

Out of the Bog: Part I



Iron Age and Early
Medieval European
footwear



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Farolfus filius Richardi

Time Periods

- Very Early
 - Stone Age, Bronze Age
 - Early Iron Age
- Late or 'Roman' Iron Age/Late Antiquity
 - Roman
 - Gaulish
 - Germanic
- Early Middle Ages
 - 'Fall of Rome'(5th Century CE) to Carolingian/Viking Era (turnshoes)

Geographic Area

- Germany
- Austria
- France
- Belgium
- Netherlands
- Denmark
- British Isles

A note on terminology – Germanic

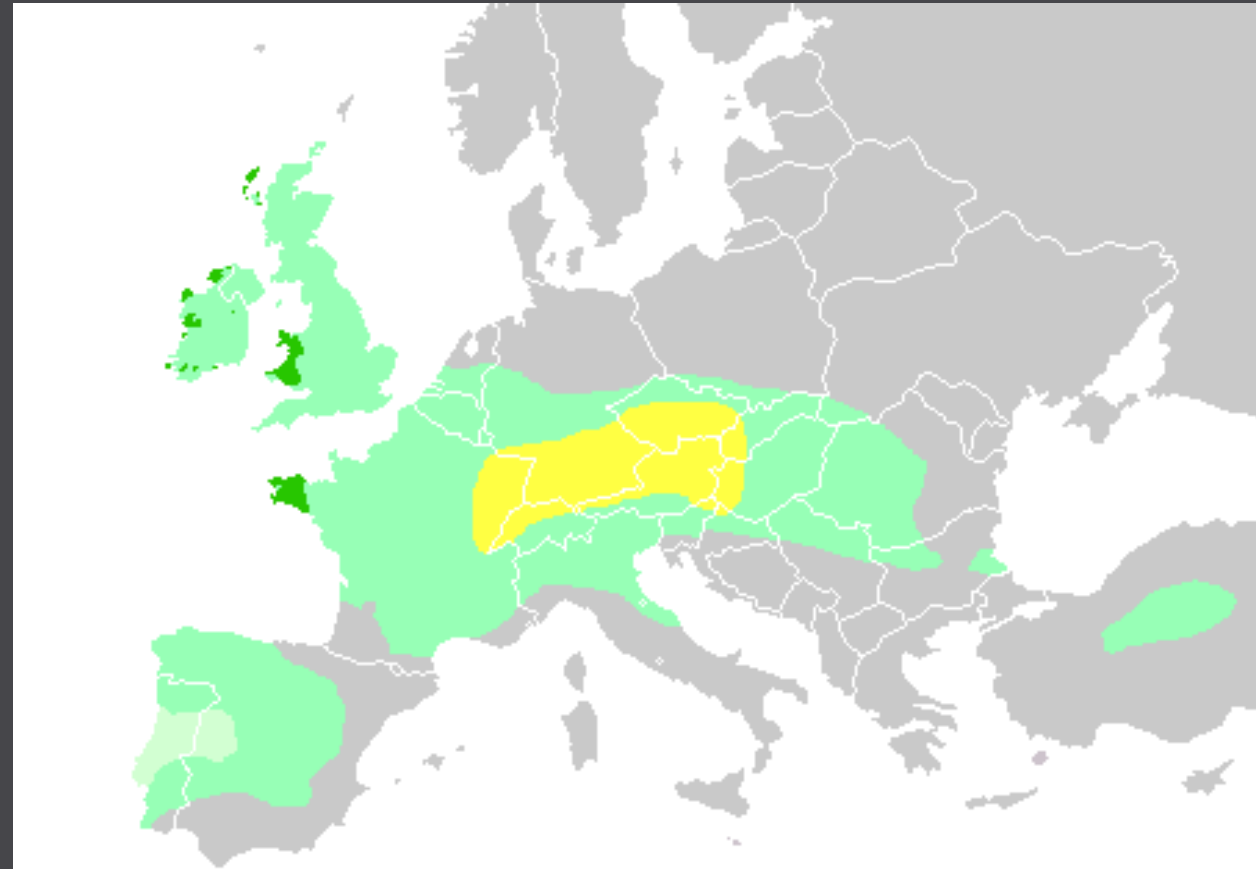
- **Does not** refer to a race, geographic ‘homeland’ or origin, specific ethnic group, or ‘tribe’
- Umbrella term for the people speaking Germanic dialects, both within and outside the Roman Empire
- Not a single distinct culture, not ethnically homogenous
- Genetic analysis of burials shows intermingling and connection to wide trade networks

Iron Age - Celtic

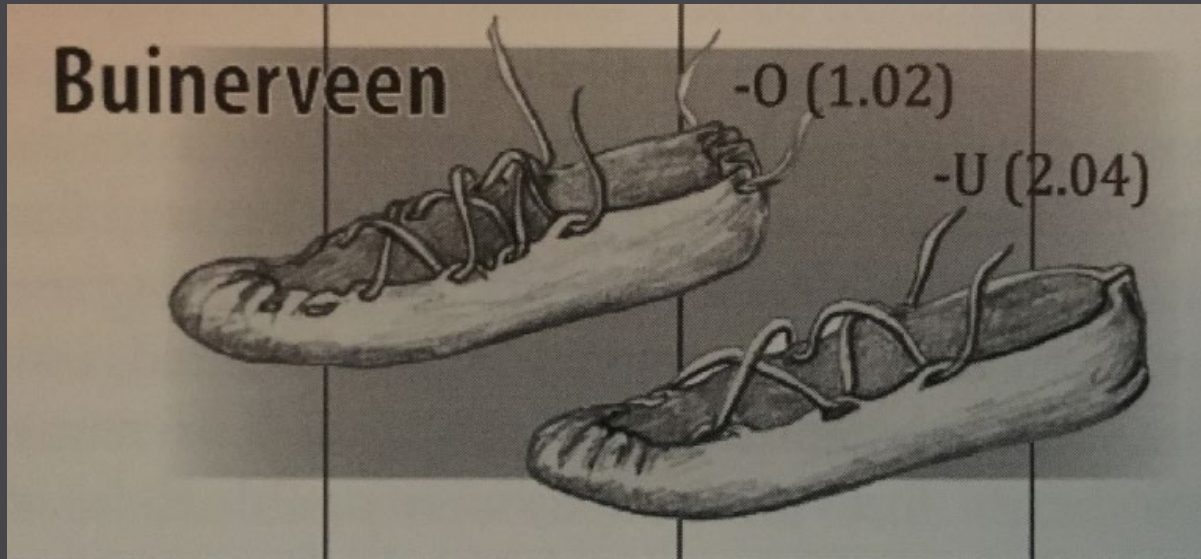
- **Hallstatt** - Central Europe 6th Century BCE
- **La Tene** - By 3rd Century BCE, much of central and western Europe, Bulgaria to the British Isles and Iberia
- By early Medieval period, most Continental Celtic culture absorbed or displaced aside from parts of British Isles and Brittany
- Persists in far northwest as Brithonic (Wales, Cornwall, Brittany) and Gaelic (Ireland and Scotland)

Diachronic distribution of Celtic peoples, in the traditional view:

- Core **Hallstatt** territory, by the sixth century BC
- Maximal Celtic expansion by 275 BC
- **Lusitanian** area of Iberia where Celtic presence is uncertain
- Areas where **Celtic languages** remain widely spoken today

