

My grandmother's memories

Sebestyén Gergely made an interview with his grandmother:

-What is the first Christmas you can remember?

-Maybe in 1945, way back in my childhood. There was poverty, the country was ruined. Luckily the family was together, my father was a soldier only in 1940. We made presents by ourselves, from paper or textile, a doll, for example, and also the ornaments.

-What differences were there compared to nowadays traditions?

-Children made christmas fondant by themselves, for example they put dried fruit into paper. There was a ceremony at the church, but no 'betlehemzés' (it's a hungarian tradition, when children went house to house and represented Christ's birth –Ed., a kind of Xmas carolling). It has become a tradition again only nowadays.

-What kind of Xmas dishes do you know and prepare?

-A long ago there was no Xmas without meatsoup, aspic and the meat brought from sowcut. The dessert was brioche with poppy seed or walnut, but we usually ate apple too.

-What are the traditional dishes of the given region(Veszprém county)?

-Cabbage with beans. I cannot remember any more now..

-What are the traditions you can still find in the country, but have disappeared in the city?

-From Luca's day (13 December) to Christmas dust couldn't be cleaned, because if it had been, it would have brought curse on the family. On Christmas Eve a red apple is brought to the mass, where one piece is bitten from it on New Year's Day, and the name which is owned by the man the girl meets after that will be the name of her husband. This has come true for me.

-What kind of present giving traditions were there back then and are there now?

-Back then grandparents always gave presents, I got a jar, which I still have. By the way, there used to be little presents, for example an apple could be a present too. Nowadays there are many big presents, for example technical gadgets, but luckily the family is still together.