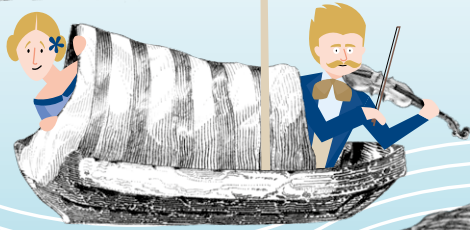




ASAGAN - NEW  
**HISTORIES**  
*from Vienna*



*Ostrich, Strauss  
and Bat*

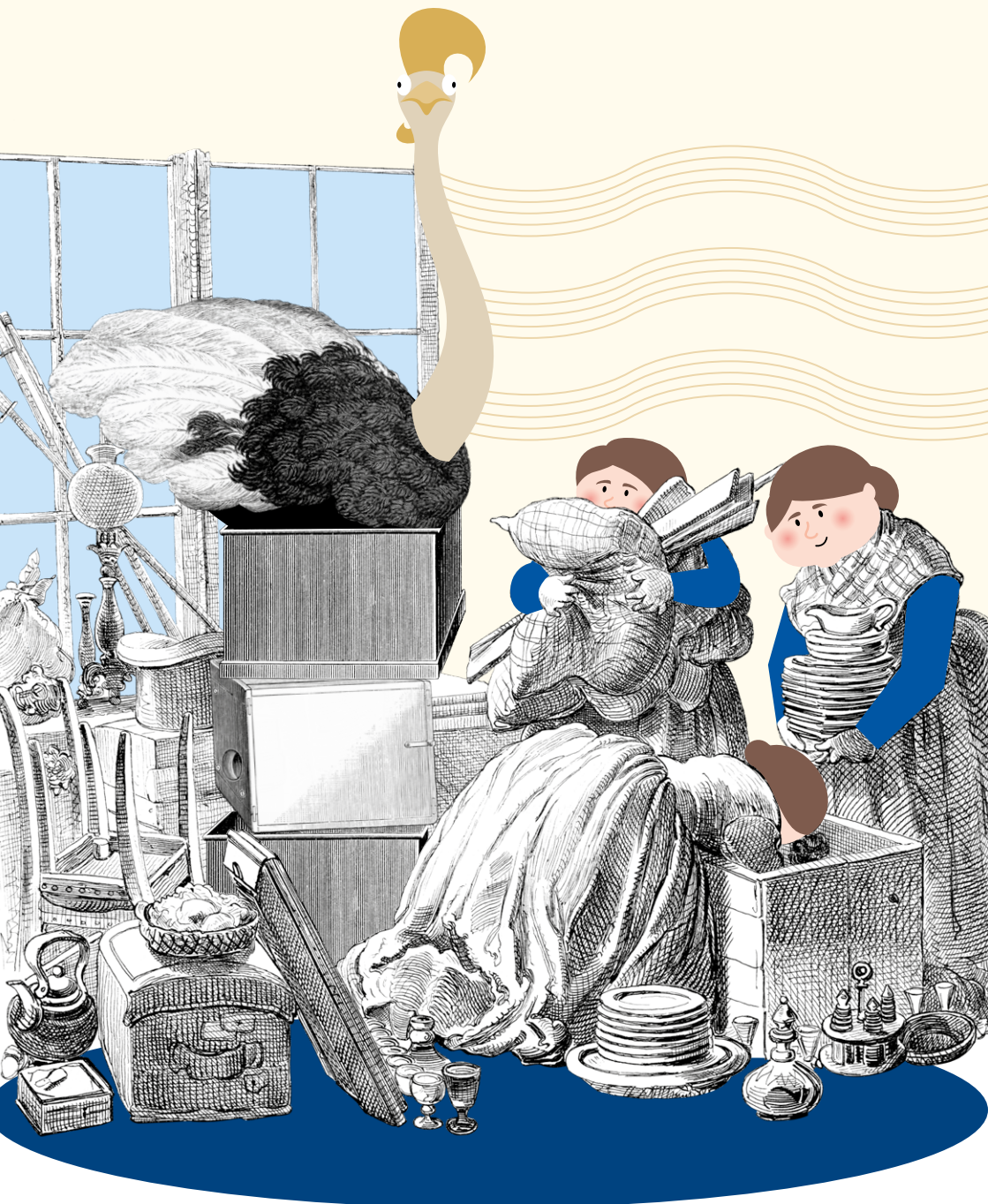
Wolfgang Hartl ★ Mia Kirsch ★ Erika Friedl

