

Moccasin

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This pair of leather moccasins is brown in color. They feature a metal buckle at the top of the instep. The upper part of the moccasin is embroidered with faded thread.

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Date 1850 c

Measurements 12,8 x 11 x 27,5 cm

Historical context

The rectangular vamp is typical of moccasins produced by the Wendat from the late 18th to the second half of the 19th century. The addition of a strap with metal buckle is borrowed from European shoemaking. Traditionally, moccasins were laced at the ankle with long leather laces.

These moccasins, worn over thick woollen socks, were designed specifically for snowshoeing, a sport very popular with Eurocanadians in the 19th century. They feature thread embroidery only around the edge of the pleat and no traditional moosehair embroidery on the vamp, as the fragile hairs could be quickly damaged by the harness strap passing over the top of the foot. In the 19th century, Wendat craftsmen worked for Wendake workshops such as Vincent, Cloutier and Bastien, who supplied the raw materials and paid by the day or by the piece. The moccasins were then shipped to most major Canadian and American cities.

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