



History of the Chandelier

The word “Chandelier” is a French term meaning candlestick, suggesting the simplicity of its earliest forms. Any configuration of candles overhead was an important supplement when only single candles, small oil lamps, and hearth fires were the only things between you and darkness.

An inventory of Henry VIII’s estate in the 1540’s listed a candle beam with double candlesticks on each of its arms. Metal chandeliers with multiple arms holding candles appeared in the homes of prosperous merchants around that time.

Flemish painter, Jan Van Eyck painted what might be the earliest image of the chandelier in his 1434 marriage portrait of “Giovanni Arnofini and his bride”. The form, which has arms for candles branching off a central stem and a reflective balancing ball at the bottom, is one of the oldest in use.

One of the oldest and most famous glass making firms founded in eastern France in 1765 is Baccarat. They have produced lead crystal chandeliers since 1824. We are proud to be the only lighting showroom in the Philadelphia area to sell their beautiful chandeliers, sconces, and pendants.