

—Perhaps the earliest mention of forks occurs in an inventory of articles belonging to King Edward I. They did not come into use till the thirteenth century. Before that date people showed their good breeding in the manner in which they ate with their fingers, with the aid of a knife only, as we still do in the matter of bread and cheese. At first, forks appear to have been intended to be used in eating fruit only, probably to be quit of the discomfort of staining the fingers. We read of "three silver forks for eating pears"; and again, "a small fork of gold for eating mulberries." They were small, and had but two prongs: were richly ornamented, as became articles of luxury.

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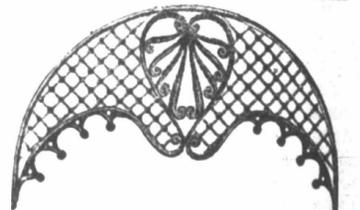
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