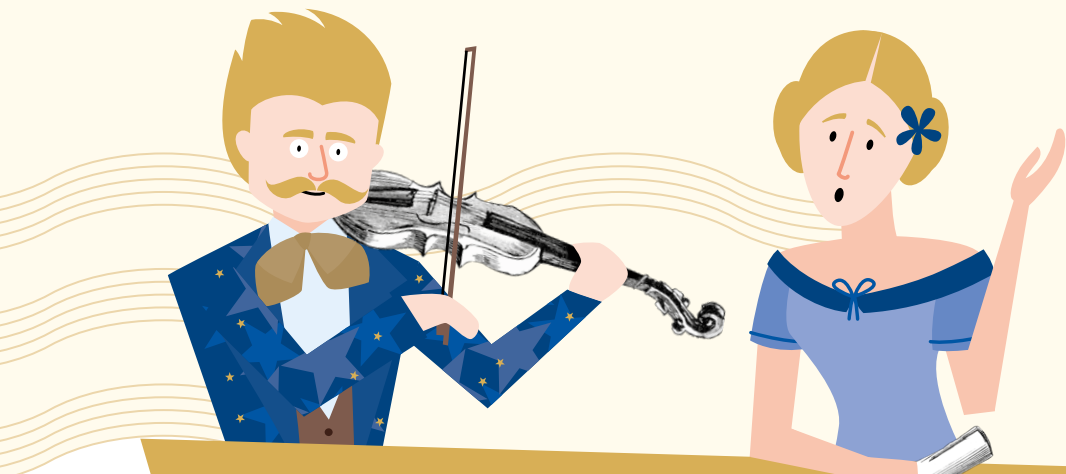
EDITION

5

HAUS

LIMITED EDITION





## Ostrich, Strauss and Bat

When Jo had come of age and grown he chose to leave his childhood home and move into his own new house and take the name of Johann Strauss. He took Jo-Jo the bird with him. Jo-Jo was also a Strauss – that’s “ostrich” in German. Jo-Jo had been big for ages, so he fitted into the new flat very well. Johann spent the whole day writing songs there. When he played them, Jo-Jo danced along. They had room and lots of fun – a real good time.

One day, Johann fell in love with Jetty. And because she was a really good singer, everything got even better. They played, danced and sang all day and all night. Luckily for them, their neighbours slept like logs and weren’t bothered by the noise. And the shopkeeper in the shop below them was very old, so he didn’t hear much either. Judging by his hearing he must have been at least 200. When Johann went down to him to do the shopping he usually came home with something different from what he’d asked for.







