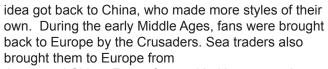
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## A Short History of Fans by Janet Koda

The first evidence of the use of hand fans was found in the ruins and in written text of ancient Mesopotamia dating from the 4th century BC. The Chinese were not only using fans but also as a decorative accessory in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC which was developed by a Chinese emperor. Like everything else, the Chinese introduced these devices to Japan in the sixth century AD. The Japanese are credited with having originated the 'folding' fan. This





Japan and China. Fans of every kind became guite popular during the 16th and 17th centuries. Simple hand fans were made from woven palm fronds. More intricate fans were fashioned from silks and papers or precious materials /metals and gems.

> Besides being used for cooling and shooing insects away, the uses of these hand held instruments run the gamut from weather protection, as offering and receiving travs. in greetings/social graces, for secret signals/personal notes, advertising, as toys, to hiding bad teeth and entire faces.









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