

DATS

Dress and Textile Specialists



Autumn Newsletter 2013

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Front cover image:

Detail of a man's suit c.1780 showing the fine embroidery. From the exhibition, *Reflections: Costume 1730 – 2013*, currently on at the Ulster Museum. Image ©NMNI

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Dress and Textile Specialists Autumn Conference 10th – 12th October 2013

Construction and Reconstruction: Interpreting the Past

In collaboration with the *Fashion Museum*, Bath, at the *Bath Royal Scientific and Literary Institution*, Queens Square, Bath.

With an option for a study visit to *The American Museum* on Saturday 12th October 2013

Thurs 10th October at BRLSI, Queens Square, Bath

10.00 – 10.30	Registration and coffee
10.30 – 11.00	Welcome from Christine Stevens, Chairman DATS and Rosemary Harden, Fashion Museum Manager
<u>Session A</u>	
11.00 – 12.30	<i>Reconstructing Heather Firbank</i> - Jenny Lister & Cassie Davies-Strodder, V&A

Mattli - an assessment of his contribution to the post-war fashion and textile industry re-evaluated in the context of London couture - Caroline Ness, PhD Candidate, Centre for Textile Conservation & Technical Art

The Canon of Charles James Tim Long, Curator of Fashion and Decorative Arts, Museum of London

12.30 – 1.30

Lunch

Session B

1.30 – 3.00

Delegates will split into two groups -
“Hands On” Practical Session led by Veronica Isaac looking at dating garments, construction and alterations at BRLSI
&
Tour of the Study Facilities/Stores at the Fashion Museum

3.00 – 3.30

Tea/coffee

Session C

3.30 – 5.00

‘Painted Pomp’; 17th century dress up sessions for museum visitors - Dr Jane Malcolm Davies, the Tudor Tailor & Christina Parker, Head of Education, Holburne Museum

Hat Reconstruction - Veronica Main, Significant Collections Curator, Luton Culture, Wardown Park Museum

‘Online re-lighting’ - Dinah Eastop, PhD, MA, FIIC, ACR, Curatorial Research Fellow, The National Archives, Kew

6.30 – 7.30

Evening Reception at the Fashion Museum

8.00/8.15

Informal dinner (venue to be confirmed)

Fri 11th October at BRLSI, Queens Square, Bath

9.30 – 10.00

DATS 2013 AGM

10.30 – 11.00

Registration and coffee

Session D

11.00 – 12.30

Interpretation and re-construction of medieval shoes - Pam Walker, Museum Officer, and Charlotte Berry, Shoe Museum

Whose Petticoat is this? Uncovering the secrets of a rare eighteenth-century court mantua - Rosie Taylor-Davies

Construction of Queen Victoria’s Fashionable Image - Deirdre Murphy, Historic Royal Palaces

12.30 – 1.30

Lunch

Session E

1.30 – 3.00

Delegates will split into two groups -

“Hands On” Practical Session led by Veronica Isaac looking at dating garments, construction and alterations at BRLSI
&
Tour of the Study Facilities/Stores at the Fashion Museum

3.00 – 3.30 Tea/coffee

Session F

3.30 – 5.00 *Reconstructions for Visitors* - Ellie Jones, National Trust Conservation & Engagement Manager

Conservation & Reconstruction - Ann French, Conservator, Whitworth Art Gallery

Constructing Replica Petticoats - Lara Flecker, V&A

5.00 – 5.30 Summing Up by Christine & Rosemary.

Saturday 12 October 2013

OPTIONAL DAY Visit to the American Museum in Bath including a guided tour with a textile focus and then free time to explore the museum afterwards. A coach will leave Bath city centre around 9.30am and return at 3pm. (Booking required for seat on coach)

(The conference programme may be subject to minor changes)

NEWS

DATS Subscription Renewals

Members should be aware that membership subscriptions are due for renewal in September. For details of how to pay by standing order please contact the Membership Secretary. The committee are pleased to announce that Veronica Isaac is the new Membership Secretary. Contact details for Veronica can be found on page 3.