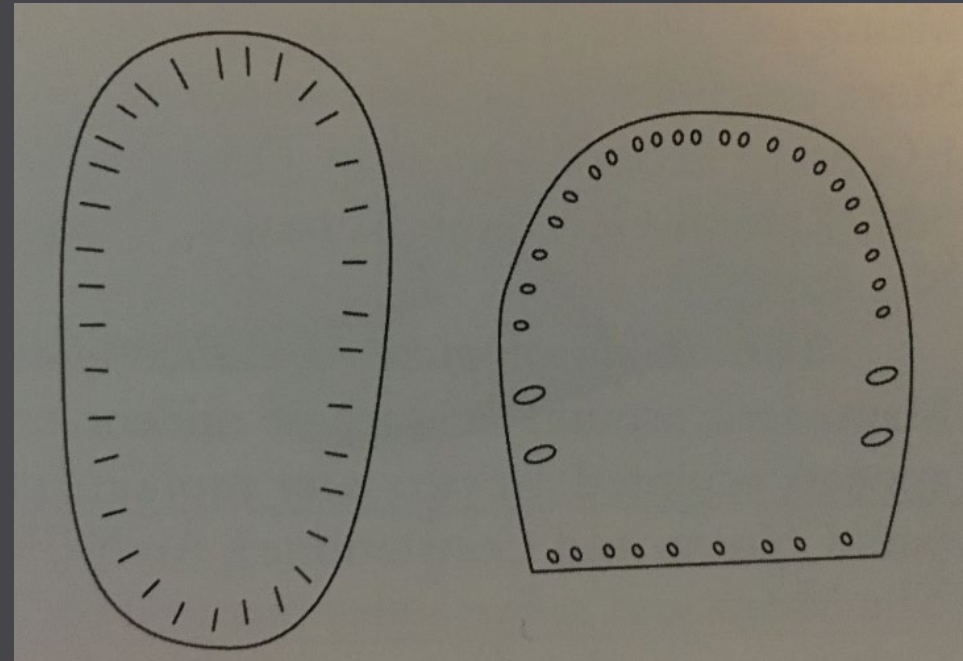


Neolithic

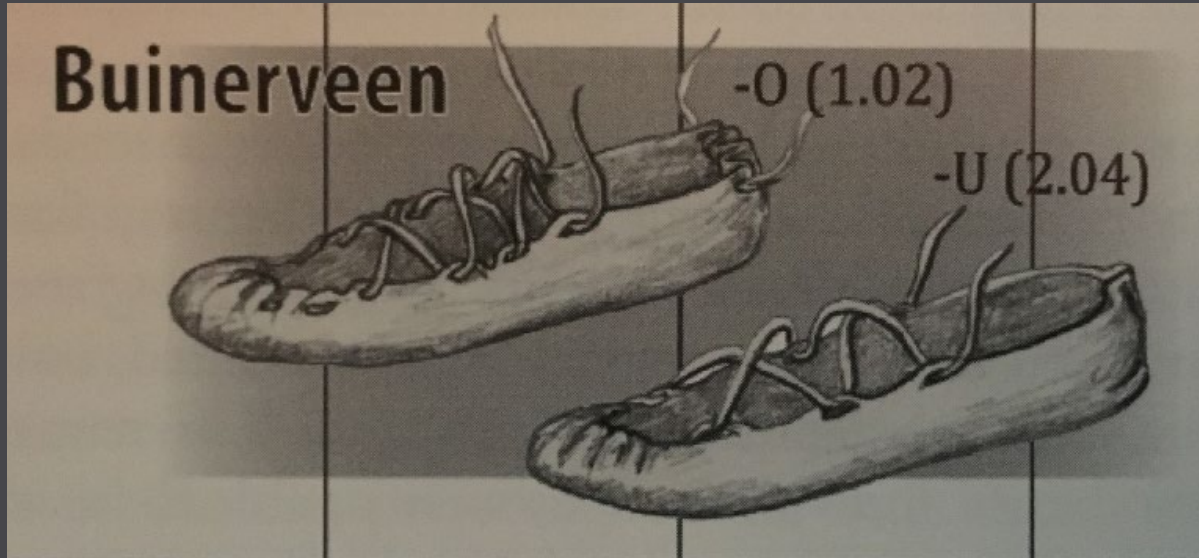


- Oil or smoke-tanned
- Grain side out

Approx. 2600-2800 BCE



Neolithic

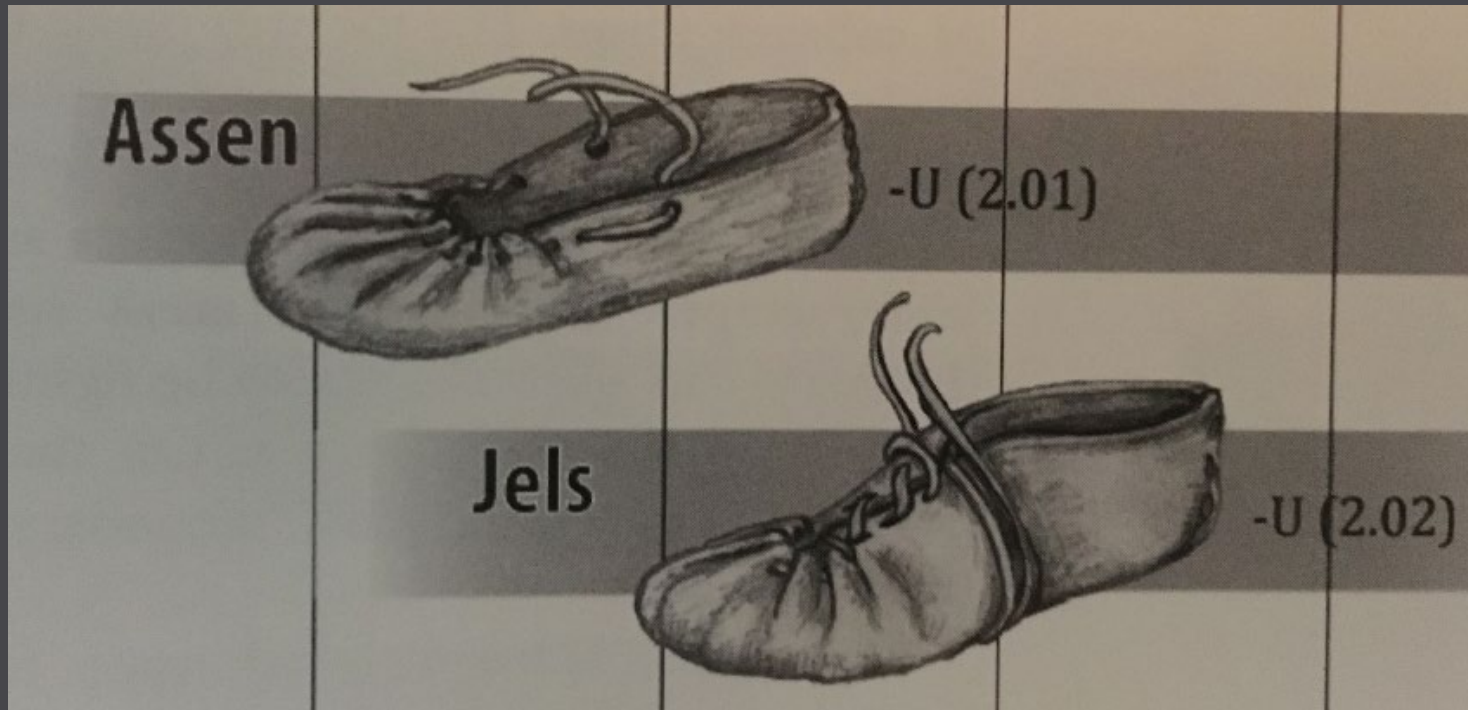


- Oil or smoke-tanned
- Grain side out

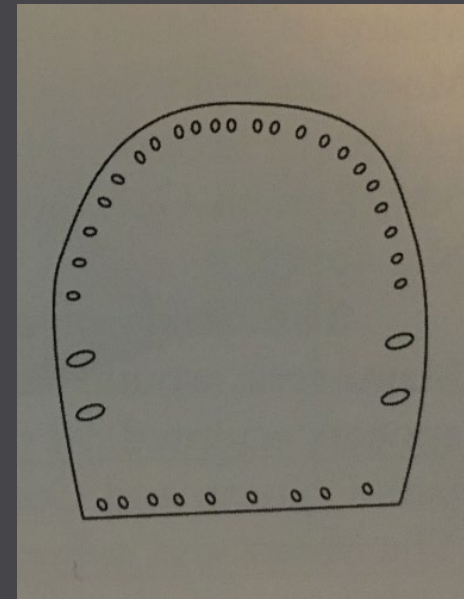
Approx. 2600-2800 BCE



Bronze Age

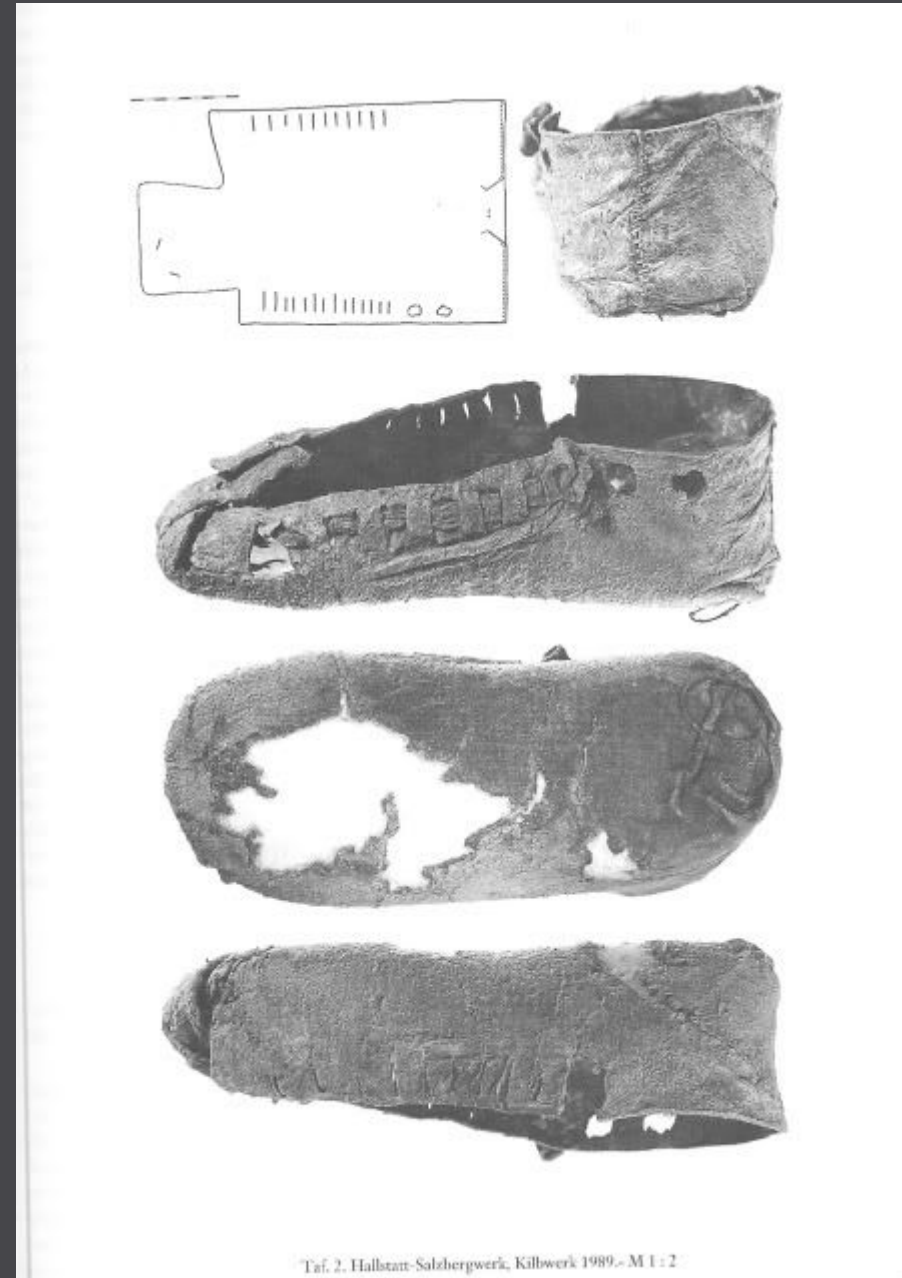
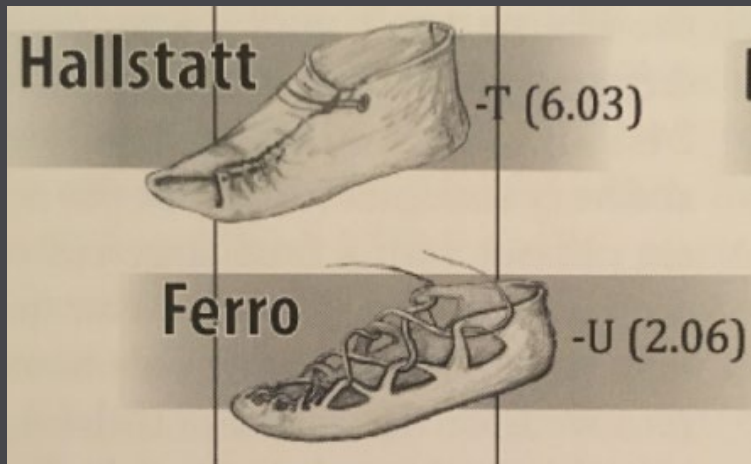


Approx. 1000-1800 BCE

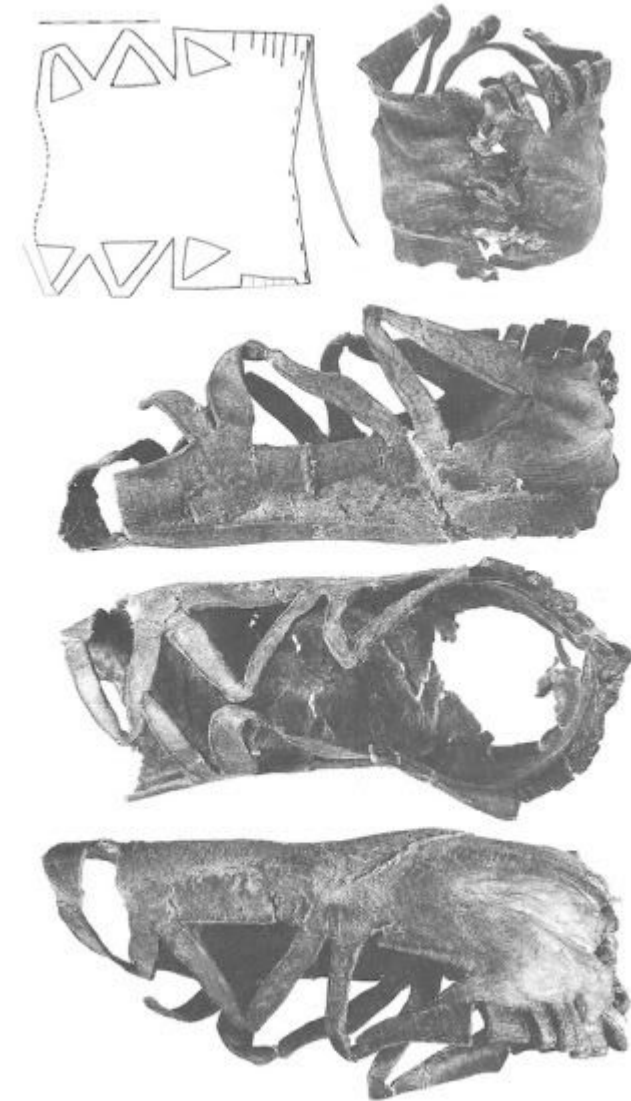
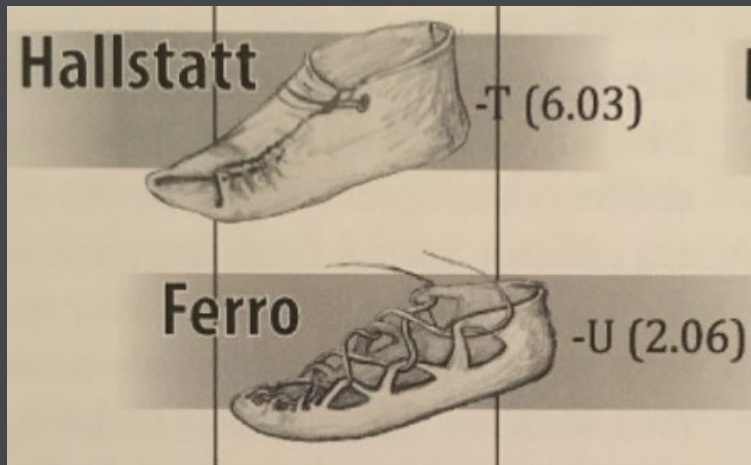


