

Funeral

Mr. G., 39 years old from Neppendorf, talks about a tradition of the *Kalderaš*:

“Within us, when a person is committed to the earth, they go (note: the *Kalderaš*) away from there, they do not wait until everything has been done with the grave. The *Gadže* close the grave, the Roma don't. When the Roma leave the cemetery, there on the way they light a fire. Everyone who is leaving the cemetery, on this one, some embers, a glowing piece of wood is thrown upon the one's head, and the one must not look back. When he comes from there, from the funeral and goes to the fire, he does not look back! Because if he looks back, they say, the death's spirit takes him. Even today we do all that. Only the Gypsies do that. Within us only the Gypsies do that, only within us Gypsies, not within the others. The others do not do that.”

[Heinschink, Mozes F. (2002) Zum Verhältnis zwischen Ländlern und Roma in Siebenbürgen. In: Bottesch, Martin / Grieshofer, Franz / Schabus, Wilfried (eds.) Die siebenbürgischen Ländler. Unter Mitarbeit v. Monika Habersohn und Lore Lotte Hassfurthner. Eine Spurensicherung, Wien.]