



## The Welsh Lovespoon



Originally crafted by young men during the long winter nights or on long sea voyages, lovespoons were meant to express a young man's intentions towards a girl. A lovespoon would indeed be given to this girl as an indication that he wished to court her. A girl may receive lovespoons from several suitors and these would be displayed on the wall of her home.

The tradition of carving lovespoons is thought to have been derived from the making of culinary spoons and the giving of a spoon became symbolic with the expression of the wish to metaphorically feed or support the object of the prospective suitor's desire. It was a short step to decorating such a spoon and to investing it with symbols of the suitor's hopes and wishes. Such a spoon would then have had no practical use and would have been regarded as an ornamental gift vested with meaning.