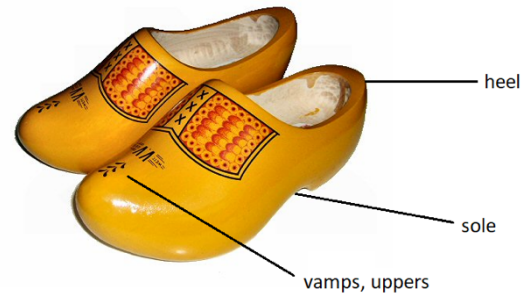


What are clogs?



Various stereotype images about Dutch life are based on windmills, tulips and, of course, wooden clogs. But what exactly are clogs? The quick answer is that clogs are shoes made out of wood. Yet the range of footwear that fall under the general heading clogs is actually much broader than this definition. Wooden shoes of various types can be found in many different parts of the world and are now seen as a sustainable form of footwear. There are various basic forms of wooden shoes, sometimes with variations:

Full wooden clogs

Full wooden clogs have vamps (uppers) and soles made out of wood, and individual shoes are normally made from a single block of wood that has been carved into the required shape and size. This type of wooden shoe is typified by traditional Dutch clogs, which come in various forms such as plain work clogs, traditional, carved wedding clogs from the island of Marken and yellow 'farmers' forms. A variation of this form comes from the Basque region of Spain, instead of a plain sole they have three 'blocks' that raises the wearer above any mud, water or dirt. Another variation of this type of clog has metal strips set in the soles. These clogs are used in the wintertime when walking on ice. They are used in the mountainous regions of Nuristan in Afghanistan but also on Marken.

Half open clogs

Half open clogs are where the vamps (uppers) extend over the toes or slightly further. This form of clog is often known as *sabots* and are associated with Belgium and France. They are also worn in various parts of Scandinavia.

Wooden soled clogs

Some types of clogs only have wooden soles while the vamps (uppers) are made of various materials including leather or heavy cotton canvas. The production of this type of clog became a necessity in Europe during and after the Second World War (1939-1945) when leather was scarce. The examples on display come from the Netherlands and Germany and both pairs date to the period of the war. Wooden soles were also used for making slippers, especially mules, such as those from the Dutch town of Volendam.

Open toed sandals/clogs

Another form of clogs simply consists of a wooden sole often with a foot strap. This type of wooden footwear includes the Japanese *geta*, those worn in Afghanistan and Moroccan sandals that are worn in the *hamman* (bath house), as well as the fashionable Western footwear form called 'sliders' worn by some during the summer months. A variation on this form of footwear are the *paduka* from India, which have a wooden sole and a wooden peg that is gripped by the wearer's toes.

Overshoes

Sometimes footwear is worn that consists of a wooden sole with foot straps. Such shoes are designed to go over another pair of shoes to protect the latter from water and mud. They are also known in English under the general term of *pattens*.

List of objects

Showcase, shelf 1 (top shelf):

1. TRC 2009.0094a-b: Pair of Basque (Spain) wooden shoes for women (c. 1970s).
2. TRC 2023.0461a-b: Pair of modern Dutch 'farmers' clogs (2023)
3. TRC 2009.0210a-b: Pair of Marken (the Netherlands) wooden shoes with iron grips (early 20th century).

Showcase, shelf 2:

4. TRC 2009.0163a-b: Pair of wooden shoes from Brittany, France (1970s).
5. TRC 2009.0211a-b: Pair of carved, wooden bridal clogs from Marken, the Netherlands (early 20th century).
6. TRC 2019.2400a-b: Pair of women's wooden shoes from Volendam, the Netherlands (20th century).

Showcase, shelf 3:

7. TRC 2009.0096a-b: Pair of wooden sandals from Kabul, Afghanistan (c. 2009).
8. TRC 2009.0051a-b: Pair of Japanese wooden sandals for men (*geta*; c. 1970s).
9. TRC 2007.0058a-b: Pair of Japanese wooden sandals for women (*geta*; c. 1970s).

Showcase, shelf 4:

10. TRC 2018.0376a-b: Pair of leather slippers with wooden soles (Germany, mid-20th century).
11. TRC 2009.0229a-b: Pair of Western, fashionable wooden sliders by ESPRIT (2009)
12. TRC 2019.2400a-b: Pair of women's leather slippers with wooden soles (Volendam, the Netherlands, early 20th century)

Showcase, shelf 5:

13. TRC 2021.0798a-b: Pair of men's boots with wooden soles (the Netherlands, 1940s)
14. TRC 2018.0375a-b: Pair of children's boots with wooden soles (Germany, 1940s).

Prints and postcards

- 1790s print of a young man wearing clogs: "Jeune Paysan des Environs de Limoges" (TRC 2023.0391).
- 1790s print of a young woman wearing clogs: "Paysanne de l'Angoumois" (TRC 2023.0388).
- Postcard of an elderly woman wearing clogs: "Op de Veluwe Oude kledendracht met kiphloed" (c. 1925; TRC 2018.0453).
- Photograph depicting a group of four, Marken children wearing regional dress including clogs (1950s; TRC 2018.0461).

Cloth samples

- a) Sample of feed sack cloth with a design of ornate cartouches enclosing Dutch clogs, tulips, windmills and a girl wearing a Volendam style outfit with two milk pails over her shoulders (1950s, USA; TRC 2019.1278).
- b) Complete sack for sugar, with a "Dutch" girl ('Gretel') on the front and a "Dutch" boy on the back ('Hans'). (1936, USA; TRC 2019.2890).