

GRIMM

WELT

KASSEL

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## Exhibition opening

### »The Rumpelstiltskin File. Looking for clues in fairy tales and law«

Exhibition opening on 29 September 2023

**Wicked wolves, innocent children, villainous robbers and envious stepmothers – the fairy tales of the Brothers Grimm offer many opportunities to reflect on right and wrong, good and evil. This is the reason why this new temporary exhibition is searching for evidence in fairy tales and law.**

*"The exhibition illuminates the question of right and wrong in three chapters and traces the connections from the Grimm Brothers' Children's and Household Tales through their life and work down to the present day,"* explains Jan Sauerwald, Managing Director and Programme Director of GRIMMWELT Kassel.

In the first part, the characters and plots of three selected fairy tales are examined. On closer inspection, some characters are more ambivalent than one would initially expect. The visitors are invited to question the common classification of good and evil in fairy tales and to give their own individual assessment.

A quotation from Jacob Grimm leads into the next section: *"It is not difficult to believe that law and poetry had arisen from the same bed."* In his essay *Poesie im Recht (Poetry in Law)* from 1815, he already established the connection between his research in law and that in linguistics – and thus also included the fairy tales.

This section focuses on an almost unknown work by Jacob Grimm, the *Deutsche Rechtsalterthümer (German Legal Antiquities)*, as well as the part which this basic collection of legal history plays in the brothers' complete oeuvre. Apart from looking at Jacob Grimm's research, the academic and family influences are highlighted. Here it becomes clear: the subject of law forms a leitmotif in the lives of the former law students Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm – whether as part of the Göttingen Seven or as advocates of a free and united Germany.

*"But we also want to show the political and legal situation that prevailed Germany at that time, when it was divided into numerous small states, and what impact this had on the lives of the Grimms and others in the mid-19th century,"* says Jan Sauerwald.

A quotation from Jacob Grimm introduces the last section of the exhibition: "*Law is truth and realisation, resembling the daytime in its light and clarity*". This makes the connection to our present-day reality, our sense of justice and our modern, but complex legal system.

Here we look at the present to open up new perspectives. For example, the question is raised whether the law always leads to justice. Taking the current topic of "whistleblowing" as an example, different opinions on the current legal situation from NGOs, trade and industry as well as the press are presented, making it clear that the law is subject to constant change. At the end, some tongue-in-cheek musical examples draw attention to the central importance of this topic in our lives.

*"We want to look at the topic of law and justice in various ways and thus also open people's eyes to the fact that our law is based on a complex process of negotiation. This achievement of our democratic system is not self-evident in all parts of the world,"* says Ute Lilly Mohnberg from the exhibition conception of GRIMMWELT Kassel.

In the exhibition, the visitors are invited to express their views on various issues at many hands-on stations, and to take sides. In addition, it is possible to see unique loan objects and revealing documents on the Grimms' lives from numerous institutions, museums and private collections – including works that have not been shown before in public, such as a pen and ink drawing by Ludwig Emil Grimm. Interviews with experts on historical and current topics as well as diverse film installations and listening stations round off the show.

An augmented reality app specially developed for the exhibition offers surprising extras and makes it possible to explore further background material on the individual exhibits. This innovative communication format was funded by the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Literarischer Gesellschaften und Gedenkstätten e. V. (ALG) and the cdw Stiftung gGmbH.

With the publication *My Rumpelstiltskin File*, which is available free of charge, children aged six to twelve can go on a tour of discovery through the exhibition, answering questions, solving puzzles and being creative.

For the first time, there will be a "Children's Opening" at the start of the exhibition "Akte Rumpelstilzchen" (The Rumpelstiltskin File) in the GRIMMWELT; children and young people as well as their families are cordially invited to attend on Sunday, 1 October, between 10 a.m. and 6.00 p.m.. A varied programme offers insights into the new temporary exhibition which are suitable for children, ranging from a Grimm's fairy tale told by a story-teller to a short introductory tour of the exhibition or a chance to produce one's own rubber stamp with a coat of arms. On this day, children and young people up to the age of 18 can go through the exhibition free of charge.

The app for the exhibition is supported by the cdw Foundation and the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Literarischer Gesellschaften und Gedenkstätten e. V. (ALG).

The exhibition is sponsored by the city of Kassel and the administrative district of Kassel.

**Exhibition duration:**

29 September 2023 to 14 April 2024

**Opening times:**

Tue to Sun: 10 am to 6 pm | Fri: 10 am to 8 pm | Mon: closed

**Contact:**

GRIMMWELT Kassel gGmbH

Weinbergstraße 21

34117 Kassel

[www.grimmwelt.de](http://www.grimmwelt.de)

**Admission fees:**

Adults: €10, concessions: €7 | Families: €25

Group min. 8 people: €7

Children under 6 years of age: admission free

**Admission fees (special exhibition only):**

Adults: €5, concessions: €3 | Families: €12

Group min. 8 people: €3

**Press releases:**

<https://www.grimmwelt.de/site/presse/>

**Contributors**

**Managing Director | Programme Director GRIMMWELT Kassel:** Jan Sauerwald

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**App for the exhibition:** blubb.media GmbH

**GRIMMWELT**

In GRIMMWELT Kassel, the Brothers Grimm are brought to life in the here and now: through art, media and interaction, this newly created world of adventure conveys the Brothers' fascinating life and work. Valuable originals, artistic installations along with interactive and

multimedia features all draw visitors in to explore the permanent exhibition. With an international outlook, the venue presents the globally unifying cultural assets of 'fairy tales' and 'language' with great appeal, addressing children and adults, art lovers and fairy tale aficionados alike.

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