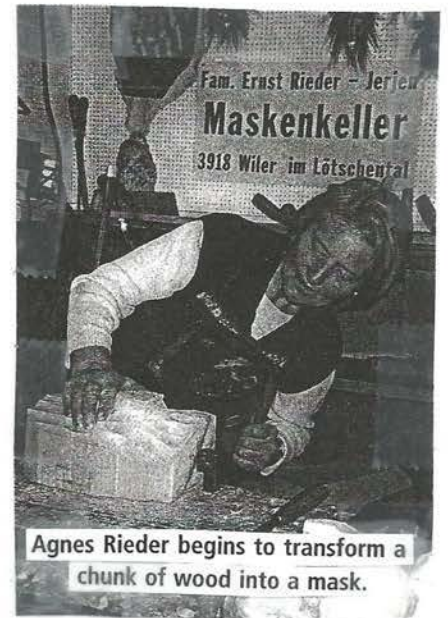




Many participants in the Carnival tradition wear masks handed down through their family while others wear masks purchased from local artisans.



Agnes Rieder begins to transform a chunk of wood into a mask.

There is plenty of interaction between the Tschäg-gättä and the crowds as the furry creatures often chase after and kiss onlookers. The huge cowbells worn during Carnival can cost as much as a wooden mask. Many theories exist on the origins of Tschäg-gättä including its place as a pagan custom to drive away the evil spirits of winter.

