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Haarlemmer hout

*HAARLEM WOOD
Everyday objects
from Haarlem Soil*



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SHOWCASE 6 LEFT

Anyone who walks down a street through Haarlem can see it and feel it, the city is full of history. That history can also be found under our feet: remnants of the former, everyday life in Haarlem. Archaeologists are examining those remains. During an excavation, they record all the information that the remains in the soil can provide.

The traces, such as soil discolorations, post holes and (waste) pits are examined. They cannot be taken with you, but samples from them can be removed for further examination in a laboratory. Wall works and other wooden or stone constructions are also examined on site. Objects, or fragments thereof, are often present in the soil layers and tracks. These finds help in the interpretation of what has been excavated. When the work on the excavation is done, archaeologists begin to work out all the traces and finds. They try to make a link between what they have excavated and the lives of people in the past. What is the story of a trace, masonry or pot shard from earlier times?

A special category are the finds of wood. Wood is very vulnerable and if it ends up in the soil, it decays quickly. Fortunately, due to the high groundwater level and the many layers of peat and clay, the soil in Haarlem is quite wet and low in oxygen. As a result, organic materials, such as wood, are reasonably well preserved.

During the excavation, as much data as possible is collected in order to determine the original function of the object. Wood can help to date a site through 'dendrochronological' research and carbon dating'. And wood finds can provide insight into technical skills, into the exploitation of wood and the timber trade, and into fashions and customs of people in the past.

Hundreds of wooden objects have been excavated, researched and preserved in

Haarlem over the years. In this exhibition, a selection of this wood from Haarlem is highlighted and we can enjoy the beauty and the story of a special category of finds.

Durable Material

For centuries, wood has been widely used in daily life. From prehistoric times, wood has been a raw material, one that was available in the area and, with the techniques of the time, fairly easy to process and apply. At home, on the street and at work, wood was used almost everywhere. For the construction of buildings,



Prehistoric wooden heel, found at the Dreef. This can be seen in showcase 1.



Medieval woven basket found in a yard at 't Krom

for bridges, roads and for transportation on land via carts and wagons and over sea by shipping. But it was also used as packaging material, for household goods and utensils.

Until the late Middle Ages, people did not have many possessions, and furniture in the house was sober and efficient. It was limited

to the bare necessities: some chairs and a table or tabletop on trestles, chests and wall racks. Clothing and personal belongings were also limited.

Objects were handled with care so that they could be used as long as possible. That is why a lot of attention was paid to repair and reuse. Only when an object was really no longer useable was it thrown away, and even then some materials could still be useful. Glass and metal could be melted down. Pottery could be used as pot grit for new pottery, to make weaving weights or to strengthen weak soil. Wood was not just thrown away either, it could be used as firewood in a fireplace or oven.



A 17th century slipway, found on the Spaarne in the Ship Makers Quarter.

Types of Wood

Wood is an organic material and is 'hygroscopic': it reacts to moisture, causing it to expand, or release moisture, causing it to shrink. Hence the expression 'wood works'. Each type of wood, which comes from different tree species, reacts differently and has different properties.

Wood can be processed in different forms, from solid wood to laminated wood. Many different types of wood are used for construction parts and utensils. The choice of a type of wood depends on the properties of the wood and the function it is given.

The weight, hardness, color, elasticity and durability of the wood play a role in the choice of a particular type of wood. A wagon wheel

is a good example of using different types of wood. For example, the rim consists of a hard species such as oak wood, the spokes are made of ash wood for its toughness and split resistance, and the hub is made of elm wood, soft enough to be able to work, but tough enough not to tear.

Wood can also be further embellished, for example with metal, precious metal, or by cutting it into shapes and painting it.

