

## 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Century Shoes

### History:

These shoes are based on an existing 14<sup>th</sup> C. shoe and a 15<sup>th</sup> C. child's shoe found in The Netherlands that I have in my collection.

### Construction:

Following the original as well as other examples found in the Museum of London and the York Archaeological Trust, these shoes made of only leather, linen and beeswax. The first step is creating a pair of wooden lasts that are mirror images of the shoe I wanted to create. The upper is sewn together using a butt stitch as described in Shoes and Pattens (SaP)<sup>1</sup>. It is made slightly oversized so that it can be soaked in water and then using a heavy thread stretched inside out over the last and sole. After the upper has stretched and dried, the excess leather is trimmed and the sole is stitched on using an edge flesh stitch as shown in SaP. Once complete, a slit is cut so that the last can be removed and a foot can be inserted. The edged stitching is then done, using a binding stitch described in SaP, to reinforce the edges and prevent stretching. Then the shoe is carefully turned right side out and laces are added. This technique puts all of the exposed stitching on the inside and prevents premature wear. The leather must be worn in order to get at the stitches from the outside.

### Bibliography

Shoes and Pattens, Medieval Finds from Excavations in London, Francis Grew and Margrethe de Neergaard, 1988

Leather and Leatherworking in Anglo-Scandinavian and Medieval York, Quita Mould, Ian Carlisle, and Esther Cameron, 2003

Stepping through Time, Olaf Goubitz, Carol van Driel-Murray, and Willy Groenman-van Waateringe, 2001