

# Dress and Textile Specialists Newsletter



**Autumn 2008**

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Front cover images:

White cotton muslin dress, c.1810 - 1815

'Y&N Diagonal Seam' corset, c.1890 – 1895

From the *Vanity Fair* exhibition recently opened at Chertsey Museum

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# DATS Conference 2008

## Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery/Museum Collections Centre

Access to Stored Collections/Identification of materials  
27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> November

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November – Access to Stored Collections  
BM&AG AV Room, Chamberlain Square, B3 3DH  
10.15 – 4.45 pm

**10.15            Coffee & registration**

Day 1 will look at innovative practice and a range of approaches to providing access to stored textiles, dress and related collections. Some speakers are still to be confirmed, so full details will be circulated as soon as possible.

**4.45pm        End**

**5-6pm        Committee Meeting**

**7pm            Dinner (optional)**

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November – Identifying Materials**  
**Museum Collections Centre, 25 Dollman St, Nechells, B7**  
**4RQ**

Day 2 will focus on two main groups of materials found within textile and dress collections. There is also an opportunity to view some of the stores at BM&AG's Collections Centre, which houses around half a million objects including fine and decorative art, social history, archaeology, anthropology and science collections.

**9.15 am      AGM**

**10.15          Coffee & registration**

10.30          Welcome & housekeeping

10.45          Marion Kite, Victoria & Albert Museum  
*Wearing nature – an overview of species used in dress and accessories in a variety of cultures*

11.45          Handling/identification session

**12.30-1.15pm      Lunch**

1.15pm          Colin Williamson, Smile Plastics Ltd, *Identifying plastics*

2.15pm          Handling/identification session

3pm:            Tea break/Tour of Museum Collections Centre:

3-3.30pm      Group 1: Stores 2 and 3  
Group 2: Warehouse/Floor 2

3.30-4pm      Group 1: Warehouse/Floor 2  
Group 2: Stores 2 and 3

**End 4pm**

## MLA/V&A Purchase Grant Fund

Support for the acquisition of a wide variety of dress and textile items is available from the [MLA/V&A Purchase Grant Fund](#), a government fund administered by the Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A) as part of its nationwide work.

The Fund supports the acquisition of objects relating to the arts, literature and history by regional museums, record offices and specialist libraries in England and Wales. Its annual budget, currently £1,000,000, comes from the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA). Each year it considers over 300 applications everything from archaeology to commissioned art. In 2007/8 £981,824 was awarded to 100 organisations, enabling acquisitions of over £3.95 million to go ahead. Recent examples of textiles and dress acquired with the Fund's help include:

- Brighton Art Gallery, Museum & Royal Pavilion  
Here comes the Moon by Alice Kettle, 2005
- Leeds Museums and Galleries  
Jacket by Vivienne Westwood, 1999
- Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester University  
Group of 3 Modernist textiles by Poiret's Ecole Martine, 1914; Warner and Sons for Fortnum and Mason, 1937 and Nancy Nicholson, 1947
- Tyne & Wear Museums Service, Newcastle  
Citrus Sinensis, a wool tapestry triptych by Caron Penney, Katherine Swales and Jo Holland, 2007
- Ashmolean Museum, Oxford  
Length of chintz from the Coriander Coast, India, c.1700-40



Organisations must meet the Purchase Grant Fund's eligibility criteria; the minimum requirement is that museums are accredited with MLA. The Fund retains an interest in the organisations and objects it supports and collections they join and ensures that the terms of grant offer continue to be met.

One of three Modernist textiles purchased by the Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester University.  
© University of Manchester

For more information on the Purchase Grant Fund visit the [website](#) ; telephone 020 7942 2536 or e-mail [purchasegrantfund@vam.ac.uk](mailto:purchasegrantfund@vam.ac.uk) to discuss a potential purchase.



Length of chintz from the Coriander Coast, India, c.1700-40, bought by the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford  
© Ashmolean Museum

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## News

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Congratulations to Grace Evans on the birth of baby Charlotte on the 11<sup>th</sup> July. While Grace is on maternity leave, Jennifer Mckellar, has taken on the role of DATS membership secretary.

Martin Pel has been appointed Assistant Curator/Keeper of Costume at Chertsey Museum in Grace's absence. He can be contacted at [martin.pel@runnymede.gov.uk](mailto:martin.pel@runnymede.gov.uk) or by telephone on 01932 575373.