- Oil or smoke-tanned
- Grain side out

Iron Age - Celtic

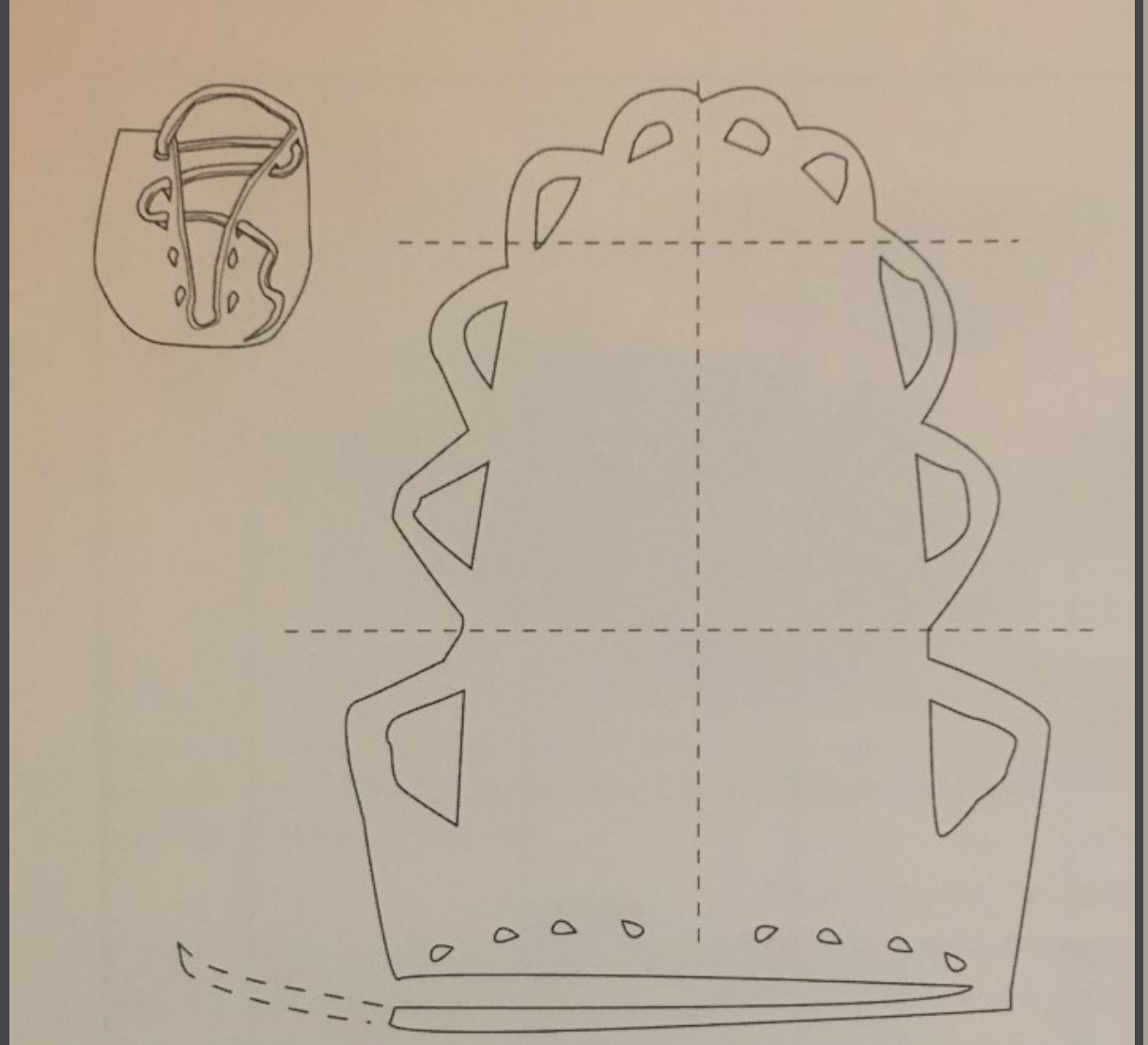


Iron Age - Celtic



Taf. 4. Dürnberg/Hallein-Salzbergwerk. Werk Mitterauer. - M 1 : 2

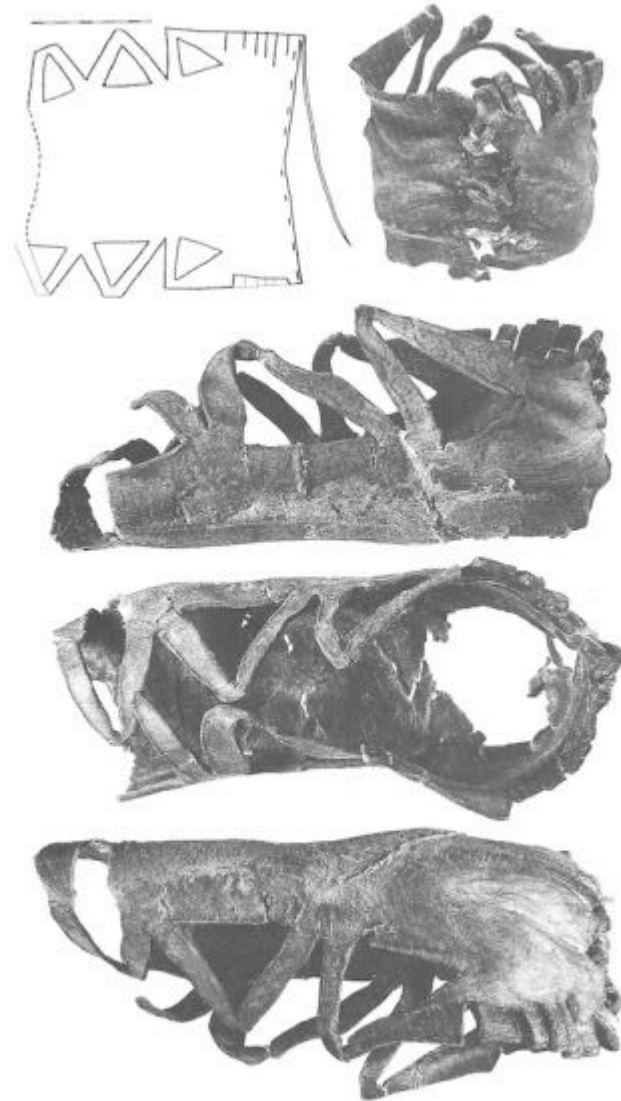
Iron Age - Celtic



Iron Age - Celtic



6th century BCE, Greek oil flask in shape of foot



Taf. 4. Dürenberg/Hallein-Salzbergwerk. Werk Mitterauer.- M 1 : 2

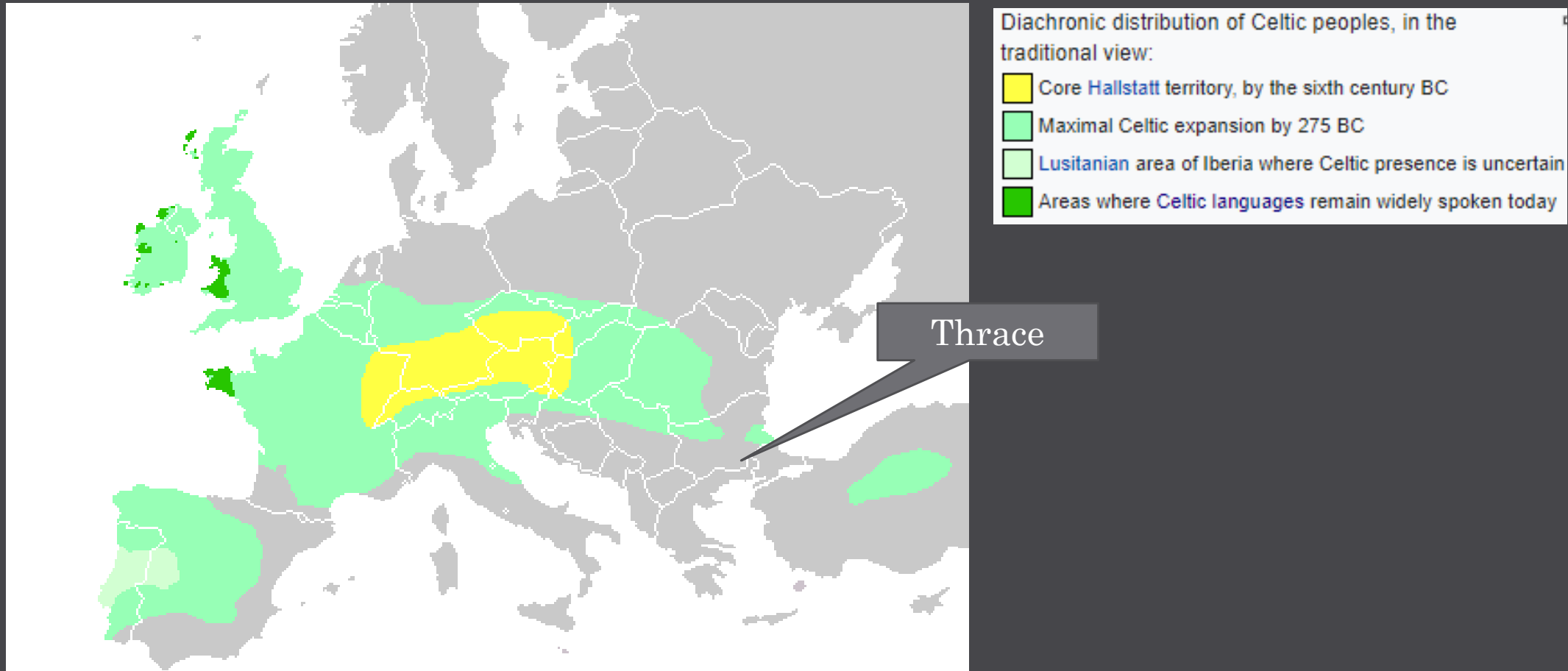


Iron Age – Celtic?



Gundestrup Cauldron

Iron Age - Celtic



Iron Age – Germanic

- B-shaped shoes with sewn pocket
- C.450 BCE

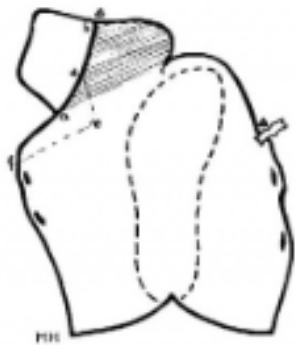


Fig. 32. Diagram of shoe from Rønby Mose, Fig. 31.



Fig. 31. Left shoe from Rønby Mose. Photo L. Larsen.

Iron Age - Germanic

- T-shaped shoes, similar to Hallstatt
- C.130 BCE

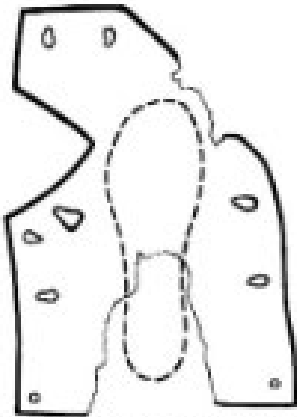


Fig. 25. Diagram of shoe from Sogaards Mose, Fig. 24.

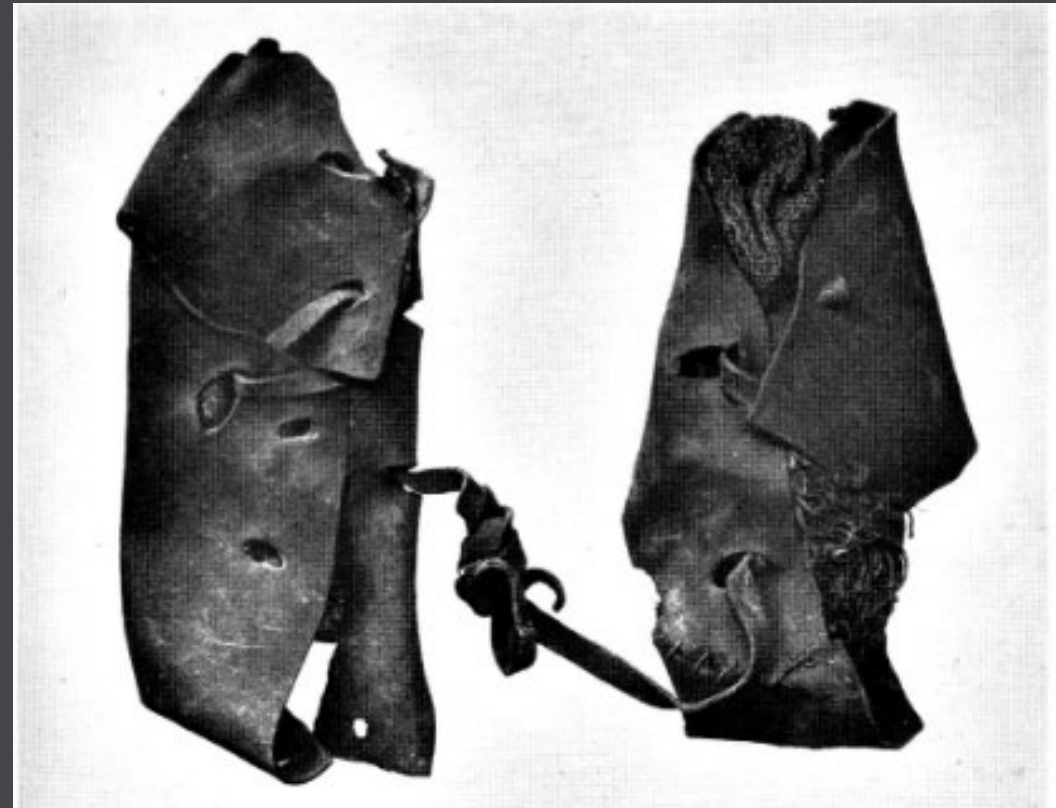


Fig. 24. Man's shoe from Sogaards Mose, Skive Mus. Photo L. Larsen.

Iron Age?

- U-shaped pattern with cutwork loops
- One example found in Rishjarup, Sweden
- Similar examples found in Roman-occupied Britain (c.225 CE) and Egypt
- Two other fragments in northern Denmark
- No information available to date the finds...



Fig. 42. Fragment of shoe from Rishjarup, Aabenraa Mus. Photo L. Larsen.

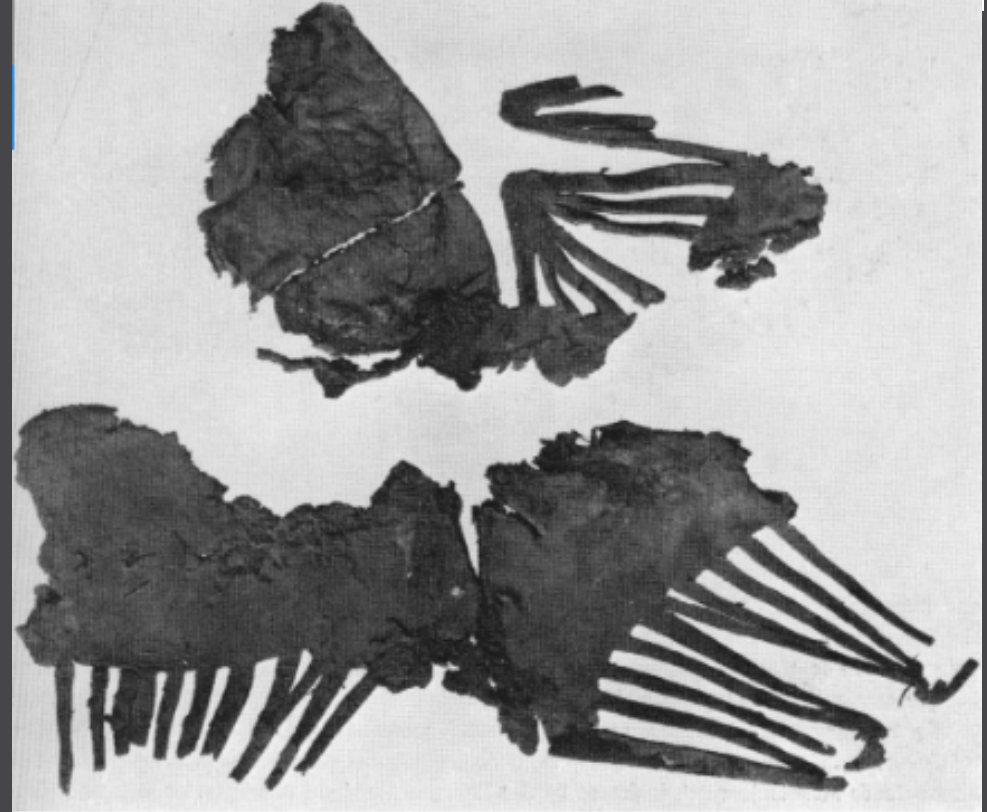


Fig. 39. Fragment of shoe from Store Borremose, N. M. Khb. Photo L. Larsen.

