

Original Costume Museum Society

Newsletter

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December 14, 2007

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OCMS NEWS

A Great Holiday Gift Idea – Membership in the OCMS

Looking for a great gift idea for that friend who is a true fashionista, or for someone who has a love of fashion history? Membership in the Original Costume Museum Society is the answer. Inexpensive and easy, there are four membership categories: Individuals (\$20), Seniors (\$10), Students (\$10) and Organizations (\$100). To purchase a membership, please contact the Membership Secretary Laura Offley at 604-599-4181 or damozel@shaw.ca.

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a Joyous New Year to you all from everyone at the OCMS!

OCMS EVENTS

Sunday, January 13, 2008

Guided Tour of the “Women’s Clothing of La Belle Epoque” Exhibition

Exclusive event for members of the Original Costume Museum Society

Exhibit curators **Ivan Sayers** and **Claus Jahnke** guide OCMS members on a special tour of the beautiful, extraordinarily popular exhibition “Women’s Clothing of La Belle Epoque, 1890-1914,” which is on display at the Vancouver Museum. Sayers and Jahnke provide expert commentary on the era’s evening clothing, travel dresses, reception gowns and lingerie from Canada, the United States of America, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Austria, Belgium, Latvia, Italy, China, and India.

This program is for Original Costume Museum Society members only. New memberships may be purchased at the door prior to the tour.

Tour begins at 2:00 pm at the Vancouver Museum, 1100 Chestnut Street, Vancouver.

Tickets: \$20 (includes OCMS member’s discount and admission to the Vancouver Museum).

Sunday, March 2, 2008

The History of Children’s Corsetry

Lecture with Melanie Talkington

For hundreds of years women have used corsets to alter the proportions of their bodies. Their acceptance of these garments often started when they were very young. In some households, girls of two or three years of age wore waist binding 24 hours a day. Join **Melanie Talkington**,

corsetiere and collector of historic corsetry, as she explores the psychology and history of girls' corsetry of the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries. Original corsets, commercial premiums and advertisements, and corsets designed as accessories for dolls will illustrate the theme.

Sunday, April 6, 2008

Fashion on the Frontier: Vancouver Clothing of 1886

Slide Show and Lecture with Ivan Sayers

Happy birthday, Vancouver! When Vancouver was incorporated as a city on April 6, 1886, it had graduated from being a sawmill town to being nominated as the western terminus of the transcontinental Canadian Pacific Railway. Although the city was a rough and tumble place, the local inhabitants aspired to a degree of sophistication that required fashionable dress. Vancouver fashion historian **Ivan Sayers** presents a slide show and lecture on the styles of clothing typical of what was worn by men and women in the new city at the time of incorporation. Actual garments from the period will be on display.

Sunday, May 4, 2008

Shanghai, the Paris of the East

Slide Show and Lecture with Ivan Sayers

The city of Shanghai has a mystique that conjures up images of power, wealth, and drama. It was one of the first cities in China to include a diverse, international population and one of the first to accept European fashion. Highly skilled Chinese sewers, directed by European design and designers, began a fashion industry, which reached the highest level of quality. **Ivan Sayers** presents a talk and slide show illustrating aspects of Shanghai fashions from the 1890s to the 1940s, including photographs from the albums of Leonard McCann, whose family lived in China from 1864 to 1949. Men's and women's clothing from Shanghai department stores, furriers, and professional and amateur designers will be on display.

All programs (except "La Belle Epoque" tour) 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

MEMBERS EVENTS

January 19, 2008

From Ducktails to Dior: A History of Men's and Women's Clothing from the 1950s

Exhibition Opening

Langley Centennial Museum

The museum is delighted to showcase clothing from the 1950s era. This exhibition created by local fashion historian Ivan Sayers will showcase clothing from the 1950s corresponding with the Langley Centennial Museum's birthday fifty years ago in 1958.

