

Tourguide



# Frankfurt

on the move

— A city  
with a migration  
history



# — Welcome to the Historical Museum Frankfurt!

Migration has been normal in Frankfurt since the early Middle Ages: Since the 12th century the trade fair city, a crossing point over the River Main, has been growing primarily thanks to its convenient location and trade fair commerce. People came here or stranded here. That was, and indeed still is the case in particular for merchants, service providers and manufacturers – as well as for refugees from near and far. Nowadays Frankfurt is the city of “superdiversity” in Germany. More than 50 percent of the adult population in Frankfurt have migration experience – and also help shape the city.

**This tour will familiarize you with 25 exhibits from a different perspective. They all represent the diversity of the city and attest to the open-mindedness of its inhabitants and their curiosity about the world.**



The tour begins in the “Staufer Age”, with an exhibit from the era of the “itinerant kings”. From there it continues to the four levels of the Collectors’ Museum. Here you will encounter the oldest collections of the city and its inhabitants with a focus on migration. Then, in the exhibition building, you will experience the history of Frankfurt in “Frankfurt Once?” with its five theme galleries, and get to know inhabitants of Frankfurt from various epochs and cultures. Finally, you will reach the attic, with its fantastic view. There you can explore “Frankfurt Now!”, an exhibition about our “mega diverse” city in the present day.

# —<sup>1</sup> The salt bowl of the itinerant kings

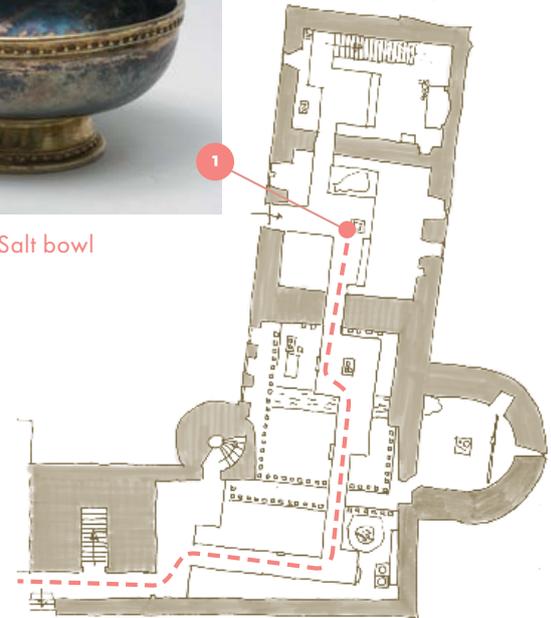
Between 1138 and 1254, when the Staufer rulers reigned over the Holy Roman Empire, the Empire had no capital city in the sense of a permanent residence. The kings would travel around their kingdom accompanied by their court, advisors, officials, and soldiers. Frankfurt was an important place for them, and they were elected king here, thus establishing the tradition of the city as the place where German kings and (Holy Roman) emperors were elected. However, they only ever spent a few months in the city. The small round bowl with a base and gold ornamentation was found in 1980 during excavation work on Römerberg in Frankfurt. It was probably part of a larger silver ensemble, and attests to life at court.

Continue via the historical spiral staircase,  
to the last room on Level 1 ▷

## Staufer Age Level 0



Salt bowl



# Collectors' Museum

## Level 1



The Franciscan Monastery  
in Igaracú, Frans Post



Continue via the historical staircase to Level 3 ▷

## —<sup>2</sup> A Brazilian landscape, as seen by a European painter

The painting “Das Franziskanerkloster in Igaracú” (The Franciscan Monastery in Igaracú) by the Dutch painter Frans Post (1612–1680) is an example of a “migrated” object. The painter accompanied the Governor-General of the Dutch West India Company, Johann Moritz von Nassau-Siegen, on an eight-year expedition to Brazil. In the 1660s he documented nature and culture there. A monastery and settlement are visible on an elevation. The surrounding houses are inhabited by workers from the sugar plantations. On the forecourt and along the path, – indigenous Americans and Black slaves are going along and transporting goods.

