

The Elves

by the Grimm Brothers

First Tale

Second Tale

Third Tale

First Tale

A shoemaker, by no fault of his own, had become so poor that at last he had nothing left but leather for one pair of shoes. So in the evening, he cut out the shoes which he wished to begin to make the next morning, and as he had a good conscience, he lay down quietly in his bed, commended himself to God, and fell asleep.

In the morning, after he had said his prayers, and was just going to sit down to work, the two shoes stood quite finished on his table. He was astounded, and knew not what to think. He took the shoes in his hands to observe them closer, and they were so neatly made, with not one bad stitch in them, that it was just as if they were intended as a masterpiece. Before long, a buyer came in, and as the shoes pleased him so well, he paid more for them than was customary, and, with the money, the shoemaker was able to purchase leather for two pairs of shoes. He cut them out at night, and next morning was about to set to work with fresh courage, but he had no need to do so for, when he got up, they were already made, and buyers also were not wanting, who gave him money enough to buy leather for four pairs of shoes. Again the following morning he found the pairs made, and so it went on constantly, what he cut out in the evening was finished by the morning, so that he soon had his honest independence again, and at last became a wealthy man.



Now it befell that one evening not long before Christmas, when the man had been cutting out, he said to his wife, before going to bed,

"What think you if we were to stay up to-night to see who it is that lends us this helping hand?"

The woman liked the idea, and lighted a candle, and then they

hid themselves in a corner of the room, behind some clothes which were hanging up there, and watched. When it was midnight, two pretty little naked men came, sat down by the shoemaker's table, took all the work which was cut out before them and began to stitch, and sew, and hammer so skilfully and so quickly with their little fingers that the shoemaker could not avert his eyes for astonishment. They did not stop until all was done, and stood finished on the table, and they ran quickly away.

Next morning the woman said, *"The little men have made us rich, and we really must show that we are grateful for it. They run about so, and have nothing on, and must be cold. I'll tell you what I'll do, I will make them little shirts, and coats, and vests, and trousers, and knit both of them a pair of stockings, and you make them two little pairs of shoes."*



The man said, *"I shall be very glad to do it."* And one night, when everything was ready, they laid their presents all together on the table instead of the cut-out work, and then concealed themselves to see how the little men would behave.

At midnight they came bounding in, and wanted to get to work at once, but as they did not find any leather cut out, but only the pretty little articles of clothing,

they were at first astonished, and then they showed intense delight.

They dressed themselves with the greatest rapidity, put on the beautiful clothes, and sang,

*"Now we are boys so fine to see,
Why should we longer cobblers
be?"*

Then they danced and skipped and leapt over chairs and benches. At last they danced out of doors. From that time forth they came no more, but as long as the shoemaker lived all went well with him, and all his efforts prospered.



Second Tale

There was once a poor servant-girl who was industrious and cleanly and swept the house every day, and emptied her sweepings on the great heap in front of the door.

One morning when she was just going back to her work, she found a letter on this heap, and as she could not read, she put her broom in the corner, and took the letter to her employers, and behold it was an invitation from the elves, who asked the girl to hold a child for them at its christening. The girl did not know what to do, but, at length, after much persuasion, and as they told her that it was not right to refuse an invitation of this kind, she consented.

Then three elves came and conducted her to a hollow mountain, where the little folks lived. Everything there was small, but more elegant and beautiful than can be described. The baby's mother lay in a bed of black ebony ornamented with pearls, the covers were embroidered with gold, the cradle was of ivory, the bath-tub of gold. The girl stood as godmother, and then wanted to go home again, but the little elves urgently entreated her to stay three days with them. So she stayed, and passed the time in pleasure and gaiety, and the little folks did all they could to make her happy.

At last she set out on her way home. But first they filled her pockets quite full of money, and then they led her out of the mountain again. When she got home, she wanted to to begin her work, and took the broom, which was still standing in the corner, in her hand and began to sweep. Then some strangers came out of the house, who asked her who she was, and what business she had there. And she had not, as she thought, been three days with the little men in the mountains, but seven years, and in the meantime her former masters had died.

Third Tale

A certain mother had her child taken out of its cradle by the

elves, and a changeling with a large head and staring eyes, which would do nothing but eat and drink, lay in its place.

In her trouble she went to her neighbor, and asked her advice. The neighbour said that she was to carry the changeling into the kitchen, set it down on the hearth, light a fire, and boil some water in two egg-shells, which would make the changeling laugh, and if he laughed, all would be over with him.

The woman did everything that her neighbor bade her. When she put the egg-shells with water on the fire, Goggle-eyes said, *"I am as old now as the Wester Forest, but never yet have I seen anyone boil anything in an egg-shell."*

And he began to laugh at it. Whilst he was laughing, suddenly came a host of little elves, who brought the right child, set it down on the hearth, and took the changeling away with them.



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[IMAGE: Villa Adriana Banner]

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[IMAGE: Tivoli, Villa Adriana: The Great Bath]

The Great Bath

The grandiose size of the great bath makes this one of most impressive buildings of the [Villa Adriana](#). It included the standard features of a Roman bath: in- and outdoor gyms, hot and cold water pools, as well as steam rooms.

Heating was provided by wood-burning ovens. Hot air and vapors circulated in double chambers below the floors and channels inside the walls to heat the pools and building.

Commands: Use arrow keys to move, '?' for help, 'q' to quit, '<' to go back.

Arrow keys: Up and Down to move. Right to follow a link; Left to go back.

N)elp O)ptions P)rint G)o M)ain screen Q)uit /=search [delete]=history list



The Villa Adriana

The *Villa Adriana* is a large complex of buildings built by the Roman emperor Hadrian in the early second century. The villa comprised more than 30 buildings and covered an area of at least 250 acres. Much of the villa remains unexcavated. The *Villa Adriana* is a **UNESCO** World Heritage site.

Not having been on best terms with the senate in Rome, *Villa Adriana* became the Roman residence of Hadrian. It was a city in itself that included residential areas, bath houses, theaters, pools and gardens--even underground supply roads and passages so that servants would not disturb the villa's guests.

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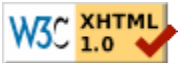
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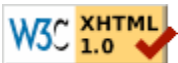
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The Imperial Room

The Imperial Room is located on the southeastern side of the Golden Square. It was an octagonal room formed by alternating convex and concave walls.

The adjoining rooms were once decorated with exquisite marble friezes, of which only a few remnants remain today.





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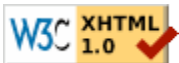
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The Hall with the Doric Columns

In one corner of this room, the columns once surrounding the entire hall have been restored. The pilasters were rounded off by a barrel vault, which was a novel addition to columns of the Doric order.

In the foreground, an example of *opus reticulatum* is visible. It is a construction technique using small pyramid shaped blocks of tufa set in a core of cement.



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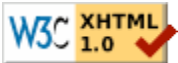
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The Praetorian Quarters

The praetorian quarters are a series of about ten bedrooms, including a latrine with running water. These rooms show the most interesting and best preserved floor mosaics of the *Villa Adriana*.

This building is also known as the *hospitalia* or guest house. The function of many buildings in the *Villa Adriana* is not known. Frequently, the actual purpose of buildings is unknown, but they are given designations based on similar structures found at other archaeological sites.





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The 'Maritime' Theater

The 'Maritime' Theater is the best-known building at the *Villa Adriana*. It consists of a small villa built on an island surrounded by a moat. Access to the island was via two wooden bridges.

It was once believed that this building was a theater, hence the name 'Maritime Theater'. Currently, it is thought that the structure was the private retreat and exercise area of the emperor.