Exhibition runs from January 19 – March 16, 2008

For more information: 604-888-3922

<http://www.langleymuseum.org>

January 27, 2008

History of Sports Clothing

Fashion Show by Ivan Sayers

Benefit fashion show for Chrones's Disease.

Time: 2:00 pm

Location: To be determined

More information contact: Ivan Sayers, 604-872-1230

February 4, 2008

Baroque to Neo-Classical Fashion: Women's Clothing of the 18th Century

Series of six lectures by Ivan Sayers

UBC Continuing Studies

The 18th century was a time of great social and political change. These changes included the rise of an affluent middle class and a new urban population. At the beginning of the 18th century, changes in fashion were an amusement for the privileged few. But as international shipping became more efficient, as mechanized production became more successful and as the new middle and working classes developed disposable income, fashion and its whimsies gradually became more universal. This lecture series discusses the transition from the grand "bizarre" silk gowns worn by the rich and powerful in the Baroque period to the light, frivolous, taffeta creations of the Rococo years and then to the democratic white muslin shifts worn in the neo-classical period.

Mr. Sayers illustrates his lecture with actual 18th century gowns, underwear, lace and grooming items from his vast collection of costumes.

Mondays, February 4 - March 10, 2008

10:30 am -12:30 pm

University of British Columbia Robson Square, Vancouver

Course fee: \$135, seniors \$120, students \$175

More information: 604-822-1444

<http://www.cstudies.ubc.ca>

February 8, 2008

Chaperones, Coquettes and Courtship

Fashion Show by Ivan Sayers

DAC at SFU

Benefit fashion show for breast cancer.

Diamond Alumni Club

Simon Fraser University, Burnaby

More information: Carol Thorbes, 778-782-3035

<http://www.sfu.ca/dac/>

AROUND TOWN

December 16, 2007

Portobello West Fashion + Art Market

The Holiday's are in full swing and there is only one more market before Christmas! December 16th is your absolute last chance to visit Portobello West and find something special for someone special or yourself because of course you are special too. With over 120 local artists and

designers you are sure to find the perfect gift for anyone on your shopping list! Don't miss this unique shopping experience.

<http://vancouver.portobellowest.com/>

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.

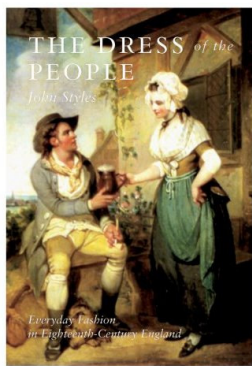
Guest Curator: Ivan Sayers

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

NEW PUBLICATIONS

The Dress of the People: Everyday Fashion in Eighteenth-Century England

Author: John Styles
Yale University Press



The material lives of ordinary English men and women were transformed in the years following the restoration of Charles II in 1660. Tea and sugar, the fruits of British mercantile and colonial expansion, altered their diets. Pendulum clocks and Staffordshire pottery, the products of British manufacturing ingenuity, enriched their homes. But it was in their clothing that ordinary people enjoyed the greatest change in their material lives. This book retrieves the unknown story of ordinary consumers in eighteenth-century England and provides a wealth of information about what they wore.

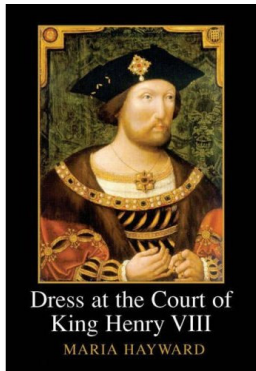
John Styles reveals that ownership of new fabrics and new fashions was not confined to the rich but extended far down the social scale to the small farmers, day laborers, and petty tradespeople who formed a majority of the population. The author focuses on the clothes ordinary people wore, the ways they acquired them, and the meanings they attached to them, shedding new light on all types of attire and the occasions on which they were worn.

