

Jahreshauptversammlung und Vorstandswahl 2019

Der Einladung des Vorstandes unserer Gesellschaft zur Jahreshauptversammlung am Donnerstag, dem 24.10.2019 waren 14 Mitglieder gefolgt und hatten sich im Veranstaltungsraum des Otto-Brenner-Hauses eingefunden. Herr Dr. Kleinhempel, der wieder als Versammlungsleiter fungierte, begrüßte die Anwesenden und stellte die Beschlussfähigkeit der Versammlung fest. Frau Günther hatte auch diesmal das Führen des Protokolls übernommen.

Gleich zu Beginn richtete Frau Rotstein Grüße von unserer Vorsitzenden, Frau Langhoff, die sich momentan in den USA aufhält, sowie von Frau Piosek aus.

Nach der Vorstellung der Tagesordnung übergab Herr Dr. Kleinhempel das Wort an die stellvertretende Vorsitzende Frau Böhme, die in Vertretung von Frau Langhoff den Rechenschaftsbericht für die letzten beiden Jahre verlas. Sie gab auch bekannt, dass Frau Korward Anfang des Jahres aus dem Vorstand ausgeschieden ist. Dem Rechenschaftsbericht folgten der Finanzbericht von Herrn Rosch sowie der Bericht der Revisionskommission, den Herrn Oehme bekannt gab, der dem Vorstand eine ordnungsgemäße Arbeit bescheinigte.

Abweichend von der Tagesordnung bat Herr Dr. Kleinhempel schon an dieser Stelle um die Diskussion zu den gehörten Berichten. Einige Mitglieder nahmen die im Rechenschaftsbericht erwähnten Schwierigkeiten bei der Gewinnung neuer Mitglieder auf und machten verschiedene Vorschläge, mit denen unser Verein in der Öffentlichkeit bekannter gemacht werden könnte. Herr Dr. Reimann regte an, herauszufinden, ob es in anderen Städten ähnliche Vereine gibt, und sich mit ihnen in Verbindung zu setzen, um gegenseitig Erfahrungen auszutauschen.

Nach der Diskussion verlas Frau Böhme den Rahmenarbeitsplan für die Zeit bis zur nächsten Hauptversammlung. Sie bat auch die anwesenden Mitglieder, bis zur Weihnachtsfeier Anfang Dezember über Vorschläge für mögliche gemeinsame Ausfahrten nachzudenken.

Entsprechend der Tagesordnung folgte nun die Abstimmung zur Bestätigung der verlesenen Berichte sowie zur Entlastung des Vorstandes. Beides erfolgte einstimmig.

Nach den Abstimmungen übernahm Herr Dr. Reimann als Leiter der Wahlkommission, die aus Herrn Hasse und Herrn Burkhardt bestand, das Wort und führte die Wahlhandlung durch, der eine kurze Pause folgte, in der zusammen mit den 10 Wahlscheinen, die per Briefwahl eingegangen waren, die Stimmen ausgezählt wurden.

Wenige Minuten später konnte Herr Dr. Reimann das Wahlergebnis bekannt geben, wonach alle Kandidaten für die nächste Wahlperiode gewählt wurden. Dem schloss sich eine kurze konstituierende Sitzung an, in der alle Kandidaten die Wahl annahmen. Frau Langhoff hatte schon vorher erklärt, dass sie bereit ist, erneut den Vorsitz unserer Gesellschaft zu übernehmen, wenn sie gewählt wird.

Nachdem Frau Böhme im Namen des Vorstandes allen Anwesenden für das ausgesprochene Vertrauen gedankt und einige abschließende Worte geäußert hatte, erklärte Herr Dr. Kleinhempel die Jahreshauptversammlung 2019 für beendet.

Our day trip to Moritzburg

On 14th September 2019, 18 members of our society met for our yearly day excursion. Some of them were accompanied by their partners. The destination was Moritzburg. We travelled there with private cars.



Photo: Karsten Oehme

Although already in the middle of September, we had really perfect weather. There were only some beautiful fair weather clouds in the sky for the photographers among us.

After our arrival there we had time to go on a trip in a horse-drawn coach round Moritzburg Castle. A relaxing and unique experience. The coachman told us a lot of interesting facts. Also he made some stops for the photographers.

After lunch that we had in the restaurant "Forsthaus" we went on a sightseeing tour on foot.

