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**Newsletter Delivery**

The ICG board authorized an online edition as well as a printed edition of the newsletter. Your newsletter delivery preference is part of your ICG membership record. If you want to change or verify your delivery preference, contact your local chapter. As editor, I rely on these records to determine who receives a newsletter, and by what means of delivery.

Members who have an e-mail address on record will be notified when a new online edition is available. Those who receive the print edition are also welcome to experience the online edition by going to [http://www.costume.org/currentnewsletter](http://www.costume.org/currentnewsletter). When prompted, enter the user name "newsletter" and the issue password "diamond".

Back issues of the ICG newsletter are available online for the entire costuming community to enjoy. Contact the newsletter editor to report problems or comment on the newsletter. If your postal or e-mail address changes, notify your local chapter promptly, or send your updated information to icg-membership-corrections@costume.org. Returned copies of the print edition will generally not be re-mailed.

**ICG Officers for 2011-2012:**

- President: Ann Catelli [icg-president@costume.org]
- Vice President: Philip Gust [icg-vice-president@costume.org]
- Treasurer: Jeanine Swick [icg-treasurer@costume.org]
- Corresponding Secretary: Jan Price [icg-corr-secretary@costume.org]
- Recording Secretary: Aurora Celeste [icg-rec-secretary@costume.org]

**Helpful Hands of the ICG:**

- Newsletter Editor: Patrick J. O’Connor [icg-newsletter@costume.org]
- Webmaster (acting): Philip Gust [webmaster@costume.org]
- Archivist: Pierre Pettinger [icg-archivist@costume.org]
- Gallery Admin: Bruce Mai [gallery-admin@costume.org]
- Parliamentarian: Pierre Pettinger [icg-parliamentarian@costume.org]

**ICG via Email or the Internet**

- Yahoo! Groups:
  - ICG-D@yahoogroups.com: General Discussion
  - ICG-BOD@yahoogroups.com: Board and Officers Discussion
  - ICG-TW@yahoogroups.com: Tech and Web Discussion
  - ICG-Pub@yahoogroups.com: Publication Discussion

ICG-D is open to everyone, including non-members. Everyone can read message archives of the other groups, but only invited members can submit messages.

**ICG Membership Benefits**

Your ICG membership benefits include voting rights and a subscription to this newsletter. Chapters that fail to report their members and submit their dues run the risk of being deactivated. Members of deactivated chapters who wish to participate in activities as ICG members must join an active chapter of the ICG. Members of Chapters that have 'expired,' but are in good standing, are temporarily in the 'T-chapter,' a sort of limbo for members 'between chapters.'

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ONLINE SUBMISSIONS (GUIDELINES APPLY TO ADVERTISING ALSO)
Submit copy as rtf, doc, .docx or .txt files, please. All current graphics formats are acceptable.

HARDCOPY SUBMISSION (IF ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY)
Send by snail mail to the ICG Newsletter address below. We reserve the right to retain all hard copy unless accompanied by a SASE.

SUBMISSION/ADVERTISING DEADLINES
Deadline to receive materials or advertising for print is the FIFTEENTH of the month prior to publication. :

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ADVERTISING RATES
Rates are per issue. Please make payment to the ICG, Inc. and send with advertising copy to the ICG Newsletter Editor. Ads received without payment will not be published. Advertising revenues help defray the cost of mailing the newsletter. Additional proceeds benefit the ICG.

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c/o Patrick J. O’Connor, Editor
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Chicago IL 60646-3615

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ICG Board Representative: Julie Zetterberg

CHICAGOLAND COSTUMERS’ GUILD
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c/o Renata O’Connor-Rose
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ICG Board Representative: (acting) Rob Himmelsbach

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ICG Board Representative: Stacey Lee Feldmann

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ICG Board Representative: Keri Doerring

Please send corrections to icg-newsletter@costume.org.
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
ANN CATELLI

The Annual Meeting is coming up soon! Elections are to be held, as they are every year. The offices are President, Vice President, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer. Nominations for all offices are most welcome. I will not be running for president at the Annual Meeting.

