



Footwear of Canadiens

Presented by Jeff Pavlik dit Boulanger

Documenting your persona's possessions, equipment and clothing

RESEARCH PRIMARY SOURCES

- ★ Existing artifacts from the era
- ★ Writings from the era
- ★ Images from the era

THE 4 W'S OF YOUR PERSONA



- Who** – is the person you are presenting to the public?
- What** – is their common clothing, possessions and activities?
- When** – is the specific time period you are portraying?
- Where** – is your persona living, what is going on in that area?

Common footwear of Canadiens

1700 – 1850

- Soulier* (European leather shoes)
- Soulier sauvage* (Native leather shoes- moccasins)
- Soulier de chevreuil* (winter moccasins)
- Soulier de boeuf* (ox-hide shoes)
- Bottes sauvage* (leather boots)
- Sabots* (wooden shoes)
- Mules* (indoor work slippers)

Period items to cover feet inside of the footwear

Chausson (wool slipper)

Bas (stockings)

Nippes (blanket wrap)

Phonetic pronunciation of Canadien footwear

- bouclebouk - buckle
- chaussere.....showSAIR – shoe
- soulier de chevreuil.....soulYAY de shevROY - winter moccasin
- soulier de boeuf.....soulYAY de BERF - ox-hide shoe
- bottes sauvages.....BOT soVAJH - boot
- sabots.....saBO – wooden shoe
- galoche.....ga LOSHE – wooden shoe with leather upper
- mule.....MeWL – indoor work slipper
- chausson.....showSAWN - cloth slipper
- chaussette.....showSET - sock
- bas.....BAh - stocking
- bas drappes.....BAh DROP – knitted stocking
- bas a estrier.....Baz a estriAY – footless stocking
- nippes.....NEEP – cloth wrap

Canadiens wore a mixture of European and Native styles of footwear.



Close-up view of the footwear

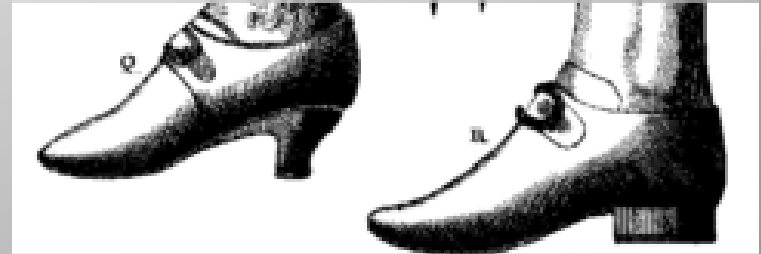
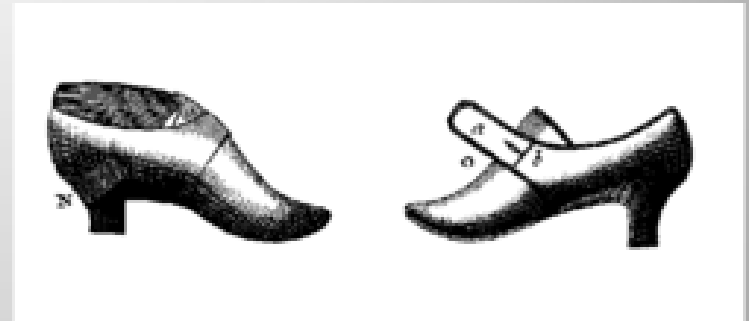
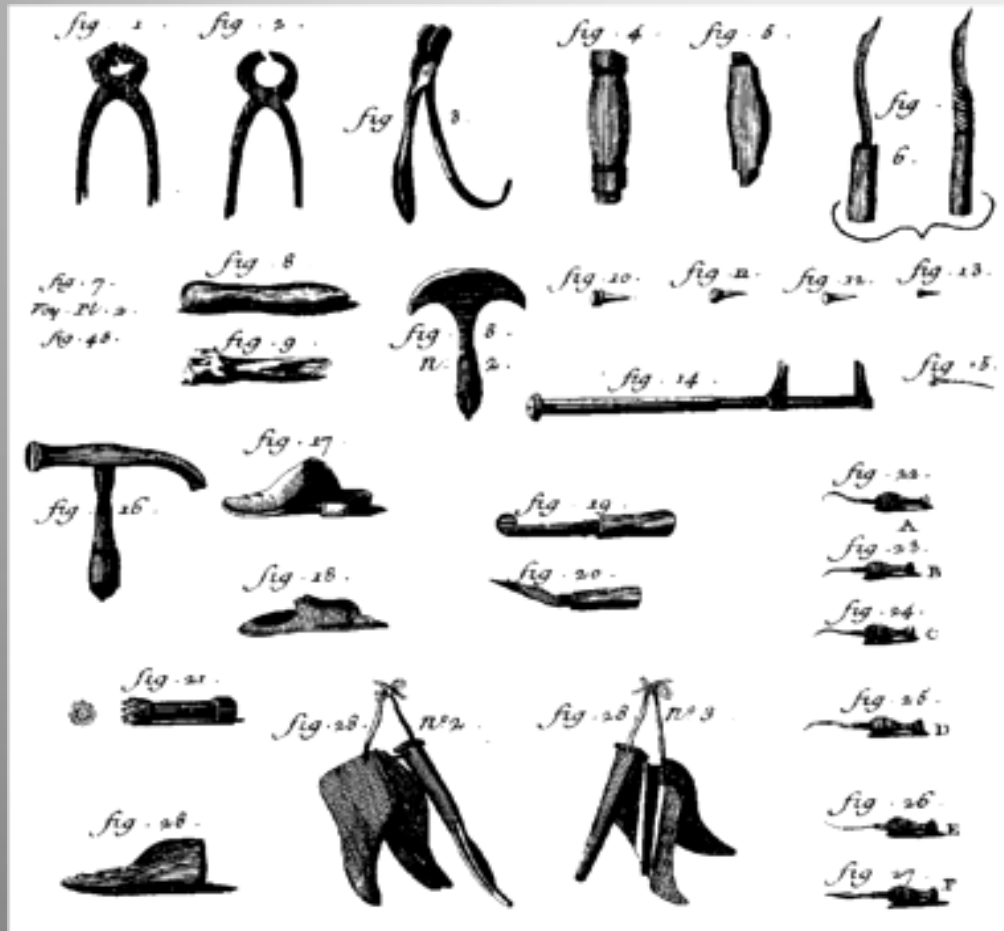


