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# THE FLOOD OF THINGS

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Kitchen gadgets are more than just simple devices for processing food. In addition to technical developments, they also reflect social aspects.

Until the 19th century, food was cooked in large cauldrons over an open fire. No special kitchen utensils were needed for the soups and porridges that were usually prepared here. Knives and simple spoons were sufficient.

It was only when hobs and ovens came up that the possibilities for preparing food expanded. A larger variety and amount of dishes came up and an abundance of cookery books appeared. For these meals, the cooks now needed various kitchen aids such as meat grinders or graters for the first time.

In the 1920s, the first electric kitchen gadgets found their way into urban kitchens. New products like toasters or electric kettles came onto the market. Even well-known products like grinders such as mills were enhanced by inventors and product designers with electric motors to create high-tech appliances with significantly better performance.

Until well into the 20th century, female designations for kitchen helpers indicated who was supposed to work with them. Today, mostly gender-neutral terms are used. In advertising, however, it is still mainly women who present the kitchen gadgets, thus conveying the stereotypical image of a female field of activity.