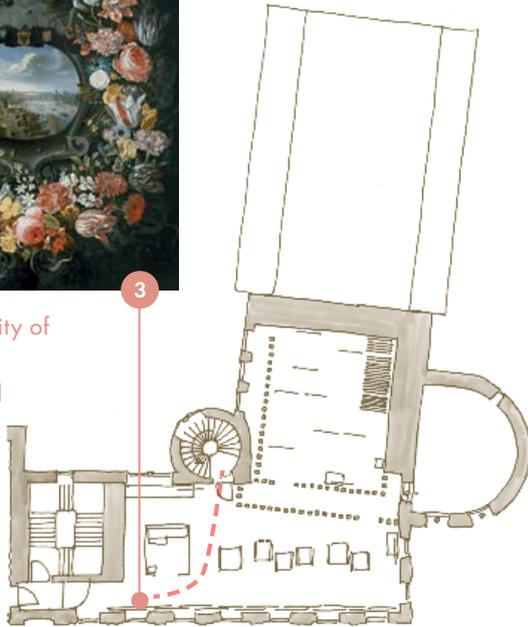
With great attention to detail, the painter also reproduces the exotic animals and plants. With his painting, the painter served the interest of Dutch, and later Frankfurt collectors in discoveries in the former colonies. The Frankfurt merchant of Dutch descent Georg Daems acquired it for his collection shortly after 1800. A Dutchman’s view of Brazil as “the new world” or “paradise” differs considerably from that of the indigenous Americans and Black slaves depicted in the picture.

# Collectors' Museum

## Level 3



View of the city of  
Frankfurt,  
Jacob Marrel



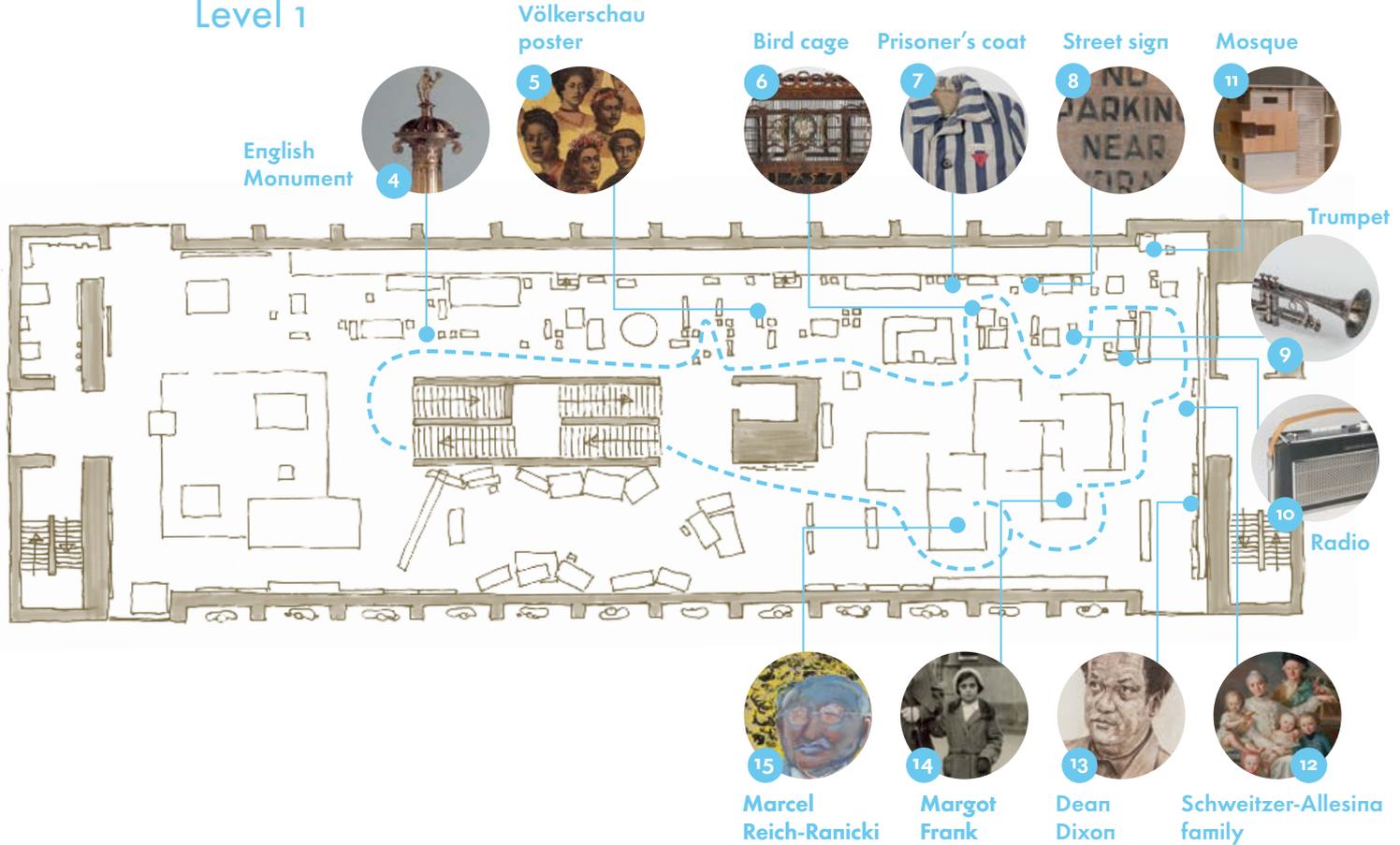
## 3 How a newcomer sees the city in the 17th century

