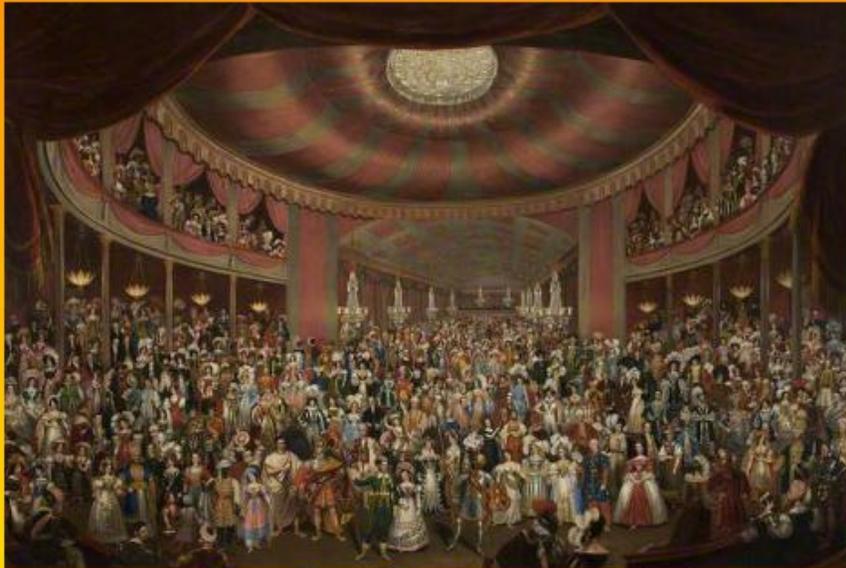


International Costumer

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A Fancy Dress Ball, Manchester, painting by Arthur Perigal the elder. 1828.

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President's Message

By Philip Gust

Welcome to this final issue of the *International Costumer* for 2014.

I'd like to welcome Vicky Young Assarattanakul as editor of the "International Costumer." Vicky became an ICG member in 2010 with the Madison Area Costuming Society, and she also edits its newsletter. She recently joined the ICG Publications Board, and served as guest editor for the September/October 2014 issue. Please help me thank Vicky for taking on this position.

To wrap up this year, let me suggest six easy ways to increase the value of ICG membership and affiliation. The first three are for individual members:

1. Write an article for the "International Costumer" or a chapter/SIG publication to establish your expertise. Professionals know the value of published articles that they can point to. Hobbyist costumers can also benefit from this trick by pointing to articles they publish on their resumes and websites. See the ICG "International Costumer Newsletter" web page (<http://www.costume.org/newsletters/>) for more information.

2. Apply for an ICG grant to develop a project or activity that promotes costuming in your local community or the costuming community at large. It can be something simple, as long as it promotes costuming to its target audience. See the ICG "Grant Information" web page (<http://www.costume.org/grants/>) for rules and application form.

3. Start a Special Interest Group (SIG) for an area of costuming where you can share your passion with other ICG members. SIGs are entitled to many of the same benefits as chapters. Here are just a few ideas: anime, cosplay, furies, militaria, preservation and restoration, props and effects, or the Regency. Contact me for details.

The next three are for chapters and SIGs:

4. Take advantage of *free* web hosting offered by the ICG. Create a new website to promote your chapter/SIG, or rehost your existing website. One chapter saved \$125/year. Contact the Technology & Web committee to get started.

5. Join ICG committee Yahoo groups for valuable tips and answers to questions that can help your group run more smoothly, including: ICG-FINANCE (finance), ICG-PR (public relations), ICG-PUBS (publications), ICG-TW (technology and web). Contact the

committee chairs to learn how.

6. Participate in the ICG's Group Exemption Letter (GEL) so your chapter/SIG can become its own non-profit -- at no cost! This many enable your group to get space for events, apply for local arts grants, accept tax-deductible donations, and purchase software and supplies at non-profit rates. See the ICG "Tax-Exempt Status for U.S. Chapters" web page (<http://www.costume.org/gel/>) for more information.

