



CATALOG DATA

Authorship	Unknown
Place of Production	Unknown
Place of origin	Unknown
Title/name	Iron
Date	19th and 20th centuries
Measures	9,5 cm x 11 cm x 17 cm
Materials/Technique	Cast Iron
Inventory Number	1713
Location	Permanent exhibition <i>It is not easy to be Valencian</i> ; "Dryland and Mountain", "The Bachelor's Ball" area

DESCRIPTION

Cast iron clothes iron that was used by heating it on the fire in the upper plate of the kitchens. This type of iron was employed from the 17th century until the electric iron became widespread in the fifties of the twentieth century.

REREADING

Related Topic	Gender and History Gender Stereotypes: Public / domestic
Rereading	Traditionally, the women and daughters of the families have been in charge of all those tasks related to the maintenance of the house and the care of its inhabitants, although not all in the same way and not all in exchange for a salary. those who could allow, they were in charge of coordinating the household employees that they had at their service (the wealthier came to have a whole arsenal of employees). The rest of the women at least took care of domestic tasks

in their own home, but in many times also in other people's houses, in those more fortunate than could hire them. They could hire them full time as interns or just for hours to perform specific tasks such as ironing or washing clothes.

Along with the iron we find various pieces of clothing and accessories used by the women who went to serve private houses in the city from their villages: powders makeup, high heels and a somewhat "short" dress, which, although in the city was the latest fashion, in the villages it would still be frowned upon. Oral testimony counts anecdotes like that the bus that brought back to the town the girls who were going to serving the city left them on the road, at a certain distance from the inhabited streets, and that they took advantage of this distance to, before entering the town, change their dress that they brought from the city for a longer one and thus save themselves from the gossip of their neighbors.

Finally, we can see numerous photographs that put faces to these women anonymous women who served in private homes: we see various nurses with the children and girls who nursed in their arms; standing next to his mistress, who is seated; or washing clothes in a tub. Sources of the time show how there were female employees who they were in charge of all the household chores: "[...] in Doña Prudencia's house there was no more Pepa's maid, Pepa cooked, Pepa washed, Pepa did the shopping if necessary, and when necessary, Pepa took the little boy in her arms and cradled him like the most seasoned of the nurses. Without being a specialty for any of the trades he performed, the she did all of them with enough skill not to miss the specialists in the profession" (*El ama de casa* [The housewife], Valencia, 1912, pp. 61-62).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Nash, Mary. *Mujer, familia y trabajo en España, 1875-1936*. Barcelona: Anthropos, 1983.

SCOTT, Joan. "La mujer trabajadora en el siglo XIX". In DUBY, Georges y PERROT, Michelle (dir.). *Historia de las mujeres. El siglo XIX*. Madrid: Taurus, 2000, pp. 425-461.