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Notes to Wishbone

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115-11 #2

When I read your account of the Wishbone (Pa. Dutchman, June 9, 1949) I tried to remember what we did with it as children, but could not think of the German name of it, at the time. But now a few things came back in my memory. In Bavaria it was called Springerl. A string was tied between the two ends, a match stick inserted between the double string and twisted. The wishbone was then carefully put on the table, with the end of the matchstick resting on the table. If you touched it lightly the contraption would jump up on account of the tension of the string. This was not practiced in our family, but we heard of it from other children. In our family the wishbone was used as here, two persons breaking it and the one with the larger part making a wish which was supposed to come true.

Meyers Konvers. Lexikon calls it Gabelbein, used as a kind of Vielliebchen, so that two persons pulling the arms, break it. Who gets the larger half wins.

VIELLIEBCHEN ESSEN.--The custom to eat twin-kernels found in hazelnuts (filberts) or almonds, separately. The two people doing this hook their arms together and put the kernel with the hand of the arm hooked to the other person's arm, in their respective mouths. Those who did this (a male and female at a party usually) when they meet again, must say Good Morning Vielliebchen, and who ~~did~~ does it first expects a present from the other.

I vaguely remember that this was also called eating a filip. Is there possibly a relationship between filbert - filip - and Vielliebchen?

Schmollis Remember also the custom of hooking the arms together and drinking Smolles, with a glass wine or beer in the ceremony of agreeing to the familiarity of calling one another Du instead of the formal Sie, das Du-zen.

*From Rudolf Hommel
Richlandtown, Pa.*