Here's a New Year's resolution for 2015: get more value from ICG membership and affiliation by taking advantage of these great opportunities!



From the Editor

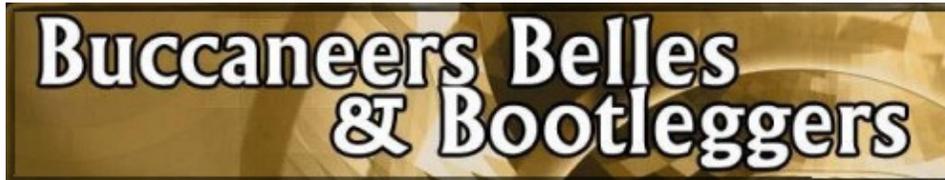
By Vicky Assarattanakul

Happy autumn! As I write to you all, the leaves are rapidly changing colors and falling off of the trees here in Wisconsin. This is a great time of year to look to nature for inspiration for your next costume project.

I am thrilled to be taking on the role of editor for *International Costumer*. When I first offered to be guest editor for the last issue, I was filled with a sense of excitement and nervousness. I have big shoes to fill! However, I have found everyone to be very supportive and helpful. It is exciting to see the variety in activity among all of the chapters of the ICG.

In this issue, we have reports from committee chairs, a book review, and an article about the special contest for Costume Con 33. Don't forget that the deadline Future Fashion Folio is November 15th!

As you look forward to 2015, consider writing an article for *International Costumer*. We would love to hear about what your chapter is planning, any conventions you have recently attended, any costuming-related books you have read, and any other costuming-related items that you might like to write about. I hope that the rest of the year treats you all kindly.



Costume Con 33

“Miss Ellen's Portieres” Contest

By Rob Himmelsbach

We wanted to try something different for CC33, while shamelessly exploiting our Southern connections, since both Scarlett's Mother – “Miss Ellen” – and Rhett Butler come from Charleston.

While both the original Scarlett O'Hara dress from *Gone with the Wind* and the Carol Burnett Show parody (“I saw it in the window and just had to have it”) have been done as either competition or hall costumes, many times, we thought encouraging attendees to re-use and recycle would be fitting tribute to Southern resourcefulness.

The rules are simple – use already existing curtains or drapes or take fabric, MAKE a set of curtains, then take the curtains and turn them into some other costume; documentation can either be a picture of the original drapes or a copy of the pattern packet of the curtains you made before the actual costume. Tacky curtains from the thrift store, those drapes Aunt Violet gave you that go with NOTHING in your house, that discarded theatre curtain you rescued

from the dumpster are all fair game to be turned into some other sort of garment.

We hope this will be a fun experiment for Costume Con attendees. We'll set up a pre-judging time and place, which will probably be announced a few weeks before the conference on the website, and a walk-thru fashion show –type show of the made garments and announcing of (semi-whimsical) awards Sunday during the Sunday Cotillion/Brunch.

For further information, please visit:
<http://cc33charleston.org/wp/2013/10/01/miss-ellens-portieres-competition/>.

Future Fashion Folio

by Carole Parker

Future Fashion Folio Publisher

A reminder that the deadline for the Future Fashion Folio is October 31, 2014 for hard copy submissions, and November 15, 2015 for everyone else.

So far, we have one prolific entrant who has sent in more than 40 entries, but no entries from anyone else. Please get your entries in soon!

Report from the ICG Budget & Finance Committee

By Bruce MacDermott

The B&F Committee doesn't do much until this portion of the year, when the various committees and departments send in their budget requests for the next fiscal year. We do not have the numbers in yet, so that there is not much to report at this time.

What do we do?

- We monitor the quarterly income/expense numbers to see if there is anything that might be of concern.
- In September, we solicit input of budgetary needs from the various committees and departments of the ICG.
- We use the input from the committees and departments to put together the budget for the next fiscal year.
- We submit the budget to the Board of directors for approval.

So far, 2014 has been budgetarily uneventful.