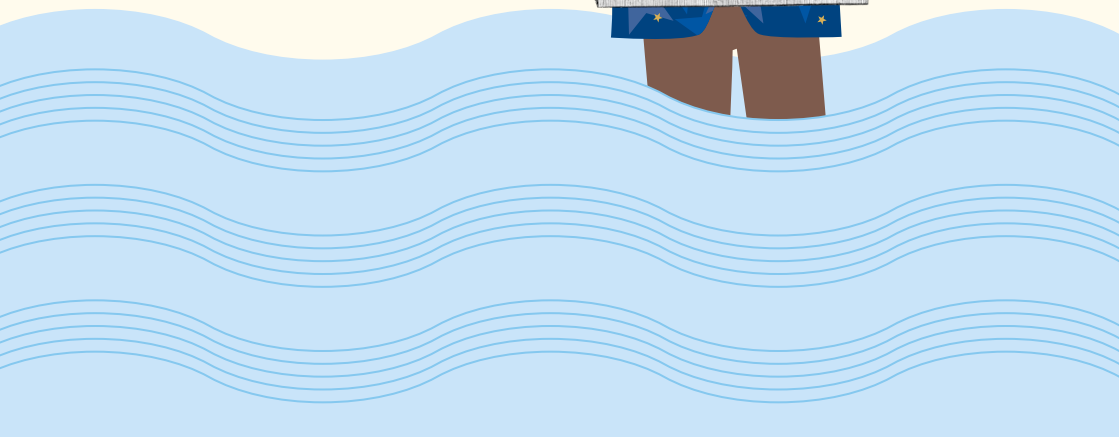
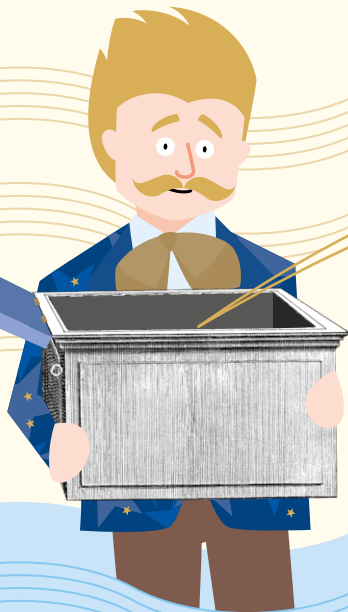
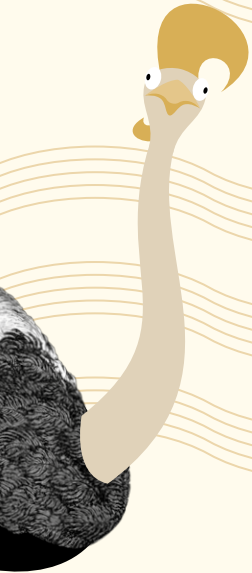


So instead of a fresh roll he got a fishbowl, and instead of ripe bananas he got striped pyjamas. Jetty didn't think that was at all funny, but Jo-Jo did. Until the day Johann bought him a birthday present from the shop. It was meant to be a surprise – and it certainly was!

Inside the box there wasn't the hat with flaps he had ordered, but – a bat that flaps! "Ohhh!" Jo-Jo thought that pretty cool. He liked dancing all night, you see. The bat flitted around him in great excitement. Johann Strauss found it amusing. Maybe he could turn it into a piece of music – "The Bat"? Better write that down straight away! Unfortunately, though, he was out of ink. So he went back down to the old man in the shop.

