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~~Skating!~~ The earliest skaters, using bones tied to their shoes and propelling themselves with iron-pointed poles, had a game much like jousting indulged in by knights of old on horseback. The skaters would engage in mimic battle, charging each other with their poles, the idea being to topple one's adversary over on the ice. The introduction of steel runners gave the skater at once greater command not only of direction, but also a better means of propulsion since the iron or steel runner could cut into the ice. He could thus give himself a more powerful shove ahead than he could possibly do with arm power. It is thought that skating was introduced into England from Holland during the 13th century.