

HOLIDAYS OUTSIDE THE RULES: AMAZING TRADITIONS

Khasanova Kamola

Fergana State University

Faculty of "Pedagogy-Psychology and Art Studies"

Music Education

3rd year student

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Abstract: The article deals with unusual and little-known holidays celebrated in different parts of the world. Special attention is paid to the unique cultural traditions of France, Spain, Mexico, China and Uzbekistan, reflecting the identity and worldview of the peoples of these countries. The historical roots, symbolism and forms of celebration are analyzed, as well as their role in preserving cultural identity. The material is of interest to ethnographers, culturologists and all those interested in international traditions.

Keywords: unusual holidays, traditions, France, Spain, Mexico, China, Uzbekistan, culture, rituals, ethnography, national celebrations, cultural heritage

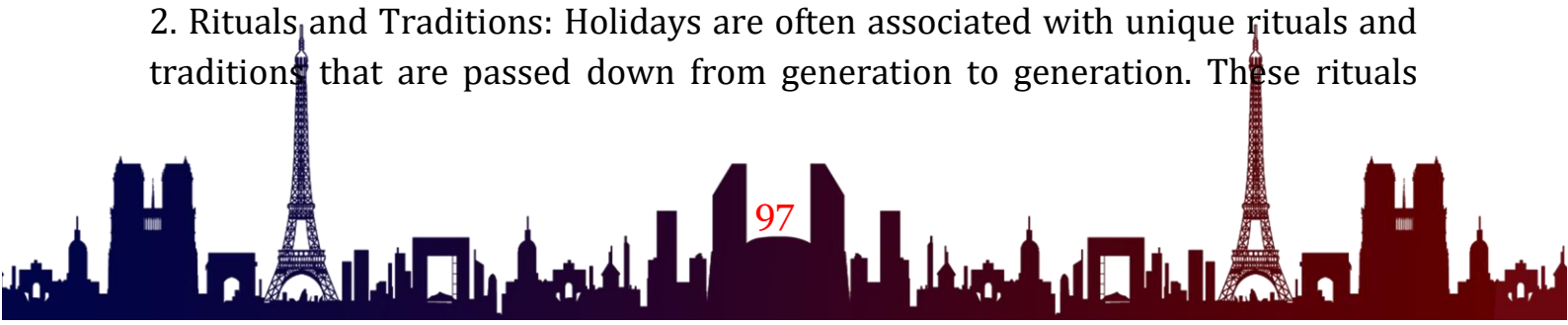
Аннотация: В статье рассматриваются необычные и малоизвестные праздники, отмечаемые в разных уголках мира. Особое внимание уделяется уникальным культурным традициям Франции, Испании, Мексики, Китая и Узбекистана, отражающим самобытность и мировоззрение народов этих стран. Анализируются исторические корни, символика и формы празднования, а также их роль в сохранении культурной идентичности. Материал представляет интерес для этнографов, культурологов и всех, кто интересуется международными традициями.

Ключевые слова: необычные праздники, традиции, Франция, Испания, Мексика, Китай, Узбекистан, культура, обряды, этнография, национальные торжества, культурное наследие

Introduction

A holiday is a unique and special time when important events that are meaningful to different groups of people and cultures are celebrated. Important characteristics of a holiday include the following:

1. Fun and Joy: A holiday is usually accompanied by a joyful mood, merriment, and a special spirit. People come together to celebrate the holiday and participate in a variety of activities and celebrations.
2. Rituals and Traditions: Holidays are often associated with unique rituals and traditions that are passed down from generation to generation. These rituals



may include prayers, processions, dances, national costumes, special foods, and other forms of expression.

Holidays are not only a time of relaxation, but also a reflection of a society's values and history. Important events, religious rituals, and the changing of the seasons are all reflected in holidays. In the calendar everyone can find weekends when you can relax and take part in festive events¹. Some holidays have national significance and are considered public holidays. The symbolism of holidays is expressed through flags, flowers, and special items that help convey the idea and meanings of the holiday.

Diversity can be found in the many different holidays, including both religious holidays, such as Christmas and Easter, and national holidays, such as Independence Day, as well as seasonal holidays, such as Harvest Day. These holidays play a significant role in people's daily lives, helping to preserve heritage and strengthen ties in the community, as well as providing an opportunity to enjoy relaxation and joy.

Discussions and Results

Incredible holidays and customs from around the world are amazingly unusual and unique. Here are just a few of them:

1. El Colacho Festival, Spain: The town of Castrillo de Murcia hosts an unusual event where men dressed as devils jump over babies lying on mattresses. This ritual is considered protection and purification from evil.