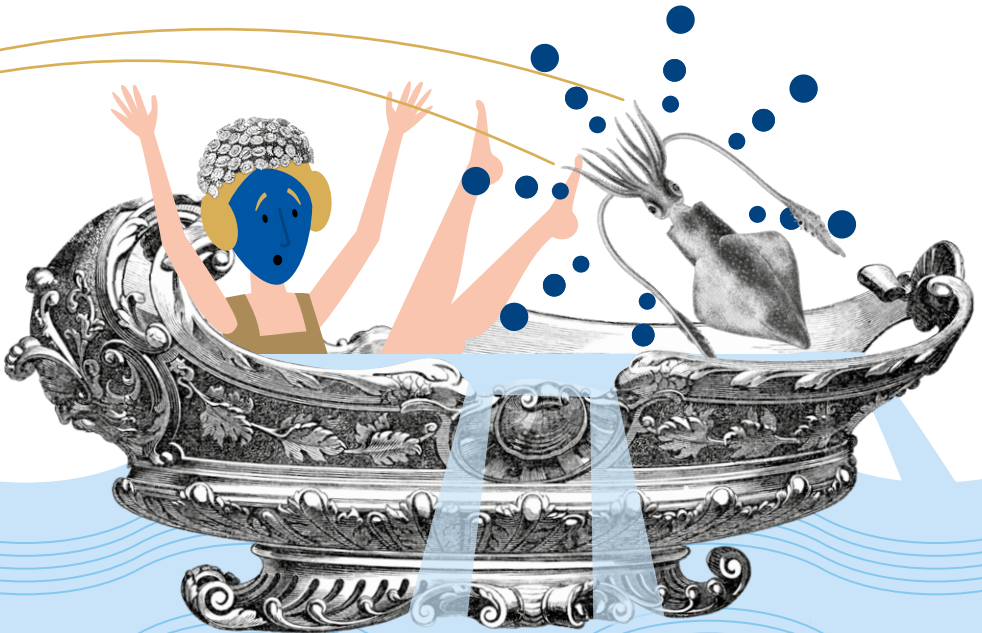


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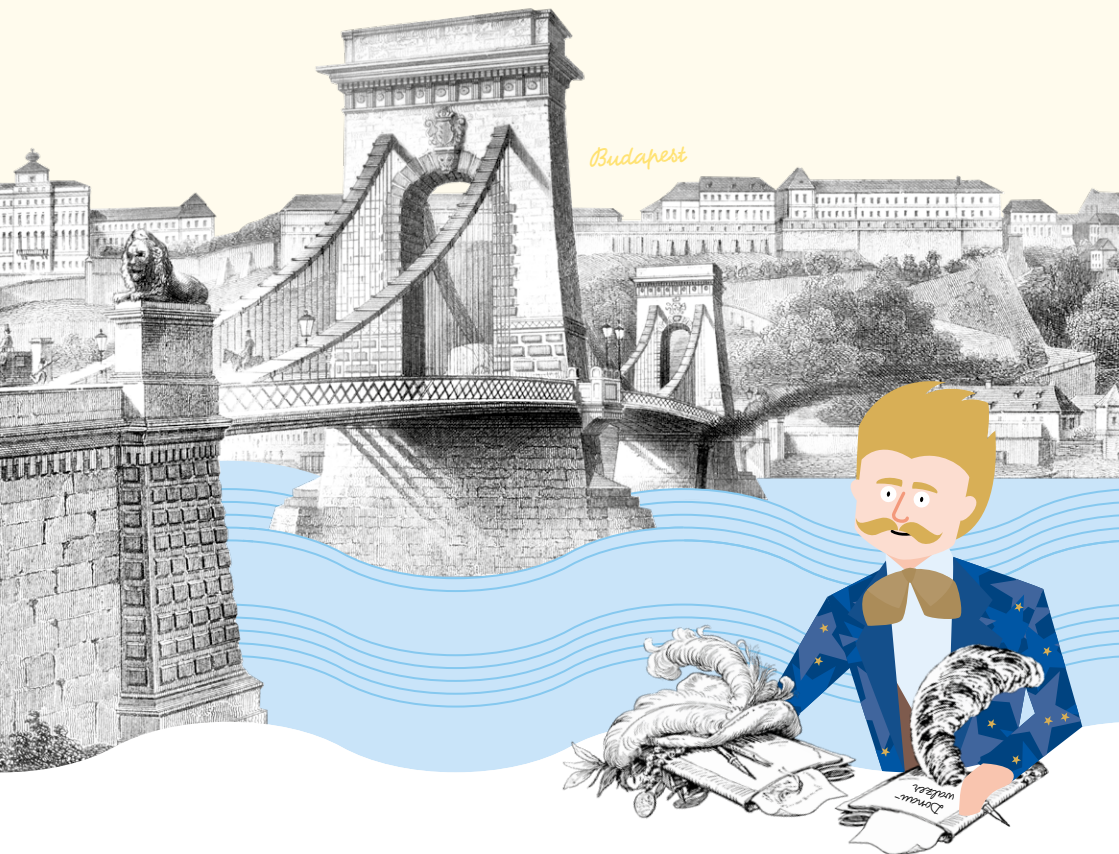
When he came home, what he found in his bag was not a new ink pot with a lid, but an ink blot and a squid! He didn't know what to do with it, and frantically threw the squid into the bathtub. "Ahhh!" screamed Jetty, who was just having a soothing saltwater soak. She leapt out of the bath as quickly as she could. Which was unfortunately not quick enough. In its agitation the squid had squirted ink everywhere, turning everything blue. What a calamity! Jetty looked like Smurfette. Luckily, there was a fancy-dress ball that evening, so all she had to do was put on a white hat.

