



Exhibit of the Month

PRISONER'S CLOGS

Museologist Simona Gustaitytė

- Materials: wood, leather, copper wire;
- Technique - carving, forging;
- Kaunas, 1920s-1930s.

Clogs (in Lithuanian also called *kurpės*, *klumbokai*, *mediniai* or *šliurės*) are a type of shoe that consists of a wooden sole and a leather upper part. At the end of the 19th century and at the beginning of the 20th century, these shoes were widely worn by residents of Lithuanian villages and towns and were even more popular than sabots. The disadvantage of the latter was that they easily split. In the production of clogs, preference was given to hard-to-split wood, such as birch, alder and willow; therefore, the shoes were more durable. They were of various types: with heels, with tops and without them and decorated with different patterns and ornaments. The above-mentioned shoes were produced by clog makers, but peasants often learned to make them for themselves and their families.

The photo captures the prisoner's clogs, which are one of the first exhibits of Kaunas Ninth Fort Museum added to the collection in 1958. The shoes bear silent witness to the life of the prisoners in the Ninth Fort, a division of Kaunas Hard

Labour Prison between 1924 and 1940. It is a part of the clothing of those who were serving their sentence. Men, together with the aforementioned shoes, wore trousers, a jacket and a hat with a beak, while women wore a skirt, a blouse and a scarf. The wooden soles of the clogs protected the feet while walking around the cold and damp premises of the Ninth Fort or doing various agricultural works near the building.





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