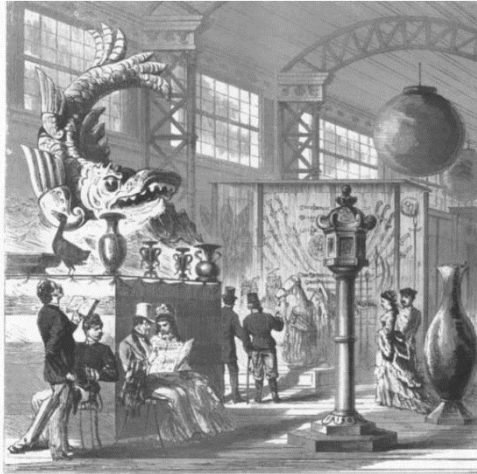




Nasushiobara & Linz

150 Years of Japanese-Austrian Friendship



Vienna World Exposition 1873

delegation traveled to Japan to sign a trade and friendship treaty with exotic Japan. The treaty became known as the “10-Day-Treaty” due to being ratified in such a short time. While this was a reason for great joy in Austria-Hungary, Japan had numerous disadvantages. The treaty was one amongst many “unequal treaties” Japan had signed with several countries at the time.

By today’s standards, there were regrettable parts. However, despite the mixed feelings, it constitutes the first step to the Japanese-Austrian friendship.

1869. Meiji 2. Like the USA or England, Austrian-Hungarian Anton Freiherr von Petz and his

In the 1873 Vienna World’s Fair, Japan officially takes part in a World Exposition for the first time. Artisans are sent along with the objects. The Japanese garden that was erected on site and souvenirs such as fans leave a big impression on the Viennese. The arts and theatre also take up Japanese influences.

While the heir to the Austrian throne Franz



Ferdinand is still enjoying his stay in Japan in 1893, in 1914 his murder sets World War I into motion. Austria and Japan end up fighting on opposing sides. The inter-war years and World War II are difficult on both sides. Official relations between the new Austria and Japan are reestablished in 1955. Japan is the first country to recognize Austria’s neutrality. Since 1957, a current total of 29 sister cities have been established between them, of which Linz and Nasushiobara are the most recent. On the occasion of the 150th anniversary, we are planning many exchange activities!

Linz News: Japanese Culture in Linz



Japanese letters on a tram in Linz city

One aspect of the Japanese culture that is popular in Austria is martial arts. Linz, too, has dojos (schools) for aikido, karate, *bujutsu*, kendo and kyudo.

Traditional Japanese arts are also being taught. There are courses for ikebana and bonsai clubs organize a sales exhibition in the botanical garden every year. Some of the residents of Linz even practice zen.

Generally speaking, Austrians are not especially knowledgeable about Japanese culture, but due to “ikebana workshops” and similar events being held here and there, vocabulary connected to Japanese culture

such as ikebana is widely known. Amongst the youth, every high school tends to have a few pupils that like Japanese manga, anime, games or music. Cosplay is popular too and can be spotted at manga conventions.

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People: Nasu Takuyou High School, Food Culture Program

“It’s my dream to cook with Austrians, making each other’s traditional dishes together.”



Linzer Torte for Nasushiobara: Students of Nasu Takuyou High School with their teacher, Ms. Tamura

In our school, we have the “topic research” course where students pick a topic and research it for one year. The students, who are learning all things food-related, heard about the exchange with our sister city Linz through the international exchange program. They started researching Austrian culture, hoping to make our sister city’s sweets even wider known. We had been working on the topic since the previous year, and in 2019 they developed their own baked sweets in cooperation with a local cake shop. They were able to send their baked sweet “Link” to Austria as a souvenir with the foreign exchange program of

middle school students in October. Through the project, we have not only gained a deeper understanding of the other culture, but also a fresh view on the culture of our own country and region. - Mari Tamura, teacher

What was your first impression when you tried baking Linzertorte?

I thought the cake was delicious, the cinnamon-flavored dough and the acidity of the jam matched really well. The aroma of the spices was strong; it was a new kind of confectionary rarely found in Japan. In order to let many people in Japan try it, we baked many trial cakes! - Sakura Ezure, 3rd year

It was fun to actually try to bake it. I was surprised by the amount of sugar, butter and almond powder used in the cake. The piped-on grid design was crunchy and the tart part was juicy. The texture was well-balanced and the cake was very tasty. – Nagisa Kogawara, 3rd year

Why did you choose Linzertorte?

Since Nasushiobara and Linz are sister cities, we were thinking of a way for us to get involved – through the medium of food. From there, we focused on Linzertorte, which is the oldest cake in the world. We wanted to make the culture and desserts of Linz wider known in our hometown Nasushiobara and further deepen our connection with Linz. – Rumi Gotou, 3rd year

What is the significance of “Link”?

