
The Medieval Dress and Textile Society

April 2018

www.medats.org.uk

Issue 85



The Rainbow Portrait of Elizabeth I by Marcus Gheeraerts c1600-02
Reproduced with permission of the Marquess of Salisbury, Hatfield House

Editorial

Welcome to the spring edition of the newsletter. This issue contains the full programme for the 2018 conference *Textiles as Art; Textiles in Art*, as well as the study day *Learning through Reconstruction* on 22nd September this year. Ticket sales have been going well, with more tickets sold for the conference than last year already. Don't forget to buy yours if you have not yet done so!

In February Medats members visited the Clothworkers Centre of the Victoria and Albert Museum. The day was a great success and a report, with photographs, will be included in the next newsletter. We have an exciting study day booked for 2019 in Norwich - please see page 5 for details, plus a call for assistance from Medats members. We are still looking into holding study days at The Mary Rose Museum and the Museum of Leathercraft in Northampton. Any other suggestions gratefully received.

Finally, we are still looking for ideas for how the Society might further promote itself and attract more members. We have, in fact, had quite a few new members join in the last year, quite possibly due to an increased online presence via our Facebook page and the new website, which is now live - huge thanks to Saragrace for all her hard work on this. If any members have ideas for promoting the society, or would be willing to take Medats leaflets to events they plan to attend, please let me know and I will post some out to you.

Ninya Mikhaila



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Norwich Castle keep - see call for assistance on page 5

Could you join the committee?

After many years as MEDATS Treasurer and Membership secretary respectively, Mary Frost and Carole Thompson have expressed their wish to step down as soon as replacements can be found.

In addition Gale Owen-Crocker intends to step down as programme secretary after the 2018 conference. Please consider whether you might be able to take on any of these roles. The running of the society depends entirely on the generosity of members who volunteer their time as committee members.

Carole, Mary and Gale will be on hand to provide any help or guidance new volunteers may need to start.

To receive the newsletter as a colour PDF file electronically, please e-mail newsletter@medats.org.uk

A visit to Historiska Museet, the Swedish history museum in Stockholm

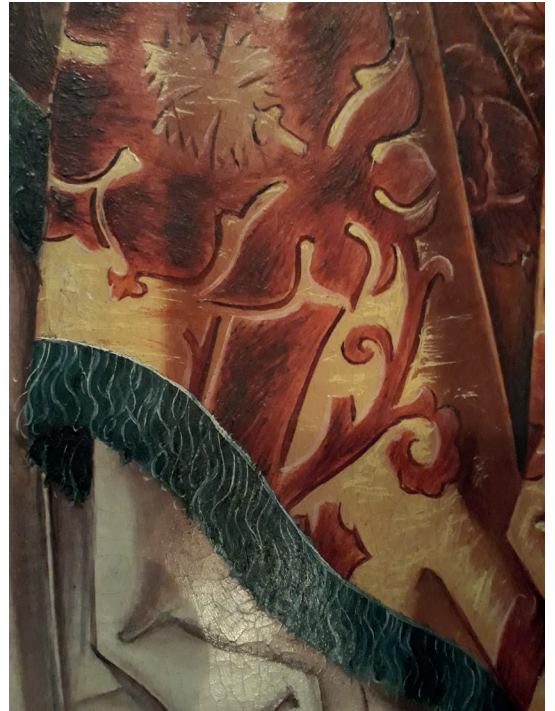
by Christine Carnie

In February I had the chance for a visit to the Swedish history museum and a “behind the scenes” peek at their textile department. My most favourite parts of the museum were the medieval art section, and the 14th and 15th century section of Sweden’s history, where you can see a replica of Queen Margareta’s golden gown (The cloth of gold original belongs to Uppsala Cathedral), and I found this wonderful velvet purse. Unfortunately my camera struggled with the low light and glass case. There were many more beautiful textile details to be found, especially in the section about St. Bridget.



For anyone interested in medieval armour the exhibition room about the Battle of Visby 1361 is a must. Since I was a bit short on time I had but a fleeting glance, but will return for a proper look next time I’m in Stockholm.

