

Wood Use in Medieval Novgorod



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Novgorod has probably the most comprehensive collection of excavated wooden objects and structures from any site in the world. The town and its material culture were completely dominated by wood. Equally important, the preservation of this material has been excellent due to benign anaerobic waterlogged conditions. This book describes various aspects of the use of wood in medieval Novgorod in twenty-five chapters written by the world's leading authorities on this material. It provides fascinating detail on the way wooden material was used in structures such as buildings, streets, yards, fences; industrial activity, for example spinning and weaving, footwear production; transport, such as skis, sleighs or boats; household objects, for example containers, furniture, combs, toys and games; musical instruments; accountancy and commerce (tally sticks, tribute seals); and ritual and decoration. Most of the objects discussed date from the 10th century AD to the 15th, but the book includes comparisons to ethnographic evidence from more recent periods. Importantly, many of the chapters are written by Russian authors, bringing their work to the English audience for the first time. A bibliography of previously published material and extensive illustration make this volume a necessary addition to any serious archaeological research library shelf and the wealth of information provided about everyday life in this important medieval centre of commerce will be a great

interest to medievalists and historians of Russia.

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