

Exhibit Synopsis

Seven Schwabians

A Pike and a Rake

Exhibit Purpose

This exhibit is an example of a digital approach to philatelic exhibiting. Viewing is more comfortable in an easy chair than standing in front of a frame with aching feet. Pages are text heavy by design.

Exhibit Theme

The Seven Schwabians is a series of German folktales. First recited by Hans Sachs in 1545, the fables relate the many misguided adventures of seven Schwabian would-be heroes who are oft portrayed as innocent or foolish. This type of stereotyping occurs in all cultures, with stories following of course.

A few of the Seven Schwabian folk tales were collected by the Brothers Grimm and included in the second volume of the Grimm Fairy Tales. The brothers did not write all the stories in their works, but rather consolidated many tales commonly told historically by any number of storytellers.

Exhibit Scope

Scope is purposely limited to the first two tales as those stories fit into the available 16 pages.

Exhibit Challenge

First, a number of post cards depict scenes from the folktales, most with similar designs for the more popular 'hare' story. To complete this story, unrelated cards were found to depict people, animals or events in the story line. The challenge is to find those items which relate the story and keep the same overall feel of the display constant, in this case simple and colorful illustrations. This was the tough part!

Second, such tales have been told and retold over many, many years with the teller adding or subtracting events, people or monsters as the creative mood strikes them. This version is loosely based on the original (as original as may be determined from sources available.) In the tradition of previous storytellers, I've embellished the story, made substitutions or added details as the creative mood moved me.

Philatelic Elements

Elements are limited mainly to picture post cards as they best depict scenes from these tales. Additional items such as chocolate and tobacco cards or cinderellas may also be included. As this is a narrative, descriptions of the items themselves are not included, relying on the images to speak to the reader.

Material Availability

Most items are available on the internet, nothing rare, just difficult to find in some cases.

Literature References

The Seven Swabians

University of Florida Digital Collections - <https://ufdc.ufl.edu/UF00026229/00001/1j>

The Seven Swabians

Wikipedia - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Seven_Swabians

The Seven Swabians

University of Pittsburgh - <https://www.pitt.edu/~dash/grimm119.html>