The family of Jacob Marrel (1614–1681) came from France and fled to Frankenthal because of their religion. Jacob Marrel came to Frankfurt in 1624, and as of 1627 learned how to paint under Georg Flegel. From 1630 until 1651 he lived in Utrecht and trained as a still life painter. In 1651, he acquired the right to citizenship of Frankfurt, married the widow of Matthäus Merian the Elder (who had likewise moved to the city, from Basle), and thus became the stepfather of Maria Sybilla Merian. His 1651 view of the city of Frankfurt in a cartouche adorned with flowers demonstrates his immense skill in flower painting, combined with a depiction of his new home town.

Now proceed back to the lobby, take the stairs down to Level 0, and from there continue to "Frankfurt Once?", on Level 1 to gallery "100 x Frankfurt" (violet), exhibit no. 17 ▷

# Frankfurt Once?

## Level 1



## 4 Refugees give thanks for the hospitality shown to them



In 1554, over 40 people were forced to flee England because they were Protestants. They chose Frankfurt as their new home, which even then was a busy commercial and trade fair center.

Foreigners were allowed to work and practice their own faith in Frankfurt. When political circumstances changed in England 1558, the refugees were able to return. They later thanked the city in the form of the gilded vessel, which they had made in Antwerp on their journey home. An inscription on the base praises the “Humanitas”, the humanity of the City of Frankfurt. The drinking vessel was later given the name “English monument”!

Proceed to exhibit no. 57 ▷

## 5 Forced Migration



In the 19th and early 20th centuries, people from non-European foreign countries were kidnapped or hired under false pretences to be put on public display at so-called “Völkerschau” ethnological expositions. Promoters organized international tours displaying them at folk festivals, zoos or at world exhibitions and colonial fairs. The Frankfurt Zoo presented its “Exposition of the Samoan Troupe” from 27 June to 30 July 1896. These exoticizing and erotic depictions of non-white people served as entertainment for the local population and helped established colonial racist perceptions that have persisted to the present day, confirming the assumed superiority of Europe and justifying the colonization of other countries and peoples.

Continue to object no. 71 ▷

## 6 In exile with a Frankfurt bird cage

Emigration and enforced exile are also part of Frankfurt history. Yvonne Hackenbroch, a Jew, took the bird cage with her into exile; it is adorned with the Frankfurt eagle, which reminded her of her home town. Fleeing the Nazi terror in 1937 the art historian headed for London and lost her German citizenship. She was stateless for a long time before becoming an US-American citizen. In 1990 she visited Frankfurt for the first time.