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### Temporary Closure of the Costume Store at the Museum of London

The Museum of London Costume Store recently closed for storage refurbishment and will re-open in April 2009. For further information on the closure of the lower galleries and the overall redevelopment of the museum visit [www.museumoflondon.org.uk](http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk)

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### A new City Museum for Leeds

A new museum in the centre of Leeds with four floors of galleries. Costume and textiles can be found in many of the galleries, from the 'Leeds Story', to items from across Africa, on display in 'World View'. The 'Collectors Cabinet' show cases a selection of items from two of Leeds' costume collectors, with one of the highlights being a Chinese embroidered silk banyan, collected by Kenneth Sanderson.

Leeds City Museum, Millennium Square, Leeds, LS2 8BH Tel. 0113 224 3732  
[www.leeds.gov.uk/citymuseum](http://www.leeds.gov.uk/citymuseum)

## News from Gallery of Costume, Platt Hall, Manchester

The Gallery of Costume remains closed for major building work and will reopen in April 2009. The gallery's website has been re-launched and the new site has information about recent acquisitions and about the Victorian Photographic Archive which will be available online next year.

[www.manchestergalleries.org](http://www.manchestergalleries.org) Tel: 0161 224 5217



Recent acquisitions at Gallery of Costume

Pink dress labelled Dior Paris, 1963, an early creation of Marc Bohan who took over from YSL at Dior in 1960

Brown and gold brocade dress and jacket, Christian Dior London, late 1950s

Pink dress with an oriental inspired silk brocade bodice, Thea Porter, mid 1970

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## Temporary Closure of the Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter

The RAMM, Exeter, is currently closed for building work on the new galleries. It is due to re-open in 2010 with new displays including a selection from the dress and textiles collection. For more information visit

[www.exeter.gov.uk/museum](http://www.exeter.gov.uk/museum)

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## New Quilt Museum

The Quilt Museum and Gallery opened to the public on the 7<sup>th</sup> June 2008 and is Europe's first museum dedicated to quilt making. Housed in the medieval guildhall of St Anthony in Peasholme Green, York, the independent museum is home to the Quilters' Guild of the British Isles and the guild's Heritage Quilt Collection.

*Quilts in Common*, a guest exhibition from the International Quilt Study Centre in Lincoln, Nebraska, will run from 10 October 2008 until 11 January 2009 and will feature quilts from different countries. The exhibition is designed to show the shared approach to ideas and symbolic expression.

For further information visit [www.quiltmuseum.org.uk](http://www.quiltmuseum.org.uk) Tel: 01904 613242

# THE COSTUME SOCIETY SYMPOSIUM 2009

Great Malvern 3-5 JULY

## ***VIRTUE and VICE: MORALITY IN FASHION***

### **CALL FOR PAPERS**

The Costume Society symposium is *the* forum for recent academic research into all aspects of dress history and contemporary dress. Our 2009 Symposium will be held in Great Malvern, Worcestershire, at The Abbey Hotel.

The theme of the symposium is *Virtue and Vice: Morality in Fashion* which can be interpreted as how dress has functioned as an expression of sexuality, class or social status.

**Keynote speakers are Aileen Ribeiro; Jill Salen and Emma Tarlo.**

We would be particularly interested to receive papers from lecturers and students from relevant academic fields, museum curators, conservators, designers, garment technicians, collectors, and scholars.

Papers will be allocated 30 minutes; illustrations by powerpoint.

#### **Themes**

*Virtue and Vice: Morality in Fashion* offers many possibilities for papers on the subject of costume. Papers are solicited that draw on a wide variety of approaches. No restriction is placed on period, location or nationality. Here are a few ideas to start you thinking:

#### **Revealing clothing**

- tailored garments replacing unstructured garments in the Mediaeval period
- plunging necklines from the Minoan onwards
- neo-classical dress in late 18<sup>th</sup> - early 19<sup>th</sup> century/merveilleuses
- the mini skirt

#### **Decorum**

- the three-piece suit
- what is appropriate for different classes of society and/ or different occasions/pursuits

#### ***Conspicuous consumption***

- dagging and slashing in the Renaissance period;
- ruffs and shoe roses in the late 16<sup>th</sup>-early 17<sup>th</sup> Centuries
- frills and furbelows in the 18<sup>th</sup>C

#### **Extremes of fashion**

- high hairstyles and headdresses from the Mediaeval hennin to the 1960s beehive
- hooped skirts
- the cod piece petticoat breeches; macaronis
- pointed toes, high heels and platform soles

*Religious attitudes*

railing of the priesthood against fashion change  
clothing imposed by 19thC missionaries in Africa  
the Islamic veil  
Puritan dress

**Miscellaneous**

changing attitudes to stiletto heels from 1950 to 2000  
the fur and feather trades  
effect of British clothing exports on colonial industries

Those wishing to present papers should submit an abstract (approx 200 words) with a short career résumé by 30 November 2008.

