

MYSTERIOUS AFAN CUDD WHEELWRIGHT

Medieval wheelwrights built or mended wooden wheels. “Wright” comes from the Old English word “wrytha”, and means a worker or shaper of wood. In Welsh, ‘saer olwynion’ means wheel carpenter.

Medieval roads were bumpy and muddy, so the wheel had to be strong and not rot in water.

These tradesmen made wheels for wagons, carts, traps and coaches. They also made the wheels and frames for home use.

The wheelwright did all the aspect of making a wheel, from choosing and preparing the wood to crafting the metal parts that held the wheel together.

Although most wheels were made from wood, other materials were sometimes used, such as bone and horn. Metal was sometimes used for the rim.

First the wheelwright needed to select the right type of wood. He would use hardwoods like oak, ash, or elm, as these woods were strong, durable, and resistant to rot.

Once the wood was chosen, the wheelwright would use a variety of tools, including saws, adzes, and chisels, to shape the wood into the desired shape and size.



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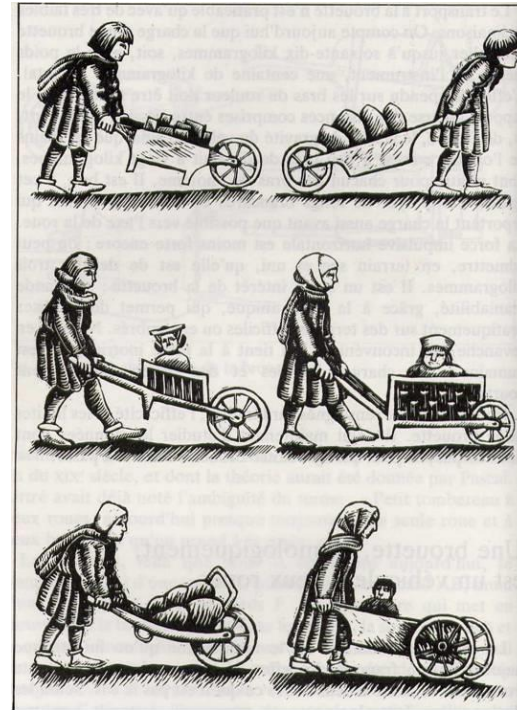


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Once the wooden parts of the wheel were done, the wheelwright would make the metal parts, such as the axle, the rim, and the hub. These pieces were usually made from wrought iron or steel, and needed a lot of skill to shape and build properly.

The last step in the making a wheel was fitting the metal rim and other parts onto the wooden frame. This needed the wheelwright to measure carefully and be very exact when fixing it together. Any mistakes could lead to a wobbly wheel; this could cause the wagon or cart to overturn.

Medieval wheelwrights also repaired broken wheels.



By Bertrand Gille, « Petites questions et grands problèmes : la brouette, »
La Recherche en histoire des sciences, 1983, ISBN 2-02-006595-9.,
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<https://medievalbritain.com/type/medieval-life/occupations/medieval-wheelwright/>

<https://www.medievalchronicles.com/medieval-life/medieval-jobs-list/forging-the-wheels-of-time-exploring-the-vital-role-of-medieval-wheelwrights/>

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