

once, and that after Dinner, when we came down from Mount *Vesuvius*. The Account I have herein given is all I could particularly remember in the Evening when we came home. They are continually finding more Pictures every Day; and I do assure you, that had I a Month to spare, I would willingly go on Foot to *Naples*, to have the Pleasure of studying those I have already seen, and seeing those which have been discovered since. \*

N. B. Cardinal *Albani*, at *Rome*, has an antique Group of *Theseus* and the *Minotaur*; where the *Minotaur* has the Head only of a Bull, as in the Picture above-mentioned.

II. *A Letter from Mr. G. Stovin to his Son, concerning the Body of a Woman, and an antique Shoe, found in a Morass in the Isle of Axholm in Lincolnshire.*

Read Oct. 22. 1747. **T**HE Beginning of June last, a labouring Man, of *Amcotts* in the Isle of *Axholm*, in the County of *Lincoln*, was digging Turf or Peat in the Moors of *Amcotts*; and, at about six Foot from the Surface, his Spade cut the Toe of a Sandal, which dropped into the Pit he was graveing Peat in; also Part of the Foot dropp'd in, which terrified the Man, and he left it. Hearing of this Discovery, I went and took some Servants with me, to make further Discovery; when we soon found the other Sandal (which I now send you

\* See more of these Curiosities in these *Transf.* N°. 456 and 458.

you whole and firm). It was very soft and pliable, and of a tawny Colour, with all the Bones of that Foot in it, and all the grisly Part of the Heel: And proceeding further, we found the Skin and Thigh-Bones, which I measured to be eighteen Inches long. We then found all the Skin of the lower Parts of the Body, which was of the same Colour of the Sandals, and very soft, with fresh Hair upon it, &c. which distinguish'd it to be a Woman, The Skin drew or stretch'd like a Piece of Doe-Leather, and was as strong. We then found the Skin of the Arms, which was like the Top of a Muff or Glove, when the Bones were shaken out. We then found this Hand I have sent, with the Nails as fresh as any Person's living; which are now, both Hand and Nails, shrunk very much, since it was exposed to the Air: This Hand is the Lady's natural Skin so tann'd, with the Nails. We left the Bones in the Fingers, where the Nails are, for fear the Nails should drop off, if that Joint was taken out.

I want to be informed what Age they wore those Sandals in. These must, I think, be very antient, and have most certainly been made of a raw Hide, by reason they, and the Skin of the Lady, were both of one Colour, and both had one Tanner; which I presume, is the Moor-Water; which is exactly of the Colour of Coffee; and made so by reason of such great Quantities of Oak and Fir-Wood, that we frequently dig out of these Moors; several Oak-Trees affording 1000 Pales for fencing, five Feet and an half long, and six to eight Inches broad; which Oak-Wood is rated as black as Jet. The Fir-Wood retains its Turpentine-Smell, and in hot Weather  
(when

(when it is exposed to the Sun) the Turpentine will drop from it. This Wood is frequently riven into Laths for the Roofs of Houses or Floors; and what is remarkable, no Worm will touch them. The Pales mentioned above are sold from 10 to 15 Shillings *per* hundred. We frequently find Hazle nuts and Fir-Apples in Abundance; which I think is a plain Proof, that the Trees fell in Autumn, when the Fruits were at Maturity. I think Dr. *Shuckford* makes it plainly appear that the General Flood happen'd in Autumn.

This Lady in all Probability was overwhelmed by some strong Eddy of Water; for she lay upon one Side bended, with her Head and Feet almost together.

It appears by the Maps of the Country, that this has been the Rendezvous of all the Waters from the South, West, and North Parts of the Kingdom; as for Instance, the River *Dun*, from *Doncaster*, *Rotherham*, and *Sheffield*, which took in many more Streams; as the *Idle*, *Trent*, *Torn*, *Dare*, *Rother*, &c. &c. Then the River *Trent*, which runs South to *Gainsbrough*; then to *Torksey*, *Newark*, *Nottingham*, *Derby*, *Burton* upon *Trent*, *Strafford*, *Trent-ham* in *Staffordshire*: And takes in a vast Number of Rivulets: Then the *Ouse*, which comes from near *Richmond*, and takes in the *Ure*, *Wharf*, *Bishop's Dike*, *Aire*, *Calder*, and a great Number of Rivulets; which are all lost in that famous Estuary the *Humber*.

