



Fit for a Cinderella?

CHEROKEE MOCCASINS DECORATED with dainty beaded flowers and made of silk velvet and black-dyed doeskin? Hardly the image normally associated with such practical footwear. Yet this moccasin, one of a pair in the ROM's collections, is also distinguished by the genuine gold-plated beads highlighting the floral decoration. Such faceted gold beads were costly. A factory in Birmingham, England, and another in France



were the only places likely to have produced them. Only a very few extant objects made by the First Nations of the Americas are embellished with gold European beads. These objects seem to have originated from the Cherokee, Seminole, and Creek of the southeastern United States, and date to the first half of the 19th century. For whom and under what circumstances were these exquisite and precious items made?

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BRIAN BOYLE, ROM