

BERWICK-ON-TWEED, LORD'S MOUNT: LEATHER

All numbered 743914. Sixteen shoe parts, some fragmentary; they come from several shoes and some may be associated with each other.

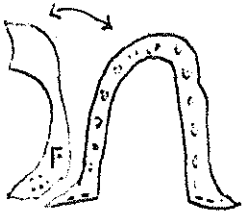
743914 A

Vamp, quarters, insole and possibly the sole of a welted shoe.

(a) Vamp: now in two parts separated by cutting above the lasting margin to provide leather for some other purpose. The lasting margin has large grain/flesh stitch holes all along the lower edge wherever it is complete at 7.0mm. to 8.0mm. separation, typical of a welt sewing seam. There is marked pleasting at the toe end and the impression of the welt remains as a slight flattening of an otherwise curved surface (grain outwards) of leather where it was lasted round the forepart. The upper edge of the margin is cut and what is left of the remainder of the vamp fits along it. Both parts are quite thick (c. 3.5mm.). The ends of the vamp/<sup>margin</sup>are 40mm. and 45mm. in length and both have a "blind" edge/flesh seam, 4.0mm. - 5.0mm. stitch length, where they were butted and joined to the quarters (see (b) below).

The remainder of the vamp, the left side of this is a right foot shoe, now has most of the right side missing and also a large semi-circular inlet suggesting that the removed part may have been used for a sole repair; it would have been thick enough for this purpose.

There is a scatter of stitch holes near the rear corner showing where the overlapping "nose" of the quarter was stitched to it (see (b) below).



(Draw both parts flesh up to show relative position and stitch holes - see JHT)

(b) Quarters: complete-one-piece pattern. The fore-ends match the ends of the vamp wings (see above) both in ~~width~~ length and stitch holes; the inside section has a "nose" projecting forwards over the end of the vamp to which it was stitched. The lasting margin is similar to that of the vamp and has similar stitch holes, 7.0mm. - 8.0mm. separation, and the flattened impression of the welt. The leather is quite thick, c. 4.0mm. The height of the centre of the back is c. 6.0mm. There is no indication of a heel stiffener having been used but leather quarters of this thickness would not need one. The top edge is quite plain with no indication of a seam for edge binding.

743914 A

(cont.)

(c) Insole; right foot, welted insole, complete but slightly deteriorated at the outside waist. It has an edge/flesh welt seam all round with holes 7.0mm. to 8.0mm. apart corresponding with those in vamp and quarters. These sections fit together exactly round the insole. There is a very marked foot impression - a depression under the ball of the big toe and under the other toes and also an elevation just behind the toes. There are several small holes down the central axis of the insole probably indicating where it was tacked to a wooden last during the making operations. Some of the <sup>edge/flesh</sup> holes, however, have traces of thread in them. Length: 263mm. x width across tread: 87mm. About size 6 adults!

(Draw side view to show moulding of toes and also flesh-up to show seams and tack holes)



(d) Sole: probably associated with (a), (b) and (c); a right foot, deteriorated at toe and heel but the same shape as the insole (a) although slightly narrower than would be expected unless the shoe had a "close welt", i.e. a very narrow projection of the upper beyond the sole; in a normal welted shoe this projection is very pronounced.

The sole has the usual row of grain/flesh stitch holes round the margin, 5.0mm. separation and set in a channel 10mm. from the edge (measured at the inside waist where there is least wear). There are some impressions on the flesh side of the lasting margin of the upper. 241mm. x 94mm. (across tread)

(see JHT re-assembly of all these parts for drawing)

743914 B

Vamp; the lasting margin and one of the <sup>wing</sup> ends (right side) have been cut off but the throat is complete and has an edge/flesh seam with the holes at 6.0mm. separation. This is probably part of the fellow shoe to 743914 A with the vamp cut off for future use but, unlike A, has not actually been re-used.

The leather is the same thickness as A, c. 3.5mm. It probably had an edge binding attached across the throat.

Present length, toe-throat: 143mm., width across throat, wing tip to wing tip: 193mm.

743914 C

Vamp, insole and sole of a smallwelted shoe, left foot.

~~Still moulded in its original~~

Vamp: complete and still moulded in its original shape; straight throat with edge/flesh stitch holes at c.4.0mm. separation for a <sup>distance</sup> ~~distance~~ of about 30mm. upwards from each corner showing where the front edges of the quarters (now missing) were butted and blind seamed to the vamp. Just above this seam on the outside (left) edge there is a slot 25mm. long cut in from the throat edge; holes either side of this slot indicate that a tie was fitted here, possibly a buckle and strap. The lasting margin, wrinkled at the toe-end, also carries a flattened impression of the welt and has grain/flesh stitch holes c. 9mm. - 10mm. separation. The length from the toe edge, over the moulded toe to the throat is c. 115mm. and the width across the throat (excluding the slightly opened slot) is c. 155mm. Thickness: c. 3.0mm.

(Draw from both sides, grain and flesh)

Insole: complete except for a hole worn away in the forepart. Marginal edge/flesh holes, 9mm. - 10mm. apart correspond in separation and position with those in the vamp to which it was attached with a welt (now missing); the bevels of the edges also correspond. There is a scatter of holes at the seat near the outside edge indicating that a nailed seat repair was added to the sole at this place. 145mm. x 49mm. about size 5, adults'.

