

Curling iron

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Electric curling iron for hair.

Accession Number 2011.16

Fabricant / Éditeur Superior Electrics Ltd.

Period 19th century

Materials metal, wood

Measurements 10 x 12 x 22 cm

Historical context

Throughout history, women have used more or less risky means to embellish their hairstyles. In the 19th century, French hairstylist Marcel Grateau designed an easy-to-use curling iron. The model features tube-shaped tongs, one concave and the other convex, which heat up to curl the hair. Its creation popularized the wave curl style, known as “marcel curls”, and paved the way for a series of electric household appliances. The hair iron pictured above, from Pembroke, Ontario-based Superior Electrics Limited, features a scissor-shaped metal clip and wooden handles. Because of its small electric stove, it is a more luxurious and, above all, safer model than those that were simply heated on a wood stove or boiling water.

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On display