

# Original Costume Museum Society

## Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 4, September 2007  
September 12, 2007

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## OCMS NEWS

### Creating a Museum Requires Support from OCMS Members

On September 10, 2007, a meeting of the members of the OCMS was held to review and discuss the OCMS's goal of establishing a museum of historic fashion.

There was continued agreement that the current OCMS mandate retains its merit. Some of the participants in the meeting volunteered to help on the board, which was greatly appreciated by the present board members. Additional assistance, particularly in the fundraising, legal, financial, and public relations areas, is still required.

Please contact Donna Bryman at 604-224-6769 for more information about how YOU can help.

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## OCMS EVENTS

### Sunday, September 23, 2007

#### *The Art Deco Woman: Geometry and Fashion 1925 to 1935*

Fashion Show with Ivan Sayers

Local fashion historian **Ivan Sayers** explores the roots, heyday, and legacy of Art Deco fashion with live models wearing superb garments from the 1920s and 1930s. Mannequins display original dresses created by French couturiers. By 1925 a woman's figure had all but disappeared within her garments and the past emphasis on body shape was replaced by a skillful use of line, proportion, and texture. In Paris, L'Exposition des Arts Decoratif created a sensation with its varied application of the Art Deco style, which focused on simplicity and geometry. Designers, like Coco Chanel, Jean Patou, and Edward Molyneux, reformed haute couture design. For the first time in living history, women were no longer required to wear corsets.

### Sunday, October 14, 2007

#### *Ladies in Waiting: A History of Maternity Dresses, 1860 to 1960*

Fashion Show with Ivan Sayers

A century ago society required pregnant women to disguise their condition by modestly adjusting their regular clothing or by going into "confinement," that is, by retiring from public life for several months and remaining isolated in their homes. Gradually, as social attitudes became more liberal, maternity garments became less inhibited. By the 1950s, maternity clothing was designed to display the "blessed event" and women appeared in polite society conspicuously pregnant. Today modern mothers-to-be proudly display their bulging tummies in tight fitting t-shirts and form fitting fashions. Join **Ivan Sayers** as he traces a century of changing attitudes toward pregnancy, while live models wear historic maternity fashions that bring the past to life.

**Sunday, November 4, 2007**

***Making Faces: The Painted Lady in Polite Society, 1910 to 1940***

Demonstration with Patrice Godin

Makeup for women was discouraged through most of the nineteenth century, but a “painted” face had become quite acceptable by the early twentieth century. Join theatrical costumer **Patrice Godin** as he explores the reasons for this dramatic change in the use of cosmetics and as he applies makeup to live models wearing fashionable garments from the 1920s to 1930s. Nineteenth-century society expected a woman of rank and privilege to stay indoors and retain her aristocratic pallor. After the First World War, social attitudes about cosmetics changed. Many countries had extended the vote to women and fashionable dress had become simplified. The face became more important than the figure. Using cosmetics to enhance facial features became less of a moral and class issue with the increasing popularity of moving pictures, which required sharply contrasted features when actors portrayed emotions on the silent screen.

All programs are presented at 2:00 pm  
Hycroft, 1489 McRae Avenue, Vancouver  
Tickets available at the door: \$20 per person  
\$18 per OCMS adult member / \$10 per OCMS student member  
General Admission

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**MEMBERS EVENTS**

**October 12, 2007 @ 7:30 pm**

***A Matter of Taste: 100 Years of What Makes Fashion Beautiful***

Fashion Show by Ivan Sayers

**October 13, 2007 @ 2:30 pm**

***I Can't Believe She Wore That Dress: 100 Years of Ugly Dresses***

Fashion Show by Ivan Sayers

Both shows at ArtSpring, Salt Spring Island  
More information or to purchase tickets: 250-537-2125  
[www.artspring.ca](http://www.artspring.ca)

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**AROUND TOWN**

**September 13, 2007 – March 23, 2008**

***Women's Fashion of La Belle Époque: 1890-1914***

**Vancouver Museum**



La Belle Époque is the term used to describe those years of comfortable well-being experienced by France and the rest of the Western World from the late nineteenth century to the beginning of World War I in 1914.

For truly fashionable women, La Belle Époque called for lavish display achieved with poise and elegance. Silhouettes changed many times throughout the period, and novelties in fashion came and went in quick succession. Sometimes ostentation overshadowed elegance. The garments and accessories astounded with vibrant colours, rich fabrics, fringes, beadwork, and fur.

Guest Curator: Ivan Sayers

Vancouver Museum  
1100 Chestnut Street, Vancouver  
<http://www.vanmuseum.bc.ca>

**September 24-29, 2007**  
**BC Fashion Week – Spring '08 Collections**

Twice each year, concurrent with the two annual fashion seasons, the entire industry comes together to present ready to wear lines to a focused target audience. Globally recognized as "Fashion Week", you have these events scheduled in many major fashion centres around the world. It is an opportunity for the entire industry to collectively showcase the upcoming seasons' collections to trade buyers (retailers, buying houses, distributors, wholesalers, agents, potential franchises), the media and individual buyers.

