

**Last Castle of a Roma Tradition: İncesu Broomers 25/09/2008**

There is a village in Samsun in Vezirköprü. There is 250 digit in this village. The name of this village is İncesu. Mainstay of İncesu Village is broommaking. They are making and selling broom. Most important complaints of villagers are about rising technology. They are suffering from falling demand to broom and low income. Broom is not as important as before for people. Because there are some technological instruments which could be used instead of broom in houses.

This job had been commemorative from their ancestors. Dursun Doruk express that; “ He has been making broom for 10 years”. Also, he adds, “ Although, broom making is so difficult, comeback is very miscarriage”. Villagers also explain that unity of villagers is so important to support themselves from negative influences of rising technology.

**Blacksmith Women 07/10/2008**

Some womans are working as blacksmith to make contribution to family budget in Umutlu Village which is 30 km far from Samsun Alaçam. Villagers are underlining that there are not many immigration in the village due to the work they carry on.

Some womans in Umutlu Village, a village of 50 houses in the district boundaries of Alaçam, facilitate their husbands with "forging". However some womans carry on the profession of blacksmithing besides their mother in law. Although in each house in that village you can find a blacksmith bench, some villagers gave up from continuing their professions.

The villagers produces agricultural implements and also sell this materials by themselves. Ezine Uslu (56) mentioned that she works as blacksmith for 25 years, when her husband goes for selling the devices, she work together with her bride Güllü Uslu(24). She said " I learned how to weld, heating the iron, bending, to make agricultural implements like axe,dig, chopper,adze and households." She expressed that she learned this profession from her husband and taught to her dauther in law herself. Güllü Uslu remarked that she did not experience any difficulty in blacksmithing. Havva Uçan(34) also remarked that blacksmithing is easier than doing the housework.

**Yenişehir Roma Cultural Association 15/10/2008**

The headquarters of Yenişehir Romans Cultural Association is in İzmir. The association aims to overcome various social problems of the Roman Society and to realize social integration projects robustly.

The association has played an active role in various activities organized by İzmir Cosmopolitan and Yenişehir Municipalities so far. The basic problem of the association is the provision of financial resources required for the integration projects it is designing. The association has a staff of 31 members consisting of 27 volunteers and 4 professionals. The association works in cooperation with Aegean Roman Associations Corporations and

Municipalities.

Contact: rossmen\_@hotmail.com

### **Lacho 18/10/2008**

Since 3 year Little Lacho Group (Küçük Laçolar Grubu) which consist of little gypsy kids younger than 14 years old, perform in various organizations. Team members get together once a week and get music training in Mimar Sinan University.

Gypsy's music passion make them a passionate musician in early ages. 5 little roman child are an example of this..They are Little Lachos.. Saffet Cicilli mentioned that "There is neither speaker nor chief in our group..We decide everything together. I want to go to conservatory in the future. Now we are learning musical notes little by little. I am playing zither since nine years old. ". They are coming from a musician family,without the knowledge of the musical notes and they are playing from memory. This talented children wants to improve their talent by going to the conservatory.

Community Center which is committed to İstanbul Bilgi University and continue its work with various funds, provide a place for children and also find volunteer trainers for them and interest to their problems one by one. Even though they are young, they perform in a lot of place. Annually they perform in Opening and Closing Festival of Bilgi University and Tarlabası Community Center Child Festival. In addition to that, this year they performed in İstanbul TED College, Rotary Child House and Boğaziçi University Festival. They have a dancer and soloist girl in the crew during the concerts. Barış Ürün from Mimar Sinan University is supporting them as a volunteer trainer. "Previous trainer before me, train them with west notation and i carry on in the same way. "

Their dreams are big...If this support will go on like this, there is no barrier for mentioning Little Lachos as "Lachos".

### **Deli Ayten's Sculpture Will Be Erected 06/11/2008**

Gypsy neighborhoods are the dream of some and nightmare of others...Non-Gypsies are afraid of entering them... Gypsies do not want to leave them. There are many Gypsy neighborhoods in both İstanbul and Anatolia. One of these neighborhoods is Kızıyakup in Bursa. The sculpture of "Deli Ayten" (Mad Ayten), who is the symbolized character of this neighborhood, will be erected in Kamberler History and Coordination Park by Osmangazi Municipality.

