

Suitcase

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Rectangular beige suitcase with tile motif. It has rounded corners and brown edges. A brown plastic handle is located at the front of the case. Two metal locks are fitted on either side of the handle. Two metal hinges are located at the rear.

Accession Number 2018.19.27

Measurements 18 x 60 x 34 cm

Historical context

The suitcase, an everyday object, has undergone many transformations over time. Its history is inseparable from the history of commercial travel and the development of different modes of transport.

At the end of the 19th century, a larger proportion of the bourgeoisie could afford to travel, which encouraged the development of tourism. At this time, travelers carried often heavy wooden trunks, requiring great physical strength to carry them. For this reason, labor was hired to move this luggage, considerably increasing travel costs. The suitcase quickly gained in popularity. They are smaller, lighter and consequently much easier to transport.

Technological revolutions made travel easier and tourism more accessible. The arrival of the train and the steamship in the 19th century had already brought about profound changes in the way people travelled. The advent of aviation and the automobile led manufacturers to rethink the suitcase. Plastic and cardboard replaced the traditional wood, metal and leather of which suitcases had previously been made. The suitcase was a mid-20th-century model at the time of the emergence of mass tourism.

The suitcase's practicality made it a must-have for every costume designer. This particular suitcase was acquired by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation to add to its extensive collection of costumes, props and sets used on certain television shoots.