<http://www.bcfashionweek.com>

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**NEW PUBLICATIONS**

***Changing Clothes in China: Fashion, Modernity, Nation***

Authors: Antonia Finnane, Michael J. Dwyer  
Columbia University Press

Based largely on nineteenth and twentieth-century representations of Chinese dress as traditional and unchanging, historians have long regarded fashion as something peculiarly Western. But in this surprising, sumptuously illustrated book, Antonia Finnane proves that vibrant fashions were a vital part of Chinese life in the late imperial era, when well-to-do men and women showed a keen awareness of what was up-to-date.



Though foreigners who traveled to China in the early decades of the twentieth century came away with the impression that Chinese dress was simple and monotone, the key features of modern fashion were beginning to emerge, especially in Shanghai. Men in blue gowns donned felt caps and leather shoes, girls began to wear fitted jackets and narrow pants, and homespun garments gave way to machine-woven cloth, often made in foreign lands. These innovations marked the start of a far-reaching vestimentary revolution that would transform the clothing culture in urban and much of rural China over the next half century.

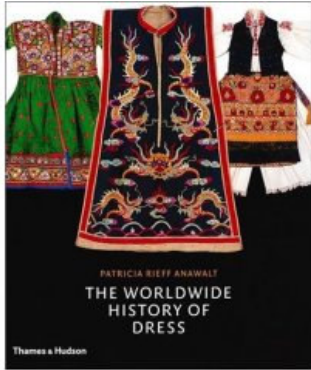
Through Finnane's meticulous research, we are able to see how the close-fitting jacket and high collar of the 1911 Revolutionary period, the skirt and jacket-blouse of the May Fourth era, and the military style popular in the Cultural Revolution led to the variegated, globalized wardrobe of today. She brilliantly connects China's modernization and global visibility with changes in dress, offering a vivid portrait of the complex, subtle, and sometimes contradictory ways the people of China have worn their nation on their backs.

Release date: November 1, 2007  
Hardcover  
ISBN-13: 978-0231143509  
\$35

## ***The Worldwide History of Dress***

Author: Patricia R. Anawalt  
Thames & Hudson

The definitive costume book: a glorious celebration of ethnographic clothing that brilliantly traces influences from culture to culture around the globe. From Neolithic plant-fiber skirts, Ancient Egyptian linen shifts, and Classical togas through Mongolian shamanic robes, Japanese kimonos, and Indian saris to nineteenth-century Tyrolean dirndls, contemporary African ceremonial attire, and today's Middle Eastern burqas, every notable geographical region, historical period, and style of dress is covered here.



All aspects of dress and accessories are discussed: basic men's and women's clothing, footwear, outerwear, hairstyles, headgear, jewelry, armor, special costumes, garment decoration, and face and body modification. More than one thousand illustrations include both vintage and modern-day photographs of local people in local clothing; color plates of museum-quality artifacts on display or posed on mannequins; historical paintings, miniatures, woodblock prints, and other artworks showing traditional clothing; line drawings illustrating traditional motifs and designs; and more than fifty specially commissioned maps.

As well as discovering remarkable examples of actual garments and accessories, Patricia R. Anawalt has unearthed stunning representations of authentic worldwide dress in the form of statues, figurines, busts, stone plaques, monumental carvings, friezes, murals, mosaics, and pottery. Historical backgrounds on each region include descriptions of population, geography, and climate, allowing the reader to understand fully the development of an area's clothing customs. 1,100 illustrations and photographs, 800 in color.

Release date: November 30, 2007

Hardcover

ISBN-13: 978-0500513637

\$100

*Have a great new publication to share? Send it to us!*

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## **WEBSITES TO VISIT**

### **Texas Fashion Collection**

The Texas Fashion Collection at the University of North Texas is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and documentation of historically significant fashion. The collection is an educational resource for students, researchers, and the general public. The site features an online catalog of the collection.

<http://www.tfc.unt.edu/main/Index.htm>

### **Vintage Fashion Guild**

The Vintage Fashion Guild (VFG) is an international organization for vintage fashion professionals. Their mission is to be the voice of the vintage fashion industry. The VFG site is a central educational resource available to everyone interested in vintage clothing.

The VFG invites you to register and join them on their vintage clothing forums for discussion of vintage fashion related topics. Everyone with an interest in vintage fashion is welcome to join them for vintage related chat on their public forums as a "friend" of the VFG; while more experienced sellers, curators, authors, journalists and vintage related bloggers can apply for membership to be involved in their trade forums. They also encourage you to visit their VFG Member Sites for quality vintage clothing and accessories.

<http://www.vintagefashionguild.org>

*Have a great costume or vintage clothing website to share? Send it to us!*

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The **Original Costume Museum Society** has been working towards the creation of a museum of historic fashion and fabric arts since 1992. During that time its members have produced exhibitions at numerous museums in the Lower Mainland of British Columbia and on Vancouver Island. Its members have presented historic fashion shows and educational programs about the history of fashion at trade schools, colleges, universities, libraries, theatre groups, museums, and a wide range of charitable organizations. Its collection of historic fashion, ethnic clothing, and flat textiles ranging in date from circa 1800 to 1985 has grown significantly.

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