



Curling on the Mississippi River, about 1890

IT'S EASY TO OVERLOOK AN OBJECT that appears to be ordinary. Loving cups are a familiar sight, but this particular loving cup deserves a second look.

At the beginning of the twentieth century, the sport of curling was all the rage in Duluth. Curling clubs abounded, and scarcely a winter weekend passed without a tournament. The Manley McLennan Insurance Agency Cup was one of many awards offered by local businesses and organizations to fire the competitive spirit. Frank H. Wade, a Duluth hardware dealer, was the skip (captain) of his own rink (team), which won this cup in the mid-1910s. Manley McLennan had been awarding trophies since 1900.

This small loving cup (about 5 inches tall) marries subject and medium in a satisfying and charming whole. Its clever—and as yet unidentified—designer took visual cues from curling to embellish a standard design. The cup is supported not by an ordinary baluster pedestal but by a pair of crossed brooms and four long icicles. Beneath the cup, resting on the trophy's base, is a perfect miniature curling stone. Manufactured by the Frank M. Whiting Company of North Attleboro, Massachusetts, this cup, now in the collections of the Minnesota Historical Society, is the apotheosis of the trophy maker's art. —*Claudia J. Nicholson*



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