

# Sad Iron



NMI Handling Collection

## What is it?

A 'Sad Iron' was an object used for ironing clothes. It was cast from solid iron; 'sad' was an old word for 'solid'. This iron in the NMI Handling Collection has some markings on it indicating its type and weight.

## What was it used for?

A sad iron was heated on the fire or on a trivet until it was hot enough to iron clothing. The metal handle was gripped with a rag.

Sad irons were one of the most commonly used irons in Ireland prior to widespread electrification. They were manufactured in large foundries in England, and sold in shops and markets around Ireland.

Ironing before electricity was a hard and arduous process. Irons had to be kept immaculately clean, sandpapered and polished. An experienced user could tell when the iron was hot enough by spitting on it.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Smoothing stones, shaped like a large mushroom, are the earliest western ironing devices. They were made from various hard materials such as wood, glass, stone and bone.

## Brief History

The process of 'pressing' can be traced back to the Egyptians and Romans who did not use heat, but relied on weight and pressure alone to smooth cloth. 'Hot ironing' is a relatively new idea. The Chinese were the first to adopt this method.

### Box Iron

NMI Collection



### Box Iron

Box iron shapes vary, but the principle was that an iron slug (heavy iron solid metal) was shaped to fit the hollow body. When ironing you had two slugs; one slug to use, and another to heat and replace the first slug when it had cooled.



### Trivet

NMI Collection

**museum**

National Museum of Ireland  
Ard-Mhúsaem na hÉireann

Country Life

# Iarann Clárach



Bailiúchán Láimhseála AMÉ

## Céard atá ann?

Úsáideadh iarann clárach chun éadaí a iarnáil. Rinneadh é a theilgean as iarann soladach; focal ársa a bhí in 'sad' ar 'solid' an Bhéarla. Tá roinnt marcanna ar an iarann seo i mBailiúchán Láimhseála AMÉ a léiríonn a chineál agus a mheáchan.

## Cén úsáid a mbaintear as?

Cuireadh iarann clárach ar an tine nó ar thripéad go dtí go raibh sé te go leor chun éadaí a iarnáil. Rugadh ar an lámh miotail le bratóg.

Bhí an t-iarann clárach ar na hiarainn is coitianta a úsáideadh in Éirinn sular tháinig an leictriúchán forleathan. Rinneadh iad i dteilgheartaí móra i Sasana, agus díoladh iad i siopaí agus i margai ar fud na hÉireann.

Ba phróiseas dian agus crua é iarnáil sula raibh leictreachas ann. Ba ghá iarainn a choinneáil glan, cuimilte le greanpháipéar agus snasta. Bhí a fhios ag an úsáideoir a raibh taithí aige/aici an raibh an t-iarann te go leor trí chaitheamh seilí air.

AN RAIBH A FHIOS AGAT?

Is iad mínochla, cruthaithe mar bheacán mór, feistí iarnála is luaithe an iarthair. Rinneadh iad ó ábhair chrua éagsúla, amhail adhmaid, gloine, cloch agus cnámh.



## Stair Ghairid

Is féidir an próiseas 'iarnála' a lorg siar chuig na hÉigipteacha agus na Rómhánaigh, daoine nár bhain úsáid as teas, ach bhí ag brath ar mheáchan agus ar bhrú amháin chun na roic a bhaint as éadaí. Is smaoineamh réasúnta nua é 'iarnáil the'. Ba iad na Síngigh ar ghlac leis an modh seo den chéad uair.

Iarann bosca  
Bailiúchán AMÉ



## Iarann Bosca

Tá cruthanna éagsúla d'iarainn bosca, ach ba é an prionsabal ná sluga iarainn (miotail trom crua iarainn) a chruthú le bheith oiriúnach don chorp toll. Bhí dhá shluga i gceist agus an iarnáil ar siúl; sluga amháin le húsáid, agus ceann eile le téamh chun an sluga fuar a athsholáthar.



Tripéad  
Bailiúchán AMÉ