

# 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.*

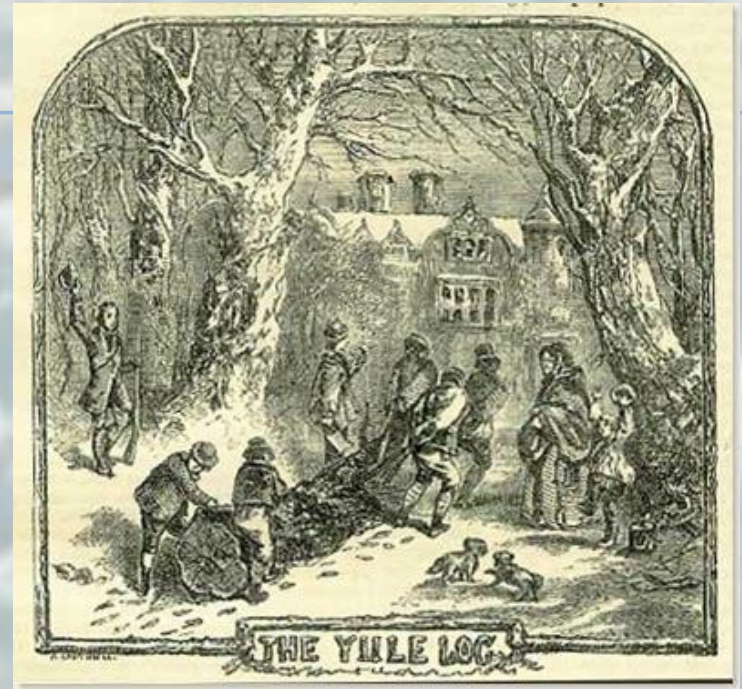
So, often a very large "backstick" was chosen to ensure a nice long celebration..



# 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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