

1800-1850

FRANCE

04-SAVOIR
SCIENCE
TECHNIQUES
MACHINE

06-ÉCONOMIE
FAIRE
PRODUIRE

07-
COMMUNICATION
APPARENCE
TEXTILE

métier Jacquard

The Jacquard loom, developed in the early 19th century by Joseph Marie Jacquard, marked a major revolution in the history of textiles. His innovation relied on the use of punch cards to automatically control the woven patterns. Thanks to this system, complex designs could be reproduced with unprecedented precision. The Jacquard loom profoundly transformed European textile industries and also influenced Asian production centers. Its significance, however, extends beyond the realm of textiles. The punch cards would later inspire several pioneers of computer science. The Jacquard loom is thus often presented as a forerunner of modern programmable systems. It demonstrates how an innovation born in the world of thread can alter the history of machinery. This convergence of craftsmanship, automation, and information remains one of the most fascinating episodes in industrial history. Here, textiles become a technological laboratory.