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## **The International Newspaper Museum in Aachen (Germany) provides an insight into the world of minority newspapers**

Günther Rautz

The European Daily Newspapers written in minority- and regional languages are the focus of a special exhibition of the International Newspaper Museum (IMZ) in Aachen. A selection of current issues of dailies from ethnic minorities in Europe is shown from the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January to the 29<sup>th</sup> of February. The centre of the exhibition are the 30 newspapers that form together the Minority Dailies Association (MIDAS) placed at the EURAC in Bozen/Bolzano.

The remarkable diversity of languages from Finland to Spain, Northern Ireland to Romania is represented in the various newspapers e.g in the Swedish "Hufvudstadsbladet" from Finland, in the Danish newspaper "Flensborg Avis" and in the Sorbian "Serbske Nowiny" both from Germany, in the Slovenian "Promorski Dnevnik" from Trieste (Italy), in the Hungarian "Bihari Naplo" from Romania or in the Catalan newspaper "Segre" from Spain. The MIDAS members "Der Nordschleswiger" and the South Tyrolean "Dolomiten" are shown together with other German newspapers from all over the world. A historic ramble through the 400 years of history of newspapers is given by twelve showcases with 190 German and international gazettes from the 17<sup>th</sup> century to our days. The most remarkable are without doubts- the handwritten "Buster" from Africa dated 1892, the Chinese magazine "Hua Pao" from Shanghai dated 1885 and newspapers in Armenian, Bantu or Maori. A detailed documentation about German history, especially the Revolution 1848/49, the Weimar Republic, World War I and II and the German reunification can also be found.

Oscar von Forckenbeck (1822-1898) collected with meticulous passion and all his life the various issues of the international Press and laid the foundation for the worldwide biggest Newspaper collection. After his death he willed the collection to the city of Aachen. Nowadays the Museum encompasses 180.000 newspapers, amongst them the first newspaper, released in 1605 in Strasbourg and named "Relation", the smallest newspaper, the Brazilian "Vossa senhoria". The Museum also owns some first, anniversary or special issues as well as some historically valuable documents such as Emile Zola's article "J'Accuse" on the "Dreyfuß-Affaire" printed in the French "L'Aurore".

The leitmotif of the museum is the changing history of freedom of press, one of the central elements of democracy and human rights. This leitmotif is also represented by the collected minority newspapers, which are often the only mouthpiece of persons belonging to minorities.

For further information: [g.rautz@eurac.edu](mailto:g.rautz@eurac.edu)  
[www.izm.de](http://www.izm.de)