Here comes Rome...

- Separate soles!
- Hobnails!
- Better veg-tan leather!
- Fully tabbed toes!
- Bureaucracy!

Roman-controlled prior to 31 BCE	<div></div>
Annexations/conquests under Augustus	<div></div>
• 31-19 BCE	<div></div>
• 19-9 BCE	<div></div>
• 9 BCE-6 CE	<div></div>
Client states	<div></div>



Roman shoes - Caligae



Reconstruction of Mainz caliga by Martin Moser

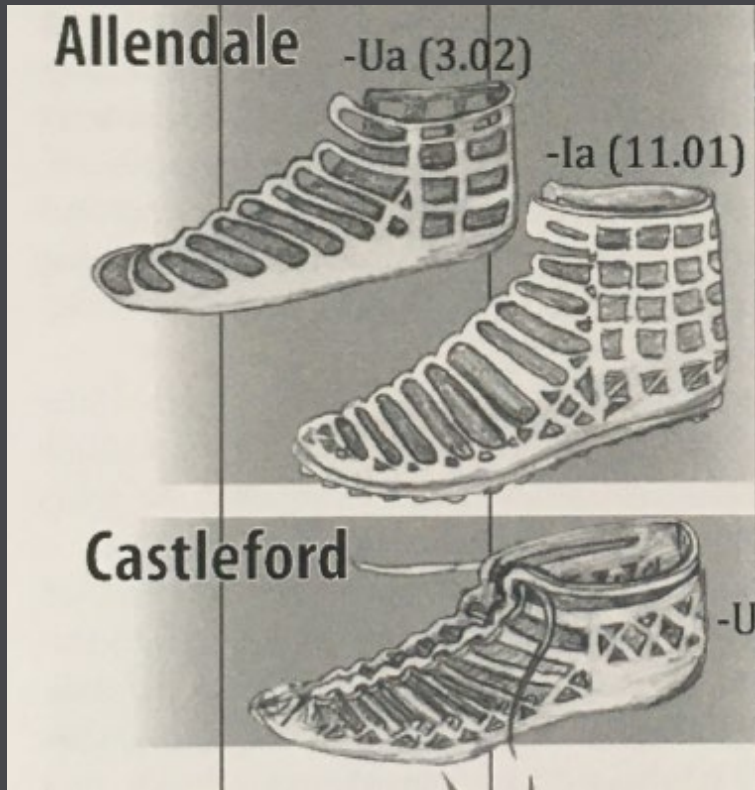
Roman shoes – Calcei



Reconstructions of Castleford and Vindolanda calcei by Martin Moser



Roman shoes - Carbatina



75-125 CE



Roman shoes - Carbatina

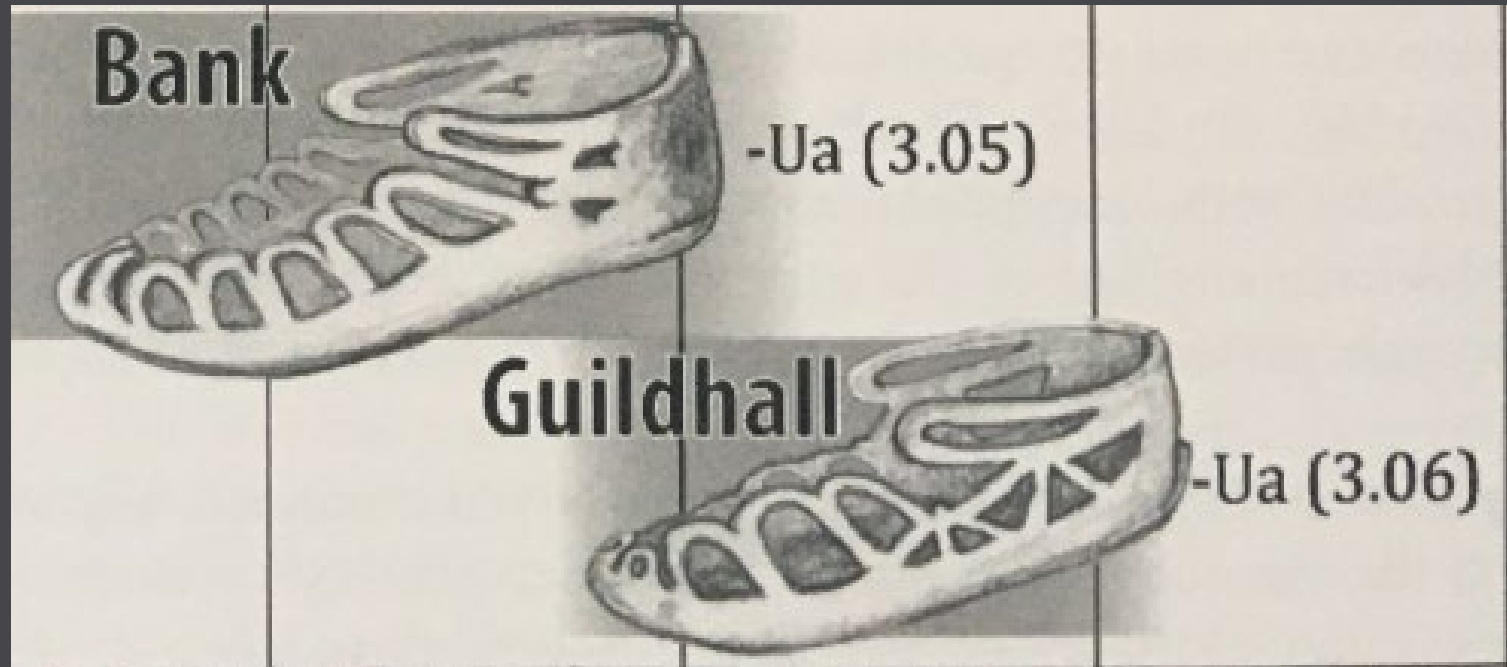
- C-punch decoration

125-175 CE



Roman shoes - Carbatina

100-150 CE

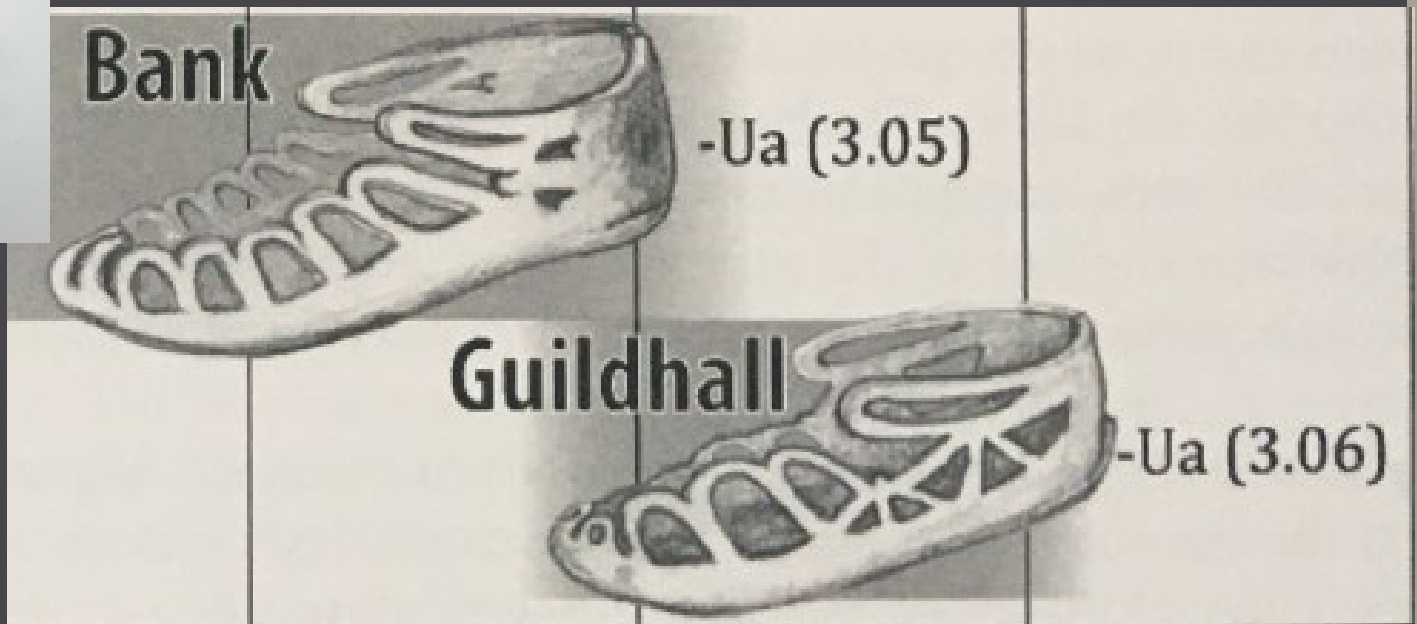


150-175 CE

Roman shoes - Carbatina



Hallstatt shoe for comparison



Roman shoes - Carbatina



Hallstatt: c.500 BCE



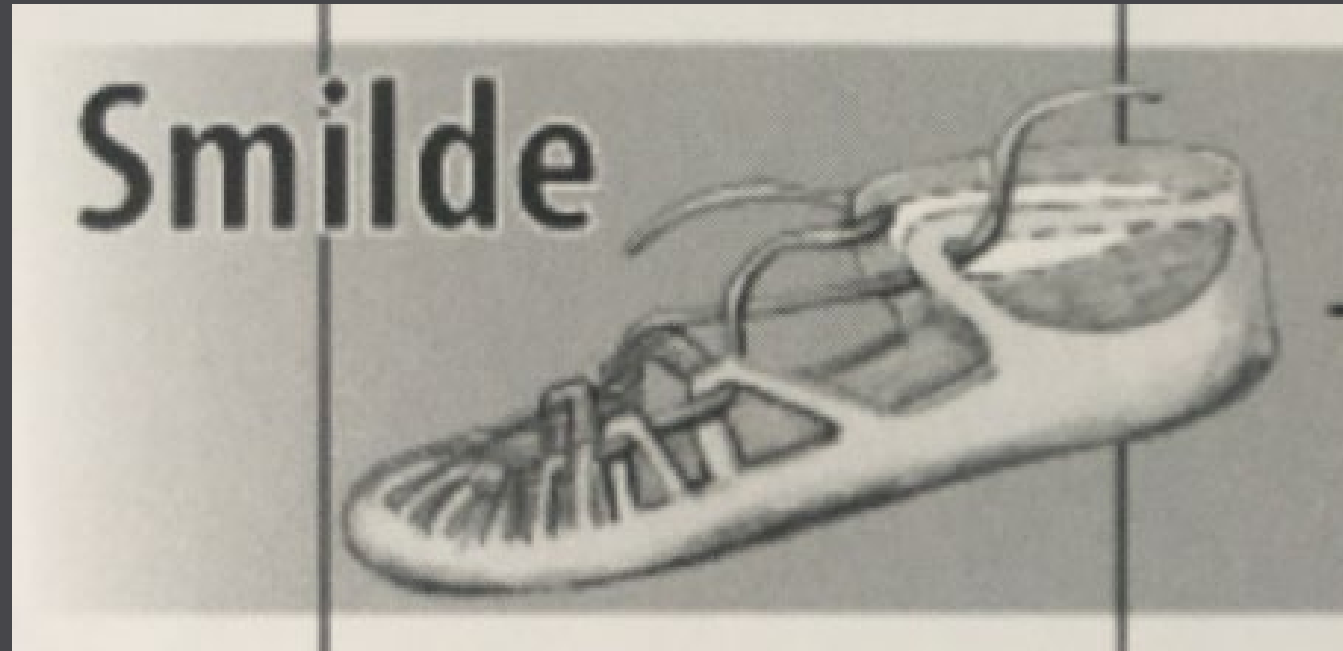
Roman, c.300 CE



Roman, c.100 CE

Smilde Shoe

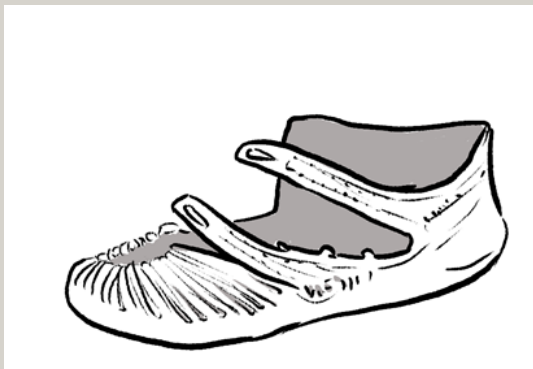
- Tabbed toe
- Double-end lace
- Grain side inside
- 50 BCE-100 CE





