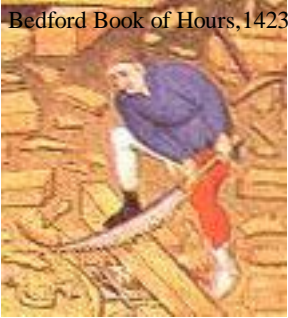


Tools and Woodworking

I cannot believe the Castle Carpenter is still complaining about William helping him in his shop. Why it has been a month since William knocked over the bucket of pitch onto his tools. It has taken me far longer to get the pitch cleaned out of William's hair, then it could have taken him to attach a few new ax handles.

Bedford Book of Hours, 1423



I have run into a problem documenting tools from the 1250's until the 1400's. I cannot find any pictures. I can easily find pictures of Roman or Viking tools and tools from the 1400's, but very few pictures in between. I have included pictures from the Roman time period and a few pictures from the Bedford Book of Hours made in 1423. I am operating under the assumption that if a tool serves a simple function and would have been easy to use, then the technology to manufacture it would not have been lost.



Chichester Excavations 2nd-3rd century AD

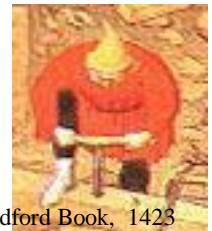
The first tool I used was a saw to cut the lumber. A Medieval Saw would have had a fairly short blade that was curved upward, with a wooden handle. "Before the making of steel became somewhat scientific with the invention of the Catalan furnace in the fourteenth century all hand saws were pull saws." (Bealer, pg.83)

This is different from a modern saw which will cut on the push and pull of a stroke.



Chichester Excavations 3rd-4th cent. AD

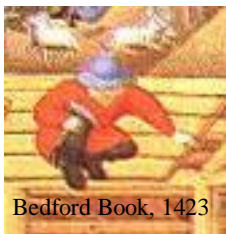
The next tool I used was a drill. A Medieval drill would have had an auger bit with a horizontal handle used to twist the bit into the wood. I imagine that a lot of elbow grease was needed to drill a significant number of holes. The advantage of an auger drill is it will allow the full weight of the human body to be placed on it and it is muscle driven.



Bedford Book, 1423

I have also used a hammer, although a wooden mallet would probably be just as effective. The hammer was used to pound the pegs into the holes to hold the puppet theater together. I have used the modern equivalent of these period tools, with the exception of sandpaper.

The puppet theater and ark have been assembled using maple pegs, glue and saw dust. (The saw dust will expand when it mixes with the glue creating a tighter bond.) I have recently found out that a pegged joint in the Middle Ages was made with a round hole and a square peg that was pounded into place. I am assuming that the peg must be a wood which is stronger than the base material, otherwise it would create a weak joint. Maple is stronger than pine. I have



Bedford Book, 1423

not used any nails or screws in the puppet theater or the ark's construction. (As it turns out square headed nails are period and would have created a much quicker project.)



Roman hammer/Axe 100-300AD.