

Original Costume Museum Society

Newsletter

Volume 6, Issue 1, January 2009

January 9, 2009

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OCMS NEWS

“Orient Expressed” an Outstanding Success



Sun Sui Wah Restaurant on Main Street was the place to be the evening of October 16, 2008 at this sold out event.

Active bidding on the approximately sixty items in the silent auction started the “Orient Expressed” evening on a high note. The delicious 10-course dinner kept things humming and people “yumming.” Of course, the stars of the show were tuxedoed Ivan Sayers and the models who wore examples of historic Asian influence on Western fashion, as well as silk-jacketed James Rogers and the models who showcased contemporary Asian influence on Western fashion. With exceptional fashions, fun, and food, this special event raised funds to support the care and maintenance of the Original Costume Museum Society’s collection of historic clothing and the presentation of educational programs throughout the year.

Thank you to: everyone who attended; Wendy Nichols and James Rogers, event organizers; Ivan Sayers and James Rogers for their excellent presentations; Carlie Smith, emcee; all of the models; all of the wardrobe helpers and stylists who worked behind the scenes; Sun Sui Wah Restaurant, for excellent food and courteous service; Steve Allat and Gerhard von Rosen, event photographers; Nila Allat, poster designer; Maureen Attwell, for flowers and backroom refreshments; and all the other event volunteers.



Thank you to the donors of the fabulous silent auction items and door prizes:

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| A Baker's Dozen Antiques | Maiwa Handprints |
| Amanda Clare's Equerry | Marilyn Atkey |
| Block | Nazreens Designs |
| Burcu's Angels/Pesky Peacocks | Obakki |
| Century Restaurant | Olie Designs |
| C'est la Vie Vintage Boutique | Oscar's Books |
| Cherished Beadwork | Peter Voormeij |
| Dotted Loop | Plum |
| Dream | Redfish Kids Clothing |
| Duko Designs | Salmagundi West |
| Edie Hats | Shi Studio |
| Finns Kerrisdale Ladies | Slipstitch Designs |
| Firehall Online Inc. | Smoking Lily |
| The Flower Factory | Social |
| The House Gallery | Steve Allat Photo |
| Isabelle Dunlop | Sugarlime |
| Ivan Sayers | Tutta Mia |
| James Rogers | The Umbrella Shop |
| John Fluevog | Umeboshi Footwear & Accessories |
| Lace Embrace Atelier | Videomatica |
| Lakshmi | Xenia and Gerhard von Rosen |
| Lattimer Gallery | |



Photographs above by Steve Allat.

To view more photographs of this event, visit http://www.gaiapix.smugmug.com/gallery/6412886_DaKin

OCMS EVENTS

Sunday, January 25, 2009

Holding it Together in Tough Times: The Humble Button

Colleen Miller is the owner of Button, Button, Canada's only button shop. For 13 years her Gastown shop has attracted button lovers far and wide. She will recount the history of the humble button, an artifact common to all cultures and demographics, doing its job of holding us together, adding embellishment, yet often not noticed until it is missing. **Ivan Sayers** will enrich Miller's presentation with an assortment of 18th, 19th, and 20th century garments illustrating the beauty and variety of buttons.

Sunday, March 29, 2009

Mary Maxim Sweaters: Home Knitting Canadian Style

In the 1950s and 1960s Mary Maxim sweaters were one of the most popular Canadian fashion statements. All over the country home knitters were creating heavy sweater-coats featuring flying Canada geese, crossed curling brooms, or leaping salmon. Other wild animals, sports teams' symbols, patriotic emblems, and a vast assortment of icons (both Canadian and universal) were popular motifs.

Tom Graff was the first person in the country to draw academic and aesthetic attention to these humble, but important elements of the Canadian fashion scene. His presentation will discuss his reasoning, his collecting, and his conclusions. Bring your sweaters and tell your own stories of Mary Maxim.

