Dear Readers,

If we think about key figures in German cultural history who came from Hessen, the first who springs to mind is probably Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. However, we forget that there are thinkers from Hessen whose works have enjoyed considerably wider circulation throughout the world than those of Goethe. Did you know that Grimms' Fairy Tales, the “Children’s and Household Tales”, have been translated into 170 languages since they were first published 200 years ago? Or that this collection of folk tales is the most widely read book of German origin throughout the world and is inscribed on the UNESCO Memory of the World Register? In Hessen, we can be very proud of the Brothers Grimm. They are also considered to be the founders of modern linguistics and German studies. The German Dictionary which they initiated is the most extensive work of European language studies. Work on the 32 volumes continued for 122 years! The many superlatives in the lives of the Brothers Grimm certainly deserve to be celebrated. 200 years after the publication of the Fairy Tales, there is to be a comprehensive programme of events in the Grimm cities of Hanau, Steinau, Marburg and Kassel mainly in 2013 but also in 2012.

Yours sincerely

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Further information
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12/2012
The Brothers Grimm were born in Hanau on the River Main: Jacob in 1785, Wilhelm in 1786 and their brother Ludwig Emil, who became a painter, in 1790. They were born into a highly respected family and a lawyer employed by the ruler. Their friendship with Marie Hassenplug during their youth was to be important for their later studies because she was to provide folk tales from the Main region for their collection. Unfortunately, the historic residences of the Grimm family in Hanau were destroyed in the Second World War. The National Monument on the market square, created in 1891, refers to the place of birth of the Brothers Grimm and is also the starting point of the "Deutsche Märchenstraße" (German Fairy Tale Route) which runs from here to Bremen in the north. Since 1985, Hanau has celebrated its famous sons each year with the Brothers Grimm Fairy Tale Festival which has since been visited by about 1 million visitors. Like Hanau, Steinau was also named a Brothers Grimm city by the state of Hessen in 2006.

In the romantic town of Steinau an der Straße with its picturesque half-timbered houses, the world of the Brothers Grimm still seems to be alive today. Not far from the magnificent renaissance palace of the Counts of Hanau, we find the imposing official residence of the district magistrate Philipp Wilhelm Grimm. He had moved to Steinau, his own place of birth, with his family as district magistrate in 1791. The Brothers Grimm later wrote that they had spent a happy youth here until 1798, when their father died at the age of only 44. The former official residence with its ancillary buildings is now a museum dedicated to the life and works of the Brothers Grimm. The redesign of the Museum was completed in 2011. On the ground floor, visitors can experience the family history and the scientific and artistic works of the Brothers while the first floor presents an exciting fairytale world full of surprises, not only for young visitors. Like Hanau, Steinau was also named a Brothers Grimm city by the state of Hessen in 2006.

In their memoirs, the Brothers Grimm report that Kassel was the place where they were most productive. They lived in the city from 1806 to 1829. As librarians and secretaries in the service of their ruler, it was here that they founded German philology and literary studies, published their German Grammar, collected their fairytales and published them from 1812 to 1815 in a stroll through the streets of the picturesque old city. Sites which can be viewed include the house of Friedrich Carl von Savigny, a professor highly respected by the Grimm, on Ritterstraße or the house where they lived at Barfüßerstraße 15. In the company of Savigny and his friends, they were enthusiastic about the contemporary works of Tieck, Goethe, Brentano and Schiller. It is here that the seeds for their later research work on German literature were laid. The exhibitions in the "Haus der Romantik" on the market square remind visitors of this phase in German cultural history and the University of Marburg also has a research focus on the Brothers Grimm. In nearby Golfeldien, visitors can view the famous fairy tale illustrations by Otto Ubbelohde published in 1907, exhibited in the Otto-Ubbelohde-Haus. Under the motto of "seven at one blow", Marburg is opening the program of the four Grimm cities in Hessen in the anniversary years of 2012 and 2013.

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The Brothers Grimm Museum and an international congress programme in Hessen will be on Kassel. This will include the central state exhibition in the documenta hall, a newly designed Grimm exhibition in Palais Bellevue and an international congress programme in Hessen will be on Kassel. This will include the central state exhibition in the documenta hall, a newly designed Grimm exhibition in Palais Bellevue and an international congress programme in Hessen will be on Kassel. This will include the central state exhibition in the documenta hall, a newly designed Grimm exhibition in Palais Bellevue and an international congress programme in Hessen will be on Kassel. This will include the central state exhibition in the documenta hall, a newly designed Grimm exhibition in Palais Bellevue and an international congress programme in Hessen will be on Kassel. This will include the central state exhibition in the documenta hall, a newly designed Grimm exhibition in Palais Bellevue and an international congress programme in Hessen will be on Kassel. This will include the central state exhibition in the documenta hall, a newly designed Grimm exhibition in Palais Bellevue and an international congress programme in Hessen will be on Kassel. This will include the central state exhibition in the documenta hall, a newly designed Grimm exhibition in Palais Bellevue and an international congress programme in Hessen will be on Kassel. This will include the central state exhibition in the documenta hall, a newly designed Grimm exhibition in Palais Bellevue and an international congress programme in Hessen will be on Kassel. This will include the central state exhibition in the documenta hall, a newly designed Grimm exhibition in Palais Bellevue and an international congress programme in Hessen will be on Kassel. This will include the central state exhibition in the documenta hall, a newly designed Grimm exhibition in Palais Bellevue and an international congress programme in Hessen will be on Kassel. This will include the central state exhibition in the documenta hall, a newly designed Grimm exhibition in Palais Bellevue and an international congress programme in Hessen will be on Kassel. This will include the central state exhibition in the documenta hall, a newly designed Grimm exhibition in Palais Bellevue and an international congress programme in Hessen will be on Kassel. This will include the central state exhibition in the documenta hall, a newly designed Grimm exhibition in Palais Bellevue and an international congress