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Science linking with School
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Interim Report, December 14th 2009

Mrs. Munde's Deadly Sins
On the Synchronic and Diachronic Relevance of the Folk
Play in the Tyrol on the basis of the Exl-Bühne and the
Tyrolean Folk Plays Telfs

LEADING INSTITUTION

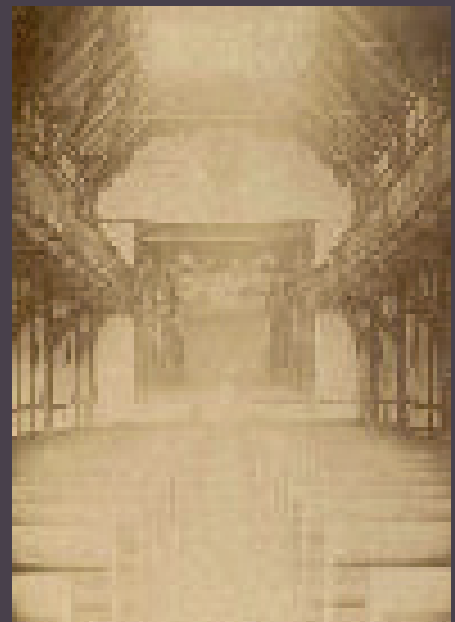
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SCIENTIFIC CO-OPERATION PARTNERS

The Tyrolean Museum Ferdinandeum
Tiroler Volksschauspiele Telfs (The Tyrolean Folk Plays Telfs)

SCHOOL INVOLVED

BORG Telfs, Tyrol



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Austrian Federal Ministry of
Science and Research

Mrs. Munde's Deadly Sins On the Synchronic and Diachronic Relevance of the Folk Play in the Tyrol on the basis of the ExI-Bühne and the Tyrolean Folk Plays Telfs

If we look through literary estates we find notes, manuscripts, books, letters, photos, newspaper articles, certifications, sometimes also pens and paper bags, all that and more. But what can be done with all these materials and what do they mean to scientists, researchers and archivists?

These must have been the questions the pupils of the BORG Telfs might have had in mind when they first heard about the project "Mrs. Munde's Deadly Sins" on which they should work in cooperation with the Brenner-Archives. Today's adolescents are the audience of today and tomorrow. Most often they are the ones who deal with traditions more open-minded but also more critically than older generations. Whether the issues dealt with in folk plays are still relevant to pupils today, whether the language used and the genre could arouse their interest at all or whether they have a totally different approach to these plays – all these questions are of special relevance in regard to the importance or the decrease of significance concerning this traditional genre. If and how adolescents receive and appraise folk plays can indicate the significance of these plays and the role they play in society today.

In the course of several teaching units we discussed to what extent the issues and topics dealt with in contemporary folk plays, e.g. by Felix Mitterer, are of personal and general interest to the pupils unlike those dealt with in more traditional plays, e.g. by Franz Kranewitter. An in-depth discussion about Felix Mitterer's *Stigma* encouraged the pupils to reason why the premiere of *Stigma* in 1982 gave rise to a scandal and if it might have a similar effect in Telfs today. Newspaper articles, flyers, and letters to the editor from 1982 helped the pupils to reconstruct and comprehend what actually led to the scandal. The way they read the play, what they liked and what they criticized, is important indicators for the significance of folk plays today.

Franz Kranewitter's *Seven Deadly Sins* on the other hand caused intensive discussions concerning the issue of 'deadly sins' then and now. Thus, the pupils had the idea to look at Kranewitter's 'Deadly Sins' in a different and new way by adapting and interpreting them according to their own experiences and lives. By performing their own 'modern' interpretation of the *Seven Deadly Sins* and staging a scene from Felix Mitterer's *Stigma* the pupils proved their talents as actors. Another film as well as posters were created and designed for the exhibition 'Local Identities', which took place in the context of the Comenius-Project at the BORG Telfs 2008/09. The film dealt with local arts and local culture in general.




Apart from the 'Telfer Schleicherlaufen' the film also showed contemporary art and the Folk Plays Telfs. Photos, playbills and newspaper articles were displayed in order to introduce folk play authors such as Franz Kranewitter, Karl Schönherr or Felix Mitterer.

All of the pupils' contributions, their different opinions, and viewpoints helped the researchers involved to find out more about the relevance of folk plays today. On the other hand the pupils benefitted from this project and the cooperation with the Brenner-Archives. They had the chance to experience what literary scientists, editors, and archivists actually do and how manifold the works at literary archives are. Therefore, all 24 pupils visited the Brenner-Archives and spent one day working there. They put themselves in the role of literary scientists and inspected the literary estate of the Exl-Bühne as well as the collected materials on the Tyrolean folk plays. Pupils tried to read and decipher handwritten letters in old German script by Franz Kranewitter, compared different versions of stage manuscripts from the Exl-Bühne and tried to find out which passages or words were eliminated due to censorship. Moreover, they looked for reviews and newspaper articles showing different reactions to Franz Kranewitters *Seven Deadly Sins*. One group of pupils exercised themselves in working as journalists by interviewing both members of staff and classmates. On the basis of these interviews they wrote a text for the homepage. Another group chose material from literary estates and created a mini-exhibition on the Tyrolean Folk Play. In summer 2009 the members of the Brenner-Archives and the pupils visited the Telfser Folk Plays. Subsequent discussions on the play as well as on the work that had already been done so far helped the pupils to reflect on their experiences. Finally, all the interviews, written texts, discussions, opinion polls etc. the pupils had done in the course of the last year contributed to a newspaper article. Chances are that it will be published in the Tyrolian Daily Newspaper in January 2010. Thus, the pupils will finally have gone through all the phases and working stages, the world of literary science offers. Last but not least a class portfolio will complete the work on the project. However, the final concept is about to be completed.

The Brenner-Archives benefitted a great deal from the cooperation as well as from the results of the pupils' work. After all, thanks to the project the Brenner-Archives will continue to plan and elaborate a concept for a series of special courses intending to provide students and the interested public practical education and training on working with literary estates at the archives. Concluding, the project and the cooperation with the pupils proved successful and beneficial for both school and science.





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