We currently have candidates for:
- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer

We need candidates for both secretarial offices:
- Corresponding Secretary
- Recording Secretary

We also need two dedicated members to serve in positions that are critical to our organization:
- Newsletter Editor
- Webmaster

Finally, we need several members to serve on committees that provide guidance to our organization:
- Communications and Public Relations
- Finance and Budget
- Publications
- Technology and the Web

Please consider volunteering. Just a small investment of your time will yield big dividends for our costuming community. You really can make a difference!

Recording Secretary
The Recording Secretary maintains the official records of the ICG, including its By-Laws, Standing Rules, and meeting minutes, and makes them available to the membership. The Recording Secretary also maintains a list of the committees, their members, and the expiration dates of their appointments. The Recording Secretary is a member of the Board of Directors. Good record-keeping skills are important.

This an elected position, with a one-year term.

Newsletter Editor
The Newsletter Editor publishes the ICG Newsletter. The ICG Newsletter includes a summary of official ICG business and reports. It also offers updates on Chapters activities and events, as well as feature articles about costuming. The Newsletter Editor stays in touch with costumers and chapters, and assists members to publish articles of interest to the community. The Newsletter Editor is a member of the Publications and the Technology and Web Committees.

Knowledge of document editing and formatting programs such as Microsoft Word and simple image editing programs is important. Past experience with editing a newsletter, or even a high school yearbook or newspaper is very useful.

This is an appointed position with no fixed term.

Webmaster
The Webmaster maintains and improves the ICG website. The website includes announcements, copies of all official ICG documents and financial reports, the ICG Newsletter, the Pat & Peggy Kennedy Memorial Archives, and a links to the ICG Gallery. It also includes costuming information such as convention schedules and links to useful costuming resources. The Webmaster is a member of the Technology and Web Committee.

Basic knowledge of creating and editing HTML pages, and simple image editing programs is important. Past experience with designing and maintaining a personal website or one for a non-profit organization is very useful.

This is an appointed position with no fixed term.
Two excellent and very expensive books have finally been released in paperback.

**Shibori: The Inventive Art of Japanese Shaped Resist Dyeing** by Yoshiko Iwamoto Wada, Mary Kellogg Rice and Jane Barton (Feb 21, 2012) List Price: $48.00 Amazon $29.36 and free shipping.

There are only a handful of books on traditional Shibori in English. Yoshiko Wada covers the scope of Shibori, its history, artists and techniques with expertise and beautiful photos. Beautiful enough for a coffee table book, it also covers techniques with clear, detailed instructions and diagrams. Whether you want to try this craft or simply enjoy the art of beautiful textiles, this book is the one you must have for Shibori dyeing. The many illustrations of designs and textiles are in color plus black and white.

**What Clothes Reveal: The Language of Clothing in Colonial and Federal America** by Linda Baumgarten (Feb 28, 2012) List price $45.00 Amazon $34.20 and free shipping.

The book consists of six chapters and a conclusion segment. So much information is included that the reader can be interested in it on many levels. It will be particularly interesting to those who recreate garb of the period, as it contains detailed information on construction and materials; however, even someone with scant knowledge of costume & history will find it an engaging book.

We hope you’ve had a chance to enjoy some of our hobby’s history that we’re making more accessible via the International Costumers Gallery and the Road Shows. So much more work needs to be done - it will be years before the bulk of the photographic images are online. Perhaps you’ve thought you’d like to help in some way, but didn’t know how. Here are some suggestions:

**Promotion**

The simplest way you can help is to promote the Pat & Peggy Kennedy Memorial Library – especially the Gallery. It is the single most effective tool for promoting costuming and the ICG. Tell your friends, fellow costumers not associated with the Guild, parents, kids, relatives, etc. If we have photos of you (and if we don’t, chances are we just haven’t had time to put them up yet), direct them to our site. It raises awareness of our hobby and, hopefully, people will tell others they know about it. On the Guild Chapter level, you can create an account and display photos of your group’s activities there (free of charge, by the way). Mention the Library on other costuming forums, mailing lists, etc.

