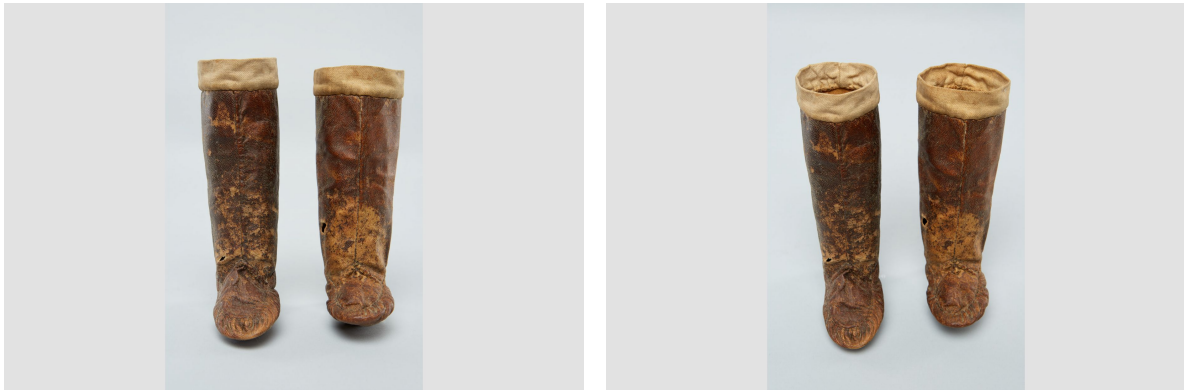


Boot

<https://collections.pacmusee.qc.ca/en/objects/boot-2021-059-086-1-2/>

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Children's leather boots with white canvas trim.

Accession Number 2021.59.86.1-2

Materials fiber, linen, skin, leather

Technique assembled, by hand, cut, hand-sewn

Measurements 20 x 11 cm

Historical context

This high loafer is a perfect example of sartorial adaptation. It marks the transition from mitasse or leggings to pants. The traditional leather flap at the moccasin's ankle is replaced by a skin tube laced under the knee and covering the calf. This tube takes over the function formerly reserved for the sock, protecting the lower leg. This part of the high moccasin could be replaced by coarse cotton canvas when leather was in short supply. The garter that helped keep the mitasse in place was replaced by a drawstring threaded through a hem at the top of the shoe. This type of moccasin was often covered with a greasy substance to protect the leather from humidity and make it more supple. This is why most of these antique shoes have a crusty, cracked and burnished patina. The high moccasin was domestically made by First Nations, French and Métis Canadians alike. In a way, they are the ancestor of the "beu" (ox) boot, very popular in Quebec and used as an all-terrain boot.

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Photo by Michel Pinault