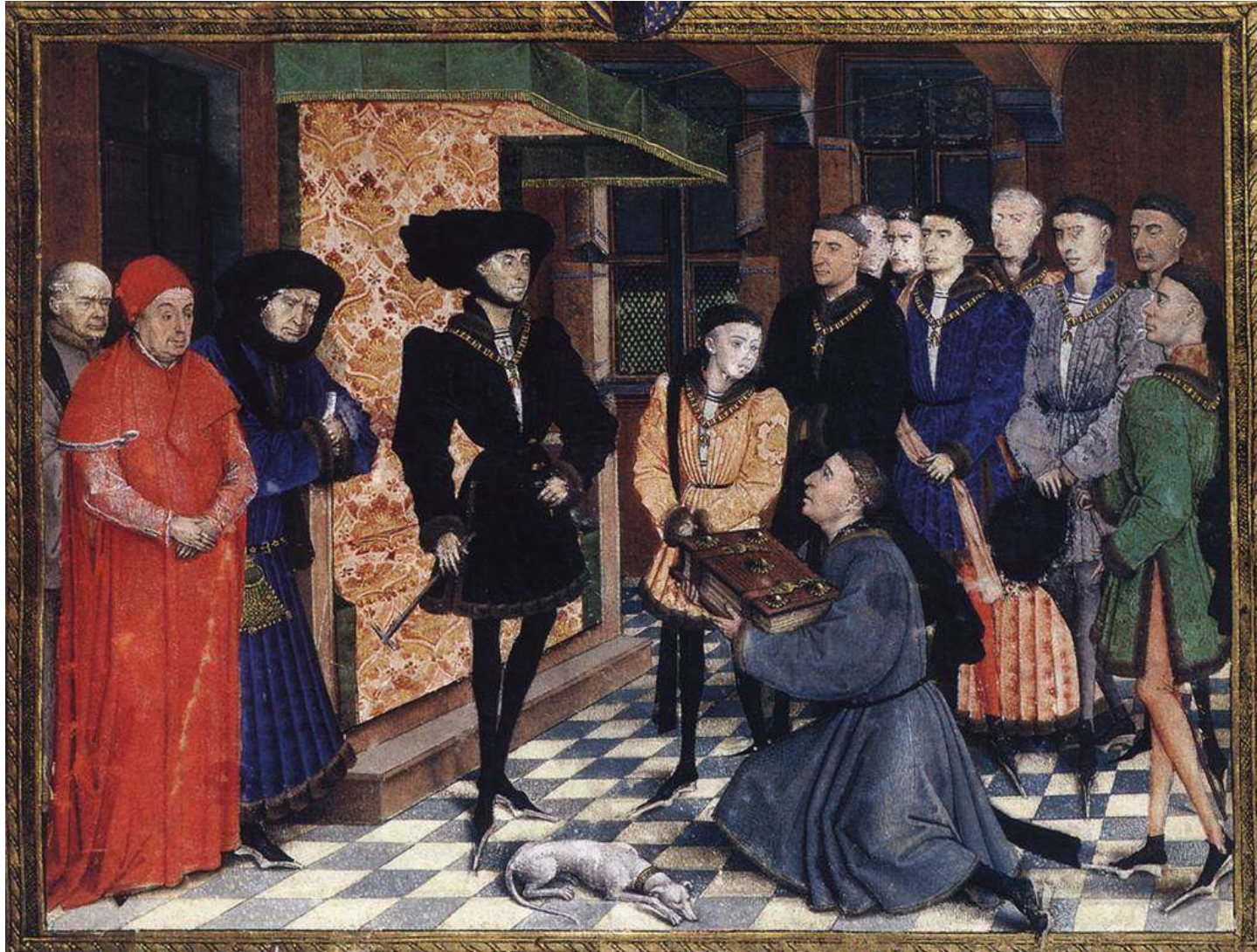


Footwear in mid 15th C. Burgundy

Vyncent atte Wodegate – Collegium Occidentalis 2015



1447 – Van der Weyden. Chroniques de Hainaut

Brief Outline

- Historical Context of 1450s Burgundy
- Shoes Make the Person
 - Nobility
 - Upper/Middle Class
 - Laborers
 - Clergy and Witches
- Extant Pieces
- Basic Construction Details
- Pointy Toe Discussion
- More Information
- Question and Answer