Continue to exhibit no. 77 >



## 7 The prisoner's coat from the Adlerwerke



In September 1944, the SS deported Dr. Ryszard Kojer and 1,000 other people from Warsaw to Katzbach concentration camp on the site of the Adlerwerke. The Adlerwerke in the Gallus district was the biggest armaments factory in the city. Between August 1944 and March 1945, the SS established a satellite of the Natzweiler-Struthof concentration camp there and gave it the code name "Katzbach". 1,600 people were interned in it. Most of them came from Poland, and following the Warsaw Uprising staged by the Polish Resistance Home Army in 1944, they had been deported initially to Dachau, and then to Frankfurt. The Warsaw pharmacist Kojer survived the harassments and inhumane conditions. Having been liberated he returned to his home city. 528 people did not survive the systematic impoverishment.

Continue to exhibit no. 81 >



## 8 — A street sign for US-Americans only

The sign from the castle in the Höchst district is a reminder of the US-American military radio station AFN (American Forces Network), which from 1946 until 1966 had its European headquarters there. From 1943 the station had been entertaining the US-American troops with news, music, and entertainment programs. Given its proximity to their headquarters in the I.G. Farben building, in 1945 the US forces made Frankfurt the main base of the chain of stations. The inhabitants of Höchst would have liked to have used “their castle” again as a sign of their civic pride. The people nonetheless held the station in high esteem, as the US-Americans opened up the castle for the annual castle festival and took part in the celebrations. Furthermore, over the course of time the “yanks” employed more and more German civilians.

Continue to exhibit no. 85 >



## 9 — The Frankfurt Sound African-American Jazz Culture in Frankfurt

The trumpeter Carlo Bohländer (1919-2004) was a defining musician in the history of the Frankfurt jazz scene. Until the National Socialists banned it as “degenerate” music in 1933, jazz had already been taught in Frankfurt since 1928 at Dr. Hoch’s Conservatory. Playing jazz music was for Bohländer a pure form of resistance, and at the end of the Second World War, on 17 May 1945, he asked the US-American military government for permission to establish the “Domicile du Jazz” in Frankfurt. The club formed the nucleus of jazz music in post-war Germany and became a hub for world-famous jazz greats such as Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington and Ella Fitzgerald. Bohländer later opened the Frankfurt jazz bar Balalaika with his wife Anita Honis, who herself was a world-famous African-American blues singer.

Continue to object/Nr. 89 >

## 10 Giuseppe Bruno's "talking" radio



At the age of 16, Giuseppe Bruno came to Frankfurt from Sicily to earn his living as what was known as a "guest worker". Because he found it difficult to connect with his German colleagues, and as a result could only speak a little German, he bought a radio on credit to learn the language: there were radio language courses broadcast designed for "guest workers". In 1963, Giuseppe Bruno was one of 87,000 "guest workers" working in Hessen. In 1969, one in two of the around 136,000 employees from abroad working in Hessen lived in Frankfurt. For a long time, he co-habited with lots of other Italians, and later with Turkish "guest workers", in the barracks in Höchst.

Continue to object no. 98 ▷

## 11 Prayer houses for Friday prayers



There are some 80,000 Muslims living in Frankfurt. Around a tenth of them meet regularly for Friday prayers in one of the 42 prayer houses. These are for the most part still housed in buildings such as car dealerships and empty business premises, in commercial zones and rear courtyards. Many would welcome more dignified places in which to pray and conduct community life. In 1995, the Pakistani Islamic Community acquired a plot of land on which to build a mosque. It commissioned the architect Shahid N. Sadiq, who himself came to Germany as a child. Sadiq designed the Pak Muhammadi Mosque as a state-of-the-art functional building made of concrete, and did without religious symbols and elements typical of a mosque.