1. Lid

Gedempte Oude Gracht
Els
1375-1425

2. Barrel lid

Spaarnwoudestraat
Oak
1550-1600

3. Toilet lid

Raamsteeg
Pine Tree
1600-1650

4. Plate

Spaarnwoudestraat
Eik
1550-1600

5. Handle of a piece of furniture

Anthoniestraat
Es
1650-1725

6. Candlestick, slightly burnt

Spaarnwoudestraat
Wilg
1550-1600

7. Plate

Spaarne
Beuk
1400-1450

8. Front of a drawer

Lange Begijnestraat
Type of wood not determined
1625-1700

9. Ornament of a piece of furniture, decorated with oakleaves and acorns

Grote Markt
Eik
1400-1500

10. Turner bar

Bakenessergracht
Buxus
1550-1650

11. Turner bar

Bakenessergracht
Tropisch hout
1550-1650

12. Furniture knobs

Lange Begijnestraat
Buxus
1625-1700

13. Turned knobs

Spaarnwoudestraat
Roos
1550-1800

14. Thread

Bakenessergracht
Es
1550-1650

15. Twisted lid/box

Gravinnesteeg
veldesdoorn
1600-1650

16. Twisted lid/box

Raamsteeg
Spaanse aak / veldesdoorn
1650-1700

17. Bottom of a box

Lange Begijnestraat
Spaanse aak / veldesdoorn
1625-1700

18. Gothic ornament

Grote Markt
Eik
1400-1500

19. Box

Wilsonsplein
Type of wood not determined
1700-1800

20. Lid

Spaarne
Iep
Voor 1500



Joseph works wood in his workshop. MET, New York.

SHOWCASE 6 RIGHT

Excavating and preserving wood

Archaeologists handle wood finds with care during an excavation. Wood is usually found in a damp and oxygen poor environment. Oxygen and bacteria in the soil attack the wood, causing the cellulose, of which wood consists for the most part, to decay.

Cellulose is in a shell of 'hemicellulose' and 'lignin', a natural binder that ensures cohesion. When the cellulose has decayed and the water has been absorbed from the soil, the wooden object has become like a sponge, as it were. The shape is retained but it is an empty structure, filled with water. Also wood discolors in the soil, so that most finds have a (dark) brown or black color. Even after it has been excavated, the wooden object can color even darker due to the influence of light. Wood is often better preserved in the vicinity of metal. Copper corrosion and iron salts are toxic to many micro-organisms that attack wood.

After a wooden object is removed from the bottom, it is first stored in water for a while. This is to prevent the water in the wood from drying up, shrinking, tearing and being deformed. Once damaged, it cannot be repaired by wetting it again.



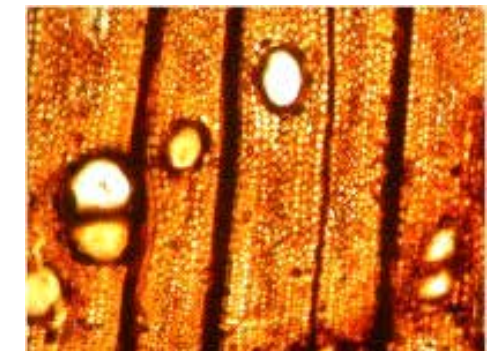
Wooden shoring of a 16th century moat, excavated under Wilsonsplein.

Objects and special pieces of building wood are preserved for future research and museum use. For long-term storage, the wood goes to a specialist who determines how it can best be preserved. Then it is stored in a depot, as dark as possible and in a stable environment with a humidity between 45-55% and temperature of 18-20 degrees Celsius.

Determining the type of wood and dating

The type of wood

To determine which type of wood an object is made of, a specialist looks at the cell structure. A piece of the wood is placed under a microscope, which enlarges it 50 to 400 times. Each tree species has its own unique cell structure. This research also looks at whether the wood is suitable for dendrochronological research.



Hardwood grinding plate

The date

For dating wood one can date 'relatively' or 'absolutely'. Relative dating looks at the form and function and the context in which the object was found. For example, a wooden tool in a cesspool with 18th century pottery. For an absolute dating, C14 research, or carbon dating, is used. A prerequisite for this method is that it concerns organic material.

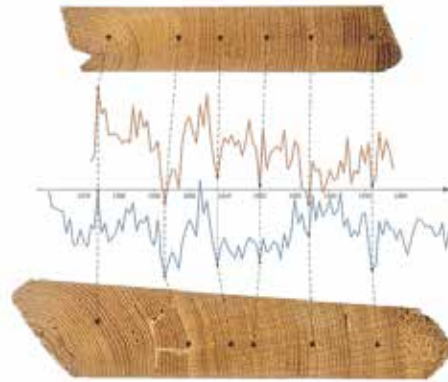
In other words, the find must have lived. This is the case with wood, bone, hair, charcoal, plant and animal residues, leather, peat and so on. Humans, animals and plants are constantly absorbing radioactive carbon (C14) from the atmosphere. When an organism dies, that absorption stops. As the time after death passes, the C14 content gradually decreases. That is a process of thousands of years.

