



Marburg  
Stadt + Land  
TOURISMUS GMBH



# GRIMM-TOWN MARBURG



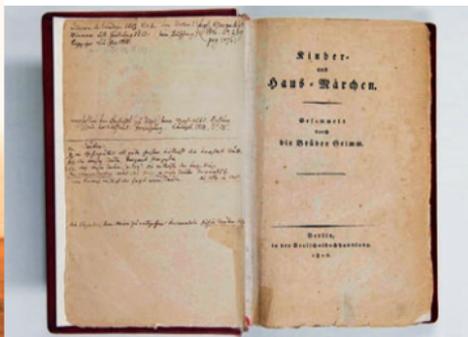
## Grimm-Town Marburg

Hanau, Kassel and Steinau have long been renowned as places linked with the Brothers Grimm. Yet Marburg is also a Grimm-Town. From 1802 to 1805 Jacob Grimm lived in the University Town of Marburg, his brother Wilhelm from 1803 to 1806. These few years in Marburg were very influential for the brothers; an important sojourn on their way. Here the idea for collecting children's and household tales, which later made them famous, was conceived. Here also a fascination for the German language was awakened in them and the academic study known today as 'Germanistik' was founded.

They studied law under the learned jurist Friedrich Carl von Savigny. Through him they became acquainted with his brother-in-law, the romantic writer, Clemens Brentano who steered their interest in the direction of folk songs and fairy tales. In Marburg they began to collect folk songs which were later, under the title 'Des Knaben Wunderhorn' published by Brentano and Achim von Arnim. The famous 'Kinder- und Hausmärchen' (= Children's and Household Tales) came later.

The medieval flair of Marburg seems also to have encouraged them. Even today the half-timbered houses, narrow alleys, steep steps, the romantic market-place and proud castle remind us of fairy tales. The artist Otto Ubbelohde, a century later, recognized this and used many features of Marburg in an edition of the Brother's Tales illustrated by him.

Marburg invites you to take a walk around the town following in the footsteps of these celebrated students.



## Places & events in the lives of the Brothers

The brothers Grimm are known world-wide for their collected Children's and Household Tales which are now a UNESCO World Heritage document. Together with the Luther Bible these stories are the most translated of German books having appeared in more than 160 languages. Equally important are the researches of Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm into the German language which eventually resulted in the establishment of a new academic discipline 'Germanistik'.

The family originally came from Hanau. Jacob (1785-1863) and Wilhelm (1786-1859) spent their youth in Steinau and in Kassel. After their student days in Marburg they again went to Kassel. Additionally to their Children's and Household Tales they also published many articles and books on minnesong, ballads, legends and fairy stories.

Jacob had a post as a librarian, Wilhelm as secretary in the library. Even after Wilhelm, at the age of 39, married Dorothea Wild they stayed together, now as a threesome.

In 1830 Jacob was appointed ordinary Professor in Göttingen, Wilhelm 5 years later. Politically, their desire was to unite the small German states. They helped formulate a manifesto with suggestions for human rights in Germany. For a pamphlet against the suspension of the constitution in the kingdom of Hannover the brothers, and five other professors known later as the "Göttingen Seven", were exiled in 1837. Formally without a job, they drafted the outline of their German dictionary which was a developmental history of words. Three years after they had to leave Hannover they were called to Berlin by the new Prussian King Friedrich Wilhelm IV. There they researched into the German language until their deaths.



## Interesting facts about the Brothers Grimm

### Did you know ...

**that** Marburg, around the year 1800, had a population of only about 6000 people? Studying at the Philipps University in Marburg, at this time, were not more than 170 enrolled students.

**that** Jacob Grimm was never granted an official first degree from the university? Only Wilhelm, in May 1806, completed the terminating exam in law. In 1819, however, both were awarded honorary doctorates from the University of Marburg.

**that** the town of Marburg is still influenced by the concept of the 'WG' or 'Wohngemeinschaft' (= commune)? Nowhere in Germany are there more students living in such 'WGs' as there are in Marburg.

**that** the Grimms maintained a common household, i.e. WG, even into their old age? Jacob Grimm continued to live with his bother also after Wilhelm married and had children. Even after the move to Göttingen they kept a common household together.

**that** they found being separated very uncomfortable? Jacob, at first alone in Marburg complained of almost unbearable loneliness. When Jacob was away in Paris for several months with Savigny in 1805 Wilhelm wrote "When you are away I feel a tearing at my heart ... certainly you cannot know just how fond I am of you."

