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The Nuremberg Christkindlesmarkt: A Market Timeline

1530 In a letter from the Nuremberg City Council Member and humanist Willibald Pirckheimer (1470 – 1530), he mentions that the nuns of Bergen Abbey near Hersbruck – affiliated with the abbey in Neuburg an der Donau – “sent for spices from the market”. This is most likely a reference to the Nuremberg Christmas Market.

1545 The Protestant Reformer Martin Luther gives his children gifts from the “Holy Christ Child”. Up until then, children received gifts from St. Nicolas.

1564 Endres Imhoff, a Nuremberg patrician, enters expenses for gifts on December 22 in his accounting book. The year before, the expenses were listed after Christmas. This supports the theory that as early as 1564, the wealthy patrician families of Nuremberg began to give gifts on Christmas and not on New Year’s Day.

1610 A city council ordinance of December 22 ordered the confiscation of “indecent” joke items which were offered for sale by a turner for “Kindleinsbescheren” (gift giving for small children).

1616 In the chronicle of St. Sebald, Pastor Lüder complains that he has cancelled vespers and the afternoon sermon because no one was there as they were purchasing gifts for their children.

1628 On the bottom of a 19-centimeter-long bentwood box, an inscription in black ink reads “Regina Susanna Harßdörfferin von der Jungfrau Susanna Eleonora Erbsin (oder Elbsin) zum Kindles-Marck



Information

überschickt 1628" (Regina Susanna Harßdörfferin from the maiden Susanna Eleonora Erbsin (or Elbsin) given at the Kindles- Market 1628). The oval pinewood box has flowers painted on its top and is in the collection of the Germanisches Nationalmuseum. The box contains 12 silk cords of various thicknesses, which represent the original content. The box was most likely sold with its content at the market in 1628.

The inscription on the box is recognized as the oldest mention of the existence of the Nuremberg Christkindlesmarkt.

1697 The Altdorf University Professor Christoph Wagenseil mentions the "Christkindleinsmarck" in his second published history of the city, written in Latin and entitled "De ... civitate Norimbergensis commentatio".

1729 The City Council opposed a goldsmith's idea to hold a lottery at the market. They hoped to stop the devaluation of the Christmas fair.

1737 A list gives insight into the merchants of that era. It shows that almost all types of Nuremberg craftsmen were represented at the market. A total of 140 artisans were allowed to offer their wares.

1898 The Christkindlesmarkt is forced to leave its traditional place on the Main Market Square and move to Insel Schütt on the eastern edge of the Old Town.

1919 The market moves again to Gewerbemuseumsplatz.

1923 The market is forced to move again. The merchants are asked to use the rooms of the Rail Museum, which is currently empty.

1933 The Christkindlesmarkt is moved back to its original place on the Main Market Square. It is opened on December 4 with a new ceremony. An actress dressed as the Christkind recites a prologue, children's choirs sing and church bells ring.

1948 The first Christmas Market after World War II is held in heart of the destroyed Old Town. The opening ceremony remains almost the same with a new prologue by Friedrich Bröger.



Information

1973 The City Council decides to change the opening date of the Christkindlesmarkt from St. Barbara's Day (December 4) to the Friday before the first Sunday in Advent. They thereby hope to better distribute the crowds. The total number of visitors reaches the record level of 1 million. Since the 1990s, the market draws more than 2 million visitors each year.

1996 The first logo of the Christkindlesmarkt is developed. A year later the name "Nuremberg Christkindlesmarkt" is trademarked.

1999 To celebrate the 950th anniversary of the city, the Nuremberg Children's Christmas Market on Hans-Sachs-Platz and the "Sternenhaus" is opened.

2012 The Christkindlesmarkt receives a new logo in the form of a stylized Christkind, which is also trademarked.

2020 The Nuremberg Christkindlesmarkt was cancelled because of the Corona Crisis.

2021 Because of the Corona Crisis the Christkindlesmarkt was cancelled again.

