

MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN PRINTING HOUSE FOR THE BLIND

1839 Frankfort Avenue, Louisville, Kentucky

www.aph.org/museum

**NOW, WHY IS THERE A MUSEUM ABOUT...
PRINTING MATERIALS FOR THE BLIND?**



WAR OF THE DOTS

Many systems were developed in the early 19th century. Most initially started with just raising the letters of the existing alphabet, but the curves in writing weren't always clear. "Arbitrary codes," such as Moon Type, were also developed using different symbols for the letters.

Invention of Braille

Louis Braille was the son of harness maker and become blind due to an accident with his father's tools. How did he create a reading system for the blind? It's a fascinating story of a French soldier, a code called night writing, and a 12 year old boy with the smarts to simplify and build a new system that revolutionized communication for the blind.

Visiting Info

Museum:

M-F: 8:30 - 4:30

Sat: 10:00 - 3:00

Closed Sundays & Holidays

Factory Tours:

M-Th: 10:00 and 2:00

The Museum of the American Printing House for the Blind is a unique combination of both a working printing house and a museum with a distinctive focus: preserving & presenting the remarkable contributions of people who are blind, and the history of printing materials for the blind or visually impaired community.

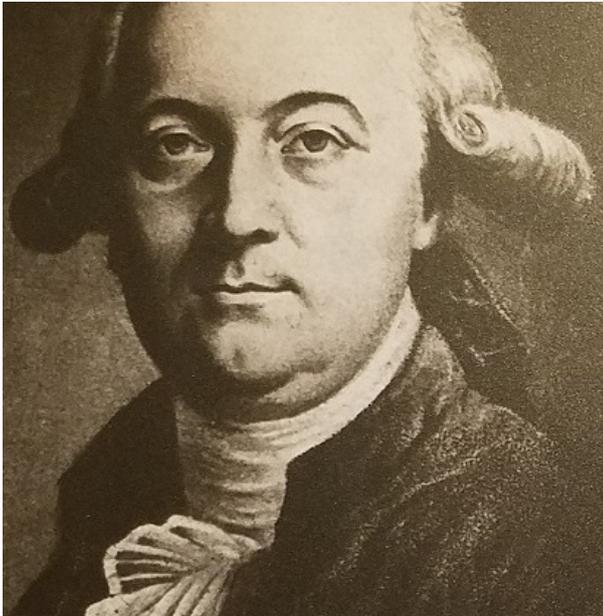
The museum tour is like a 3-in-1 experience:

First, there is the museum itself, which starts with the history of tactile languages, the

development of raised letter writing and Braille, and then finishes with current examples of people and technology.

Second, is the factory tour of the printing house itself – this is where you'll see Braille books being printed, tactile graphics being made, and even the original mechanical machines..

Third, is the educational materials created to improve the lives of blind or visually impaired children in the classroom.



VALENTIN HAÜY

This is the man that really started it all by creating the first school for the blind and visually impaired in Paris, France. An incredible story of what some blind people had to do to earn a living stirred Haüy into deciding there had to be another option which provided more opportunities for the blind. This school also features in the development of Braille as it is the school Louis Braille attended and where he invented his writing system.



HALL BRAILLE WRITER

Representing a technological leap forward from the Slate & Stylus, the Hall Braille writer was the first mechanical device for writing Braille.

The museum has over 40 different mechanical Braille writers in their collection. The Perkins Braille Writer is the modern version -- and you get to try one of these machines in the museum. I wrote my name - totally cool! If you visit with kids, then you must check this exhibit out.

WANT A COOL FACT TO DROP AT YOUR NEXT PARTY?

A SINGLE BRAILLE CHARACTER IS MADE UP OF A "CELL" WHICH IS A COMBINATION OF 6 DOTS - 3 HIGH AND 2 WIDE. CORRESPONDING TO THE LETTERS IN THE STANDARD ALPHABET, IT EVEN INCLUDES WAYS TO ADD PUNCTUATION AND CAPITALIZATION.

TACTILE GRAPHICS

If you're blind, how would you "see" a graphic image? On the factory tour you'll see how tactile graphics are made. Layers and layers of a specialized ink printed on top of each other causes the ink to build up on the paper creating raised images.

