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THE EVOLUTION OF TRADITIONS AND CUSTOMS IN GREAT BRITAIN

The customs and traditions of Great Britain differ markedly from other nations. The British are incredibly proud of this and try not to betray their principles. They still have left-hand movement and a very popular game of cricket. They reluctantly changed their adored inches to centimeters, pints to liters, moving to the decimal system of measures. But despite the fact that the whole of Europe measures the distance by miles, the British are reluctant to change their miles.

In recent years the researchers have become increasingly interested in studying English traditions and customs. This subject has been learnt by Yu. Vyshnutska, A. Pavlovsky, G. Orwell, and others.

Many recent studies have focused on studying traditions in general, but less attention is paid to some details of such English traditions as the tea tradition and Pancake Day. That is why, the aim of the article is to research the tea tradition and Pancake Day in detail as the topic of English traditions is very actual nowadays.

The most famous tradition of Great Britain are their breakfasts and tea parties. Firmness and love for tea at the genetic level is what makes an Englishman English. Here is just Portuguese tea taught to the inhabitants of Foggy Albion by a Portuguese woman. And it happened relatively recently – in the seventeenth century.

And although it is known that the western world should thank China for this drink, few know that the popularity of tea England owes the Portuguese. BBC Travel reports when Catherine Braganza, a Portuguese princess, daughter of King Juan IV of the Renewal, became the wife of Charles II, she brought her tea as part of a dowry [1].

Moreover, a historical anecdote states that on the chests of drawers that came with the princess was an inscription from the Portuguese Transporte de Ervas Aromaticas "transportation of aromatic herbs", abbreviated – T.E.A.

"When Catherine married Carl, she became the object of close attention – everything from her clothes to her furniture became an occasion for court gossip," the researcher Sarah-Beth Watkins says, author of Catherine of Braganza's book "Charles II's Restoration Queen". "Court ladies began to imitate the queen, hoping to enter her immediate environment," the researcher adds [1].

Is the Tea Party tradition preserved to this day? In one of the issues of "Breakfast 1 + 1" Lucy Barnabas spoke about the traditions of morning tea in Great Britain. She told that in England tea is drunk after a salty breakfast. These can be eggs, beans, bacon, sausages and so on. During the tea party, manners and communication are important. They always start talking in the weather. It is not customary to talk about money and politics.

Furthermore, the researcher Kate Fox says in her book "Watching the

English", that the theme of the weather is to start a conversation with strangers. Lucy Barnabas also adds that morning tea is not strong. It is often called champagne tea. Tea is drunk with milk and biscuit [2].

Another interesting tradition is Pancake Day. The Pancake Day lasts only one day, while the observance of religious customs here is of particular importance. On the Pancake Day, which is held on Tuesday, the British attend church to spiritually cleanse themselves and repent of their sins before Easter. Therefore, the holiday is also called "Penitent".

It is believed that the small town of Olney became the founder of this humorous festival, which turned into an important event. Back in 1445, a certain housewife baking pancakes heard a bell ringing, notifying parishioners about coming to church. Without completing the cooking process, the woman grabbed a hot frying pan and ran to church. At the entrance she was met by the vicar, who appreciated the deed of the parishioner, and gave him a prayer book. From this moment on, the custom was forgotten more than once and revived again. However, since 1948, the traditional "pancake races" began to be held every year [3].

It takes place in spring on Tuesday and people not only eat pancakes everywhere but... run with them! These races are held by housewives and distance is about 410 meters. While running they must toss the pancake three times and catch it back on the frying-pan. The members of the families watch the runners and cheer: "Run, Mum, run quickly!"

To conclude, the article deals with the English traditions which are the important part of people's life in Great Britain. The paper focuses on the historical aspects of some English traditions and customs. In this paper we demonstrate the importance of learning English traditions and customs for every person who study English as the English have many interesting traditions and customs that are worth learning.

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