

ANCIENT MONUMENTS LABORATORY

REPORT

2792

SERIES/No	CONSULTANT
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TITLE	Examination of leather from The Jewel Tower Moat, London

1177

LEATHER FROM THE JEWEL TOWER MOAT, 1963

(630486 - B. Payne)

1. Book cover (?). 86mm. x 67mm. Folded along one short edge and has two bronze clasps on the opposite edge. The leather edges are folded inwards and there is a trace of a wood lining. The outside faces are embossed with an oval inside a rectangle and leaf and branch pattern.
(Draw to show designs)
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2. Shoe heel; six lifts (or five plus toppiece). Stitch holes all round the seat-lift show where it was joined to the shoe and there are pegs all through. The breast (front face) slopes at c. 45°. The shape and construction suggest the first half of the 17th century. The position of abrasive wear indicates a right foot. L (seat lift): 73mm.; W: 60mm.; H: c. 25mm.
(Draw - isometric)
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3. Shoe heel: more circular in plan than 2. and composed of many thin lifts ("jumps"). Large peg holes remain, diamond cross-section. May belong to 4. below. L (seat lift): 62mm., W: 52mm., H: c. 20mm.
(Draw - isometric to show peg holes and lifts)
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4. Shoe sole for the welted construction; seat end now detached. Broad toe, slightly convex with corners. May be a right foot. There is a slight impression of the upperlasting margin. The row of stitch holes round the margin of the sole, stitch length c. 5.0mm., penetrate grain/flesh indicating that this specimen is a welted sole and not a welted insole or a turnshoe sole. There is no abrasive wear at the edge of seat indicating that it never touched the ground here as a heel was fitted. There is also a scatter of peg holes in the seat for the heel attachment, possibly 2. above, and also additional holes where a seat piece may have been sewn on. L: c. 195mm.; W (forepart): 68mm.; (waist): c. 48mm.; (seat): c. 58mm.
Dating: the shape of the toe and general "straightness" suggests the second half of the 17th century.

(Draw to show upper lasting margin impression)

5. Insole, right foot, from a welted shoe. The edge/flesh marginal stitching holes have a stitch length of 8.0mm. and are rather erratic both in length and position, these factors being typical of a welted insole rather than a turnshoe sole; also there is no abrasive wear at the heel seat. The narrow shape and rounder toe suggest c. 1600 but as there is no indication of a heel having been attached and it is markedly a right foot it is not likely that it would have been made very far into the 17th century. Indeed there is even a possibility that ^{it may} be a hundred or more

years earlier when the welted shoe took over from the turnshoe at the end of the 15th century and soles still retained the very narrow waist but not the pointed toes of the 15th.

L: 230mm.; W (forepart): 67mm.; (waist): 28mm.; (seat): 50mm.

(Draw - seam up)

6. Insole, fragmentary, from a welted shoe. The left side (grain uppermost) remains more or less intact and shows the edge/flesh welt sewing seam, stitch length c. 9.0mm. The grain pattern suggests goat or sheep but this would not be common for an insole. L: 184mm.

Dating: may be c. 1600 but not enough evidence.

(Draw flesh up to show seam)

7. Three upper fragments showing moulded lasting margins with grain/flesh stitch holes, stitch length c. 8.0mm. (corresponding to the edge/flesh welt sewing seams seen in insoles 5. and 6. above). They also have cut/side edges with edge/flesh butted closing seams, stitch length 4.0mm. The position of these fragments in the shoe itself is not positive; the two larger pieces may be part of a vamp but the squashing over of the upper in the third piece suggests the back.

(Draw to show moulded margins)

8. Waist portion of a welted sole, probably right foot. The characteristic identifying features of this fragment are the two very curved stitching channels near the remaining original cut edges; these are where the grain/flesh sole stitching holes were pierced and the sole attached to the welt which had already been sewn to upper and insole. The holes remain, but hardly visible, stitch length c. 4.5mm. There is also scatter of holes indicating a pegged seat. W (between original side edges, at narrowest place): 45mm.

(Draw to show channels)

9. Welt, forepart only, from a broad, square-toed shoe. It has the two characteristic ~~seams~~ ^{seams} necessary for a welted shoe:

(a) The welt/upper/insole seam, grain/flesh holes, stitch length c. 7.5mm.

(b) The welt/sole seam, grain/flesh holes, stitch length c. 5.0mm.

There are also some additional holes indicating a repair addition.

The broad, square-toed indicates late 17th century or even early 18th.

W: 9.0mm.