Historical Context of 1450s Burgundy

- It's 1450 – Philip the Good (Philip III, Philippe le Bon) is Duc of Burgundy.
- At this time, Burgundy encompasses not only northern France, but also Luxembourg and Brabant, as well as and the Counties of Flanders, Holland, and other areas.
- The so-called Burgundy Netherlands were centers of trade, and the Dukes of Burgundy fostered and inspired some of the most talented artists.
- Notable artists: Jan van Eyck (Court painter until his death in 1441) and Rogier van der Weyden.



1450 - _Van_der_Weyden. Philip the Good.

Shoes of the Nobility – long...and strong!



1447 – Van der_Weyden. Chroniques de Hainaut

“Check out my documentation!”



Pointy pattens are so now.

Shoes of the Nobility...and their servants, too!



1455 – Marmion. The Flower of History
Get thee on thy pointy shoes!

1460 – Fouquet. Grandes Chroniques de France
“Hey Jean, my meat is at least
three times as thick as yours.”

Upper Middle Class – Pointy, but not too pointy



1459 – Marmion. The Life of St Bertin

“If she tells us to fill to the line one more time...”



1458 – Fouquet. Boccaccio: On the Fates of Famous Men and Women

“Bless my pretty little bonnet, I will end you...”

Laborers and Working Stiffs – got to be practical



1455 – French Miniaturist. Book of Hours

“Carl, can you please stop whistling?”



1458 – French Miniaturist.
Tractatus de Herbis

“Zwounds, in the eye AGAIN?”

Clergy and Witches – two ends of the spectrum



1447 – Van der_Weyden. Chroniques de Hainaut

“Ok, dude, you can stop pinching me now.”



1458 – French Miniaturist. Tractatus de Herbis

“Figures that Jane’s parents get her a Nimbus 1450 for her birthday.”

