

THE FOOTWEAR OF KLAIPĖDA DWELLERS IN THE 16TH AND 17TH CENTURIES

RAMUNĖ BRAČIULIENĖ

Abstract

This report reviews leather footwear discovered during the latest archaeological research in Klaipėda, in investigations carried out at 3 Kurpių St in 2007 and 2008, and at 10 Žvejų St in 2006 (headed by R. Bračiulienė). Another aim is to present examples of the footwear of Klaipėda dwellers in the 16th and 17th centuries which are of interest in terms of their shape and style, and which are typical of the shoes of the West European Renaissance and of the townfolk of the Early Modern Period.

The following types of footwear are presented: primitive shoes, low-cut shoes, mules and children's shoes. The report describes the parts of the footwear, joining methods, seams and decorative components. It discusses differences between the footwear of the 16th and the 17th centuries, and refers to morphological studies and microchemical analyses of archaeological leather and thread fibre conducted by other experts.

Key words: archaeology, footwear, shoes, primitive shoe, low-cut shoe.

Introduction

Samples of old leather footwear are interesting archaeological finds, which can tell us a lot about the owner's status, sex, occupation or hobby, or reveal traits of his or her character, or even the orthopaedic peculiarities of the wearer based on the pattern of wear.

Remains of interesting types of shoes, pieces of leather and leather artefacts have been found in various places in the old part of Klaipėda. This claim is supported by the fact that one of the streets is named Kurpių Street, as it is the street where in the 16th century shoemakers used to work.

The object of this report is to review the leather material found during the latest archaeological investigations conducted at 3 Kurpių St in 2007 and 2008 (headed by I. Masiulienė), and at 10 Žvejų St in 2006 (headed by R. Bračiulienė), as well as to present, on the basis of the results of these investigations, examples of the footwear of Klaipėda dwellers of the 16th and 17th centuries that are interesting in terms of their shape and cut, and which are typical of the shoes of the West European Renaissance and those of townfolk in the Early Modern Period.

The significance of the samples of footwear discussed here lies in the fact that in Klaipėda, up to 2006, only two whole samples of footwear had been found: a child's low-cut shoe found at 4 Kurpių St in 1980 (Genys 1981), and dated to the first half of the 16th century; and another, presumably a child's, low-cut shoe dated to the early 17th century and found in Sukilėlių St in 1996 (Genys 1997). The latter is now on display in the Castle Museum.

However, in 2006 as many as 14 whole shoes were found at 10 Žvejų St. These have been conserved and restored. In 2007 and 2008, three nearly whole low-cut shoes and one primitive shoe were found at 3 Kurpių St. In other shoes, some parts are missing. With the restoration of the other examples too, we will have a total of 19 whole pieces of footwear at the History Museum of Lithuania Minor, and this will enable us to show the development of Klaipėda footwear from the first half of the 16th century to the late 17th century, that is, from the primitive shoe to shoes of complex construction.

The terms used to describe old leather footwear, as well as the methods employed for joining shoe parts and their graphic marking, are based on Olaf Goubitz's methodology, as supplemented by Arūnas Puškorius (Puškorius 2007).

Leather footwear from 3 Kurpių St

During the investigations at 3 Kurpių St, a total 2,710 finds were made, including 134 leather artefacts: cut-offs, individual shoe parts, and sets of shoe parts (the collected sets of parts were counted as one unit). All of them, except for a few, came from a brown peaty layer dated to the middle or the second half of the 16th century.

The leather artefacts discovered were washed with running water and moistened with a solution of alcohol, distilled water and glycerin, mixed at a ratio of 1:1:1/3 respectively, and then treated with the antiseptic agent P3 triquat. The parts of footwear described in the arti-

cle were additionally saturated with oiling emulsions, that is, their full primary conservation was carried out.

The oldest footwear type, the primitive shoe, is presented first.

Primitive shoes: mid-16th century

All the primitive shoes found are primitive-wrinkled one-piece primitive shoes. They were wrinkled from a single quadrangular piece of leather by wrinkling the edges with twine, that is, a leather string.

Inventory Number 1059 (Fig.1)

Dimensions of the piece of leather: 235 by 120 millimetres. Leather thickness: 1.5 millimetres. String thickness: eight millimetres. In the lower part, at the toe and the heel part, they have two cut holes: apparently, the edges of the primitive shoes were wrinkled at their ends.

Inventory Number 2588

Dimensions of the piece of leather: 275 by 145 millimetres. The edges were also wrinkled with twine. The string twine is missing, it was pulled out. The primitive shoe was straightened, and a piece of leather of an irregular quadrangular shape was cut out at its centre. The dimensions of the cut-out: 100 by 40 millimetres. It is probable that the worn-out primitive shoe was used for patches.

Inventory Number 2678

This is a fragment of a one-piece primitive-wrinkled leather primitive shoe. The dimensions of the leather piece: 300 by 160 millimetres. At the edges of the piece there are incisions for twine; however, the string twine is missing, it was pulled out and the primitive shoe was straightened. There is a cut-out along nearly the whole length of the part; its dimensions are 205 by 90 millimetres. This primitive shoe, just like the last one described, was used for patches or for other needs.



V

EVERYDAY
LIFE
IN KLAIPĒDA

Fig. 1. A primitive shoe. Klaipėda, 3 Kurpių St, Inventory Number 1059, mid-16th century (photograph by R. Bračiulienė).

Low-cut shoes: mid-16th century

Inventory Number 2405 (Fig. 2a; 2b)

A leather closed-type low-cut shoe.

The available parts:

Item No.	Part description	Leather thickness, millimetres
1.	Vamp	1.1
2.	Insert	1.1
3.	Welt fragment	
4.	Heel stiffener for the inner counter	1
5.	Shoe-string	1
6.	Insole fragments	2

The entire upper (the vamp) is made of a single piece of leather (1). It covers the entire upper part and the sides of the foot, with the exception of the sole. There is a quadrangular insert sewn into one side (2). A butted seam was used to sew the insert in. The height of the insert and the quarter is 46 millimetres.

In the upper part of the vamp, at the instep, there is an incision 50 millimetres long, with two small holes on either side, through which a leather strap (a shoe-string) five millimetres wide is passed (5). There is a knot on the inner side of the upper; apparently, the strap had broken, and it was then knotted to extend its service time.

On the inner side of the upper, around the aforementioned incision, very vague traces of a hidden seam can be seen. There might have been another inner part, most likely a quarter facing, but it is missing.

The stitching method used for joining the vamp to the treadsole is a welt stitched with a closed seam. Between the vamp and the treadsole layers, a tiny fragment of the welt (3) approximately ten millimetres wide was found.

The remaining insole (6) is badly worn and in pieces. The heel part and the toe are worn away. Inside the low-cut shoe, next to the insole fragments, the remains of wood fibre were found; apparently, one of the midsole layers was made of wood fibre.

The heel stiffener for the inner counter (4) is half-rounded. Between the heel stiffener and the layers of the counter, very fragmentary remains of wood fibre can be seen. The heel stiffener was stitched to the counter part of the vamp with an overlap-whipped seam.

Inventory Number 2675 (Fig. 3a; 3b)

A closed-type leather low-cut shoe.

The available parts:

Item No.	Part description	Leather thickness, millimetres
1.	Vamp	1
2.	Insert	1
3.	Heel stiffener for the inner counter	1
4.	Welt	1
5.	Insole	1
6.	Side reinforcement	0.8
7.	Quarter	1
8.	Shoe-string	0.8

The vamp covers the entire upper part of the foot, and one side and part of the counter (1). The contour at the instep is cut evenly, and the toe of the upper is rounded. A single separate quarter (7) was made for this low-cut shoe. Between the quarter and the main part of the vamp, a triangular insert (2) is inserted. The lengths of the insert sides are: 60, 47 and 70 millimetres. The insert is stitched to other parts with a butted seam. The same type of seam is used for stitching the parts together at the counter. The vamp has an incision 45 millimetres long at the instep. There are two small holes on either side of the incision. One of the holes is inside the insert. A leather strap (a shoe-string) (8) is passed through the small holes. The strap is made from a leather band 17 millimetres wide, cut lengthwise in two. This way, two bands were obtained seven to eight millimetres wide and tapered at the ends. One of the ends of the band is not cut, that is, the band was not cut in two to the very end. The length of the band is approximately 158 millimetres.

Another part, a heel stiffener for the inner counter (3), is a low trapezium in shape. Its dimensions are 43 by 90 millimetres. In addition, it is evident that a certain part of the inner counter is missing, because there are obvious traces of stitching along the edges of the counter, as well as a tunnel-stitched sole seam running along the middle line of the part. However, no traces of stitching can be seen on the inner side of the vamp quarters at the counter.

The side reinforcement (6) is an irregular trapezium in shape. The dimensions of the part are 62 by 40 millimetres. It is stitched to the vamp quarter with an overlap-whipped seam.



Fig. 2a. A low-cut shoe before conservation. Klaipėda, 3 Kurpių St, Inventory Number 2405, mid-16th century (photograph by R. Bračiulienė).