‘Germanic’ carbatinae 3rd-4th c. CE

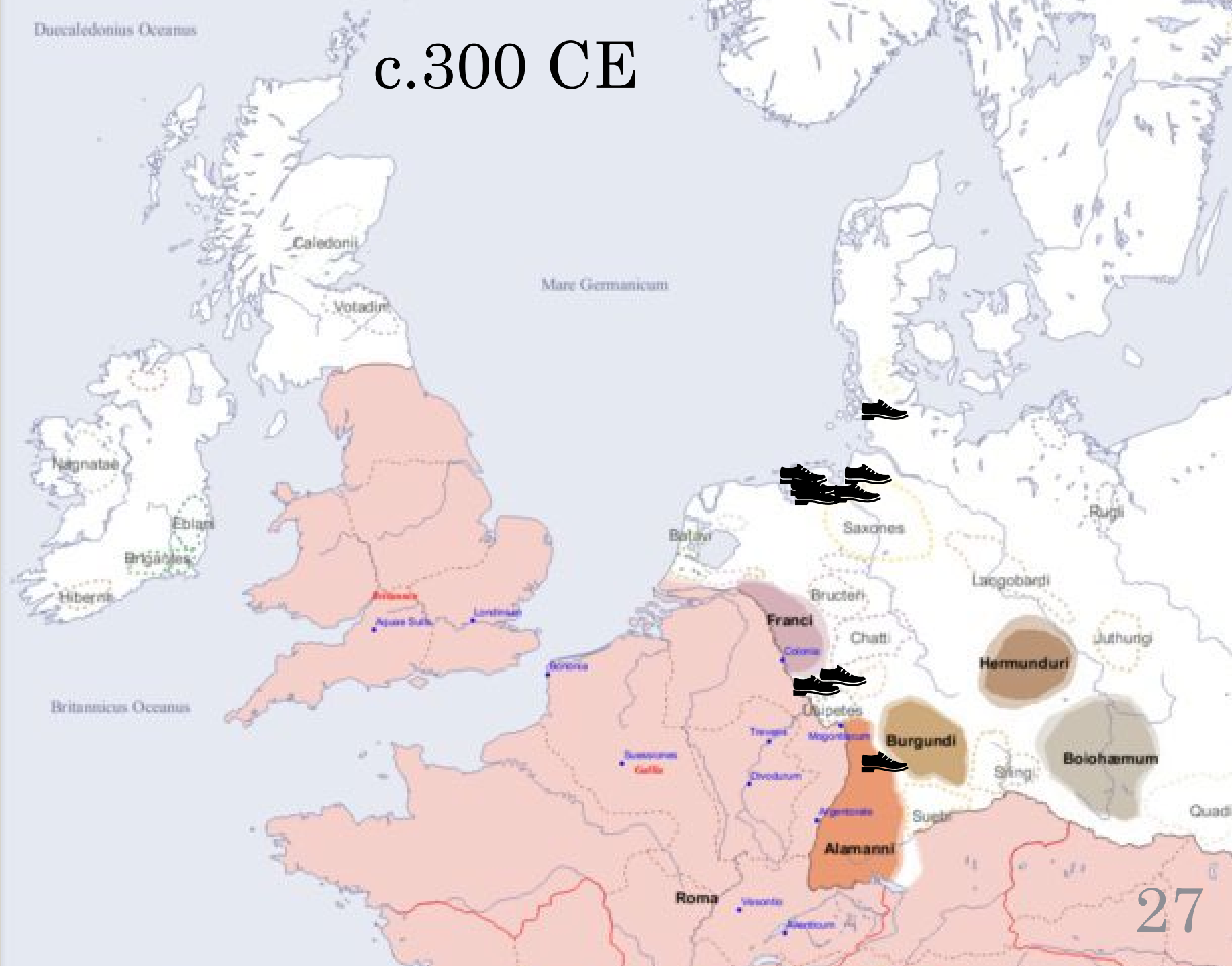
- More toe loops, radial fan
- Asymmetric cutting pattern
- Single-end lacing
- Chip carved decoration
- Found in modern-day Netherlands, Germany





Ducaledonius Oceanus

c.300 CE



Mapping the shoes

Shoes200-650CE (Features: 63, Selected: 0)

ID	Loc_Approx	LocCountry	NameType	PatternTyp	DateRngBeg	DateRngEnd	RangeName	VolkenCatn	VolkenDiag	ImageLink	
EM6	Arnitlund	DK	Arnitlund	U	450.00	550.00	Early Middle Ages	2.29	12.00	https://farolfus.files.	
EM7	Seitingen	DK	Seitingen	U	500.00	625.00	Early Middle Ages	2.30	12.00	https://farolfus.files.	
R1	Obenaltendorf	DE	Obenaltendorf	Ua	225.00	350.00	Late Roman	3.07	10.00	https://farolfus.files.1.jpg	
R2	Saalburg	DE	Obenaltendorf	Ua	225.00	350.00	Late Roman	3.07	10.00	https://farolfus.files.1.jpg	
R3	Welzheim	DE	Obenaltendorf	Ua	225.00	350.00	Late Roman	3.07	10.00	https://farolfus.files.1.jpg	
R4	Torsbjerg	DE	Torsbjerg	Ua	225.00	325.00	Late Roman	3.07	10.00	https://farolfus.files.	
R5	Ardorf	DE	Torsbjerg	Ua	225.00	325.00	Late Roman	3.07	10.00	https://farolfus.files.	
R6	Westerholt	DE	Torsbjerg	Ua	225.00	325.00	Late Roman	3.07	10.00	https://farolfus.files.	
R7	Lengener	DE	Lengener	Ua	225.00	325.00	Late Roman	3.09	10.00	https://farolfus.files.	
R8	Zugmantel	DE	Lengener	Ua	225.00	325.00	Late Roman	3.09	10.00	https://farolfus.files.	
R9	Marx-Etzel	DE	Marx-Etzel	Ua	275.00	325.00	Late Roman	3.11	10.00	https://farolfus.files.	
R18	Ueterson	DE	Wesermarsch	Ua	225.00	300.00	Late Roman	2.25	10.00	https://farolfus.files.	
R17	Wesermarsch	DE	Wesermarsch	Ua	225.00	300.00	Late Roman	2.25	10.00	https://farolfus.files.	
EM9	Oberflacht	DE	Buiston	M	450.00	625.00	Early Middle Ages	4.09	12.00	https://farolfus.files.	

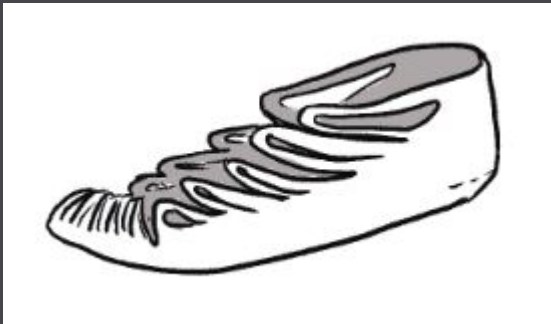
- Database with find spot, style and pattern classification, and date range

- Buiston
- Wesermarsch
- Amcotts
- Montmaurin
- Oberflacht
- Dowgate
- Louth
- Obenaltendorf
- Torsbjerg
- Wijster
- Ballymacomb
- Banna
- Basel
- Burlescombe
- Lengener
- Marx-Etzel
- Other

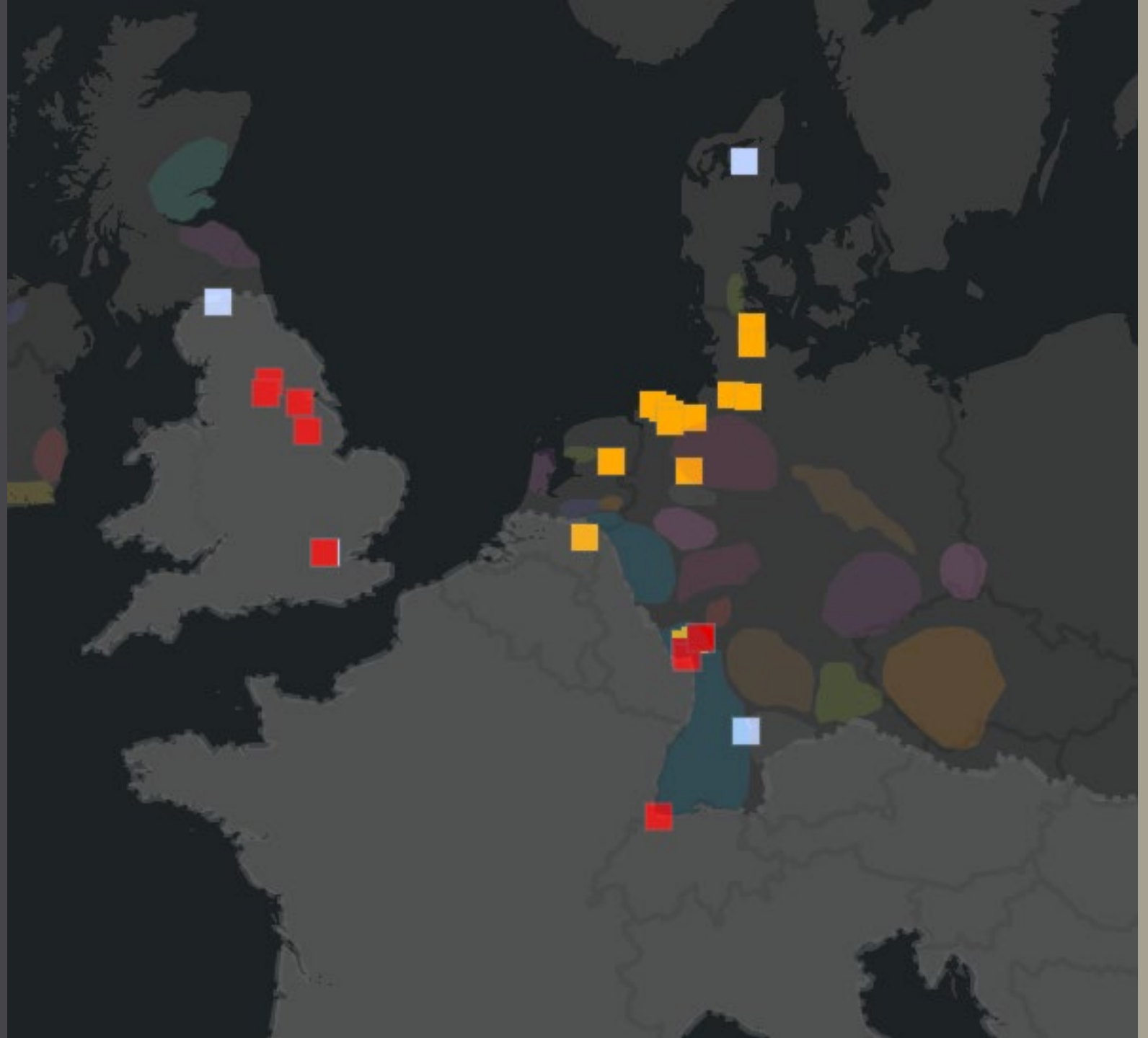


3-4th c. CE finds

Red squares show
symmetrical U-pattern



Orange shows
asymmetrical U-pattern

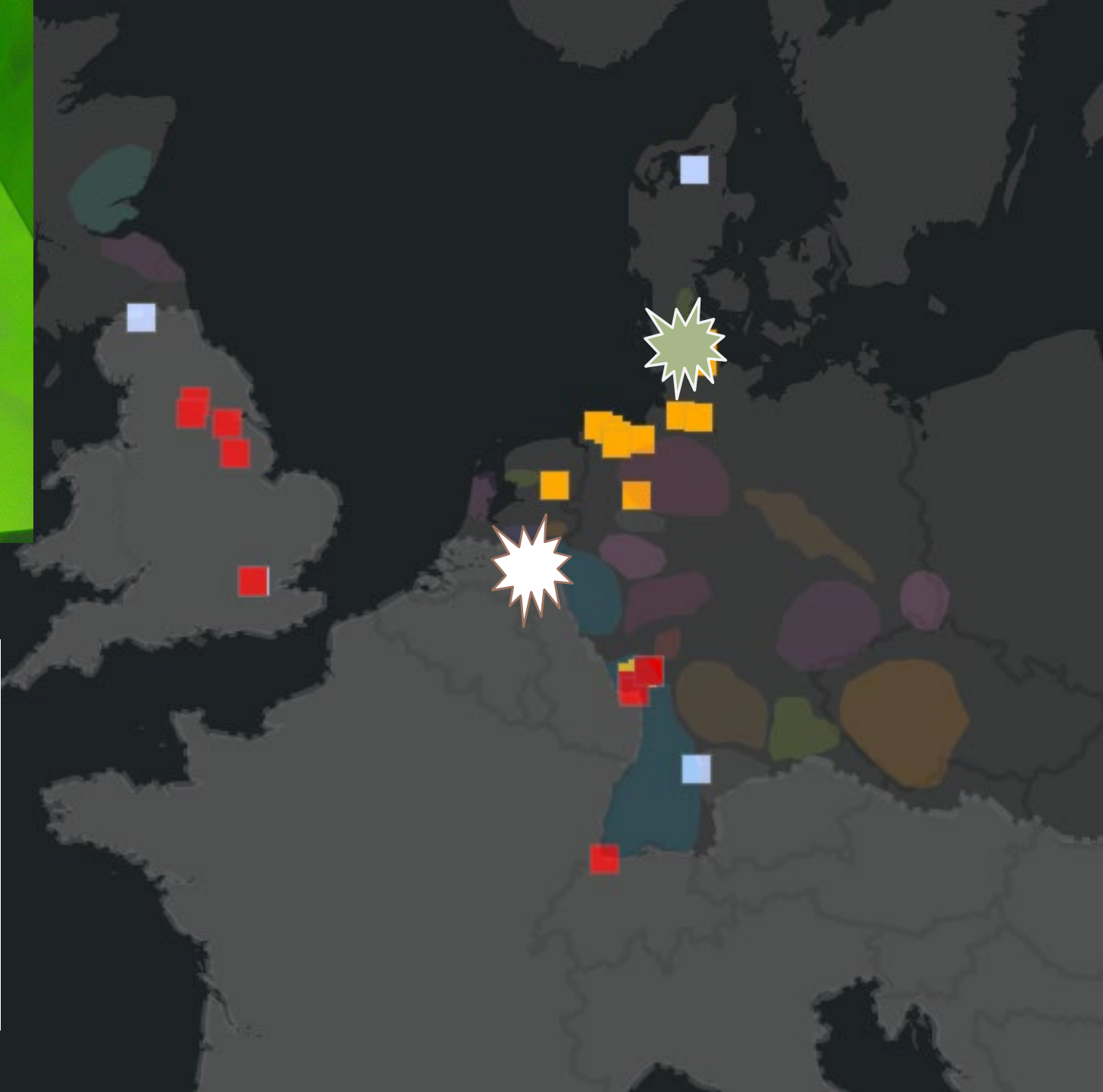




Damendorf, 135-335 CE



Cuijk, 330-340 CE.



