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KLOMPS - TRADITIONAL DUTCH SHOES

Klomps are whole feet clogs from the Netherlands. Wooden shoes in Europe are an integral part of the traditional national costume. Depending on the country, there are many varieties: these can be shoes, sandals, or even high-heeled shoes. In France, wooden shoes are called clogs, flower beds in Lithuania, and klomps in the Netherlands [1]. In many European countries, the fashion of wearing such shoes over time has been forgotten. And in the Netherlands, klomps are still an integral part of national clothes, the inhabitants of the country still retain the importance and purpose of shoes.

Klomps were usually used by the poor as cheap and comfortable protective clothing in mines, factories and farms. The practical purpose of wooden shoes is currently declining - in the daily life of the majority of the Dutch people it is no longer so popular, but they are happily worn by farmers, fishermen and gardeners. In addition to all the above, klomps continue to bring a considerable income to the country, as they remain the most important souvenir for tourists, such hand-painted souvenirs are often presented to high-ranking guests and representatives of foreign countries.

The appearance of this type of shoe is associated with the wet temperate climate of the Netherlands, when there is a high probability at all seasons to wet the feet. Historically, they were common among poorer people - fishermen and peasants, who did not have the means to buy comfortable, durable and more expensive shoes. The klomps were easy to make, they were reliably protected from moisture, and a thick sole, lined with straw or shredded paper, often warmed up in the winter cold.

Dutch shoes are cut from different types of wood: willows, beech, birch, but most often from poplar and aspen, they grow in abundance in the state. The rapid spread of such a craft in the country led to a huge demand for wooden shoes.

Different regions had their own style, so it was not difficult to determine from which province a resident by pattern on shoes. Special klomps, intended for specific purposes, were especially popular: on the base with spikes - for walking on ice, blades like skating - for skating on the rink, for playing football, there were even holiday parties - for a wedding.

To make a shoe by hand, an experienced craftsman had to work for four hours, but in our time at a mini-factory with the help of machines, this work will be done in five minutes. The principle of making klomps is the same as for making a copy of the door key. Poplar wood is light, but hard and fairly easy to process. For the manufacture of shoes using the form-cliche, and the wood is well soaked before processing. The master “sets” the form-cliché and fixes the workpiece-log into the machine, then launches it. In the process of processing and cliche, and the workpiece rotates, and the cutter on the log repeats the shape of the cliche.

For the manufacture of the right, left or other shoe size using a variety of forms-cliches. After the sample has taken the appropriate appearance, on the other machine, the inside is automatically cut out on the same machine. The process ends with grinding. The shoes are ready, only pretty wet. If you blow them, the water will begin to drip. Now you just need to dry and paint.

Klomps are made with the help of mechanisms, but the carving and painting are done manually. A pair of beautiful, exclusive Dutch handmade shoes are expensive. Wearing such footwear is advised on a woolen sock. If you wear them every day, they are enough for one year. The size is chosen so that around the foot there is approximately on the finger remains free space. Then wearing klomps will be comfortable.

There are klomps for the weekend, for sport - ancient skates, festive - for the wedding. There is an ancient tradition to go under the crown only in klomps. In

Holland, locals joke that a person is well told by the number of pairs of wedding shoes hanging on the walls of a house.

If you go about half an hour from Amsterdam in Zaanse Schans, then there is an ethnographic museum. There you can learn the history of unique wooden shoes and see the automated production cycle. In the museum there is a collection of modern wooden shoes. Some samples inlaid with precious metals and stones can be called real masterpieces, works of art. In the store at the museum you can purchase klomps of required sizes and colours of your choice. There is also a large assortment of original souvenir klomps: piggy banks, trinkets, shoe brushes stands. Dutch shoes are a favourite souvenir of tourists. More than four million pairs of them are produced in the country each year, only a third are used for their intended purpose, the rest are sold as souvenirs.

In practice, klomps are safer than standard safety shoes. In the case of an extreme situation, the wood cracks, and does not deform, the dents do not put pressure on the fingers of the steel nose, which makes them easy to remove. It is believed that wearing wooden shoes is a way to keep healthy legs. They have a beneficial effect on the tone of the calf muscles, do not squeeze the fingers.

Some scholars suggest that the higher growth of the Netherlands (when compared with the average European) is associated with the wearing of national shoes by previous generations. No tourist returns home from the Netherlands without a magical purchase - wooden shoes. And if a souvenir of tulips can wither, the klomps will last for a long time [2].

REFERENCES

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