



„Fosennickel“ aus Kipfenberg in Franken



Rottweiler
„Frosenkleidle“

of winter. These entries demand the eradication of the wild, indecent monstrosities with their preposterous buffonery. However, no matter how severe the penalties, this so-called heathenish nonsense and its practice could not be eradicated and consequently is carried on today with all its elemental force in accordance with local rites. Men and lads as the direct successors of the ancient German secret leagues of men and boys alone impersonate the demons and spirits. Female figures too are impersonated by men. Inexplicable, magic forces emanating from the grey mists of a heathen pre-history develop in the primal soil of miraculous fertility dimly aware of the rising sap in spring. The efforts of the Church deliberately suppressed their real significance. Wodan's wild chase, the bands of demons and phantoms storm and rage—at Twelfth Night—in battle with the resurgent spirits of spring. Winter with its evil spirits and demons so inimical to germination must now be banished. This offensive action is carried



Nürnberger große Teufelsmaske
(Germanisches Museum)