**Donations**

You can donate to the Archives in numerous ways. If you have costume pictures you’ve taken, we’d love to have them. Get the word out to photographers and videographers who attend conventions. Put them in touch with us, or encourage them to donate. If you or someone else doesn’t want to donate, but would be willing to let us copy materials, we have the equipment to digitally convert them and give back a digital copy in return. We can handle just about any format of photos, slides or video. Were you a participant in a masquerade? Many conventions only distribute video recordings of their masquerade to their participants. If you can convince the Powers That Be to donate a copy, we would be very grateful.

Another way you can contribute to the Archives is to actually donate money. Currently, a portion of your membership dues goes to funding Archive activities. Those dues have helped in acquiring new materials, blank media, website hosting and Road Show media players. Additional money given generously by individual members has allowed us to track down more visual material for the Library that has been for sale on the Internet.

**Data**

Perhaps the biggest need we have is for information. We can barely keep up with the amount of video and photos that we have to digitize and share. At the moment, we can only add info to the IC Gallery, and there are many holes to fill. Eventually, we would like to build a database people can search. If you have data about a photo on the Gallery (identification, spelling corrections, awards, etc.), you can send it to us via email. Alternatively, we can set you up with an account, so that you can leave comments on the Gallery photos.

As part of the Gallery effort, we’re still working on getting the Costuming Oral History project off the ground. If you have an interesting story about your costume regarding its construction, interactions with an audience member, a judge, a celebrity, etc., we want to hear it.

Finally, we need winners lists or running order documents from masquerades. These lists help when there is a question about a person in a photo, presentation title, making sure we have all the entries in a masquerade accounted for, plus providing a complete event history.

You can help out in numerous ways to help us help promote costuming – it’s all a matter of how much you want to get involved. We welcome any and all suggestions.
IF YOU ARE NOT ATTENDING THE ANNUAL ICG MEETING IN TEMPE, AZ:

PROXY FORM: Copy and give to a member who is attending CC 30 in Arizona.

This Proxy Statement is for ICG members who will not be attending the Annual Meeting at Costume-Con. If you want to vote, complete the form and give it to someone who will be attending.

International Costumers’ Guild 2012 Annual Meeting Proxy Assignment Form
On this __________ day of ____________________, 2012, I, ___________________________________, assign my vote to ________________________________________, and authorize the above-named member of the International Costumers’ Guild, belonging to ____________________________ Chapter, to represent me in all business coming before the 2012 Annual Meeting of the International Costumers’ Guild.

Assignee Name*: ____________________________________________
Address: ___________________________________________________
City: _______________________________________________________
State/Province: ZIP/Postal Code: _______________________________

Assigner Name**: __________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________________
City: _______________________________________________________
State/Province: ZIP/Postal Code: _______________________________
Signature: _________________________________________________

*Who you are authorizing to vote on your behalf. **Your name.

Your Vote Counts! Check the ICG Web Site/ Yahoo Group for latest slate of Officers

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DIGITAL IMAGES – THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY
PATRICK O’CONNOR, CHICAGO LAND COSTUMERS’ GUILD
BASED ON A PRESENTATION BY BILL HIGGINS ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH – CAPRICON XXXI
SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION NEAR CHICAGO.

Like many fans of science fiction, I attend a few local conventions every year. One of the regular contributors on science panels in the Chicagoland area is Bill Higgins, who is a physicist at Fermi National Accelerator Lab in Batavia, Illinois. Attending one of the science panels at this year’s Capricon on a Sunday morning, my wife and I expected an update on recent developments in particle physics, space flight technology, or the latest word on superluminal neutrinos. Instead, Bill did a delightful presentation on his search for a remarkable piece of fabric.

This one was a woven portrait of a weaver whose inventions figured significantly in the history of computer technology. As it happens, there is an interesting overlap between the history of textile weaving machinery and data processing equipment.

Images today – particularly those in the current issue of the ICG Newsletter – are made of a digital pattern of dots called pixels stored in binary format in machine-readable documents called image files. Most of us think of this as a relatively recent development.

Wrong. They were first invented in textile form. That’s right—fabric!