2. Battle of the Tomatoes in Buñol, Spain²: Every year in August, the town of Buñol becomes the scene for the famous "Tomatina", where participants organize a massive battle by throwing tons of ripe tomatoes at each other. **In**

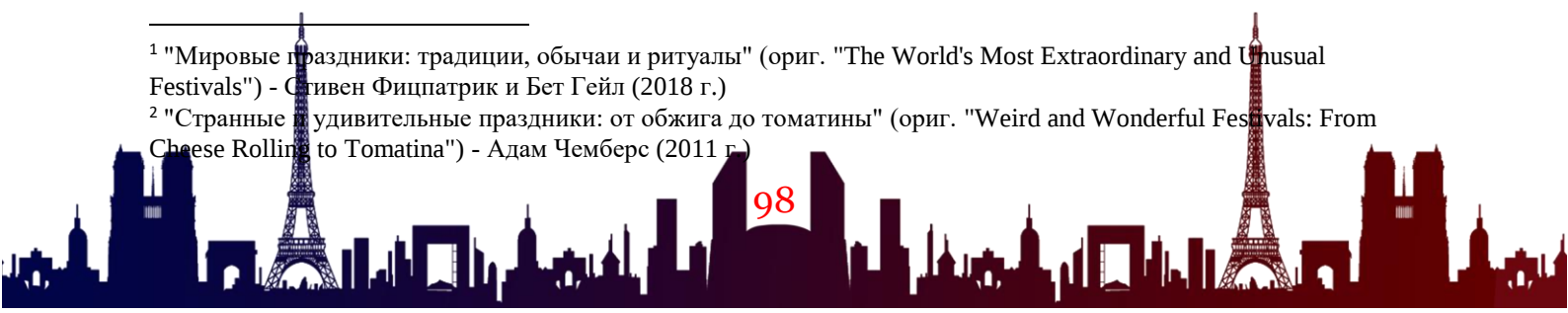
3. South Korea, participants enjoy a variety of activities including mud baths, mud wrestling, and even mud slides at the mud festival held every year in the city of Poryeong.

4. Mexico celebrates the Day of the Dead (Día de los Muertos) on November 1 and 2, when families create an altar with photos and belongings of the deceased, bring treats to cemeteries and decorate graves with flowers. The Tug of War Festival in Japan is held in Naha on the island of Okinawa and attracts thousands of participants, with the rope itself weighing several tons.

In December, Oaxaca, Mexico, hosts an amazing event called Radish Night. Locals compete in the art of radish carving, creating amazing works of art. This

¹ "Мировые праздники: традиции, обычаи и ритуалы" (ориг. "The World's Most Extraordinary and Unusual Festivals") - Стивен Фицпатрик и Бет Гейл (2018 г.)

² "Странные и удивительные праздники: от обжига до томатины" (ориг. "Weird and Wonderful Festivals: From Cheese Rolling to Tomatina") - Адам Чемберс (2011 г.)



holiday is a prime example of the diversity of cultural traditions and ways of celebrating around the world.

China is home to many unique and unusual holidays³ that reflect the country's rich history and culture. Here are a few examples:

Lantern Festival (元宵节, Yuanxiaojie): On the 15th day of the first lunar month, the Lantern Festival is celebrated to symbolize the end of the Chinese New Year celebrations. Streets are decorated with colorful lanterns, people guess at riddles written on the lanterns and raise balloons into the sky.

Double Seven Festival (七夕节, Qixi): The day of the seventh month of the seventh lunar calendar is celebrated as the Double Seven Festival, which is considered a day of love and romance in China.

On the day of the Dragon Boat Festival, which falls on the fifth day of the fifth lunar month, people honor the ancient poet Qu Yuan. Dragon boat races become the center of attention, and zongzi, triangular rice cakes wrapped in bamboo or cane leaves, are prepared and consumed. According to legend, this is the time when celestial lovers, a shepherd and a weaver, have the opportunity to cross the Milky Way and meet. Girls on this day traditionally show off their skills in handicrafts, and couples express their love for each other.

