

Marburg, Dec. 20, 2012



MacFrog congratulates KingFrog

on the occasion of the 200th anniversary

of the first release of Grimm brothers folktales in Marburg, Dec. 20, 1812

Once upon a time, in the early 19th century, the **Grimm Brothers**, then students in our little University town, started to bring together their fairy tales, among them **"KING FROG"**. The first volume has been published **Dec 20, 1812**.

Almost 200 years later, there were students in Marburg who, together with their professors, developed computer simulations for teaching in supplement or as alternatives to animal experiments that saved many frog's lives - not only those of kings.

The Grimm brothers have later been awarded with a honorary doctorate of the University of Marburg but also have been running into serious problems as innovative scholars, especially when protesting against political repressions together with five of their university colleagues in Göttingen. The seven professors, still famous as the "Göttinger Sieben", were fired.

The situation is less critical nowadays. Nevertheless, the invention of new ideas can still be a problem. The "Virtual Physiology" labs have worldwide been accepted as the presumably most realistic alternatives to animal experiments with significant didactic advantages. The programs have been used in several hundreds universities and schools all over the world for the education of thousands of students - without the killing of thousands of frogs, rats or guinea pigs.



Grimm Brothers' fairy tales, first issues illustrated by Marburg's painter Otto Ubbelohde (1867-1922) with many motifs from the Marburg landscape, forests, buildings (many still existing) and people in their traditional costumes.



Developers of the teaching software "SimNerv" that received several international awards under its original name "MacFrog" (1993).

However, these teaching tools, for several reasons, could never be upgraded since their initial invention in the mid-nineties of last century. Only recently, the developers could get the distribution rights back. Since then, a group of highly motivated researchers, with the help of digital media companies, is hard at work reprogramming these teaching tools according to latest scientific and technical advancements - **on their own costs and responsibility**. Also the Grimm brothers have later dedicated themselves on studies and research in their own responsibility, thereby even giving up their appointments at the University of Berlin.

We are aware that educational programs will never have such broad recognition as fairy tales. Nevertheless, we will try following the footsteps of the Grimm brothers left at least in providing highest quality. For us, it's already like a fairy tale receiving so many positive replies from all over the world. We will do our best to meet the many requests for Virtual Physiology updates - in favour to a likewise humane and didactically advantageous education in life sciences.

Marburg, December 20th, 2012

Hans A. Braun,