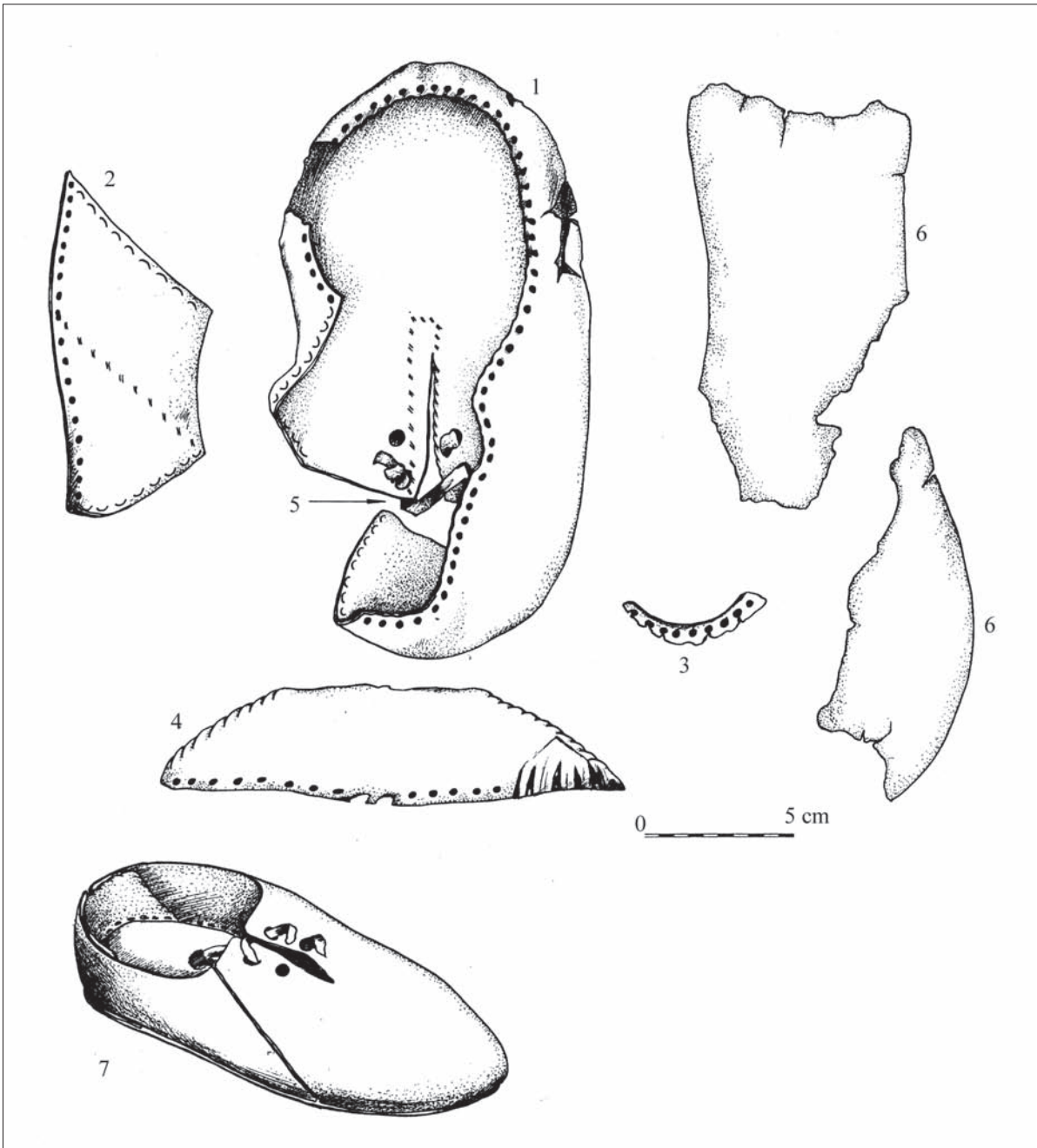


Fig. 2b. A low-cut shoe: 1 vamp; 2 insert; 3 welt fragment; 4 heel stiffener for the inner counter; 5 shoe-string; 6 insole fragments; 7 a reconstruction. Klaipėda, 3 Kurpių St, Inventory Number 2405, mid-16th century (drawing by J. Mažeikaite).



Fig. 3a. A low-cut shoe before conservation. Klaipėda, 3 Kurpių St, Inventory Number 2675, mid-16th century (photograph by R. Bračiulienė).

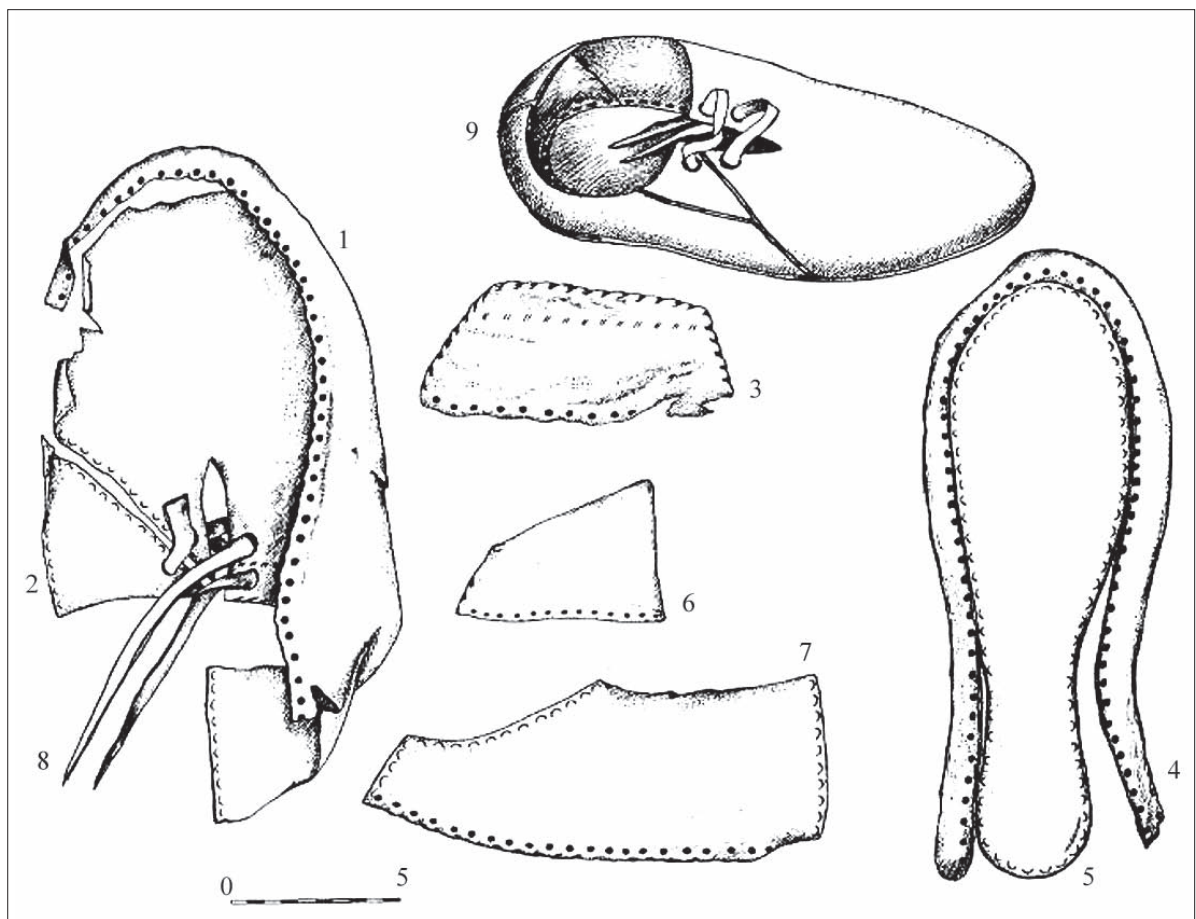


Fig. 3b. A low-cut shoe: 1 vamp; 2 insert; 3 heel stiffener for the inner counter; 4 welt, insole; 6 one side reinforcement; 7 quarter; 8 shoe-string; 9 a reconstruction. Klaipėda, 3 Kurpių St, Inventory Number 2675, mid-16th century (drawing by J. Mažeikaitė).

The welt (4) is ten to 12 millimetres wide, continuous, and with clear traces of stitching made with an awl. The welt was stitched to one layer of the treadsole with a closed seam.

One layer of the insole (5) is 178 millimetres long, its width in the fore part of the foot is 52 millimetres, in the middle 23 millimetres, and at the heel 32 millimetres. The treadsole is quite graceful in shape, profiled, and with a rounded toe part.

Fibre was taken for analysis from the welt seam of this low-cut shoe. A microchemical analysis was carried out by Jolanta Mažeikaitė, a restoration expert at the History Museum of Lithuania Minor. The conclusion was that the fibre is of plant origin, and it is non-stem fibre (it might be bast).

Inventory Number 378 (Fig. 4)

Set of parts of a closed-type leather low-cut shoe.

The available parts:

Item No.	Part description	Leather thickness, millimetres
1.	Vamp	1.3
2.	Two parts of the counter	1.8
3.	Side insert	1–1.3
4.	Heel stiffener for the inner counter	1
5.	Treadsole lift	1
6.	Fragment of the rand	2
7.	Insole	1.5

The vamp covers the fore upper part of the foot (1). The contour at the instep is cut evenly, and there is a short incision of 22 millimetres in the middle, so that the foot could be put into the shoe more conveniently. One side of this part is worn away, the quarters are missing, and the toe is rounded. The vamp was attached to the treadsole with a closed seam; no welt or pieces of it were found. The parts of the counter were cut out separately from the vamp. Only part of one side has remained, the other side is whole; its height is 36 millimetres. The parts were attached to the treadsole with a closed seam, and stitched to each other with a butted seam.