The Clothworkers' Centre for the Study and Conservation of Textiles and Fashion
Opens 8 October 2013

The V&A is creating a new centre for the study, enjoyment and care of its outstanding

textiles and fashion collections. Housing over 104,000 objects ranging from small archaeological textile fragments from Egypt to enormous tapestries created for medieval European palaces; and from the latest creations by leading contemporary designers to hoop petticoats from the 1740s, the Clothworkers' Centre will offer the best possible access to the V&A collections for the many researchers, students and enthusiasts who use them every year.

The Clothworkers' Centre for the Study and Conservation of Textiles and Fashion is being developed at Blythe House in Kensington Olympia, home to the V&A's study collections and the Archive of Art and Design. It will open on 8 October 2013 and is being made possible thanks to a generous lead grant from The Clothworkers' Foundation and further support from many others.

Haworth Tompkins Architects have sensitively designed the Centre within the Grade II listed Edwardian building, maintaining and enhancing the industrial feel of the internal architecture by reinstating original features, while inserting contemporary interventions to form new spaces. The original grand entrance of Blythe House will be reopened to create a more welcoming street presence. A donation from Mr. Jorge Yarur Bascuñán has enabled the V&A to create a new reception area, which will feature floor to ceiling glass cabinets to house changing displays from the study collections. The first display will be Eduardo Paolozzi's *Krazy Kat Arkive of Twentieth Century Popular Culture*.

A spacious new public study room will offer a relaxed and peaceful environment for visitors to view even the largest textiles first hand, with staff and reference books available for consultation. The adjoining seminar room, supported by The Patricia Baines Trust, will be used for groups and classes accommodating up to 18 people. Coats plc. has enabled one of the antique wooden display cabinets from the former Textiles Gallery to be restored for display in the study room. The cabinet will contain 160 framed historical textiles to show the quality, geographic range and diversity of the collection and to demonstrate a variety of textile techniques and design.

Modern, custom-built storage will ensure the long-term preservation of the collection. It includes storage for 1,280 large rolled textiles from 1.5 to six metres long; 500 linear metres of storage for hanging garments; and 7,000 drawers in six different sizes to house everything from dress fabrics to religious robes, handbags to walking sticks, and embroidery to underwear. A gift from The Basil Samuel Charitable Trust has purchased specialist access equipment to enable staff to work safely at height.

The V&A's Textile Conservation Department is one of the leaders in its field anywhere in the world. The new Centre provides upgraded conservation studios in which they can carry out their specialist conservation of the collection. Visitors will be able to see into the studios and watch work in progress.

Martin Roth, V&A Director, said: *"This development at Blythe House reflects our commitment to making the V&A's collections available to the widest possible audience to inspire designers and help researchers. We want visitors to the new Clothworkers' Centre to have the same experience studying fashion and textiles as they do when viewing fine art in our public study room or visiting our library."*

The new Clothworkers' Centre forms part of the V&A's ambitious FuturePlan and will release spaces previously used as storage at South Kensington for public galleries. Textiles and fashion will continue to be displayed in temporary exhibitions and in permanent galleries at the V&A, notably in the Fashion Gallery, which presents around 100 outfits arranged chronologically to reflect the quality and breadth of the V&A's collections. Some of the Museum's finest tapestries, embroideries and furnishing silks can be seen in the Medieval and Renaissance Galleries and important carpets, chintz, lace and rare fashion items in the British Galleries. The Tapestry Gallery shows the magnificent Devonshire Hunting Tapestries, the only great hunting tapestries to have survived from the 15th century and many superb textiles from China, Japan, Korea, South Asia and the Islamic world are on display in the Asian galleries.

In addition, catalogue entries for the textile and fashion collection are available online through 'Search the Collections': <http://collections.vam.ac.uk> , and a newly commissioned film about the Centre will be available on the V&A Channel.