**that** the great popularity of the Grimm's Children's and Household Tales owes some debt to the Marburg artist Otto Ubbelohde (1867-1922) who illustrated an edition of the work in 1907. He used for his drawings buildings and landscapes from and near to Marburg.



## The Brothers Grimm in Marburg at a Glance

### **'Grimm-Dich-Pfad' (= Grimm-Town Path)**

Fairy-tale figures and other highlights from the street Steinweg all the way up to the castle of the Landgrave.

Information at [www.marburg.de/GDP](http://www.marburg.de/GDP) and from QR-codes

### **Marburg House of the Romanticism**

Permanent exhibition together with temporary exhibitions and lectures of the Romantic period and the Brothers Grimm.

Tue - Sun: 11am-1pm & 2pm-5pm

Markt 16, 35037 Marburg

Tel.: +49 (0) 6421 / 917160

[www.romantikmuseum-marburg.de](http://www.romantikmuseum-marburg.de)

### **Otto Ubbelohde House**

The Marburg artist Otto Ubbelohde (1867-1922) became well-known especially because of his illustrations for the Grimm's fairy-tales. These illustrations and also paintings by Ubbelohde can be seen in changing exhibitions in the Otto Ubbelohde house.

Otto-Ubbelohde-Weg 30

35094 Lahntal-Goßfelden

Tel.: +49 (0) 6421 / 63326

Sat & Sun: 11am-5pm

### **Marburg Stadt und Land Tourismus GmbH**

Guided tours and accompanying programme, special arrangements and package deals to the Brothers Grimm and their fairy-tales.

Erwin-Piscator-Haus, Biegenstraße 15, 35037 Marburg

Tel.: +49 (0) 6421 / 9912-0

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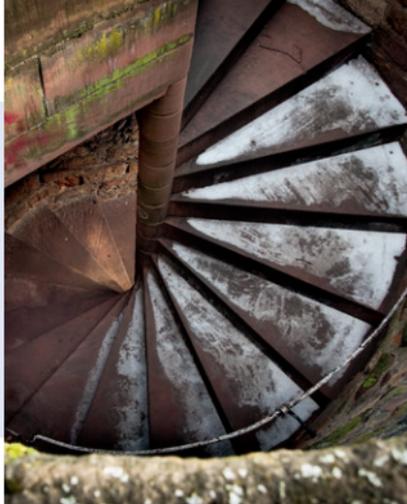


## A famous 'Wohngemeinschaft' (= commune)

**Barfüßerstraße 35** is a more than 400 year old half-timbered house. In it there lived the members of a very important little commune in a small corner room which looked out on one side to the alley, Wendelgasse. It was in 1802 that Jacob Grimm moved into this town-house with its attractive and decorative bays. The separation from his family caused him to suffer badly and he was delighted when, in April 1803, his brother Wilhelm also moved to Marburg. Both lived in the house, Wendelgasse 4, and studied law under the learned jurist Friedrich Carl von Savigny.

In exactly which corner room they lived is unfortunately not known but they did live in financially modest circumstances in a crowded room. Marburg did not greatly appeal to them as they found it dirty with badly lit alleyways between warped and skewed houses. Jacob became very annoyed with the noises of the many barking dogs and the cries of wood-selling farmers which came through the thin-paned windows of their room.

About 150 years later after the end of WWII this house was used by the Nazi war criminal Klaus Barbie as a hiding place. The 'Butcher of Lyon' lived there under the name of "Klaus Becker" in 1946-47. Today, as if in remembrance of their famous predecessors, the students in their commune call themselves the "Grimm WG" (WG = Wohngemeinschaft).

