



There are many books on the subject of streamlining, the process of shaping an object in order to reduce its resistance to motion. In those books, there are many photographs of streamlined objects, ranging from appliances to aircraft. But it's rare for an iron to ever appear, and it is the same iron or two when this does happen. It's not just as *if* the authors have been blind to streamlined irons; they *have* been blind to them.

This book is a reflection of something that this author is certainly not blind to. I have found that irons are ideal for streamlining. I believe that I have expended more effort studying these irons than anyone else has. While this conceit pleases my ego, it does not satisfy my mind. I would like others to experience something of what I have experienced, and I want to share it as an artist would—with intelligence and feeling and originality.

A reader of this book could assume it is for iron collectors or admirers of streamlined objects. However, in terms of factual information presented within these pages, neither of those audiences will be satisfied. Truthfully, I fashioned the book for a third audience: aesthetes. My aesthetic nature gets more of my time

and attention than irons (or streamlined objects), so my overriding aim was to display the beauty of them and let the historical facts take a back seat. The essential “facts” of the irons are in the photographs. If you wish to know the character of an iron, then I suggest you become familiar with it. There is no psychological profile for an iron.

This is a book about streamlined irons, but it ends with a section on the earliest electric irons. These early electric irons are included because they express worthy visual qualities of their own. And because they are the ancestors of the streamlined generation (part of their genetic material, if you will), an understanding of streamlining is made richer by seeing them. In the indexes, every iron pictured is listed with its dates of production, if I could find them, which I did for 150 of the 184 irons.

For nearly three decades, I pursued collecting and understanding the design of streamlined irons. In 2008, Buck Carson agreed to buy my entire collection on the condition that I author this book. Thus, while I formed this collection, it is now his. But the book is ours, as it required both of us to make it so.

**Jay Raymond**