Individual and group appointments to study and research the collections held in the Clothworkers' Centre must be booked in advance to enable the Museum to ensure that requested objects and the appropriate space to study them are available. Public tours of the Clothworkers' Centre will take place on the last Friday of every month.

Costume – The Journal of the Costume Society

NEW EDITORIAL TEAM

The current editors of *Costume*, Penelope Byrde and Verity Wilson, will reach the end of their five-year contract in December 2013. They are delighted to announce that they will be succeeded by

Valerie Cumming and Alexandra Kim as from 1 January 2014, with Christine Stevens continuing as Book Reviews Editor. The new team will start working alongside the present editors to ensure a smooth transition.

‘This is excellent news for the Costume Society and its journal’ says Penelope Byrde. ‘With such a distinguished and experienced pair of specialist historians as the new editors, *Costume* will undoubtedly go from strength to strength.’ Verity Wilson adds: ‘The new appointees will bring fresh insights into the editorial process and will continue to develop the journal as one of the premier publications for dress studies.’

VALERIE CUMMING is a dress and social historian who has edited books and articles alongside her own publications for many years. Previously Deputy Director and Chief Curator at the Museum of London, she was Chairman of the Costume Society from 2004 to 2009 and has been an editorial panel member of *Costume* since 2010. She is Chairman of the Olive Matthews Collection at Chertsey Museum, and a trustee of the Bullard and Callow trusts at the Museums Association. She is delighted to be following in the footsteps of Ann Saunders, Penelope Byrde and Verity Wilson whose memorable contributions to *Costume* have set a very high standard.

ALEXANDRA KIM is a dress historian and museum curator who has worked at Kensington Palace, Buckinghamshire County Museum, Chertsey Museum and the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford on a range of collections and display projects, including the *Enchanted Palace* at Kensington. She is a board member of the ICOM Costume Committee and formerly served on the Costume Society Committee 2008-2012. Alexandra currently lives in Toronto, Canada where she is working on a variety of dress-related teaching and research projects. She is looking forward to working with her fellow editor Valerie Cumming, Maney Publishing and prospective authors to produce a journal filled with a scholarly, lively mix of articles.

Costume is published on behalf of the Costume Society by MANEY PUBLISHING, an independent company specializing in academic journals. It is committed to publishing high quality journals in print and electronic formats that are international in scope and peer-reviewed. With offices in Leeds, London and the USA, Maney publishes extensively for learned societies, universities and professional bodies around the world.

OPEN – The Oil Paintings Expert Network

DATS have been approached by Andrew Greg at the University of Glasgow who works for the Public Catalogue Foundation, who has asked if members would like to be involved with OPEN, the Oil Paintings Expert Network, to help identify and catalogue paintings in public collections.

The Oil Paintings Expert Network will be a free-to-use online interface bringing together public art collections in search of specialist information regarding their collection, specialist knowledge from academics, the art trade and other experts, and informed members of the general public. The fundamental aim of OPEN is to improve the knowledge curators and other collection managers have about the art in their care. OPEN will work closely with the museum sector's existing Subject Specialist Networks and professional bodies in the field of art history and wider historical scholarship.

The OPEN interface is being designed this summer and autumn and will be tested live in November for public launch in December 2013. As part of the testing, they will pilot OPEN with queries and discussions within five of the Specialists Groups: Scottish Artists and Subjects, Continental European Paintings before 1800, British Portraits, Military Paintings and History, and Marine Paintings and Maritime History.

OPEN staff are currently recruiting experts in these five areas so that these Specialist Groups are set up before the live testing in November. They are particularly interested in dress and textile historians as their expertise is often crucial to identifying sitters and understanding the dating and subject matter of portraits.