Continue to the end of the section to the "Faces" area (blue-grey) ▷

## 12 Italy in Frankfurt



Franz Maria Schweitzer (1722–1812) came from Verona, and in 1751 applied for citizenship in Frankfurt. The city council, however, accorded him citizenship with restricted rights only, and it was not until 1772, on payment of 2,000 guilders, that he received full citizenship. In 1751 Schweitzer married Paula Maria Allesina, the only daughter of the wholesale silk merchant Johann Maria Allesina, who likewise hailed from Italy, and his wife, by birth a member of the Brentano family. Franz Maria and Paula Maria Schweitzer-Allesina had 14 children. Four of them are portrayed in the picture, including the first-born Carl Franz (1754–1826), the boy in the blue child’s uniform with a sword. Franz Maria Schweitzer first became a partner in his father-in-law’s business, the wholesale silk company “Silvestra Allesina Sohn Ältere” in Haus zu Stadt Antwerpen (Neue Kräme), then the sole owner. Schweitzer acquired a personal title of nobility as “Geheimer Kommerzienrat” of the Electorate of Bavaria.

## 13 The composer with international vision

Dean Dixon, who was born in 1915 in New York, was the first Afro-American conductor to lead the Radio Symphony Orchestra of the Hessischer Rundfunk broadcasting corporation. Dixon enjoyed outstanding musical training in the USA, and initially great success, but was discriminated against on account of the color of his skin. For this reason, he went to Europe in 1949, where he led major orchestras in among other places Gothenburg and Paris. Between 1961 and 1974 he was in Frankfurt. He saw to it that the orchestra expanded its international contacts and signed cooperation agreements with European radio stations. With Dixon, the orchestra embarked on its first tour of eastern Europe, thus bringing about a thaw in relations between East and West. Dixon died in 1976 in Switzerland.



Continue to the “Biographies” cabinets (dark blue) ▷



## 14 Margot Frank (1926-1945)

Margot Frank was forced to experience migration as a child. Margot and her sister Anne, who were born in 1926 and 1929 respectively, enjoyed a “normal” childhood with their two cousins and lots of children in the neighbourhood. Margot started school in April 1932, but in 1933, despite all its ties to Frankfurt, the family decided to leave the city. By then the Nazis had seized power, and as Jews they encountered many restrictions in daily life. The family emigrated to Amsterdam where it was, however, only safe until 1940. German troops occupied the Netherlands. From 1942 on the family tried to survive in a hideout. In August 1944, they were discovered and deported to a concentration camp. Margot and Anne died in Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in the spring of 1945.

## 15 Marcel Reich-Ranicki (1920 - 2013)



Marcel Reich was born on June 2, 1920 in Włocławek (Poland) as the third child of a Jewish family. He later went to high school in Berlin, but being a Jew, was unable to study there in 1938. As of November 1940, Reich-Ranicki was confined to the Warsaw Ghetto, from which he was able to flee with his wife Teofila and hide until the end of the Second World War. Most members of his family were murdered in extermination camps. As a publicist and author Reich-Ranicki defined the literary scene in the West Germany from 1958. He remained true to the German language and literature all his life. He was both highly regarded and feared in particular as a literary critic. The Reich-Ranickis lived in Frankfurt from 1973; today their son Andrew lives in Great Britain.