A brief history of the committee:

When I took over the position of ICG Treasurer, after the elections at CC-24 in

2006, the books were being kept using a check register and spreadsheet. I instituted the current accounting system utilizing QuickBooks (QB). I was Treasurer for 3 years until I was able to find Jeanine and convince her that she would make a great Treasurer. She has been in the position since mid 2009.

The membership database is still managed using an Excel Spreadsheet that I devised to simplify identifying when a membership is up for renewal. It is updated monthly. We use the same form for the SiW's membership roster. Our Secretary does manage the membership roster. I just take care of the accounting. We work together, in spite of the fact that I live in California and Deb Salisbury lives in Texas (poor thing).

As of 2014, the ICG offers a free QB license to all "subordinates" covered by the ICG's Group Exemption Letter (GEL). I am also the GEL Administrator, since I was the one who walked us through the application process with the IRS. It took most of a year.

2014-2015 Budget and Finance Committee members:

Bruce MacDermott (chair), Margaret Decker, Jeanine Swick (Treasurer)

Report from the ICG Public Relations Committee

By Henry Osier

The Communications and Public Relations Committee is a standing committee that was approved by the ICG Board. The goals of the Committee are to help increase awareness of the ICG to people who are interested in finding other people with similar interests, and to assist chapters and SIGs in attracting new members and retain them. The PR Committee will be working with the ad hoc Members' Benefit Committee to this end.

The Committee is aware that when we go to conventions and events, we encounter people not only from the local area who are interested in some aspect of costuming, but also ones who have traveled from outside the area. We would like to have these people join no matter where they are from because they often bring in new ideas and insight, or they know someone else who should know about the ICG.

To this end, the Committee recently set out to create a simple flier to hand out to potential new members at conventions and other events. The first version is a generic flier that can be used no matter where a Guild is located. Region-specific versions be created from it, so that Chapters and SIGs will be able

to promote themselves. We will be making this flier available to chapters shortly.

We are also looking at ways to use social media to help promote the ICG, and enable potential members to discover the ICG and Chapters in their regions. Many Chapters have Yahoo or Google groups, and some have a presence on Facebook. Social media makes it easy to post and update event information, and to answer questions that people might have. The Steampunk community where I participate, for example, already uses social media effectively

The Public Relations Committee looks forward to helping promote the ICG, and both Chapters and SIGs.

2014-2015 Public Relations Committee members:

Henry Osier (chair), Tonya Adolfson (Corresponding Secretary), Aurora Celeste, Kathe Gust

Report from the ICG Technology and Web Committee

By Philip Gust

In early 2014, the ICG moved to Midphase as its hosting provider because we were out of space for the "International Costumer's Gallery." This also enabled us to offer free website hosting to our chapters and special interest groups (SIGs). To date, the Silicon Web Costumers' Guild has moved its website to ICG's hosting account, saving them over \$100 per year. We hope that other chapters and SIGs will take advantage of this valuable new benefit.

In mid-2014, we brought up a test version of "International Costumer's Gallery" using Gallery3, a new version of the open-source Gallery2 software we have used for several years. Gallery2 has some issues that make it difficult to support. However, we found that Gallery3 still lacks a few critical features, so we are staying with Gallery2 for now, and monitoring progress on Gallery3.

We also assisted the GEL committee to purchase copies of Quickbooks financial software for GEL chapters. We purchased it very inexpensively through our membership in TechSoup, a non-profit that makes software and services available other non-profits.

In the latter part of 2014, the web team has begun planning a redesign of the ICG website to give it a more modern look and feel, make it easier to access information, and offer new capabilities. We plan to use WordPress, an open-source content management platform with many attractive design templates that work with both PCs and mobile devices. WordPress also has capabilities like hosting blogs, integration with social media, and functions like calendars and news feeds. SiW president Kevin Roche, who has experience with WordPress, will be advising the web team. We hope to have the first version available in early 2015.