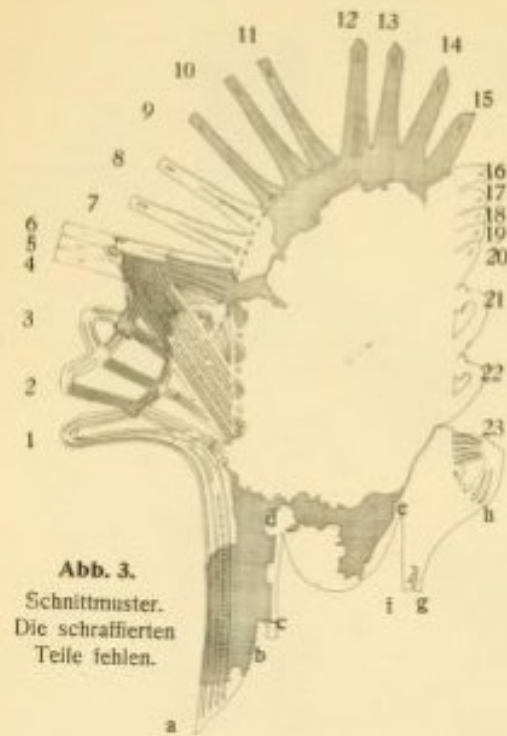
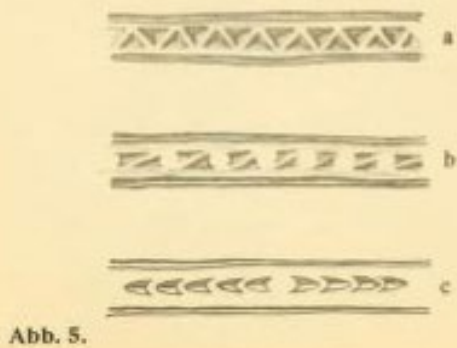


Abb. 1 und 2. Die noch zusammenhängenden Stücke.



Marx-Etzel shoe

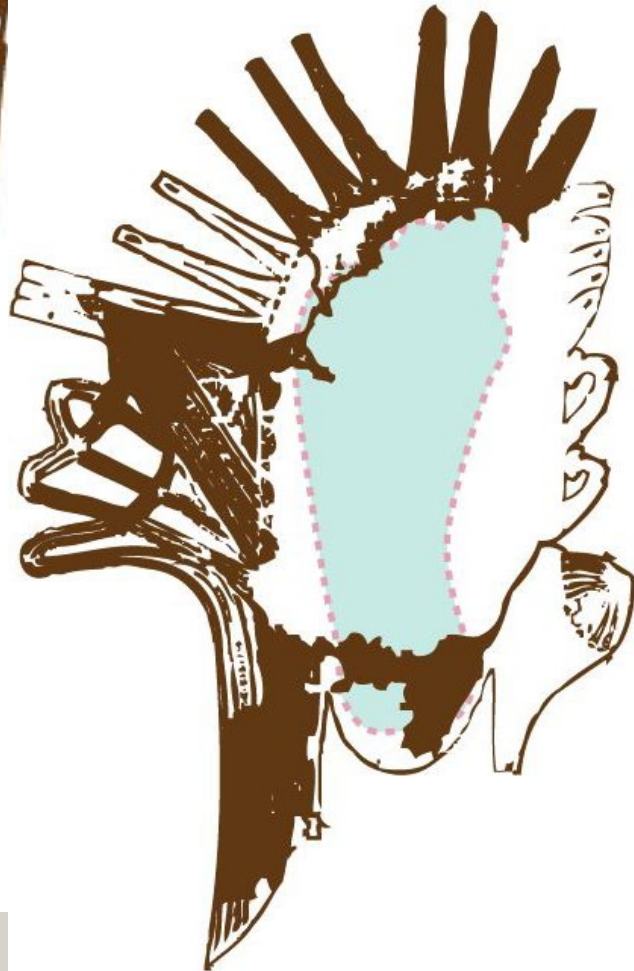


Chip carved buckle, British Museum



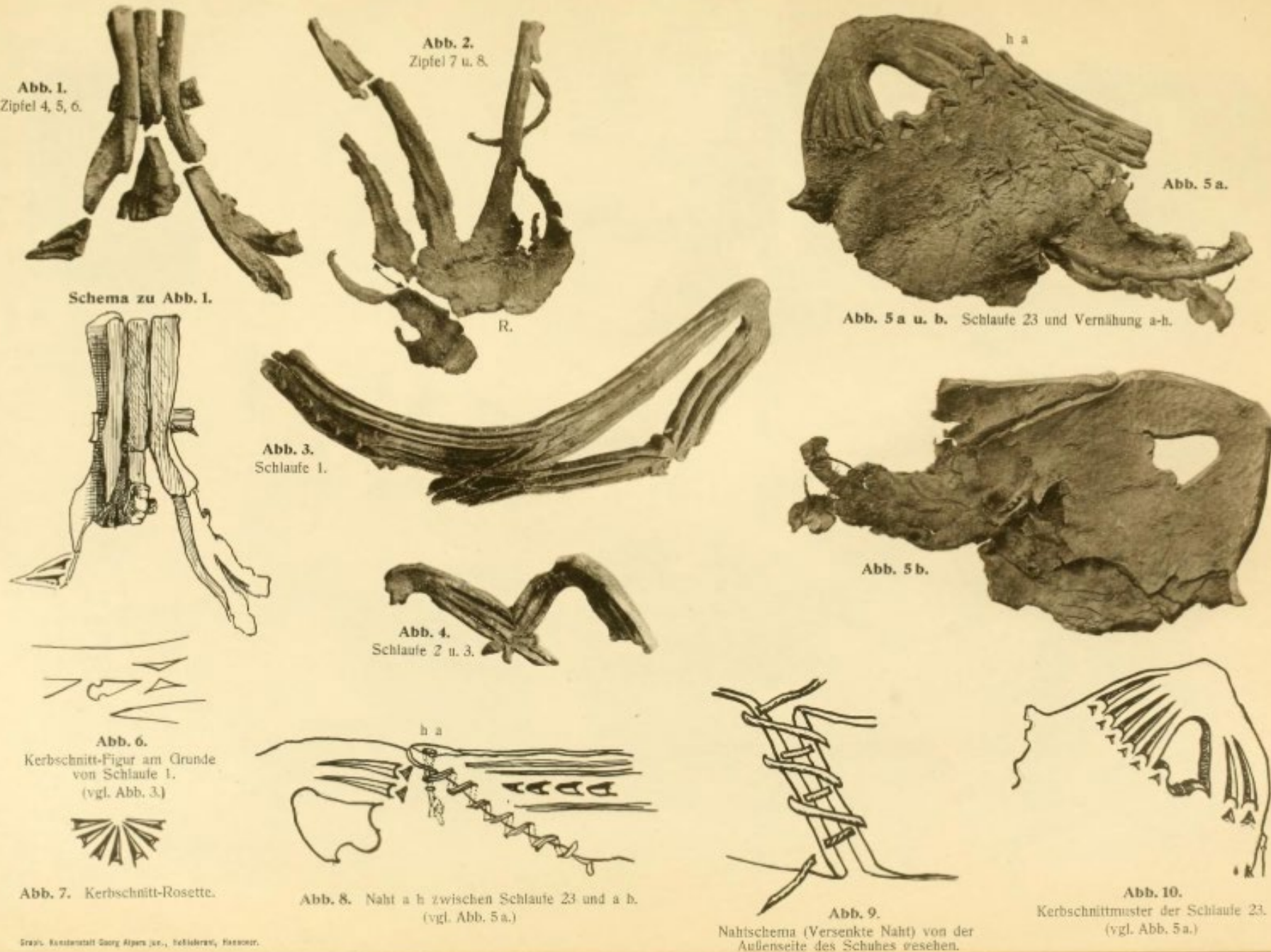
Reconstruction of Obenaltendorf Shoe
by Martin Moser

Marx-Etzel



Reconstruction of Obenaltendorf shoe by Martin Moser

Marx-Etzel



Roman campagi, 4th c.

- One-piece with sewn toe box
- Strap wraps around instep



reconstructions by Martin Moser

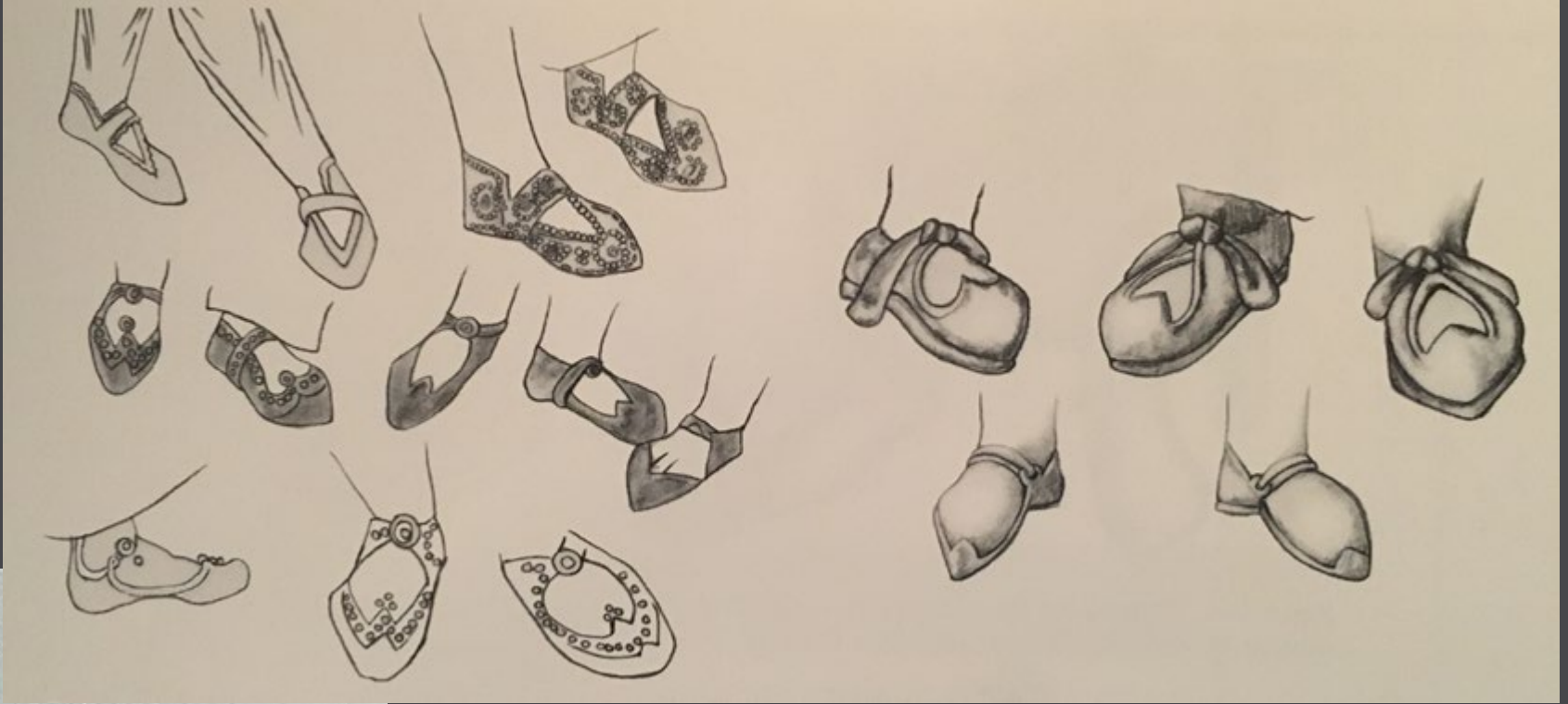
Roman calcei, late 2nd/3rd c.

- Wide integral laces



reconstructions by Marquita Volken (left)
and Martin Moser (right)

Artistic depictions of
Constantine, Theodosius,
Probianus, and Stilicho
c.350-400 CE





sarcophage dit de la Trinité, Arles, France, 4th C.