Most European shoes were imported.

These men's shoes and buckle were recovered from the 1760 shipwreck of the French supply ship *Le Machault*.



Tools & trade of a *cordonnier*



Soulier from Le Machault



Leather components of a welled shoe: (top row) two shoe quarters, toe and heel reinforcements; (bottom row) the vamp, an inner sole, an outer sole with attached heel, the welt



Brass heel plate

Shoe quarter and brass buckle



Welled cargo shoe

Women's shoes



1720's



High
fashion in
the 1780's



Canadienne shoes in
the 1700's



Images from Short's engravings of Quebec, 1760



Images from Canada in the early 1800's by Heriot



Native moccasin styles used by Canadiens

Most common 18th century styles were:

Pucker toe with a center seam

Rabbit toe

Vamped toe piece

- Did not have toe seam going under the foot
- Did not have a wool insert sewn into them
- Were not highly decorated for daily use

“I have seen the upper part of the shoe finely ornamented with quill-work and beads; **but in general they are plain.**” Graham, Hudson’s Bay, 1767-91

“...tastefully ornamented with porcupine quills and beads: the flap is edged with tin or copper tags filled with scarlet hair, if the moccasin be intended for a man, and with ribbands if for a women. **An ornamented moccasin of this sort is only work in dress.... one of plain answers for ordinary use.**” Long, Montreal, 1768-1788