Most of us know Moritzburg Castle. Therefore the organizers of the day trip had decided to book a tour of the Little Pheasant Castle (Fasanen-schlösschen). This piece of jewel lies only 2.5 km away from Moritzburg Castle. You get there by an agreeable walk. A car park and restaurants are also nearby.

In 1728, Augustus the Strong laid the foundation stone for this rococo building. He used it as summer residence.

Because of its tininess the Pheasant Castle has the nickname "Paradise in a nutshell". Now it is regarded the last castle in Saxony preserved in the original style of the Dresden Rococo.

A guided tour was booked for this little castle in the afternoon. Our guide explained us the rooms and its furnishings in an amusing way. He showed us through the working cabinet, the living room, the bedroom, the toilet room, the hall, and upstairs the exclusive dining room. All rooms were furnished in rococo style. Our guide knew a lot to tell us about all the details. We looked at the exotic wallpapers made from embroidered silk or painted canvas.

At a pond near the small castle there is Saxony's only lighthouse. By chance we witnessed the champagne reception of a wedding party there.

Everything was like a fairy tale!

We returned home with pleasant impressions. I think none of the participants regretted this unforgettable day.

Dieter Wagner



Photo: Siegfried Rosch

Review of the last months

29 August 2019

"William Butler Yeats - An Irish Poet"

Einde O'Callaghan is known to those people who attended some of his previous talks for his thoroughly worked out presentations. The result is that his talks sometimes become very long and occasionally he has to be reminded to come to an end because the time is up. His talk about William Butler Yeats was such a long one, too. The reason for this was that he spoke about the poet's family background and introduced quite a number of his contemporaries, which made the talk, at times, a little confusing.

At the beginning Mr O'Callaghan gave hints to the correct pronunciation of the poet's surname. Then he continued with some life data of Yeats and showed a portrait of him as a young man that was painted by his father, who had studied art and worked as a portrait painter. Later he presented photos of Yeats taken at different stages of age. We also learned that he was one of the founders of the Abbey Theatre in Dublin, which is also known as the National Theatre of Ireland, and the first Irishman to be awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1923.

Mr O'Callaghan presented a lot of examples of Yeats' poetry, such as *The Lake Isle of Innisfree* and *The White Swans at Coole*, which was, in his early age, influenced largely by Irish legends and myths. He was very interested in spiritualism and occultism and when his family moved to London in 1887 he joined the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn, a secret society that studied and practised metaphysics and paranormal activities. In his later years, however, his poetry became more realistic and he also wrote theatre plays and prose. He even played a certain role in Irish politics for some time.

Mr O'Callaghan finished his long talk with photos of a memorial dedicated to William Butler Yeats and the graveyard in Drumcliff in Ireland where his remains were transferred to more than ten years after his death in France in 1939, as he had wished it.

26 September 2019

"The Proms - Die Promenadenkonzerte der BBC"

Unser Mitglied **Winfried Herold** hat schon mehrere Vorträge für unsere Gesellschaft gehalten, die fast alle etwas mit der Seefahrt zu tun hatten. Diesmal hatte er sich jedoch eines musikalischen Themas angenommen.

In der Hoffnung, dass mit diesem Thema auch Besucher angesprochen werden könnten, deren Kenntnisse der englischen Sprache nicht ausreichend sind, hatten wir entschieden, dass der Vortrag auf Deutsch gehalten werden sollte.

Herr Herold gliederte seinen Vortrag in drei Abschnitte: die Bedeutung der Proms, ihre Geschichte und schließlich seine eigenen Erfahrungen. Im ersten Abschnitt erklärte er, was der Begriff "Proms" bedeutet und was generell unter den Promenadenkonzerten zu verstehen ist. Dem schloss sich ein Blick in die Historie dieser populären Konzertreihe an, die durch den Geschäftsmann und Impresario Robert Newman initiiert wurde und erstmals im Jahre 1895 stattfand. Auch der britische Dirigent Sir Henry Wood spielte in den ersten Jahren eine herausragende Rolle als musikalischer Leiter.

