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July 8, 2013

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Make A Point

c.1300

2013



From 1300-1450, the Poulaine style shoe, which featured an exaggerated caricature-like point, was in vogue for nearly 150 years. The extreme tips were often stuffed with miscellaneous findings in order to maintain a shaped point, which extended far beyond the end of the wearer's foot. The Poulaine shoe would fall out of fashion by the mid 15th century, however, would resurface decades later in the mid

20th century as the preferred footwear style of teddy boys or neo-dandies of the 1950-60s. A [video](#) from the British Pathe showcases the 1960s designer Stan Bartholomeu looking to medieval footwear styles in designing the 20th century version, termed the winklepicker. Today, the winklepicker is a ubiquitous style amongst contemporary footwear styles and even promoted by high fashion as seen in Hedi Slimane's latest [Spring 2014 Men's show](#).

Comparison courtesy of Julia Schrank.



English Poulaine Shoe, 1300—1450.
Housed at the Costume Institute at The
Metropolitan Museum of Art



Howard Winklepicker shoe by
Underground, 2013



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