The side insert (3) is quadrangular, and one side is cut aslant. The dimensions of the insert are 62 by 30 millimetres. It was attached to the counter and the vamp quarter (which is missing) with a butted seam, too.

The heel stiffener for the inner counter (4) is half-rounded. It was attached to the counter parts (2) with an overlapped seam, and in the lower part, at the treadsole, it was attached (together with other parts of the counter) with a closed seam. On the inner side of the

part, there are the remnants of wood fibre. This indicates that one layer of the inner counter was made of wood fibre.

There is a tiny fragment of a rand (6) made of a hard leather band approximately four millimetres wide and two millimetres thick; this fragment belongs to the heel part of the treadsole.

The treadsole lift (5) is semi-circular in shape and heavily worn. The present dimensions are 40 by 55 millimetres.

The insole (7) is profiled and made of hard leather. Its length is 186 millimetres, the width at the flexible part of the foot is 73 millimetres, at the narrowing 47 millimetres, and at the heel part 58 millimetres. At the edges of the insole, there are distinct round holes, approximately 2.5 millimetres in diameter, made with an awl. The insole is worn through at the toes. The toe is slightly rounded.

Inventory Number 2198 (Fig. 5)

A man's closed-type leather low-cut shoe.

The available parts:

Item No.	Part description	Leather thickness, millimetres
1.	Vamp	1.8–2
2.	Counter	2
3.	Quarter-shape heel stiffener	1–1.8
4.	Two parts of the insole	1–1.3
5.	Parts of the midsole	1
6.	Treadsole	1.3

The vamp covers the fore upper part of the foot (1). The vamp passes into the quarters. One quarter is shorter, at 18 millimetres long, and the other longer, at 50 millimetres.

The contour of the upper at the instep is evenly cut, and forms a near right angle with the quarters. At the instep, the upper has a deep slanting incision; its length is 75 millimetres. The incision was made inaccurately, and the edges of the cut are uneven.

The height of the quarters is 59 millimetres. The upper and the treadsole are attached to each other with a closed seam. The quarters are attached to the counter with a butted seam.

The counter (2) is quadrangular in shape, and corresponds to the height of the quarters. The dimensions of the part are 140 by 59 millimetres. The part was attached to the inner counter in the lower area with an



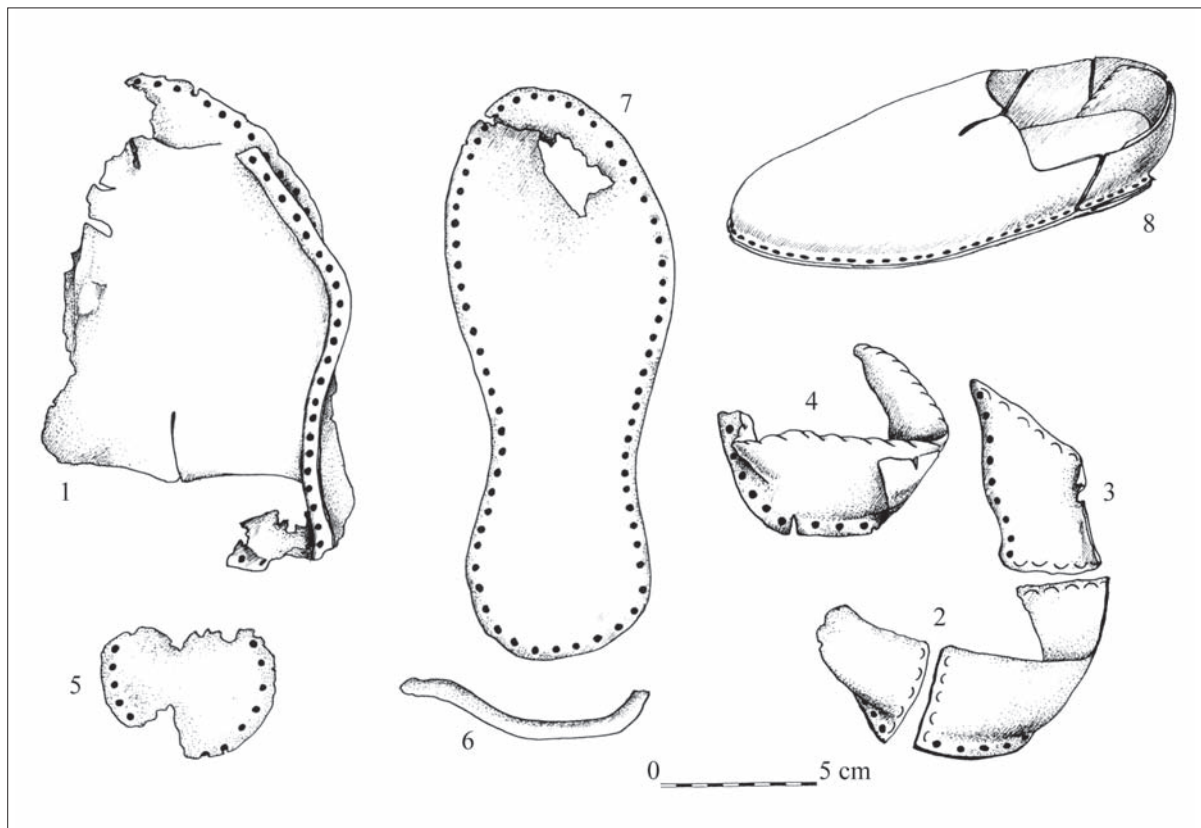


Fig. 4. A low-cut shoe: 1 vamp; 2 two parts of the counter; 3 side insert; 4 heel stiffener for the inner counter; 5 treadsole lift; 6 rand fragment; 7 insole; 8 a reconstruction. Klaipėda, 3 Kurpių St, Inventory Number 378, mid-16th century (drawing by J. Mažeikaitė).

overlapped seam, and in the upper area with an overlap-whipped seam and a hidden seam.

The quarter-shape heel stiffener for the inner counter (3) is an extended quadrangle in shape. It corresponds to the height of the quarters and the counter, and is longer than the counter. The ends of the heel stiffener slip under the quarters and thus ensure the strength of the quarters of the low-cut shoe. The dimensions of the part are 240 by 59 millimetres.

Parts of the insole (4) are in poor condition and worn here and there. The total length of the treadsole is 253 millimetres. Its width at the flexible part of the foot is 99 millimetres, at the narrowing 50 millimetres, and at the heel 60 millimetres. One layer of the insole is very thin, and it might be a fragment of the slipsole. Only the fore foot part of this piece has survived.

The other layer of the insole is made of thicker leather; part of this is worn away at the side and the heel.

There are a total of four parts of the midsole (5). One of them is inserted at the treadsole toe, another two at the treadsole side, and the fourth at the heel. They might have been needed for correcting irregularities of the treadsole, that is, for achieving uniform thickness of the treadsole. This sample of a low-cut shoe indicates that its wearer had some orthopaedic problems. The slanting incision at the instep also might have been made due to peculiarities of the foot.

The treadsole (6) is profiled, and the toe is rounded. No welt was found. The layers of the treadsole and the intermediate parts are stitched together with an overlapped seam.

The length of the whole low-cut shoe is 265 millimetres.

Fibre from the seam of the vamp bottom of this low-cut shoe was taken for analysis. The analysis was carried out by J. Mažeikaitė of the History Museum of Lithuania Minor. The conclusion is that the fibre is of plant origin, and it is non-stem fibre (it might be bast).