I gleaned many interesting clothing details from the altarpieces on show in the medieval art section. There are mainly altarpieces, painted or in relief, and a few statues and a couple of everyday items like a chest, or a bench. One section is set up like a medieval church or chapel, which puts the artwork back into its original context.



When studying religious figures for clothing details I find that it gets a bit tricky when you try to identify saints, especially when there are quite a few in the same altarpiece; with similar attributes, and no detailed description.

Something I had not come across before is that some saints were always depicted with red shoes, by different artists and across a century, which made me wonder if that was another message to the contemporary viewer, and I would love to know if anyone else has noticed that, and if they were able to identify the saints.

I had started my visit with a peek at the storage and study area of the textile department, and had been shown some amazing velvets and silks from church vestments. I loved that I was able to find similar shapes and designs in the artwork of the period. There were several beautiful depictions of velvets, I have added a detail photo of a bishop’s cloak from a Pieta altarpiece from the late 15th century, and the cloth of gold depiction on an extended holy family (both Mary and Anne are shown in cloth of gold gowns)



Find out more about the museum at www.historiska.se

Above Right: Detail of velvet cloak with fringe, bishop’s cloak, side wing of a pieta, 1470-1490

Right: Detail of an altarpiece with Mary, Anne and Jesus as the centrepiece, ca. 1500, showing the lower half of Mary’s gown



The Medieval Dress and Textiles Society Conference 2018

‘Textiles as Art; Textiles in Art’

Saturday 21 April 2018 11.00am - 5.30pm, preceded by the AGM of the Society at 10am
St Stephen’s Church Hall, 48 Emperors Gate, Knightsbridge, London, SW7 4HJ

Speakers and topics:

Byzantine silks (4th-15th centuries): art, autocracy, theocracy and image of Empire
Anna Muthesius, University of Cambridge

Tapestry-woven ornaments adorning woven-to-shape tunics in Egypt during the mid-7th to 9th centuries AD
Frances Pritchard, formerly Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester

An Offering Made by a Queen: ‘Veil’ from the Shrine of Saint Simeon in Zadar
Silvija Banić, University of Zagreb, Croatia

Sackcloth, Scraps, and Stitching in Franciscan Art
Cordelia Warr, University of Manchester

Fashioning Death and Commemoration
Cecilia Voss, Bowes Museum and University of Glasgow, & Daniel Oliver, University of Glasgow

Dressing a Dynasty – Renaissance Fabrication of Medieval Royal Attire
Sidsel Frisch, The National Museum of Denmark and the University of Copenhagen

Reconstructing Queen Elizabeth’s Hardwick petticoat
Ninya Mikhaila, The Tudor Tailor

Speaking Stitches, Laughing Flowers – uncovering hidden messages in the floral embroidery worn by Queen Elizabeth I in the ‘Rainbow’ Portrait at Hatfield House
Natalie Walker, University of Hertfordshire

Tickets cost £45. Prices include refreshments and buffet lunch

Tickets can be purchased the MEDATS website www.medats.org.uk or from ticketing secretary Carole Thompson - please send payment and SAE to: 9 Fairthorn Road, Charlton, London, SE7 7RL

MEDATS Study Day: 'Learning through Reconstruction'

Saturday 22 September 2018, 11am-5.30pm
St Stephen's Church Hall, 48 Emperors Gate, Knightsbridge, London, SW7 4HJ

Each speaker will display reproduction pieces and explain how they were made, allowing plenty of time for questions and discussion

The Broderers' Crown: Investigating the art of the sixteenth-century professional embroiderer

Cynthia Jackson:
Professional Embroiderer and Independent Scholar

Textile reproduction as a method for in-depth understanding of Swedish medieval gilt leather coverlets

Amica Sundström and Maria Neijman: Historical Textiles

Behind the Bow: Recreating a 16th century archer on the Mary Rose

Christine Carnie
The Sempster: bespoke historical clothing

Sixteenth-century ruffs and bands

Alice Gordon: White Rabbit Lynens

A Stitch in Time:

Reconstructing the jupon of the Black Prince

Ninya Mikhaila: The Tudor Tailor



EARLY BIRD BOOKING UNTIL 31 July 2018: £35 for members, £40 for non-members

After 31 July 2018: £45 Prices include refreshments and buffet lunch

For tickets send payment and stamped addressed envelope to the Ticketing Secretary,
Carole Thompson, 9 Fairthorn Road, Charlton, London, SE7 7RL

SAVE THE DATE! - February 8th 2019

MEDATS Study Day with Norfolk museums service

to include viewing the collection of early church textiles and a tour of Strangers Hall

CALL FOR ASSISTANCE

Norwich castle keep is undergoing redevelopment and the museum is seeking to apply for a conservation grant within the next 6 months to ensure that the early church textiles can be included in the new Medieval gallery. It could really help make the case for the significance of the textiles, and bolster a grant application, if the curators could get some informed eyes on the collection. Are there any members out there, with a knowledge of late medieval church textiles, who would be willing to travel to Norwich with Ninya Mikhaila (who is organising the February study day) and take a look? Please email Ninya at newsletter@medats.org.uk

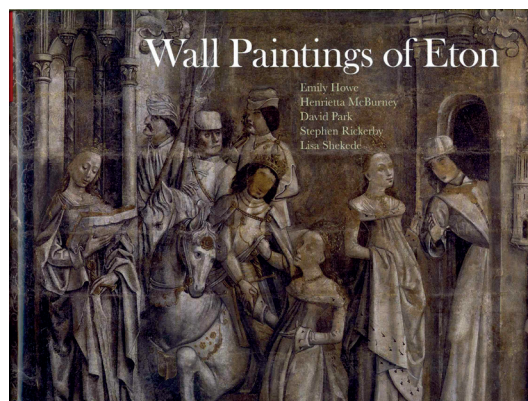


SHOE BOOK REVIEWS BY JUNE SWANN

Wall Paintings of Eton

by E Howe, H McBurney, D Park, S Rickerby & L Shekede
Scala, 2012. £14.50. Hardback, 192 pages
ISBN 978-1-85759-787-5

In the early days of the Costume Society we visited Eton to see the 15th century wall-paintings, so I was pleased to see this book with many colour photographs. The condition of most of the paintings is, understandably, not the best. As usual, the shoes at the bottom have suffered rather more than the higher parts. In the Catalogue section from p.93 there are a few line drawings of the scenes showing barefoot, soled hose, shoes including toe-shapes, sole, and ankle, calf and knee-boots, for which I was very grateful. Part III from p.143 has similar descriptions of the early 16th century schoolboys in black, low cut, bar shoes.



Available online

For a Witch Cannot Cross Such a Threshold, Building Concealment Traditions in Finland c1200-1950

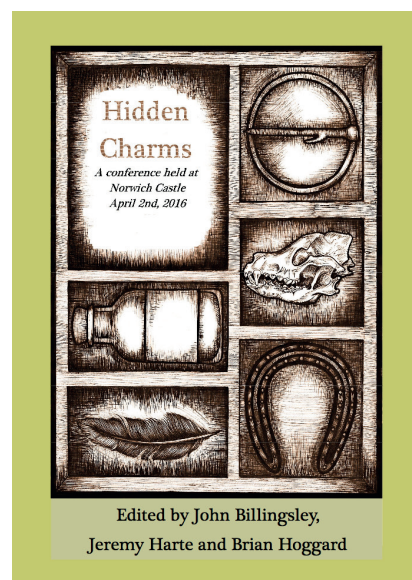
Sonja Hukantaival, PhD thesis, University of Turku 2016,
ISBN (pdf) 978-952-67329-9-2

<https://utu.academia.edu/SonjaHukantaival>. 'Concealed Objects' is number 7 in Part II, listed in date order from recent to earliest.

Hidden Charms, Proceedings of the 2016 Conference at Norwich Castle

Edited by John Billingsley, Jeremy Harte and Brian Hoggard,
Published by Northern Earth Books ISBN (pdf) 0-948635-09-0
www.academia.edu/32506183/Hidden_Charms_Proceedings

Eight papers on deliberately concealed objects, including Ritual recycling and the concealed shoe by Ceri Houlbrok.