That decrease has a rate that is precisely recorded. 5,730 years after death, the organism has only half of the originally stored C14, after another 5,730 years only a fourth part, and so on. If one knows how much C14 is still present, then the age of the organic material can be calculated by how much time has elapsed.

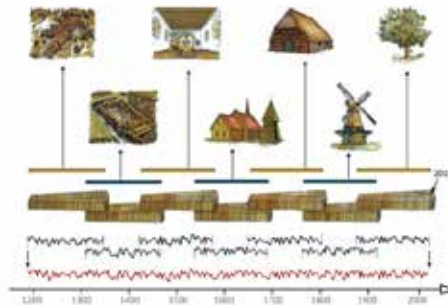
By burning a small part of the object, the level of radioactivity is measured in the gases that are released. Only a few milligrams are needed for a date, so very little of an object needs to be removed. If there is not much material available, Accelerator Mass Spectrometry is applied. This method can measure carbon in samples that are very small. For a standard C14 dating between 1 and 10 grams is needed, for an AMS dating 1 to 2 milligrams is sufficient, sometimes even only 50 to 100 micrograms.

Dendrochronology

Then there is a technique for the exact age determination of wood that is based on annual ring research. The annual rings of a tree form a unique pattern, similar to a barcode, characteristic for a certain period of time. On the basis of a wood sample of the object, the ratio and sequence between the thick and thin annual rings is examined. This is compared to a series of annual rings on which the dating has already been established.



Through decades of research, there are huge databases of information from all over the world and for decades. Based on this, the age of the object can usually be accurately determined. In this way, for example, wooden beams and other elements in monumental buildings are also dated. The building historian then uses a drill to remove a piece from the beam where the annual rings can be seen.



21. Drill cores

22. Slice of wood with annual rings

Hearth and home

Whether one was rich or poor, for centuries the most common utensils in the home were made of wood. Furniture such as beds, tables, chairs, cupboards, benches and stools, but also panelling and ornaments, and household goods such as boxes, food and kitchen utensils, cleaning products, packaging material, candle holders and bird cages and so on.

But also the houses themselves consisted for the most part of wood until the end of the Middle Ages. Other building materials, such as natural stone and brick, were expensive and for a long time reserved only for religious and administrative buildings and the homes of the elite.



Shoemaker at work in his workshop at home, Adriaen van Ostade, 1671-1745, Rijksmuseum

We often think nowadays that houses from the past would have been dirty compared to today's standards. Although it would not reach our levels of hygiene, even in the Middle Ages people kept their homes and clothes clean by washing and cleaning. And there were waste pits and cesspools to dispose of household waste and feces.

23. Broom

Burgwal
Houtsoort niet vastgesteld, maar waarschijnlijk heide
1575-1700

24. Broom

Wilsonsplein, gevonden in een gedempte gracht
Houtsoort niet vastgesteld, maar waarschijnlijk heide
1575-1610

25. Broom

Grote Markt
Houtsoort niet vastgesteld, maar waarschijnlijk heide
1400-1500

26. Brush

Gravinnesteeg
Es
1600-1650



Standing man with a broom, Quirin Boel, 1630-1668, Rijksmuseum.

27. Brush

Spaarnwoudestraat
Jeneverbes
1550-1600

28. Brush

Spaarne
Eik
1450-1575

29. Round brush with handle

Lange Begijnestraat
Type of wood not determined
1625-1700

30. Beater

Koolsteeg
Eik
1650-1800

31. Stave of a barrel

Lange Begijnestraat
Eik
1650-1800

32. Cask

Spaarnwoudestraat
Eik
1550-1600

33. Parts of a birdcage?

Riviervischmarkt
Wilg
1600-1700
For a complete birdcage, see the specimen in display case 4.



SHOWCASE 7 LEFT

Food and Drink

It is difficult to determine exactly when people ate and drank in the past. There were differences per social class, per region and per situation. There were at least two meals a day. The first meal was around noon, which is nine hours after sunrise. Later it was fixed at somewhere between 11 and 2pm. The second meal was at sunset. The two eating times mainly applied to the wealthy, for people with heavy physical labor, there were additional intervals for eating.

