

NOT
FOR
LOAN



The knife, the spoon and the fork.

An exhibition of cutlery from the
Deutsches Klängenmuseum, Solingen.

The exhibits listed in this catalogue are all from the Collections of the Deutsches Klingenmuseum, Solingen, and were selected by its Director, Dr. Hanns-Ulrich Haedeke who supplied the catalogue information and wrote the introduction. The Directors of those Australian State and Regional galleries at which this cutlery will be shown wish to thank Dr. Haedeke for so generously lending the material, for his assistance with the preparation of the exhibition and for allowing the various pieces to be absent from his Institution for over twelve months. The Directors of the State and Regional galleries also wish to acknowledge the generous assistance given by Incorporated Agencies Pty. Limited, Sydney in having the exhibition brought to Australia and for lending additional pieces not listed in the catalogue. The Trustees of the National Gallery of Victoria also kindly agreed to supplement the exhibition by lending a group of modern pieces from their Collections.

The knife, the spoon and the fork

The knife and the spoon are among the oldest tools used by man, but these implements had to undergo considerable development before becoming cutlery as we know it. For hundreds of years the fork was unknown and even when its use finally started to become acceptable about three

hundred years ago it met with opposition in many places. Pre-historic man certainly used the knife — shaped of flint-stone — as an instrument for cutting and separating. Even so, at meals he used his fingers — a custom that continued for a long time. In the Bronze Age, handles were either cast with the blade or ornamented with horn, wood or bone, and, from this period, the Deutsches Klingenmuseum, Solingen has a finely ornamented knife. During the Iron Age knives were straighter and simpler. In classical Greece and Rome servants brought in the food already cut, dispensing with the necessity of having knives at the table. During the Middle Ages at the table of the lord of the manor it was the custom for the Squire Carver to carefully carve the meat with a large, richly-ornamented knife. At simpler meals, two or three knives lay on the table and these were shared by the guests for cutting individual portions of meat which were then eaten with the fingers. From the end of the 16th century the use of the table-knife became more widespread and thereafter a knife was provided for each guest at the table. Handles were richly ornamented and there were few materials which were not used. For the next 200 years materials for this purpose included gold, silver, enamel, amber, precious stones, rock crystal, marble, boxwood,

ivory, mother-of-pearl, glass, coral, horn, porcelain, brass, bronze and iron which was enriched by carving, engraving and inlaying with precious metals. At first, the palm of the hand was used to scoop food but in time a scooping implement, carved from wood came into use. Thereafter, for thousands of years, spoons were made of this material. In this connection it is interesting to note that the English word 'spoon' derives from the German 'span' which means a shaving of wood. During the Middle Ages spoons were made with circular boxwood bowls and from the 15th century short silver handles were added which could be gripped with the whole hand. From the 16th century some spoons were made entirely of silver and these were often designed in elaborate shapes. In the 17th century when, as is the case now, the spoon was held with three fingers, handles became longer and wider and only in the 18th century did the spoon take the form it has today. Apart from wood and silver, the materials used for spoons were rock-crystal, semi-precious stones, mother-of-pearl, ivory and glass. It was widely believed that the shattering of a spoon set with precious stones indicated the presence of poison in the food. The most recent member of the cutlery set is the fork. In Antiquity it was sometimes used in the kitchen for holding meat in place or for

serving hot meals onto the plate. However, we know that it was being used at the table in the 10th century. This innovation caused a great sensation but the practice was not copied. Not until the 16th century, especially in Italy, was its use resumed and more generally accepted. However, it became widely popular only as recently as the 18th century. Earlier forks had two prongs and the Deutsches Klingenmuseum possesses a 17th century example with a single prong which has one sharpened edge for cutting. From the Baroque Period forks had three, four or five prongs and their rich and costly fittings were in no way inferior to those of the knife and spoon. Cutlery sets as such did not exist before 1600. Indeed for some time later, sets of three were rare. Sets consisting of a knife and fork were more common. Until the beginning of the 18th century a cutlery set consisted solely of one knife, spoon and fork. Only later do we find sets of six, twelve or more individual pieces. In the 18th century, a period which contributed so much to the comfort and luxury of every-day life, porcelain and silver were the main materials used for the manufacture of cutlery. The 19th century witnessed the Industrial Revolution, and with it the introduction of mass produced cutlery. It was at that time that Solingen, the town of cutlers, earned its reputation which lasts to this day.



