

Original Costume Museum Society

Newsletter

Volume 6, Issue 2, March 2009

March 6, 2009

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OCMS NEWS

Recruiting New Members for the Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees of the Original Costume Museum Society is recruiting new trustees to run for election at the next annual general meeting in April 2009.

Trustees work on all aspects of the operation of the OCMS. Some assist with care of the collection. Some assist with the coordination of our popular programs. Some assist with publicity, networking, and outreach to the general community. Some assist with planning for a future museum of the history of fashion. All assist with fundraising.

If you are interested in a museum of fashion and would enjoy working alongside others to make it a reality, please contact Wendy Nichols, Chair of the Nominations Committee, before March 21, 2009. She can answer any of your questions and will supply you with further information about the roles of trustees. Contact Wendy at info@ocms.ca

Those who have served on the Board of the Original Costume Museum Society have found the experience personally rewarding. The OCMS has had a series of successes. Being a part of them is very satisfying. Planning for future successes is an enjoyable challenge. Please join us.

Donna Bryman
President

OCMS EVENTS

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

March 7, 2009

Fashion in British Columbia from 1909 to 1939

White Rock Museum & Archives

Internationally renowned fashion historian Ivan Sayers has been fascinating audiences with his lectures and stunning fashion shows for many years. His knowledge of fashion history is as unrivalled as is his collection of antique clothing. He will discuss fashion in British Columbia during White Rock's formative years 1909-1939.

10:30 am in the museum meeting room
Admission by donation. Seating is limited.
Please contact us to register: 604-541-2222 email whiterockarchives@telus.net

White Rock Museum & Archives
14970 Marine Drive, White Rock
www.whiterock.museum.bc.ca

(- Extracted from the White Rock Museum & Archives website)

March 14, 2009

6th Annual Wearable Art Gala

Alternator: Rotary Centre for the Arts, Kelowna



The Alternators' WEARABLE ART GALA is on the scene once again with this wildly popular fundraising event. The Wearable Art Gala is an artistic exploration of all types of body adornment. This fun and funky adult theatre event is not a fashion show in the traditional sense - it's an artistic exploration of all types of body adornment.

Last year the WAG set free some 50 artists on stage in a feast of movable art. The performance was punctuated with big Diva entrances and costumes ranged from the beautiful to grotesque.

Highlights included a battle dress made from 2000 chopsticks and other unusual designs using jigsaw puzzle pieces, tennis balls, pillows, telephones and balloons filled with pebbles.

In 2009 they are upping the stakes once again by featuring big choreographed group performances, delectable organic treats and a closing gala party – WAG UNLEASHED! Following the theatre show, WAG performers will mingle with the audience in the Atrium, which will be transformed into a fantasy world.

Doors open at 7:00 pm. Show starts at 8:00 pm. After-party starts at 10:00 pm.

Theatre tickets: \$45 (\$33 for students) www.ticketmaster.ca or by phone at 250-860-1470.

After-Party tickets: Free with WAG theatre ticket or \$10 at Hemp City (service charge applies), the Alternator, Bella, Leo's Video, Cream and Liquid Beat.com.

Alternator: Rotary Centre for the Arts
421 Cawston Ave, Kelowna
info@alternatorgallery.com
<http://www.alternatorgallery.com>

(- Extracted from an Alternator Gallery press release)

March 14 & 15, 2009

Steamer Fashion: An Early 1900s Costume Workshop

Aboard the SS *Moyie* National Historic Site, Kaslo

Get out your 'straw boater', put on your Sunday best, and get ready for a steamer excursion! Join the Kootenay Lake Historical Society and TLC The Land Conservancy of BC at a fashion display and workshop on dress and textiles of the early 1900's.



The SS *Moyie* was one of hundreds of steamers working on nearly every river in the west in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Imagine going on a trip to Nelson aboard the SS *Moyie*, and perhaps from there by overnight train to Vancouver. What would you be wearing? Or maybe you have Grandma's afternoon tea dress in a box in the attic, and have always wondered how to restore it?