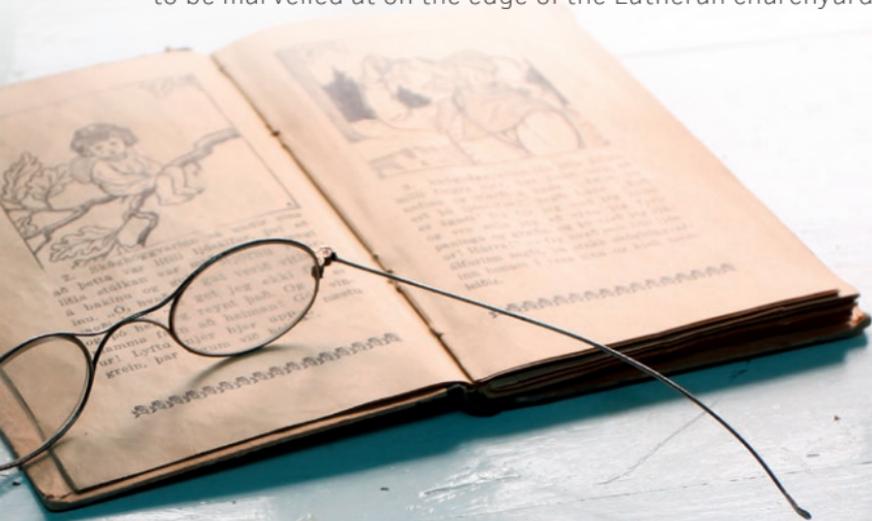


## The Way to the “Uni”

At the beginning of the 19th century there were only about 170 enrolled students in Marburg. In order to study they went to the houses of their Professors where they also ate a midday meal together.

For this reason the Grimms often had to go up the steep alley **Wendelgasse** on to which they could look out from their room. In house No. 2 in the alley Michael W. Lomonossov had lived when he studied in Marburg from 1736-1740. This universally learned man was later to found Moscow University. One house further in the alley (Wendelgasse 4) was living Paul Wigand, a school friend of Wilhelm Grimm and it was here he lodged when his brother Jacob went to Paris for several months with Professor Savigny on a research journey.

When you go through this alley to Rubenstein and go up the **sandstone spiral stairway** you will come to the churchyard of the Lutheran parish church. Turn around and you will have a fine view over Marburg town and into the far distance. Jacob Grimm found the town “very ugly.” He sighed “I believe there are more steps in the streets than in the houses. There is a house one enters by a door in the roof.” This house is still there to be marvelled at on the edge of the Lutheran churchyard.



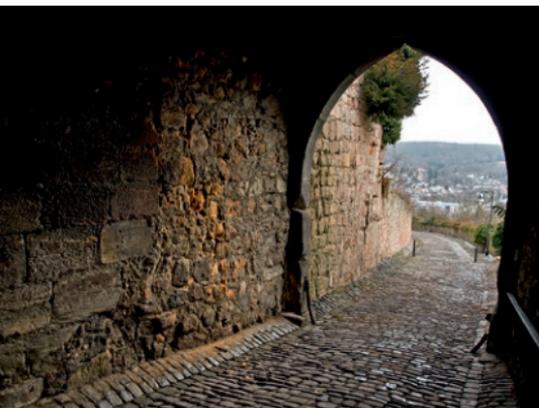


## In the “Forsthof” (Ritterstrasse 15)

Behind the Lutheran parish church there are steps up to the picturesque Ritterstrasse. Go to the left and you will come to house No. 15 which is decorated with graffiti and which was the residence of Professor Carl von Savigny (1779-1861) so much admired by the Grimms. In fact his house is **attached to the “Forsthof” which is behind it**. Here the learned man lived a life that was, according to the brothers; “serene, trouble-free and dedicated to science”. He lived in this house with his wife Gunda who was sister to Clemens and Bettina Brentano.

The brothers maintained a lifelong friendship with Carl von Savigny who, in 1803, was appointed Professor of Law in Marburg at the age of 24. Jacob Grimm wrote of him: “What more can I say about Savigny’s lectures than that they fervently siezed me and that they influenced my life and studies in a most decisive way”. They did, in fact, find in his large library not only books of law. Savigny made himself familiar with works of the romantic school and minnesong. He introduced them to, and taught them historically critical thought, so that they were able to view literature from a historically developmental standpoint. Under Savigny’s influence the Grimms philological passion for the gathering of legends and fairy story texts unfolded.

In the ‘Forsthof’ behind his house, which today is a residence for students, lived Bettina Brentano. Like her brother Clemens she belonged to Savigny’s circle of friends along with such leading figures of the romantic period as Caroline von Günderode, Achim von Arnim, Sophie Mereau, Pastor Johann Christian Bank and the Brothers Grimm who also gathered around him. Somewhat hidden in the extensive garden between the ‘Forsthof’ and the Konrad-Biesalski-Haus is the **‘Bettinatum’**, named after the authoress. This little tower is today on private property.