Proposals will be considered by a committee chaired by the  
Symposium Academic Co-ordinator **Heather Toomer** M.A.(Cantab); Dip. Ed.

We regret it is not possible to pay fees or expenses for contributors of papers to the Symposium

**Abstracts with 4 copies should be sent to:**

**Linda Richards, Symposium Co-ordinator, 58 Clissold Crescent, London N16 9AT**  
**Closing date 30 November 2008**

Notification will be made to all by 1 March 2009.

enquiries: [Symposium@CostumeSociety.org.uk](mailto:Symposium@CostumeSociety.org.uk)

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**The Costume Society / National Museums Scotland**

**Jean Muir Study Day**

**Date: 29<sup>th</sup> November 2008, 10.00 am – 4.30pm**

**Venue: David Hume Lecture Theatre, George Square, University of Edinburgh,  
Edinburgh**

This study day will explore and celebrate the work of the leading British designer Jean Muir within the context of international fashion between 1966 and 1995. In 2005, the Jean Muir Collection of more than 18,000 items was donated to National Museums Scotland by her widower, Harry Leuckert. The National Museum of Scotland exhibition *Jean Muir: A Fashion Icon* (7 November 2008 – 15 March 2009) will be the first public opportunity to see highlights from this amazing collection. The day is also supported by The Costume Society of Scotland.

Speakers include fashion historian Amy de la Haye, curator of *Jean Muir: A Fashion Icon* Kristina Stankovski, Jean Muir's senior designer Joyce Fenton-Douglas, fashion journalist Iain Webb and jeweller Nuala Jamieson.

Please note that ticket price includes entry to the exhibition, tea and coffee, but lunch is not included.

## MORNING PROGRAMME

- 10:00 Registration and coffee
- 10:25 Welcome and introduction to the morning session  
**Chair:** Sylvia Ayton, Vice Chairman of The Costume Society, fashion designer and lecturer
- 10:30 Keynote paper - **Jean Muir: an introduction**  
Amy de la Haye, independent curator, dress historian and Reader in Material Culture and Fashion Curation, London College of Fashion.
- 11:00 **Inside the Jean Muir Collection and Exhibition**  
Kristina Stankovski, Curator of Dress and Textiles, National Museum of Scotland.

### Craft, Design and Production (Part 1)

- 11:30 **Studio Sketches**  
Joyce Fenton Douglas, Design Director Jean Muir Ltd. 1995-1997
- 12:00 Chaired panel discussion and audience questions
- 12:30 Lunch (not provided) and chance to see *Jean Muir: a Fashion Icon*

## AFTERNOON PROGRAMME

- 13:55 Resume with tea and coffee
- 14:10 Welcome and introduction to the afternoon  
**Chair:** Naomi Tarrant, clothing and textile historian

### Craft, Design and Production (Part 2)

- 14:15 **Working with Jean Muir: designing buttons and jewellery for the collections**  
Nuala Jamison, jeweller in conversation with Sarah Saunders, Deputy Head of Education, National Galleries of Scotland.

### Marketing and Promotion

- 14:50 **Miss Muir: The Lady and the Punk**  
Iain R. Webb, journalist and fashion historian
- 15:20 Chaired panel and audience questions
- 15:45 Close & time to visit the exhibition
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**The Costume Society / National Museums Scotland**

**Jean Muir Study Day**

**Date: 29<sup>th</sup> November 2008, 10.00 am – 4.30pm**

**Venue: David Hume Lecture Theatre, George Square, University of Edinburgh,  
Edinburgh**

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I wish to book tickets for the Costume Society/ National Museums Scotland Jean Muir Study Day, 29.11.08

I confirm that I am / am not (**delete as necessary**) a member of the Costume Society/  
Costume Society of Scotland.

Or a student ( please attach photocopy of student identity card)

Member rate @ £30.00

Non Member rate @ £35.00

Student rate @ £16.00

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

.....

email contact.....

Telephone .....

<b>I enclose my cheque for £</b>	<b>payable to <u>The Costume Society</u> together with an A5 sae</b>
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Please send to: The Costume Society, 10 The Orchard, Locking, Weston-super-Mare, BS24 8DU

Signed: .....

Date.....