Sunday, April 26, 2009

Best Foot Forward: Fashionable Shoes of the 20th Century

Common sense tells us that shoes are meant to be comfortable and to protect our feet, but vanity and fashion sense tell us that up-to-date style and design artistry are equally, if not more important. During the 20th century, fine leathers, elegant satins, and sensual velvets were embellished with perforations, beading, embroidery, and even jewellery in order to make the foot beautiful, eye-catching, and provocative.

Always popular fashion historian **Ivan Sayers** and a corps of live models will present some of the more remarkable examples of high fashion shoes, boots, and slippers from his personal collection. Everything from high-top boots to sling-back sandals, and from Cuban heels to no heels at all.

Sunday, May 17, 2009

Shades of History: Natural Colours Past and Present

Historical epochs are fascinatingly chromatic. Indigo, cochineal, lac, brazilwood, shellfish purple, each shade has been vital to a world culture. **Charlotte Kwon**, owner of Maiwa Handprints Ltd. and director of the documentary "*In Search of Lost Colour: The Story of Natural Dyes*," will speak about historic colours, the rise of synthetic replacements, and the contemporary natural dye revival.

Kwon is director of the Maiwa Foundation, which provides assistance to artisans around the world who maintain traditional skills or recover natural dye techniques. She travels extensively to research handicraft and has developed a textile archive and research library. Under her leadership, four documentary films, two publications, and a biannual Maiwa Textile Symposium have been developed.

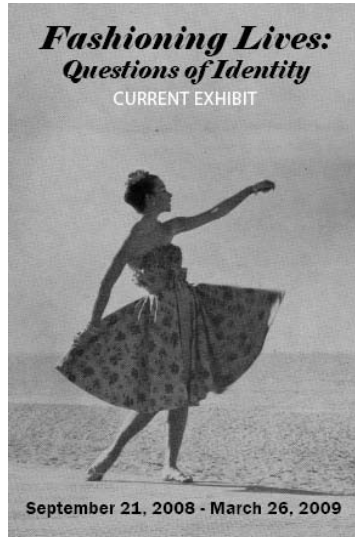
All programs are presented at 2:00 pm
Hycroft, 1489 McRae Avenue, Vancouver
Tickets available at the door: \$20 per person
\$18 per OCMS adult member / \$10 per OCMS student member
General Admission

EVENTS AROUND TOWN

September 21 – March 19, 2009

Fashioning Lives: Questions of Identity

Jewish Museum and Archives of British Columbia



A temporary exhibition about the life journeys of Lore, Walter, and Claudia Wiener, as the circumstances of their lives make their Jewish heritage undeniable. In spite of intermarriage and conversion in one family, the elder Wieners left Germany and Austria as refugees of Nazism. Similarly they were considered stateless Jews in Shanghai, the haven where they met and married. Immigration to Vancouver in 1949 led to the development of their successful couture business with little regard to any religious life.

In a twist of fate, the secular identity that the Wieners fashioned for themselves over the years would be upended when their adult daughter, Claudia, whom they had baptized Anglican, serendipitously discovered her parents' Jewish heritage and painstakingly researched her own place within that tradition.

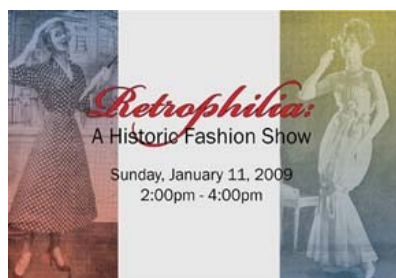
The exhibition will feature the fashion designs of Lore Marie Wiener, who brought haute couture to Vancouver from the 1950s to the 1980s.

