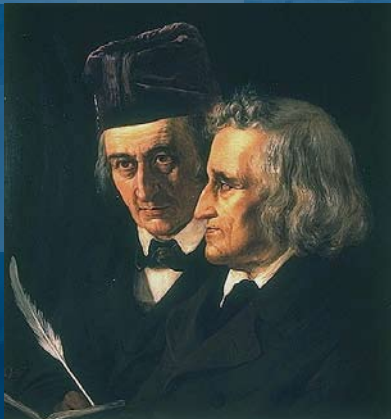


The Bremen Town Musicians

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The story of The Bremen Town Musicians can be found in “Children`s and Household Tales”, a collection of German fairy tales.

The book was first published in 1812 by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm, the famous Brothers Grimm.

The fairy tale – short summary

The Bremen Town Musicians are a donkey, a dog, a cat and a rooster. They are all mistreated by their masters, who they then leave and the four animals meet up in a desolate place. They decide to go to Bremen, a town known for its freedom, and to live without their owners.

On the way to Bremen they see a cottage which is lit up. They look through the window and see four robbers enjoying their ill-gotten gains. Standing on each other`s backs (the rooster on the cat, the cat on the dog and the dog on the donkey), they decide to perform for the men in the hope of gaining some food. Their “music” has an unanticipated effect: The men run for their lives, not knowing what the strange sound is. The animals take possession of the house, eat a good meal and settle down for the evening.

Later that night the robbers return and send one of the men in to investigate. It is dark and he sees the eyes of the cat shining in the darkness. Thinking that they are the coals of the fire he reaches over them to light his candle. Things happen in quick succession: the cat swipes his face with her claws, the donkey picks up his hooves and kicks him, the dog bites him in the leg and the rooster crows and chases him out of the door, screaming. He tells his companions that he was beset by a horrible witch who scratched him with her long fingernails (the cat), a man with a knife (the dog), a monster who had hit him with a club (the donkey) and worst of all, the devil who screamed from the rooftop (the rooster). The robbers abandon the cottage to the strange creatures who have taken it over and the animals live there happily for the rest of their days.

Where to find them

In the Old Town of Bremen you can find a bronze statue on the western side of the Town Hall. It is said that a wish comes true if you grasp the donkey by his forelegs and many people have tried it. That`s why the donkey has very polished legs.

So try your luck!