Moccasin Seller -1850's



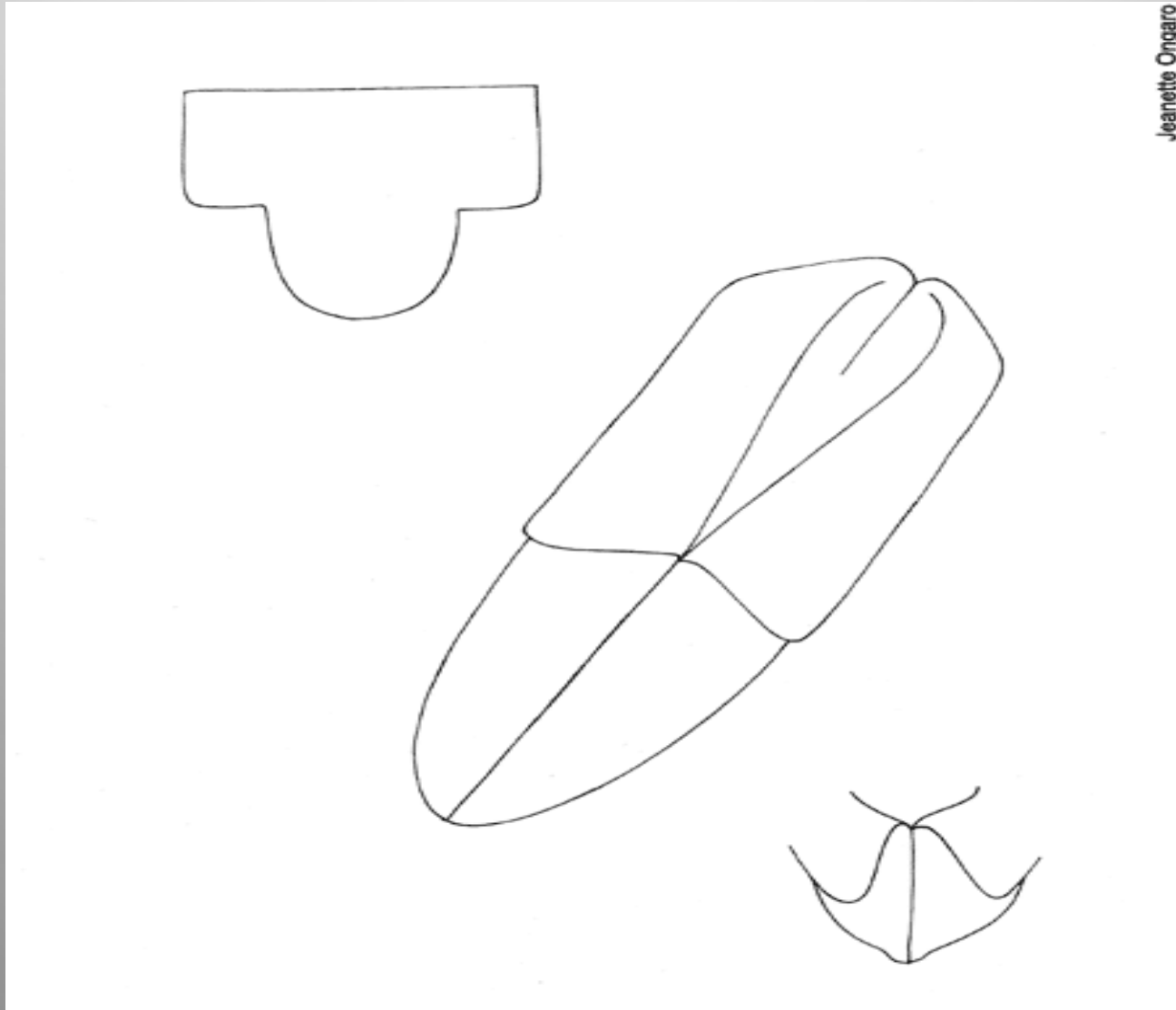
Moccasins obtained from Natives, local
Canadiens and made for themselves

“emploid two old women to dress 3 moose skins
for shoes to the men.” McKay, Rainy Lake, 1795

“cut four dressed skins in shoes which I sold to
the men.” Chaboilles, Pembina River, 1798

“spend the remainder of the day there to give the
men time to make themselves shoes for
crossing the portage.” Malhiot, Wisconsin, 1804

Pucker toe center seam with attached flap



Pucker toe center seam

“The Indians...in the neighborhood of the great lakes...The moccasin...is formed of a single piece of leather, with a seam from the toe to the instep, and another behind, similar to that in a common shoe; by means of a thong it is fastened round the instep, just under the ankle-bone, and thus made to sit very close to the foot. Round that part where the foot is put in, a flap of the depth of an inch or two is left, which hangs loosely down...”