Sole: worn away at toe and heel (as <sup>usual</sup> ~~usual~~) but its shape corresponds to that of the insole although it is wider by c. 9.0mm. round the sides (this is normal to allow for the thickness of the upper and the width of the welt). It has traces of the sole/welt attaching seam with grain/flesh holes, 5.0mm. apart and set in channel c. 5.0mm. from the present edge. At the seat there is a scatter of holes corresponding roughly with those in the seat of the insole and also some others a little further into the waist. These plus a slight flattening of the leather in this area indicate that a seat repair was added to cover the worn extremity.

(Draw all three sections exploded)

743914 D

Welted insole, left foot, worn into a large holes in the forepart but the seat is intact; there are edge/flesh holes, 8.0mm. - 10mm. apart and the edge has the typical bevel of a welted insole rather than a turnshoe sole. The wearing

743914 D  
(cont.)

away in the forepart suggests that the shoe was worn long after the sole had worn into a hole and had not been repaired. The seat is complete and shows no signs of wear other than the depression produced by the heel of the foot. This suggests that the sole itself had additional leather here either originally or/as later repair since the back of the seat, especially the outside corner, is normally the position of most wear for a sole and also the insole when the sole has worn right down. 236mm. x c75mm.; size 3, adults'  
(Draw flesh up)

743914 E

Welted insole, right foot, very small; worn away at the inside corner of toe but the seat is intact. It has edge/flesh holes c. 6.0mm. stitch length, with thread remaining in some; these and the bevelled edge indicate a welted insole rather than a turnshoe sole. At least three holes down the central axis at toe, waist and seat, are probably where tacks were used to hold the insole on to the last during shoemaking. The grain surface indicates sheepskin rather than the/<sup>more</sup>usual cow. 135mm. x 45mm., size 4, children's.  
(Draw grain up to show holes; identify thread)

743914 F

Forepart repair clump; lenticular shape, probably right foot and intended to cover the worn inside toe area of a right-foot sole. The more curved edge, presumably the one which followed the original sole edge, has pairs of grain/flesh holes set in c. 10mm. from the edge; the holes themselves are 30mm. - 4.0mm. apart between the centres of two forming a pair and the pairs are separated by about 10mm. at the waist end to 16mm. at the toe as measured between centres of pairs. The less curved edge is thinner than the other one and lay on top of the original sole; the holes <sup>have</sup> are single grain/flesh ones in two separate rows with a stitch length of c. 8.0mm.; the thread remains in some. This specimen is not tunnel stitching<sup>ed</sup>, the normal method at this time of attaching repair soles, and it is not clear precisely how it was attached to the original sole, particularly along the inner curve. There are also a few holes across the specimen.



(Draw grain up; identify thread)

743914 G

Remains of the forepart of a welted sole which has been

743914 G

(cont.)

"cannibalised" for another purpose. A marginal grain/flesh seam, 6.0mm. stitch length, is set in a channel now 3.0mm. to 4.0mm. from the edge but probably with a bigger separation from the edge originally. A large curved section has been cut away to use for some other purpose and the rear edge is also a cut one. Although the section is quite thin in the forepart, the cut waist edge is 4.5mm. thick, probably close to the original thickness of the leather. The flesh side shows the impression of the upper lasting margin and the insole edge. c.180mm. long (between present extremities)

(Draw grain up)

743914 H

Heel seat of a welted sole, right foot. Has a marginal grain/flesh seam, c. 8.0mm. stitch length, and set in channel c. 10mm. from the edge at the waist end but closer towards the back. Worn away at rear edge, particularly at one corner which normally would be the outside one, indicating that this is from a right foot sole. Either a repair or an original heel piece was added at some time here as there is a row of holes across and extra ones down the sides and in the centre; there is also a slight change of surface texture in this area. The front edge of the specimen is a cut one but it seems improbable that it would itself have been removed, the repair having been put on top of it. It is possible that either the waist portion, normally not much worn, was cut away after the shoe had been discarded to use for another purpose, or the whole of the waist and forepart were replaced. The flesh side shows the impression of the lasting margin and bracing thread. 95mm. x 65mm.

(Draw from both sides)

743914 I

Part of the waist of a welted sole. One curved edge indicates that this is part of a sole and it also has the usual marginal row of grain/flesh stitch holes, c. 4.0mm. separation and set in channel c. 3.0mm. from the present edge. In addition, however, there is also a second row c. 9.0mm. apart and set (not in channel) c. 8.0mm. from the edge. Presumably the first set is <sup>the</sup> original sole/welt seam and possibly the second set may be tack holes used for a repair; it is quite common for the inside waist of a welted shoe to open up during wear and nails are inserted to bring the sections together again. This would suggest that this specimen is part of the inside

743914 I

waist of the sole. 117mm. x 53mm. (maximum)

(cont.)

(Draw grain up)

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743914 J

Fragment of lasting margin; has one original cut edge and one cut later, presumably to remove the upper from the sole. It has grain/flesh stitching holes, 9.0mm. - 10mm. separation indicating a welt seam but the section has retained what is presumably its original moulding with ~~the~~ grain side inwards which is unusual and there may be <sup>three</sup> ~~two~~ explanations: (a) it may be ~~the~~ lasting margin of a stiffener rather than the upper itself; (b) the upper may have had the leather reversed, i.e. grain side inwards (like some modern suedes); at this time such leathers were referred to as "buff"; (c) the specimen is part of a turnshoe with an inserted welt ( a "turnwelt") in which upper, sole and welt are sewn together inside out and then turned leaving the welt projecting outwards ready to receive the sole; this could produce the effect apparent in this specimen. 170mm. long

(Draw flesh up)

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