

FAQ – Visit the Institute or “Museum”

Is it possible to visit the Institute of History of Medicine in Stuttgart?

Yes, it is possible to visit our Institute. However, there are a few issues to be kept in mind, which will be explained by the following questions.

What is the Institute for the History of Medicine?

Our Institute is NOT a homeopathic hospital or clinic, it is NOT a homeopathic practice, and it is NOT a museum in the common sense, and it is most certainly NOT a place of worship of Samuel Hahnemann.

The Institute is a research institution, offering a library and an archive for scholars and researchers. It is therefore comparable to a Department of History at universities. The research focuses on the social history of medicine and the history of alternative medicine, especially homeopathy. These focuses are combined by the emphasis on patients in the history. We also do research in nursing history. If you wish to use the library and/or the archive, please see our website <http://igm-bosch.de/content/language2/html/10343.asp> (library) or <http://igm-bosch.de/content/language2/html/10318.asp> (archive) for details.

What about the “Museum”?

What is also part of the Institute's archive is a small, but exclusive and very special collection of objects. This collection is often referred to in the literature as the “homeopathy museum” or “Hahnemann museum”. We describe it as our “permanent exhibition”.

What can be seen in this special exhibition?

The exhibition, which can be visited at the Institute, consists of four showcases. In these showcases, about 80 objects can be seen. They either belonged to Samuel Hahnemann or his family and heirs. They may also document the history of homeopathy, e. g. artefacts from homeopathic pharmacies or homeopathic organisations.

A folder is also available on request. This folder contains copies of several documents which are part of the archive, e.g. Samuel Hahnemann's excerpts in his casebooks, other papers and letters by the founder of homeopathy. In addition, copies of letters written to Hahnemann by patients and pages from the casebooks of Clemens von Bönninghausen can be seen in this portfolio.

At what times can the exhibition be visited?

The exhibition can only be visited from Monday to Friday between 9.00 and 16.00. The Institute is closed between 11.30 and 12.30.

Is an appointment needed?

Yes, it is. The room in which the showcases are located is also used for working and teaching purposes. Therefore, it is necessary to contact the Institute well in advance and to ask about the possibility of a visit. The best way is to write a mail to info@igm-bosch.de or marion.baschin@igm-bosch.de.

How much time is needed for the visit?

As the exhibition is not very big, a stay for about 60 to 90 minutes should be sufficient to have a close look at the objects. We kindly ask visitors not to exceed this time span.

Are there guided tours?

No, in general, there are not. We will welcome our visitors and give them a brief introduction dealing with the history of the Institute and what can be seen in the showcases (approx. 15 minutes). Then, you have the possibility to have a look at the objects. An English “Guide to the permanent exhibition on the history of homoeopathy” is available, which describes the objects in the various showcases.

On rare occasions we do offer special arrangements for groups of at least seven people.

Are there any fees to be paid for the visit?

No. The visit is free of charge.

How do I get to the Institute?

A description how to get to the Institute can be found on our website: <http://igm-bosch.de/content/language2/html/10279.asp>.