~Isaac Weld, Great Lakes and Canada, 1795-97

Pucker toe center seam



“These shoes, which the savages call “mockassins,” are gathered at the toes and are sewn above and behind with a raised flap on either side. This is turned down over the cord below the ankles which ties on the shoes.”

J.C. Bonin, Canada and the Great Lakes, 1750's

Pucker toe center seam



Rabbit toe moccasins



“The shoes are made of dressed deer or moose skin without the hair. ...generally they are composed of two, the one serving for the upper, the other the lower part...They are gathered round the toes like the hand-band of a shirt...”

~Andrew Graham,
Hudson's Bay, 1760's

Vamp mocassin



Huron 1830's

Cree 1820's



Canadiens wearing moccasins

“the French in Canada, in many respects, follow the customs of the Indians, with whom they converse everyday. They make use of the tobacco pipes, shoes, garters, and girdles of the Indians.”

“From the skins of these animals [deer] the natives as well as the French in Canada make their shoes which they use on their journeys...”

–Peter Kalm, Canada, 1749



PUBLIC ARCHIVES OF CANADA



Canadiens with vamp style moccasins





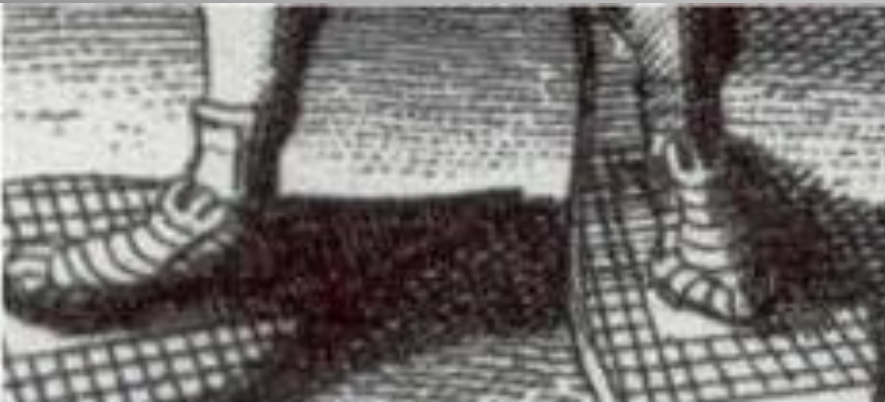
Canadiens
wearing
pucker toe
center seam
moccasins



Soulier de chevreuil

“ This piece is gathered in front, following closely the shape of the toes, where it is sewn with sinew to a small piece of leather, the pleats are then sewn again with thongs of the same skin that are passed through holes punched from place to place, and some tie them above the heel after crossing them over the foot.... **In winter, these shoes go up to mid-calf so the snow does not get in.**” Le Beau, Canada, 1738

*Soulier de
chevreuil
winter
moccasins*

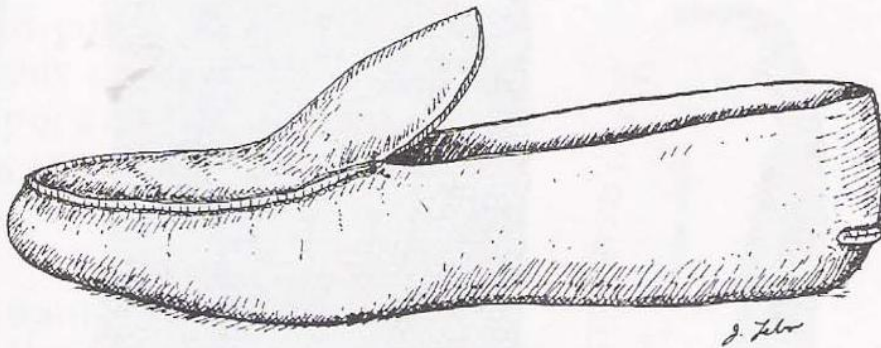


Soulier de boeuf *ox-hide shoes*



“Beef shoes are made in a completely different manner than the French leather shoes, they have a sole as thin as the top which envelops all the foot at the height of the quarters; then, on this piece of leather, one sews a smaller piece of leather covering the top of the foot...”