Both meals consisted of a cereal, beer and something from the cooking pot. The pot meal was a thick dish, the composition of which was varied according to the day and season, even by household. Everyday a new ingredient was

added to the cooking pot, a different vegetable or grain for example, so that the composition was different each day. It became a thick mixture – that was scooped from the pot onto a piece of bread or eaten by hand. Carrots, turnips and parsnips were often cooked together with meat or bacon in a pot.

There was wheat, rye and oats, from which porridge and bread was made. Porridge was not only made from grain; chestnuts, peas and turnips were also used. Bread was more luxurious than porridge, which had long been the most commonly eaten simple staple food. The wealthy prepared the meal by adding more meat and fish dishes. Another difference between the wealthy and common man was the difference in grain products. The upper classes used grain products such as bread,

rusks and other baked goods. If they ate porridge or gruel, it was from soaked products of the more expensive grains such as wheat. It was quite luxurious to sweeten the porridge. The common man used the cheap, coarser grains and added at most a little fat. In the Middle Ages, Haarlemers mainly drank beer, wine was only affordable for the wealthy. Mead, also called honey drink, and distilled drink were also consumed. Water and milk were usually not drunk, but instead used for the preparation of food. The common man drank from wooden cups. Jugs and drinking bowls made from stoneware, the wealthy also had tin cups and glasses.

1. Cup

Gedempte Oude Gracht
Poplar
1375-1425
See also the similar wooden cup in Showcase 3.

2. Cup & replica

Spaarne
Alder
1375-1425



3. Bottle / flask

De Witstraat
Maple
1575-1625

4. Bowl

Kleine Houtstraat
Alder
Date not established

5. Stop

Raamsteeg
Type of wood not determined
1650-1700

These plugs were used seal tap holes in a wooden barrel. Based on the archaeological material unearthed over the years, we know that in the 12th and 13th century many eating utensils were made of wood. Wood was used for bowls, plates and spoons. During excavations, wooden eating utensils are regularly used in waste pits and cesspools. For example, in a 13th-century bear pit under the Vleeshal was a large amount of wooden nappies and spoons, together with a few stoneware jugs and drinking crucibles, dating from around 1280.

6. Bowl

Grote Markt
Els
1260-1290

7. Bowl

Grote Markt
Els
1260-1290

8. Bowl

Grote Markt
Els
1260-1290

9. Spoon

Korte Begijnestraat
Els
1400-1450

10. Spoon

Spaarne
Palmhout
1550-1675

11. Plate

Korte Begijnestraat
Type of wood not established
1400-1450

12. Plate

Nassaulaan
Type of wood not determined
1375-1450

13. Spoon

Losse vondst
Beech
Date not established

14. Handle & part of a knife

De Witstraat
Type of wood not determined
1650-1700

15. Handle & part of a knife

't Krom
Type of wood not determined
Date not established

16. Handle of a knife

Spaarnwoudestraat
Type of wood not determined
1560-1620

17. Handle of a knife

Spaarnwoudestraat
Boxwood
1550-1600

18. Spoon

Lange Begijnestraat
Type of wood not determined
1450-1550

Sometimes there was a wooden cutting board on the table: a teljoor, after the French word for cutting: tailler. The food went on plates of bread, people ate their plate with the food. No one had their own eating utensils at the table, they usually ate with their fingers and bragged with a single spoon, which they shared with each other. Many of those spoons were made of wood, because metal spoons were a lot more expensive.

19. Rectangular teljoor

Lange Begijnestraat
Type of wood not determined
1625-1700

20. Round teljoor

Lange Begijnestraat
Type of wood not determined
Date not established

21. Round teljoor

Lange Begijnestraat
Type of wood not established
1450-1550

22. Rectangular teljoor

Lange Begijnestraat
Type of wood not determined
1550-1625

23. Rectangular teljoor

Gravinnesteeg
Maple
1400-1600

24. Lid of a pushcart

Grote Markt
Oak
1400-1500

Churning is a process in which acidified cream is set in motion, causing the fat membranes in the cream to break. The fat particles clump together and separate from the milk. Butter is made with this fat.

In the past, this was done by hand, by stomping the cream for hours in a pushcart. That is the oldest type of karnton, in which a pestle in a wooden barrel is moved up and down by hand. By mashing, the milk makes a falling movement in the barrel, which eventually brings the cream to the surface.

