

# Germanisches Nationalmuseum, Nürnberg, Germany

## General Remarks

Advanced

The Germanisches Nationalmuseum was founded in 1852 by a number of (partially well-known) scientists researching historical stuff. The somewhat puzzling name was chosen to promote the idea of a unified "Germany". Please recall (if you can) that in 1852 there was no Germany (or Deutschland) but only a large number of more or less independent kingdoms (like Bavaria), duchesses, free cities and God knows what else in the area defined by a common language. The goal was to assemble a "well-ordered compendium of all available source material for German history, literature and art". That was done; the museum now houses a collection of 1.2 million objects relating to Germanic culture and art, from prehistoric times to the present day. The Germanisches Nationalmuseum is actually Germany's largest museum of cultural history.

I only spend a few hours there and thus will restrict myself to a few highlights. The first one is that the museum has not (yet) succumbed to the dreaded "keep-things-in-the-dark disease" like for example the [Museum für Vor- und Frühgeschichte, Berlin](#).

Of course, you find pieces from local top artists like paintings from Dürer ( a Nürnberger) or the first pocket watch produced by the Nürnberger Peter Henlein. There are many Cranachs (also from the general region), some of them with rather modern topics:



### Sugardaddy and mistress

Part of a painting from Lucas Cranach (the elder) from around 1530. It is entitled "Das ungleiche Paar" (the unequal couple)

Source: Photographed 2015 in the Germanisches Nationalmuseum, Nürnberg, Germany

Other paintings relate to the topics here. Did you know that [Charlemagne's](#) sword actually once broke in a critical moment? Couldn't have been his trusty [Joyeuse](#); I would think. Here is a picture of this event:



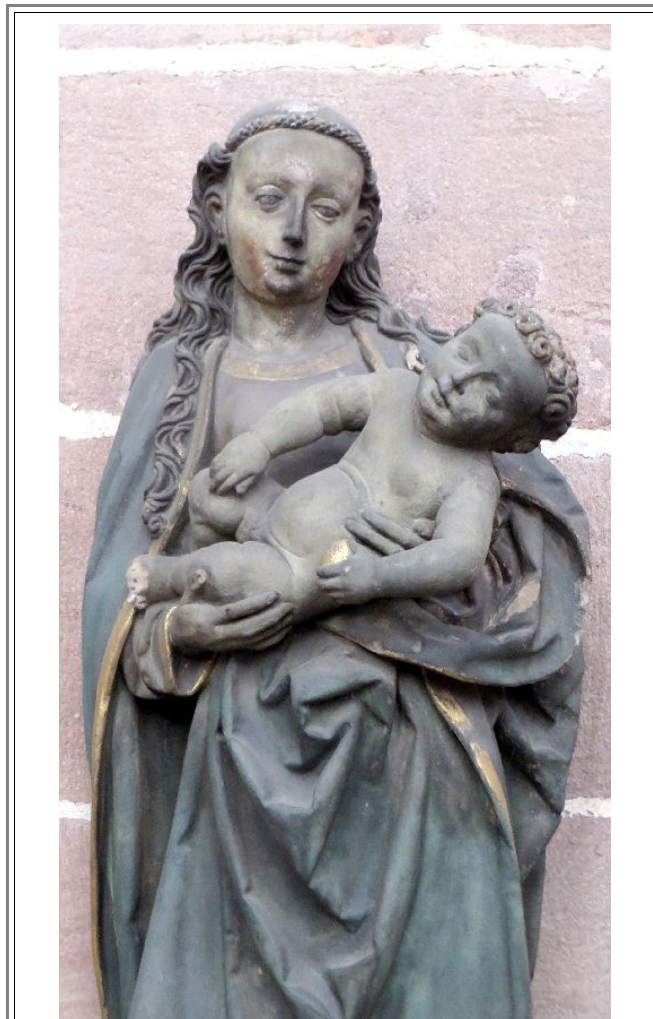
**Charlemagne with broken sword and his rescue  
angel. C. must have had a great insurance  
contract.**

Part of a painting from Albrecht Altdorfer (around  
1518) entitled "Victory of Charlemagne over the Avars  
near Regensburg".

[Large picture](#)

Source: Photographed 2015 in the Germanisches  
Nationalmuseum, Nürnberg, Germany

There are innumerable Madonnas (a whole Gothic church is actually part of the museum!) ....