## Current and Forthcoming Exhibitions and Events

### London

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**Victoria and Albert Museum**, Cromwell Road, London SW7, [www.vam.ac.uk](http://www.vam.ac.uk)  
Tel. 020 7942 2000

*FASHION V SPORT* - continues until 4 January 2009

Sportswear has become an essential part of the modern wardrobe. Trainers and tracksuits are often more readily worn than suits and high performance textiles developed for competition are being integrated into high-end fashion. Fashion V Sport examines the way that sports styles are adapted to make fashion statements, both on the street and through high fashion, and how sports and fashion products are consumed, customised and worn.

This exhibition explores the creative connections between the two worlds of fashion and sport. Recent developments have seen an increasing number of collaborations and hybrids, from fashion designers producing collections with sportswear brands to sports personalities heading fashion campaigns or even designing their own collections. Fashion V Sport will reveal the complexities and tensions between the two industries.

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*MAGNIFICENCE OF THE TSARS* – 10 December 2008 to 29 March 2009

The grandeur of Imperial Russia will be captured in this display of the dress and uniforms of Emperors and officials of the Russian court. Starting in the 1720s with the lavishly embroidered coats and elaborately patterned silk banyans from the wardrobe of Tsar Peter II, the display will span a period of almost centuries. Garments on display will include coronation uniforms and regalia of Paul I, Alexander I, Nicholas I, Alexander II and Alexander III. Magnificence of the Tsars will explore the influences and crossovers between military uniform, court dress, European fashion and traditional Russian dress and will present the power and majesty of masculine uniform at its finest.

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**V & A Museum of Childhood**, Cambridge Heath Road, London, E2 9PA, Tel. 020 8983 5200

*TOP TO TOE: FASHION FOR KIDS* – 4 October 2008 to 19 April 2009

Drawn from the Museum's outstanding collection, this exhibition explores the fascinating world of children's clothing – separating the myths from the realities. Were children in the past really dressed as miniature adults? Developments in the "form and function" of clothing are explored through a number of themes: childhood milestones; changing fashions over time; why fashions change and who drives this; and practical versus impractical clothes. Examples dating from the 1700s to the present will explore a range of materials and styles.

**The British Museum**, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DG  
[www.britishmuseum.org](http://www.britishmuseum.org) Tel: 020 7323 8299 (information desk)

*SOUTH EAST ASIAN TEXTILES* – until January 2009 in Room 2  
Textiles of the Hmong, a cross-border people living in Laos, Burma, Thailand, Vietnam and China, and textiles from Indonesia.

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**Kensington Palace State Apartments**, Kensington Gardens, London W8 4PX [www.hrp.org.uk](http://www.hrp.org.uk) or Tel. 020 3166 6166

*THE LAST DEBUTANTES - 1958 A SEASON OF CHANGE* –  
continues until 14 June 2009

A temporary exhibition marking the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the last court presentations takes visitors on a journey into the glamorous and alluring world of the debutante. Fashionable afternoon dresses and ball gowns, including stunning examples of couture by Christian Dior and Pierre Balmain, as well as accessories worn by some of the 'debs' during the final season of 1958 are displayed in this multimedia exhibition, which tells their stories against the backdrop of dramatic social change that heralded the arrival of the swinging sixties.

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**Fashion and Textile Museum**, 83 Bermondsey Street, London, SE1 3XF,  
[www.ftmlondon.org](http://www.ftmlondon.org) Tel. 020 7407 8664

*BILLY: BILL GIBB'S MOMENT IN TIME* – 24 October 2008 to January 2009

The Fashion and Textile Museum presents a retrospective of the work of one of the most creative designers of 20<sup>th</sup> Century London fashion. A contemporary of Ossie Clark, Biba's Barbara Hulanicki and Zandra Rhodes, Bill Gibb created beauty and fantasy in 70s fashion. His extreme imagination on paper was translated into garments of an haute couture level. Gibb's signature was gowns of romantic and historical inspiration textured with print, pattern, embroidery, beadwork and leather. With Kaffe Fassett he elevated knitwear to an art form.

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### Southeast of England

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**Chertsey Museum**, 33 Windsor Street, Chertsey, Surrey KT16 8AT, Tel. 01932 565764 [www.chertseymuseum.org.uk](http://www.chertseymuseum.org.uk)

*VANITY FAIR* – 27 September 2008 to 5 September 2009  
Nineteenth century fashion from Regency dress to late Victorian costume. Beautiful examples of soft muslin dresses, a white cotton cut-work pelisse, silk

dresses worn with crinolines and bustles as well as a stunning man's tail coat from the late 1830s. Numerous items are exhibited for the first time. Also displayed are accessories including shoes, hats, shawls and undergarments. With original film footage, and replica garments to try on.

