

German storybook comes to PSU

By Lindsay Cryer
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

A well-known German children's book character became popular in the United States decades ago, but is now making a stop in State College.

Now through Jan. 24, "Selections from the Allison-Shelley Collection of German Literature in Translation" is on display in The Eberly Family Special Collections Library in 104 Paterno Library.

Marion Herzog-Hoinkis donated the collection.

A collection of translations and versions of the German storybook, "Struwwelpeter" sits at the first table visible in the library. The covers of each book are almost exactly the same, bearing a cartoon of a character that look like a childlike version of Edward Scissorhands — except with ungroomed fingernails and hair.

"Struwwelpeter" in German translates roughly to "disheveled Peter," said Sandra Stelts, a curator of rare books and manuscripts in the Special Collections Library.

The book is a collection of short tales of the consequences children face if they choose not to do as they are told. Some of the stories include a

child who sucked his thumb, a child who wouldn't eat his soup and a child who played with fire and eventually caught on fire as punishment.

"He's definitely not a role model," Stelts said. "That's the thing about it, these are cautionary tales."

The stories were written in 1845 by Heinrich Hoffmann, a psychiatrist and father who was tried of reading "sappy and sentimental" stories to his own children, Stelts said. As a result, Hoffmann took a notebook and wrote the stories, which he found more fitting.

The book has since been translated into several languages and dialects — including an English translation by Mark Twain — and now has quite a cult following, Stelts said. It has also influenced a Broadway show, a German band and various artists, said Bettina Brandt, a visiting professor in the German department.

Brandt said she was thrilled to hear the collection of books would be coming to Penn State and will be taking her students to the exhibit this week. She said it's easy to understand why the books have become popular worldwide.

"The stories are short, they rhyme, it's easy to get into and there's some

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Bettina Brandt
visiting German professor

excellent translations," Brandt said. "Childhood doesn't have a culture, childhood doesn't have nationality."

Katja Stuckatz (graduate-German) said the books have served as both an educational tool and a pleasure read for German children. She said the cruel, realistic type of storytelling is common in Germany.

"That is typical for Germans, that they don't like sugar-coating things," Stuckatz said. "They are right in your face, no sweet talk."

The rest of the collection, bequeathed by late professor Philip Allison Shelley, features exhibits displaying the German influence on English-speaking nations. It features German game boards, pictures and figures of the Christmas tree and a memoir by a German immigrant on his way to the United States.

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Industrial Revolution visits Palmer

By Sarah Becks
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

The Industrial Revolution has come to the Palmer Museum of Art to highlight different perspectives of the influence of coal and mining through art and to educate the public on a forgotten time.

Seventy-five prints and posters make up the exhibition "At the Heart of Progress: Coal, Iron, and Steam since 1750." The exhibition is being showcased now until Jan. 23 and features American and European artwork.

The collection was put together by John P. Eckblad, who spent most of his childhood among the coal-mining hills of western Pennsylvania.

"I was overwhelmed by the industrial environment," Eckblad said. "The colors, lights, movement was so different than what I was used to."

It's important to keep the historical significance of the Industrial Revolution alive because it is "another part of reality that is deteriorating," he said.

He added that people are forgetting about the forces that gave us the riches we already have.

Education is not just about learning through text — it is important to see and experience what you're learning about, he said.

"Art completes the educational experience," he said.

Brendan Smith (junior-supply chain management) attended the exhibition because it related to the material he was learning in his STS 100 (Science Technology and Culture) class.

"Learning history through art is just as important as learning it in a classroom," Smith said. "You see through the artist's eyes what's going on."

Not only can the audience see what the pieces are about, but now they can also hear the information as well because of the iTunes audio tour that goes along with the art pieces.

"At the Heart of Progress" is one of many collections at the Palmer Museum of Art where the museum decided to incorporate technology by creating podcasts that talk about the art in detail.

Laura March (graduate-art education) studies technology in the arts and is a huge proponent of including technology in the arts.

"It's important for people to be able to access the art in many forms," she said.

If someone is not able to travel to a museum, they can look online at the artwork and decide if it's somewhere they might want to go in the future and get the experience of seeing the art in person, March said.

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