25. Butterchip

Raamsteeg
Type of wood not determined
1650-1700

A butter chip is a wooden spatula with a handle and scoop and is intended to scoop butter. The use of butter and butter chip was already known to the Greeks, but it was taken to our regions by the Vikings. At first, only spread and ointment was made from the butter.

This butter chip has a square, hollow scoop with ridges. With this, beautiful butter shavings can be made. Because of the ridges, the butter did not stick to the chip as easily.

In the stem is a hanging eye.



26. Buttership

Spaarnwoudestraat
Boxwood
1600-1700

There are different types of butter chips. With larger, flat butter chips, kegs were filled with butter that was mainly exported to England. They also filled butter molds in which butter clumps weighing one pound were made. On the inside of the butter moulds was a decoration. As a result, an image was visible on the lump of butter when you removed it from the butter mold. Common images were crosses, anchors and hearts. But also, for example, cows and buttercups. The lump was placed on a butter platter on the table.



The curls of a butter chip together on the table, Floris Gerritsoon. Rijksmuseum.



Cut-out of butter pieces sold on the market. Joachim Beuckelaer, Market vendors with poultry, 1566-1570, oil on canvas. Sculpture Museo di Capodimonte

SHOWCASE 7 RIGHT

Handicrafts

In Haarlem, some of the excavated wooden finds consist of objects for handicrafts that took place at home. For wealthy women, handicrafts were a pastime rather than a necessity. For the household they had servants. Less wealthy women, and also men, often worked at home to earn a living. Think of textile industry such as weaving and spinning, lace-making, embroidery and knitting. Of these activities we find rinsing, spinning sticks, lace bobbins, awls and needles, thimbles and yarn

bobbins. And baskets for wool and sewing thread. Parts of hand tools, such as hammers, awls and chisels are also found in cesspools and waste pits.

During a large excavation on Wilsonsplein, many lace bobbins and parts of looms were found in the cesspools behind the houses that stood there between 1600 and 1800. In this part of Haarlem the textile industry was located and stood the windows, large wooden square constructions on which the woven



Cut-out of the city map of Haarlem in 1560 - the current Wilsonsplein and surroundings with the windows of the cloth industry.

sheets were stretched to dry and stretch into shape. Many people who lived here were involved in textile production.

Lace bobbin

The lace bobbin was used for making lace, an age-old technique that is very laborious and takes a lot of time. Lace is therefore pricey and for a long time only affordable for the elite. Lace-making was carried out on a large flat pillow. The bobbin serves as a stock of wire and has a kind of stem to which it is grabbed. The bobbins are used in pairs, which stay together throughout the work. An experienced lacemaker can work with hundreds of bobbins at the same time, which are wrapped around each other very quickly. After making a number of strokes, a pin is inserted into the pattern, which keeps the braiding in place. If a bobbin becomes empty, new wire is wound around it, which is tied to the end of the old wire.

Every city and every region used to have its own patterns and its own way of working with corresponding variations of cushions and bobbins. As a result, one often recognizes on the side the region where it was made.



Lacemaker, Pieter de Mare, naar Caspar Netscher, 1768 - 1796. Rijksmuseum.

27. Lace bobbin

Wilsonsplein
Type of wood not determined
1600-1800

28. Lace bobbin

Gravinnesteeg
Type of wood not determined
1650-1700

29. Lace bobbin

Raamsteeg
Type of wood not determined
1600-1700

30. Lace bobbin

Spaarnwoudestraat
Boxwood
1550-1700



Johannes Vermeer, The Lacemaker 1669-1671. Louvre, Paris

Spindle

The spinning wheel was used at the end of the Middle Ages, but many women also used a hand spindle, because it was easy to use. A spindle, a mostly wooden object, is a weight, a kind of flywheel, a toll and a stick, to which a woolen thread can be attached and quickly turned. The spun wire is wound on the toll. The larger the flywheel is, the thicker the wire becomes. The wool still to be spun has been wound on a stick. In its simplest form, the spindle has a slit at the top in which the wire is clamped. Later in development, the spindle was given a hook of bone.

Spider tops have been found at numerous archaeological sites and are already found in Syria and Mesotame around 6500 BC. In Haarlem they are mainly found in a domestic context, for example in cesspools or waste pits near houses.