3rd Floor, Jewish Community Centre of Greater Vancouver
300 – 950 West 41st Avenue, Vancouver
www.jewishmuseum.ca/info/exhibits/fashioning-lives

January 11, 2009

Retrophilia: A Historic Fashion Show

Jewish Museum and Archives of British Columbia



Using live models and selections from his personal costume collection, Fashion Historian Ivan Sayers will lecture on fashions from the 1940s through the 1960s. He will also exhibit couture designs of Lore Marie Wiener not already featured in the Jewish Museum & Archives' exhibition "Fashioning Lives: Questions of Identity", and highlight examples of notable garments created by Jewish designers from across Canada.

Also included in the show will be "retro" inspired designs by students from the School of Design & Communication at Kwantlen Polytechnic Institute. Come and enjoy an entertaining show, including refreshments provided by NAVA cafe, and raffle prizes from the generous sponsors: The Umbrella Shop, WearElse Clothing, and Changes Clothes & Consignment.

2:00 – 4:00 pm
King David High School Auditorium
5718 Willow Street, Vancouver
Tickets: \$20

Advance tickets or more information, please contact:
Molly Winston, Education Coordinator 604-638-7288
Visit the website to download a poster:
http://www.jewishmuseum.ca/info/current_events/historical-fashion-show

January 10-11, 2009

30th Annual Wedding Fair

Vancouver Convention & Exhibition Centre

Now in it's 30th year, Wedding Fair is the longest-running and most successful Wedding tradeshow in Canada. With over 150 exhibitors and over 170 booths, brides and grooms-to-be, along with their family and friends, can find inspiration, fresh ideas and reputable industry professionals to help them plan the wedding of their dreams.

Featured exhibitors include everything from invitation vendors, gown shops, cake-makers, favors, lingerie, shoes, chocolate fountains, jewelry designers, photographers, decorators, musicians, wedding planners, honeymoon destinations and representatives from some of Vancouver's finest venues.

To compliment the fun and excitement, there is the annual Fashion Show Extravaganza featuring gorgeous gowns, beautiful bridesmaids dresses and honeymoon lingerie.

\$25 at the door
Vancouver Convention & Exhibition Centre
200 – 999 Canada Place, Vancouver
<http://www.weddingfair.ca>

January 17, 2009

Indie I Do: Vancouver's First Alternative Wedding Show

Heritage Hall

Brides and grooms who have a hard time finding the perfect item for their wedding will breathe a sigh of relief when they attend the inaugural Indie I Do wedding event. Catering to a diverse crowd, Indie I Do promises something for everyone - be it an off beat theme wedding, same sex do, or simply a traditional couple looking to add a touch of their own unique personalities into their event.

\$15 in advance / \$20 at the door
11:00 am – 6:00 pm
Heritage Hall
3102 Main Street, Vancouver
<http://www.indieido.com>

January 27, 2009

Buttons

Richmond Textile Arts Guild

The Richmond Textile Arts Guild presents a lecture by Ivan Sayers entitled "Buttons".

7:00 pm
Richmond Public Library
100 – 7700 Minoru Gate, Richmond
For more information, please contact Joyce Wendsley 604-948-9994
<http://www.yourlibrary.ca/>

February 6, 2009

Fashion Show by Ivan Sayers

SFU Breast Cancer Research

A fashion show by Ivan Sayers, to fundraise for breast cancer research.

Simon Fraser University, Burnaby

For more information, please contact Manjeet Gill 778-782-6819

February 10, 2009

Floral Representations in European Fabrics 1700-1790

Lecture for New Westminster Horticultural Society

Ivan Sayers' presentations have done much to illuminate the customs and cultures of past eras as illustrated by the clothing worn at the time. Join him for an entertaining and informative evening exploring the use of flowers in the garments of the 18th century when clothing embellishment reached lavish heights. This is the period of the baroque, of silk embroidery and three-dimensional silk ribbon embroidery. It was also the period when Europe was introduced to more exotic flora from the far reaches of the globe. Gardeners, those interested in history as well as textile enthusiasts will be enthralled by what is sure to be a sold-out presentation.