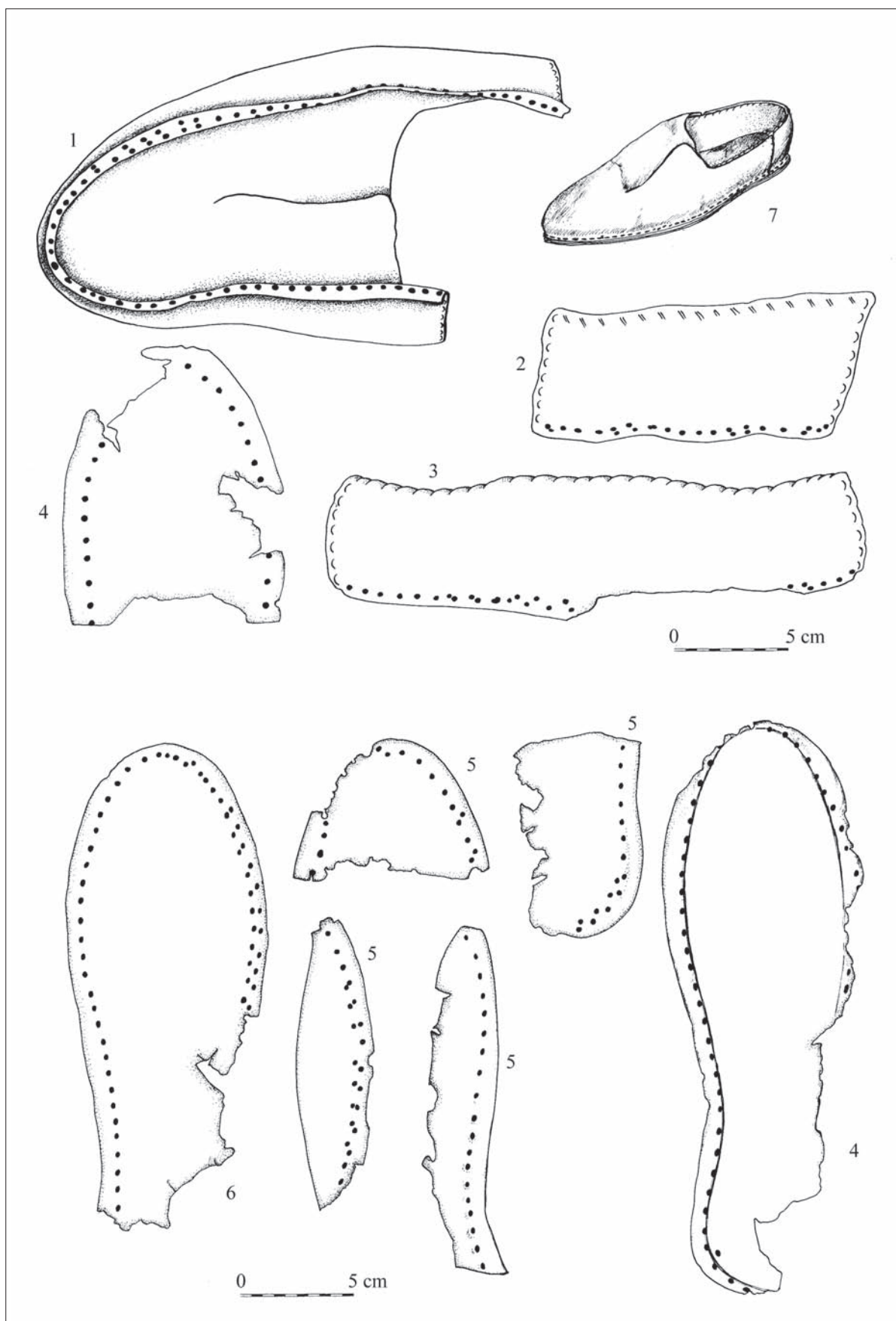


Fig. 5. A low-cut shoe: 1 vamp; 2 counter; 3 quarter-shape heel stiffener; 4 two parts of the insole; 5 midsole parts; 6 tread-sole; 7 a reconstruction. Klaipėda, 3 Kurpių St, Inventory Number 2198, mid-16th century (drawing by J. Mažeikaitė).

When describing this type of footwear, it should be noted that these are examples of footwear of a simple construction that covers the foot up to the ankle. In most cases, their upper was made of a single piece of leather. If this piece was not large enough, an insert would be sewn in. It should be noted that these shoes do not have a heel, but one or a few treadsole lifts at the heel part of the treadsole (low-cut shoes, but not all of them, have such lifts). The characteristic features of men's and women's shoes are not very distinct either, and this applies to both primitive shoes and low-cut shoes. Out of the low-cut shoes, Inventory Number 2198 is undoubtedly a man's low-cut shoe; whereas the remaining ones are quite small in terms of their size (approximately 158 to 200 millimetres). These are shoes designed either for teenagers or for women. It goes without saying that these are not luxury shoes, but ones to be worn by ordinary townfolk.

Inventory Number 2384 (Fig. 6)

A leather mule with a cork platform.

The available parts:

Item No.	Part description	Leather thickness, millimetres
1.	Vamp	1
2.	Insole with an insert (the insert is missing)	1.2
3.	Cork platform	
4.	Treadsole filling cover	0.3
5.	Treadsole	
6.	Wooden nails	



Fig. 6. A mule. Klaipėda, 3 Kurpių St, Inventory Number 2384 (photograph by R. Bračiulienė).

The vamp covers the fore upper part of the foot only; it is wrinkled at the toe, and a trapezium-shaped toe has been formed.

A single part of the insole, the fore part, has survived; as there are traces of stitching, there must have been an insert for the heel part too.

The height of the cork platform is 26 millimetres. Only the heel part has survived, the rest of the platform has crumbled away. The platform consists of two layers of cork, which are nailed together with the leather treadsole with wooden nails. It is covered in leather.

The leather treadsole is in poor condition, and the fore part is worn away. It is attached at the edges to the platform cover with an overlapped seam. As has already been mentioned, it is nailed together with wooden nails at the heel.

The total length of the mule is 200 millimetres.

Decoration (Fig. 7)

Townfolk also enjoyed wearing decorated shoes. This applies especially to summer shoes. The parts that were decorated were usually the top of the vamp or the tongue. The methods of leather decoration were perforation or tracery cutting. Regrettably, only fragments of individual parts of decorated shoes have been found. Due to the fact that the leather of summer shoes is very thin, the condition of the finds is very poor.

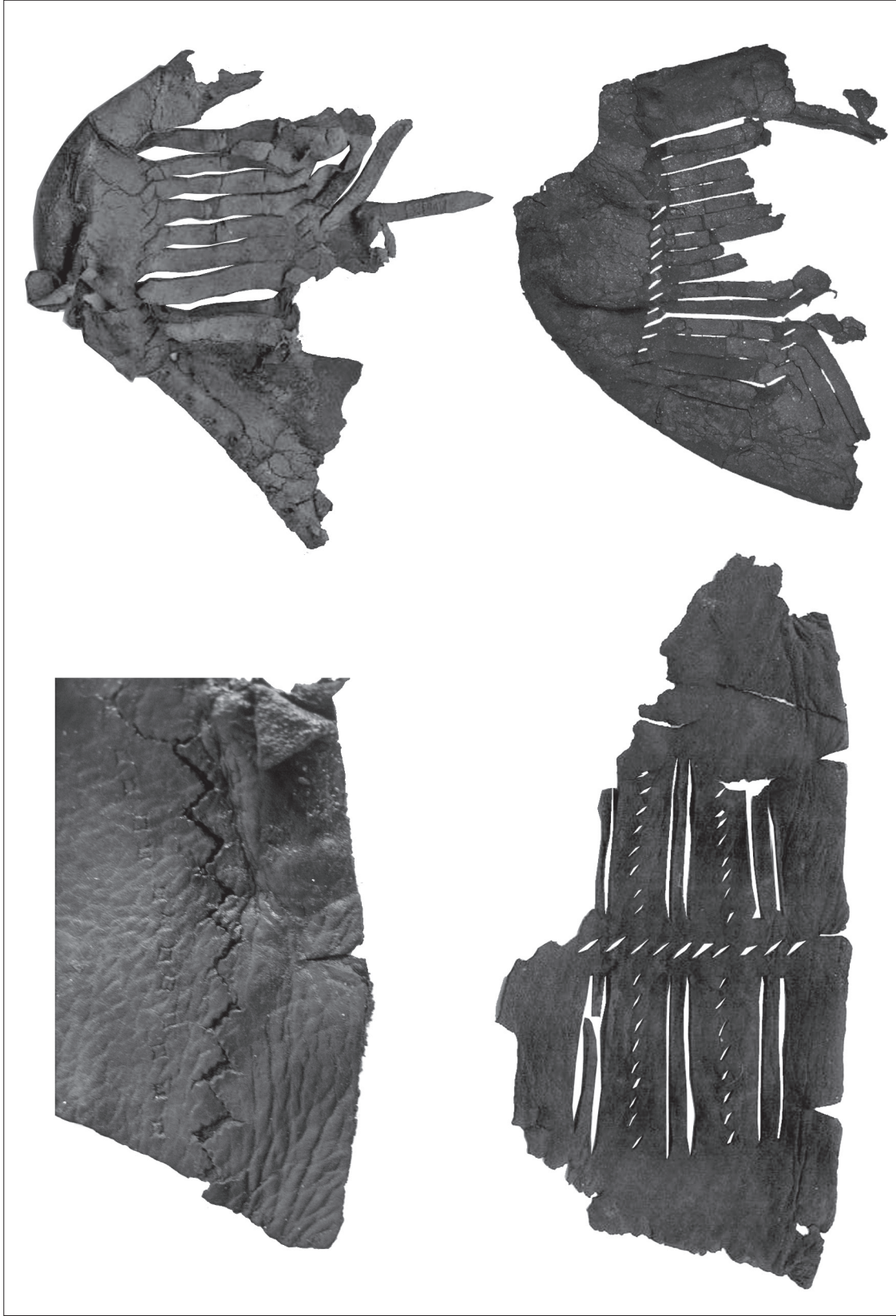


Fig. 7. Decorated shoe parts. Klaipėda, 3 Kurpių St, mid-16th century (photograph by R. Bračiulienė).

Shoes found at 10 Žvejų St: second half of the 17th century

Due to the fact that the samples described below have already been conserved and restored (the conservation and restoration work was carried out by Sandra Garšvienė, a senior restoration expert at the P. Gudynas Restoration Centre of the Lithuanian Art Museum), certain inner and intermediate shoe parts will not be described, as it was not considered desirable to take the exhibits apart.

The samples were found in the cultural layer from the late 17th century.

Shoes from the second half of the 17th century can be clearly divided into men's and women's shoes.

Men's shoes

Inventory Number 807 (Fig. 8)

A man's closed-type low-cut shoe.