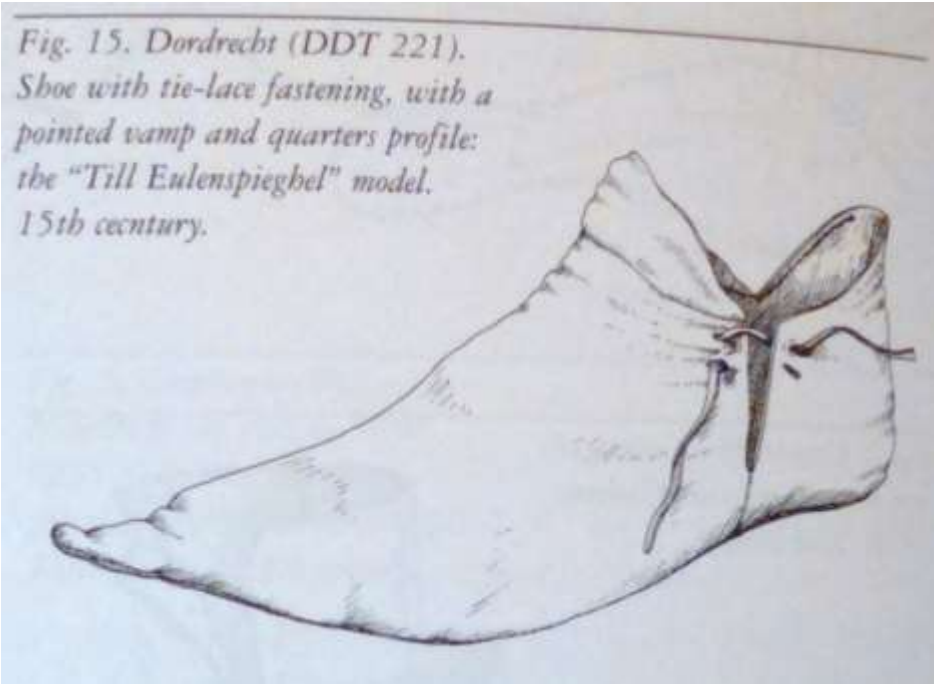
Extant Examples



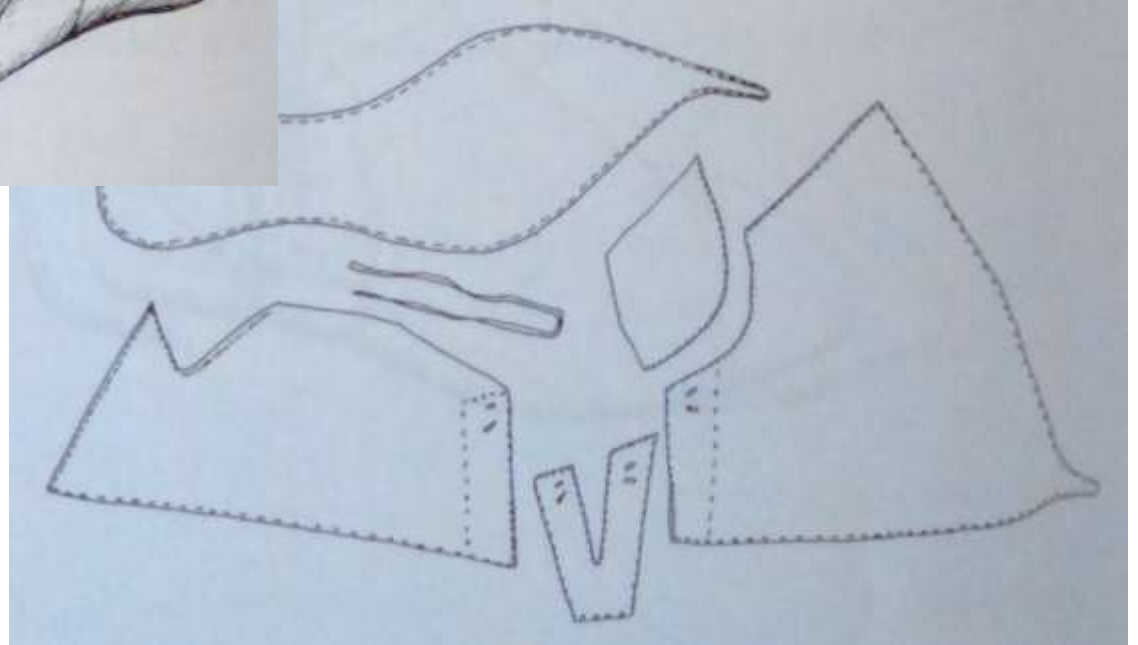
Mid 15th shoes, similar to servants and workmen

Extant Examples (cont.)

*Fig. 15. Dordrecht (DDT 221).
Shoe with tie-lace fastening, with a
pointed vamp and quarters profile:
the "Till Eulenspiegel" model.
15th century.*



Mid 15th century pointy toe, not quite as long as some, though!