**Continue via the main staircase to Level 2, to section “Crossings” (yellow) ▷**

# Frankfurt Once?

## Level 2

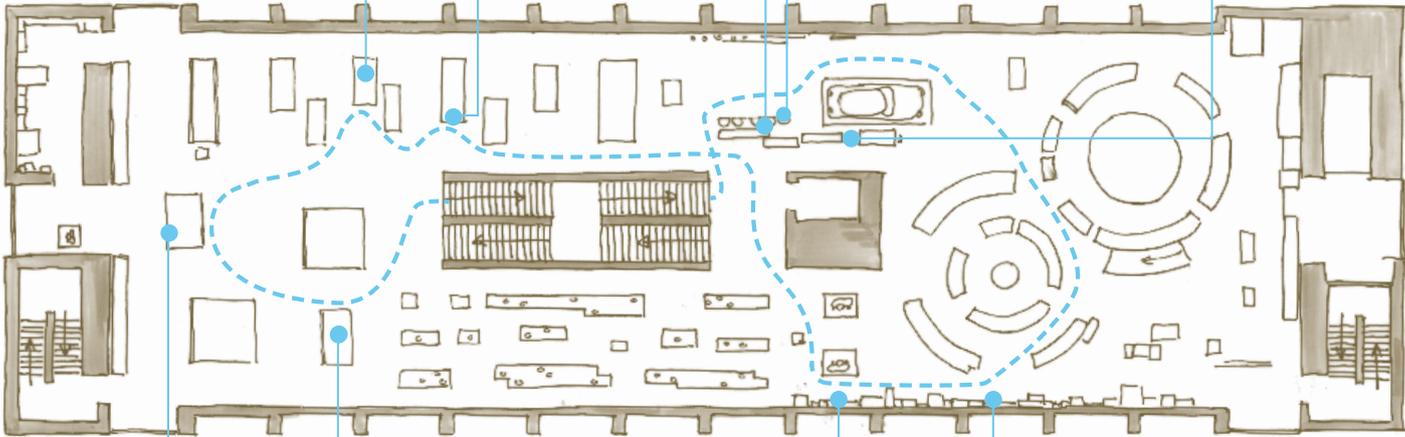
Sample book

French prayer book

Headgear

U-Bahn

Master book of the goldsmiths



Mainframe computer

Doll's house

Untervegs

Book fair

## 16 (Unfulfilled) hopes in the transit area



Frankfurt Airport represents an external border for Germany. For this reason, people who arrive without a valid passport or visa are often detained for several weeks in a facility at the airport until the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees decides whether they be allowed to enter the country or be deported. Church and other organizations attempt to help these people. The chapel is an important place in the facility. Things are often put there as an “offering”. The French prayer book was left by a young man from the Congo, before he was deported to his home country.



## 17 The most international place in Frankfurt

The most important transport hub, the biggest German airport and economic hub, Frankfurt Airport is all that. In 2019 it handled 70,5 million passengers. Around 80,500 people work for 500 companies at the airport. It is the most international place in Germany. People from all over the world encounter one another here. The headgear that is part of the uniforms of international airlines stand for the internationality of the employees, some of whom live with their families in the city.

# 18 The U-Bahn – Testimony to Guest Workers in Frankfurt

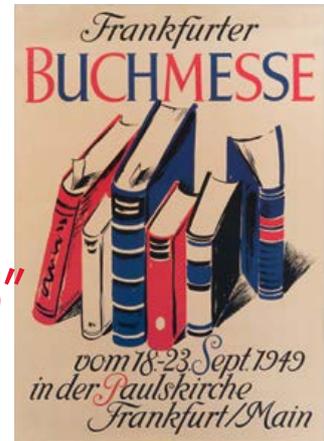


Construction of Frankfurt's underground railway "U-Bahn", part of its rapid transport system running partly above ground, began in 1963. So-called guest workers from Turkey and the former Yugoslavia worked for

years at the construction sites. The reconstruction of Germany after the Second World War succeeded with the help and labour of these migrant workers, many of whom then remained and settled in Frankfurt - their descendants still live here today. Many people are not aware that the Frankfurt U-Bahn system would not exist in its current form without these former guest workers. Just on the first weekend of its opening in 1968, the underground line A1 between Hauptwache and Nordweststadt was used by around 450,000 passengers.

Continue to "Communication" (brown) letter "B" ▷

# 19 Publishers' Global "Who's Who"



At the invitation of the Börsenverein des Deutschen Buchhandels, the first post-war Frankfurt Book Fair was held in 1949, with over 200 exhibitors and more than 14,000 visitors convening in the Paulskirche. In 1951 the fair took place for the first time at the Frankfurt Exhibition Centre. The Frankfurt Book Fair is the largest trade fair for books in the world and is considered a network for international publishers. The book fair catalogue is a publishers' global "who's who", with the names of every exhibitor listed here. Since 1988 guest host countries have enjoyed a special thematic focus and organized cultural programs. More than 7400 exhibitors were represented at the Frankfurt Book Fair in 2019, two thirds of them from over 100 different countries. The international Peace Prize of the German Book Trade has been awarded at the Book Fair since 1950 in the Paulskirche.

