

The Yule log

Рождественское полено

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CHRISTMAS WORDS

- Christmas tree-рождественская елка
- Tinsel- мишура
- Baubles-шарики
- Lights-огоньки
-

Yule log – what's it?

- log-бревно, полено

Yule = Christmas

Рождественское полено

THE YULE LOG

БОЛЬШОЕ ПОЛЕНО, СЖИГАЕМОЕ В СОЧЕЛЬНИК

Burning a Yule log is probably the oldest Christmas tradition there is and gets its name from Scandinavia



It started even **before** the first Christmas.

- At first, burning a Yule log was a celebration of the winter **solstice** (точка зимнего солнцестояния). Days would start getting longer after the solstice.

THE YULE LOG

- Celebrating Yule means **no work** *as long as the special log burns.*

So, often a very large "backstick" was chosen to ensure a nice long celebration..



THE YULE LOG

On or about Christmas eve, the log was brought into a home or large hall.

- It did require gathering family, friends and neighbors.



Songs were sung and stories told. Children danced. Food and wine and decorations were offered.



THE YULE LOG

- Personal faults, mistakes and bad choices were burned in the flame so everyone's new year would start with a clean slate.



The log brought good luck.

It was never allowed to burn completely, a bit was kept in the house to start next years log.



THE YULE LOG

- The log also predicted *bad luck*. If the fire went out before the night was through, tragedy would strike the home in the coming year.



If its flame cast someone's shadow without a head, supposedly that person would die within the year.

THE YULE LOG

You have a choice.



- You can **burn** your Yule log *like the English*.
- Or if you don't have a fireplace, you can **eat** it *like the French*.



- Or you can use a decorated log as a center piece like *the Italian "ceppo"*.

- You can light a special candle as they do in Denmark and Norway.



THE YULE LOG

However you mark your Yuletide, the spirit of the tradition requires gathering family and friends for a warm and cheery celebration.



Sketch for a postcard
by P. Kaufman.

Black ink and watercolour.

Grandfather places holly branches  and says prayers over the Yule log.

The table is set for the ritual family celebrations

THE YULE LOG

Let us set *our* table with the Yule Log

It may be decorated with

- Holy branches,
- Baked mushrooms
- ...



And it surely looks like a real log!

ИСТОЧНИКИ:

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