In dem Abschnitt über Herrn Herolds persönlichen Erlebnisse im Zusammenhang mit den Proms ging es jedoch nicht ganz ohne maritime Anklänge, als er darüber berichtete, wie er Mitte der 90er Jahre als Trainee auf der russischen Viermastbark SEDOV nach Großbritannien reiste und dann in London eines dieser Sommerkonzerte im Hyde Park erlebte. Dieses Erlebnis weckte in ihm den Wunsch, an der Last Night of the Proms, der Abschlussveranstaltung der Konzertserie, teilzunehmen, was ihm schließlich über eine Buchung in einem Chemnitzer Reisebüro gelang. Allerdings aus finanziellen Gründen nicht in der Royal Albert Hall, sondern wieder im Hyde Park, wo nach Auftritten verschiedener Künstler am Nachmittag am Abend dann die musikalischen Höhepunkte der Last Night aus der Halle auf große Bildwände übertragen werden.

Den Abschluss des Vortrags bildete ein kurzes Video über die Last Night of the Proms in der Royal Albert Hall, das mit den Worten eines Reporters einer Rundfunkübertragung aus London unterlegt war und das Herrn Herolds Worte noch einmal mit bewegten Bildern unterstrich.

28 November 2019

"Launching 'Turning Pages' - Reading from TU Chemnitz' First Creative Writing Journal"

In the last talk of this year, **Prof Dr Cecile Sandten** and students of the Chemnitz University presented a project that was rather new to Chemnitz University of Technology: a journal for creative writing.

Prof Sandten and one of her students, **Mandy Beck**, who were the initiators of the project, explained the meaning of creative writing and how the project started and gave a general overview of the authors and the participants in the production of the journal. They also announced that this journal will be published annually. Ms Beck invited potential authors to contribute to the next issue.

After this introduction the reading began. Four students read some of their poems that were either poetic and reflective or comical and bizarre.

The texts in the journal are accompanied by a number of graphics. Jürgen Pinkert from Karl-Schmidt-Rottluff-Gymnasium projected some of them to the wall and outlined in German the way they were created by pupils of his school, which was really interesting.

This was followed by a text of a Syrian student, in which he describes his "Journey 'nach' Chemnitz" after traumatic experiences in his war-stricken homeland.

Barry Sloan, a Northern Irish pastor, who lives in Chemnitz, performed a quite amusing scene from his play "No Man is an (Irish) Island" that he wrote with the Belfast based theatre company Play it by Ear.

In the final part of the presentation, some students read their short stories, and even Prof Sandten and Ms Beck presented a few of their contributions to the journal, so called mini sagas, consisting of not more than 50 words.

The following launch party, with sparkling wine and other beverages as well as a choice of savoury snacks, offered the chance to get in touch with some of the authors.

Siegfried Rosch

Vorschau auf unsere nächsten Veranstaltungen

Do., 30.1.2020, 19 Uhr, Veranstaltungsraum im Erdgeschoss im DASTietz: "Kills, Loughs and Leprechauns", Vortrag in englischer Sprache von Manuela Schmidt, Mitarbeiterin des Museums für Archäologie Chemnitz (smac)

Do., 27.2.2020, 19 Uhr, Veranstaltungsraum im Erdgeschoss im DASTietz: "The Beautiful South: Cornwall", Videovortrag in englischer Sprache von Siegfried Rosch

Do., 26.3.2020, **18 Uhr**, Veranstaltungsraum im Erdgeschoss im DASTietz: "God Shave the Queen", Lesung in deutscher Sprache von Harald Linke im Rahmen der Veranstaltungsreihe "Leselust" der Stadtbibliothek

(Änderungen vorbehalten)

plygain

While many of the Christmas celebrations, carol services, nativity plays, Christmas trees and present giving in Wales are common with other countries, there are also uniquely Welsh traditions. One of them is Plygain – singing early on Christmas Day.

Plygain is a Christmas service which takes place in a church between three and six o'clock in the morning, traditionally on Christmas morning. The Welsh Christmas carols that are sung during the service are very different from the usual English Christmas carol tradition in that every Plygain carol includes verses on the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Christ in addition to his birth. Also, their tone is quite different from the carols that we know today, with many of the old Plygain songs in the Dorian mode.

Plygain had its peak in popularity in the 17th century. It was the only service in the church calendar to be held at night time, as the carrying of candles and the procession leading to the church was a part of the Plygain. Its roots lie in pre-Christian celebrations. In the early hours of Christmas morning, men gathered in the rural churches to sing. They would sing mainly unaccompanied, three or four part harmony carols in a service that went on for three hours or so. After Plygain, Christmas Day feasting would begin.

