

Butter stamper

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Home-made butter stamp made from a single piece of wood. This butter mark is composed of a knife-carved disk with a wheat sheaf motif and a comfortable palm handle. Folk art object.

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Materials Wood, butternut

Measurements 11 x 10,3 cm

Historical context

This home-made walnut butter stamp, dating from the second half of the 19th century, is made from a single piece of wood. Commonly used in Canada between the 18th and 19th centuries, butter stamps are an integral part of Quebec and rural folk art. Originally, molds and stamps were often hand-carved by the farmer for the women who made the butter. These tools are widely used for domestic purposes.

During this period, molds were used to shape the butter produced, then stamps were applied to mark it. The mold is used to obtain a more precise weight, while the stamp is used to decorate the butter. These objects are generally decorated with drawings on the theme of agriculture, featuring animals, different cereals or flowers. In this case, the mark consists of a disc carved with a knife, representing a sheaf of wheat.

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