Indo-European *pod- ‘foot’ and the various paths it took to get into English.

[The original source of this chart is unknown to me]
Notes:

A. **Foot** comes directly from the Indo-European through Germanic.

B. **Fetter**, to tie or bind the feet, also derives from Indo-European through Germanic.

C. **Pedigree** has a curious history. In the genealogical record of medieval France, a symbol of three lines, allegedly resembling a crane’s foot, was used to show ‘descended from’. This was called a pie-de-grue, or foot of the crane.

D. **Pew**. Greek pous has a genitive podos, which has a diminutive, podion, a base or pedestal. The Late Latin plural, podia, was apparently understood as a singular in Old French and became puie, a raised place. In Middle French this became puve, a parapet or balcony. This became in Middle English puwe then pewe, then pew, a preacher’s raised stall.

E. **Pilot**. Greek pous, whose oblique stem was pod- gives podon, an oar blade, whose plural was peda, a rudder. From this came the Byzantine Greek *pedotes, giving Italian pedota, then pilota. Medieval French borrowed it as pilot, then early Modern French, pilote, the source for the English pilot.

F. **Pedestal**. From Italian piede di stallo, for ‘foot of the stall; support for standing or sitting’, becoming in early Modern French piedestal.

G. **Pedal**. The Latin pedale became in Italian pedale, ‘a footstool’. Early Modern French borrows it as pedale, and English borrows it as pedal, originally a treadle on a musical instrument.

H. **Pedestrian**. The Latin pedestri with its oblique stem pedestri- means of the feet, or lowly. English borrows indirectly from Latin and adds the -ian suffix. Its first meaning was the ‘lowly, humble’ sense, as in ‘pedestrian prose’. Only later did it come to mean someone who could not afford to ride, that is, someone who must walk in the street.

I. **Podium**. A reborrowing of the root for pew. The Greek diminutive podion gives Late Latin podium, which was borrowed directly into English.

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