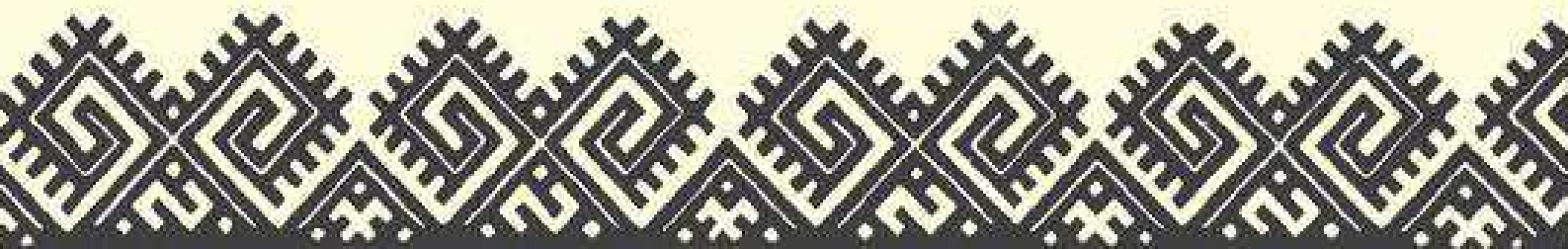




OMENIUS
2011 - 2013

TOGETHER THROUGH THE RAINBOW
OF THE EUROPEAN TRADITIONS

2013





GREECE



THE CUSTOM OF DECORATING THE CHRISTMAS BOAT **KARAVAKI**

The boat symbolises a new course in people's lives, after Christ's birth. As Greece is a navy country, the specific custom has been adopted in stand of the Christmas tree, especially in islands and in seaside areas.

There, the kids used to hold small boats in their hands singing the carols at the same time. On the 7th of January which is a day when John the Baptist is celebrated, children take the decoration off the Christmas boat.

The tradition dates back hundreds of years when many Greeks were working as seamen. During Christmas time, when many were returning home after a long time at sea, their wives would celebrate by decorating small wooden boats as a way of saying welcome home.

Sometimes coins or gold objects are also placed in the boats to symbolise riches entering ones home.

JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

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GREECE



Celebration of **St. John** (Custom of **Goddess Klidona**)

On 24th June we celebrate the name of John the Baptist. According to tradition, on the eve, on 23rd June, young and old people used to celebrate the burning of the wreaths made during the 1st May lighting big fires in the neighbourhoods.

The oldest ones were in control of the fire, we poured alcohol on it, we placed the wreaths on top of it and the dares ones started jumping -to purify the evil- even if they felt the scorching. Single girls made wreaths of flowers and placed them under their pillow hoping to see whom they would get married to.

Actually, the costum of Klidonas has its roots in ancient times. In Homer's time ,they used the magic of Goddess Klidona to foretell the future. Later, in the Byzantine period ,we come across the costum as the worship of Sun (Helios)

Year by year Klidonas drops the characteristic of general clairvoyance and limits itself to love prophecies. Goddess Klidona silently withdraws and gives her place to St Ioannis , whose grace the people plead.

JUNE

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

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