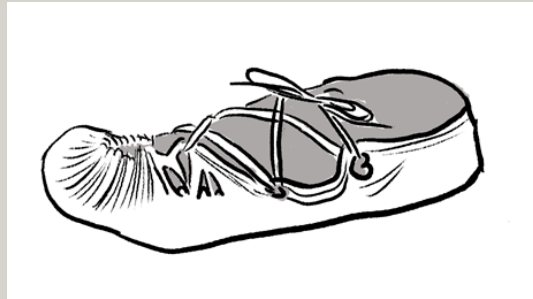
Europe 525 CE

Figure 1.1. The political landscape of Western Europe c.525. From Jotischky and Hull 2005, 21



Post-Roman/Early medieval

- Tabbed toes
- Decorative cutwork
- Symmetrical cutting pattern
- Dual-ended lacing
- Secondary slits for cross-gartering



Post-Roman/Early medieval

- Tabbed toes
- Symmetrical cutting pattern
- Double ended lacing



Oberflacht, Alemannic grave dated 566-574 CE



Arnitlund, Denmark

Northwestern Europe 500 CE



Germanic shoes?

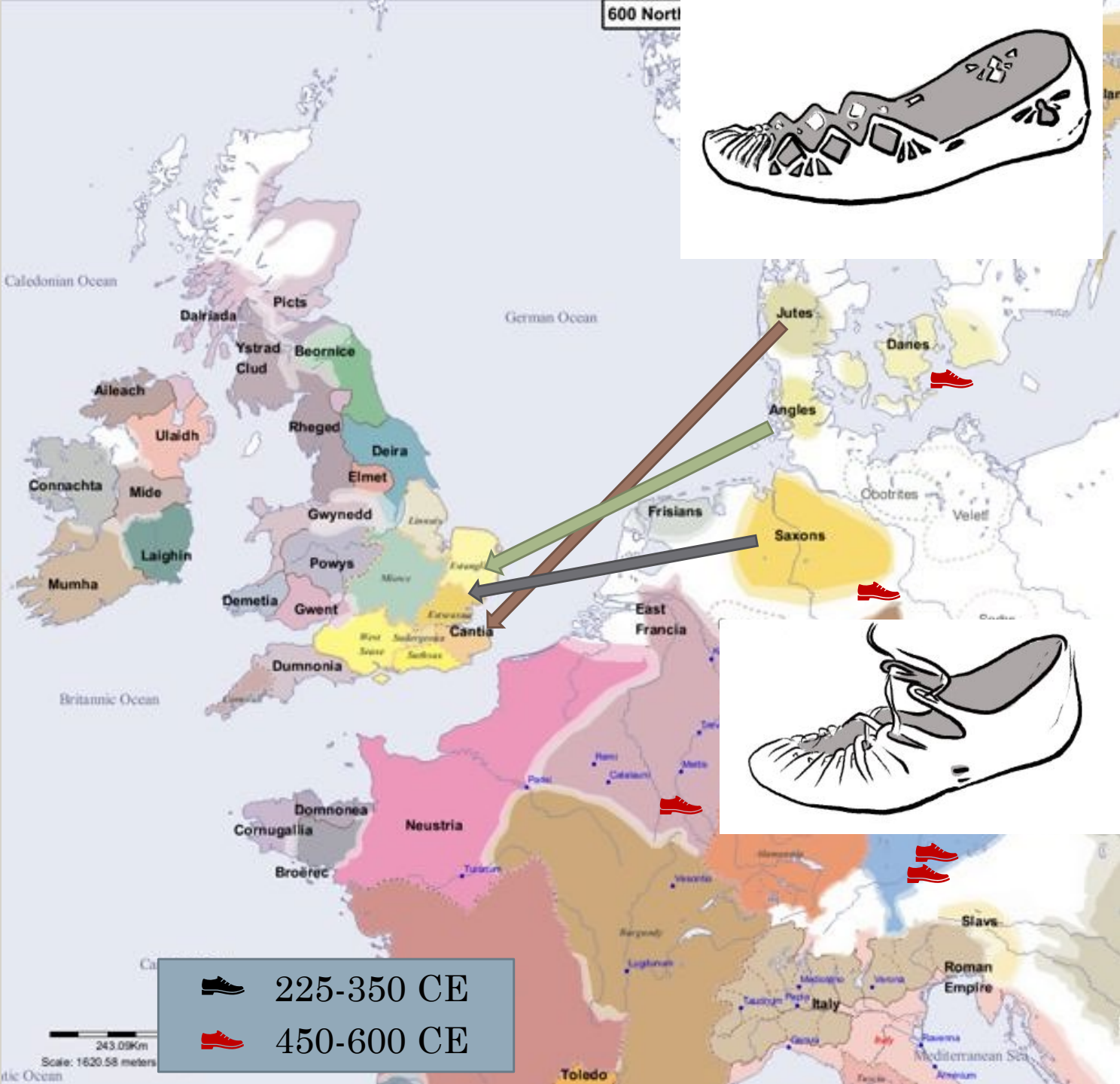
- Langobards occupy northern Italy c.568
- *“Their shoes, indeed, were open almost up to the tip of the great toe, and were held on by shoe latches interlacing alternately.”*
- -Paulus Diaconus, Historia Langobardorum



OR

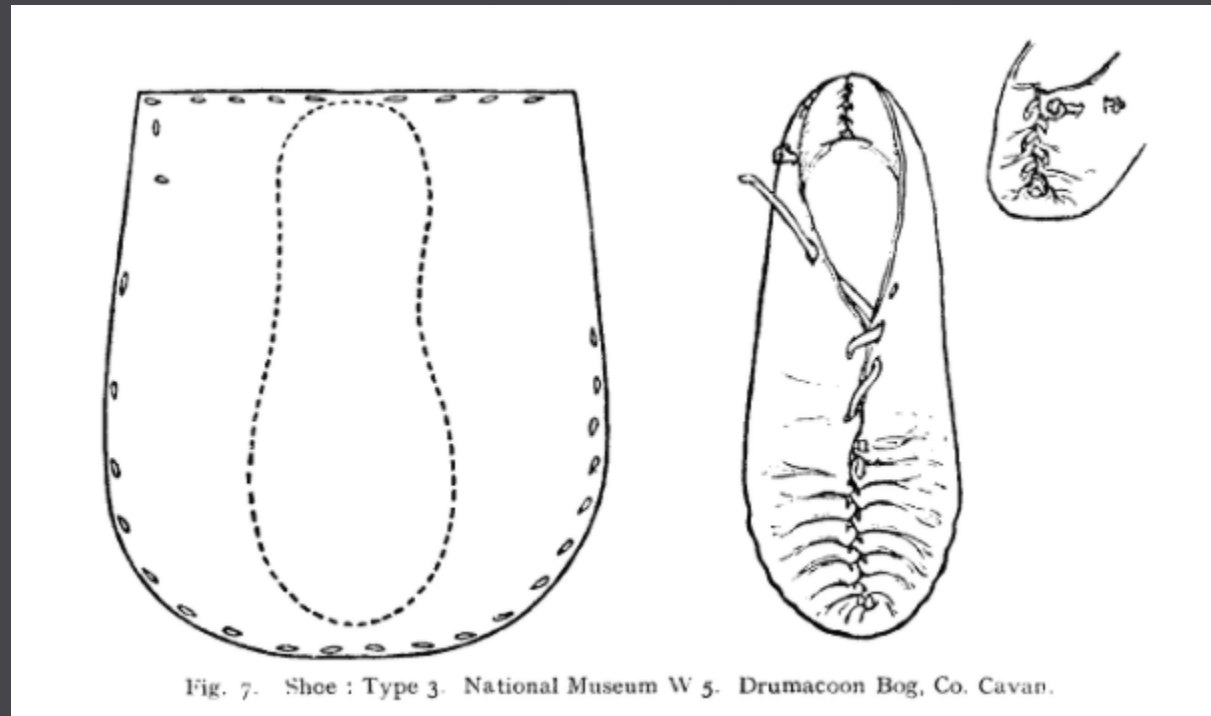
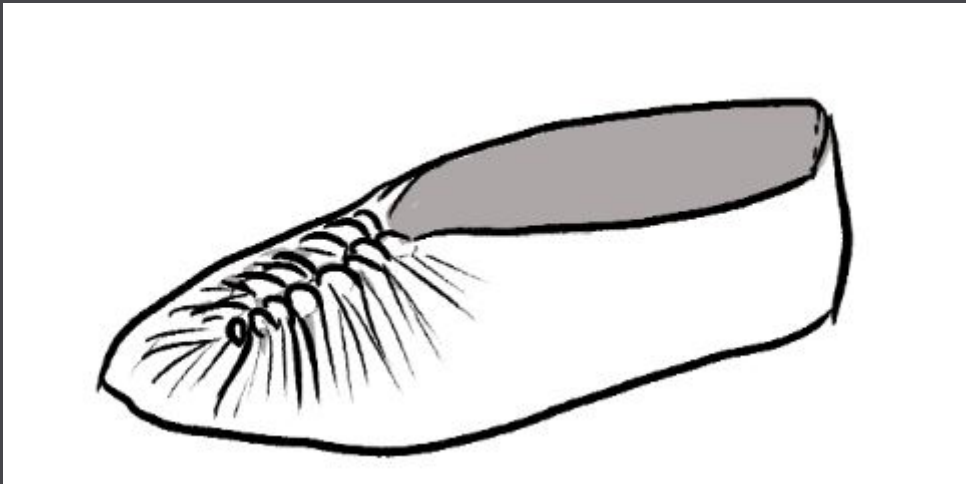


Northwestern Europe 600 CE



Early Medieval – Ireland and Scotland

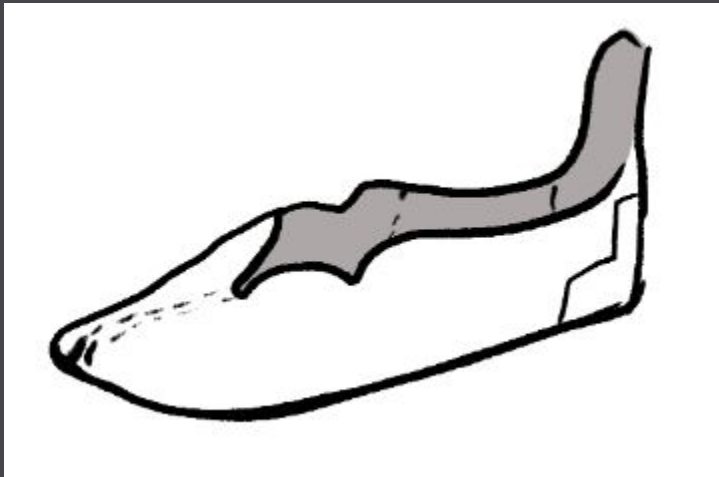
- One-piece
- Puckered center seam
- 450 to 600 CE



Early Medieval

- Dundurn shoe (reconstruction by Pictavia Leather)

