
ONE'S OWN HEARTH IS WORTH GOLD

To this day, the cooker is a symbol of one's own home. For centuries, it has not only been the centre of domestic work but also the centre of social life.

The first kitchen cookers were brick-built, open fireplaces. By the end of the 18th century, the first completely enclosed hearths, cooking machines with metal covers and fire chambers, had become established in urban bourgeois houses. For the first time, multiple cooking zones made it possible to prepare more complex dishes from several components at the same time. The further development significantly reduced the risk of fire and helped to save firewood.

Standardised and mass-produced, these “cooking machines” also known as “economy cookers”, replaced open fires.

Some cooking machines were richly decorated and testified to the high social status of their owners.

As a source of warmth, the wood-fired cookers had a community-building function which they retained until well into the last century - at least in the countryside.

In the cities, gas cookers became increasingly popular around 1900. The introduction of electric cookers took another fifty years. With them, cooking time was rapidly reduced and time fluctuations in cooking due to the quality of the fuel or the air supply were eliminated.

In the age of digitalisation, internet connections are becoming increasingly important in view of the smarthome.