

III. Bread customs

A. How is bread eaten?

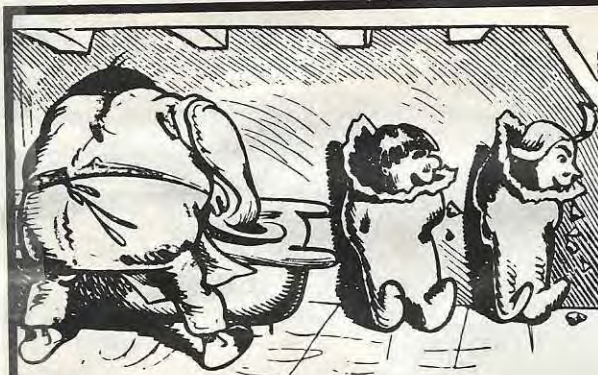
1. Bread and sausage (Brot und Wurst)
2. Germany's love affair with the egg (Ei): a slice here and there
3. Salamis and country bread (Landbrot)
4. Pointed buns and salami sandwiches (Spitzbrötchen)
5. Kaiser rolls (Kaisersemmeln) and salami sandwiches
6. Butterbrot sandwich
7. Snack (Brotzeit)

B. Germans traveling abroad miss their bread

The basic diet

200 Kinds of Bread ...

Das Brot



Bakers' shops open very early, selling frische Brötchen, also called Semmeln in the south and in Austria. The price of rolls is often taken as an indicator of economic stability: *Semmelpreise höher* as a headline in the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* is guaranteed to galvanise the regulars at the Gasthaus.

Knusper, knasper! — Wie zwei Mäuse
Fressen sie durch das Gehäuse;

Und der Meister Bäcker schrie:
„Ach herrje! Da laufen sie!“

Dieses war der sechste Streich,
Doch der letzte folgt sogleich.



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This illustration comes from *Max und Moritz*, a comic tale first published in 1865, written and illustrated by Wilhelm Busch. The episode above shows Max and Moritz's narrow escape from the baker's oven. The days of Wilhelm Busch's Bäcker are truly past, but the Bäckerei lives on as a central feature of German life. Germans

are true connoisseurs of bread, as the great variety of German bread suggests. Supermarkets carry a wide range of bread (Brot) and rolls (Brötchen), and most families always have several types of bread on the table.