Rebecca Quinton has agreed to be the contact for DATS, so do let her know if you have particular questions or would like to join the OPEN group, at rebecca.quinton@glasgowlife.org.uk



The Textile Society's Annual London
Antique Textile Fair
Sunday 6th October 2012
Chelsea Old Town Hall, King's Road, London,
SW3 5EE

This year the Textile Society hosts its 4th London Antique Textile Fair. Visit the fair for a fantastic range of antique textiles from around the world. Dealers selling English, European and World Textiles, 16th century to mid 20th century costume, good quality vintage dress and accessories, will be participating in this exciting event. Explore the fair for second hand books, ephemera and even get advice on textile conservation. www.textilesociety.org.uk

Temporary closure of Whitworth Art Gallery

Whitworth Art Gallery, at The University of Manchester, will close on 1 September 2013 to complete a 15 million pound capital development project to provide new gallery spaces, study areas and collection stores, and a large, new café 'in the trees'. The development will transform the 120 year old gallery creating a new experience for visitors. It will connect the existing 19th century building with the Whitworth Park around it. Designed by leading architects MUMA, the new Whitworth will feature an elegant contemporary extension of two new wings, together with extensive refurbishment of the current space which will reveal hidden areas of the historic building. The project will enable the Whitworth to meet the needs of current and future audiences, double the exhibition space and public areas, protect and display more of its collections and make them accessible to the widest possible audience.

The Whitworth will re-open in summer 2014.

Recent Acquisition to Haslemere Museum's Textile Collection

In March, Haslemere Educational Museum welcomed a fantastic collection of textiles previously housed at Maidstone Museum.

The Elizabeth Horsnaill collection of Middle and Eastern European costume consists of approximately 200 items collected by Elizabeth during the 1920s and 1930s when she was living with her husband in Vienna. After World War two she worked with displaced people in camps in Germany, Poland and Estonia and here she collected more items. Often they were made for her by the local people.



So far, staff at the Museum have discovered a bag from Greece with a beautiful seahorse motif (see picture), Romanian chemises, a Czechoslovakian headdress and tray cloths from Crete.

The pieces are currently undergoing documentation and further research. It is hoped that this will be completed by the end of the year and that a small display, website page and workshop dedicated to the collection can be put together during 2014.

Haslemere Museum already boasts a fine collection of European textiles including pieces collected by the Reverend Gerald Davies at the turn of the twentieth century, which now make up the Museum's highly regarded European Peasant Arts Collection. *Kate Braun, Collections Manager*

Audrey Duck, An Affectionate Remembrance

It is a fact that interest in, and love of textiles can bring people together. It acts as a golden thread through life. It was that which introduced Audrey and myself to each other. As early members of the Textile Society, also the Group for Costume and Textile Studies in Museums (now DATS), we met on frequent occasions. I well remember Audrey's excitement telling me she had booked to visit Russia for a textile study. From this, her enthusiasm and appreciation for all things Russian was established.

It was as members of the Textile Society Committee that we worked closely together. Audrey's knowledge of printed textiles being the archivist G.P. & J Baker was considerable.

I was fortunate to join visits to Russia, Poland, France and Switzerland organised superbly by Audrey. We also travelled together to Manchester for the ATF many times, Audrey as the competent driver with an amazing sense of direction, and myself as a second rate navigator!

It was on 17th June, 2013 that a Textile Society event was held at Haslemere Museum. This was related to the exhibition of Russian Peasant Art artefacts, giving Audrey and Pamela Smith the opportunity to show members interesting Russian textiles from their own collections. It was a great day of pleasure.

Audrey's life was all embracing, textiles, Church, elderly folk, friends, for which I was glad to be included in the latter. Her greatest embrace was for her husband Peter, Audrey's loving supporter.

Freda Chapman

Current and Forthcoming Exhibitions and Events

London

VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM, Cromwell Road, London SW7, www.vam.ac.uk

Club to Catwalk – London Fashion in the 1980s 10 July 2013 - 16 Feb 2014

Discover the creative explosion of London fashion in the 1980s in a major exhibition at the V&A. Through more than 85 outfits, Club to Catwalk: London Fashion in the 1980s showcases the bold and exciting new looks by the most experimental young designers of the decade, including Betty Jackson, Katharine Hamnett, Wendy Dagworthy and John Galliano.