Continue to letter "U" ▷

20

## „Untervegs“ in Zeilsheim

After the Second World War, the allied military authorities set up Displaced Persons Camps for displaced people, among them people who had been liberated from concentration camps. Between 1945 and 1948 over 3,000 eastern European Jews were housed in a Hoechst Farbwerke workers' settlement in Zeilsheim in the west of Frankfurt. For a short time, there was a revival of eastern European Judaism there: Among other things a synagogue, schools, a kindergarten, two sports clubs, a cinema and a theater were established. The Yiddish newspaper *Undzer Mut* reported on social and cultural life in the camp, until it was replaced by the newspaper *Untervegs*. Meaning “on the move” in Yiddish, its name said it all: lots of Jewish “DPs” wanted most of all to leave Germany. Most of them later emigrated to the USA, and from 1948 to Israel. Among those who remained was Salomon Korn, today the President of the Jewish Community in Frankfurt, which was reestablished in January 1947.



Continue to “Up and Down” (green-blue) ▷

## 21 Fine fabrics, not only from the Netherlands



The von der Lahr family comes from Maeseyck in the Dutch province Limburg. Gottfried van der Lahr, who arrived in Frankfurt in 1615, was the son of a trader in silk and laces. From the same family, the iron merchant Paul von der Lahr was first mentioned in Frankfurt in 1628. His descendants acquired several buildings in the city, and over the course of the century became one of the richest families in Frankfurt. The van der Lahr family traded primarily in ironware and silk ribbons. The pattern book of the Tuchhandlung Johann Jakob von der Lahr was on display in the shop to give customers an insight into its range of goods. The store existed between 1680 and 1860 and was located in the Old Town at the corner of Höllgasse and Goldene Waage.

## 22 Dutch goldsmithing for the whole city

When the predominantly Protestant Dutch city of Antwerp became Spanish between 1584 – 85, it consequently also became Catholic. For this reason, many craftsmen and merchants left the city in order to practice their faith elsewhere. In Frankfurt they were to continue pursuing their professions, and as such played a role in the economic upturn. The “Meisterbuch der Goldschmiede” attests to how the city became the European center of

jewel trading and goldsmithing. Its influence was still in evidence in the city’s architecture until 1944, as many of the Dutch merchants settled in the Old Town.



continue to “Stories about Money” (silver) ▷



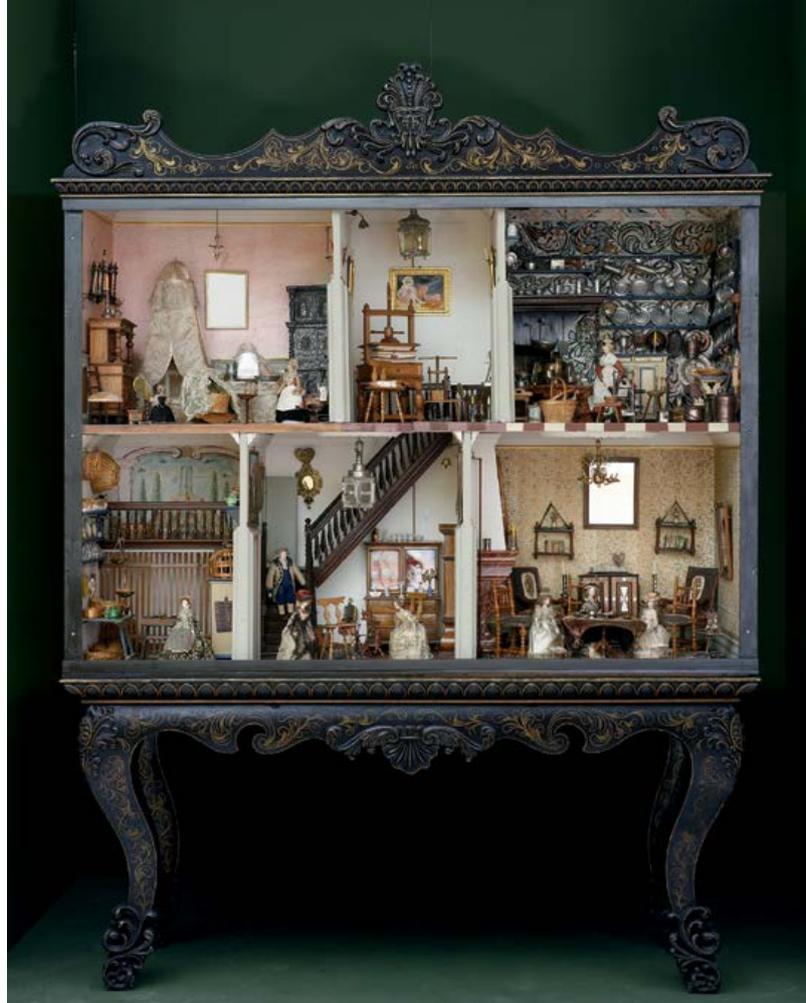
## 23 Early hardware from the USA regulates payment transactions

