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LAURENCE SENELICK
Tufts University

TRIONIC

A well-known instance of morpheme reanalysis occurred after the Polynesian place name, *Bikini*, was given to the skimpy two-piece bathing suit in the late 1940s. The word appeared to contain the Latinate *bi-* 'double'; one result of that perception was *monokini* 'brief bathing-suit bottom worn topless'.

Similarly, *Sierra* magazine has recently printed ads for *Trionic* boots and other *Trionic* footwear. Evidently *Trionic* derives from *bionic* 'having superhuman strength or capacity' (*Random House Dictionary*, 1983). *Bionic*, with the morpheme *bio-* 'life' from Greek, must have been re-analyzed as containing *bi-* 'double'; the superhuman denotation was then one-upped by the substitution of *tri-*.

BRIAN D. JOSEPH
Ohio State University

EDITOR'S NOTE: There remains something unsettling about the notion of triplicity as applied to a pair of boots. (C.C.D.)