~Jean Baptiste d' Aleyrac,
1755



Botte sauvage

Most common in the
early and mid 1800's



19th century bottes

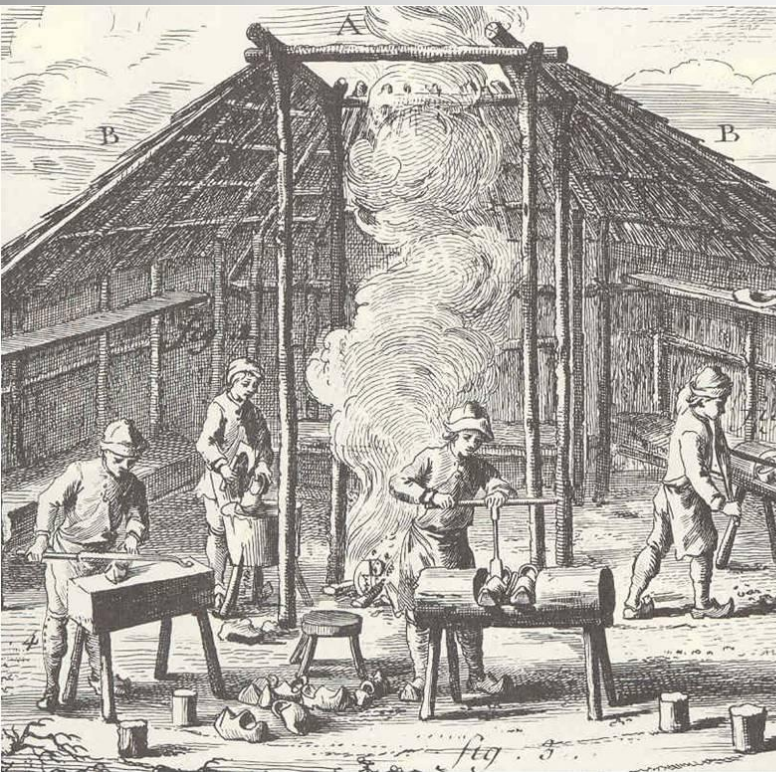


Sabots

wooden shoes



French sabots came in many shapes.

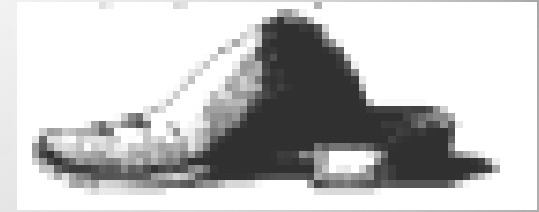


Images from
Diderot
Encyclopedia.
The sabot -
makers and a
butcher shop.

Some were pointy!



Types of slipper shoes



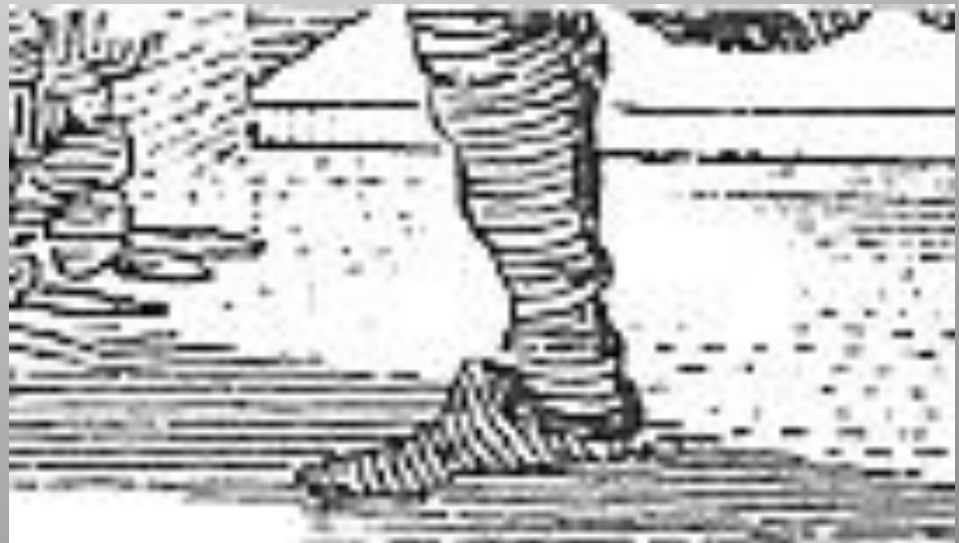
Galoche- (clog with a wooden sole and leather top) “This word has different meanings: it is a leather shoe used to cover the shoe, that keeps the shoe clean & the feet dry; it is also a sort of a sandal with a wooden sole.” Diderot, France, 1760’s