It is one of the major features of Gypsy neighborhoods; symbolic characters emerge out of them... "Deli Zafer" (Mad Zafer) and "Avare Mustafa" (Vagabond Mustafa), "Deli Hidayet" (Mad Hidayet),, who is also an artist, from Teneke Neighborhood in Nişantaşı, "Elekçi Baba" (Sieving Father) of Silivrikapı and many others whose name we do not know... Maybe, the most popular of these names is "Deli Ayten" from Kamberli...Deli Ayten was known not only around Kamberler but also by all the people from Bursa for her orgy, drum and stones on her skirt.

There are many answers to the question of why "Deli Ayten was like that?" However, the most common of these is that: She suffered from meningitis and hence heavy damages to her brain in her childhood; she fell in love with alcoholic Cümbüşü Hasan at the age of 13-14. Despite her family's reluctance, she married Hasan. However, Hasan got distressed because of "Deli Ayten", on the one hand, and poverty, on the other. One day, he left home for the public house as he did everyday. Ayten waited for him and wandered around public houses for years in order to find him. "Deli Ayten", whose real name is Ayten Şenışık, was born in 1953.

Kamberler History and Coordination Park is one of the most important projects of Osmangazi Municipality. It will make a name for itself not only by its open space area and also its sculptures. In the park, there will be sculptures of celebrities like Osman Gazi, Orhan Gazi, Zeki Müren and Ahmet Hamdi Tanpınar along with Deli Ayten who is known as the sympathetic mad character of Kamberler. Osmangazi Municipality President Recep Altepe has mentioned that there are traces of Deli Ayten in each and every square of the area where the market and park will be built. He says: "According to us, Deli Ayten is among the assets of Bursa. We want to make the new generations know about her by erecting the sculpture of such an admired personality. It is a different work and I am sure that it will suit the park very much."

Osmangazi Municipality will use Deli Ayten's photograph taken by Nihat Küçük to erect the sculpture. The sculpture will be colored and it will portray Deli Ayten with her orgy in her hands, drum in her arms.

### **Gypsies Perpetuate the Tradition of Turkish Bath 18/11/2008**

There used to be a tradition in Anatolia. We all remember the story roughly; bride, along with her and groom's families, used to pass through her village and goes to Turkish bath. After migrating to city life, this custom has turned out to be a memory which we have longed for. However, Gypsies still carry on those traditions in a similar way as they were in the past.

In Edirne, Gazimihal Mahallesi, the bride is taken by the groom from her house. This ceremony is accompanied by musical instruments. After passing through the village, they arrive at the Turkish bath. The music keeps playing. People eat the fruits in the fruit basket which they bring along.

The Gypsies of Gazimihal Mahallesi tell about the tradition which is almost totally removed by the majority of the society: "This is our tradition; our daughters and sons are dressed. We follow them to the Turkish bath. We play music and dance throughout the way. After the bath, we take bride to hairdresser and then to wedding. The fruit we take with us to the bath is eaten by bride and distributed to others. This is our tradition."

### **Association Opening In Gördes 21/11/2008**

The Gypsy residents of Huseyinli Baba Mahallesi in Gordes, Manisa, found an association. Seyfettin Budak will take over the chairperson position of the association Gordes Sen Romanlar Sosyal Yardımlaşma ve Kültür Derneği, founded in October. During his speech Seyfettin Budak brought up the issue of their discomfort caused by the majority of the society's views against them. The opening of the association was accompanied by a festival in which not only the residents but also people from outer locations participated.

### **Born To Be Musicians 29/11/2008**

Music is a sort of source of life for Gypsies. They listen to music anytime anywhere; when they are happy or sad, when they do the housework or work outside... There are quite many idioms and narrations regarding the situation, such as: "Once a gypsy gave his son a clarinet and told him to leave and not come back unless he learned how to play it" or "dancing even to door-creak".