Hanns-Ulrich Haedeke
Director
Deutsches Klingenmuseum
Solingen

- 1 **Knife**, Stone (flint), Middle Stone Age.
- 2 **Knife**, Iron blade, bone handle, English (found in Moorgate), late 15th century.
- 3 **Knife**, Iron, Country of origin uncertain, 16th century.
- 4 **Knife**, Iron blade, green-stained bone handle, English (found in Albyns Stapleford, Abbots Essex), c. 1620
- 5 **Knife**, Iron, handle inlaid with brass, Country of origin uncertain, 17th century.
- 6 **Knife**, Iron blade, box-wood handle, Central European, 17 century.
- 7 **Knife**, Brass handle overlaid with mother-o'-pearl, Hungarian, 17th century.
- 8 **Knife**, Handle of silver and mother-o'-pearl inlay, German, 1787.
- 9 **Knife**, Ivory handle with carved figures of Faith, Hope and Charity, Netherlandish, 18th century.
- 10 **Knife**, Bone handle with carved motifs indicating that the knife was part of a hunter's cutlery set, German, 18th century. *Coat of arms of the von Boos-Waldeck family.*
- 11 **Knife**, Green-stained bone handle with applied silver ornaments, German (Solingen), 18th century.
- 12 **Two Folding Knives in cardboard case**, Brass handles overlaid with tortoiseshell with applied silver ornaments, German (Solingen), 18th century.
- 13 **Folding Knife**, Etched bone handle; the blade marked: "TILLMANN'S GERMANOS", German (Solingen), mid 19th century.
- 14 **Knife**, Silver blade, ivory handle, German, c. 1860.
- 15 **Knife**, Silver handle, Designed by Richard Riemerschmid, German (Munich), c. 1900.
- 16 **Spoon**, Silver with niello decoration, Sassanian, 4th - 5th century.
- 17 **Spoon**, Bronze, Early Islamic, 7th century.
- 18 **Spoon**, Boxwood bowl, silver handle, German, early 16th century.
- 19 **Spoon**, Parcel gilt, German (Breslau), c. 1600.
- 20 **Folding Spoon**, Horn, Central European, 17th century. The small spoon at the end of the stem was used for sprinkling spices.
- 21 **Spoon**, Pewter, North German, 17th century.
- 22 **Spoon**, Tin-plated brass, North German, 17th century.
- 23 **Spoon**, Silver, German or Netherlandish, 17th century. The stem terminates in a representation of the figure of Charity whilst Judith with the head of Holophernes appears at the junction of the stem and the bowl.
- 24 **Spoon**, Silver, German (Breslau), 1776 - 1791.
- 25 **Spoon**, Silver, German, 18th century.
- 26 **Spoon**, Silver, German, mid 19th century.
- 27 **Spoon**, Silver, Designed by Richard Riemerschmid, German (Munich), c. 1900.
- 28 **Fork**, Iron, Central European, 16th century.
- 29 **Fork**, Iron, handle overlaid with bone, English (London), c. 1650.
- 30 **Fork**, Iron, handle inlaid with copper, German, 17th century.
- 31 **Fork**, Iron, bronze handle ornamented with the Bauerntänzer motif, South German, 17th century.
- 32 **Fork**, Iron with gold inlay, French, late 17th century.
- 33 **Fork**, Iron, ivory handle, German or Netherlandish, 17th century.
- 34 **Folding Fork**, Iron, German, late 17th - early 18th century. The small spoon at the end of the stem was used for sprinkling spices.
- 35 **Fork**, iron, silver handle with blue enamel, German (Saxony), first half of 18th century.
- 36 **Fork**, gilded brass, agate handle, German, mid 18th century.
- 37 **Fork**, Iron, wooden handle with applied silver ornaments, German (Solingen), late 18th - early 19th century.
- 38 **Fork**, Green-stained bone handle with silver ornaments, German (Solingen), c. 1800.
- 39 **Two Forks in leather case**, Brown-stained bone handles with applied silver ornaments, German (Solingen), early 19th century.
- 40 **Fork**, Ivory handle, German, third quarter of 19th century.
- 41 **Fork**, Silver, Designed by Richard Riemerschmid, German (Munich), c. 1900. Ref. Cat. No. 15, 27.
- 42 **Knife and Fork**, Bone handles inlaid with silver wire, South German, 17th century.
- 43 **Knife and Fork**, Partly gilded handle with mother-o'-pearl and rubies, Hungarian, 17th century.
- 44 **Knife and Fork**, Jasper handles, German, 18th century.
- 45 **Knife and Fork**, Marble handles with engraved silver ferrules, German, 18th century.
- 46 **Knife and Fork**, in leather case, Horn handles, South German, 18th century.
- 47 **Knife and Fork**, Gilded brass handles, French, mid 18th century.
- 48 **Knife and Fork**, Handles of coloured glass beads, German, 18th century.
- 49 **Knife and Fork**, Silver with porcelain handles, German (Berlin), third quarter of 18th century.
- 50 **Knife and Fork**, Brown-stained bone handles, German (Solingen), late 18th - early 19th century.
- 51 **Knife and Fork**, Bone handles, German (Solingen), 1808.
- 52 **Folding Knife, Spoon and Fork**, Handles with applied gold and black-stained medallions, figures and initials, engraved and etched, the bowl of the spoon is of silver, German (Solingen), early 19th century.
- 53 **Knife, Fork and Pipe-Cleaner** in leather case, horn handles mounted with silver, South German, 1844.
- 54 **Knife and Fork**, Ivory handles with applied silver ornaments, German (Solingen), first half of 19th century.
- 55 **Knife and Fork**, Ebony handles, German (Solingen), late 19th century.
- 56 **Knife and Fork**, Ivory handles, German (Solingen), late 19th century.
- 57 **Knife and Fork**, Brass handles (one with a copper knob), Country of origin uncertain, 19th century.
- 58 **Knife and Fork**, Ebony handles inlaid with silver; the fork with mother-o'-pearl ornament, maker's mark of D. Herder, German (Solingen), second half of 19th century.
- 59 **Knife and Fork**, Brass handles, German or Netherlandish, first half of the 19th century.
- 60 **Knife and Fork**, Ebony handles, German, second half of the 19th century.
- 61 **Knife and Fork**, Horn handles, German, second half of the 19th century.