Primary Materials

- Leather

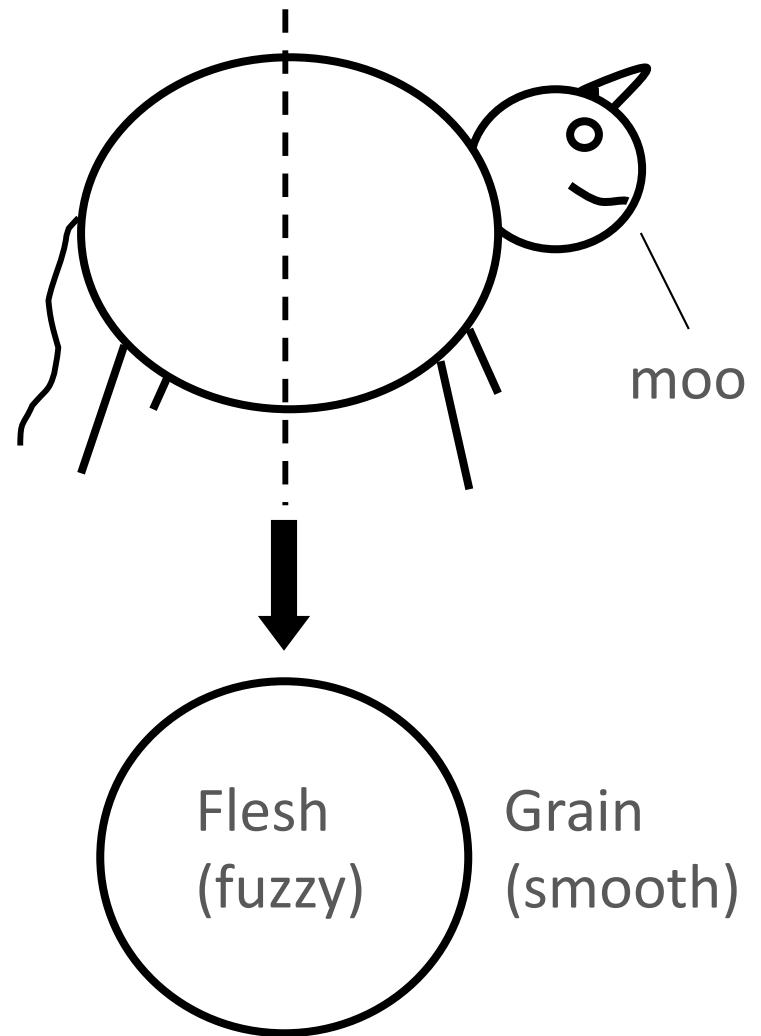
- Vegetable Tanned (tan color)
- Alum Tawed (white and creamy)
- Chrome Tanned is neither period nor satisfactory (blue tinge)

- Linen Threads and Boar Bristles

- For closing uppers and sewing soles

- Shoemaker's Wax, or Coad

- A pine pitch / pine rosin mixture, with a bit of fat or oil thrown in (like beeswax or tallow)
- Coats and preserves the threads, provides "stiction"



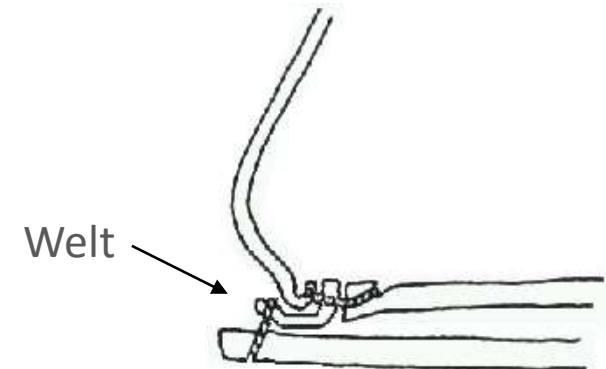
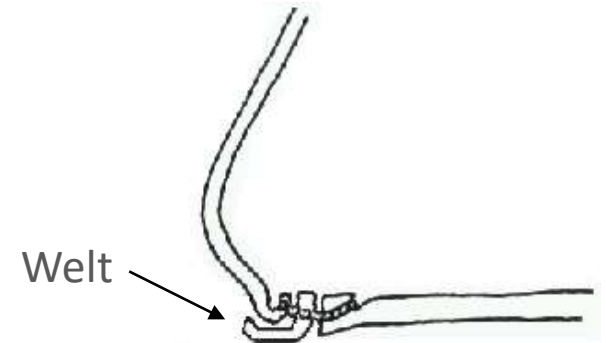
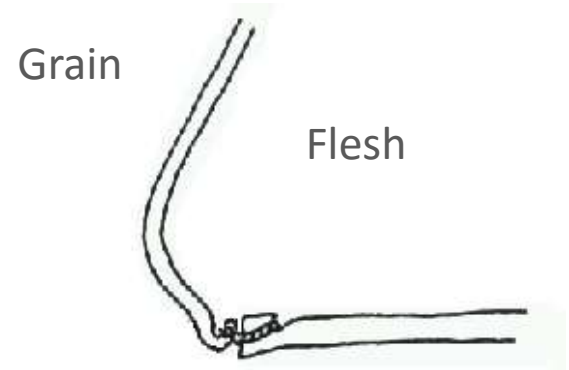
Basic Construction of Shoes

For context, we give some styles of shoes that came before and after 1450.