FASHION AND TEXTILE MUSEUM, 83 Bermondsey Street, London, SE1 3XF

www.ftmlondon.org

The Glamour of Bellville Sassoon 20 Sept 2013 – 11 Jan 2014

Bellville Sassoon has been synonymous with high fashion for over 50 years. As Britain's foremost couture label from the 1960s onwards, founder Belinda Bellville with designers David Sassoon and Lorcan Mullany, dressed many of the world's most stylish women, including Diana, Princess of Wales. This exhibition traces the history of British glamour from the couture houses of the late 1950s, to the celebrities who became clients of the company. It also explores the influence of ready-to-wear and Vogue patterns.

MUSEUM OF LONDON, 150 London Wall, London EC2Y 5HN

<http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/london-wall/>

A Royal Arrival - Until 27 Oct 2013

Join us in celebrating the birth of the newest member of the Royal Family this summer! In our latest display we've taken the opportunity to showcase some of the royal items in our collection, many of which were worn by royal babies of the past and some of whom later succeeded to the throne.

See a cap worn by Charles I, a fine cotton vest and lace mitten worn by George III, a nursing apron thought to be worn by Queen Victoria and a selection of shoes and tiny booties worn by Queen Victoria's children Princess Beatrice, Princess Alice and Prince Leopold.

KENSINGTON PALACE STATE APARTMENTS, Kensington Garden, London W8 4PX

www.hrp.org.uk/KensingtonPalace

Fashion Rules: Dress from the collections of HM The Queen, Princess Margaret and Diana, Princess of Wales 4 July 2013 – 4 July 2015

Take a nostalgic look back at recent decades of dress through the wardrobes of three royal women in their fashion heydays: HM Queen Elizabeth II in the 1950s, Princess Margaret in the 1960s and 70s and Diana, Princess of Wales in the 1980s.

South East of England

CHERTSEY MUSEUM, 33 Windsor Street, Chertsey, Surrey KT16 8AT, Tel. 01932 565764

www.chertseymuseum.org.uk

FAREWELL TO ALL THAT, Edwardian and pre-First World War fashions, 1901 – 1914, 14 Sept 2013 to 23 Aug 2014

As we move towards the centenary of the start of the First World War, Chertsey Museum looks back at a golden era. The sumptuous garments worn in the decades before the conflict are explored through iconic pieces of underwear, sports clothing, daywear and dazzling evening dress from the Olive Matthews Collection.

Fashion Accessories Gallery - featuring shoes, fans, hats, bags, parasols, lace, shoe buckles and jewellery with items from the 17th century to the present day. Our beautiful and rare Tudor/Jacobean embroidered nightcap is currently on display in this gallery.

Southwest of England

FASHION MUSEUM, Assembly Rooms, Bennett Street, Bath, BA1 2QH, www.fashionmuseum.co.uk
Tel.01225 477173

Glamour - Continuing throughout 2013.

This dazzling display at the Fashion Museum invites visitors to be inspired by the glitz and glamour of evening wear fashion over the last 100 years. Featuring twenty two show stopping evening gowns and cocktail dresses, Glamour presents a glittering array of sumptuous silks and bejewelled creations guaranteed to make anyone the belle of the ball.

50 FABULOUS FROCKS! Until the end of 2013

The Fashion Museum in Bath celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2013 with a special display that will showcase 50 of its most glamorous dresses with the wow factor!

The exhibition will include a gorgeous gold embroidered Georgian court dress and a delicate 1870s gauze bustle day dress edged with purple fringing and redolent of the paintings of Tissot alongside a sleek jersey evening dress by Ossie Clark and a classic chic Chanel suit. will feature the iconic and influential names of 20th century couture - Schiaparelli, Poiret, Vionnet, Christian Dior, Yves Saint Laurent – as well as today's most desired fashion designers and brands - Erdem, Burberry, John Rocha.