(Draw plan and cross-section)



10. Various fragments of soles, uppers, some with stitch holes; includes a small piece of folded edge binding.

11. Middle-sole and toe-end of sole from a welted shoe, probably left foot, with a broad, square-toe. Marginal grain/flesh stitch holes all round, stitch length 5.5mm. Part of the outsole remains at the toe-end and shows the stitching channel typical of the welted construction. Also, on the upper side (grain)st one side of the seat a short piece of welt remains in situ, c. 56mm. x 14mm.; it is of the folded type the sole stitching holes passing through the fold. Assuming this is a right foot, the area round the outside joint (little toe) has worn away. Some nail^{and peg} holes remain at the seat where the heel was attached, also some extra stitch holes in places for repairs. L: 290mm.; W (across toe-end): 78mm.; (waist): 60mm.; (seat): 70mm.) This is an exceptionally large sole compared with most excavated specimens and allowing for a shrinkage of about three shoe sizes (English, thirds-of-an-inch) in burial, it came from a shoe probably intended for a size 10 foot.

Date: late 17th c.

(Draw upper surface to show welt piece and bottom surface to show sole fragment)

12. Middle-sole, insole and seat-lift, possibly right foot, of a welted shoe, square toe.

Insole: complete with marginal edge/flesh welt sewing holes, stitch length 11.0mm. (very large); impression of the bracing thread used in lasting remains criss-cross on the flesh side (underneath). There is a slight foot impression on the grain side with less wear on the left side of the waist (under the arch of the foot). L: 253mm.; W (across toe): 57mm.; (waist): 36mm.; (seat): 57mm. Also nail or peg holes at seat.

Middle-sole: similar in shape to the insole but larger all round.

Marginal grain/flesh sole stitching holes, stitch length c. 4.5mm. with some evidence of repair. Criss-cross impressions of upper bracing thread match those on the insole. The original outsole has disappeared except for a trace at the toe and the heel seat. The seat carries the impression of the heel and a central cavity, apparently man-made to form a cup for the heel. Peg holes remain. L: 257mm.; W (across toe): 72mm.

Seat-lift: one thick seat-lift (the heel lift nearest the middle-sole) remains and can be positively associated with the middle-sole although there may be other fragments among the other material found. This piece has a sharply defined cut edge and fits exactly into the impression and cavity of the seat of the middle-sole; the peg holes also register.

The above specimens come from a shoe of late 17th century which was probably originally intended for a size 7 foot.

(Draw specimens side by side to show bracing impressions; also side view of heel seat)

13. Sole from a welted shoe, possibly left foot, square toe. Traces of the stitching channel remain on the grain side (underneath) with grain/flesh holes, ~~stitch~~ stitch length 2.5 - 3.0 mm. (very fine) in which traces of thread may still remain. The seat end originally curved downwards to form the heel breast and toppiece of an almost circular heel, not very high. Criss-cross impressions of the upper bracing thread and also ^{of} the upper upper lasting margin remain on the flesh side. L: c. 230mm.

Date: late 17th century.

(Draw to show thread impressions)

14. Middle-sole from a welted shoe, seat now missing. Marginal grain/flesh stitch length c. 4.5mm. but no channel since this is not the outsole. Criss-cross impressions of the upper bracing thread remain on the upper side (grain) and there is evidence of "skiving" (tapering off) where a heel was attached. L: 193mm.

Date: late 17th century

15. Waist part of a welted sole. It has the usual ~~stitching~~ stitching channel very prominently incised particularly on one side, presumably the inside waist (right side of left shoe). A piece of middle-sole also remains where two large nails have retained it and there are also two large nails at the seat end where the specimen is skived across suggesting that it may in fact be a repair addition and not the original sole which was removed by cutting across the heel breast. L: c. 125mm.

(Draw to show channels and skive)

16. Insole from a square toed welted shoe, possibly left foot, now very thin and distorted but still showing the edge/flesh welt sewing seam holes, stitch length c. 8.0mm. and impressions of the criss-cross upper bracing thread. Two large holes at the seat may be the result of corrosion of nails used in heel attaching. The seat is still elevated above the level of the forepart to accommodate a heel. Central holes (very small) show where the insole was tacked to the last during shoe making. L: 226mm. Original shoe size c. 4 (adults').

17. Sole, fragmentary, from a square toed welted shoe, possibly left foot. The stitching channel remains set in c. 6.0mm. with grain/flesh stitch holes, ~~stitch~~ stitch length 7.0mm. (large). The seat is now missing and as the rear edge appears to be cut this suggests that this is the original sole removed by cutting across so that a new one could be put on. L: 185mm.; W(across toe): 67mm.

18. Welted sole, forepart only; square toe. Grain/flesh stitch holes round the margin are just visible, stitch length c. 6.0mm. A re-entrant cut across the waist suggests that this may be the original sole forepart removed for repairing. L: c. 110mm.

19. Welted sole forepart, very deteriorated, rounded toe. Traces of stitch holes, grain/flesh, remain round the margin set in c. 6.0mm. Also some impressions of the lasting margin of the upper on the flesh side. L: c. 125mm. Possibly early 17th century.

20. Welted insole, very deteriorated down left side. The right side and seat still have their edge/flesh welt sewing holes, stitch length 6.0mm. and some diamond shaped holes in the seat show where a heel was attached. L: 185mm.