Older Style Turn Shoe (~12th C. and before). The shoe is sewn **inside-out**, and then turned right-side-out.

Turn Shoe with Welt. (~12th c. to 15th c.) The shoe is constructed just as a Turn Shoe, but there is a welt (a strip of leather) between the upper and sole. A second sole is attached to this.

Turn-Welt with Double Sole. (late 15th c.) The shoe is constructed just as a Turn Shoe with Welt, but a second sole is attached to the welt.

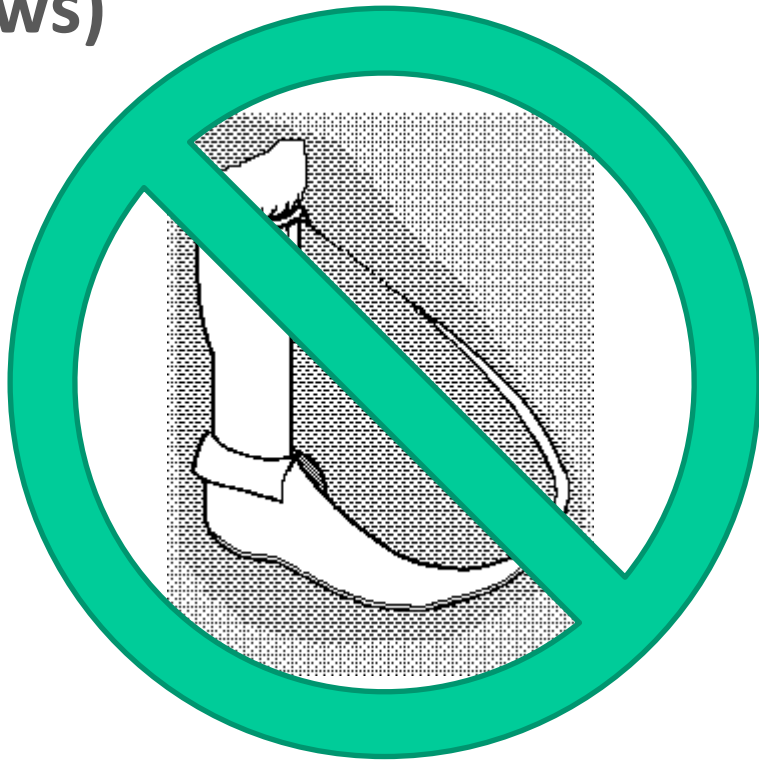


Basic Construction of Shoes (cont.)



The welt acted in many ways like an “extension sole,” as the sole was normally smaller than the foot and quite waisted.

Pointy Toe Discussion (piked shoes, poulaines, crakows)



Just Say No.

- There may have been a handful of actual instances, but it is by far an extreme exception (one manuscript illustration that I recall of a person in red with bells on – a player?)
- For the full discourse, see Marc Carlson's site:
<http://www.personal.utulsa.edu/~marc-carlson/shoe/APP5.HTM>

Pointy Toe Discussion (piked shoes, poulaines, crakows)

- Extreme points were popular for a while both in the 14th and 15th centuries. However, their construction differed.



14th Century



15th Century

More Information

Marc Carlson's Footwear of the Middle Ages

<http://www.personal.utulsa.edu/~marc-carlson/shoe/SHOEHOME.HTM>

Shoes and Pattens: Finds from Medieval Excavations in London.

Grew, Francis, Margrethe de Neergaard and Susan Mitford. Boydell Press.

Stepping through time : archaeological footwear from prehistoric times until 1800

Olaf Goubitz; Carol van Driel-Murray; Willy Groenman-Van Waateringe

History of Shoes in Norway, Sweeden, and Finland

June Swann

Archeological Footwear

Marquita Volken

The Crispin Colloquy

<http://www.thehcc.org>

Francis Classe's Chopine, Zoccolo, and Other Raised and High Heel Construction

<http://www.raisedheels.com>

Question and Answer