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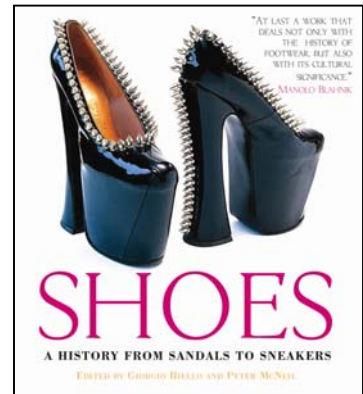
## **Shoes: A History from Sandals to Sneakers**

*Edited by Giorgio Riello and Peter McNeil Published: September 2006*

Shoes are much more than just things to walk in - they are objects of power.

From kids on the block to models on the catwalk, our shoes reveal to the world

how fashionable we are. And yet, beyond style, this most intimate object communicates much more... our sexual desires, aesthetic sense, social status and personality.



Taking the reader on a spellbinding journey *Shoes: A History from Sandals to Sneakers* traces the cultural significance of just about every kind of footwear imaginable and reveals how fashion, inextricably linked, has evolved over the years. What message did fifteenth and sixteenth century women convey when they stepped out in up to 20-inch tall "chopines"?

How did the dandies of the eighteenth century make men's shoes beautiful? What is it about the wearing of red shoes that is so controversial? And how has the high heel found itself at one time or another symbolizing wealth, political privilege, female frivolity, femininity, eroticism, economic folly and "Girl Power"? Travel further, beyond the object itself, to find out how shoes have been represented in art, fairytales, and, of course, fashion - from the first shoe stylists, to the emergence of the now-global *Made in Italy* brand, to the hype surrounding the modern-day shoe-designers such as Blahnik and Louboutin.

A highly-visual (shoes on every page!) and fascinating read, *Shoes: A History from Sandals to Sneakers* clearly demonstrates that shoes are much more than an "accessory" - with a long and important history they have a place right at the very heart of our society. And as such, this is a book that (much like that coveted pair of Jimmy Choo's) no true shoe-aficionado can afford to be without.

**THE EDITORS:** Giorgio Riello is Research Officer in Global History at the London School of Economics. Peter McNeil is Professor of Design History, University of Technology, Sydney.



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