“Link” signifies our wish for the friendship between Nasushiobara and our sister city Linz to last forever and for yet new connections to be established. We developed our sweet with that wish in mind. When we decided on the product name we were thinking that “Link” has the meaning of connection. – Sou Suzuki, 3rd year



Nasushiobara’s version of the Linzertorte, “Link”. It can currently be purchased at “Nemunoki”

Nasushiobara & Linz

Would you like to make other Austrian dishes in the future ?

I would be happy if the confectionary we came up with, “Link”, became an opportunity for many people to learn about Linz. I think it would be great if we could have an exchange that involves our local community. It’s my dream to cook with Austrians, making each other’s traditional dishes together. – Ruka Ebisawa, 3rd year



The World’s Oldest Cake Recipe

Linzertorte, “Linz Cake”, is our sister city’s specialty. There is a recipe for Linzertorte that dates back to 1653! Its characteristics include a pie-style dough with plenty of nuts, red currant jam and the grid pattern piped on top.

Lively Sister City Exchange



November 19th 2018: Introducing Austria at Inamura Elementary School

I held a presentation for 4th grade students and their parents. Apart from the introductions, there was also a true-or-false quiz and an opportunity to experience traditional culture. I was happy to see how well everyone danced the Austrian dance and sang the Austrian song – It was moving! As a souvenir, the children got Austrian sweets and a handmade bookmark with Nasushiobara’s mascot Miruhii.

Culture Corner : Luck and Superstition

In Austria, superstition exists since ancient times. Things that are thought to bring bad luck are black cats, the number 13, broken mirrors or walking under a ladder. Spilling salt is unlucky, but if you throw some of it over your shoulder, you can avert the bad luck. It is believed that if you say something bad, it will come true! But there is a way to stop that from happening. For example, if you said, “I am going to fail that test!”, you knock on a wooden surface three times.

On the other hand, four-leaved clovers, broken porcelain, chimney sweeps or horse shoes are lucky symbols. People that are born on a Sunday are believed to be blessed by luck in general. There are special moments where you can wish for something from God. When you see a shooting star or you find an eye lash that has fallen down or you managed to blow out your birthday candles in one go, you make a wish. But you are not allowed to tell anyone or it won’t come true.

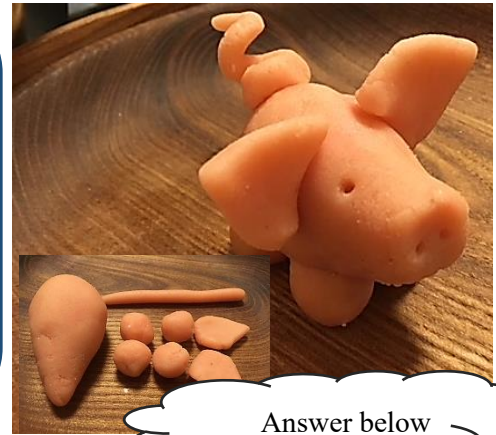
Some superstitions have nothing to do with being lucky or unlucky. For example, if your food is very salty, it is a sign that the cook is in love. If you have hiccups, that means someone is thinking of you. That is quite similar to sneezing in Japan, isn’t it? Do you know any other similar superstitions in Japan?



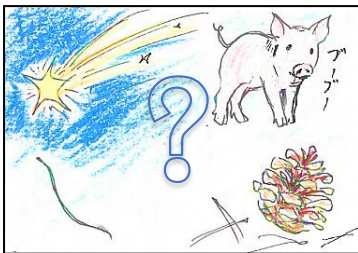
Nasushiobara & Linz

Handmade ☆Marzipan Piglet

For New Years, we are making a lucky piglet! Knead a little red food color into about 75g of marzipan. Form one big drop shape for the body, four small spheres for the legs, two triangles for the ears and one string for the tail. Now flatten the tip of the drop with your finger and make two impressions with a toothpick. This will be the nose. Attach the four legs to the stomach. Attach the ears and make two holes for the eyes. Coil the tail and attach it.



Answer below



Q Which one is not a lucky symbol in Austria?

A: Shooting star

B: Pig

C: Fallen eye lash

D: Fallen pine cone

German Corner: Japanese Words in German



In Austria, Japanese culture has been popular since the Vienna World Exposition. Due to the exchange back then, words connected to Japanese culture have found their way into German: 着物、芸者、生け花、盆栽、鯉 became *Kimono*, *Geisha*, *Ikebana*, *Bonsai*, *Koi*. With the growing popularity of Japanese entertainment, words like *Karaoke*, *Manga*, *Anime* or *Tamagotchi* have become commonplace.

There are also words that have changed their meaning when they were integrated into the German language. When Austrians hear the word *Sake*, they think of *nihonshu*. The root of the German *Bonze* is the Japanese *bōzu*, a Buddhist priest. However, the German *Bonze* is used for a person that is influential in a religious, economic or political capacity and likes to show off. Many German speakers are not aware of the original meaning.

Correction: In the first print of the October 2018 issue, in “100 years Republic of Austria” the end of World War I is given as 1818. The correct year is 1918. We apologize for any inconvenience.

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Answer : D : Pine cones are adorable, but not a lucky symbol!!