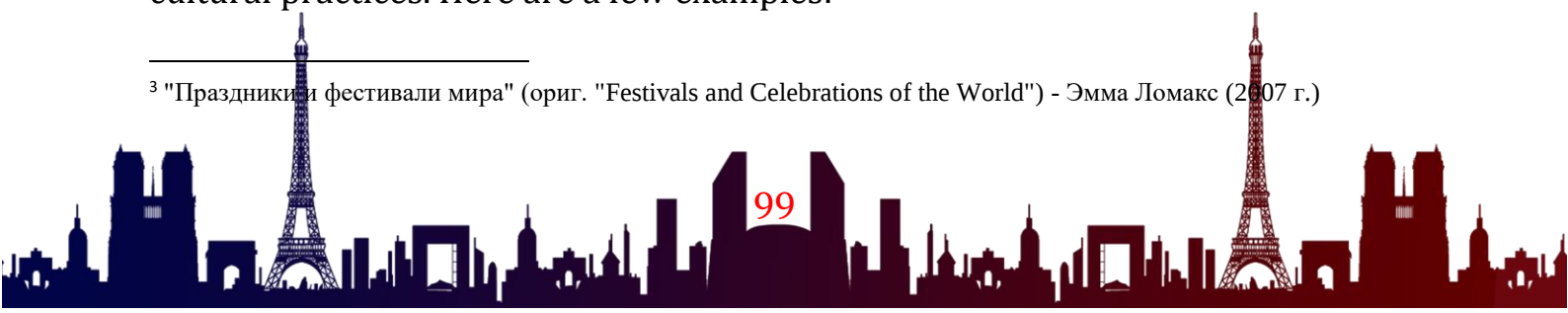
The Great Event of the Number Nine (重阳节, Chunyangjie) is a festival that occurs on the ninth day of the ninth lunar month. By doubling the number nine, we attract the auspicious vibrations of this Yang number into ourselves. On this day, people go to the mountains to enjoy the sight of chrysanthemums, drink chrysanthemum wine and honor their ancestors.

The Mysterious Night of the Spirits (中元节, Zhongyuanjie), also known as the Festival of Hungry Spirits, takes place on the fifteenth day of the seventh lunar month. According to legend, on this day, the spirits of the dead return to the world of the living. People perform rituals to appease and feed the spirits, including burning paper sacrificial objects and offering food.

The rich cultural history and beliefs of the Chinese people are reflected in these festivals, which are linked to nature, respect for ancestors and the pursuit of harmony.

France celebrates a variety of holidays that symbolize centuries-old cultural practices. Here are a few examples:

³ "Праздники и фестивали мира" (ориг. "Festivals and Celebrations of the World") - Эмма Ломакс (2007 г.)



The White Nights Festival in Paris (Nuit Blanche): The capital city of the country hosts a unique event called the White Nights Festival. At night, the streets are filled with art and light, creating a magical atmosphere that remains until the morning.

Festival of Lemons in Menton (Fête du Citron): Every February, the city of Menton on the Côte d'Azur hosts an amazing event, the Festival of Lemons. The town is decorated with huge sculptures of citrus fruits, creating a magical atmosphere and delighting the eyes of all visitors.

In Paris, when the first Saturday of October arrives, the city comes alive and becomes the center of events. White Night brings a celebration of art when museums, galleries and cultural centers open their doors all night long. Residents and tourists can immerse themselves in the atmosphere of creativity by enjoying free exhibitions, installations and performances in different parts of the city.

In France, February 2 marks the celebration of Pancake Day, which brings tradition and good luck. On this day, the French bake pancakes, believing that tossing a pancake with a coin in the left hand and successfully getting it back into the pan will bring good luck throughout the year. This ancient custom combines fun and anticipation of joyful events.

In the town of Sarlat in the Dordogne, the Sullo Goose Festival (Foire aux Oies de Sarlat) takes place every year in March. Visitors can enjoy various cooking workshops, parades and fairs featuring goose dishes such as foie gras, celebrating the culinary traditions of the region.

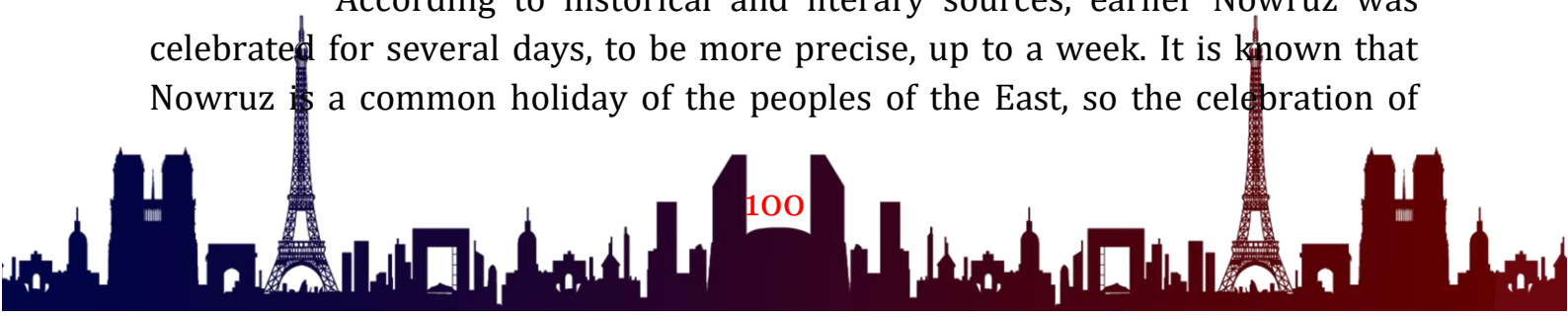
The Festival d'Andouillettes (Foire aux Andouilles de Vire) in the town of Vire in Normandy is a festival dedicated to andouillettes, traditional French sausages made from pork offal. In addition to gastronomic delights, the feast features a fair, music and traditional dances for everyone to enjoy.