TROWBRIDGE MUSEUM, The Shires, Court Street, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, BA14 8AT
www.trowbridgemuseum.co.uk



J & T Clark Ltd, Trowbridge, Wiltshire 1953

Trowbridge Festival Of Textile & Weaving 2013 – 17 Aug to 16 Nov 2013

Trowbridge's success in textile production was such that it became known as the 'Manchester of the West'. This success left an indelible impression on the town particularly in terms of its architectural heritage. There are a wealth of fine eighteenth century buildings which were constructed by the town's clothiers and numerous industrial sites including former mills.

Many of [Trowbridge Museum's](http://www.trowbridgemuseum.co.uk) displays relate to the process of cloth production. The festival will enable arts and cultural establishments within Trowbridge and the surrounding area to work

together to promote what the town has to offer! This year the fifth biennial festival offers a woven celebration of the hidden heritage and stories, displayed in textiles & [woven](#) cloth held at [Trowbridge Museum](#). Come along and see how textiles & weaving is still a vibrant part of the town and its surrounding areas!

For more details please see <http://trowbridgetextileandweavingfestival2013.wordpress.com>

North England

GALLERY OF COSTUME, Platt Hall, Rusholme, Manchester, M14 5LL

<http://www.manchestergalleries.org>

Christian Dior: Designer in Focus, 1947-57 12 June 2013 – 12 Jan 2014

Christian Dior (1905-57) was perhaps the most influential fashion designer of the twentieth century. His iconic 'New Look' of 1947 was a celebrated fashion innovation, helping to launch many of the innovations of fifties fashion. He went on to dominate the international arena, turning Dior into a global brand and re-establishing Paris as the fashion capital of the world. Dior's surviving outfits illustrate a great deal of his imagination, flair, daring and technical skill, whilst also demonstrating his feel for the female body. This exhibition shows nine rare costumes from the Paris house in the temporary exhibition gallery, and another six dresses from the London house in the first floor dining room.



LIGNE COROLLE ('NEW LOOK')
'Cabaret' bodice, Spring/Summer 1947
Full circular skirt, 1949



LIGNE ZIGZAG
Day dress, Spring/Summer 1948
Unlabelled but probably a model piece

THE BOWES MUSEUM, Barnard Castle, Co. Durham DL12 8N

www.thebowesmuseum.org.uk

Henry Poole & Co. ~ Founder of Savile Row - The Art of Bespoke Tailoring and Wool Cloth 21 Sept 2013 – 11 May 2014

Henry Poole & Co, the company which established Savile Row tailoring, is the subject of the inaugural exhibition of men's tailoring and craftsmanship at The Bowes Museum. In 1865 the company made the original dinner jacket for the Prince of Wales, a garment which later became known as the Tuxedo in the USA.

Laura Ashley: The Romantic Heroine 21 Sept 2013 –5 Jan 2014

Laura Ashley has a unique place in fashion history. Drawing on the past for inspiration, this iconic designer gave the world the chaste full-length printed cotton dress in earth-hewn natural colours with simple distinctive designs; this was a notion of life in a golden age, a pastoral idyll far away from mad city life.

This exhibition is a celebration of Laura Ashley's contribution to fashion in the company's 60th anniversary year and showcases 100 dresses – principally from the 1970s – from the collections at The Bowes Museum; the Fashion Museum, Bath and the Laura Ashley Archive.

HARRIS MUSEUM & ART GALLERY, Market Square, Preston, PR1
2PP www.harrismuseum.org.uk

Behind the Scenes of the Costume Store - 26 Oct 2013 to Oct 2014



This exhibition explores how the museum cares for its costume and textile collection and it celebrates all the people who help with this – from local volunteers and students to researchers from far and wide. It's a great chance to see the variety of treasures the Harris cares for in its stores, from elegant ball gowns to funky platform shoes. *Behind the Scenes* gives visitors a peak at some recent collections care projects – such as re-packing our sampler collection, cataloguing fashion plates, and making padded hangers for historic garments. It also showcases recent research projects such as investigating our fancy dress collection and on-going projects to digitise our Horrockses Fashions design books archive.

