

Contents

List of Figures	xi
List of Tables	xvi
Abstract	xvii
1. Introduction	1
1.1 Theoretical Pathways.....	1
1.1.1 Object biography.....	1
1.1.2 Contextual Archaeology.....	2
1.2 Steps taken in this research.....	2
1.3 Recurring strands of significance.....	3
1.4 Terms and limitations.....	3
1.5 The significance of feet in other cultures.....	4
1.6 Conclusions.....	4
2. Ancient and modern attitudes to Roman feet and footwear	7
2.1 Background to Roman footwear.....	7
2.1.1 Classifying Roman footwear.....	8
2.1.2 Roman footwear fashion.....	10
2.2 What the ancient Romans wrote.....	10
2.3 An art-based approach.....	11
2.4 Antiquarian footwear finds.....	12
2.5 Some influential Roman calceologists.....	14
2.6 Recent Roman shoe research.....	14
2.7 Research into hobnailing.....	15
2.8 Spiritual shoes.....	15
2.9 Other foot-related research.....	15
2.10 Conclusions.....	16
3. The point of Roman hobnailing	17
3.1 Background to Roman hobnailing.....	17
3.2 The significance of Roman hobnailing for archaeologists.....	18
3.2.1 Hobnailing as evidence of the wearers.....	18
3.3 The significance of hobnailing for people in the Roman Empire.....	19
3.3.1 Hobnailing and domination.....	19
3.3.2 Nailing and fashion.....	19
3.3.3 The cosmological side of hobnailing.....	20
3.4 Hobnailing and group identity.....	21
3.5 Hobnailing in iconography.....	22
3.6 Conclusions.....	22
4. The social significance of deposited Roman footwear	23
4.1 The deposition of Roman footwear in graves.....	23
4.1.1 Why deposit shoes in graves?.....	25
4.2 The deposition of Roman footwear in wells.....	28
4.2.1 Distinguishing deposits.....	30
4.2.2 Evidence for the ritual deposition of Roman shoes in wells.....	31
4.2.3 Roman beliefs and water.....	32
4.2.4 Footwear and rituals surrounding the biography of Roman wells.....	33
4.2.5 The ritual importance of left and right.....	33
4.3 Why were shoes thought to be appropriate ritual deposits?.....	35
4.4 Conclusions.....	35
5. The ubiquity of Roman foot- and shoe-shaped artefacts	37

5.1 Foot-shaped amulets	37
5.2 Jugs with handles ending in feet	39
5.3 Knife or razor handles in the shape of feet	45
5.4 Furniture feet	48
5.5 Flasks in the form of feet	51
5.6 Conclusions.....	55
6. Roman footlamps: a case study	59
6.1 Methodology.....	61
6.2 Background data	61
6.3 Fashion and footwear style	64
6.4 Hobnailing on Roman footlamps.....	67
6.5 Patterns in ornamentation	68
6.6 Footlamp distribution and socio-economic status	70
6.7 The role of the army in footlamp distribution.....	71
6.8 Footlamps and religion	72
6.9 Footlamps and Christianity.....	72
6.10 Footlamps and Graeco-Roman deities.....	73
6.11 Magic footlamps?	74
6.12 Funerary footlamps.....	75
6.13 Conclusions.....	77
7. Roman sandal fibulae: a case study.....	79
7.1 Data sources for shoe brooches	79
7.2 Typologies.....	81
7.3 Numbers.....	82
7.4 Chronological Distribution	84
7.5 Spatial Distribution	84
7.6 Distribution by site type and find setting	84
7.7 How sandal fibulae were worn	87
7.8 Left or right.....	88
7.9 Ornamentation	89
7.9.1 Hobnailing on sandal fibulae	91
7.10 The apotropaic qualities of shoe brooches.....	92
7.11 Sandal fibulae in funerary settings.....	93
7.11.1 The data for funerary fibula finds.....	93
7.12 Shoe brooches and religion.....	94
7.12.1 Why were shoe brooches appropriate religious offerings?.....	96
7.13 Conclusions.....	96
8. The social significance of Roman footprints.....	97
8.1 Footprints carved in stone.....	97
8.2 Stamp matrices and seals in <i>planta pedis</i>	101
8.3 Official <i>planta pedis</i> stamps in CBM	104
8.4 Human footprints in Roman CBM	107
8.5 Conclusions.....	113
9. Assessing the significance of Roman statue foot-fragments from Britain.....	115
9.1 Chronological and spatial distribution.....	116
9.2 Material considerations.....	117
9.3 For whom the foot fragments stand	117
9.4 Distribution by site type and find setting	118
9.5 Patterns of deposition	119
9.6 Conclusions.....	122
10. Discussion and Conclusions	135
10.1 Chronological distribution	135
10.2 Geographical distribution	136
10.3 Distribution of site types and find settings	138
10.4 The ritual significance of Roman representations of feet and footwear	138

10.4.1 Foot-shaped artefacts found in sanctuaries	138
10.4.2 Offerings in watery places	139
10.4.3 Funerary feet and footwear	140
10.5 <i>Pars pro toto</i>	140
10.5.1 The feet of the gods.....	140
10.6 Apotropaic feet.....	141
10.6.1 The sinister side	141
10.7 The importance of hobnailing.....	141
10.8 How far evidence from ancient texts applied to the north-western provinces	142
10.9 The limitations of this research.....	143
10.10 Conclusions.....	143
Bibliography	145
Ancient Sources	145
Modern Sources	148