**Madonna**

The artist was Adam Kraft, one of the foremost  
sculptors in the second half of the 16th century.

Source: Photographed 2015 in the Germanisches  
Nationalmuseum, Nürnberg, Germany

... and old stained glass windows. Several relate to swords; here is shown what one can do with a sword:



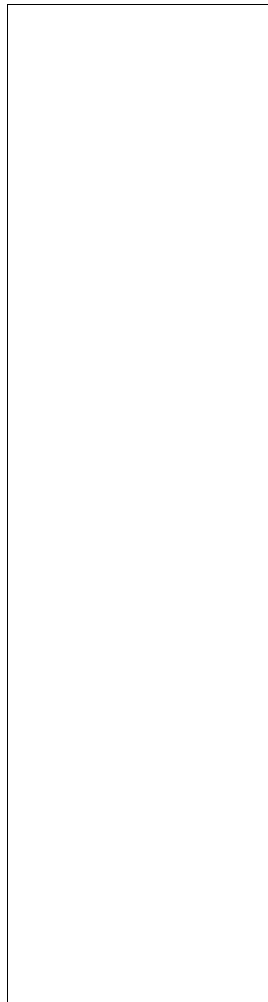
**Another [head count?](#)**

(Look up the stories around St. Erasmus and Felicitas to find out)

Source: Photographed 2015 in the Germanisches Nationalmuseum, Nürnberg, Germany

**Metal Objects**

There is no shortage of metal objects in the museum. Here are three rather spectacular ones:







**Golden head dress of a bronze age sun priest.**  
A similar one is in the [Neues Museum](#), Berlin



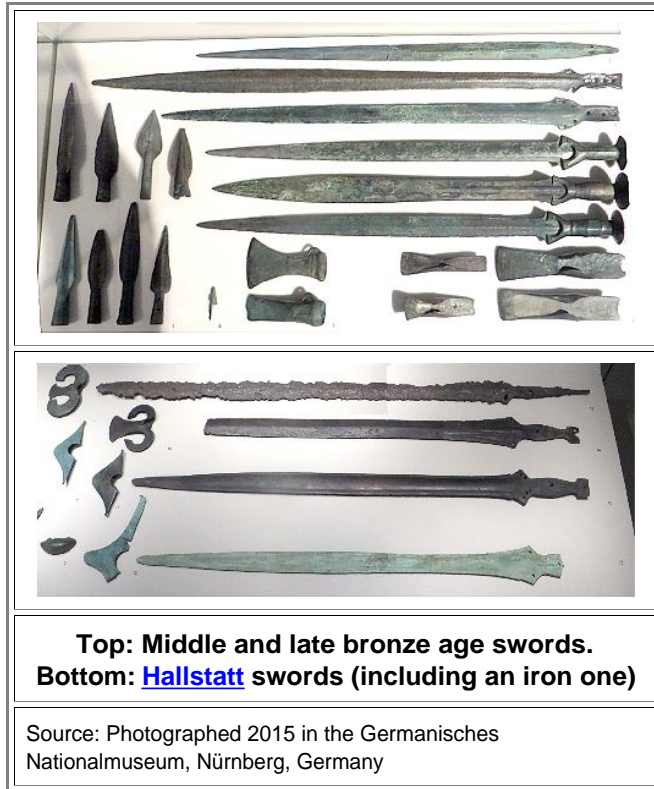
**Gold / garnet eagle from [Theodoric](#) court; around 500 AD.**



**Roman parade helmet, 2 century AD**

Source: Photographed 2015 in the Germanisches Nationalmuseum, Nürnberg, Germany

As far as swords are concerned, the museum displays a number of bronze swords (but not as many as, for example, the [Schleswig museum](#)). Here is a taste treat:



There is a large special exhibit of medieval weapons, including swords, armor and much else:



There is also an "VLBERHT" sword. It is prominently displayed, together with a friend. It is covered in more detail [here](#).



**Ulfberht sword and friend**

Source: Photographed 2015 in the Germanisches Nationalmuseum, Nürnberg, Germany

So make sure to visit Nürnberg! Beside the fabulous Germanisches Nationalmuseum - that you must visit - you will also find plenty of other good things like especially tasty beer and famous sausages known as "Nürnberger".