Shoe from Iona

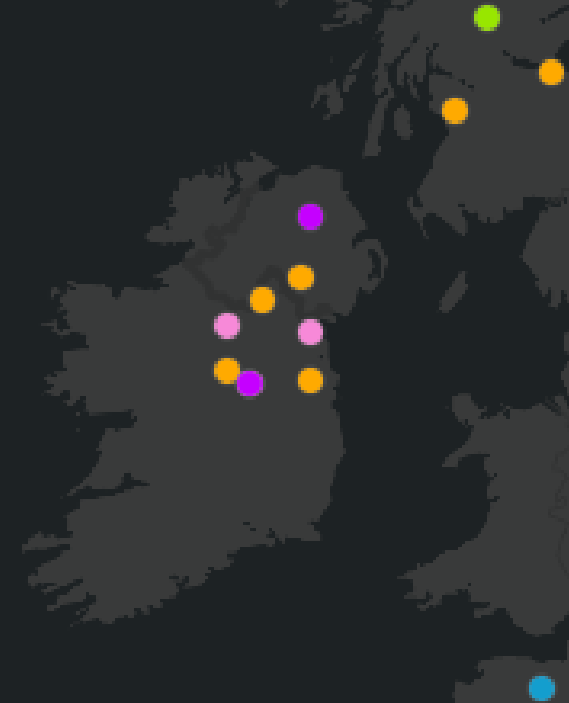


Early Medieval

- Burlescombe shoe, c.640-760 CE



- Buiston
- Louth
- Ballymacomb
- Burlescombe
- Dundurn

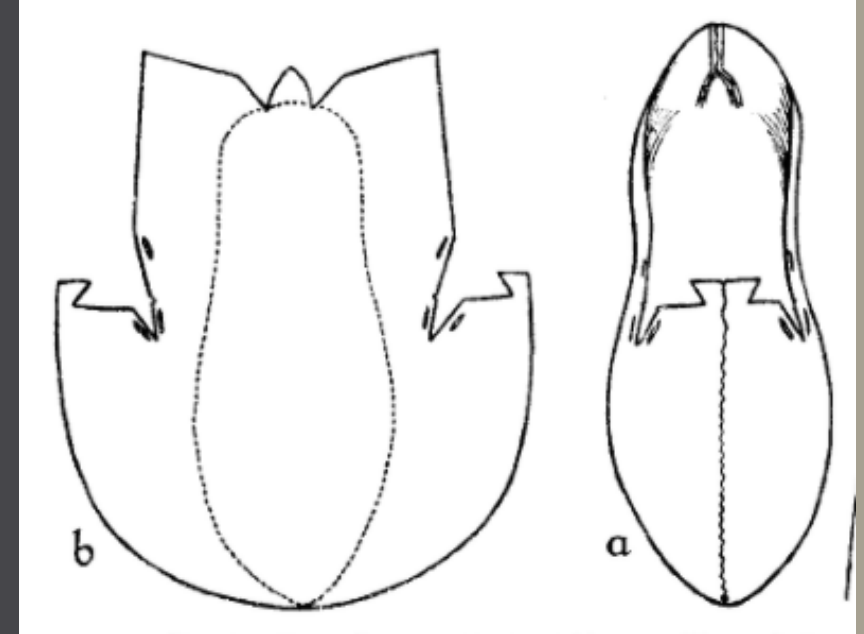


Early Medieval – Ireland

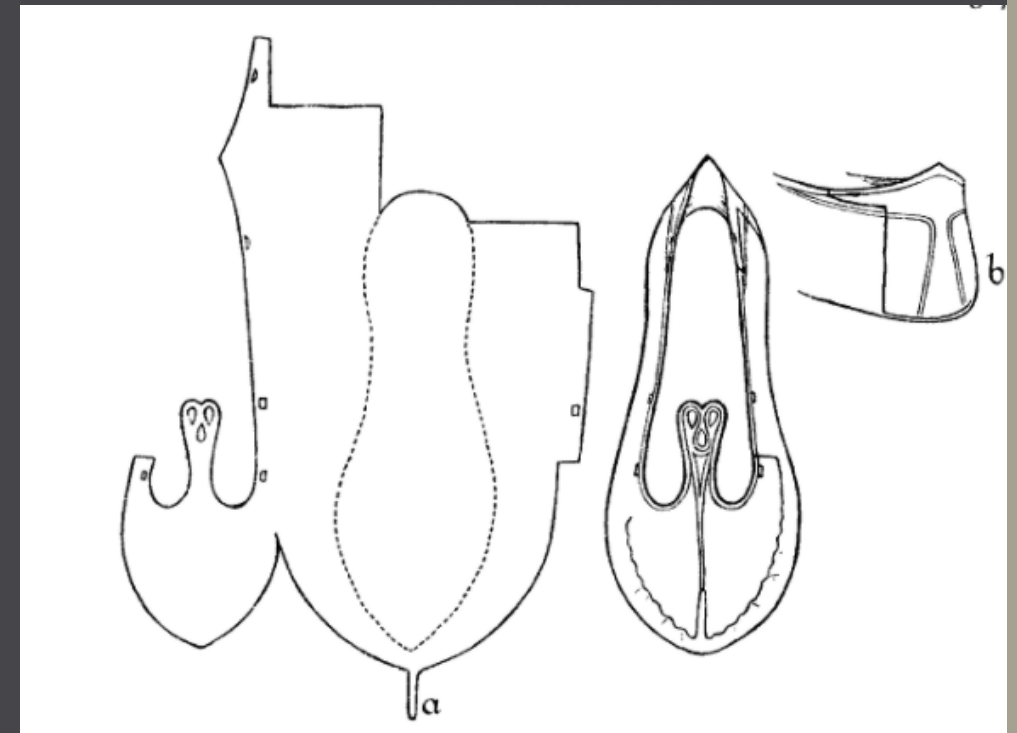
- One-piece, side or center seam
- Peaked instep
- Incised decoration
- c.600 CE to at least 700 CE



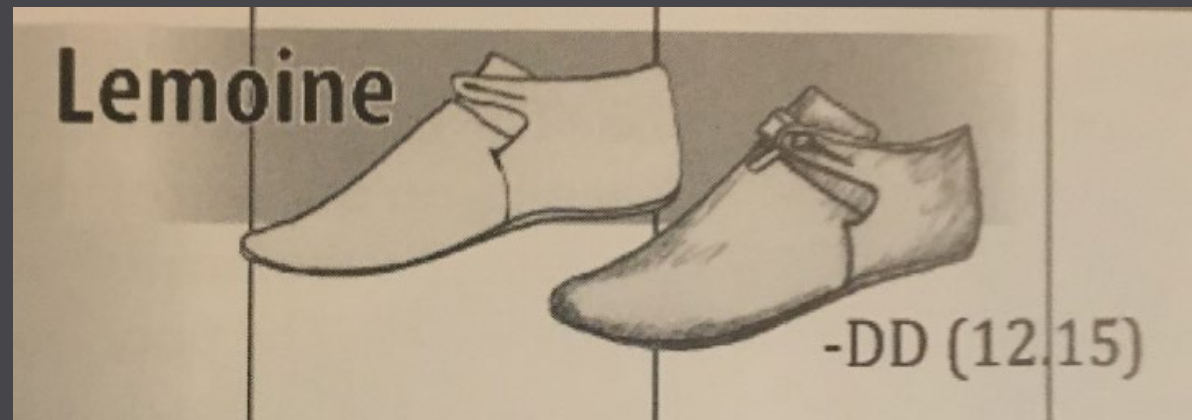
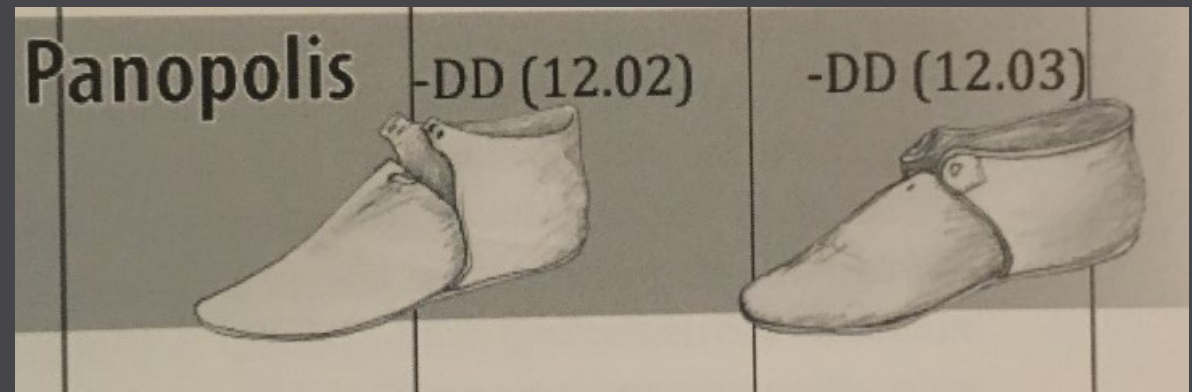
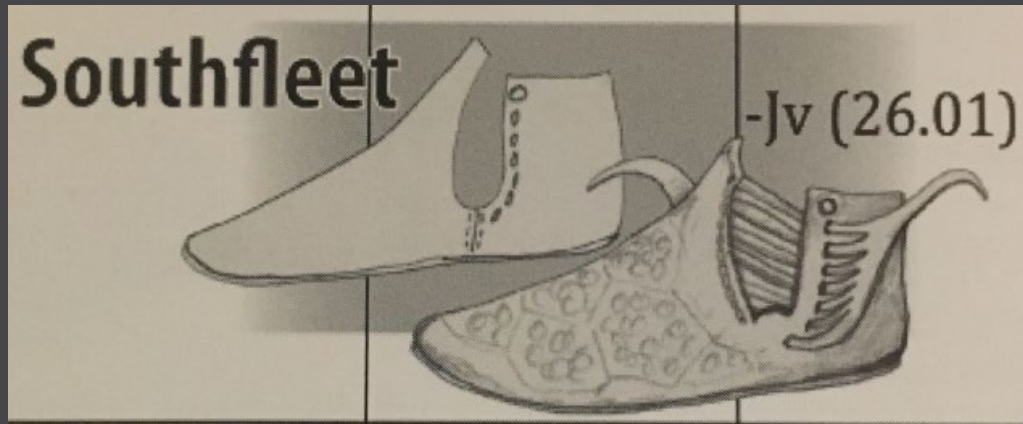
National Museum of Ireland, Archaeology



A.T. Lucas, *Footwear in Ireland*



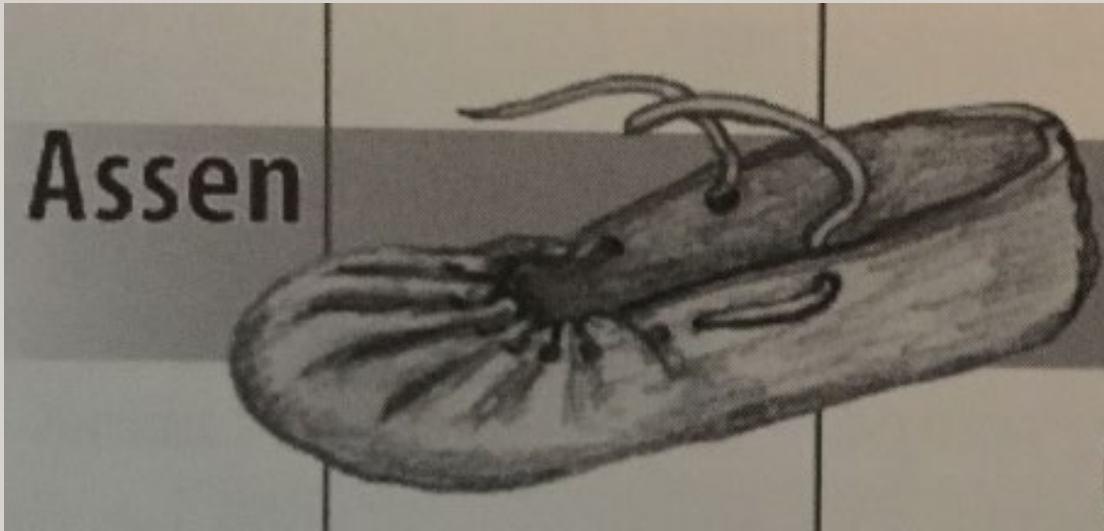
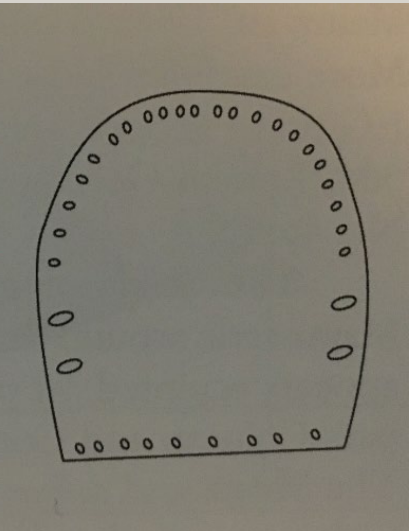
Continuity or rediscovery?





Simplicity never
goes out of style?

Ireland, 8th c. CE

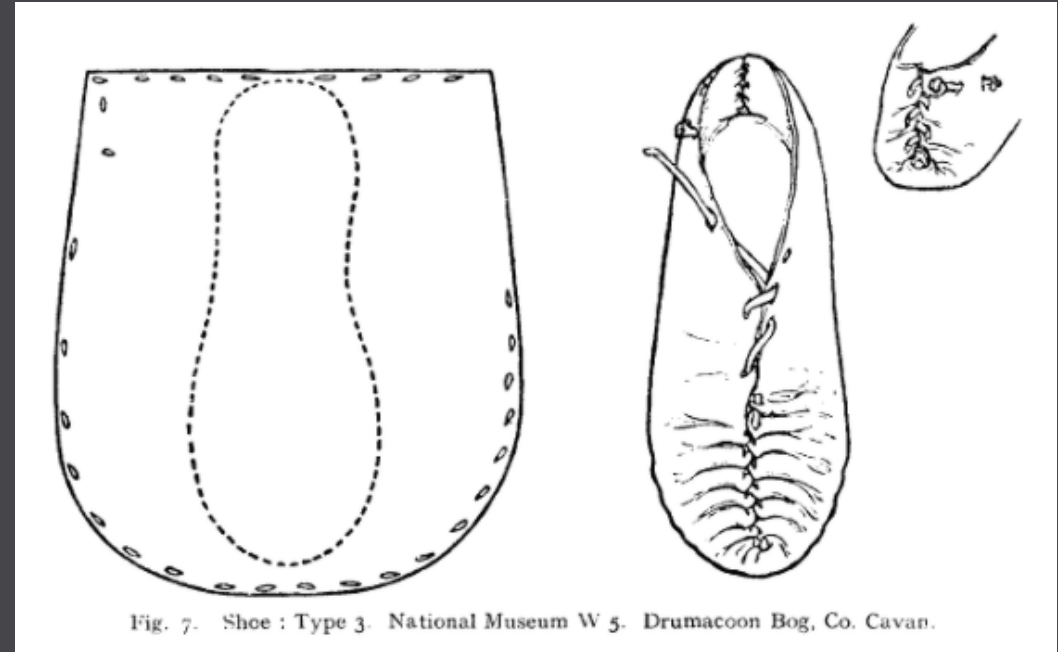


Netherlands, c.1000 BCE

Tale as old as time?



Oldest known leather shoe, Armenia, c.3500 BCE



Irish shoe c.500 CE

Links



Download slides and transcript:

<https://farolfus.wordpress.com/outofthebog>

Contact:

farolfus@gmail.com

Further reading:

Marquita Volken. *Archaeological Footwear: development of shoe patterns and styles from prehistory till the 1600's*. 2014

Hald, Margrethe. *Primitive Shoes. An Archaeological-Ethnographical Study Based Upon Shoe Finds from the Jutland Peninsula*. 1972.