It is also to be observed, that here is one Morass twenty Miles round, Part in *Hatfield-Chace*; another ten Miles round in the same Chace, where  
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the famous *William* of *Lindham* had his Cell. In the middle of it, where his Body was found, for eight Miles round, is all a Morafs.

The Connoisseurs will give you their Opinion in the chief thing I want to know, which is, in what Age those Sandals were worn, and by what Nation : For it is not like the *Scots* or *Irish* Brogues; though the *Scots*, I think, formerly inhabited but a little Way off, *to wit*, North of *Humber*. Perhaps the *Danes* may wear such, or the antient *Saxons*; for both these People must be well acquainted with these Parts, as the *Danes* under *Edgar-Atheling* incamped a whole Winter in this Neighbourhood, and had a Station at *Gigansburgh*, now *Gainsbrough*, upon this River *Trent*.

At *Bosby* was a famous *Roman* Pavement, 15 Yards square, the *Roman* Road, &c.; also a square Platform at *Aldbrough*, which I take to be *Roman*, though no Discoveries have as yet been made there; but at *Roxby* large Quantities of *Roman* Coins have been found. I am

*Your ever affectionate Father,*

G. Stovin.

*P. S.* As to this Water upon these Moors preserving human Bodies \*, it is most certain; *viz.* Part of a Body taken up at *Geel* by your Grandfather Mr. *Empson* 50 or 60 Years ago, and one in the great Moor near *Thorn*, about 7 Years ago, with the Skin like tann'd Leather, the  
Hair,

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\* See these *Transf.* No. 434. p. 413.

Hair, Teeth, and Nails quite fresh. — You will see the Sandal \* is of one Piece of Leather, and a Seam at the Heel, with a Thong of the same Leather. See TAB. I. *Fig. 2.* and 3.

It is the Skin of the Hand that is stuff'd, which has suffer'd by the Spade. †

## III.

\* Mr. *Catesby* F. R. S. Author of the History of *Carolina*, &c. being present, said, this Shoe or Sandal was exactly like what the *Indians* in *Virginia* wear at this Day, and call *Mokasin*.

† That ingenious Artift and skilful Antiquary Mr. *Geo. Vertue* communicated to me (*C. M.*) his Sentiments concerning this Sandal in the following Words :

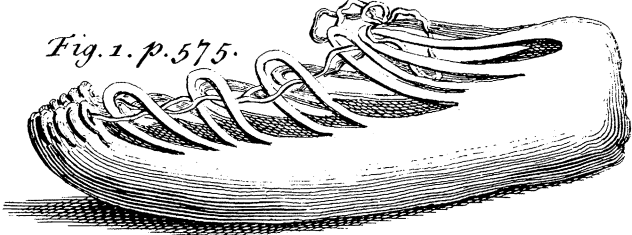
‘ When the above Letter was read at the *Society of Antiquaries*,  
 ‘ there was produced a Hand of the Woman therein mentioned,  
 ‘ and a Sandal or Shoe taken from one of her Feet ; it being made  
 ‘ of Leather, tann'd Ox-Hyde ; but remarkable for being cut out  
 ‘ of one flat Piece, (see *Fig. 3.*) so as to fold about the Foot and  
 ‘ Heel; the Form and make being so contriv'd without under Heel-  
 ‘ Piece, as to be flat to tread on ; the Shape, that of a Woman's  
 ‘ Foot, and the Toe round-pointed. This being of an antient  
 ‘ Form, the Society order'd an exact Draught to be taken of both  
 ‘ that and the Hand ; which Drawings are preserved amongst  
 ‘ others belonging to that Society. It may be observed concerning  
 ‘ the Antiquity and Use of Leather Shoes in *England*, that this  
 ‘ Shoe or Sandal appears by its Form to be ancient. I conceive it  
 ‘ was before *Edward the IV.*'s Time, when, by Custom, piked  
 ‘ Shoes had increased in Length, that all such who wore  
 ‘ them in excessive Length were to be mulcted, or have them  
 ‘ cut shorter, in passing in or out of the City-Gates of *London*.  
 ‘ This very likely had passed amongst the better sort of People  
 ‘ about the Kingdom ; for *Chaucer* in his Time mentions the Use  
 ‘ of long piked Shoes, so long as to be tied up by Strings or small  
 ‘ Chains to their Knees.

‘ Thus it might have been with Mens Shoes, but not in so long  
 ‘ a Degree for Womens Use ; tho' observing antient Pictures of  
 ‘ Men and Women in Books of Illuminations, piked Shoes appear  
 ‘ in several Reigns from *Ed. III.* to *Rich. III.* in *England*.