62 **Knife and Fork**, Silver, German, early 17th century.

63 **Fruit Knife and Fork**, Silver handles, Netherlandish, 17th century.

64 **Knife and Fork**, Silver, German (Nuremberg), early 18th century.

65 **Knife and Fork**, Silver, German, early 18th century.

66 **Knife and Fork**, Silver, German (Nuremberg), mid 18th century. Mark of "WALDMULLER" stamped on blade.

67 **Knife, Spoon and Fork**, Silver filigree handles, bowl of the spoon made of gilded brass, Swiss (Zurich), mid 18th century.

68 **Knife and Fork**, Silver, German (Breslau), 1768.

69 **Knife and Fork**, Silver, English or German, second half of 18th century.

70 **Knife and Fork**, Silver handles, German, 18th century.

71 **Knife and Fork**, Silver handles, German or Netherlandish, 18th century.

72 **Knife and Fork**, in leather case, Silver handles, Country of origin uncertain, 18th century.

73 **Knife and Fork**, Silver, German (Solingen cutler's mark and Nuremberg hallmarks), late 18th century.

74 **Knife and Fork**, Silver, German, early 19th century.

75 **Knife and Fork**, Silver handles, German, first half of 19th century.



Itinerary

The National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne — 1st April to 25th April

The Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery, Hobart — 5th May to 30th May

The Queen Victoria Museum & Art Gallery, Launceston — 7th June to 27th June

The Hamilton City Art Gallery, Hamilton — 7th July to 1st August

The Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide — 11th August to 3rd Sept.

The Western Australian Art Gallery, Perth — 15th Sept. to 10th Oct.

The Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane — 20th Oct. to 15th Nov.

The Newcastle City Art Gallery, Newcastle — 24th November to 19th Dec.

The Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney — 12th January to 13th Feb.



Left:
Design for a Knife,
English 1610-1612
Anonymous Draughtsman,
probably German
Reproduced by courtesy of
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