

Butterprint



NMI Handling Collection

What is it?

A butterprint is a small wooden stamp used to impress a picture or pattern on the surface of homemade butter. This butterprint was made in 2002 by Steve Grundy, a craftsman based in Ballina. It features a cow surrounded by tall grass, and is a copy of an older butterprint in the Museum Collection.

What was it used for?

Butterprints like these were made by a woodturner, and were usually made from sycamore. Sycamore was often chosen for dairy equipment because it is clean-looking, hard-wearing, and does not discolour.

The craftsman carved the wood to create a distinctive design, and the butterprint was then used to stamp a pattern on the surface of newly-made butter. The pattern was decorative, but it also meant that you could recognise who had produced the butter.



Brief History

Butter and other dairy products have a long history in Ireland. Butter dating back more than two thousand years has been found preserved in bogs.

From the late 17th century, Ireland dominated the butter market and was the major exporter of butter to northern Europe and the Americas, mostly through the ports of Cork and Waterford.

Milk and dairy products were staple foods in the summer months in many homes. Butter was produced in the home for domestic use, as well as for sale, or to be bartered in exchange for other goods at local markets.

Farm wives in rural Ireland (and in many other countries) used butterprints on a regular basis in the 19th and early 20th centuries in Ireland.

DID YOU KNOW?

The eye-shaped butterprint was commonly used to protect against ill luck associated with the evil eye.



Butterprint
NMI Collection

museum

National Museum of Ireland
Ard-Mhúsaem na hÉireann

Country Life

Printéir ime



Bailiúchán Láimhseála AMÉ

Céard atá ann?

Is stampa beag adhmaid é printéir ime a úsáidtear chun pictiúr nó patrún a chló ar an dromchla d'ime baile. Rinne Steve Grundy, ceardaí atá lonnaithe i mBéal an Átha, an printéir ime seo in 2002. Tá bó air atá timpeallaithe ag féar ard, agus is é seo cóip de phrintéir ime níos sine i mBailiúchán an Mhúsaem.

Cén úsáid a mbaintear as?

Is deileadóir adhmaid a bhain úsáid as printéirí ime cosúil leis seo, agus de ghnáth rinneadh as seiceamar iad. Roghnaíodh seiceamar go minic le haghaidh trealamh déiríochta toisc go bhfuil cuma ghlan air, go bhfuil sé buanfasach agus nach dtagann drochdhath air.

Ba ghnách leis an gceardaí an t-adhmaid a shnoí chun dearadh sainiúil a chruthú, agus baineadh úsáid as an bprintéir ime ansin chun patrún a stampáil ar dhromchla an ime nua. Bhí an patrún maisiúil, ach ba shoiléir leis cé a rinne an t-im.

AN RAIBH A
FHIOS AGAT?

Baineadh úsáid forleathan as an bprintéir ime súilchruthach mar chosaint i gcoinne mhí-áidh a bhaineann leis an drochshúil.



Printéir ime
Bailiúchán AMÉ

Stair Ghairid

Tá stair fhada ag im agus táirgí déiríochta eile in Éirinn. Fuarthas im buanaithe i bportaigh a théann siar níos mó ná dhá mhíle bliain.

Ó dheireadh an 17ú haois, bhí Éire i gceannas ar an margadh ime agus ba í Éire príomh-onnmhaireoir ime chuig tuaisceart na hEorpa agus go Meiriceá, den chuid is mó trí chalafoirt Chorcaí agus Phort Láirge.

Príomhbhianna a bhí i mbainne agus i dtáirgí déiríochta i míonna an tsamhraidh i go leor tithe. Rinneadh an t-im sa bhaile le húsáid sa teach, chomh maith le díol, nó le babhtáil mar mhalairt ar earraí eile ag margaí áitiúla.

Bhain mná céile feirme i dtuaithe na hÉireann (agus i go leor tíortha eile) úsáid as printéirí ime ar bhonn rialta sa 19ú haois agus go luath sa 20ú haois.