The Festival of Roses (Fête des Roses) in Gré-sur-Loin is an amazing event that takes place in May. The streets and squares of the town are decorated with roses and a fair offers a variety of roses. In addition, the festival is accompanied by concerts, exhibitions and treats with rose syrups and jams.

In France, cultural life at festivals is revealed in all its diverse beauty, where tradition, cooking and creativity merge to create unique events.

Conclusion

According to historical and literary sources, earlier Nowruz was celebrated for several days, to be more precise, up to a week. It is known that Nowruz is a common holiday of the peoples of the East, so the celebration of



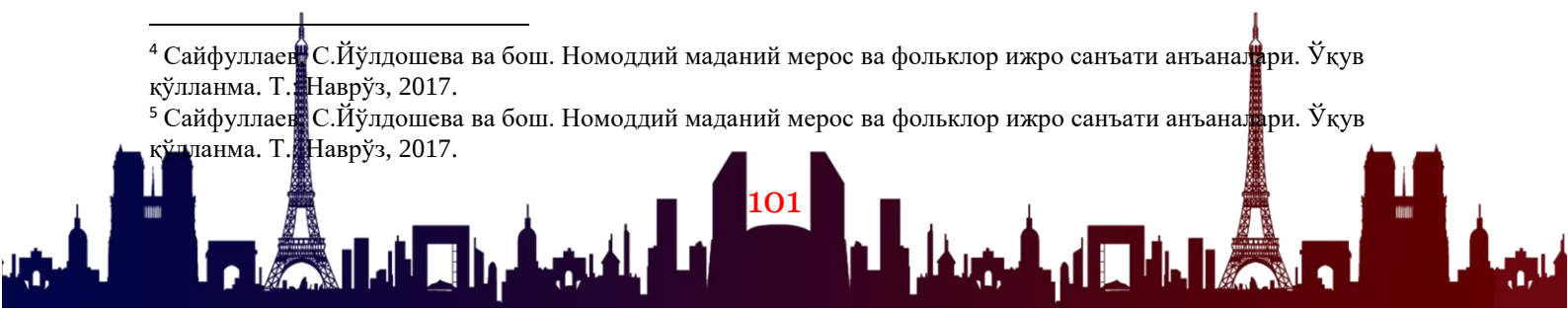
Navruz should be held between republics. This event is the basis of spring holidays and serves to strengthen the bonds of friendship between people bound by the same bond. Wonderful traditions and customs, charming tunes and songs, legends and narratives related to the appearance and celebration of Nowruz have been created. Here it is appropriate to talk about a number of events held on holidays, which have become almost all famous. The fact is that on holidays girls and boys used to go for a walk in the park. Having thrown a rope on strong branches of apricots, swings are made, and everyone takes turns to ride on these swings. According to the tradition of Karakol residents⁴, if one rides on these swings during Navruz, all the sins committed by a person during the year will be "thrown off". That is why even the old residents say: "If we ride it, it will be a reward!" Our heaviness will fall away, we will become light as birds! - they said and joked. Unmarried girls, brides expecting a child, try to fly as high as possible. They always try to pluck a leaf from the highest branch of the apricot tree with joyful laughter. According to folklorist O. Safarov⁵, it seems that if one plucks a leaf from a tree, it will fulfill all her wishes. In addition to organizing large-scale celebrations, our national folk games such as kopkari, white bone, five stones and wrestling are widely played during Nowruz. These folk games are based on many traditions that encourage people to succeed. The festivals of different nations reflect the diversity of cultures and allow us to see common features, such as the desire to celebrate important moments in the life of society, respect for traditions and passing them on to the next generation.

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