"This has got to stop!" said Johann and Jetty. The flat was no zoo, after all. The bat didn't sleep a wink all night; instead, it flitted around. The squid kept hogging the bathroom. And so they devised a plan: the bat should fly the squid to the sea the very next night.





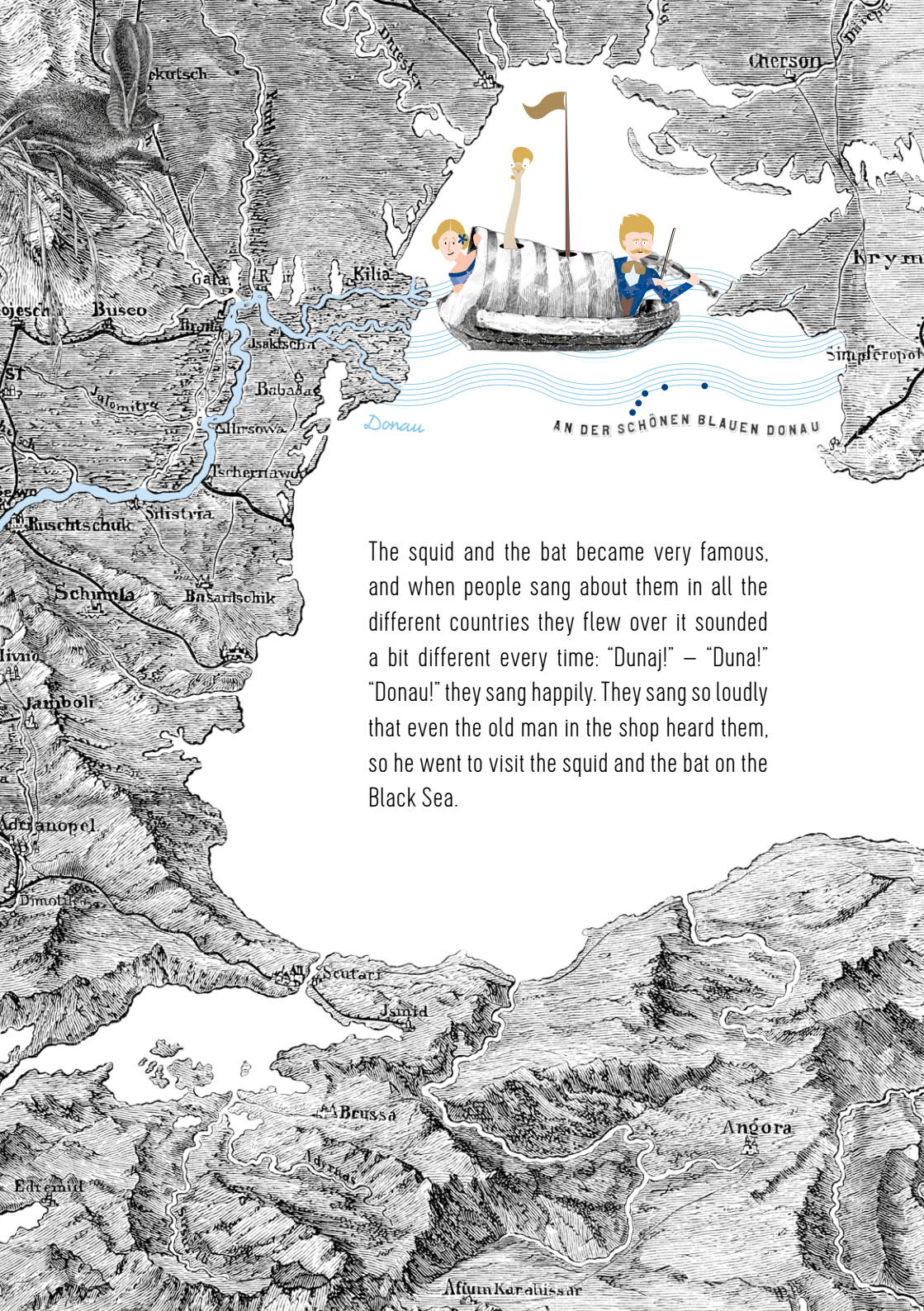




“Just keep following the River Danube,” Johann had said, “it eventually flows into the open sea.” The bat draped the squid around itself in a bag full of saltwater, and off they went. But