Using live models, heritage costumes expert Ivan Sayers will demonstrate how people

dressed in the early 1900's and explain all that went into a period costume and how it was worn. Ivan will also answer questions about how to care for, store, and restore heritage textiles.

"We'd love to have people bring in family photos and outfits," says Bob Turner, Project Historian for the *SS Moyie* National Historic Site. "Ivan can provide expert advice on how to recreate those costumes based on photos or heirloom pieces."

Saturday, March 14, 1:00 – 4:30 pm and Sunday, March 15, 9:00 – 11:30 am
Aboard the *SS Moyie* National Historic Site, Kaslo
Cost: By donation. RSVP appreciated, but drop-ins welcome.
RSVP to *SS Moyie* at 250-383-2525 or TLC at 250-427-4711.

Event poster: http://conservancy.bc.ca/attachments/FashionSteamer-March_14-workshop.pdf
www.conservancy.bc.ca

(- Extracted from TLC The Land Conservancy of BC website)

March 24 – 29, 2009 **Vancouver Fashion Week**

Vancouver Fashion Week is recognized as a global platform for established and upcoming designers. Since its debut in 2000, Vancouver Fashion Week has become a much sought-after event for Canadian and International designers. VFW has gained a respectable reputation from its ability to showcase the fashion industry and accommodate multicultural designers successfully. Hailed as the West Coast's most prestigious industry event, Vancouver Fashion Week is committed to fostering the growth of designers and celebrating the fashion industry.

Storyeum
142 Water Street, Vancouver
Visit the website for more information: <http://www.vanfashionweek.com>

(- Extracted from the Vancouver Fashion Week website)

Until March 29, 2009 **Iroquois Beadwork: Through the Voices of Beads** Surrey Museum



Since contact with the Europeans centuries ago, beadwork has played a vital role in preserving the Iroquois culture in Eastern Canada. Colourful and intricate beaded designs on clothing and personal artifacts often illustrate Iroquois history and legends.

This exhibit from the Royal Ontario Museum presents beautiful examples of past beadwork, along with contemporary pieces of this still-flourishing art form by Ontario beadwork artists. Also on display from the collection of the Surrey Museum will be beaded items made by West Coast First Nations artists.

Surrey Museum
17710 - 56A Avenue, Surrey
<http://www.surrey.ca/Living+in+Surrey/Heritage/Heritage+Services+and+Facilities/Surrey+Museum/Exhibitions.htm>

(- Extracted from the City of Surrey website)

April 1, 2009

The Show, Kwantlen Fashion 2009

Kwantlen Polytechnic University

The annual graduation fashion show for the students in the Kwantlen Fashion Design and Technology Program.

The River Rock Casino Resort

8811 River Road, Richmond

Matinee shows at 1:00 pm and 3:30 pm (\$15). Evening show at 7:30 pm (\$30)

www.kwantlen.ca/fashionshow

(- Extracted from Kwantlen Polytechnic University website)

April 2, 2009

Spin-In with Kim McKenna

Surrey Museum

Spend a half-hour one-on-one with spinning expert Kim McKenna honing your skills, and then join the group for a spin-in session, refreshments and fun.

Must pre-register. To register on-line [click here](#)

1 session \$35 (16yrs+) Supply fee \$7.

3:00 – 9:00pm / 3541997

Surrey Museum, 17710 - 56A Avenue, Surrey

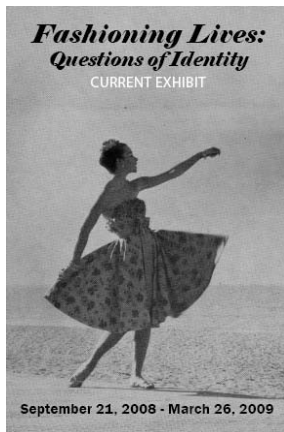
<http://www.surrey.ca/Living+in+Surrey/Heritage/Heritage+Services+and+Facilities/Surrey+Museum/Spring+Textile+Programs.htm>

(- Extracted from the City of Surrey website)

Extended Until April 8, 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

(- Extracted from the Jewish Museum and Archives of British Columbia website)

April 9, 2009

Tapestry Weaving – Level 1

Surrey Museum

Remnants of this ancient art have been found in Egypt as far back as 3000 BC. Using new fibres and yarns, learn about tapestry technique in this introductory course as you create a set of basic samples on portable looms.

