

ITINERANT CRAFTSMEN AND ARTISANS

A.3

1910
1911
1912
1913
1914
1915
1916
1917
1918
1919
1920
1921
1922
1923
1924
1925
1926
1927
1928
1929
1930
1931
1932
1933
1934
1935
1936
1937
1938
1939
1940
1941
1942
1943
1944
1945
1946
1947
1948
1949
1950
1951



While most Central European Roma actually settled down hundreds of years ago, some Western European Sinti families continued to travel to various fairs and markets in their caravans. They dealt in cattle, horses or scrap metal or worked as smiths, grinders and tinkers. They usually followed traditional routes during the summer, returning to their home towns and villages for the winter.

Did you know

... that before 1950 there were many travellers who were not Roma or Sinti in most countries of Europe? They lived with their families in caravans, moving from place to place in search of work.

For you to do

Compare the photos on pages A.2 and A.3. What do the photos tell you about the lives of the two families? Can you think of three examples of people who often move from one place to another in the course of their work? What are the advantages and disadvantages of such a life?

The photo

An itinerant German Sinti family with their caravan. Ravensburg Municipal Archives, Germany.