

Treasury - leather

620209 Five shoe fragments, very deteriorated. Three of them can be fitted together and appear to be part of a turnshoe sole, possibly left foot with a narrow waist; the toe-end is missing so its shape is not known. The fragments carry the usual edge/flesh marginal stitch holes, stitch length c. 5.5mm., with traces of thread in some holes. A fourth fragment may be part of the forepart of the same sole. The fifth fragment is not identifiable. Length of three put together:

(Draw)



c. 190mm.

750736 Fragments of strap and retaining loop. 50mm. x 22mm. x 2.5mm. thick. There is a line of stitch holes, c. 4.0mm. from each edge and 4.0mm. apart. The loop is 10mm. wide.

(Draw)

750737 Small fragment of leather with one edge curved and cut and the other torn; whitish in colour so may have been alum tanned. Grain/flesh stitch holes, stitch length c. 4.0mm. near one edge. May have been part of a slipper sole but there is no positive evidence of this. 50mm. x 21mm.

750738 see 750740

750739 Welted insole, toe-end now missing; probably a left foot. There is a very prominent "rib" on the flesh side to which the upper and welt were sewn; it carries stitch holes 5.0mm. apart. The seat does not have this rib so probably the shoe carried a heel which puts it into the 17th century (or later). Present length (torn toe - seat end): 152mm.

(Draw - seam up)

750740 and 750738 Various parts of a child's welted shoe, right foot, pointed toe.

Vamp: grain outwards, very deteriorated particularly at the toe end but still has the side linings and part of the welt (left side) in situ; also a small toe puff (stiffener for the toe end), now detached but it fits inside the vamp with stitch holes and various impressions registering. The throat is extended backwards into a rectangular tongue. The ends of the vamp wings show slight traces of closed seams where they were joined to the front ends of the quarters, stitch length 3.0-3.5mm.

(Treasury - leather - contd.)

Side linings: these still remain in position and were originally overseamed (hemstitched) along their top edges to the inside of the vamp; the scalloped grooves and holes made by the thread remain, stitch length c. 5.5mm.

Welt: the portion remaining still has traces of thread in the insole (insole/upper/welt) holes, stitch length 6.5mm., while the second row of holes (welt/sole) are much more closely spaced, c. 2.5mm.

Quarters: these were originally joined at the back by an edge/flesh butted seam, stitch length c. 2.5mm. Two parallel rows of stitching follow the top edge and front edge of each quarter; the stitch length is c. 2.0mm., the first row is about 2.0mm. from the edge and the second about 2.0mm. from the first. These parallel rows have produced a decorative ridge in the leather, the leather having been pulled together as the thread passes from one row to the other.

The front end or "nose" of each quarter has a single latchet hole, oval shape.

The lower edge of each, the lasting margin, is flanged and carries the welt sewing holes, stitch length 6.0-7.0mm.

Insole: Complete with edge/flesh marginal seam corresponding to those on upper and welt, variable but about 6.0mm. stitch length. There is a very pronounced transverse ridge between toe area and waist but the rest of the grain surface (uppermost in the shoe) is depressed between the edges showing where the foot rested. The toe is very pointed. Three large holes round the edge of the seat where possibly caused by a repair.

Length: c.150mm.; width across forepart: 46mm. Corresponds to c. 5½ (children's) in modern sizes.

Sole: now missing. Also probably a low heel.

The date of this shoe is probably the first half of the 17th century.

(Draw a reconstruction)



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