The available parts:

Item No.	Part description	Leather thickness, millimetres
1	Vamp-tongue	1.2
2	Quarter-strap	1–1.8 (at the strap)
3	Quarter	1
4	Strap	1.3
5	Insole	
6	Treadsole with an insert (the insert is missing)	2
7	Sidestay	
8	Strap reinforcements	1.3
9	Heel stiffener for the inner counter	
10.	Side reinforcements, 2 pieces	0.5

The vamp-tongue covers the upper fore part of the foot and the fore part of the sides. The toe is rounded and tapered. The contour of the tongue is rounded. There are two openings in the tongue that correspond to the openings in the straps.

The vamp and the quarters are stitched together with an overlapped seam.

The height of the quarter is 55 millimetres. In the heel part, the quarters are joined with a butted seam.

The quarter of one side is joined to the strap with a butted seam, while the other strap and the quarter are made from one piece.

Both straps have reinforcements of an identical shape on their inner side. The straps are triangular in shape. Their length is 47 millimetres. The width at the wide end is 41 millimetres, and 12 millimetres at the narrow end. The reinforcements are attached with a hidden-whipped seam.

The side reinforcements are wide bands in shape. They are placed inside the shoe at the quarters and attached with an overlap-whipped seam and a hidden seam. The width of the band is 26 millimetres.

The heel stiffener is half-rounded.

The sidestay is sewn in the heel part at the top from the inner side. It is band-shaped, its width is eight millimetres, and it is sewn on with an overlap-whipped seam and a hidden seam.

The insole and the treadsole are not profiled, and have a rounded tapered toe part. The length of the treadsole is 245 millimetres. The width of the treadsole at the flexible part of the foot is 90 millimetres, and 55 millimetres at its narrow part. The insert of the treadsole, its heel part, is missing. No welt was found.

The shoe upper parts are joined to the bottom with an overlapped seam and a closed seam.

The total length of the low-cut shoe is 270 millimetres.

This shoe is of a simple construction, and is designed for everyday wear by ordinary townsfolk.

Inventory Number 652 (Fig. 9)

A teenager's closed-type leather low-cut shoe.

The available parts:

Item No.	Part description	Leather thickness, millimetres
1.	Vamp	2
2.	Tongue	1.5
3.	Quarter-straps, 2 pieces	0.8–1
4.	Insole	3
5.	Fragments of intermediate treadsole layers	1–2
6.	Fragments of the decorative welt	
7.	Wooden nails	

The vamp covers the whole upper part of the foot. The toe is an indistinct trapezium in shape, and rounded due to wear. At the instep, the contour is cut evenly. Attached to it with a butted seam there is a quadrangular tongue of 58 by 84 millimetres in size. The thickness of the leather is 1.8 millimetres.



Fig. 8. A man's low-cut shoe. Klaipėda, 10 Žvejų St, Inventory Number 807, second half of the 17th century (photograph by R. Bračiulienė).



Fig. 9. A teenager's low-cut shoe. Klaipėda, 10 Žvejų St, Inventory Number 652, second half of the 17th century (photograph by R. Bračiulienė).



EVERYDAY
LIFE
IN KLAIPĖDA

The height of the quarters is 49 millimetres, and 66 millimetres at the heel part. The quarters are joined together at the counter with a butted seam.

At the top, the quarter is lengthened forwards and forms a fastening strip. The straps are knotted at the foot instep with shoe-strings, or possibly with a smart textile ribbon. The straps have incisions at their ends for shoe-strings. The width of the straps is 17 millimetres.

In the lower part of the low-cut shoe, we can see that the shoe treadsole bottom part set, beside the insole, consists of at least six inner and intermediate treadsole layers (at least, that is the number of layers that could be counted). Only the heel part has survived. It is not leather layer separation, as indicated by the fact that the layers are neatly placed above the heel and bear traces of stitching.

The toe of the surviving insole is trapezium-shaped. Its width at the flexible part of the foot is 64 millimetres, and 41 millimetres at its narrowing. The insole is profiled, and the treadsole must have been profiled, too.

The welt is 14 millimetres in width. It has survived at the heel part. The bottom parts of the shoe are joined to the vamp and the quarters with a closed stitch.

The heel is multi-layered, and consists of a number of heel lifts nailed together with wooden nails. A total of seven wooden nails can be seen. The heel lifts are placed in descending order downwards. Therefore, the heel cross-section is trapezium-shaped. The height of the heel is 38 millimetres. The dimensions of the lift are 62 by 68 millimetres at the top, and 57 by 49 millimetres at the bottom.

Morphological research into the leather of this low-cut shoe and a microchemical analysis of the thread fibre taken from the low-cut shoe toe were carried out.¹ The conclusions are that the thread fibre is of plant origin. The low-cut shoe is made of cattle leather (here and there, the surface of the leather is worn away and no grain pattern can be seen).

The vamp covers the upper fore part of the foot and part of the sides. The vamp toe is slightly angular and rounded due to wear. A quadrangular-shaped tongue flared upwards is sewn to the vamp at the instep with a butted seam. Its dimensions are 60 by 127 millimetres.

Inventory Numbers 650 and 653 (Fig. 10, 10a, 10b)

A pair of man's closed-type low-cut shoes.

The available parts:

Item No.	Part description	Leather thickness, millimetres
1.	Vamp	3
2.	Tongue	1.3
3.	Quarter-straps	1.8
4.	Decorative part, a strap	2
5.	Insole	
6.	Welt	0.3
7.	Decorative welt	
8.	Treadsole	5
9.	Layered heel	
10.	Wooden nails	

At the top, the quarters are lengthened forwards and form a fastening strip. The straps join each other at the instep. The straps were supported with a metal buckle, which is missing. However, its imprint in the leather can still be seen. A decorative strap was passed through this buckle. Its function is purely decorative. The length of the strap is 148 millimetres, its ends are flared. The width in the centre is 20 millimetres, and 36 millimetres at the ends.

In the heel part, the quarters are joined with a butted seam. The height of the quarters in the heel part is 77 millimetres, and 59 millimetres at the ankle. The quarters are attached to the vamp with a butted seam.

A fragment of a decorative welt has survived (it is missing in the fore part of the foot).

The treadsole is profiled, with a rounded toe part. Its length is 260 millimetres (the length of the foot must have been approximately 270 millimetres). The width at the flexible part of the foot is 90 millimetres, 55 millimetres at its narrowing, and 73 millimetres at the heel.

The heel is multi-layered, its height is 30 millimetres, and its cross-section is trapezium-shaped. The heel was formed out of a number of heel lifts placed in descending order. The lifts are nailed together with wooden nails. There are nine surviving nails (Fig. 10c).

The total length of the low-cut shoe is 275 millimetres.

Judging by the treadsole length and the model, these shoes belong to the same pair. However, there are certain differences between them too. The toe of shoe Inventory Number 653 is covered with a patch, and a similar patch is attached at the inner counter. The treadsole of this low-cut shoe is compounded (the treadsole

¹ The research was carried out at the P. Gudynas Restoration Centre by the researchers L. Grabauskaitė and S. Garšvienė.

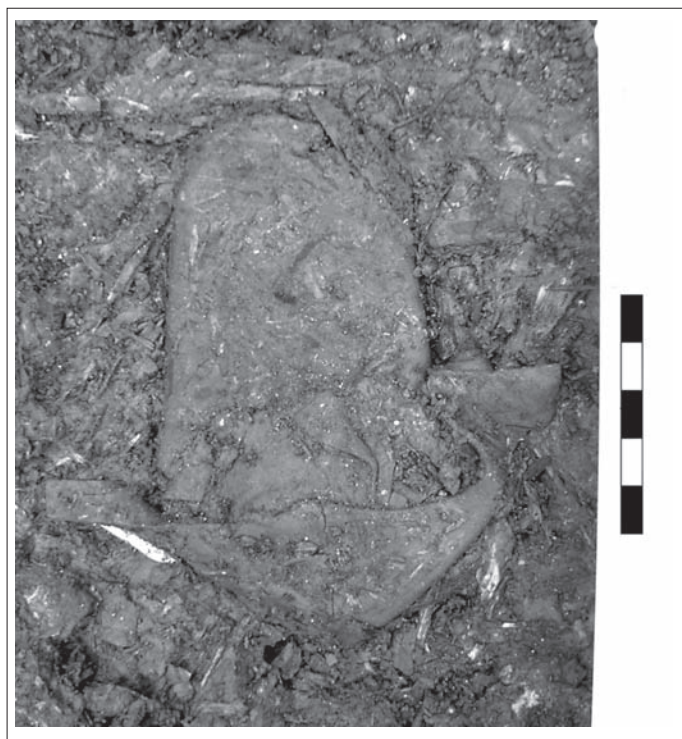


Fig. 10 A pair of men's low-cut shoes *in situ*. Klaipėda, 10 Žvejų St, Inventory Numbers 650 and 653, second half of the 17th century (photograph by R. Bračiulienė).



Fig. 10a. A pair of man's closed-type low-cut shoes. Klaipėda, 10 Žvejų St, Inventory Numbers 650 and 653, second half of the 17th century (photograph by R. Bračiulienė).



Fig. 10b. A man's low-cut shoe heel. Klaipėda, 10 Žvejų St, Inventory Number 650, second half of the 17th century (photograph by R. Bračiulienė).