The Annual Textile Art of Today - call for submissions

Triennial of Textile, without borders, the civic association proclaims the fifth year of the international art project Textile Art of Today 2018. Textile Art of Today is an international tour of contemporary professional textile art and its latest trends. It also includes a category of student's art works of art schools. The exhibition will present works that cross the boundaries of classic textiles and which are innovative. We will be working with modern technologies, such as linking mobile apps with art works. We would like to see art works that incorporate scents, light, shadow, kinetics, and other works that respond to the current themes of the global world. Of course there is also classic textile tapestry. At the exhibition, we welcome textile installations, objects, videos, works that are closer to sculptural but also jewellery creation.

The fourth annual of Textile Art of Today took place in 2015 until January 2017. 230 artists from 41 countries worldwide signed for the exhibition. The Curator's Committee selected 76 artists and students. Subsequently, the international jury awarded the Grand Prix of Bozena Augustinova, the 3 Excellence Awards, the Tatra Gallery Award, the Polish Cultural Institute Award and the Student Award. The show was extremely successful. It travelled through four Central European countries (Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary) and was visited by 40 000 visitors.

The fifth annual Textile Art of Today will take place on 7 of September 2018 at the Danubiana Meulensteen Art Museum in Bratislava, Slovakia. On this day the international jury will award the best art works. After the exhibition on 25 of November 2018 in Bratislava, the exhibition will be gradually reinstalled in: the Tatra Gallery in Poprad (SK), the Gallery of the Slovak Museum in Uherske Hradiste (CZ), the Pesti Vigadó Gallery Budapest (HU) and finally the Historical Museum in Bielsko-Biala (PL).

Please send the completed application form online at textileartoftoday@gmail.com, by April 16, 2018. Information about Textile Art of Today 2018 can be found on our website <http://textileartoftoday.com/en/> and Facebook page.

EVENTS & EXHIBITIONS FORTHCOMING

Ham House (National Trust), Richmond-upon-Thames

A Stitch in Time Exhibition

10 February - 29 April 2018

All six sets of clothes created on the popular BBC Four programme *A Stitch in Time* will be on display in different rooms throughout the house. Visitors can see the intricate work of costumier Ninya Mikhaila and her team up close. The garments include the reconstructed jupon of the Black Prince and the green broadcloth gown with dagged sleeves worn by the lady in the Arnolfini painting at the National Gallery.

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ham-house-and-garden



Weald & Downland Living Museum, Sussex DAY COURSES

Flax to Linen

16 June 2018 10am - 4pm

Learn the process of how our ancestors changed the flax plant into linen fabric. For millennia this basic but vital plant clothed us and became our second skin; come and be a traditional 'scutcher' or 'breaker' for the day and change this course fibre into a piece of linen string. Learn how to spin flax, perform a simple weave and care for your linens but most importantly, what to do with your left over 'tow'! Tickets cost £55

A history of knitting from the Tudor period onwards

Friday 28th September 10am - 4pm, repeated

Saturday 29 September 2018 10am - 4pm

A brief practical history of knitting in Britain, looking at the products, techniques, and social history of knitting and knitters from the 16th to the 20th century. Learn to 'knit in the round', use a knitting sheath, and try out a number of different techniques. Pictures, samples and items from the Knitting and Crochet Guild Collection illustrate the wealth of resources. Some previous knitting experience would be helpful on this course, but is not essential. Tickets cost £60 for each one day course. office@wealddown.co.uk 01243 811363

Winchester School of Art, University of Southampton

In the Loop at 10

19 - 20 July 2018

Keynote Speakers: Professor Jessica Hemmings, Professor Ingun Grimstad Klepp and Linda Newington, Founder of In the Loop

Call For Papers - Deadline 27 April 2018.

The sixth interdisciplinary and international In the Loop conference will be held at Winchester School of Art (WSA), University of Southampton 19-20 July 2018. This year marks the tenth anniversary of In the Loop and to celebrate this WSA will be hosting In the Loop at 10, a special conference which will celebrate the outstanding contribution that the conference, its organisers, and its participants have made to knitting scholarship, while also promoting new research on all aspects of knitting.

