

# Rush Basket



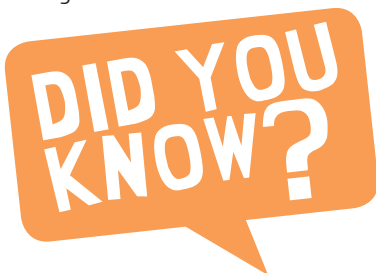
## What is it?

This is a rush basket made by Patricia O'Flaherty from Strokestown, Co Roscommon. It is made from rushes, which is a common variety of wetland plant (*Scirpus* family).



Patrick Gately, raft maker, with his rush raft made for fishing and fowling on the River Suck, Co Roscommon, 1962

Image: NMI Collection



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An old phrase to welcome somebody to your home was, "If I knew you were coming I'd shake green rushes for you."

## Brief History

There are early 19th Century references in Ireland for the use of rush for the construction of mats and useful household goods.

## Material

Species of rushes that grow in rivers and lakes traditionally provided a cheap and attractive material for the production of useful household goods. The best rushes grow in running water.

## Process

The rushes are harvested in July with a scythe, and then floated to shore.

They are sorted in bundles according to width and height. They must be dried in an airy loft for 6-8 weeks, and turned every so often.

Before weaving, the rushes are washed, rolled in a damp cloth, and left for a number of hours to soften. Traditionally they are woven around a wooden template.



Image: NMI Collection

# Ciseán Luachair



Bailiúchán AMÉ

## Céard atá ann?

Is í Patricia O'Flaherty as Béal na mBuillí, Co Ros Comáin, a rinne an ciseán luachair seo. Déantar as luachair é, ar cineál coitianta planda bogaigh é (fine *Scirpus*).



Patrick Gately, déantóir rafta, lena rafta giolcaigh a rinneagh le haghaidh iascaireachta agus éanadóireachta ar Abhainn na Suca i gCo Ros Comáin, 1962 Pictiúr: Bailiúchán AMÉ

AN RAIBH A FHIOS AGAT?

Seanfhocal chun fáilte a chuir chuig duine do do theach, "Sé do bheatha! Agus bhfuil aon sop luachra a chuirge thimcheall an mhaca go leath fainn féd chois é."

## Stair Ghairid

Tá tagairtí luatha ón 19ú haois in Éirinn maidir le húsáid luachra le mataí agus earraí tí úsáideacha a dhéanamh.

## Ábhar

Soláthraíodh le speicis luachra a fhásann in aibhneacha agus i lochanna ábhar saor agus tarraingteach go traidisiúnta chun earraí tí úsáideacha a dhéanamh. Fásann an luachair is fearr in uisce reatha.

## Próiseas

Baintear an luachair i mí Iúil le speal, agus ina dhiaidh sin cuirtear é a shnámh go dtí an cladach.

Déantar iad a shocrú i mbearta de réir leithid agus airde. Ní mór iad a thriomú i gclós aerúil ar feadh 6-8 seachtaine, agus déantar iad a iompú anois is arís.

Sula ndéantar é a shníomh, nitear an luachair, rolltar é i ngléas tais, agus fághtar é roinnt uaireanta lena dhéanamh bog. Go traidisiúnta, déantar é a fhí timpeall ar theimpléad adhmaid.



Pictiúr: Bailiúchán AMÉ

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