

Fassenacht

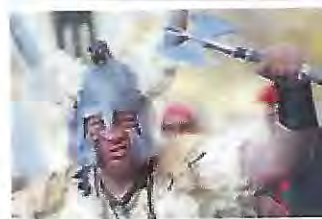
Mainzer Fassenacht

Carnival in the other cities of the Rhineland is very similar with local variations. The Mainz Carnival is famous for its "Sitzungen" which are broadcast on television. Public events and politics are criticized with sharp wit and satire. This part of the festivities can be traced back to the occupation of the city by the French troops at the beginning of the 19th century. At that time humor and satire provided an outlet for protests of the population aimed at the occupying forces. Mainz is also known for its many guilds in colorful uniforms.

(Mainz) . . . The Mainz variety, called **Fassenacht**, is considered by many to be the most distinguished in Germany. Especially renowned is the quality of the carnival **Sitzungen** . . . All in all, their carnival seems to be more genuetlich than in other cities; there is an atmosphere of genuine, friendly merriness (sic) all over the place.

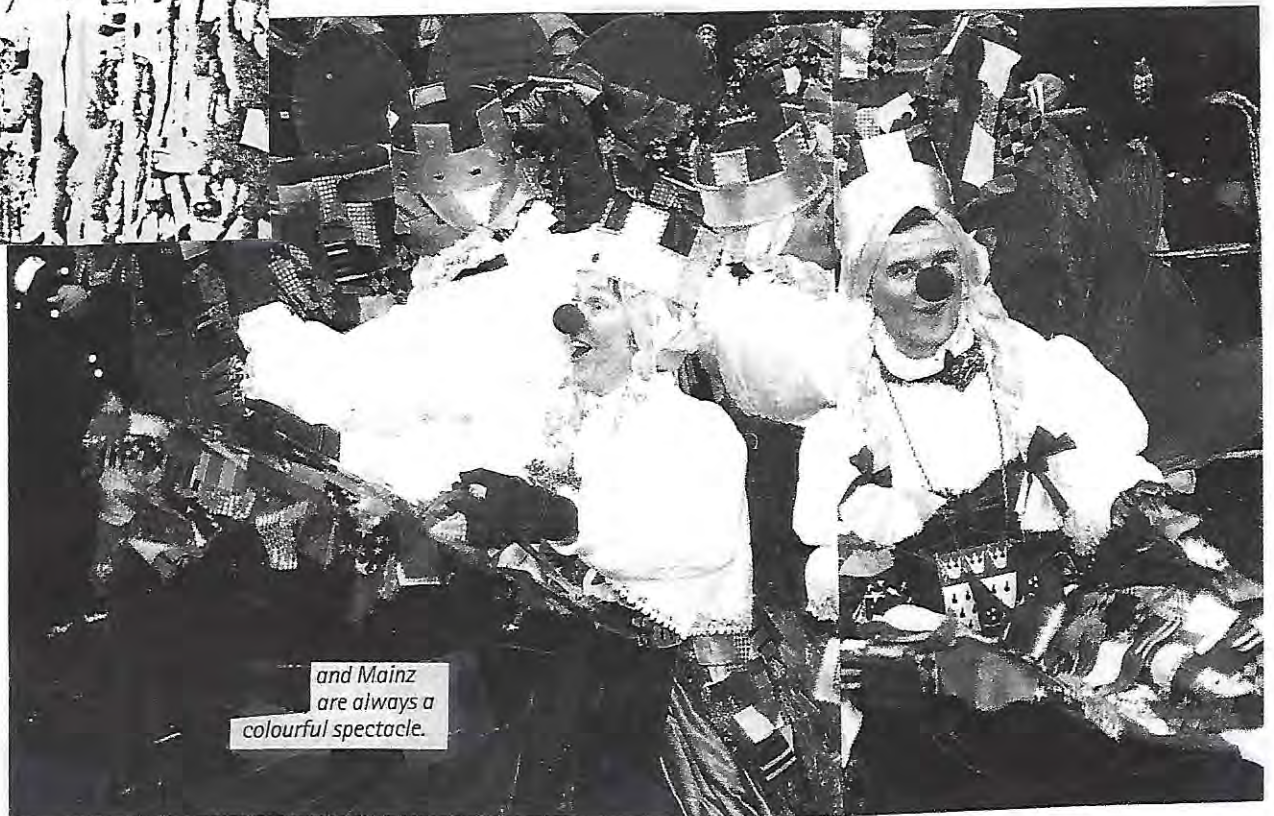


Rosenmontag in Mainz.



A costumed man celebrates Carnival in

Mainz at the start of the festiva season.



and Mainz
are always a
colourful spectacle.