31. Fragment of a spinning stick

Lange Begijnestraat
Type of wood not determined
1375-1525

32. Distaff

Location and date not known.



Weaving coil

Weaving is the interweaving of horizontal and vertical groups of threads into a piece of textile. It is an old technique that has many variants. The threads that used to be woven included wool, flax, cotton, hemp or silk.

For weaving, a pair of wires are strung parallel to a loom. The stretched wires are called warp threads. Then, one by one, other wires are routed perpendicular to it (or one wire back and forth) between the warp. These wires are called weft wires and are often tightly pressed against each other.

The terms warp and weft are also known from the expression: 'that is commonplace'. By this one means to indicate something that happens very often and usually something that is not desired.

The weaving pattern has a so-called binding report, the smallest recurring pattern. The threads of the warp can be lifted per group by shafts or combs. By lifting or dropping the warp threads in a certain pattern, woven patterns are



created. Weaving coils are used to insert the weft yarn, which is wound around the spool, through the gap between the warp threads. During excavations we regularly find weaving coils, especially in the neighborhoods where there was a lot of textile industry. We rarely find anything of the looms themselves.

33. Weaving coil

De Witstraat
Ash
1700-1800

34. Part of a loom/pulley

Raamsteeg
Type of wood not determined
1650-1700

35. Spools/yarn bobbins

Raamsteeg
Boxwood
1550-1600

36. Yarn bobbin

Raamsteeg
Type of wood not determined
1600-1650

37. Spool

De Witstraat
Hedge Maple
1700-1800

38. Bow needle

Grote Markt
Elder
1400-1500

Tools

In the former Haarlem, in addition to trade, industry was also an important economic factor and therefore a large part of the daily life of many Haarlemmers. Many craftsmen were engaged in the processing of wood, such as furniture makers, carpenters, turners and coopers. Wood that came from the area or was imported from far away was processed

in the workshops or at, for example, the ship's workshop. Woodworking in large, such as for ships, wagons and parts of buildings, but also for small things such as combs, cutlery, figurines and buttons. Craftsmen often used tools that were (partly) made of wood. We sometimes still find parts of this, such as handles of awls and hammers and stems of brushes or shovels.

39. Brush

Spaarnwoudestraat
Juniper
1550-1600

40. Console?

Gedempte Oude Gracht
Oak
1550-1600

41. Hammer

Korte Begijnestraat
Hedge Maple
1650-1725

42. Hammer & stem

Burgwal
Oak
1650-1700

43. Pulley

Burgwal
Pokwood
1625-1700

44. Handle

Burgwal
Ash
1625-1700

45. Handle probably of a burijn

Spaarnwoudestraat
Type of wood not determined
1600-1700

A burijn is a gouge-shaped tool used by a sculptor and woodcarver for making, for example, woodcuts and wood engravings.

SHOWCASE 8 LEFT

Personal care

Personal care is of all times. From antiquity we already find all kinds of objects and images thereof. We do not know exactly which products were used and how they washed themselves, such things are archaeologically difficult to find. But sometimes we do find small things about it, for example we know that the (lice) comb has not changed shape since prehistoric times.



1. Comb

Anthoniestraat
Boxwood
1375-1450

2. Comb

Spaarnwoudestraat
Boxwood
1700-1800

3. Comb

Koolsteeg
Boxwood
1600-1700

4. Comb

Spaarne
Boxwood
1625-1750

Clothing and shoes are also part of personal care. For a long time, the materials consist mainly of textiles and leather. But wood was also used, among other things for buttons and beads and for footwear, such as tripping and clogs.



Not much is known about clothing in the Middle Ages. Through images on paintings and tapestries we can learn a little bit about clothing, especially those of the well-to-do. Although from the 14th century the foundation was laid for what we call 'fashion', it is a modern concept. Fashion in the Middle Ages was mainly something for the rich, the clothing of the poor was fairly uniform and hardly subject to fashion. The changes in clothing did not come in seasons and years, as they do today, but in decades and even centuries. Novelty first arose within elitist circles and then slowly trickled down to other layers of the population.