The decline of the tradition in the mid-19th century was attributed to the rise of family gathering as an alternative Christmas Eve tradition and a 'Victorian' rebuff of the joyous celebrations which went with the Plygain. Some parishes had to abandon the practice after repeated incidences of drunk villagers disrupting the services.

The Plygain tradition managed to remain alive in churches and chapels in small pockets of North Wales and in the border region between Wales and Shropshire (England). It is now undergoing a revival as more and more people discover this wonderful music.

Apart from an introductory prayer and final blessing, the plygain service is not led by a priest or minister, but by the singers.

The carols are sung as solos, duets, trios, or in larger groups, but always a cappella (no instrumental accompaniment).

Each group of singers is called a parti (party). Without a word being said, one party will stand up, move to the front and present a carol. When they finish, another party will come forward.

Once all the parties have come forward, another round will start in exactly the same order of presentation. There may be eight, ten or more parties participating. The service will usually consist of two, sometimes three rounds, and will typically last up to two hours.



There is one fundamental rule: no tune and no words may be repeated at the same event. Thus, it is never possible to sing two different versions of the same carol in one service.

In the old days, a good number of the plygain parties were members of the same family. The carols they sang were often handed down in the family through generations.

Today, many parties sing from published collections and there is a risk of duplication. Even if a party has spent hours preparing a carol, they must not sing it if another party beats them to it. However, it is a point of honour to sing in each round. It is not unknown to see the members of a party leafing frantically through their music sheets trying to find something else to sing, to the quiet amusement of their (friendly) rivals who managed to get in first!

When the rounds have been completed, the blessing is given and all those who have presented are invited to join together to sing the Carol Y Swper. This "Supper Carol" marks the end of the service and gets its name from these lines in the last verse:

"Mae heddiw'n ddydd cymod, a'r swper yn barod, A'r bwrdd wedi ei osod, o brysiwn. (Today is a day of reconciliation, and supper is ready. The table is set, O let us hurry)"

The word 'plygain' is first recorded in the Black Book of Carmarthen in early Welsh manuscripts in the 13th century ("*pader na pilgeint na gosber*").

Some of the Plygain carols are thought to have been created to replace the traditional Latin Catholic mass after the 1588 Welsh translation of the Bible; Plygain carols were a mainstream stay of Welsh protestant worship until the mid-19th century.

Sources: <http://allaboutwales.com>, www.wales.com/plygain

This and that from the 'island'

Steepest street

A street in Wales has been named the steepest in the world following a campaign by locals. Ffordd Pen Llech, in the seaside town of Harlech, North Wales, has been officially recorded as being at a gradient of 37 per cent - two per cent steeper than the previous record holder, Baldwin Street in Dunedin, a city on New Zealand's South Island, which has a gradient of 35 per cent and has attracted tourists from all around the world. Local businesses have been trading on the title for the past two years since gaining the record, and the 350-metre-long street has found fame on social media.

But locals in Harlech, led by entrepreneur and architectural historian Gwyn Headley, claimed Ffordd Pen Llech was even steeper, leading to an inspection by an independent surveyor in June who verified the gradient. Mr Headley, who first wondered if the street was the steepest after his car slid down it while the handbrake was fully locked, said he felt "utter relief" and "jubilation" following the announcement. "I feel sorry for Baldwin Street and the New Zealanders, but steeper is steeper."

For a street to qualify for the title of the world's steepest it must be a public thoroughfare, fully paved and contain buildings running alongside it. The record measurement is based on the highest gradient over a 10m section of road.

The street runs past the medieval Harlech Castle, a Unesco World Heritage site, and is lined with houses, a shop, a caravan park, a laundry service, and a restaurant.

Glyn Roberts, who owns the Castle Cottage Restaurant, said: "We didn't realise it was the steepest street in the world, but it is very steep and it's a good heart-starter walking up and down the hill. It's a lovely part of the world and to have this extra accolade can do nothing but good for the town and bring more people in."

Craig Glenday, Guinness World Records editor in chief, said: "The local community in Harlech has shown sheer willpower in their quest to earn Ffordd Pen Llech the title. We know the anticipation has been building for quite some time now and I'm pleased to see the outcome has brought such joy to the residents. I hope Harlech enjoys the celebrations and that the new title brings lots of people to the beautiful town, to experience the world's steepest street for themselves."



Lemoga

There's been dogo, goat yoga and cat yoga. Now lemurs have joined in the fun.