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‘ Also

*Fig. 1. p. 575.*



*Fig. 2. p. 575.*

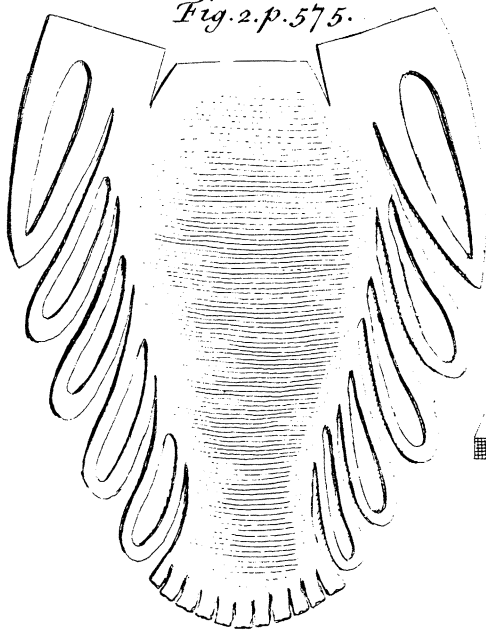


Fig. 3. p. 575.

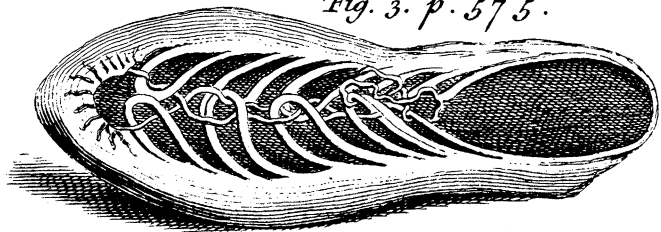
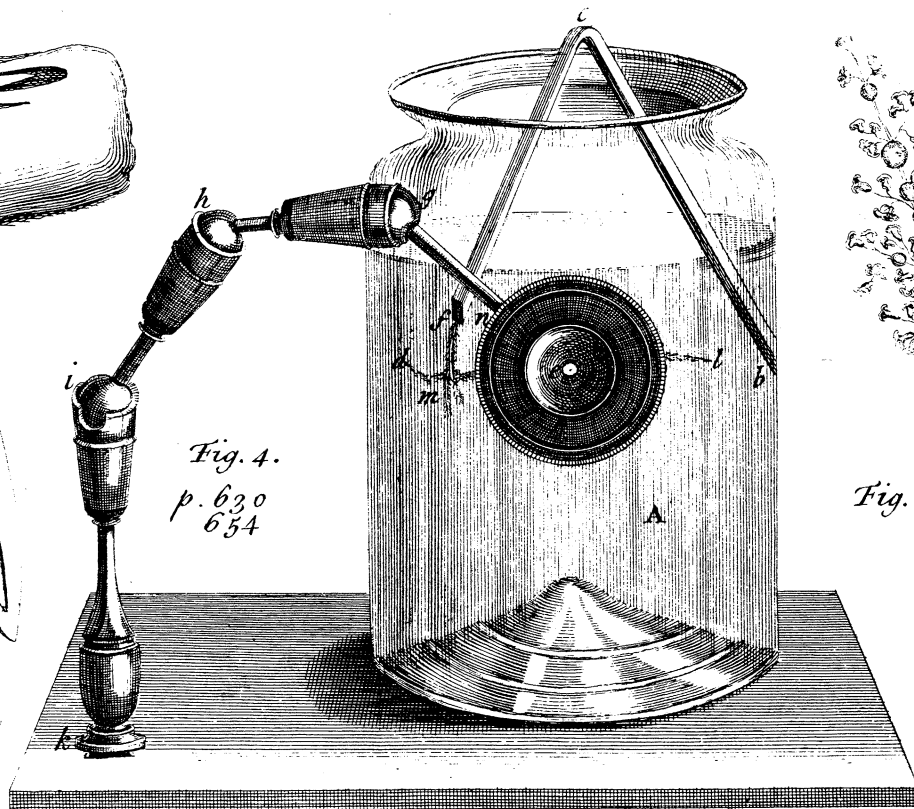


Fig. 4.  
p. 630  
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*Fig. 6. p. 639. 655.*



*Fig. 5.*  
*p. 655.*



Fig. 7.



Fig. 8. p. 646.  
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*Fig. 9.*  
*p. 655.*



*Fig. 10.*  
*p. 655.*