Must pre-register. To register on-line [click here](#)

4 sessions \$58 (16yrs+) Supply fee \$10.

7:00 – 9:00 pm / 3542997

Surrey Museum, 17710 - 56A Avenue, Surrey

<http://www.surrey.ca/Living+in+Surrey/Heritage/Heritage+Services+and+Facilities/Surrey+Museum/Spring+Textile+Programs.htm>

(- Extracted from the City of Surrey website)

April 13 – May 23, 2009

Weaving Wonders

Surrey Museum

Explore the wonders of woven textiles in many forms, from clothing and house wares, to crafts and fine art. This exhibit will highlight the craft and artistry of local weaving guilds, as well as textiles from the Museum's Honey Hooser collection. View examples of looms and tools used in the past and today to produce these useful and ornamental items.

Surrey Museum, 17710 - 56A Avenue, Surrey

<http://www.surrey.ca/Living+in+Surrey/Heritage/Heritage+Services+and+Facilities/Surrey+Museum/Exhibitions.htm>

(- Extracted from the City of Surrey website)

April 22, 2009

Legendary Shoe Sale

Army & Navy

Thousands upon thousands of very smart ladies, men and children have taken advantage of the ridiculously inexpensive shoes offered by Army & Navy. Dress shoes and boots for women, work boots for guys, hiking, athletic and street shoes for all plus cool slippers and sandals are all part of the selection at Army & Navy.

Army & Navy

36 West Cordova Street, Vancouver

604-682-6644

www.armyandnavy.ca

(- Extracted from the Army & Navy website)

May 16 & May 30, 2009

Shibori Dyed Silk Scarf

Surrey Museum

Shibori is the delicate and unique art of Japanese silk tie-dyeing. Join local artist Deanna Welters to learn the basic techniques of this colourful handicraft, and design and create your own one-of-a-kind silk scarf.

Must pre-register. To register on-line [click here](#)
2 sessions \$30 (16yrs+) Supply fee \$10.
Saturday, May 16 10:00am-1:00pm
Saturday, May 30 10:00am-11:00am / 3543247

Surrey Museum, 17710 - 56A Avenue, Surrey
<http://www.surrey.ca/Living+in+Surrey/Heritage/Heritage+Services+and+Facilities/Surrey+Museum/Spring+Textile+Programs.htm>

(- Extracted from the City of Surrey website)

May 21, 2009
Ethical Clothes
Surrey Museum

Join popular speaker Charlotte Kwon of Maiwa Handprints for a lecture presentation on making room in the clothing industry for the human endeavour of creativity, of clothing with ethical and social significance, clothing with soul.

Must pre-register. To register on-line [click here](#)
1 session \$7 (16yrs+)
7:00 – 8:30 pm / 3543297

Surrey Museum, 17710 - 56A Avenue, Surrey
<http://www.surrey.ca/Living+in+Surrey/Heritage/Heritage+Services+and+Facilities/Surrey+Museum/Spring+Textile+Programs.htm>

(- Extracted from the City of Surrey website)

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Dictionary of Children's Clothes: 1700s to Present

Author: Noreen Marshall, Curator of the Dress, Doll and Childcare Collections
Publisher: Victoria & Albert Museum