V
EVERYDAY
LIFE
IN KLAIPĖDA

of shoe Inventory Number 650 is one-piece). Besides, not a single strap has survived. The other strap of this low-cut shoe is continuous with a quarter (the quarter-straps of the other low-cut shoe are identical). As for this low-cut shoe (Inventory Number 653), one strap had been sewn on, but it broke off and is missing.

Furthermore, we can see that shoe Inventory Number 653 is more worn, and its vamp is torn.

Judging by the wear of the heel and the direction of the treadsole, we can see that shoe Inventory Number 653 was worn on the left foot, and Inventory Number 650 on the right foot. It looks as if these low-cut shoes belonged to the same pair.

Inventory Number 647 (Fig. 11.1-2)

A man's closed-type low-cut shoe

Item No.	Part description	Leather thickness, millimetres
1.	Vamp-tongue	1.8
2.	Quarter-strap	1.1
3.	Quarter	1
4.	Strap	0.8
5.	Insole	
6.	Side reinforcements	
7.	Sidestay (in the toe)	
8.	Compounded treadsole	3
9.	Decorative welt	
10.	Layered heel	
11.	Wooden nails	

The vamp covers the entire fore part of the foot and part of the sides. At the instep, the vamp passes into a wide tongue, flared at the top. Its width here is 210 millimetres. At the top, its contour is cut slightly rounded. In the vamp at the instep, there are two openings four to five millimetres in diameter, through which a decorative detail, a ribbon, was passed. The toe is distinctly angular, and the corners are open. The width of the toe is 67 millimetres.

The height of the quarters (at the ankle) is 66 millimetres, and 94 millimetres at the heel part.

The quarters are stitched to the vamp with a butted seam. The same kind of seam was used to stitch them at the heel part.

One quarter is continuous with the strap; the other quarter has a strap sewn on. The length of the strap is 65 millimetres; the straps also have openings, through which a ribbon was passed, just as through the openings in the vamp.

The joining method of the upper and lower parts is a welt. Everything is stitched with a closed seam.

The treadsole was compounded. The fore part of the treadsole is missing.

The heel is multi-layered, and consists of a number of lifts nailed together with wooden nails. The cross-section of the heel is a trapezium in shape. The height of the heel is 37 millimetres. The direction of the treadsole indicates that it was a low-cut shoe worn on the right foot.

The total length of the low-cut shoe is 300 millimetres.

Judging from paintings by Dutch painters of the late 17th century, low-cut shoes of this type were worn by townsfolk belonging to the richer section of the population (Fig. 11.2).

Inventory Number 309 (Fig. 12)

A (man's?) mule.

The available parts:

Item No.	Part description	Leather thickness, millimetres
1.	Vamp	0.3
2.	Welt fragment	
3.	Insole	1
4.	Two parts of the treadsole	1

The vamp covers the upper fore part of the foot and part of the sides. The vamp leather at the part where the foot is put into the shoe is flapped, and the edge is finished with an overlap-whipped seam and a hidden seam. The toe is rounded and tapered.

At the very tip of the toe part, there is a horizontal incision 33 millimetres long.

The welt is made of a folded 12-millimetre-wide leather band. The welt has survived at the heel only.

The length of the treadsole is 245 millimetres. The toe part of the treadsole is rounded and slightly pointed. The width at the flexible part of the foot is 82 millimetres, 63 millimetres at its narrowing, and 82 millimetres at the heel. The treadsole parts were joined with an overlapped seam.

The vamp was joined to the treadsole layers with a closed seam.

The treadsole consists of two parts, the fore part of the foot underside and the heel part. These parts are not joined, as the treadsole has no middle part. The treadsole is badly worn through, especially at the flexible part of the foot.

The total length of the mule is 254 millimetres.

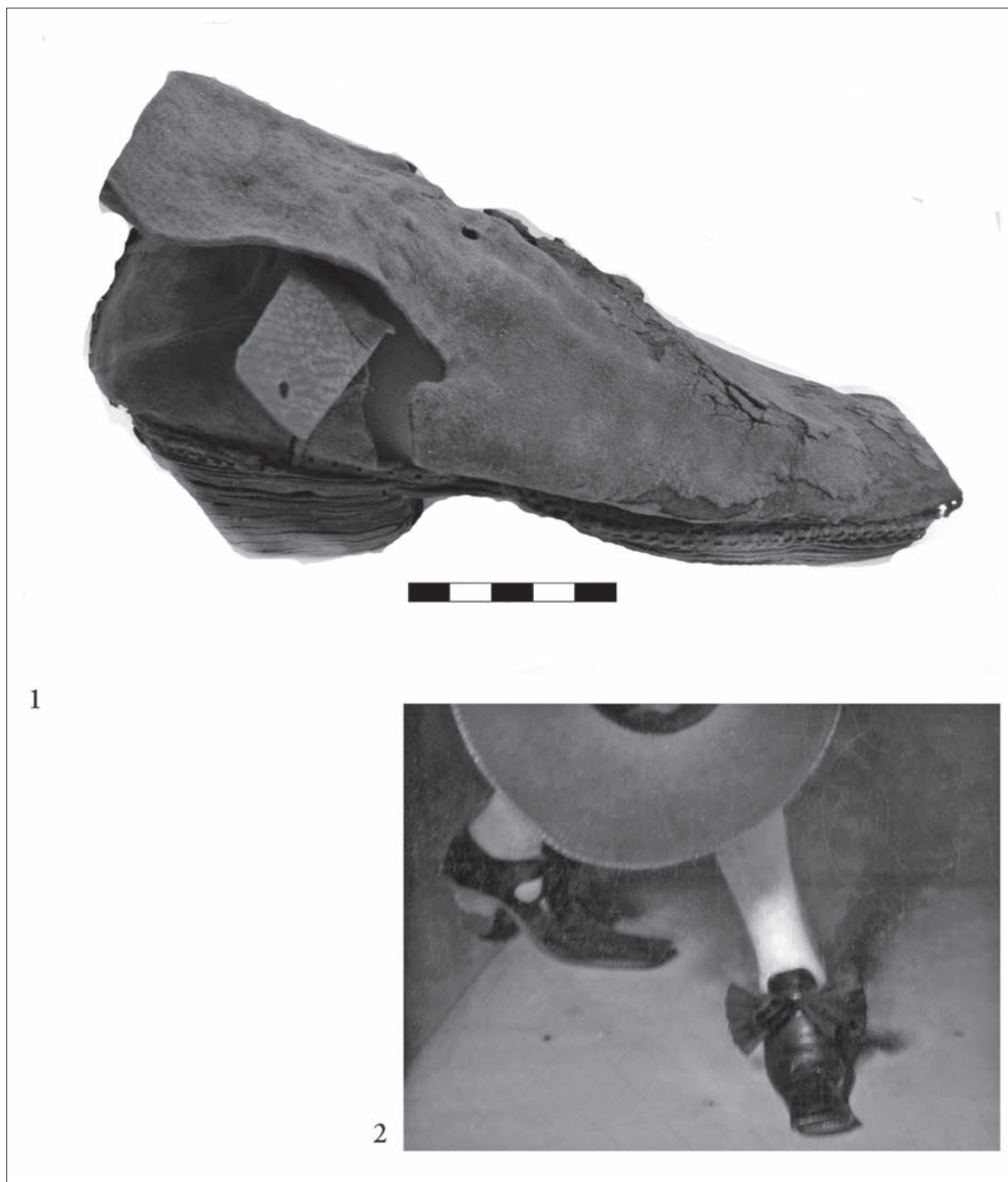


Fig. 11.1-2. A man's low-cut shoe. Klaipėda, 10 Žvejų St, Inventory Number 647, second half of the 17th century (photograph by R. Bračiulienė). 2 Detail of Gerard ter Borch's painting 'The Suitor's Visit', 1658 (oil on canvas).



Fig. 12. A man's mule. Klaipėda, 10 Žvejų St, Inventory Number 309, second half of the 17th century (photograph by R. Bračiulienė).

Women's shoes

Inventory Number 651 (Fig. 13)

A woman's closed-type low-cut shoe.

The available parts:

Item No.	Part description	Leather thickness, millimetres
1.	Compounded vamp	1
2.	Shoe-string	2
3.	Insole	
4.	Welt	1
5.	Treadsole lift	3.8
6.	Treadsole with an insert (the fore foot part of the insert is missing)	1.4
7.	Top lift	4.5
8.	Quarter facing	
9.	Heel stiffener for the inner counter	
10.	Metal nails	

The entire vamp of the upper consists of three parts: one part covers the toes, the second part covers the middle top part of the foot at the instep, and the third one covers the top part of the instep, and passes into the quarters, which join each other at the heel part. All the parts are stitched together with a closed seam.

One side is patched. The patch is semi-circular in shape. Its dimensions are 112 by 43 millimetres. The patch is sewn on with an overlapped seam. The patch leather thickness is 1.1 millimetres.

The height of the quarter is 72 millimetres. The vamp contour is flapped inwards at the top and stitched with a hidden-whipped seam.

The heel part is stitched with a closed seam.

The upper has an incision 76 millimetres long at the instep. On either side of the incision there are four holes, through which a shoe-string made of a four-to-five-millimetre-wide leather band tapered to three millimetres at the ends is passed. From the inner side of the upper at the incision, there is a quarter facing. The quarter facing is stitched to the vamp with an overlapped seam and a hidden-whipped seam.

