

ARK Rpt 3051

855

POTT ROW, GRIMSTON, NORFOLK - LEATHER

(A.M. Lab. No. 720550)

I have looked at these pieces before and my writing is on the bags with consecutive numbers. Bag no.6 is missing but see note on report on bag no.7. -----

- (1) Welted shoe sole - left foot. Broad round toe, worn away at the inside (right), outside tread (left) and seat (more on the left than on the right as usual for a left foot); there is also a hole right through the seat. There is a grain/flesh seam all round the margin (except where worn away), prominent along the inside (right) edge where little wear has occurred at the inside waist of the shoe; stitch length 6.0mm. and set in channel c. 7.0mm from the edge. There are additional stitch (or nail) holes where toe and seat repair patches have been added. The sole still retains some foot moulding, particularly the elevation of the inside waist (arch).

The grain/flesh seam in channel indicates a shoe made by the welted method in which the upper is stitched to the insole together with a welt and the sole is then stitched to the welt. Date: possibly early 16th century. L: 245mm.; W (tread): 86mm; W: (waist; 58mm.; W (seat): 62mm. Present size: c. 4 (adults)

(Draw flesh up)

- (2) Toe and heel-seat repair patches. They appear to coincide in shape and disposition of holes with no.1.

(Draw alongside 1.)

- (3) Welted insole, forepart and part of waist only, possibly left foot, square toe with rounded corners. It carries an edge/flesh seam, stitch length c. 6.5mm. with the holes rather irregular in placing and spacing indicating a welt sewing seam on an insole rather than a sole seam on a turnshoe sole. A row of holes across the tread may have been caused by a sole repair. (see 4. below)

- (4) Welted insole, seat and part of waist only. Probably belongs to 3. above. Again it has the irregular edge/flesh seam, stitch length c. 6.5mm and repair holes. 3. and 4. placed together give a rather long narrow waisted insole with a square toe and a markedly inward curving inside waist. The toe and waist shape do not match those of the sole 1. and also the combined length of 3. and 4. is rather too great for 1. Unless there has been very marked distortion during burial it seems rather improbable that 1. and 3/4. are associated, even though found together. The date of 3/4. could be the first half of the 16th century, possibly later than 1.

L (3/4 together): c. 240mm.; W (forepart of 3.): c. 70mm.;
W (seat of 4.): 45mm.

(Draw 3 and 4 together, seam up)

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- (5) Insole seat from a welted shoe; heavier and wider in the waist than 4. (almost parallel sides), edge/flesh seam, stitch length c. 8.0mm. Some repair holes. The fore-edge is cut not torn. L: 90mm., W: 41mm.
(draw - flesh up)
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- (6) No bag - see 7.
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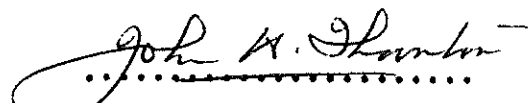
- (7) (originally two stiffeners according to note on bag but one now assembled with 6. and 8. There appears to be a discrepancy here since 8. refers to various fragments. Is there a missing upper or shoe numbered 6.?)
Stiffener; still moulded to the shape of the back of the heel with the grain side inwards as usual for stiffeners. It also has an additional fold where it has been squashed by the foot in wear. The back of the top edge has now worn away but the curved wings either side have the typical holes and scalloping caused by the over-stitching to the inside of the shoe quarters. The bottom edge is the moulded lasting margin with grain/flesh holes, stitch length 6.0mm. where it was sewn in between welt and quarters to the insole edge.
This stiffener might belong to insole 3/4. as the stitch length is similar. A lasting margin from 8. also appears to belong to it.
H (maximum, at side): c. 42mm.

(Draw)

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- (8) Various fragments, some 18 in all. They include parts of a welted shoe sole, the lasting margin of a quarter which matches the stiffener 7.(above), repair patches and pieces of upper.
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General note: presumably all the above pieces were found together and it would therefore be a logical assumption that they all form part of the same shoe or pair of shoes. Shape and dimensional differences do not support this but they may be due to distortion during burial

4th March 1980


(J. H. Thornton)