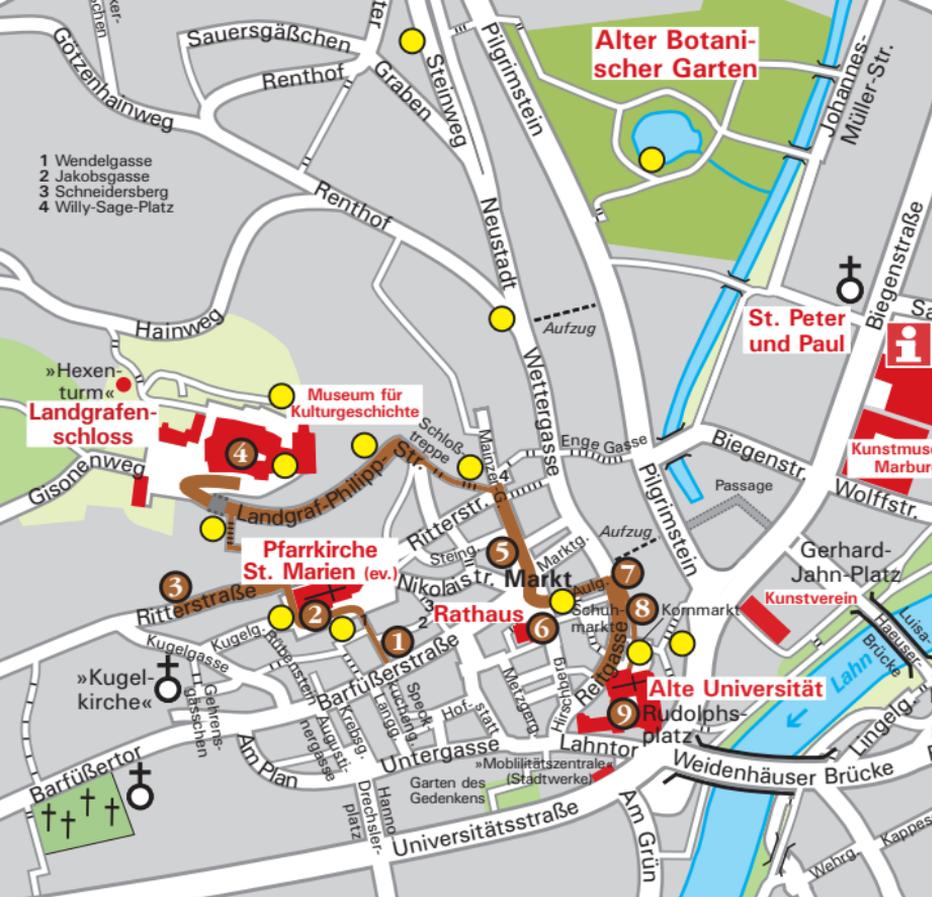


## Theatre, balls and a circle of readers

If you branch off the Ritterstrasse and ascend the 'Bickell-Treppe' (= steps) you will find quotations from the works of the Grimms on these steps between the ivy-covered walls. The steep steps go up to the **castle** which even the very critical Jacob Grimm professed to like. The **gateway to the castle** was used by the artist Otto Ubbelohde for his illustrations of the fairy-tales. In Landgrave's castle you will find the Museum for Cultural History.

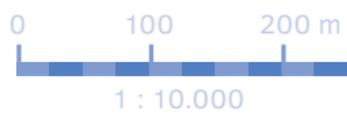
For your way back we recommend that you take the more gently sloping **Landgraf-Philipp-Straße**. Take the shortcut with the castle steps past the House of Romanticism and you will find yourself back on the market-place. In the town hall there, you can regularly enjoy Grimm theatre and comedies. One street further in the Reitgasse is Hofmann's salon (house No. 5) where Jacob Grimm attended a ball which he found to be "An exceptionally good diversion". Nearby in Reitgasse 7 was Krieger's lending library which is the site of the bookshop Lehmanns. Reading was one of the passions of the Grimms. Jacob would almost literally make his escape into literature. Shortly after his arrival in Marburg he visited Krieger's lending library and found it very appealing. Wilhelm Grimm himself founded a journal readers circle.

When you are in Reitgasse go down the hill a little way and you will come to the Old University. In the building which used to be on this site the Grimms were awarded and received their honorary doctorates from the Philipps University in 1819.



- 1 Grimm house (Barfüßerstr. 35; Wendelgasse 4)
- 2 Lutheran parish churchyard
- 3 'Forsthof', the house of Savigny
- 4 Castle of the Landgrave
- 5 House of the Romanticism
- 6 Town hall
- 7 Bookshop Lehmanns

- 8 Reitgasse 5 (Hofmann's salon)
- 9 Old University
- Other attractions on the Grimm Town Path



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