The insole, just like the treadsole, is profiled with a pointed toe part. The insole width at the flexible part of the foot is 64 millimetres.

The length of the treadsole is 243 millimetres.

The welt is continuous. Its width is seven millimetres.

The only surviving part of the treadsole is the insert of the middle and the heel parts. The treadsole width at the narrowing is 51 millimetres, and 69 millimetres at the heel.

The top lift is nailed with metal nails, the total number of which is 22. Judging by the direction of wear, this low-cut shoe was worn on the left foot.

The heel lift for the inner counter is semi-circular in shape. It is attached to the vamp quarters with an overlapped-whipped seam and a hidden seam.

The total length of the low-cut shoe is 250 millimetres.



Fig. 13. A woman's low-cut shoe. Klaipėda, 10 Žvejų St, Inventory Number 651, second half of the 17th century (photograph by R. Bračiulienė).



Fig. 14a. A pair of woman's shoes. Klaipėda, 10 Žvejų St, Inventory Number 656 and 657, second half of the 17th century (photograph by R. Bračiulienė).



Fig. 14b. A woman's shoe heel. Klaipėda, 10 Žvejų St, Inventory Number 656 and 657, second half of the 17th century (photograph by R. Bračiulienė).

Inventory Numbers 656 and 657 (Fig. 14a; 14b)

A pair of women's shoes.

The available parts:

Item No.	Part description	Leather thickness, millimetres
1.	Vamp toe	1
2.	Toe cap	1
3.	Quarters	1
4.	Textile lining of the quarters	
5.	Slipsole fragment	
6.	Insole	
7.	Decorative welt	
8.	Treadsole with an insert	1.5–3
9.	Layered heel	
10.	Wooden nails	

The vamp toe has only survived in one (left-foot) shoe, Inventory Number 656. Both toe caps have survived. The toes are pointed.

The quarters are flapped outwards nearly horizontally due to wear. They do not join each other at the heel. The height of the quarters is 17 to 25 millimetres.

The left shoe also has surviving fragments of the quarter lining, and a fragment of the treadsole slipsole. The width of the lining bands is ten to 14 millimetres. One band is made of a thicker fabric (apparently felt), the other is made of a thinner textile fabric of thinner weaving.

A slipsole fragment has survived in the fore part of the foot. This one is also made of a bright fabric of thin weaving. The insole is profiled, with a pointed toe part. Its length at the flexible part of the foot is 65 millimetres, 37 millimetres at the narrowing, and 47 millimetres at the heel.

The welt is continuous.

The treadsole has a pointed toe part, and is profiled. It is joined from two parts in the middle. Its length is 235 millimetres, its width at the flexible part of the foot is 77 millimetres, at the narrowing 49 millimetres, and at the heel part 57 millimetres.

The heel is multi-layered and made up of a number of heel lifts placed in descending order. The cross-section of the heel is a trapezium shape. The lifts are nailed together with wooden nails. There were six wooden nails in total, but only four have survived. The dimensions of the top lift are 64 by 52 millimetres. Those of the bottom lift 33 by 32 millimetres. The height of the heel is 39 millimetres.

The shoe bottom set parts were stitched together with an overlapped seam. The quarters and the treadsole parts were stitched together with a closed seam. The toe cap was joined to the vamp with an overlap-whipped seam and a hidden seam.

The total length of the shoe is 240 millimetres.

It can be assumed that part of the vamp of these shoes was made of textile: silk (if they were summer shoes), or felt (if they were winter shoes). However, the textile has not survived, and it is not clear what kind of upper it was. It is only certain that the quarters bear vague traces of stitching, which indicates that something was sewn on to them.

Inventory Number 648 (Fig. 15, 15a)

A woman's mule.

The available parts:

Item No.	Part description	Leather thickness, millimetres
1.	Vamp	1.5
2.	Insole	0.8
3.	Treadsole lift	0.5
4.	Heel cover	0.3
5.	Wooden heel	
6.	Flapped treadsole	
7.	Top lift	3.5
8.	Decorative welt (a fragment)	
9.	Wooden nails	

The vamp covers the fore upper part of the foot. The toe is pointed. The width of the vamp at its widest point is 115 millimetres.

The vamp is decorated with bands cut in the leather and grouped by two bands. In total, there are three such groups of bands. The edge of the vamp at the instep is flapped inwards and stitched with a hidden-whipped seam.

The heel was wooden. It was covered with a leather cover and stitched together with a butted seam at the rear.

The top lift is semi-circular in shape and nailed to the heel with wooden nails.

The joining method of the top and bottom part sets is a welt.

The width of the decorative welt is nine millimetres.

The treadsole and the insoles are profiled, with a pointed toe part. The treadsole is flapped. The width of the treadsole is 84 millimetres, 54 millimetres.

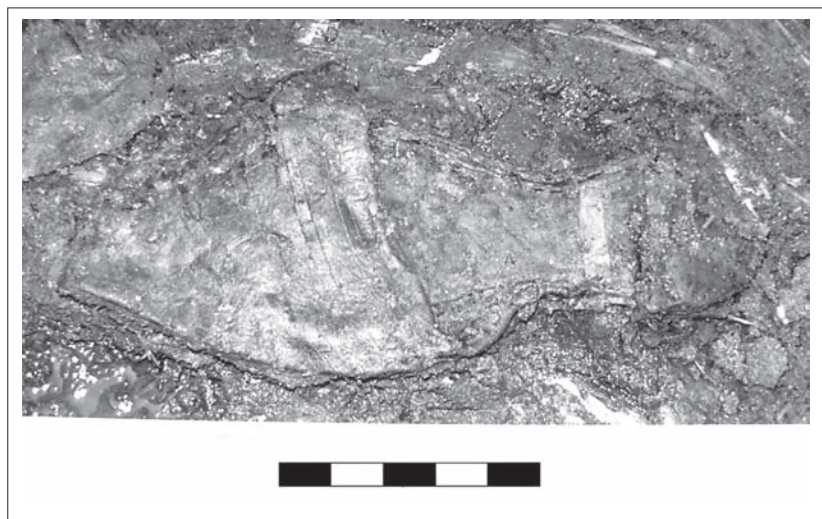


Fig. 15. A woman's mule *in situ*.
Klaipėda, 10 Žvejų St,
Inventory Number 648, second
half of the 17th century
(photograph by R. Bračiulienė).



Fig. 15a. A woman's mule.
Klaipėda, 10 Žvejų St,
Inventory Number 648, second
half of the 17th century
(photograph by R. Bračiulienė).

The height of the heel is 32 millimetres. It is made of wood.

The total length of the mule is 270 millimetres.

Children's shoes

Inventory Number 654 (Fig. 16)

A children's closed-type low-cut shoe.

The available parts:

Item No.	Part description	Leather thickness, millimetres
1.	Vamp-tongue	1.3
2.	Quarter-straps, 2 pieces	1.3
3.	Heel stiffener for the inner counter	0.8
4.	Fragment of the decorative welt	1

The vamp-tongue covers the entire upper part of the foot, and its reinforcements cover part of the sides. The toe is vague, because the toe part was cut through in a

half-rounded line as the child's foot grew and the life of the shoe was extended. Judging by the shape of the insole toe part, it must have been trapezium-shaped. The tongue is quadrangular and flared at the top. Its length is 54 millimetres, and the width at the top is 62 millimetres. The tongue, just like the straps, has two round openings for shoe-strings, most likely a smart textile ribbon.

The height of the quarters is 41 millimetres, and 52 millimetres at the heel part. At the counter, the quarters are joined together with a closed seam. The same type of seam was used to join them to the vamp. The seams are distinct. They might have served decorative purposes too.

The welt is nine to 14 millimetres wide.

The parts that have not survived are the treadsole and the heel. The fact that there must have been a heel is attested to by traces of nailing in the heel part of the insole.

At the top, the quarters are lengthened forwards and form a fastening strip. The straps at the foot instep are



Fig. 16. A child's low-cut shoe.
 Klaipėda, 10 Žvejų St,
 Inventory Number 654,
 second half of the 17th century
 (photograph by R. Bračiulienė).

knotted with a ribbon. At their ends, the straps have oval-shaped holes seven by five millimetres in diameter, which correspond to the position of the holes in the tongue. This indicates that a ribbon was used to attach the straps to the tongue. The length of the strap is 39 millimetres, it is trapezium-shaped, and its width at the narrow end is 18 millimetres.

The total length of the low-cut shoe is 145 millimetres.

The vamp and the quarters are attached to the insole at the bottom with a closed seam.

Morphological research into the leather of this low-cut shoe and a microchemical analysis of the thread fibre taken from the treadsole seam of the low-cut shoe toe were carried out.¹ The conclusions are that the thread fibre is of plant origin. The low-cut shoe is made of cattle leather (here and there, the surface of the leather is worn away, and no grain pattern can be seen).

¹ The research was carried out at the P. Gudynas Restoration Centre by the researchers L. Grabauskaitė and S. Garšvienė.

Remakes of children's low-cut shoes (mules) (Fig. 17.1-3)

Inventory Number 655

The available parts:

Item No.	Part description	Leather thickness, millimetres
1.	Vamp	2–2.1
2.	Quarters (trimmed)	2
3.	Heel stiffener for the inner counter (trimmed)	2
4.	Insole	2.1
5.	Heel lifts, 4 pieces	0.5–1.5

The vamp covers the fore upper part of the foot. It is made of rather thick (two to 2.1-millimetre) leather. The vamp is decorated at the instep with oval-shaped holes. The dimensions of a hole are five by three millimetres. There are ten such holes in total. They are arranged irregularly.