2014-2015 Technology and Web Committee members:

Philip Gust (acting chair), Ann Catelli, Bruce Mai (ICG Gallery Administrator), Patrick O'Connor, Carole Parker, Pierre Pettinger, Jeanine Swick, Susan Toker

Costuming Arts and Sciences Grant Fund Committee Progress

By Byron Connell

The ICG established the Committee in the fall of 2013 to administer grants to ICG members from the Marty Gear Fund. The Fund's administrators are Byron Connell, chair, Jeanine Swick, and Philip Gust (ex officio as President). In November 2013, the Board of Directors adopted Standing Rule 31, which established the Fund and governs its operation. The Board also approved a Governing Document for administration of the Fund and the making of grants from it, which can be found at <http://www.costume.org/grants/GoverningDocument.htm>

This is a report of our activity since then.

- Standing Rule 31 states. "The Fund shall be used to make grants to projects whose goals align with the ICG's purpose as a non-profit educational organization. This Fund is meant to serve as a catalyst for projects that promote the art and science of costuming, either in a specific locale or the community as a whole." It requires evaluation of application for funding by at least two independent reviewers. The Fund administrators may review evaluations only to assure that grants conform to the Fund's governing document.

- The ICG's 2014 budget included \$1,500 to be available for grants.
- Four experienced ICG members agreed to serve as evaluators of applications received by the Fund: Jill Eastlake, Robert Himmelsbach, Jacqui Ward, and Ken Warren. They're listed on the ICG web site. Under the terms of the Fund's operation, at least two evaluators review each application for funding and for deciding whether to award a grant and, if so, in what amount. Standing Rule 31 prohibits the evaluators from playing a role in the Fund's administration.
- In March 2014, the ICG applied to the U.S. Internal Revenue Service for advance approval of our grant-making procedures. Receipt of such approval would make grants to U.S. residents exempt from U.S. income taxes. At the end of September, we received the IRS' approval. Notice was made on the ICG discussion list and to the Board of Directors so that Board representatives could notify their chapters' members.
- In the meantime, the Fund received its first application for a grant in early August 2014. We designated two of the evaluators to review the application. They have not yet completed their review.

- The Committee has requested that the ICG 2015 budget include \$1,500 for the Fund. Each year, the Board approves by the end of the year the budget for the subsequent year (i.e., by December 31, 2014, for the 2015 budget).



Marty Gear. Photo courtesy of the ICG Archives Gallery.

At this time, the Marty Gear Fund still has resources from which to make grants. We encourage ICG members with ideas for projects to improve the arts and sciences of costuming to submit applications for financial support.

*2014-2015 Arts and Sciences Grant Fund
Committee members:*

*Byron Connell (chair), Jeanine Swick
(Treasurer), Jill Eastlake, Rob Himmelsbach,
Jacqui Ward, Ken Warren.*

Book Review Napoleonic Wars: Wellington's Army

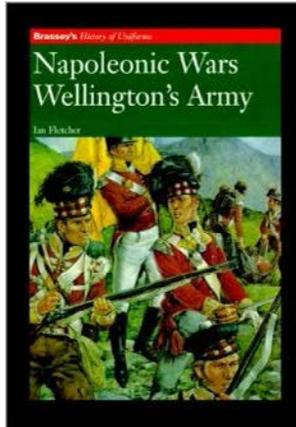
By Byron P. Connell

New Jersey-New York Costumers' Guild (aka The Sick Pups of Greater Monmouth County)

Ian Fletcher's, *Napoleonic Wars: Wellington's Army*, is a volume in the series of works on the history of uniforms by Brassey's, a British publisher. Originally published in 1996, my paperback edition was published in 2000. I picked up my copy at Costume-Con 30 (2012). One of my costume interests is military, paramilitary, and civilian uniforms, so I saw it as a potentially interesting addition to my information.

For many Britons, the Napoleonic Wars (1796-1815) seem to exert a fascination similar to the fascination many Americans have for the Civil War, so there are many works on a wide variety of aspects of the period.

