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A Pictorial Encyclopedia of Decorative Ironwork: Twelfth Through Eighteenth Centuries (Dover Jewelry and Metalwork) - Kindle edition by Otto Hoever. Download it once and read it on your Kindle device, PC, phones or tablets.

The earliest known ironwork are beads from Jirzah in Egypt dating from BC and made from meteoric iron with the earliest use of smelted iron dates back to Mesopotamia. However, the first use of conventional smelting and purification techniques that modern society labels as true iron-working dates back to the Hittites in around BC. However, its use was primarily utilitarian for weapons and tools before the Middle Ages. Due to rusting, very little remains of early ironwork. From the medieval period, use of ironwork for decorative purposes became more common. Iron was used to protect doors and windows of valuable places from attack from raiders and was also used for decoration as can be seen at Canterbury Cathedral, Winchester Cathedral and Notre Dame de Paris. Armour also was decorated, often simply but occasionally elaborately. From the 16th century onwards, ironwork became highly ornate especially in the Baroque and Rococo periods. In France, highly decorative iron balconies, stair railings and gateways were highly fashionable from Wrought ironwork was widely used in the UK during the 18th in gates and railings in London and towns such as Oxford and Cambridge. In the US, ironwork features more prominently in New Orleans than elsewhere due to its French influence. As iron became more common, it became widely used for cooking utensils, stoves, grates, locks, hardware and other household uses. However, the English Arts and Crafts Movement produced some excellent work in the middle of the 19th century. In modern times, much modern wrought work is done using the pneumatic hammer and the acetylene torch. Cast ironwork Another cast iron grille in St Petersburg Cast iron is produced in a furnace stoked with alternate layers of coking iron then poured into molds. After the iron cools off, the sand is cleaned off. The Chinese were the first to use cast iron from the 6th century AD using it as support for pagodas and other buildings. It was introduced into Europe by the 15th century with its main decorative uses being as firebacks and plates for woodburning stoves in Germany, the Netherlands and Scandinavia. By the end of the 18th century, cast iron was increasingly used for railings, balconies, banisters and garden furniture due to its lower cost. Geerlings, Wrought Iron in Architecture:

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A Pictorial Encyclopedia of Decorative Ironwork: Twelfth Through Eighteenth Centuries by Otto Hoever Although the most conspicuous productions of smithcraft are rarely the outcome of the ironworker's own designs, nevertheless, ironwork translates into material of many artistic conceptions, and reflects the art of various style-epochs and countries.

The Columbia Encyclopedia, 6th ed. Copyright The Columbia University Press ornamental ironwork: The shaping of wrought iron , used almost exclusively until the 16th cent. Methods and tools used in modern hand-wrought work are similar to the early ones. However, much modern work is accomplished by mechanical means, with the pneumatic hammer and the acetylene or electric torch. A variety of stock pieces are currently available that the early smith had to fashion laboriously from crude ingots. Iron was used ornamentally in classical times. Because of rusting and the decay of the material, little survives of very early work. Door hinges, generally C- or S-shaped, still exist from the 12th cent. In the 13th cent. In succeeding periods, wrought-iron designs assumed the forms of other architectural decoration: Gothic tracery, plant forms, classical motifs, rococo broken curves, and delicate neoclassical work. In France in the midth cent. This style was transplanted to England c. In American work of the 18th cent. Cast iron was rarely used prior to the 16th cent. For architectural embellishment and for garden furniture it became common in the early 19th cent. It was used extensively for fences and railings in the S United States. Since cast iron is cheaper and more rigid than wrought iron and is less affected by corrosion than any other cheap commercial iron, it has been widely used during the last three centuries. Geerlings, Wrought Iron in Architecture new ed. Menten, Art Nouveau Decorative Ironwork Cite this article Pick a style below, and copy the text for your bibliography.

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Wrought iron Details of ironwork on the central portal of the west facade of Notre Dame de Paris France Wrought ironwork is forged by a blacksmith using an anvil. The earliest known ironwork are beads from Jirzah in Egypt dating from BC and made from meteoric iron with the earliest use of smelted iron dates back to Mesopotamia. However, the first use of conventional smelting and purification techniques that modern society labels as true iron-working dates back to the Hittites in around BC. However, its use was primarily utilitarian for weapons and tools before the Middle Ages. Due to rusting, very little remains of early ironwork. From the medieval period, use of ironwork for decorative purposes became more common. Iron was used to protect doors and windows of valuable places from attack from raiders and was also used for decoration as can be seen at Canterbury Cathedral , Winchester Cathedral and Notre Dame de Paris. Armour also was decorated, often simply but occasionally elaborately. From the 16th century onwards, ironwork became highly ornate especially in the Baroque and Rococo periods. In France, highly decorative iron balconies, stair railings and gateways were highly fashionable from Wrought ironwork was widely used in the UK during the 18th in gates and railings in London and towns such as Oxford and Cambridge. In the US, ironwork features more prominently in New Orleans than elsewhere due to its French influence. As iron became more common, it became widely used for cooking utensils, stoves, grates, locks, hardware and other household uses. However, the English Arts and Crafts movement produced some excellent work in the middle of the 19th century. In modern times, much modern wrought work is done using the air hammer and the acetylene torch. Cast iron Another cast iron grille in St Petersburg Cast iron is produced in a furnace stoked with alternate layers of coking iron then poured into molds. After the iron cools off, the sand is cleaned off. The Chinese were the first to use cast iron [1] from the 6th century AD using it as support for pagodas and other buildings. It was introduced into Europe by the 14th century [1] with its main decorative uses being as firebacks and plates for woodburning stoves in Germany, the Netherlands and Scandinavia. By the end of the 18th century, cast iron was increasingly used for railings, balconies, banisters and garden furniture due to its lower cost.

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