the squid found flying far too agitating. It squirted so much ink that the bag overflowed and the whole Danube turned blue. Next day, when Johann saw the blue Danube he couldn’t help laughing heartily. He sat down straight away and wrote a song about it.

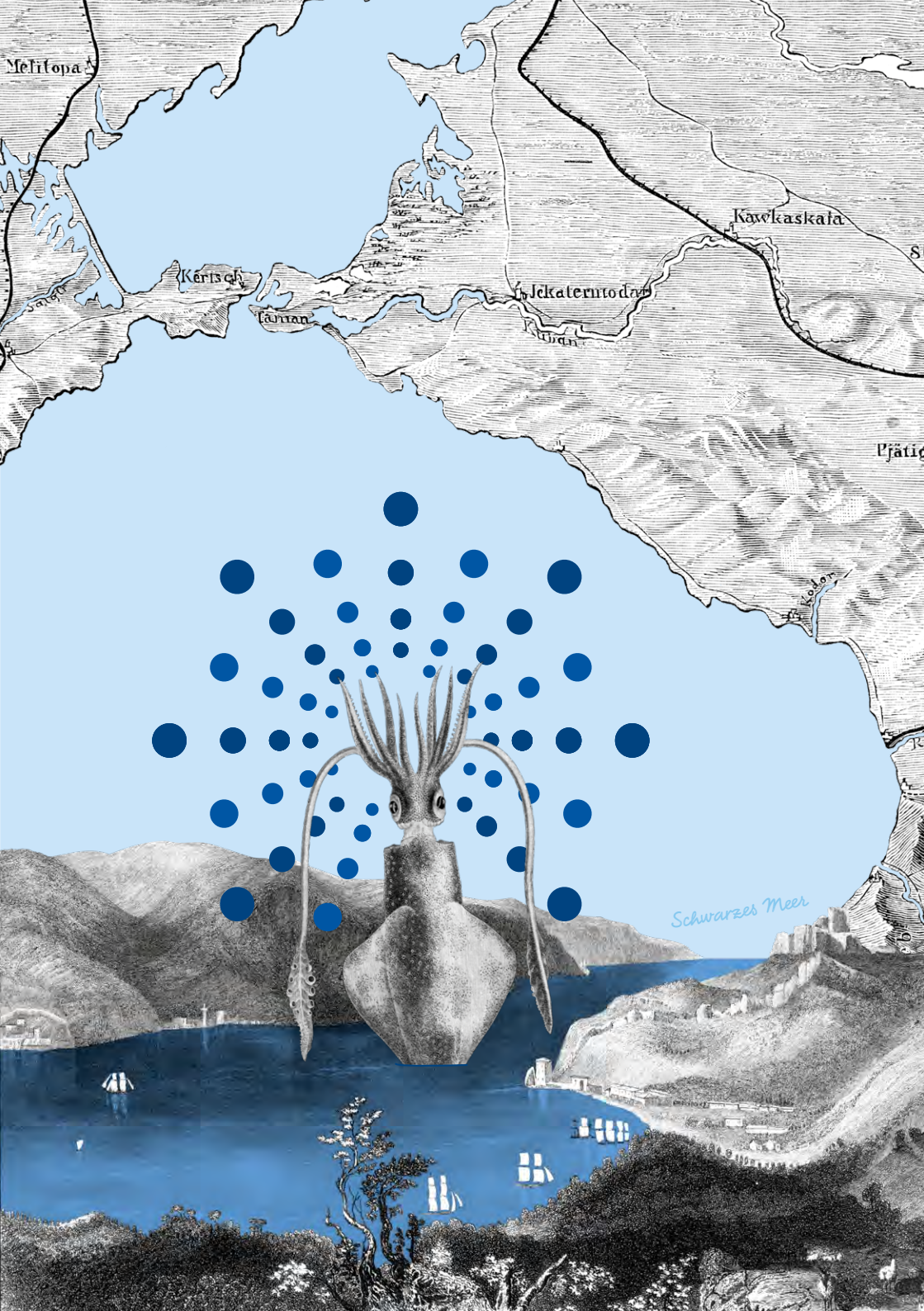
All the people on the beautiful blue Danube danced and sang to his tune, and the orchestras and brass bands all played it. Parties were held day and night, also in Johann, Jetty and Jo-Jo Strauss’s house.