Pantoufle- (slipper) “Very plain type of footwear, without decoration; when there is some decoration, or when the upper part is not leather or buff but fabric, with velvet or braid, it is not called a *pantoufle* but a *mule*.” Diderot, France, 1760’s

Mule- (slipper) “Convenient shoe without quarters, that one wears inside. It is also a shoe covering that one wears for cleanliness, or to keep the shoes from being spoiled.” Furetière, France, 1690



A slipper shoe for indoor work. Made entirely of leather or a wooden sole and leather upper.

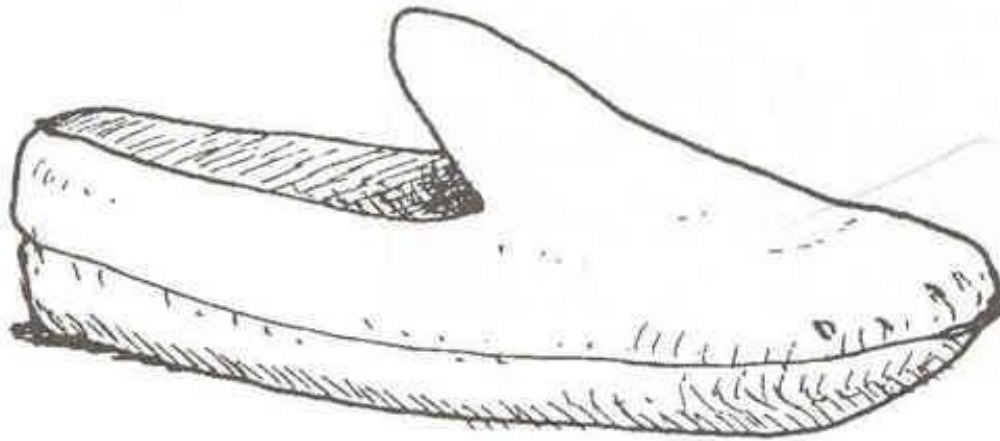


Chaussons

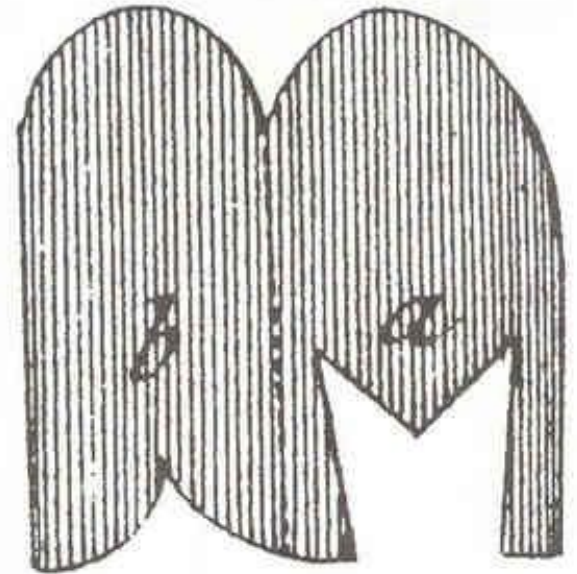
“Piece of clothing; it is really the foot of the stocking: it can be knitted from wool yarn, or linen thread, & from cotton thread; some are made from linen cloth; some are for winter use, others for the summer season. One wears slippers during the winter for cleanliness & for warmth, in the summer for cleanliness: they are put on bare feet: it is best to stitch linen cloth slippers with long stitches & with no hem or double thickness, because this could hurt the feet.” Diderot, France, 1760’s