Frankfurt is an important economic center for the USA. Over 800 US companies are based here, and more than 3,000 US-Americans live in, and leave their mark on the city. In 1980 the US company Citibank deployed the IBM 3850 mass storage system. The mainframe computer had 500 GB storage capacity and regulated the bank’s electronic payment transactions. In May 2008 Citibank’s largest computing center outside the USA was officially opened in Frankfurt.

## 24 A European house

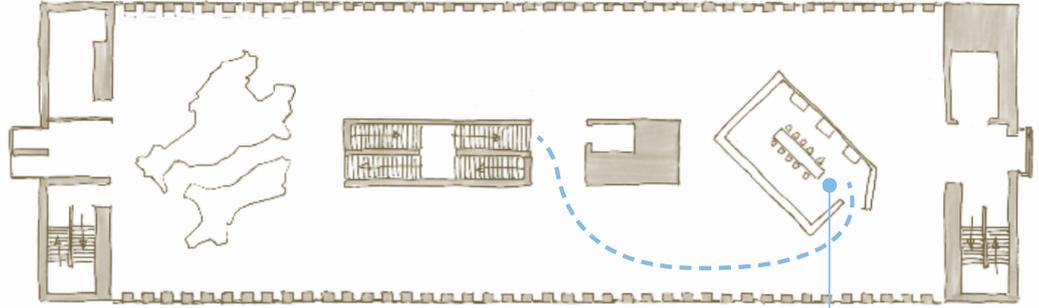
Susanna Maria d'Orville was given the doll's house as a young girl by Dutch business friends of the family. Her ancestors on both her father's and her mother's side of the family had emigrated to Frankfurt in the 16th century from France and Italy. They had no longer been able to practice their Calvinist faith in their home countries. Over the course of time the d'Orville family, merchants by profession, became established in the upper echelons of Frankfurt society. In 1752 Susanna Maria married the merchant Daniel Gontard, who likewise came from a Huguenot family that had come to the Free Imperial City for religious reasons. The Gontard doll's house was given its name by this family and was handed down from generation to generation.

Continue via the main staircase to Level 3 ▷



# Frankfurt Now!

Level 3



## 25 Library of the Generations

The Library of the Generations is an artistic remembrance project by Sigrid Sigurdsson that will continue until 2105. The project is designed as an “Open Archive” for the memories of 200 people and groups, all of whom have close links with Frankfurt. Given that the history of the city of Frankfurt is defined by migration, there are many traces of migration from different times. There are contributions by Holocaust survivors, who talk about their flight or deportation, and their return to the Federal Republic of Germany. There are also descriptions of the displacement of people after the Second World War. Some of the contributions reflect on the era of the “guest workers” or people’s flight to Germany, for example from Afghanistan, Eritrea, and Syria.



— Are you looking for more objects and interested in their stories?  
Then take our multimedia guided tour “Multiperspectivity in the Museum”, where refugee academics and students at the Frankfurt Goethe University question traditional historical narratives and highlight their particular perspectives and insights with personal stories. You can use the multimedia guide with your own smartphone (free of charge) or with use a loaned device (fee 3 €).



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