The squid and the bat became very famous, and when people sang about them in all the different countries they flew over it sounded a bit different every time: "Dunaj!" – "Dunal!" "Donau!" they sang happily. They sang so loudly that even the old man in the shop heard them, so he went to visit the squid and the bat on the Black Sea.





Melitopa

Kerisch

Faman

Jekaterinodar

Kawkaskata

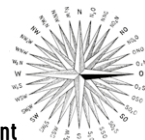
Pfatic

Kodon

Schwarzes Meer

  
**DANUBE**  
 FACTS

## The Danube



### History in the Story

The Danube is the second-biggest and second-longest river in Europe after the Volga. It's about 2,850 km long! From source to mouth it drops down 1,078 m, flowing at speeds of 1 to 3 metres per second.

### The source

of the Danube is in Donaueschingen in the Black Forest. Because three rivers meet there it is not really clear where the actual source is.

### In the Danube Delta

in Romania and Ukraine the river flows into the Black Sea. Because the exact source isn't known, the river is not measured in the direction of flow, which is how it's usually done, but against the current. So the stone marking "kilometre 0" of the river is at its mouth in the Danube Delta instead of at the source..

### Donau – Danube – Duna

On its way from source to mouth, the Danube passes through 10 countries – more than any other river in the world!

- Germany – Donau
- Austria – Donau
- Slovakia – Dunaj
- Hungary – Duna
- Croatia – Dunav
- Serbia – Дунав (Dunav)
- Romania – Dunărea
- Bulgaria – Дунав (Dunav)
- Moldova – Dunărea
- Ukraine – Дунай (Donau)

"Dunay – Duna – Donau" is also a hit song by the Donaupiraten!



### Against the Current

The Danube is the only major river in Europe that flows from west to east.

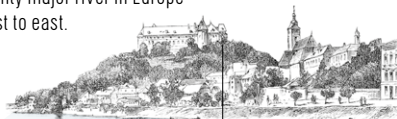
### Through the Years

The Danube is one of the most important trade and travel routes. Many peoples, rulers and travellers leave traces along its banks: castles, monuments, symbols and pathways. Emperors and kings are especially keen to rule over the river and control it.

### Shipping

The Danube is already a transport route in Roman times. Wood, metal, salt and animal skins are among the goods carried on the river. When travelling upstream, the first ships are pulled along by draught animals and sometimes by people. The untamed river is a big challenge and a big danger. Sailors who know the local conditions (like those in Grein) can prove their skill and earn good money.

