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The Old Picture

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The Old Picture

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Here is a typical Swedish *kafferep* (coffee party) when the neighboring women gather in somebody's garden, and enjoy cinnamon or cardamom buns (*kanel- eller kardemumma-*

bullar), the seven varieties of cookies, and also a big cake, decorated with whipped cream and strawberries.

This picture was probably taken during a summer in the 1930s in the

Stockholm area. The children look like they are of school age, so they may be enjoying the summer holidays. No names are known.

A long-lived cookie book

This book, which only has recipes for cookies, was first published in 1945, and is still going strong. The publishers, *ICA Bokförlag*, mention on their web site that by 2005 they had sold 3.4 million copies during all those years, so there can not be many households in Sweden, that do not have this book.

An American cousin came for a visit some years ago, and after a few days she left with our copy in her

suitcase. So I had to buy a new one, which accounts for two of them.

There are not just cookies in the book, but also all kinds of cakes, for instance a very tasty meringue cake with a filling of whipped cream and ground walnuts.

Surprisingly enough, there are no chocolate chip cookies, as chocolate chips are mostly unknown in Sweden, and difficult to find in the stores.