### ***FASHION ACCESSORIES GALLERY***

Featuring shoes, fans, hats, bags, parasols, lace, shoe buckles and jewellery with items from the 17<sup>th</sup> century to the present day.

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## **Southwest of England**

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**Fashion Museum**, Assembly Rooms, Bennett Street, Bath, BA1 2QH,  
[www.fashionmuseum.co.uk](http://www.fashionmuseum.co.uk) Tel. 01225 477 173

***BILL GIBB: A PERSONAL JOURNEY*** – 17 October 2008 to 4 October 2009

A new display of show-stopping ensembles by 1970s fashion designer Bill Gibb, chosen by Iain R. Webb, author of *Bill Gibb Fashion and Fantasy*, from the Fashion Museum's important collection of wonderful Gibb designs. One of the most iconic pieces from the museum collections is the hippie inspired tartan, floral pint and Fair-Isle knit look chosen as Dress of the Year in 1970. This much loved ensemble will form the centre piece of the new display of approximately 20 ensembles chosen to showcase the fashion genius of this revered British designer.

***DRESSES FROM HISTORY*** – opened February 2008

A display of some of the oldest dresses in the museum collection, this selection of 13 women's dresses from the Georgian, Regency and Victorian period have been chosen for their decorative qualities and because they were the height of fashion at the time.

***1977*** - Until December 2008

The first in a series of displays which portrays fashion through images, '1977' looks at the fashion of the era through photographs printed in the music press of the day, and how the photographers helped to disseminate new ideas about dressing and behaving as well as capturing the edgy cultural explosion known as punk.

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**Killerton House**, Broadclyst, Exeter, Devon, EX5 3LE

***JOBS FOR THE GIRLS! A GLIMPSE INSIDE WORKING WOMEN'S WARDROBES*** – 11 March 2009 to 1 November 2009

The clothing shown in this new exhibition for 2009 will include uniforms as well as civilian dress worn for both work and leisure by women in a wide range of occupations. By the 1900s more women were involved in a great number of occupations. A design for a suffragette poster claimed that a

woman could be a mayor, nurse, mother, doctor, teacher or factory worker as well as a wife and mother, yet was still unable to vote in parliamentary elections. During the first and second world wars with so many able-bodied men away at the front, it became acceptable for women to step into their jobs and – literally – their shoes, taking on male roles, such as working on the railways and delivering letters. The exhibits, drawn from the collection of over 17,000 garments, accessories and associated ephemera at Killerton House, date from the eighteenth to the mid twentieth century, and include a working woman's leather corset from the mid eighteenth century, a Land Army uniform from the second world war, elegant tailor made costumes, and a glamorous cocktail dress from 1957 worn by Armine Sandford, the first woman newsreader for BBC Points West.

There will be an opportunity to find out more about the work of the costume department with a series of talks throughout the season, for further details tel. 01392 881 345.

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### North of England

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**Manchester Art Gallery**, Mosley Street, Manchester, M2 3JL

*IDENTIFYING AND DATING PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHS 1850 – 1920*, a Monument Fellowship Master Class will take place on **13 November 2008**.

Anthea Jarvis is running a training day on the study of Victorian and Edwardian portrait photographs. Aimed at family historians, archivists and curators with photographic collections the day will include looking at a range of photographs from the Gallery of Costume's Collections and discussing issues of dating and interpretation through the photographic techniques used and the dress worn by the sitters. Documentation and storage will also be covered.

The day is free but places are limited, those interested should contact Miles Lambert at [m.lambert@manchester.org](mailto:m.lambert@manchester.org)

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**Whitworth Art Gallery**, Oxford Road, Manchester, M15 6ER Tel. 0161 275 7450 [www.whitworth.manchester.ac.uk](http://www.whitworth.manchester.ac.uk)

*cloth and culture NOW: contemporary international textile art* – until 14 December 2008

A major exhibition bringing together work by leading contemporary textile artists from Estonia, Finland, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania and the UK. Textiles have played an important role in the cultural identities of these countries and the artists featured draw on those histories and traditions to produce inspiring new work.

**Gawthorpe Hall**, Padiham, Nr. Burnley, Lancs. Tel: 01282 771 004

*10 YEARS OF BOLTON PROGRESSIVE THREADS* – until 31 October 2008

Bolton Progressive Threads are an exhibiting group of textile artists who celebrate the diversity of both the traditional and contemporary. An exhibition of both favourite and new pieces of work, covering many aspects of textile and embroidery art.

