



A beautiful story: Crailsheimer Horaffen

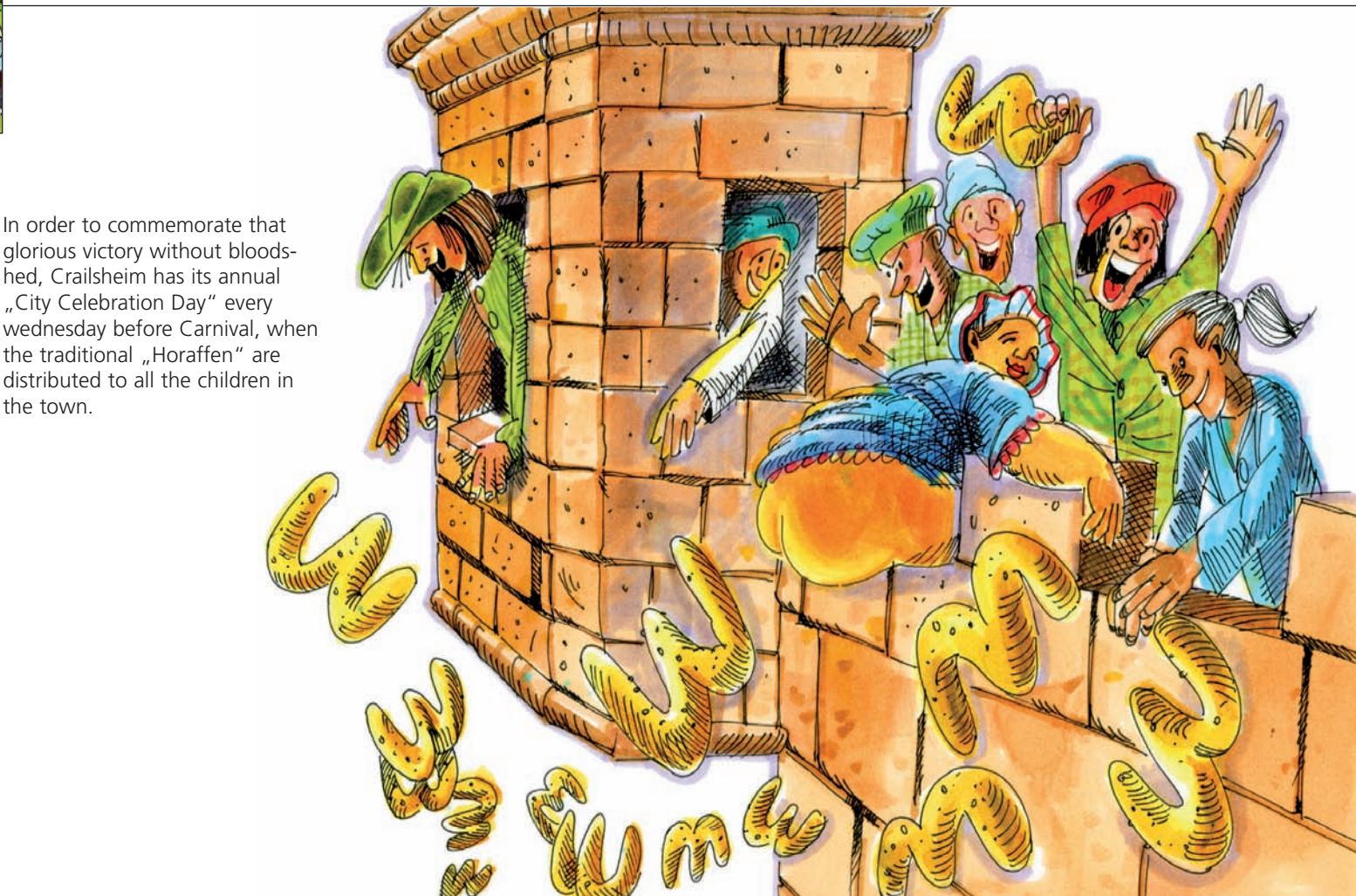
Anno Domini



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Horaff: gebacken nach dem historischen Vorbild von Gerhard Frank





The siege of Crailsheim...

At the end of the 14th century, the towns in Southern Germany fought against sovereigns and nobility. The aspiration of all cities was to be a „Free and Imperial City“. As single towns did not have any chance against the power of the sovereigns, neighboring towns joined together in federation to help each other.

In Franconia, there arose a fight of the allied cities: Hall, Rothenburg and Dinkelsbühl against the Count of Hohenlohe, who was sovereign over the city of Crailsheim. In a letter of defiance the city federation had threatened the House of Hohenlohe with revenge for the injuries suffered by them. Hohenlohe, however, did not take any notice of the threat, and so the allied troops marched in front of the city wall of Crailsheim in order to

besiege it, starve it out, and thus make it ready for their assault. From that time there has been handed down to us – no epic song – but a nice story:

When, after a three months' siege, the attack on the city wall began, the women of Crailsheim, in utter distress, collected their last flour and baked „Horaffen“ from it – rolls of an ancient horn – like shape – and tossed them to the enemy. The Mayor's wife courageously climbed up on the city wall and let her voluminous bare buttocks shine well in the face of the gathered forces below. The sight of such abundance of bread and „ham“ made the besiegers realize the hopelessness of the plan to starve out the city. The imperial forces thereupon ceased fighting and took off quite discouraged.

In order to commemorate that glorious victory without bloodshed, Crailsheim has its annual „City Celebration Day“ every wednesday before Carnival, when the traditional „Horaffen“ are distributed to all the children in the town.