### **Music comes before the alphabet**

An example of the situation has occurred in Manyas, a district in Balıkesir. Gypsy kids living in

Manyas initially learn how to play an instrument and then they draw their life route according to their abilities on the instruments they play. Gypsies living in the region want their kids to have a life free from harsh conditions of life. Thus they want them to deal with music. Gypsy kids, in a dissimilar way from those who are at the same age with them, play with the instruments they are given, instead of playing with toys. This makes them familiar with the sounds of the instruments in a very early stage of their lives. Hence, before they get into the alphabet, they develop music abilities. After participating in a few wedding ceremonies, they themselves become good musicians. In fact, this is not an ability one has inherently from one's birth. But in order to protect themselves from harshness of life, Gypsy kids rather to follow the way they know best.

### **The Roma Visit The Municipality 06/12/2008**

The leaders of the Association for Perpetuation and Conservation of the Roma Culture have visited the Osmangazi Mayor and articulated the need for creating for employment opportunities for the Roma.

Efkan Özçimen, the Chairman of the Association, conveyed several demands of the Roma to the Mayor Recep Altepe during their visit. Underlining the importance of the employment, "We want to collaborate in order to increase the educational level of the Roma. There are many Roma people who want to work but cannot find a proper job. We are waiting for your support on that issue," said Özçimen. He also brought up the healthcare rights and the problems that the Roma face in government offices.

Mayor Altepe, on the other hand, told that the project for "Musicians School" was completed and the school is to be opened soon. He added that Müjdat Gezen is to attend to the opening ceremony. There will be a coffeehouse for the musicians within the school.

### **They Are Waiting For The Cold Weather 16/12/2008**

Ten thousands of children started to go to the school with the new education year. However, in Thrace in some regions Romany children who are craving for school are only able to go to the school in winter months.

Many of the students started to school and about to finish the first semester, however, in most of the regions of Turkey children are not able to go to the school because of their families are working in fields. Romany children who live in Thrace are also disappointed because of being absent from school. Romany who are working as a temporary agricultural worker, are working in sunflower and sugar beet fields. Their children are going with them because they can't let them go alone. Obviously children are the aggrieved of this work.

Safiye Çekiç who is also an agricultural worker and spends her days in fields stated that they took their children with them because they can't leave them at home alone. Çekiç said they have also troubles with this and stated that they have no other chance to live.

Çiçek Çekiç who is attending to the 4th year of Primary Education said that they missed their first semesters since around 4-5 years because of that they have to work with their families in the fields. Çekiç said that in the last year his courses were very good and she will recompense the gap in this year after she starts to school.

### **BBC Made An Interview With [www.cingeneyiz.org](http://www.cingeneyiz.org) 17/12/2008**

One of most important radio broadcast of England, BBC radio, made an interview with Cingeneyiz.org. David Landou, who is the producer of the program called Rokker Radio which is aired on Sundays, directed some questions to the Cingeneyiz.org team.

Rokker Radio which is aired on Sundays from 21.00 to 23.00 (GMT +2) and is the voice of Gypsies from all around the world, taking a break after a long term of air. Last Sunday in the last program the producer David Landou, emphasized that their own program is over, however, a new Gypsy radio channel started to broadcast in Turkey. Landou stated that the beginning of the first Gypsy Radio Channel of Turkey, Radio Gypsy, prepared by our website is becoming more important. He also directed some questions to the team of Cingeneyiz.org on the issue about radio, Cingeneyiz.org and the situation of Gypsies in Turkey.

### **Support For Roma Woman 20/12/2008**

Romany Culture Social Solidarity and Cooperation Association, in Izmir developed a project called ' I also exist in the city that I live' for Romany women.

The introduction meeting of the Project was made with the participation of the president of the Konak Municipality, Muzaffer Tunçağ. Also Prof. Dr. Nurselen Toygar, who is the former director of Konak municipality and Centre of Aegean University the Research and Implementation of Women Problems, supported. Toygar said: " The target is bring the Romany women to the social life. According to this target, different kinds of craft courses, education on woman rights and local administration is to be given."

Source: Milliyet