



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 in. They both 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 thinly-paned windows of their room.

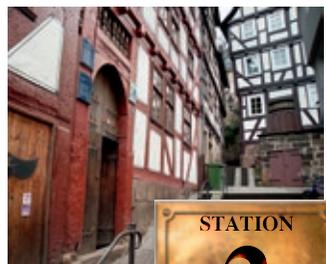
About 150 years later after the end of WWII this house was used by the Nazi war criminal Klaus Barbie as a hiding place. The 'Butcher of Lyon' lived there under the name of "Klaus Becker" in 1946-47. Today, as if in remembrance of their famous predecessors, the students in their commune call themselves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



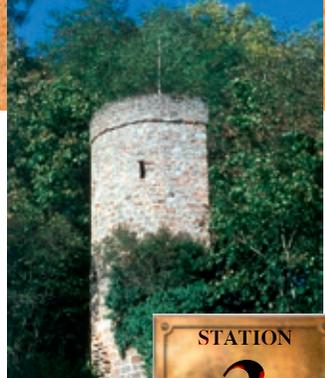
When you go through this alley to Rubenstein and go up the **sandstone spiral stairway** you will come to the churchyard of the Lutheran parish church. Turn around and you will have a fine view over Marburg town and into the far distance. Jacob Grimm found the town "very ugly." He sighed "I believe there 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.

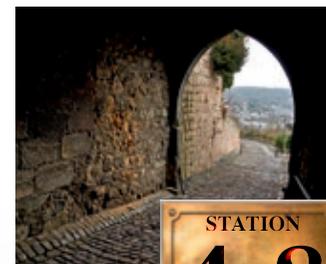
In the 'Forsthof' behind his house, which today is a residence for students, lived Bettina Brentano. Like her brother Clemens she belonged to Savigny's circle of friends along with such leading figures of the romantic period as Caroline von Günderode, Achim von Arnim, Sophie Mereau, Pastor Johann Christian 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 the south wing of the Landgrave's castle you will find the exhibition, "Authentic Hessian? - Land Life and Fairy-Tales".

For your way back we recommend that you take the more gently sloping **Landgraf-Philipp-Straße**. Take the shortcut with the castle steps and you will find yourself back on the market-place. In the town hall there, you can regularly enjoy Grimm theatre and com-



edies. 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, up to this day, the site of the University bookshop Elwert. 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.



Grimm Town Marburg



INTRODUCTION



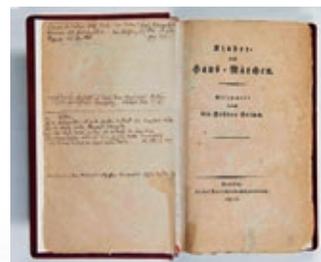
GRIMM-TOWN MARBURG

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

IMPORTANT EVENTS



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 110 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

Tips:

With a car you can only drive up to the castle; the old town is largely traffic-free. It is convenient to use the town bus. Those who want to follow the 'Grimms' on foot should equip themselves with suitable shoes. The ways are mostly of cobble stones and there are steep steps both up and down.



GOOD TO KNOW



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 'Wohnge-meinschaft' (= 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 romantic Clemens Brentano and Sophie Mereau were married in November 1803 in the Lutheran parish church in Marburg? Thereafter the two lived briefly in the street Reitgasse.
- 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 from QR-codes (until the end of 2014)
www.marburg.de/gdp

MARBURG HOUSE OF THE ROMANTIC

Permanent exhibition about the circle of the Romantics and the Brothers Grimm.

Tue - Sun: 11am-1pm & 2pm-5pm
Markt 16, 35037 Marburg
Tel.: +49 (0) 6421 / 917160
www.romantikmuseum-marburg.de

OTTO UBBELOHDE HOUSE

The Marburg artist Otto Ubbelohde (1867-1922) became well-known especially because of his illustrations of 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) 6423 / 964402
Sat & Sun: 11am-5pm



EXHIBITION IN THE MARBURG CASTLE OF THE LANDGRAVE: 'Authentic Hessian'? – Land Living Fairy stories'

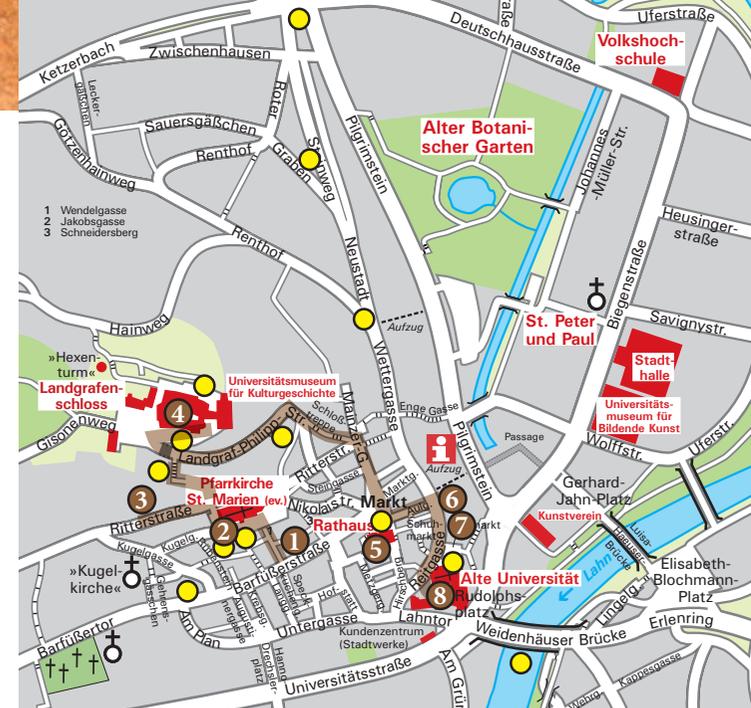
The exhibition attempts to link the everyday culture of Hesse and the tales of the Grimm brothers. It mirrors and plays with reality and fantasy. But have these tales something to do with Hesse? Which traditions are to be found in the telling of the stories? And, in what way does this relate to everyday life? Take yourself on a voyage of discovery.

Dec 8th 2012 until the end of 2014
April – October:
Tue - Sun: 10am-6pm
November – March:
Tue - Sun: 10am-4pm
Schloss 1, 35037 Marburg
Tel.: +49 (0) 6421 / 2822355
www.uni-marburg.de/uni-museum/kulturgeschichte

MARBURG TOURISMUS UND MARKETING GMBH

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

Pilgrimstein 26, 35037 Marburg
Tel.: +49 (0) 6421 / 9912-0
www.marburg.de/tourismus



GRIMM HIGHLIGHTS

- | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|----------|--|-------|
| 1 | Grimm house | 0 | 125 | 250 m |
| 2 | Lutheran parish churchyard | 1 : 7500 | | |
| 3 | 'ForsthoF' and the house of Savigny | 7 | Reitgasse 5 (Hofmann's salon) | |
| 4 | Castle of the Landgrave | 8 | Old University | |
| 5 | Town hall | | Other attractions on the Grimm Town Path | |
| 6 | Bookshop Elwert (reading society) | | | |

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