5. Knot

Raamsteeg
Type of wood not determined
1550-1600

6. Beads or buttons

Spaarne
Hawthorn
1625-1750

In the Middle Ages, most roads were unpaved and covered with dirt. Shoes and boots had soles made of supple, fragile leather. To protect footwear from dirt and wetness, overshoes were worn. A widely worn overshoe was the trip. Trippen had a wooden sole with one or two trip blades at the top. Under the sole were two heels, one under the ball of the foot and one under the heel. Then there were platines, overshoes with a flat wooden sole. Wooden clogs were also widely worn. But all this wood made a lot of noise. In the regulations of the Beguines in Haarlem there was a rule that they had to wear a 'plump black shoe gagged or with belts and the gien verkiert leather' at their feet. Shoes with a wooden sole, which are called 'scalotzen' in the rules, could only be worn in the house. Most likely this has to do with the flapping sound of the wooden soles.



7. Shoemaker's reading

Koningstraat
Type of wood not determined
1450-1550

8. Sole of a trip

Gedempte Oude Gracht
Willow
1550-1600

9. Trip

Grote Markt
Type of wood not determined
1400-1500

10. Trip, children's size

Korte Begijnestraat
Type of wood not determined
1400-1450

11. Sole of a trip

Koolsteeg
Willow
1400-1500

12. Sole of a trip

't Krom
Type of wood not determined
1350-1450

13. Sole of a trip, children's size

Grote Markt
Type of wood not determined
1400-1500

14. Trip, children's size

Grote Markt
Type of wood not determined
1400-1500



A shoemaker at work.

Music and games

There was music in all walks of life. From the music in the church, on the street in public life as everyday life at home. At home they had simple flutes, moustache bones, and junk pots, which were easy to make themselves.

Musical instruments for professionals were also there, made of pottery, horn, bone, wood or a combination of these materials. Usually archaeologists find parts of it and rarely a whole instrument. The exception is a wooden flute that has been excavated in the Kokstraat. It can be seen in display case 2.



We also sometimes find objects from sports and games. When it comes to wood, these are mainly tops, balls and *pinkels* and *tiepels*. Spinning is a game that has been played in all kinds of cultures for centuries. In the Greek

Thebes, for example, a toll has been unearthed from 1250 BC. Chr. Due to the lack of pavement, in the Middle Ages it was usually not rolled on the street. Children thrashed on the hard stone floor in churches or gravestones in the cemetery. If it had frozen, it could also be rolled on the ice. When pinking or *tiepelen*, a *tiepel* was knocked off the ground, out of the hand or out of the air and by catching it one could score points.



15. Tiepel

Raamsteeg
Type of wood not determined
1550-1600

16. Tiepel

Witstraat
Pine
Date not determined

17. Tol

Bakenessergracht
Ash
1550-1650

18. Tol

Spaarne
Ash
1550-1675

Board games

Not much of board games, also a popular pastime, has been found archaeologically in Haarlem. Objects that can be named with certainty as playing discs, pieces and stones of the mill game, trictrac, checkers and chess, have not yet been found. However, there are a few round objects that may have been. Sometimes a few dice are found.



Three putti play a board game, anonymously ca. 1700-1750. Rijksmuseum.

19. Playing disc

Bakenessergracht
Type of wood not determined
1550-1650

20. Playing discs

Lange Begijnestraat
Type of wood not determined
1550-1650

21. Playing disc

't Krom
Boxwood
1625-1750
Date not established

22. Skate

Raamsteeg
Type of wood not determined
1550-1650

The very first skates were made of animal bone. Archaeologists think that already in prehistoric times in the Netherlands people moved in this way over ice. Those skates are called glis or sliding bone. The underside of a long bone of a cow or horse was made flat and smooth. With strings or leather straps they could be tied under the feet. Hard setting off with a glis is not possible, therefore they had sticks to push forward.

Around 1200 the first skates came from wood. The oldest skates that have been recovered date back to the 13th century and have been excavated in Amsterdam and Dordrecht. This skate excavated in Haarlem already has a bit of the impetus for the long protruding front that almost goes into a curl, like the Frisian runner that we know from paintings and from the past from childhood.



Pump player on the skate. Romeijn de Hooghe, 1645-1708. North Holland Archives.

Ball games

Balls were used in various games, both for children and adults. For example, adults played the colf game, klootschieten or kaatsen. In colfen, from which later golfing originated, one had to hit a colf with a stick to a certain target in as few strokes as possible. Klootschieten was a game in which a lead-weighted ball had to be thrown as far as possible, or in as few attempts as possible to a certain goal.