21. Seat of welted insole, deteriorated. The edge/flesh marginal seam is visible in places, stitch length 7.0mm. W: 58mm.

22. Waist and seat of welted insole, very deteriorated but showing traces of edge/flesh welt sewing seam, and impressions of the upper bracing thread. L: 120mm.

23. Heel, consisting of about six layers nailed together (deterioration and delamination makes it difficult to be more certain about the precise number.) The seat-lift has stitch holes and the top piece (next to the ground) is heavily nailed and deteriorated. L (seat lift): 85mm. W: 67mm.; H (ignoring nail heads) c. 20mm.

The considerable wear at the left corner of the back suggests that this heel came from a left shoe, and, from its size, this was a man's.

~~May be associated with 1. above.~~

(Draw - isometric)

24. Heel, still attached to rear end of sole and consisting of a pack of many thin lifts ("jumps") heavily nailed together. Two nail heads very corroded rest on the top surface which must have caused discomfort unless the insole was thick enough to absorb them; it also suggests that the heel was attached to the sole before this was stitched to the shoe. A second shallow pack of lifts with large peg holes may also be a downwards continuation of this heel as it more or less fits. This would give an overall heel height (excluding the sole seat) of c. 40mm.

(Draw isometric)

25. Vamp of welted shoe, very deteriorated, broad square toe, toe-puff in

situ. The lasting margin remains moulded inwards and heavily pleated at the toe corners; it carries the welt sewing seam with grain/flesh holes, stitch length 8.0mm. The toe-puff extends backwards for about 60mm. from the toe end. Only a small piece of the left vamp wing remains, the remainder of the right wing and throat being so deteriorated that the upper pattern is not apparent. Probably a right foot vamp of the late 17th century. L (toe-end - end of wing): c. 157mm.; W (toe): c. 60mm.
(Draw both sides)

26. Vamp of welted shoe, very deteriorated, broad square toe; toe-puff in situ extending backwards c. 70mm. from the toe end. The lasting margin remains moulded inwards and heavily pleated at the two corners of the toe; it carries the welt sewing seam with grain/flesh holes, stitch length c. 10mm. (variable). The ends of the vamp wings remain although in poor condition with traces of butted edge/flesh seams where they joined the quarters but it is not clear what was the pattern of the instep (top). If the shoe is late 17th century as the toe-shape suggests it should have a large upstanding tongue extending from the throat and overlapped by latchet straps from the quarters. L: c. 180mm.; W (toe): 75mm.

(Draw both sides)

27. Toe-puff from a square-toed welted shoe, similar to those seen in situ. in 23. and 24. It has a moulded lasting margin carrying grain/flesh stitch holes, stitch length c. 8.0mm. where it was sewn to the insole along with welt and vamp. The corners have been cut to allow for the turn in and the rear end has now deteriorated. L: c. 68mm.; W: 75mm.

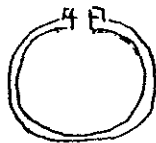
(Draw from underneath to show margin and cut corners)

28. Vamp from a narrow square-toed welted shoe. It still has a moulded lasting margin with heavy pleats at the toe corners and grain/flesh welt sewing holes, stitch length 7.0mm. The instep portion (top) is now missing so the pattern cannot be determined but the vertical wing ends remain with traces of edge/flesh butted seams. There is a slight suggestion of an open side (left) which would mean that the shoe was a latchet tie possibly of the first half of the 17th century. This specimen appears to have the grain side inwards i.e. the shoe was of "buff" (suede) leather. L: 155mm.
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29. Fragment of vamp of welted shoe, round toe. Lasting margin with pleats remains and carries grain/flesh welt sewing holes, stitch length 8.0mm. The top is too deteriorated to determine the pattern. L (max): c70mm.

30. Various fragments of upper, sole and insole, some with stitch holes.

31. Pistol Holster (?), now in six parts but these can be roughly fitted together to make a holster c. 500mm. long, 170mm. wide at the top (when flattened) and c. 63mm. wide at the bottom (flattened). The leather was folded lengthwise and adjoining edges stitched using grain/flesh holes, stitch length c. 7.5. mm. Some of the sections are still folded, others have split down the fold. The stitched edge is more or less straight, the folded edge curved forming ^{inwards} a long funnel. The wide top section has its top edge folded downwards and inwards for c. 17mm. and overstitched inside to the flesh side, stitch length 8.0mm. The top section also has two vertical straps c. 17mm. wide inserted through horizontal slots to form loops and riveted in position. There are also stitch holes along the the folded top edge, rather irregular and possibly put in later; also several large holes, diameter 4.0mm., the purpose of which is not apparent. A scored line parallel to the line of front stitching and c. 6.0 - 7.0 mm. from the edge may show where the adjoining stitched edges jutted outwards after the holster has been moulded into shape.



(Draw)



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March 1979