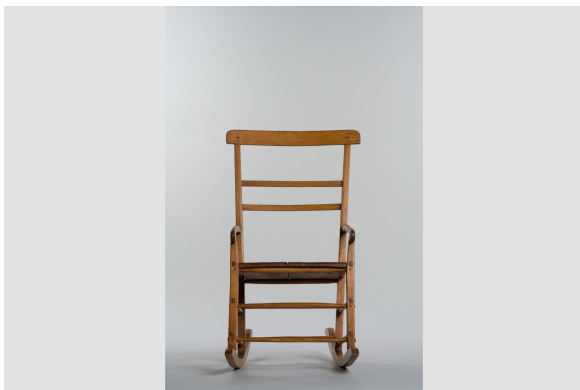
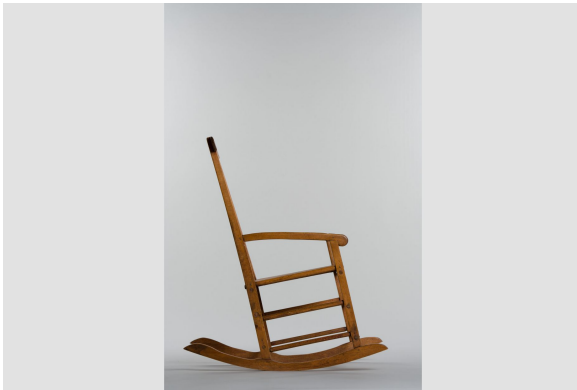


Rocking chair

<https://collections.pacmusee.qc.ca/en/objects/rocking-chair-2021-059-193/>

Collections / From federalism to the end of the Second World War / rocking chair





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High-back rocking chair with 3 horizontal scrolls. The upper scroll, which extends beyond the upper uprights, is attached to the uprights with a half-slave and screwed in place. The rear uprights are tapered. The upper part of the front uprights is slightly tapered. The base consists of eleven rounded, hand-planed bars. The seat is made of two wooden planks assembled with

tongue-and-groove joints. Original seat. The armrests are straight, sloping and spiral-shaped. Mortise, tenon and dowel joints.

Accession Number 2021.59.193

Date 1880 an

Materials wood

Measurements 96 x 47,5 x 82 cm

Historical context

The rocking chair, also known as the berceuse, has been a fixture in French-Canadian and Quebec homes since the 19th century. In the early 1980s, artist Frédéric Back made it the subject of an animated film entitled *Crac!* in which a rocking chair travels through time, from its birth in a traditional Québécois family to modern times, where it ends up in a museum.

The origin of this emblematic piece of furniture is uncertain, but Benjamin Franklin's name is often associated with it, and it was in the United States that it became popular in the late 18th century, when cradles were installed under traditional chairs. This type of chair enabled carpenters and cabinetmakers to vary shapes and models to suit their tastes. The "Boston" rocking chair is the basic model from which many other models and interpretations, both artisanal and industrial, will evolve according to custom and country.

The characteristic to-and-fro motion of this chair provides relaxation for its user, who can take a break from his or her tasks while rocking to escape into his or her thoughts.

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Photo by Victor Diaz Lamich