Chaussons

wool slippers worn as socks



Wool Slipper / Chausson



Pattern / Patron

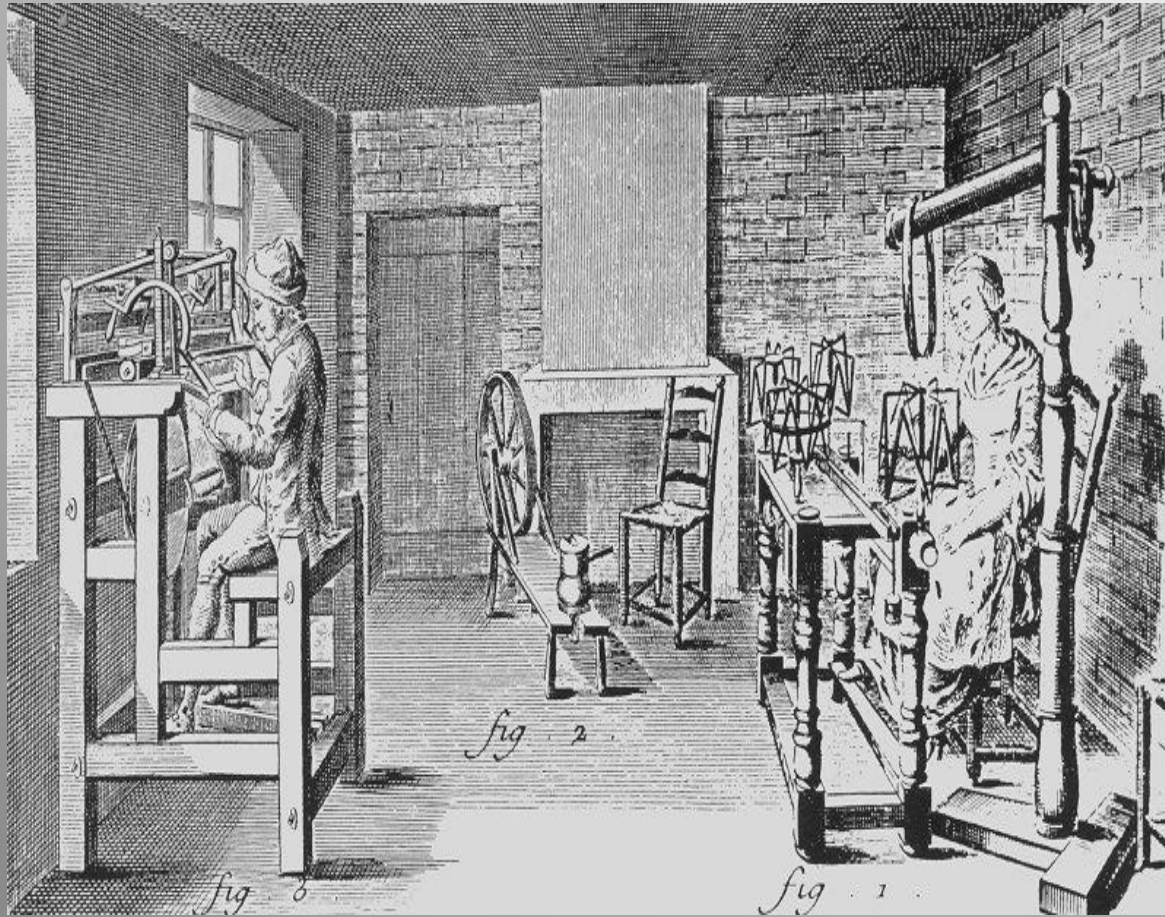
Stocking from *Le Machault*



“Bas drappés
(fulled stockings);
are those made
with loosely spun
wool yarn called
fil de trame, the
stockings are
shrunk, & then the
nap is raised.”

Diderot, France, 1760's

Stockings made on a frame



“It is the part of our garment we use to cover our legs: it is made from wool, hide, broadcloth, linen, filoselle, silk; they are knitted with needles or with a machine.”

Diderot, France, 1760's

Nippes – blanket wraps

“They wrap their feet with pieces of blanket, and the sides of the shoes form a half boot which prevents the snow from getting in, while their feet would freeze with European shoes, as many have unhappily proved.”

