

Noggin



NMI Handling Collection

What is it?

Noggins were small wooden vessels used throughout Ireland up until the early 20th century. Turned on a lathe, or constructed from small wooden staves that were bound or laced with willow or ash, they were often made by a skilled cooper, sometimes using iron hoops from a local blacksmith.

This noggin was turned from cherry wood in 2015 by Ambrose O'Halloran, Claregalway, Co Galway, and is based on an example in the NMI Collection.

What was it used for?

Noggins were multi-functional, but were primarily used to scoop a measure of cream or buttermilk out of the churn during buttermaking, either for drinking or for mixing with boiled potatoes. Comfortably carved handles are their most prominent identifying feature.

DID YOU KNOW?

Naigín, the Irish word for noggin, also meant a spirit measure of less than a quarter of a pint. 'Naggin' is a word still used in Ireland today to describe small bottles of spirits.



Brief History

Early descriptions of noggins do not appear until the beginning of the 18th century; however archaeological evidence suggests that similar objects were in use during the Viking period.

The English word 'noggin' has been associated with milk and dairy products since the Tudor period and may have been adopted into Ireland after the Protestant plantations.

'Three noggins, three mugs, a bowl and two jugs,

A crock and a pan something lesser,

A red fourpenny glass, to draw at for mass,

Nailed up to a clean little dresser'

'Thady O'Brady', Anon, n.d.



Staved piggin

NMI Collection

museum

National Museum of Ireland

Ard-Mhúsaem na hÉireann

Country Life

Naigín

Bailiúchán Láimhseála AMÉ



Céard atá ann?

Ba shoithí beaga adhmaid iad Naigíní a úsáideadh ar fud na hÉireann suas go dtí an 20ú haois. Deileadh iad ar dheil, nó tógadh iad as stéibheanna beaga adhmaid a bhí ceangailte nó fite ina chéile le saileach nó fuinseog. Ba chúipéir oilte a rinne iad go minic, uaireanta ag baint úsáide as fonsaí iarainn a fuarthas ó ghabha áitiúil.

Dheil Ambrose O'Halloran, Baile Chláir, Co. na Gaillimhe an naigín seo as adhmaid silín in 2015, agus tá sé bunaithe ar shampla i mBailiúchán AMÉ.

Cén úsáid a mbaintear as?

Bhí Naigíní ilfheidhmeach, ach baineadh úsáid astu go príomha le tomhas uachtair nó bláthaí a scúpáil ón gcuinneog agus déanamh ime ar siúl, cibé acu le hól nó le meascadh le prátaí bruite. Is iad na cluasa snoite go compordach an ghné aitheanta is suntasaí atá acu.

AN RAIBH A
FHÍOS AGAT?

B'ionann *Naigín*, an focal Gaeilge ar 'noggin', agus tomhas biotáille níos lú ná ceathrú pionta. Tá 'naggin' in úsáid in Éirinn sa lá inniu le cur síos a dhéanamh ar bhuidéil bheaga bhiotáille.

Stair Ghairid

Ní raibh aon chur cíos luath ar an naigín go dtí tús an 18ú haois; ách, tugann fianaise seandálaíochta le fios go raibh rudaí den chineál céanna in úsáid i rith na tréimhse Lochlannach.

Tá an focal Béarla 'noggin' bainteach le táirgí bainne agus déiríochta ó thréimhse na dTúdarach agus d'fhéadfaí gur glacadh leis isteach go hÉirinn tar éis na bplandálacha Protastúnacha.

*'Three noggins, three mugs, a bowl and two jugs,
A crock and a pan something lesser,
A red fourpenny glass, to draw at for mass,
Nailed up to a clean little dresser'*
'Thady O'Brady', Anon, n.d.



Pigín le stéibheanna
Bailiúchán AMÉ