

## Access to letters from Napoleon to Johann Sebastian Bach

Treasures from the Historic Museum of Leipzig (Stadtgeschichtliches Museum Leipzig)

The Historic Museum Leipzig is more than 100 years old. It owns a large collection of letters, including those relating to the "Battle of the nations" at Leipzig 1813 – among them important and famous letters by the regents of the nations involved ((Russia, Prussia, France, Austria). A second large collection of letters in the Historic Museum Leipzig is that of famous musicians of the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> century, such as Georg Friedrich Händel, Richard Wagner, Johannes Brahms, Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, Robert und Clara Schumann, etc. Even in professional circles it is little known that the Historic Museum Leipzig owns these collections of letters.

For this reason, we are opening up these collections and make them accessible to different user groups via different portals and web pages, such as europeana, ([www.EUROPEANA.eu](http://www.EUROPEANA.eu)) the German Kalliope-Portal ([www.kalliope-portal.de](http://www.kalliope-portal.de)) ("Networked catalogue of autographs and personal papers") of the Staatsbibliothek at Berlin, the German BAM-Portal, BAM – archives, libraries, museums) ([www.bam-portal.de](http://www.bam-portal.de)) as well as our museum's own homepage. ([www.stadtgeschichtliches-museum-leipzig.de](http://www.stadtgeschichtliches-museum-leipzig.de))

The presentation will explain the workflow of the documentation of these collections and it will show that different user groups can be reached through the different channels mentioned above. Information concerning letters already shown on our web presence as well as feedback received from users directly through our website show that we seem to be on a fruitful path.

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