

## The Carnival of Rottweil (Die Rottweiler Fasnet)

The Rottweiler Fasnet is one of the oldest and most traditional Fasnet of the swabian-alemannic Fasnet. With its historical cityscape of times of the imperial city, Rottweil offers the Fasnet a special atmosphere.

The climax of each year in Rottweil and the most important festival for each inhabitant is the Fasnet, a significant part of the town history.

**->> This year's main parade will start on Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> of february 2020, at 8 a.m. in the morning.**

## The history of Fasnet in Rottweil

Fasnet first appears in documents of the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Three main elements are mentioned: the "Narrentanz" which continues with the "Narrensprung", the speech of the carnival character and the fetching of gingerbread in the monastery of Rottenmünster nearby. This custom stopped around 1800.

There were efforts to abolish Fasnet regularly, but only in 1838 the authorities managed to replace "Schmotzige Donnerstag" (first day of Fasnet) with a market day. Since 1860 carnival (a different way to celebrate Fasnet, from the area around Cologne) became more and more fashionable. With the new foundation of the "Narrenzunft" (carnival's guild) in 1903 the Fasnet gained its old glory again.

In 1754 there were only 119 "Narren" (carnival characters). Old traditions have not been commercialized.

## The progress of the Rottweiler Fasnet

In Rottweil Fasnet starts at the sixth of January, Epiphany. The "Abstauber" (dusters) go through town and clean the dust from the "Narrenkleider" (the clothes), the bells and masks in order to be prepared for Fasnet.

The next date is the "**Schmotzige Donnerstag**" (20<sup>th</sup> of february 2020) before the other main days. In the evening groups visit pubs, restaurants and caricature in little plays the happenings of the past year.

On **Fasnet Sunday** (23<sup>rd</sup> of february 2020) the "Narrenregiment" (carnivals guild) takes over the town government and they declare their goals for the following days. After that "Ausscheller" go through the streets to tell the latest news to everybody. In the afternoon the children's parade takes place.

**Monday and Tuesday morning** (24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of february 2020) at exactly 8 o'clock the "Narrensprung" (parade) starts the "most important" holidays. Following the horse riders with the town banner and the town band, the carnival characters stream through the "Schwarzes Tor" (Black Gate) and move through the main streets to the "Friedrichsplatz" where the parade ends. It lasts up to two and a half hours.

The parade is repeated on Tuesday afternoon.

## **The different “Narren” (carnival characters) of Rottweil**

The “Federahannes” (Jack with feathers): the Federahannes has a stick, which he uses for jumping. His tusks and his wide coat with feathers are his distinctive mark. He is one of the oldest figures of the Fasnet (carnival) in Rottweil.

The “Gschell”: the Gschell with its friendly mask, its white dress painted with oil-colour and with its heavy bell-strap is the most important figure of the Fasnet in Rottweil. In former times it was called the “Narr”.

The “Biß”: resembles the “Gschell”, probably it is a little bit younger. With its foxtail on its cap and showing its teeth the “Biß” is also related to the “Federahannes” and could symbolize winter also.

The “Schantle”: in former times the “Schantle” was obscene. Meanwhile the rough fellow changed into a distinguished, reserved, friendly man with a little umbrella from the Biedermeier epoche. An exceptional position takes the figure from Franz Amma; the so called “Briekere” which is a crying “Narr”.

The “Fransenkleid”: appears probably at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Under the influence of the military fashion the braid makers designed the “Fransenkleid”. Supposedly boys and girls of Rottweil wore this disguise when they first started to participate at Fasnet.

The “Bennerössle”: the “Bennerössle” probably came from the village Briel, once this carnival character made room for the parade. Today nine “Rössle” (horses) with each two participants join the “Narrensprung”(parade).

The “Guller”: an independent figure of the Fasnet is the Guller. For sure he is connected with the fertility custom. Its mask has been carved by German Burry in 1907. His body of a rooster is younger.

The “Lange Mann”: belongs to the group of the so called wandering giants and joins the morning parade on the first day of Fasnet (Monday).