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**World Museum Liverpool**, William Brown Street, Liverpool, L3 8EN,  
[www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk](http://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk) Tel. 0151 478 4393

*THE BEAT GOES ON* - continues until 1 November 2009

The exhibition explores Liverpool's rich musical heritage, its success and its continuing evolution. It features a range of costumes from the 1950s to the present day which helped to define the city's musical tastes and genres, such as the Beatles' famous collarless stage suits of 1963 and a Caroline Charles dress worn by Cilla Black on an early edition of Ready Steady Go! A wide range of styles is included, from clothes worn by local punks at Liverpool's famous Eric's club between 1977 and 1980 to clothes worn in promotional videos by local bands, the Zutons and Clinic.

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**Hat Works**, Wellington Mill, Wellington Road South, Stockport SK3 0EU. Tel : 0161 355 7770 [www.hatworks.org.uk](http://www.hatworks.org.uk)

*COOL IN THE POOL* – until 16 November 2008

This exhibition looks at swimming fashion from Victorian times to the present, focussing on the swimming cap in all its glory. Come and see big fabric shower-cap styles, rubbery floral creations of the 1960s and sleek racing caps used by the Olympic athletes of today.

*WHAT'S HOT - FELICITY FAICHNEY* - 20 October 2008 to 9 January 2009

With a background in the Theatre, Felicity brings drama and invention to her creations for the Hatwalk and the stage. Committed to passing on her skills to up and coming milliners, Felicity has earned her position as one of the UK's leading lights in the fields of millinery and contemporary design.

*PANTO!* - 22 November 2008 to 8 February 2009

This exhibition is a celebration of outrageous and elaborate Pantomime costume and headwear during the traditional Panto season. Hat Works has worked closely with the Plaza Theatre in Stockport to bring you an array of theatrical costumes for our favourite Pantomime stories.

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**York Castle Museum**, The Eye of York, York, YO1 9RY Tel: 01904 687 687  
[www.yorkcastlemuseum.org.uk](http://www.yorkcastlemuseum.org.uk)

*THE SIXTIES* - continues until 18<sup>th</sup> March 2012

The brand new 1960s experience at York Castle Museum will change your perspective on one of the most explosive decades in recent times. The gallery brings the spirit of the decade back to life, looking at the iconic images but also offering alternative viewpoints in an exciting and interactive way. Rare items from a range of collections across the Trust - social history, art, fashion and textiles, militaria, astronomy and decorative art – are all included together with sound, light, moving images and innovative design.

*CHINESE REFLECTIONS* – continues until 31 December 2008

Textiles, tea and ceramics feature in this exhibition which explores 300 years of Chinese influence on everyday life in Britain, showcasing our most impressive Chinese and Chinoiserie items and looking at contemporary Chinese influences expressed by today's Chinese community in York.

*FROM CRADLE TO GRAVE* – ongoing

This exhibition focuses on the history of three rites of passage, birth, marriage and death and includes christening gowns, wedding clothes, trousseau items, mourning clothes and jewellery.

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**University of Leeds International Textiles Archive (ULITA)** St. Wilfred's Chapel, Maurice Keyworth Building, Moorland Road, Leeds LS2 9JT  
[www.leeds.ac.uk/ulita](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/ulita) Tel. 0113 343 3919

*BALI AND THE ISLANDS OF THE SOUTHEAST, AN EXHIBITION OF INDONESIAN TEXTILES FROM BALI AND NUSA*

*TENGGERA* - 7 October 2008 to 27 February 2009

This exhibition aims to reveal some of the diversity and richness of the textiles of this region, based around a number of themes, including functions, ritual, design, production techniques, culture, continuity, decline and innovation.

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**Leeds Costume Collection**, Lotherton Hall, Lotherton Lane, Abeford, Leeds, LS25 3EB Tel: 0113 281 3259

*CHINESE TREASURES* - continues until 31 December 2008

Chinese costume and textiles are on display as part of this year's Chinese Treasures exhibition. Star items include a tasselled banner with applied Taoist figures, an umbrella with tiers of calligraphy ribbons, dragon robes, an opera robe, lucky red robes for women including one embroidered with lots of flying cranes, and animal faced slippers for children.