A luxury hotel in the Lake District has added "lemoga" to its wellness programme, for yogis keen to do the Downward Dog with a Madagascan primate.



Armathwaite Hall, a hotel and spa resort near Keswick, launched the sessions as one of its "meet the wildlife" wellness activities, which combines being among nature with mindful experiences. This also includes walking with alpacas and meeting meerkats.

The personal lemur yoga experience is available at the hotel's adjoining Lake District Wildlife Park. Richard Robinson, manager of the park, said the Madagascan animals – which look like a cat crossed with a squirrel and a dog – made ideal yoga partners.

"When you watch lemurs they do some form of the poses naturally – that typical pose warming their

bellies in the sunshine," he said. "It seemed to be a really good combination to encourage people to have a go and spend time with a lemur."

Carolyn Graves, the owner of Armathwaite Hall, said the classes were designed to help guests beat the stress of city living: "Lemoga offers our guests the chance to feel at one with nature, at the same time joining in with the lemurs' playtime."

Eastern cars in the west

If you're in Britain and you suddenly see Trabant or Wartburg cars with English number plates in the street it's not an illusion.

50 years ago, in 1969, the Wartburg Trabant IFA Club in the UK was founded as the Wartburg Owners' Club. Only the Czech Wartburg Club is known to be older.

The Club has over 250 members. It is non-profit making and professes no political affiliations. It is a member of the Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs. The Club is open to all who share an interest in vehicles built in the former German Democratic Republic and other Eastern Bloc countries.

The Club has evolved over the years to include Trabants and other vehicles from the German Democratic Republic. Unlike the Wartburg, which was imported new to UK, these other vehicles only became familiar in UK after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and German unification in 1990.



Members receive assistance in registering imported Eastern Bloc vehicles and other benefits including discounts on vehicle insurance, lubricants, classic car shows at the National Exhibition Centre (NEC), and more. Club events are open to any vehicle designed/built behind the Iron Curtain during the Cold War period.

Mystery cash

Packets of bank notes, usually amounting to £2,000 each, have turned up in Blackhall Colliery, a village on the North Sea coast of County Durham, on at least 12 occasions since 2014. Police have been unable to determine where the money came from. Detectives have carried out numerous interviews, interrogated the local bank and post office staff and even tested the notes for fingerprints, but the circumstances surrounding the money remain a riddle. The money has always been left in public places, often on the pavement, giving rise to the belief it was meant to be found.

Village residents who handed in bundles of cash which were mysteriously left on the streets have been praised for their honesty. Gaynor Crute, chair of Monk Hesleden Parish Council said: "There's so much negativity and bad press so when you have something like this it is obviously heart-warming to know the people you live with, your neighbours, have so much honesty and integrity."

Detective Constable John Forster, of Durham Police, said: "We've had the theory that it could be a lottery winner who has decided to pay something back to their local community, but the truth is we don't know. But I'm just thinking how great it is that there are so many honest people in this village, their first instinct was to get straight to the police station. Some of them are shaking when they come in, they just want it to get back to the person who may have lost it."

Turn to stone

Mother Shipton's Cave (or "Old Mother Shipton's Cave") is at Knaresborough, North Yorkshire, England, near to the River Nidd. The place is associated with the legendary soothsayer and prophetess Mother Shipton (c. 1488 - 1561), born Ursula Southeil, wife of Toby Shipton. According to legend she was born in the cave. She was a strange child, both in looks and in nature. Her nose was large and crooked, her back bent and her legs twisted. Just like a witch. As she grew older, her prophecies became known throughout England. She foretold the defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588 and the Great Fire of London in 1666. She made her living telling the future and warning those who asked of what was to come.



Beside Mother Shipton's cave is the famous Petrifying Well, a unique geological phenomenon. Over hundreds of years curiosity has drawn millions of visitors to the well to see cascading water turn everyday objects to stone - as if by magic. Once thought to be the work of witchcraft, it's now known that the water of the well is rich in sulphate and carbonate which is deposited as a ramp and screen below. It can turn things like teddy bears, hats and other random items into "stone" within 3 to 5 months due to



the natural process of evaporation.

This process of petrifying is not to be confused with petrification wherein the constituent molecules of the original object are replaced (and not merely overlaid) with molecules of stone or mineral.