QUILT MUSEUM AND GALLERY, St Anthony's Hall, Peasholme Green, York, YO1 7PW
www.quiltmuseum.org.uk

It's All in the Making: Patchwork and Quilting unpicked 6 Sept – 30 Nov 2013

The British Quilt Study Group in collaboration with the Quilt Museum and Gallery

A Sensitive Art 6 Sept – 30 Nov 2013 An exhibition by the British Tapestry Group

LOTHERTON HALL, Off Collier Lane, Aberford, Leeds, LS25 3EB

www.leeds.gov.uk/lothertonhall

Dressed for Battle: The impact and influence of war on fashion until 31 Jan 2014

An exhibition exploring how clothes and style have been effected by war - from the clothes worn by those on the home front to the designers' love of the military look.

A day of talks called '*Fashions from the Home Front*' will be held at Lotherton Hall, on 17th October 2013. All details, including the programme and a booking form can be downloaded from the website www.leeds.gov.uk/Events/Pages/fashions-from-the-home-front.aspx

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS INTERNATIONAL TEXTILES ARCHIVE, St. Wilfred's Chapel, Maurice Keyworth Building, University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT, www.leeds.ac.uk/ulita

Phoenixes and Dragons: An exhibition of Chinese costume from the Qing Collection 24 Sept to 29 Nov 2013 (Tuesdays - Thursdays 09:30-16:30, Fridays by appointment)

This exhibition highlights the costumes in the collection, including several examples of dragon robes and female jackets, skirts and ornate collars. Many fragments of costumes are also displayed, including sleeve bands, rank badges and dragon robe panels.

The complete collection of costumes is being exhibited together for the first time. Due to their fragility, this exhibition may be a rare opportunity to view several of the garments, including a women's jacket couched with metallic thread and a tapestry-woven bride's robe.

Ireland

ULSTER MUSEUM, Botanic Gardens, Belfast, BT9 5AB www.nmni.com



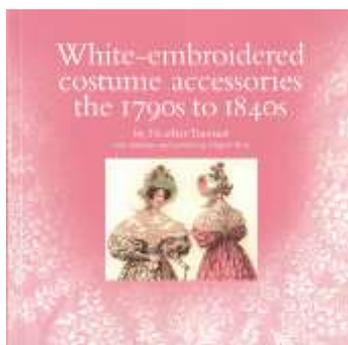
Image courtesy NMNI

Reflections: Costume 1730 - 2013, until 27 April 2014

This unique exhibition takes a look back at vintage fashion and style from as early as 1730, right up to the current trends and highlights a range of costume from sumptuous suits to glamorous evening gowns.

Showcasing the very best of the museum's costume collection, the exhibition celebrates the pioneering styles from the 18th and 19th centuries that are subtly reflected in the radical trends and fashions evident in pieces from today.

Book Review



Heather Toomer

White-embroidered costume accessories. The 1790s to 1840s.

(UK: Heather Toomer Antique Lace, 2013). 192pp. over 300 b/w and col. illus. ISBN 978-0-9542730-3-3. £19.75

DATS member Heather Toomer has produced another of her very useful books for the curatorial bookshelf.

Following *Baby Wore White* and *Embroidered with White*, *White Embroidered Accessories* looks at dress accessories from the period 1790s to 1840s. Most museum dress collections contain numerous examples from this period – collars, cuffs, habit shirts, pelerines, kerchiefs, stoles and aprons to name but a few. This book follows a similar pattern to the previous ones, in looking at the overall development of styles throughout the period in question, then examining in detail the embroidery techniques and changing styles in context. Many of the items photographed reside in Heather's personal collection, but there are also examples (fully cited) from museum collections, photographed clearly in detail or the subject of one of Elspeth Reed's meticulous drawings or scale patterns. The large number of contextualising fashion plates and portraits also considerably enhances the usefulness of this volume.

