

“Bei uns ist immer was los!” Feste in Rheinland

„FASCHING IN MÜNCHEN“ / „CARNIVAL SEASON IN MUNICH“

Beschreibung (description)

Germany's Annual Orgy — Fasching

The knockwurst consumed would stretch out longer than the country's *Autobahns*; the steins of beer knocked back could turn the Rhine into an Amazon; the bare flesh exposed in public would do the head of the world-wide nudists association extremely proud. And it all ends just before Ash Wednesday when throbbing heads bend low over the communion rail as the oompahs are replaced by "Our Father's."

In Munich, the capital of Bavaria (and the secret capital of the German soul, some say), Fasching reaches its apex. Although much of the country enjoys the rites of Fasching, nowhere is the festival more joyous.

Crowds are massive. Tens of thousands pack together like lemmings and seem as bent on self-destruction. Despite the jostling and the drunken condition of the crowd, it's rare to see tempers flare. A smile is the badge of Fasching.

Fasching and Karneval

Both of the names describe the pre-lent season known as Mardi Gras in the States. This season is notorious for parties, feasts, and parades.

This time of the year is called Fasching in the southern part of Germany but it is Karneval in the north as well as the Rhine area. Not only is the name different in different areas of Germany but also the reasoning behind all of the commotion is different. The fools of Fasching used to think the more they carried on and made noises the more they would scare away the evil spirits of winter while the fools of Karneval on the other hand simply wanted to be merry and enjoy, especially the last three days before Lent, as much as possible. The motto of Karneval was and still is "anything goes" during the three days before Ash Wednesday which marks the start of Lent. People wanted to "live it up" to make up for the austerity of Lent in advance. Nowadays the soberness of Lent has definitely decreased, but the "living it up" stayed.