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**Temple Newsam House**, Temple Newsam Road, Off Selby Road, Leeds, LS15 0A, [www.leeds.gov.uk/templenewsam](http://www.leeds.gov.uk/templenewsam) Tel: 0113 264 5535

*MY MOST TREASURED PIECES: Textiles from the Henry Ginsburg Collection* - 25 November 2008 to 29 March 2009



The most glamorous and ravishing textiles from the Henry Ginsburg Collection will be on display for the first time. Particular highlights include 1700's European brocades, an early ecclesiastical silk and an array of English and French printed cottons. Of particular note is an enormous "scrap book" of historic fabrics which was given to Henry by his mother to encourage him to take an interest in textiles. The exhibition celebrates the art of textiles inviting the viewer to be intrigued by the beauty and the skill of the pieces on display.

English printed cotton, 1780

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**Abbey House Museum**, Abbey Walk, Kirkstall, Leeds, LS5 3EH, Tel: 0113 230 5492

*WEDDINGS* – continues until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008

An exhibition all about the celebration of getting married. On display is a selection of dresses and accessories representing wedding fashions from the past and also different cultures. The nation's love of a good Royal Wedding will be shown by an array of souvenirs and memorabilia, including a dress designed by Zandra Rhodes for HRH Princess Anne.

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**Cartwright Hall Art Gallery**, Lister Park, Bradford, BD9 4 NS Tel. 01274 431 209

*Fabric of a Nation: Textiles and Identity in Modern Ghana* – 13

December 2008 – 15 February 2009

A British Museum exhibition, *Fabric of a Nation* includes over one hundred sumptuous wax resist textiles from Ghana. The exhibition focuses on the role of printed cloths and designs in the expression of cultural, social and political identity also charting a colonial legacy showing how Indonesian batik provided the initial source of inspiration.

### **Scotland**

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**National Museum of Scotland**, Chambers Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1JF, Tel. 0131 225 7534

*JEAN MUIR: A FASHION ICON* – 7 November 2008 to 15 March 2009

Explore the workings of this 20<sup>th</sup> century fashion designer, and unravel the distinctive “Jean Muir” look.

Jean Muir, (1928 – 1995) was an iconic figure in the world of fashion design. In 2005 the Jean Muir collection of over 18,000 items was donated to the National Museum of Scotland by her widower, Harry Leuckert. This cutting edge exhibition will feature selected highlights from this amazing collection, on display to the public for the first time. Examine the workings of an international fashion house through sketches, trial garments, finished garments, accessories, inspiring video footage and images by leading fashion photographers.

For details of related events and workshops visit [www.nms.ac.uk](http://www.nms.ac.uk)

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**The Burrell Collection**, 2060 Pollokshaws Road, Glasgow G43 1AT,  
[www.glasgowmuseums.com](http://www.glasgowmuseums.com) Tel. 0141 287 2550

*COLOURS OF THE SILK ROAD* – until 4 January 2009

A rare chance to see the Burrell’s prized collection of suzani – richly embroidered wall hangings from Uzbekistan. Discover how these exquisite works were created, and find out about the lives of the women who made them and the multi-cultural society in which they lived. Carpets from Western China and Iran, and textiles from Central Asia and Turkey illustrate the exchange of artistic influences between Uzbekistan and other areas along the Silk Road trade route.

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**Ireland**

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**National Museum of Ireland – Decorative Arts and History**, Collins Barracks, Benburb St., Dublin 7, Ireland, [www.museum.ie](http://www.museum.ie)  
Tel: 00 353 1 6777 444

*A DUBLINER’S COLLECTION OF ASIAN ART: THE ALBERT BENDER EXHIBITION* – from 13 November 2008

This new gallery at the National Museum of Ireland will showcase the collection of oriental artefacts donated to the museum by Dublin born Albert Bender during the 1930s, and will include 18<sup>th</sup> century painted Thangkas, Chinese tapestries and embroideries, and a Daoist priest’s robe.

*NEILLÍ MULCAHY - IRISH HAUTE COUTURE OF THE 50s AND 60s* – continues until October 2009

The exhibition looks at the work of the Irish fashion designer, Neillí Mulcahy. She was known for her innovative use of Irish tweeds collaborating with hand

weavers to produce fabrics in lightweight weaves and vibrant colours. The exhibition includes a selection of outfits for day and evening wear supported by contemporary fashion photography and illustrations.

### New York

**The Museum at the Fashion Institute of Technology**, Seventh Avenue at 27 Street, New York City, 10001-5992 [www.fitnyc.edu/museum](http://www.fitnyc.edu/museum)

*GOTHIC: DARK GLAMOUR* - until 21 February 2009.

