view colonial documents, including a Pennsylvania Gazette printed by Ben Franklin in 1765; read eyewitness accounts of the struggle for Texas independence, told from both sides of the events.

Permanent Exhibit



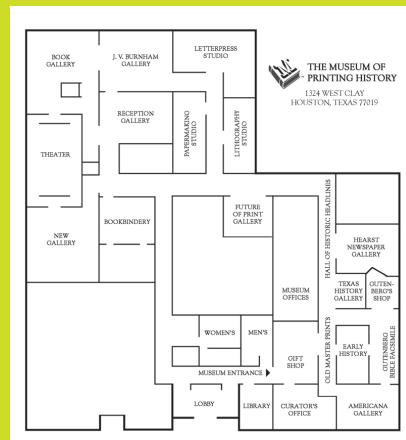
Museum Information

Convenient to downtown and to all major freeways, the Museum is located at 1324 West Clay, between Waugh Drive and Montrose, just south of Allen Parkway.

The Museum is open Tuesday to Saturday, 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Museum admission is free for self-guided tours.

For a guided tour, the fee is \$4 for adults and \$2 for students and seniors. Call or email Rose Watts at 713-522-4652, ext. 203 to schedule your guided tour.



Top: Map of Museum's layout

Right:
the Museum is located at
the corner of Joe Annie and W. Clay



less of their background or level of expertise. The only requirement for membership is an enthusiastic desire to join with others in a hands-on experience of graphic communication through letterpress printing. Guild members meet monthly at the Museum, scheduling workshops, demonstrations, lectures, and projects, most of which are open to the public. Guild members support the Museum by helping to maintain the letterpress shop, donating printed items for sale at the gift shop, and collaborating with the Museum to bring in events or speakers. The Guild

meets the first Saturday of every month at 10am, usually at the Museum of Printing History. Please check the Guild's website for more information.

Working Studios:

The Museum of Printing History features printmaking and letterpress workshops, a papermaking shop, and a book bindery. These are operated and maintained by resident artists, volunteers (Guild Members), and visiting artists.

Tours

During our guided tours, visitors participate in the hands-on printing of a leaf of the Gutenberg Bible pulled from a replica press, then move to the printing of the Declaration of Independence on a 19th-century Columbian iron handpress. Tours conclude in our 65 seat theater for a viewing of the film Harvest of Wisdom.

For a guided tour, the fee is \$4 for adults and \$2 for students and seniors. Call 713-522-4652, ext. 203 to schedule your guided tour.

Teachers:

