

## Exhibit Synopsis

# Seven Schwabians

## A Spear and a Rake

### Exhibit Purpose

This is an example of a digital approach to literature as a philatelic exhibit. 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 the stories in their works, but rather consolidated tales commonly told historically by any number of storytellers.

### Exhibit Scope

Scope is purposely limited to two of the earliest stories.

### Exhibit Challenge

A number of post cards depict scenes from the folktales, most with similar designs for the more popular stories. 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!

Such tales have been told and retold over many, many years with each storyteller adding or subtracting events, people or creatures. This version is *loosely* based on the Grimm Brothers' 1857 edition of *Kinder- und Hausmärchen*, volume 2. In the tradition of previous storytellers, I've embellished the stories, made substitutions and/or added details found in other references or as my creative mood dictated.

### Philatelic Elements

Elements are limited mainly to picture post cards as they best depict scenes from these tales. Additional items such as foodstuffs and other advertising cards 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 immensely rare, just difficult to find in some cases.

### Literature References

*Die Sieben Schwaben*; Aurbcher, Ludwig, 1929, Hermann Schaffstein, Köln, Germany

*Die Sieben Schwaben - Die Klugen Leute*; Brothers Grimm, 1943, Franz Schneider Verlag, Berlin, Germany

*Die Sieben Schwaben*; Nothardt, Fritz, 1953, Herold-Verlag Bruck KG., Stuttgart, Germany

*The Seven Swabians*

Wikipedia - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Seven\\_Swabians](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Seven_Swabians)

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