Please join us for a special lecture:

“Age, Authenticity and the Grimms’ Linguistic Choices”
Professor Orrin Robinson (Stanford), Ida Cordelia Beam Distinguished Visiting Professor


There exists a widespread impression that the Brothers Grimm were primarily collectors and preservers of folk and fairy tales told to them by peasants, spinners, and other common folk of the German-speaking world. We now know, however, that many of their informants were middle class, a number of the tales were taken from published sources, some of the tales are arguably not originally German, and in any event the Grimms transformed almost all of them substantially over 45 years and seven editions. Join us for Professor Robinson’s talk and learn about the grammatical choices the Grimms made and why, not only those involving the pronouns of address, but other choices as well (e.g., how they indicate possession).

Professor Robinson is author of Grimm Language: Grammar, Gender and Genuineness in the Fairy Tales (Benjamins, 2010).