Binary-based digital images with 1,200 dot-per-inch resolution and a total pixel count over 20 megapixels (!) actually pre-date micro-based digital equipment, not by several years, but by two CENTURIES. These images still exist, and they were produced out of silk—by weaving looms.

In the 1700’s, the French city of Lyon was arguably the center of the master-weaving industry in Europe. A number of inventors there developed and elaborated weaving mechanisms that could be programmed—that is, machines that could be directed by machine-readable documents to select which threads would appear on the upper surface of woven cloth with each pass of the loom’s shuttle. The most successful of these designs was built by Joseph-Marie Jacquard. That his automated weaving loom drew the attention, and approval, of Napoleon Bonaparte two hundred years ago probably assured this success, but the idea had been around for a while. Although there was a backlash—one of the earliest examples of workers revolting against the technology that threatened to automate them out of a career—the support of the Emperor himself ensured that Jacquard’s technology did not fall victim to another dark age.

The information that made identical, thread-perfect replicas of elaborate weaving patterns possible was the punch card. In Jacquard’s machine, these were punched with holes that selected the threads to be shown on the top of the fabric. By the nature of weaving, this operation for patterns is binary. Each thread is either present or absent on the visible surface of the fabric. So, if intricate patterns in woven cloth resemble a digital display, the reason is that they ARE a digital display.
One of Jacquard’s successors who was successful using this kind of programmable loom was Michel-Marie Carquillat. He did a masterful portrait of his mentor using Jacquard’s technology.

One of these Carquillat portraits, Mr. Higgins told us, had been in the possession of Charles Babbage, the would-be Victorian inventor of the digital computer. Inspired by the technical skill shown in this portrait, he planned to use punched cards like Jacquard’s to program his steam-powered mechanical computer, the Analytical Engine, but this was never completed.

Others, like Dr. Herman Hollerith, who built less ambitious tabulating machines and whose company eventually became IBM, used variations on Jacquard’s punch-card technology to do data processing. By the 1890’s, the cards with holes in them, and machines for reading the data thereon, were in use for the number-crunching done on the U. S. Federal Census.

However, Higgins reported that he was looking for a specific silk portrait. This piece of silk contained not only the image of Mr. Jacquard, but also the weaver himself, Carquillat, and the machine which was used to produce its own image:

While visiting relatives in Delaware, and having heard that there was an example of this textile masterpiece in the University of Delaware Library, Higgins was struggling to explain to the librarian that what he wanted to see in the collection was not a book, and what it was, he looked over the librarian’s head and saw it hanging on the wall in a frame just next to the room where the librarian was…

Voila!
Cactus Needles is published monthly, and is available to the SWCG members and the entire costuming community upon publication.

The Virtual Costumer, Volume 9 Issue 4, November 2011
Silicon Web Costumers’ Guild (SiW)

As "clothes make the man" they also define the heroes and villains of history, literature and our own imaginations. Includes Real Life Costumed Crusaders, making the original Godzilla costume, and a lesson on costuming for heroes and villains.

This “community issue” is available to the entire costuming community. SiW members can read the most recent “Americana” issue of VC three months in advance.

Yipe!, Volume 3, Issue 10, October 2011
A privately published costuming ezine

Do you love video games? No? Boy, this isn’t the issue for you, then… We’ve got mockery of WoWers, Kevin’s words with an 8-bit video game priestess, random shots of Team Fortress 2 cosplayers, Mette’s in-depth examination of the evolution of video games and how that’s affected video game costuming, 10 questions for Lance Ikegawa (the most impressive video game costumer/cosplayer we’ve ever seen)—every Achievement on the dashboard!

Yipe! Volume 3, Issue 10, “Don’t Hate the Cosplayer, Hate the Game,” is now available to the entire costuming community.

Does your chapter publish a newsletter? Is there a costuming ezine that would be of interest to readers? Send your recommendations to:
icg-newsletter@costume.org.

If your ICG chapter doesn’t have a newsletter but would like to, the Publications Committee can help you get started. To learn more, drop a note to:
icg-pubscommittee@costume.org.