One of the major successes of Loop has been the development of a unique archive of knitting-related material at the University of Southampton, housed both in the Knitting Reference Library at WSA, and in the University's Special Collections. To help mark the significance of this legacy, we will particularly welcome papers this year on the theme of 'Collections'. We will interpret this theme broadly to include archives, libraries, private collections, company papers, personal documents, and knitwear design collections.

In addition, we are interested in receiving papers on any aspect of knitting, past, present, and future, and we look forward to hosting a conference that will bring together artists, designers, practitioners, knitters, academics, theorists, curators, archivists, and librarians. Abstracts should be no longer than 500 words and include full contact details and affiliation where appropriate. Send to J.A.Turney@soton.ac.uk

Association of Dress Historians

Annual International Conference:

New Research in Dress History

Friday 13 and Saturday 14 April 2018

The Art Workers' Guild, London, WC1N 3AT

www.dresshistorians.co.uk

The Costume Society

Visit to Whitchurch Silk Mill

8th September 2018 2pm

Whitchurch Silk Mill is the oldest silk mill in the UK still in its original building. The visit is timed to enjoy the results of a multi-million pound refurbishment of the Mill, as part of the Heritage Lottery Funded 'Preserving the Fabric Project'. Tickets are £7 for members/£9 for non-members

www.costumesociety.org.uk/events

MEDATS COMMITTEE CONTACT DETAILS

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Chairman – Dr. Elizabeth Coatsworth. 2 Rosgill Close, Heaton Mersey, Stockport, SK4 3BH
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sempster.carnie@gmail.com

Treasurer - The Rectory, 36 Wotton Road, Charfield, Wotton-Under-Edge, South Glos, GL12 8TG treasurer@medats.org.uk

Membership Secretary – Carole Thompson, 9 Fairthorn Road, Charlton, London, SE7 7RL

Ticketing Secretary – Carole Thompson, as above. membership@medats.org.uk

Programme Secretary – Gale Owen Crocker. 181 Chester Road, Hazel Grove, Stockport, SK7 6EN
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Web master - Dr. Timothy Dawson, 30 Hollin Drive, Headingley, Leeds, LS16 5NE
webmaster@medats.org.uk

Non-Executive Committee Members

Dr. Jane Bridgeman, 25b Granville Square, London, WC1X 9PD

Philip Harris, 32 Trinity Rise, London, SW2 2QR.

MEDATS SUBSCRIPTIONS

Information about MEDATS and application forms may be had from the Membership Secretary, Carole Thompson, or from the society website: www.medats.org.uk.

Annual subscriptions (payable in pounds sterling only) run from 1st Jan – 31st Dec.

Rates:

£15 Individual members worldwide;¹ (£6 paper newsletter surcharge for Europe, £9 paper newsletter surcharge for worldwide outside Europe).

£20 Households worldwide (2 members²); (paper newsletter surcharges as above)

£10 Student members worldwide (with proof of status); (paper newsletter surcharges as above).

£30 Institutions irrespective of location.

£5 Electronic newsletter subscription, non UK.

1: Members may stand for office within the society, vote in meetings and elections, and gain a discount on attendance at meetings. Within the UK the newsletter is available electronically as a PDF file, or on paper. Please specify which method of delivery is preferred. If no preference is recorded, electronic delivery will be assumed as a default whenever an e-mail address is supplied.

2: One copy of the newsletter will be sent whichever mode is employed, but both named members enjoy the full range of rights and privileges.

3: This gains none of the privileges of membership and is not available to residents of Great Britain.

Bank details:

Lloyds TSB, 109 Finsbury Pavement, London EC2A 1LB

Account name: *Medieval Dress and Textile Society* Sort Code: 30-95-74 Account Number: 24025468

To pay online via Paypal go to www.medats.org.uk

CANCELLATION POLICY FOR EVENTS

A full refund will be given if a cancellation is made 30 days or more before the event.

Refunds for cancellations made at shorter notice will be given on a discretionary basis dependant on whether the ticket can be resold or not. The final decision will be made by the treasurer.