If anyone ever has the time to catalogue their collection, this will be a valuable *vademecum*.

Heather and Elspeth should be congratulated on their hard work and dedication in continuing this long-term project. Members can obtain copies directly from Heather at a discounted rate, enquiries to heathertoomer@ukgateway.net. Christine Stevens

New & Recent Books

80s Fashion: From Club to Catwalk, Sonnet Stanfill (V&A Publishing 2013)

This exciting book explores one of the most diverse and innovative periods in British fashion and showcases the work of some of the decade's leading designers – including Betty Jackson, Leigh Bowery, John Galliano, BodyMap, Vivienne Westwood and many others.

Highlighting the decade's extraordinarily creative interaction between fashion and popular music, the book shows how both catwalk and club fashions were interpreted for a wider audience through the striking photography and innovative graphic designs of key magazines. *80s Fashion* includes interviews and original archive material from practitioners such as Wendy Dagworthy and Paul Smith that casts new light on the designs of the decade.

V&A Gallery of Fashion, Claire Wilcox (Editor), Jenny Lister (Editor) (V&A Publishing 2013)

Spanning four centuries, the V&A's Fashion Collection is the most comprehensive in the world, housing unrivalled collections of dress, accessories, shoes and hats from the seventeenth century to the present day. This concise volume perfectly encapsulates the collection, from rare eighteenth-century gowns and exquisite eighteenth-century bodices to 1930s evening wear, post-war couture and show-stopping ensembles by contemporary designers. Fashion designers represented include Charles Frederick Worth, Madeleine Vionnet, Cristobal Balenciaga, Coco Chanel, Christian Dior, Mary Quant, Stephen Jones, Vivienne Westwood and Alexander McQueen.

Renaissance Velvets, Lisa Monnas, (V&A Publishing 2012)

The V&A holds one of the finest collections of Renaissance velvets, including a papal carpet, a 16th-century cloak, books and caskets covered in velvet, and numerous ecclesiastical vestments. This unique book introduces these velvets to the general reader, setting them within historical contexts, exploring the skills and special equipment needed to produce velvet, and describing the basic weaving techniques.

Historical Wig Styling: Victorian to the Present, by Allison Lowery, The Focal Press Costume Topics Series, (Focal Press, 2011)

Chinese Silks, edited by Dieter Kuhn, Chinese edition edited by Zhao Feng, Yale University Press (New Haven and London) and Foreign Languages Press (Beijing), 2012.

With contributions from seven authors, *Chinese Silks* is part of *The Culture and Civilization of China* series published in both English and Chinese by the Yale University Press and China International Publishing Group. It has been awarded the R.L. Shep Ethnic Textiles Book Award for 2012 by the Textile Society of America.

A Cultural History of Jewish Dress, Eric Silverman, (Bloomsbury Academic, 2013)

A Cultural History of Jewish Dress is the first comprehensive account of how Jews have been distinguished by their appearance from Ancient Israel to the present.

The Swimsuit: Fashion from Poolside to Catwalk, Christine Schmidt, (Berg Publishers, 2012)

Poiret, Dior and Schiaparelli: Fashion Femininity and Modernity, Ilya Parkins, (Berg Publishers, 2012)

African Dress: Fashion, Agency and Performance, Karen Tranberg Hansen and D. Soyini Madison (Bloomsbury Academic, 2013)

Dress and Textile Specialists Conference 10th – 12th October 2013

Construction and Reconstruction: Interpreting the Past

In collaboration with the *Fashion Museum, Bath* at the Bath Royal Scientific and Literary Institution

With a study visit to *The American Museum* on Saturday 12th October 2013

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