Wellington's Army begins with a brief overview of Britain's war in the Hispanic peninsula (the "Peninsular War") from 1808



to 1814, which culminated in success in driving the French out of Portugal and Spain, an invasion of France, and Napoleon's abdication as Emperor. Subsequently, it covers the official 1802 Uniform Regulations of the British Army, with considerable detail on dress of the infantry (including the Household Guards), the cavalry (including the Household Cavalry), and the artillery. This is followed by a discussion of military dress on campaign (i.e., in the field during the Peninsular War and the Battle of Waterloo, a look at the weapons carried, the artillery used, and regimental colors and rank distinctions. It closes with a chapter on "Fighting Spirit." The text is supplemented by a bibliography and a directory of Napoleonic War museums and other sites. The work is indexed. It is copiously illustrated, mostly by black and white photos of actual garments and of portraits and other paintings.

Unfortunately, I find that I am unable to recommend this book. Fletcher says that it takes "a look at uniform through the eyes of the men themselves, as opposed to the usual regulation dress so often set out. . . ." He points out that "Items of clothing and equipment were either lost or damaged or were simply discarded once they were worn out. . . ." Despite the Army's ability to keep Wellington's troops well supplied, hats, jackets, trousers, and shoes quickly wore out and often were replaced by locally

procured replacements that did not reflect the 1802 regulations.

In my opinion, Fletcher's book does not live up to its purpose. It devotes the first 43 pages of only 133 pages of text and illustrations to the 1802 Uniform Regulations and only 26 to a chapter about what Wellington's troops actually wore. While that chapter quotes from letters and memoirs of the period, the vast majority of such artifacts were written by officers, so the picture of the men is less than clear. Similarly, the portraits are, as one would suppose, of officers in full dress. (Fletcher does point out inaccuracies in paintings and sketches of battles.)

I also found the work repetitive, with the same statement appearing in several places without providing any additional information. Finally, the book struck me as an example of a very old-fashioned approach to history. I found it making many assertions with little evidence in support and often losing objectivity. *Napoleonic Wars: Wellington's Army* read like a British work published prior to the Second World War, or even in the 19th century, rather than in 1996.

Please use the following information to obtain a copy of this book:

Fletcher, Ian. *Napoleonic Wars: Wellington's Army*. Brassey's History of Uniforms. London: Brassey's, 1996. ISBN: 1-57488-307-0. Pp. 143.

About the ICG

Membership Benefits

ICG membership benefits include participation in local Chapters and in Special Interest Groups, voting rights, eligibility for grants, online forums, learning and volunteer opportunities, and the International Costumer.

ICG Online

Visit the ICG website for current information and resources:

<http://www.costume.org/>

Join us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/internationalcostumers>

Join the ICG-D Yahoo! group for lively discussions on costuming-related topics:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/icg-d>

Send comments and suggestions to the ICG board and standing committees:

Board of Directors

icg-board@costume.org

Budget and Finance Committee:

icg-financecommittee@costume.org

Costuming Arts & Sciences Grant Fund

icg-grants@costume.org

Public Relations Committee:

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Publications Committee:

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Technology & Web Committee:

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Assistant administrator: Elaine Sims

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The Kennedy Memorial Archives and Gallery

The ICG's Pat & Peggy Kennedy Memorial Archives is the world's largest archive of photographs, video and paper ephemera, spanning 70+ years of Science Fiction costuming. Exhibits include an online photo gallery (<http://www.costume.org/gallery2/>) and the ICGArchives YouTube channel (<http://www.youtube.com/user/ICGArchives>).

The International Costumer

The *International Costumer* newsletter is published bi-monthly by the ICG. The current issue is for members only. Back issues are freely available to the costuming community on the ICG website.

Online Submissions

We welcome short costuming articles, book reviews, event reports, and news items. Submit your copy as rtf, doc, docx or txt files to the International Costumer editor: icg-newsletter@costume.org. All graphics formats are accepted.

Contacting the Editor

Please contact the editor to report problems, or to offer comments and suggestions: icg-newsletter@costume.org.

Newsletter Delivery

The *International Costumer* is available as both an online and print edition. Your preference is part of your ICG membership record. To change or verify your preference, contact your local chapter.

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 cannot be re-mailed.

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