

RETHINKING THE OLD

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At present, people are waking up interest in everything ancient and natural: earthen and wooden dishes, leather goods and other man-made household items that came to us from the past. And, undoubtedly, now these are not just items made "antique". All these things appear before us in a new way: already rethought, incorporating a great variety of ideas and decisions of the masters of the past who worked on them.

We will try, using the example of a wooden spoon, as one of the objects close to us and understandable at first glance, to determine the attitude of a person to household items that were in use in the old days, but for objective reasons faded into the background and gave way to more progressive things. Based on the received data

The purpose of the research is to reveal the attitude towards household items in different historical periods using the example of wooden spoons as an object of folk art.

Material and methods. The research materials are examples of wooden spoons from various periods. Methods used: study and analysis of carpentry objects.

Findings and their discussion. To begin with, let's decide what we will consider a spoon and what antiques can be attributed to this category. A spoon is a wooden, bone or metal object for scooping up liquid and friable food. It is a round or oval concave, shallow container on a long or short, flat or round handle [1]

It is impossible to determine from what time a person began to use spoons, but we can assume that it was about the same time as pottery. The first "spoons" were not spoon at all - shells and animal bones were used as spoons. It was so convenient that this way of eating was used in ancient Greece. Spoons in a familiar form appear in Ancient Egypt, where they were made of ivory, stone and wood. Metal spoons - made of bronze and silver - first appeared during the heyday of ancient Roman and ancient Greek civilizations. In the Middle Ages and later, other metals and their alloys – copper, tin, gold, brass – were also involved in the manufacture of a spoon. In Russia, the first silver spoons were cast by order of Prince Vladimir for his squad.

But we understand that all these objects belonged to the life of the privileged estates. For most people, things changed more slowly and weaker. So, in the life of the peasants of Eastern Europe, all the same wooden spoons prevailed due to their cheapness and ease of manufacture. They carried a spoon with them, they even said: "A stubborn guest does not go without a spoon" [3].

Spoons were not just for eating - they played other roles in human life. For example, the first mention of spoons as a musical instrument dated back to 1259

[2]. The spoon has also been used in a wide variety of rituals, from communion to wedding. There were shoe spoons, spoons

For each task, the spoons were made from different materials, had different shapes and were decorated in different ways. So, for example, for food, spoons were usually made from linden or alder - simply because these tree species were the easiest to process. For medicines and tinctures, oak spoons were usually used.

The spoon was considered a purely personal item - they marked their spoons and avoided the use of strangers. Spoons were often carried with them in special cases, either just behind the belt or behind the bootleg.

There were number of reasons to giving spoons: housewarming, wedding, birth of a child. Such spoons were painted and were not used for eating.

Over the past century, due to technological progress and large-scale socio-economic transformations, which, for example, have resulted in the availability of metal and plastic household items, traditional products have faded into the background and rather become an opportunity for craftsmen to compete in the level of their skills.

Conclusion. Nowadays traditional products such as wooden spoons are re-entering everyday life due to public interest in environmental issues. But they change, as does the attitude towards them. If earlier such an object as a spoon was associated with myths about the other world and was closely tied to human life, now this myth has changed: such an object is associated with environmental friendliness, with the history of ancestors. Knowing and understanding this, we will correctly place emphasis on the various qualities and properties of such products, depending on the purpose of their production, be it the reconstruction of the life of our ancestors or the creation of a musical instrument.



Figure 1. Variety of shapes of modern wooden spoons



Figure 2. Possibilities of decorating wooden spoons

1. I.I. Shangin. Spoon // Russian Traditional Life: Encyclopedic Dictionary. – SPb.: Azbuka klassika, 2003.

2. Spoons // Musical encyclopedia. – M.: Soviet encyclopedia, 1976.

3. Dal V.I. // Proverbs of the Russian people