

Basic Detail Report



Pie Crimper

Date

c. 1890

Medium

Sperm whale ivory and wood

Description

This intricately carved bird-shaped pie crimper, made of Sperm whale ivory and wood during the late 19th century, was a tool used when making pies. Crimpers allowed

bakers to seal and secure the filling within the lower and upper layers of pie dough. More uniquely shaped crimpers were used to distinguish specific pie varieties. Wheeled-pie crimpers were colloquially referred to as a jagers by the carvers who once made them. New England's whaling population found carving crimpers to be an excellent way to pass time. Sometimes, the incentive for making these crimpers was purely monetary. However, crimpers were carved as a token of affection and fidelity for sweethearts back home, considering whalers often left their wives for extended periods of time. These objects therefore could serve a practical, monetary, and sentimental function.

Dimensions

Including attached base: 4 5/8 × 3 1/2 × 6 in. (11.7 × 8.9 × 15.2 cm)