7:30 pm

Centennial Lodge, Queen's Park, New Westminster

For more information please contact Carole Forsythe 604-515-1927

info@newwesthortsociety.org

<http://www.newwesthortsociety.org>

NEW PUBLICATIONS

The Lady's Stratagem: A Repository of 1820s Directions for the Toilet, Mantua-Making, Stay-Making, Millinery & Etiquette

Edited, translated, and with additional material by: Frances Grimble

Publisher: Lavolta Press



Includes entire manuals and substantial chapters on dressmaking, corset making, alterations, millinery, knitting, haberdashery, hairdressing, cosmetics, hygiene, wardrobe planning, laundry, and many other subjects, here translated into English for the first time.

Suitable for the Extended Regency Period, the American Federal Period, the Fur Trade Era, Colonial Canada, and the Bourbon Restoration. Whether you are a reenactor, theatrical costumer, or historical novelist, this book contains unique practical and research information.

8 1/2 x 11 paperback

755 pages

134 illustrations

ISBN-13: 978-0-9636517-7-8

\$75 USD

Heights of Fashion: A History of the Elevated Shoe

Author: Elizabeth Semmelhack
Publisher: Bata Shoe Museum



Reproducing some wondrous shoes by top designers, its focus lies outside the kingdom of fashion, in the lowly outpost of social history, where shoes generally appear only as modest, utilitarian artifacts. Here, the two worlds are shown to be intimately connected. Drawing on historical sources, paintings and prints, this volume explores how and why shoes or boots with high heels came into common use throughout the last five centuries. The result? A book on shoes unlike any other. It considers the function of high heels in daily life, in the production of class and gender, and in the staging of erotic fantasy, illustrated through stunning shoes from the collection of the Bata Shoe Museum in Toronto. Elizabeth Semmelhack is curator at the Bata Shoe Museum.

Release Date: December 2008
Paperback, 116 pages
ISBN-13: 978-1934772942
\$30

Date Your Ancestors CD

Joyce Mogg, Past President of the former Canadiana Costume Museum in Victoria, BC, has put together a CD compilation of photos and fashion 1840 to 1914 titled "*Date Your Ancestors*". Suitable for museums, archives, schools, libraries, genealogists, and theatre groups, etc.

Anyone interested in acquiring a copy is invited to contact her for further details:
250-385-3427(mornings and evenings).

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

WEBSITES TO VISIT

Lavolta Press Books

Lavolta Press publishes high-quality books on historic costuming and vintage clothing. Their readers include people involved in reenactment and living history, theatre and film costumers, vintage clothing collectors and dealers, goths, steampunkers, vintage dancers, needleworkers, doll artists, and historical novelists. They sell to consumers, museums and other institutions, retailers, wholesalers, and libraries.

<http://www.lavoltapress.com>

Kickstart Productions Blog

Written by Kenn Norman and Jonathon Walford, their blog is an entertaining read for those interested in fashion history.

<http://kickshawproductions.com/blog/>

Textile and Costume Events in Florence

Welcome to www.costume-textiles.com, a site constructed to fulfill the need of a resourceful place where like-minded individuals can have an international, interdisciplinary and intercultural exchange and promotion of information and ideas on all topics and issues related to costume and textiles.

This site was initially set up to promote *Costume Colloquium: a Tribute to Janet Arnold* which took place in Florence November 6-9, 2008. It was through the success of this event that the importance and necessity of non-competitive networking was realized, and the desire to create a place to continue the fruitful interactions that were started during the Costume Colloquium has made the continuation and amplification of this web site possible.

Through the Forum and Links you will be able to acquire and post information related to those topics which are timely and pertinent to all visiting this site. In this way you can be informed and connected, through an array of initiatives, within a friendly and congenial format which encourages reciprocal respect of each others' works and interests.

<http://www.costume-textiles.com>

(Be sure to click on the small British flag near the top right corner to read this site in English.)



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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Vancouver, BC V6R 4P1
604-872-1230
info@ocms.ca / www.ocms.ca

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