

Embark on a tour of discovery in our permanent exhibition and dive into the history of the optical industry in Germany.

At irregular intervals popular scientific lectures are held on various optical topics.

The museum owns a considerable library specialized on the optical industry and the local history of Rathenow. This library can be used by interested people.

The museum's gift shop offers a range of unusual gifts. You will find Goethe's "Farbenbrille" fitted with multispectral lenses as well as periscopes, microscopes, telescopes and kaleidoscopes.

Moreover, fully-functional optical kits with high-quality filters and lenses are for sale.

Books and brochures on local historic topics and on the history of optics complement the interesting range of items offered at the shop.

Opening times

Tuesday to Sunday 11:00 - 17:00
(out-of-hours by arrangement)

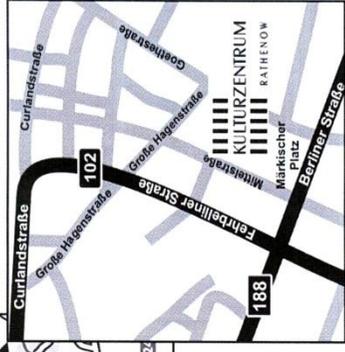
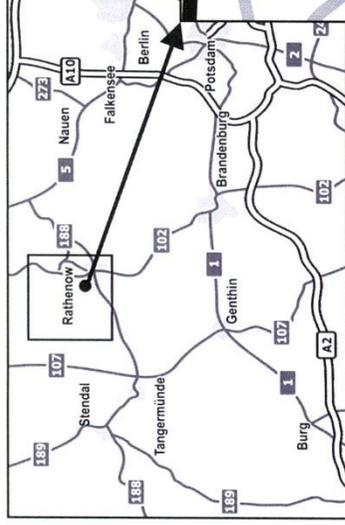
Contact

Tel: 03385-519040 (during opening times)
Fax: 03385-519031

Visit us on the internet: www.oimr.de
Send us an E-Mail: info@optik-ausstellung-rathenow.de

Enjoy the fascinating Museum of Optical Industry with 400m² of exhibition area in the heart of Rathenow. It is located in the attic of the "Kulturzentrum" and is handicapped accessible via ramp and elevator.

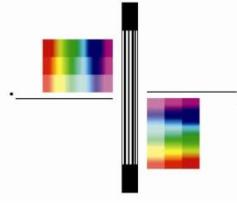
Let yourself be pampered in our in-house restaurant "Harlekin" on the ground floor before or after your visit to the museum.



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Museum of Optical Industry

The museum with a view in Rathenow,
"City of Optics"



**O p t i k
I n d u s t r i e
M u s e u m
R a t h e n o w**

In Rathenow, the "City of Optics", visitors can discover that optics means a lot more than just cut and polished glass.

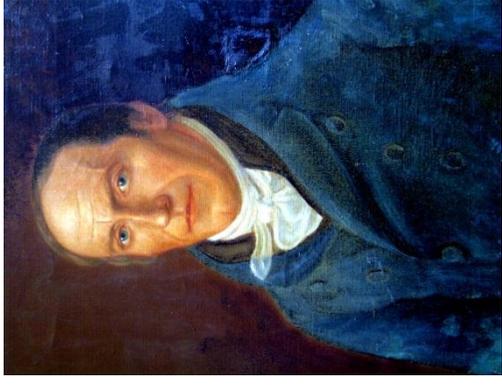
You are invited to travel through time and:

- *look back at the beginning of the optical industry and its industrial pioneers
- *look into optical matters and
- *look out for important developments.

The exhibition features a time journey through ten selected optical topics. Each is packed with interesting information. Would you have known that the German word "Brille" (meaning eyeglasses) derives from the word "Beryll" (English: beryl), a mineral that – if polished - enlarges things when you look through it?

More than 210 years ago, Johann Heinrich August Düncker invented the so called "Vielschleifmaschine" right here in Rathenow. It was a machine for grinding 11 lenses at the same time and of good quality. In the same year, 1801, he was granted the royal privilege to start an optical manufacturing facility, the "Königlich privilegierte Optische Industrie Anstalt".

Thus, the foundation stone was laid for the optical industry in Rathenow, which still provides a variety of jobs these days.



By the reunion of historically valuable, partially unique exhibits, the optics is represented the visitor as soul of many appliances, the application of these appliances as well as the meaning the beholds and the light in diverse manner. From the small lens in the microscope up to the gigantic beacon-lens, the visitor of everything finds in the look industry museum.

Some especially interesting exhibits of the showing - all from production in Rathenow - is that first wide "Weitwinkelobjektiv" (widen-bend- lense)) " Pantoskop ", different lensl-systems for beacons, world-wide that world-wide first "Auflichtmikroskop" (Brighten Microscope) for normal-film of 1951 and a copy of the "Vielschleifmaschine" (famous many-polisher) Dünckers from the year 1801 and an Original „Düncker-glasses“ made in the „Royal privileged optical industry institution“ - By bringing together historically valuable and unique exhibits, the field of optics is presented as the soul of a range of appliances. The use of these machines as well as the importance of vision and light are illustrated in many ways. In the Museum of Optical Industry visitors can find various exhibits ranging from small microscope lenses to a huge lighthouse lens.

Some very special exhibits are:

- *the first European wide-angle lens "Pantoscope" from 1865
- *various lens systems for beacon lights in lighthouses
- *the first European incident light microscope for standard film dating from 1951
- *a replica of the famous "Vielschleifmaschine" from 1801.

All of the above mentioned exhibits were made in Rathenow. Düncker's spectacles were always stamped, either with Düncker – Rathenow or Düncker – ROIA (Rathenower Optische Industrie Anstalt).



Vielschleifmaschine



Pantoskop, 1865



More than 1000 optical instruments are on display. The exhibits are mainly taken from the inventory of the museum. Items on loan contribute to the exhibition. They were supplied by institutions and private persons from Germany and abroad and by the „Verein zur Förderung, Pflege und Erhaltung der Optischen Traditionen in Rathenow e.V.“ (Association for the promotion, cultivation and preservation of optical traditions in Rathenow).

Visitors can try out historic and modern items. They can explore optical phenomena with special hands-on experiments. You are welcome to touch the exhibits and to try them out.

Ask for our educational offers for schools.

You may also pre-book a guided tour with your visit.