The contour of the vamp has oval-shaped depressions at the instep. The low-cut shoe was of an open type, worn in summer.

It is evident that there was a tongue sewn on to the vamp, because traces of stitching can still be seen. When the low-cut shoe was being remade into a mule, the tongue was removed.

The quarters and the heel stiffener for the inner counter, the shape of which corresponds to the shape of the quarters, were cut off too. The line of the cut-off is uneven.

The length of the insole is 159 millimetres. Its toe part is rounded and tapered. The width at the flexible part of the foot is 64 millimetres, 43 millimetres at its narrowing, and 47 millimetres at the heel. The insole is profiled.

There are four surviving heel lifts, which are stitched together with an overlapped seam. In the middle of the heel lift, two tiny holes used for nailing the lift to each other can be seen.

The upper and bottom sets of this shoe are joined to each other with a closed seam. No welt was found.

The total length of the shoe is 170 millimetres.



Fig. 17. Remakes of children's low-cut shoes (mules): 1 Inventory Number 649; 2 Inventory Number 655; 3 Inventory Number 853. Klaipėda, 10 Žvejų St, second half of the 17th century (photographs by R. Bračiulienė).

Inventory Number 649

The available parts:

Item No.	Part description	Leather thickness, millimetres
1	Vamp	0.5
2	Quarters (trimmed)	1
3	Inner counter (trimmed)	3
4	Compounded insole	1.1
5	Compounded treadsole	3
6	Heel lift	3

This is a double or even a triple vamp, or a vamp on to which a toe cap is placed, which covers more than half of the fore part of the foot. It is probably a multi-layered compounded decorative vamp, because a third layer can be seen. However, the third layer was cut off when the low-cut shoe was being remade into a mule.

On one side of the vamp, at the instep, there is an incision. On one side of the incision there are two surviving holes for shoe-strings.

As has been mentioned before, the quarters are cut off, and the line is uneven.

The inner counter is made of rather thick (three-millimetre) leather. It is cut off, too.

The insole is compounded. The parts are joined at the flexible part of the foot.

No welt was found.

The length of the treadsole is 168 millimetres. It is profiled, and has a rounded toe part. Its width at the flexible part of the foot is 53 millimetres, 37 millimetres at its narrowing, and 53 millimetres at the heel. The treadsole is compounded. The parts are joined in approximately the middle with a butted seam. The thickness of the treadsole is three to 3.2 millimetres.

It should be pointed out that the entire bottom set has a quadrangular cut-out of 31 by 36 millimetres in size at the flexible part of the foot: that is, all the layers are cut through. It is quite possible that the shoe was prepared for patching, but then they changed their minds.

One heel lift has survived too. It is nailed to the treadsole with small metal nails, a few of which have survived. The thickness of the heel lift is three millimetres. Here and there it is worn.

No welt was found.

The vamp and the treadsole are stitched together with a closed seam. Other parts of the bottom set, just as

in the examples described above, are stitched together with an overlapped seam.

The total length of the shoe is 175 millimetres.

Inventory Number 853

The available parts:

Item No.	Part description	Leather thickness, millimetres
1	Vamp	1.8–3
2	Toe cap	
3	Quarters (trimmed)	2.5
4	Insole	
5	Fragment of the slipsole, and intermediate part of the treadsole	1
6	Fragment of the treadsole	2
7	Fragment of the decorative welt	

The toe part of the vamp is pointed. The very tip is worn away. Inside, a toe cap which follows the pointed shape can be seen. The very tip is either worn away or cut off.

The quarters are cut off. The remaining height is a mere 11 to 13 millimetres. The line of the cut-off is uneven. The quarters are stitched to the vamp with a closed seam.

The length of the insole is 180 millimetres. It is not profiled and gets wider at the flexible part of the foot only. At this place, its width is 50 millimetres, and the width at the heel is 38 millimetres. The toe part of the insole is pointed.

Only a fragment of the treadsole, its middle part and the part at the heel, has survived. The thickness of the treadsole is three millimetres. At the heel, distinct traces of wooden nails can be seen. However, the heel is missing, although its traces are quite distinct.

The width of the welt is approximately eight millimetres. The welt has survived in the middle and heel part. Just like the entire bottom set, it is worn away in the fore part of the foot. The underside of the low-cut shoe and the mule, which was made from the shoe at a later time, is badly worn out.

The bottom set of this shoe is stitched together with an overlapped seam. The vamp is stitched to the insole and the welt with a closed seam.

The total length of the shoe is 200 millimetres.

In my opinion, these remakes of low-cut shoes, mules, indicate that high-quality shoes were made in general. If one can make a mule from a worn-out low-cut shoe and wear it until the treadsoles get worn through, this indicates that the shoes were robust and of high quality.

Foot lengths of Klaipėda dwellers in the 16th and 17th centuries

When making a judgement about foot length, we should bear in mind that the foot rests on part of the quarters and part of the inner counter. Therefore, the measurement of the treadsole alone does not provide accurate information on the wearer's foot length. We should pay attention to the 'trampling down' of the quarters and the inner counter when the shoes were worn. Shoes were measured from the extreme point of the toe of the fore end to the extreme point of the inner counter.

Lengths of the shoe samples

No 10 Žvejų St.

Men's: 27 to 30 centimetres

Women's: 24 to 25 centimetres; the mule: 27 centimetres

Children's: 14.5 to 21 centimetres

No 3 Kurpių St.

Men's: 26.5 centimetres

The mule, low-cut shoes: 20 centimetres

Thus, we can see that shoes dating back to the mid and late 16th century are slightly smaller. However, it should be pointed out that we still have too few shoe samples available to determine the fluctuations of foot sizes more precisely, when comparing the 16th and the 17th centuries.

Conclusions

To summarise what has been stated before, we can claim that in the 16th and 17th centuries shoe fashion trends in Klaipėda were more or less the same as in Germany and the Scandinavian countries. This is il-

lustrated by the examples of shoes worn by people in paintings by Dutch painters of the 16th to the late 17th century: Pieter Bruegel, Pieter de Hooch, Gerard ter Borch and Jan Steen.

We can also claim that the inhabitants of Klaipėda, especially in the 17th century, used to wear diverse models of shoes: with or without a heel, closed-type and open-type low-cut shoes, shoes with decorated trimming details, ribbons, buckles and straps. We also notice differences between women's and men's shoes in terms of their shape, treadsole profile and size.

Furthermore, we can notice a seasonal character to the shoes: summer shoes were decorated with all kinds of tracery cuttings, perforations, and so on, which added to both the coolness and the aesthetic look of the shoes.

Therefore, shoes from Klaipėda possess all the traditional features of classification. That is, in terms of season, winter/summer shoes; in terms of gender, men's/women's; in terms of age group, adults'/children's; in terms of purpose, everyday/smart; in terms of type, primitive shoes/open-type and closed-type low cut shoes/shoes/mules. When making a comparison with, let us say, material from Vilnius, boots and ankle shoes are missing in Klaipėda. One possible reason for this might be the fact that the boot-legs of worn-out boots were cut and reused for parts of new shoes.

References

Manuscripts

GENYS J., 1981. Pastato Klaipėdoje, Kurpių g. 4 rūšiai. Archeologinių tyrimų ataskaita. Klaipėda, 1981 (unpublished excavations report). *In*: Archive of Lithuanian Institute of History, Fund 1, file 867.

GENYS J., 1997. Archeologinių tyrinėjimų Klaipėdoje, Sukilėlių gatv. Nr.12, ataskaita 1996 m. Klaipėda, 1997 (unpublished excavation report). *In*: Archive of Lithuanian Institute of History Fund 1, file 2733.

Literature

PUŠKORIUS A., 2007. Senojo odinio apavo terminija. *Lietuvos archeologija*, 30, 229-256.

Ramunė Bračiulienė
History Museum of Lithuania Minor,
Didžiojo Vandens St 2
LT-91246 Klaipėda,
Lithuania
archeologai@mimuziejus.lt



EVERYDAY
LIFE
IN KLAIPĖDA

XVI–XVII A. KLAIPĖDIEČIŲ APAVAS

RAMUNĖ BRAČIULIENĖ

Santrauka

Šis straipsnis kartu yra ir archeologinių tyrimų metu Klaipėdoje, Kurpių g. Nr. 3 (2007–2008 metais archeologiniams tyrimams vadovavo Ieva Masiulienė) ir Žvejų g. Nr. 10 (2006 metais archeologiniams tyrimams vadovavo R. Bračiulienė), rastų odinio apavo pavyzdžių, XVI–XVII a. nešiotų klaipėdiečių, išsamus katalogas, kuriame aprašomos naginės, pusbačiai, klepės, vaikiška avalynė ir kt. batai bei pateikiami kai kurie batų odos tyrimų rezultatai. Aptariama batų forma, pasiuvimo ypatybės (jungimo būdai, siūlės ir dekoras) (1–17 pav.). Aprašomi klaipėdiečių apavo pavyzdžiai yra būdingi Vakarų Europos renesanso ir naujųjų laikų miestiečių avalynei.