Horse Collar



Horse collar, Larganboy West, Bekan, Co Mayo NMI Collection

What is it?

Horses or donkeys wore collars in order to provide transport or to pull a plough.

The horse's collar in the NMI Handling Collection is made from plaited straw. It was made by Pat Broderick, Newcastle West, Co Limerick, in 2016. The straw is coiled on itself into the shape of a collar, with added lengths stitched in places for strength.

How was it used?

The collar was a harness into which the horse pushed the weight of the burden. This created traction, so the act of pulling was achieved.



Straw and rush collars were being used in parts of Mayo and Galway up until the 1960s. If they were cared for it was said they could last up to 10 years!

Solution Brief History

There are many examples of straw, hay and rush collars in the National Museum of Ireland Collection. It is generally believed that leather collars, being more durable, took over from the practice of making straw collars.



Rush horse collar and wooden hames, Curraghinalt, Co Tyrone NMI Collection



Drawing of horse bridle, collar, backband, and traces. Curraghinalt, Co Tyrone

Image: NMI Collection

Coiléar Capaill



Coiléar Capaill An Leargain Bhuí Thiar, Béacán, Co Mhaigh Eo Bailiáchán AMÉ

Céard atá ann?

Chaith capaill nó asail coiléir chun iompar a sholáthar nó chun céachta a tharraingt.

Tá an coiléar capaill i mBailiúchán Láimhseála AMÉ déanta as tuí trilseánaithe. Rinne Pat Broderick, An Caisleán Nua, Co Luimnigh é, in 2016. Tá an tuí corntha ar a chéile i gcruth coiléir, le faid bhreise fuaite in áiteanna le haghaidh nirt.

Cén úsáid a mbaintear as?

Úim a bhí sa choiléar inar bhrúigh an capall meáchan an ualaigh. Cruthaíodh tarraingt, mar sin baineadh amach an gníomh tarraingthe.



Bhí coiléir thuí agus luachair in úsáid i gcodanna de Mhaigh Eo agus de Ghaillimh suas go dtí na 1960í. Dúradh, leis an gcúram ceart, go mairfeadh siad 10 mbliana!

Stair Ghairid

Tá go leor samplaí de choiléir thuí, fhéar agus luachair i mBailiúchán Ard-Mhúsaem na hÉireann. Creidtear go coitinne gur ghlac coiléir leathair, a bhí níos buaine, ionad an chleachtais de choiléir thuí a dhéanamh.



Coiléar capaill luachair agus amaí adhmaid. Curraghinalt, Co Thír Eoghain Bailiúchán AMÉ



Srian, coiléar, dromach agus tarraic an chapaill á dtarraingt. Curraghinalt, Co Thír Eoghain

Pictiúr: Bailiúchán AMÉ