

Head Ring

What is it?

Head rings were used for support when a container was carried on the head. This head ring is made from hay, which has been twisted with a sùgán twister. It was made by Pat Broderick, Newcastle West, Co Limerick.



NMI Handling Collection

Hay or straw is twisted into long lengths that are then wrapped around a circular frame.

How was it used?

The head ring was used by women for carrying loads. It helped distribute the weight and eased pressure on the top of the head. The load was placed in a container, either a basket, a wooden stave built vessel, or a ceramic pot, and placed on the head on top of the head ring.



Man and boy twisting straw with a sùgán twister, 1935
Image: NMI Collection



Brief History

As a practice it is very ancient, universal throughout the world, and is still to be seen in many African and Asian countries. In Ireland it seemed to be a practice adopted mostly by women.



Woman on way to the market
Image: NMI Collection



A Galway Fishwife, R Welch
Image: NMI Collection

DID YOU KNOW?

.....
Using your head to carry items left your hands free!

Fáinne Cinn

Céard atá ann?

Baineadh úsáid as fáinní cinn le haghaidh tacaíochta nuair a iompraíodh coimeádán ar an gceann. Déantar an fáinne cinn seo as féar, a bhí casta le castóir súgáin. Rinne Pat Broderick, An Caisleán Nua, Co Luimnigh é. Déantar féar nó túí a chasadh i bhfaid fhada a chuirtear timpeall ar fhráma ciorclach.



Bailiúchán AMÉ

Cén úsáid a mbaintear as?

Bhain na mná úsáid as an bhfáinne cinn chun ualaí a iompar. Chuidigh sé leis an meáchan a dháileadh agus an brú ar bharr an chinn a laghdú. Cuireadh an t-ualach i gcoimeádán, cibé acu cliabh, soitheach adhmaid tógtha le stéibheanna, nó pota ceirmeach, agus cuireadh ar an gceann é ar bharr an fháinne chinn.



Fear agus buachaill ag casadh túí le castóir súgáin, 1935
Bailiúchán AMÉ

AN RAIBH A FHIOS AGAT?

Tá do lámha saor nuair a úsáideann tú do cheann chun an t-ualach a iompar!

Stair Ghairid

Mar chleachtas, tá sé an-ársa, uilíoch ar fud an domhain, agus tá sé le feiceáil fós i mórán tíortha san Afraic agus san Áise. In Éirinn, is cosúil gurbh iad na mná a rinne é den chuid is mó.



Bean ar an mbealach chuig an margadh
Pictiúr: Bailiúchán AMÉ



Fishwife na Gaillimhe, R Welch
Pictiúr: Bailiúchán AMÉ