

# PRESS INFORMATION

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## The Nuremberg Christkindlesmarkt – A Chronicle of the Market

**1530** The letters of Willibald Pirckheimer (1470 to 1530), Nuremberg Town Council member and Humanist, were edited and published by the Heidelberg historian Helga Scheible in 2001. Pirckheimer writes that the nuns from the Bergen convent near Hersbruck – a branch of the convent in Neuburg on the Danube River – "sent for spices from the Market" at Advent. This is presumably a reference to the Nuremberg Market.

**1545** The Reformer Martin Luther has his children brought presents by the "Holy Christ Child". Up until then children had received them from Saint Nicholas.

**1564** The Nuremberg patrician Endres Imhoff enters expenses for presents on December 22. A year before he had not bought them until after Christmas. Such records suggest that the Nuremberg patricians may have started giving presents at Christmas, instead of at New Year, as of 1564.

**1610** A Town Council decree dated December 22 has indecent joke items confiscated that a wood turner had made as children's Christmas gifts.

**1616** In the Chronicle of St. Sebaldus Lüder, the parish priest, complains that on Christmas Eve he had to cancel the Vespers and afternoon sermon, because "no one was present, as they were all shopping for Christmas gifts".

**1628** The following inscription in black ink was found at the bottom of an oval, 19-centimeter-long spruce bentwood box decorated with flowers – now in the possession of the Germanisches Nationalmuseum: "To Regina Susanna Harßdörfferin from Miss Susanna Eleonora Erbsin (or Elbsin) sent at the Christkindlesmarkt of 1628". The original contents, consisting of twelve silk cords of different thicknesses, are found in this box. It was quite likely sold with its contents at the 1628 market. The inscription on the bentwood box is currently considered the oldest proof of the existence of the Nuremberg Christkindlesmarkt.

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**1697** Christoph Wagenseil, a professor at Altdorf University, mentions the "Christkeindleinsmarck" in the second history of the town, De ... civitate Norimbergensis commentatio ..., written in Latin.

**1729** The Town Council rejects a goldsmith's suggestion of introducing a lottery at the market. Countermeasures were thus to be taken against the debasement of this fair during the Christmas period.

**1737** A list provides valuable references to the marketers. It indicates that almost all of the Nuremberg craftsmen are represented in the little town of wooden stalls. 140 persons were entitled at that time to offer goods for sale.

**1898** The Christkindlesmarkt has to leave its traditional location on the main market square. It is moved to the Insel Schütt.

**1919** A new location for the Christkindlesmarkt opens up on the square in front of the Museum of Applied Arts.

**1923** The market is displaced once again. The marketers have to move into the temporarily empty rooms of the Transport Museum.

**1933** The Christkindlesmarkt returns to its old location on the main market square. It is opened on December 4 with a new ceremony – an actress dressed as the Christ Child recites a prologue, children's choirs sing, church bells ring.

**1948** The first market after the war is held amidst the destruction of the Old Town. The opening ceremony remains almost unchanged.

**1973** The City Council decides to move the opening of the Christkindlesmarkt up to December 4 (St. Barbara's Day), the Friday before the 1st Advent. The intention is to distribute the stream of visitors better. The number of visitors to the little town of wooden stalls exceeds the 1 million mark for the first time.

**1996** The Christkindlesmarkt logo with its word and image symbol and a year later the "Nuremberg Christkindlesmarkt" name are both trademarked.

**1999** On the 950th anniversary of the city the "Nuremberg Children's Christmas" and the "Star House" open at Hans Sachs square for the first time.

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