

"Bei uns ist immer was los!"

TANNENBAUM / CHRISTMAS TREE

"You Lovely, Beautiful Christmas Tree ..."

Dec 14, 2011



Christmas tree decorations.

In an exhibition which continues until January 15, the Museum für Kunst und Kulturgeschichte (Museum of Art and Cultural History) in Dortmund is showcasing Christmas tree decorations from the Biedermeier era to the present day.

The Christmas tree is at the heart of German Christmas celebrations. Even in the early modern period, there is evidence for example that the bakers' guild in the southern German city of Freiburg erected a tree decorated with fruit and baked goods. In the 19th century, Christmas trees adorned with lights became increasingly popular in all strata of society.



These days, around 90 percent of all homes in Germany have a Christmas tree, though the fashions in terms of tree decorations have changed as quickly as the zeitgeist since the 1950s. While trees in the 1950s were initially decorated in recollection of the pre-war years, Christmas trees in the 1960s became a great deal more colorful thanks to imported baubles from the Far East.

The 1970s had a distinctly Scandinavian flavor, with preference being given to wood, paper decorations and stars made of straw. Tone-in-tone pastel colours were all the rage in the 1980s – even blue and lilac tones were allowed. Trends in the following decade saw a return to nature, with natural decorations and beeswax candles. Today, anything goes – and collecting antique Christmas tree decorations is more popular than ever.