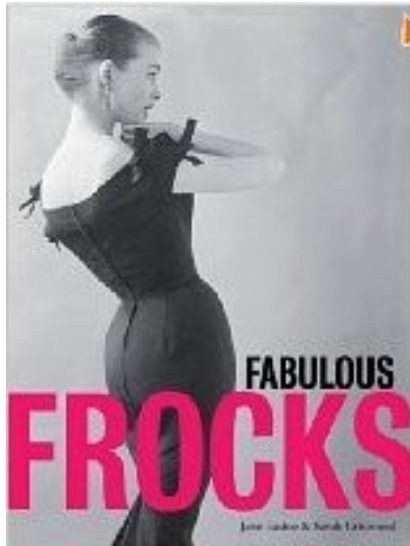
Over the last 300 years, children's clothing has witnessed a gradual shift from dressing children to adult requirements, in multiple layers and formal styles, to the booming designer childrenswear market of today. This accessible and well-illustrated dictionary features over 300 garments, from air-raid suits to zouave jackets, with specially commissioned photographs from the world's largest and most diverse collection at the V&A Museum of Childhood. A fully illustrated timeline and introduction offer an at-a-glance understanding of the changes in children's fashions and a rich selection of line drawings and illustrations from sewing and knitting patterns, to catalogues, dolls, fashion plates, photographs, paintings and children's fiction put the garments in context.

(- Extracted from www.V&Ashop.com)

Release Date: October 2008
Hardcover, 280 pages
ISBN-13: 978-1851775477
£30

Fabulous Frocks

Authors: Jane Eastoe and Sarah Gristwood
Publisher: Pavilion



No item of clothing has endured for longer than the dress. Yet the last century alone has seen the most radical changes of style—hemlines swinging from ankle to thigh, outlines alternating between the body-hugging and the bell—and our fascination with the frock has not gone away. From Gres' draping to Dior's New Look, from Mary Quant's mini to Hussein Chalayan's mechanical marvels, this book looks at the dress in 20th-century fashion. Thematic chapters—Changes, Feminine, Sex, Must-Haves, Fantasy, Classical, and Art—set out the inspirations and implications for each new change alongside the stunning photography.

It has been more than 80 years since Coco Chanel invented the little black dress, but most women still have one in their wardrobes today. It's been decades since women discovered trousers and separates, but many women dream of wearing a glorious, glamorous gown at least once, whether it's on a Hollywood red carpet, or on her wedding day. (- *Extracted from Amazon.com*)

Release Date: April 1, 2009
Hardcover, 200 pages
ISBN-13: 978-1862057982
\$45

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

WEBSITES TO VISIT

Hand & Lock Embroidery

Hand & Lock is an embroidery company that is a fusion of two, great, long established, embroidery businesses. In 1767 Goldlacemen called Hand, originally Huguenot refugees from Flanders, added embroidery to their range of laces, cords, and braids. Their skills came from the entourage of Catherine de Medicis, when she married into the French court in the 16th century. They learnt the ancient Italian secrets of gold lace and made them their own.

In 1898 CE Phipps & Co. began an embroidery business. By 1956 it had survived the wars as a modest yet well established business when a brilliant young designer, Stanley Lock, took over from Mr Phipps on his retirement.

The company, based in Fitzrovia, was renamed, S Lock Ltd. It reached new heights throughout the next 45 years

working with couturiers including, Christian Dior, Norman Hartnell, and Hardy Amies. A Royal Warrant was awarded. Royal commissions have included gowns for the Queen, the Queen Mother, and Princess Anne's wedding ensemble. Princess Diana added a new glamour with her love of richly embroidered clothes. In 2001 these two, extraordinary companies; S. Lock and M.



Hand, merged to form Hand & Lock. Hand & Lock's commitment to produce only the highest quality hand embroidered products, ensures that the company maintains its place as the leading supplier of all types of embroidery.

(- Extracted from the Hand & Lock website)

<http://www.handembroidery.com>

2009 International Year of Natural Fibres

The International Year of Natural Fibres was officially launched on 22 January 2009, at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome. It will be celebrated at international conferences, seminars, displays and fashion shows worldwide.



M. Savage

The main goal of the International Year of Natural Fibres is to raise the profile of these fibres and to emphasize their value to consumers while helping to sustain the incomes of the farmers. In addition, the International Year will:

- promote the efficiency and sustainability of the natural fibres industries;
- encourage appropriate policy responses from governments to the problems faced by natural fibre industries;
- foster an effective and enduring international partnership among the various natural fibres industries.

The website has a section that describes the 15 kinds of natural fibres, and a calendar of events.

(- Extracted from the 2009 International Year of Natural Fibres website)

<http://www.naturalfibres2009.org/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.

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Point Grey RPO

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

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