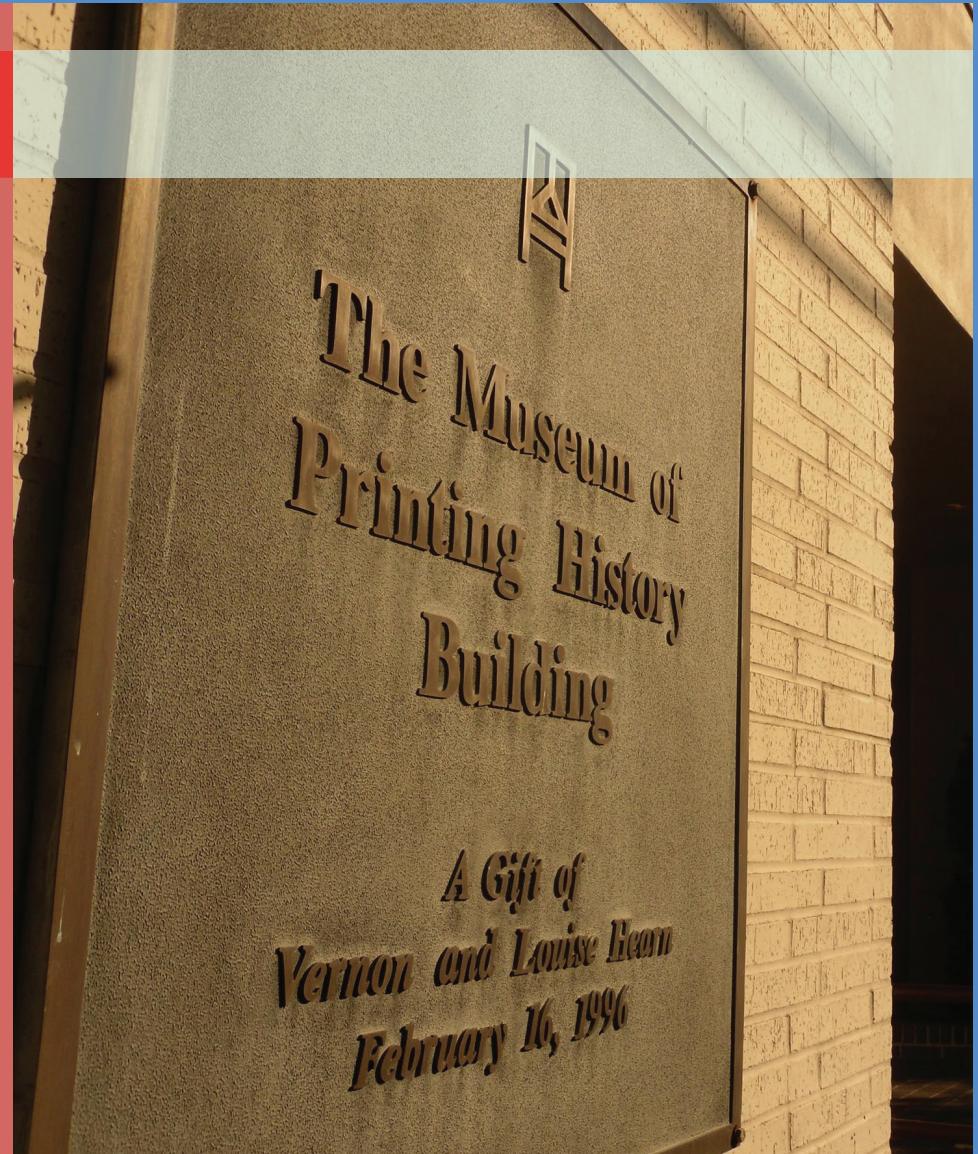
Our tours complement a wide range of study, from science and technology to English language arts, from history to fine arts. In order for you and your pupils to gain the most from your visit to the Museum of Printing History, a package of information is available to provide you with everything you need to support the new ideas presented during the tour. We look forward to your visit!

Book Arts Group:

The Houston Book Arts Group at the Museum of Printing History was established in December 2005 to gather area artists whose work includes paper and book structures: printmaking, bookbinding, calligraphy, papermaking, letterpress, collage. Our members number over 75, including instructors in the art departments of Houston's universities, professional designers, and other artists. Our group includes interested beginners as well as those with extensive experience. All are welcome at our monthly meetings, which are held the first Thursday of each month from 6 to 8 p.m. Please check the Book Arts Group's website for more information.

Printers Guild:

The Guild was formed in the mid-1990s by the Museum of Printing History and its supporters, as a collaborative effort to benefit both the Museum and printers/printing hobbyists. Guild membership is open to all interested individuals regard-



How do they do That?



Past Classes

Silkscreen T-Shirts and Posters

Hand Papermaking

Repurposed Book Projects

Valentine Pop-Up Cards

Woodcut

The museum offers a variety of classes regarding print and its techniques. With a model of Gutenberg's press, you can recreate a page from his legendary bible not at all unlike this one, only with biblical passages rather than museum information on it.

Space is limited--advanced registration is required. Current Museum members receive 10% off tuition only. Payment is due in full at the time of registration. You will receive a full refund or credit if you cancel your registration at least three business days before the first class meeting. If you cancel less than three business days before the first class meeting, or drop out of a class in

progress, you will forfeit your full tuition. If the Museum must cancel a class due to under-enrollment, registered students will be notified 2 days in advance and will receive a full refund or credit.

In addition to regularly scheduled classes, we can work with your school or community group to schedule workshops on a wide range of topics relating to the art of the book. We have a list of workshops available on demand, or we may work together to design something special for your group. For questions, or to schedule your outreach workshop, please contact Amanda Stevenson, Curator, 713-522-4652, ext. 207.

