hat’s afoot?

Walk a mile in my shoes A well-known American proverb is “to not judge another person until you’ve walked a mile in his shoes.” And what a vast collection of shoes the world has! Here are but a few of the footwear worn around the globe, created by various cultures through the ages. Continue your journey at the Bata Shoe Museum in Toronto, Ontario, Canada — it is the largest museum devoted to shoes in the world. Visit online at www.batashoemuseum.ca.

Dutch wooden clogs (klompen) NETHERLANDS
These clogs are made entirely of poplar and hand painted. Among the oldest surviving shoes in Europe, clogs are still worn by farmers and gardeners.

Shoshone beaded moccasins USA
These beaded moccasins are from the estate of Chief Washakie, Wind River Reservation, Wyoming, circa 1900. He was a renowned Native American warrior and leader.

Mukluks CANADA
The indigenous people of the Arctic traditionally have made soft, warm boots from sealskin and caribou. This example is from the Inuit of Nunavut.

Jutti INDIA
Originating in northern India and Pakistan, these leather shoes are exquisitely embroidered and worn by men and women. For certain festivals, cows are fitted with special juttis on their feet.

Geta JAPAN
These traditional Japanese sandals have a “toothed” elevated base to keep the foot well above the ground. They make a distinctive clacking sound.

Oldest known leather shoe ARMENIA
Discovered in a cave in Armenia in 2008, this shoe is made from cowhide and laced with a leather cord. It is estimated to be about 5,500 years old. Archaeologists estimate that shoes have been in use for as long as 40,000 years.