Grein an der Donau has Austria's oldest residential castle



Romans on the Danube by Carnuntum.



### The untamed Danube

remains a sprawling river system into the 19th century, with countless branches, side channels and islands. It also moves so many stones and so much sediment that its appearance changes all the time: new islands are formed, others wear away. In the region called Strudengau the river is dotted with many swirling whirlpools and treacherous rocks.

The shipping museum in Grein Castle tells the story of shipping

Hausstein Castle stands on a romantic rocky island in the Danube. In 1854 it is blown up because its island causes the river's biggest whirlpool.

Until the 19th century Vienna lies among meadows and wetlands.

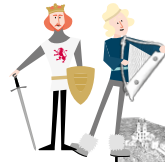


The Danube basin covers 817,000 km.

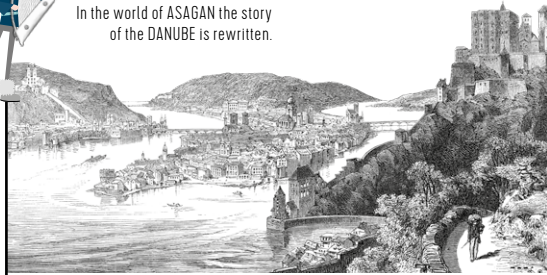




Joseph Kyselak,  
already hiking  
along the Danube  
200 years ago.



In the world of ASAGAN the story  
of the DANUBE is rewritten.



## Danube Sagas

The Danube and the people who live on it have many tales to tell: of mythical creatures that may still be lurking in the whispering woods and rushing waves that hikers pass along the banks.



## A Rare Nase

There aren't many places left where the Danube can flow freely. The Wachau is one, the Donau-Auen National Park another. Many animals and fish that live in fast-flowing water have become rare – like the vimba bream. > Danube Nymph

## The corncrake

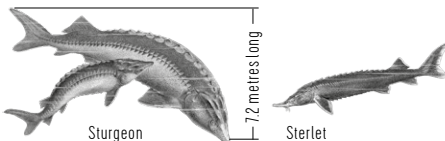
and other birds find refuge in the untamed stretches of the Danube. The corncrake needs tall, damp meadows to breed in. Because more and more of these riverside areas are being cultivated, the corncrake is now very rare.

## Flora and Fauna

The Donau-Auen National Park conserves nature and threatened species. The river is virtually free-flowing here, providing a habitat for a huge variety of plants and animals.

## Danube Giants

7.2 metres long and weighing in at over 1.5 tonnes: that's the biggest sturgeon ever caught. This fish is better known as the beluga (caviar) and travels up to 2,000 km to lay its eggs. In the Danube these fish can grow to lengths of over two metres.



## River Triangle

In Passau, three rivers coming from three directions all meet: the blue Danube, the green Inn and the black Ilz. After meeting, they still keep their different colours for a while.



The Danube  
cycle trail runs  
from Passau to  
Vienna: [www.donauregion.at](http://www.donauregion.at)

## Colourful Rivers and Seas

Many bodies of water around the world have a colour in their name. That started with the Ottomans who named the four points of the compass after colours: black was the north, white the west, red the south and blue the east. So from their point of view the Red Sea was in the south, the Black Sea in the north.



In summer,  
fossils appear  
in the riverbed  
that are  
millions of  
years old.

## The Blue Danube

This is the title of the Danube waltz by Johann Strauss. The words come from a poem by Karl Isidor Beck that jokingly calls the river blue. Or maybe we call the Danube blue because it flows east?



## Stories Without Borders

The story "Ostrich, Strauss and Bat" is available in several languages.

Ferries and  
bridges help  
people cross  
the river.

Read more here! >>>





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der  
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Bücher



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*from Vienna*

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any other river in the world. Join Johann Strauss  
and Jo-Jo the Ostrich on an ASAGAN adventure  
on the blue Danube!



*Die  
Donau*  
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