Bouncing is the precursor of tennis, in which a ball was hit back and forth with the palms of one's hands, later with a bat or racket. At the castle Huis ter Kleef, on the current Kleverlaan, wallwork was found that belonged to the building of a 17th-century bouncing track. The track was bounced, at that time called 'jeu de paume'. It was the most popular sport in France in the 13th-17th centuries and was mainly played by the wealthy in our country. During excavations, the stone that formed the middle tip of the field was found. The

Haarlemse Kaatsbaan is one of the few bouncing tracks in the Netherlands that have been investigated archaeologically or historically.

23. Ball, with metal

Spaarne
Birch
1550-1675

24. Ball, with metal

Bakenessergracht
Ash
Date not established

25. Ball

Wortelhout
Type of wood not determined
1550-1650

26. Ball

Koolsteeg
Type of wood not determined
Date not established

27. Ball

Damstraat
Type of wood not determined
1675-1700

28. Ball

Gedempte Oude Gracht
Ash
1550-1650

SHOWCASE 8 RIGHT

29. Folding chip

Raamsteeg
Type of wood not determined
1550-1600

A special wooden find is this 'clapspaen', also called flapper. Someone who walked with this was called a claptrap, a not too positive word. This has to do with the use of the folding chip in earlier times. People with the highly contagious disease leprosy had to walk around with this and make a clattering sound to let everyone hear that they were coming. This way, others could move at a distance in time to prevent contamination.



A leper with a flapper, which came in different types.

Reading and writing

For a long time, reading and writing is not for everyone. Especially distinguished, rich gentlemen and clergy learned to read and write. They had the financial means to focus on that. Books and parchment/paper were a precious possession, and handwritten, until finally the printing press was invented. Books were therefore carefully preserved. Archaeologically we do not find much of it,

usually only parts of bookbindings, wooden plates covered with leather, and the metal fittings that were attached to them. Sometimes we find wooden boards that contain remnants of wax, which could be written on by pressing into the wax with a writing pen (stilus).



Roman fresco from Pompeii of a woman with a washboard and stilus.

30. Book cover with fittings

Spaarnwoudestraat
Type of wood not determined
1560-1620

31. Writing board

Damstraat
Oak
1400-1500
There are still leftovers of wax on the wood preserved.

32. Stylus

Lange Begijnestraat
Type of wood not determined
1625-1750



33. Rosary

Collectie Friedrich
Type of wood not determined
1800-1900

Unknown

Sometimes an object is so mysterious in shape or execution that there is no established thought about it. The function of many wooden objects that have been excavated in Haarlem is unknown.

Often they are parts of a larger whole and therefore difficult to determine what exactly. Or it's a form that could have been used for multiple, different things.

34. T-shaped object, handle?

Damstraat
Oak
1400-1500

This object is made from a piece of wood that has grown in nature in a kind of T-shape. It seems to be some kind of tool, but the exact function is a mystery to date.

Religion

In the Middle Ages, religion was everywhere in everyday life. In churches and monasteries, on the street and at home, people were busy with the faith. The stories from the Bible and the saints were shown everywhere, in paintings, stained glass windows, on altars and in statues and figurines. Both in the church and at home, his prayers were held, helped by a statue of saints and a prayer cord.

Most of the objects that appeared in churches disappeared from the churches in Haarlem after the Reformation, the transition from a Catholic state religion to a Reformed one, until the 19th century. We don't find much of it archaeologically anymore.

But sometimes we get lucky! A special wooden find was a figurine that represents a man's person, given his appearance probably a monk. The waste is therefore attributed to the Carmelite monastery that was nearby. This figurine can be seen in display case 2.



Farmer with walking stick, Quirin Boel, 1630 - 1668. Rijksmuseum.



The doll. Adriaen van Ostade, Haarlem 1679. Metropolitan Museum.

35. Goat stick?

Rivierischmarkt
Willow
1400-1500

36. Carved stick, walking stick?

Grote Markt
Oak
1400-1500

37. Stick

Damstraat
Type of wood not determined
1400-1500

38. Locking pin?

Grote Markt
Ash
1400-1500

39. Pointed stick

Lange Begijnstraat
Type of wood not determined
1625-1750

40. Part of a doll?

't Krom
Type of wood not determined
1350-1450

41. Round disc with hole, toy wheel?

Beeksteeg
Ash
1650-1750