Release date: February 28, 2008
Hardcover
ISBN-13: 978-0300121193
\$50

Dress at the Court of King Henry VIII

Author: Maria Hayward
Maney Publishing

Henry VIII used his wardrobe, and that of his family and household, as a way of expressing his wealth and magnificence. This book encompasses the first detailed study of male and female dress worn at the court of Henry VIII (1509-47) and covers the dress of the king and his immediate family, the royal household and the broader court circle. Henry VIII's wardrobe is set in context by a study of Henry VII's clothes, court and household.



As none of Henry VIII's clothes survive, evidence is drawn primarily from the great wardrobe accounts, wardrobe warrants, and inventories, and is interpreted using evidence from narrative sources, paintings, drawings and a small selection of contemporary garments, mainly from European collections.

Key areas for consideration include the king's personal wardrobe, how Henry VIII's queens used their clothes to define their status, the textiles provided for the pattern of royal coronations, marriages and funerals and the role of the great wardrobe, wardrobe of the robes and laundry. In addition there is information on the cut and construction of

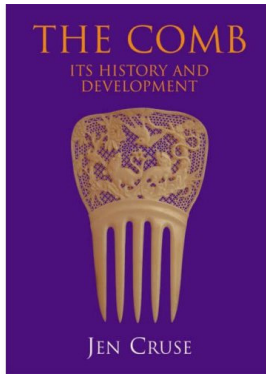
garments, materials and colours, dress given as gifts, the function of livery and the hierarchy of dress within the royal household, and the network of craftsmen working for the court. The text is accompanied by full transcripts of James Worsley's wardrobe books of 1516 and 1521 which provide a brief glimpse of the king's clothes.

Release date: October 30, 2007
Paperback
978-1905981410
\$77

The Comb: Its History and Development

Author: Jen Cruse
Robert Hale Publisher

The Comb surveys the wide spectrum of the subject from ancient cultures to the 20th century. The principal materials together with the combmaker's craft are described, up to and including the important plastics developed since the mid-19th century. There are brief descriptions of the decorative elements that further embellish combs, together with a comprehensive glossary of terms associated with the subject.



The book elaborates on the use of combs as articles of grooming and dressing, on ornamental combs as costume accessories, and on combs which have had specific purposes at various points in history such as those used within a liturgical setting. A short section also refers to combs depicted in paintings and stained glass, on family shields and tombstones, and on ceramics and textiles. Global in content, the study illustrates the comb as a personal possession with the context of widely differing cultures.

The author has drawn on the knowledge, expertise, and experience of other collectors and scholars which,

together with the results from her own original research, form a wide-ranging reference book to fascinate and beguile anyone interested in the many facets of the subject.

Jen Cruse's personal collection consists of over 1,500 combs, both decorative and utilitarian, the oldest dating from the second century BC.

Release date: November 30, 2007

Hardcover

978-0709081371

\$92

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

WEBSITES TO VISIT

Fashion Plate Collection

This collection includes 417 fashion plates from 1806-1914 from some of the leading fashion journals of the times: La Belle assemblee, Le Bon ton, Le Follet, courrier des salons, Journal des dames et des modes, Godey's lady's book and magazine and others.

*Victorian
1837-1859*



The hand-colored illustrations cover many stylistic periods in French and English history. These styles overlapped as the fashions and tastes changed. These include the Empire (1806-1813), Georgian (1806-1836), Regency (1811-1820), Romantic (1825-1850), Victorian (1837-1859), Late Victorian (1860-1900) and Edwardian (1901-1915).

<http://content.lib.washington.edu/costumehistweb/index.html>

La Couturière Parisienne



A treasure trove of information on historical costuming and dress from the 1300s through to the 1930s. Perhaps most noteworthy about this site is the owner's collection of hand drawn patterns. This site also shines in its numerous images (currently 4250) from fashion plates, photos and paintings – and in its fascinating articles.

Don't miss the site's "Timeline: 1830-1950". There is also an "Image Search and Text Search" allowing one to find all costume images within this site that meet certain criteria. A must visit web site for anyone interested in fashion history!

<http://marquise.de/en/index.html>

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

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.

Original Costume Museum Society

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