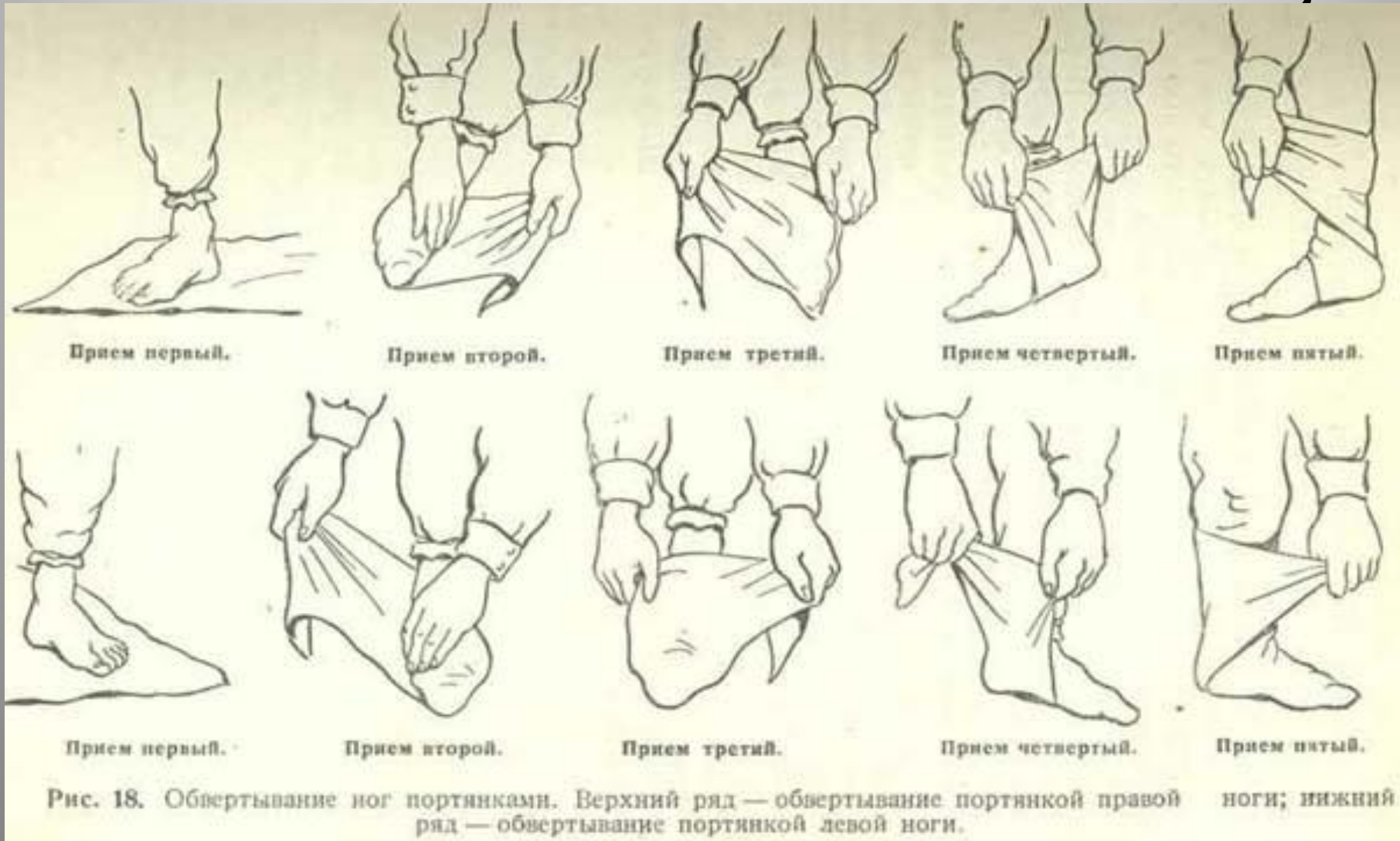
Pouchot, Canada, 1750's

“Instead of stockings, they wrap the legs in pieces of blue cloth, as I have seen the Russian boors do.”

Kalm, Canada, 1749

Nippes

Instructions from the Russian Army





What is the proper kind of footwear that you should be wearing for your reenactment persona?