For anyone lucky enough to be visiting New York over the next few months, this dramatic sounding exhibition claims to be the first devoted to the gothic in fashion. An introductory gallery focuses on the origins of gothic style, such as the Victorian cult of mourning, while the main gallery is designed to suggest iconic gothic settings and includes designer fashion inspired by dark romanticism, as well as the sub-cultural styles of "Goth".

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### Books - recent and forthcoming publications

***Bill Gibb Fashion and Fantasy*** by Iain R. Webb, (V&A Publications, October 2008)

Published to coincide with the opening of the exhibition *BILL GIBB: A PERSONAL JOURNEY* at the Fashion Museum, Bath.

***British and Irish Home Arts and Industries 1880 – 1914: Marketing Craft, Making Fashion***, by Janice Helland, (Irish Academic Press, 2007)

This book studies the revival of cottage crafts that accompanied the growing arts and crafts movement in Britain and Ireland, focusing on three in particular, the Donegal Industrial Fund, The Irish Industries Association and Highland Home Industries. It looks at the society women, such as Lady Aberdeen and the Duchess of Sutherland, who patronised and promoted these home arts and industries, endorsing a relationship between work and morality, while also recognising the significance of consumption and market in the selling of traditional crafts as high fashion.

***Chintz: Indian Textiles for the West*** by Rosemary Crill, (V&A Publications, 2008)

***Corsets: Historical Patterns & Techniques*** by Jill Salen, (Batsford, 2008)

To order a copy of the book please send a cheque for £20 payable to Jill Salen at 39 Palace Road, Llandaf, Cardiff, CF5 2AG. For more info [jillsalen28@hotmail.com](mailto:jillsalen28@hotmail.com)

***Plumes: Ostrich Feathers, Jews and a Lost World of Global Commerce*** by Sarah Abrevaya Stein, (Yale University Press, Jan 2009)

Described by the publisher as "a singular story of global commerce, colonial economic practices, and the rise and fall of a glamorous luxury item."

**Paris 1962: Yves Saint Laurent and Christian Dior – The Early Collections** by Jerry Schatzberg, Julia Morton and Patricia Bosworth, (Rizzoli Publications, 2008)

**John Bates: Fashion Designer** by Richard Lester, (Antique Collectors' Club, November 2008)

**The Glamour of Bellville Sassoon**, by David Sassoon and Sindy Stemp, (Antique Collectors' Club, 2008)

**Underkläder- En kulturhistoria (Underwear – A Cultural History)** by Britta Hammar and Pernilla Rasmussen (Sweden, Atlantis, 2008)

*Underkläder* (Underwear) is a vivid, innovative and detailed cultural history of the development of undergarments from the 18th century onwards. Changing fashions, commerce, production, different textile materials, ideals of beauty and theories of hygiene are treated.

[mail@atlantisbok.se](mailto:mail@atlantisbok.se) [www.atlantisbok.se](http://www.atlantisbok.se)

### Research query

Linda Gray is embarking on research into the collection, display and interpretation of the decorative arts in British museums and is interested in making contact with museum professionals who have had experience of working on decorative art collection redisplays or creating temporary exhibitions from permanent decorative arts collections.

She can be contacted by email [lauragray1@btinternet.com](mailto:lauragray1@btinternet.com) or by post at

Laura Gray (Curatorial Assistant, Art),  
Harris Museum & Art Gallery,  
Market Square,  
Preston,  
PR1 2PP.

# DATS Conference 2008

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery/Museum Collections  
Centre

## Booking form

Name:  
E-mail:  
Tel. no:  
Organisation:  
Address:

Please tick your choice of days and payment method below:

Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> November:	£32 Member	<input type="checkbox"/>
	£36 Non-member	<input type="checkbox"/>
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> November:	£32 Member	<input type="checkbox"/>
	£36 Non-member	<input type="checkbox"/>
Both days:	£60 Member	<input type="checkbox"/>
	£65 Non-member	<input type="checkbox"/>

I enclose a cheque made payable to 'Dress & Textile Specialists'	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please send an invoice to this address:	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you would like to join us for dinner at a local restaurant on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup>

evening, please tick:

Refreshments, including lunch will be provided on both days.  
Dietary requirements:

Access requirements:

Directions and an accommodation list will be sent out to delegates on booking. Both locations are easily accessible using public transport. There is a free car park at the Museum Collections Centre, which is just outside the city centre, but not at BM&AG.

Please return this booking form by Friday 21 November to:  
Kath Leahy, Curatorial Secretary, Curatorial Services Team,  
BM&AG, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham B3 3DH  
[kath\\_leahy@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:kath_leahy@birmingham.gov.uk)  
Tel: 0121 303 8775