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Object type: Shoe horn

Museum number: 12-67893-12-C

Title: Berkeley Royal Grain Prototype Shoe Tree

Description: Consists of rounded wooden base shaped to fit in toe of shoe with slats extending through center. Metal rod is joined to top, allowing 200 degree rotation. Wooden bulb screws onto the end of rod. Bulb fits into wooden handle allowing rotation, but joint is not secured.

Handle is notched to accommodate toe of base in compact folded position.

Culture/period pre-war Germany

Date: 1938

Production place: Oberndorf Findspot: Washington DC Materials: Wood, Metal alloy, Technique: Industrial production.

Curator's comments: This is a prototype of a shoe tree designed for portability. It would have been sold to travelling salesmen for whom both space and presentation was a priority. Note in particular the experimental straight slots as compared to the more traditional and still common circular holes.

Bibliography

Kadish 1981 Miranda 1983

Acquisition date 1959

Department: Personal Accessories

Exhibition History

'On the Road'

'Wear, Tear, and Care'

'Lost Civilization - Pre War Germany and What the Nazis Destroyed'

'Suitcase Life'

'Pre-production: The Hidden Life of Common Objects'

'Shoes'