The park is a unique, unspoilt remnant of the Royal Forest of Knaresborough. The estate was sold by King Charles I to a local gentleman, Sir Charles Slingsby; his family landscaped and created the park and the pathways visitors walk along today. It is the oldest entrance-charging tourist attraction in England, open since 1630.

Sources: www.telegraph.de, www.theguardian.com, wp.ifaclub.co.uk, www.bbc.com, www.mothershipton.co.uk

Our language section

Christmas

Das Wort *Christmas* für Weihnachten geht zurück auf das Spät-Altenglische *cristes mæsse* (Christmesse), das ganz klar griechisch-römischen Ursprungs ist. Bis zum 11. Jahrhundert war der Begriff für die Festlichkeit das altenglische Wort *geol* - nach dem altnordischen *jol*, das sich ursprünglich auf ein heidnisches Winterfestival bezog. Nach der Christianisierung Britanniens wurde dieses Wort für die Bezeichnung der 12-tägigen Feierlichkeit zur Geburt Christi benutzt, die am 25. Dezember begann. Das Wort existiert auch heute noch im Englischen in den Formen "Yule" und "Yuletide".

In den modernen skandinavischen Sprachen ist das Wort für Weihnachten immer noch *jul*. *Crist* von griechisch *christos* (der Gesalbte) ersetzte das altenglische *hæland* (Heiler), die traditionelle Bezeichnung für Jesus.

Ab und zu kann man in englischsprachigen Ländern auch die verkürzte Schreibweise für Christmas "X-mas" oder "Xmas" sehen. Das geht zurück auf den griechischen Buchstaben Chi (X), der seit frühchristlicher Zeit als

erster Buchstabe des Wortes ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ (*Christos*) als Abkürzung und Symbol für Jesus Christus diene.

The Nativity

Füllen Sie die Lücken in den folgenden Sätzen über die Geschichte von Christi Geburt in englischer Sprache mit Hilfe der Worte aus der Liste:

angel birth frankincense manger sheep shepherds stable wise

There was no room at the inn, so Mary gave (1) to her son in a (2) and laid him in a (3) instead of a bed. An (4) announced Christ's birth to the (5), who were watching their flocks by night. They brought their (6) along to worship the newborn baby. Led by the Star of Bethlehem, Three (7) Men came, bearing gifts of gold, (8) and myrrh.

Auflösung aus Newsletter Nr. 85 "Fix the idioms"

1. He's a wolf in sheep clothing.
Er ist ein Wolf im Schafspelz.
2. I wouldn't touch that with a ten-foot pole.
Das würde ich nicht mal mit der Beißzange anfassen.
3. A leopard can't change its spots.
Die Katze lässt das Mäusen nicht.
4. It's as easy as falling off a log.
Es ist kinderleicht.
5. He's like a fish out of the water.
Er ist wie ein Fisch auf dem Trockenen.
6. That's just the tip of the iceberg.
Das ist nur die Spitze des Eisbergs.

Auflösung aus Newsletter Nr. 86 "Moon songs"

1. Moon River
2. Fly Me To The Moon
3. Bad Moon Rising
4. Moonshadow
5. Man On The Moon

CHRISTMAS FUN

It was Christmas Eve. A poor old lady was sitting alone, except for her cat, in her tiny house, in front of a small fire. Suddenly, there was a flash of light, and a fairy appeared in the room. The old woman was astonished, but the fairy reassured her: "Don't be afraid! I am your good fairy. You are very poor, and all alone at Christmas, so I have come to grant you three wishes to cheer you up. But before you make a wish, think carefully! You will get exactly what you wish for, and no wish can be undone!" So the old woman sat silently, thinking. Eventually, she spoke: "First", she said, "I want to be very, very wealthy." Poof! Immediately, the tiny house was packed with pots full of gold coins and sacks of bank-notes. The old woman looked around and smiled. She thought some more and spoke again: "Next", she said, "I want to be young and beautiful again, like I was when I was 18." Poof! The old woman disappeared. In her place sat a beautiful young woman with smooth, white skin and long, golden hair. The woman looked at her hands and arms, felt her hair, and smiled. "Third", she said to the fairy, "I want you to change my cat into a handsome young prince, who will love me and take care of me all my life!" Poof! The fairy disappeared, and the cat leapt up from his place by the fire as a handsome young prince. He reached out to the woman, embraced her and kissed her passionately. Then he gazed into her eyes and said: "Hah! Now you're really going to be sorry that you took me to the **vet!**"