

International Costumer

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Costumes and Technology

Photos by Vicky Assarattanakul

President's Message

By Philip Gust

I'm pleased to report that the ICG Board has approved taking the next steps toward creating an ICG Press to publish books and monographs of interest to the costuming community. Many established professional and hobbyist organizations publish books and monographs in areas related to their interests. For the ICG, publishing books and monographs will further our educational mission by providing an avenue for members and others in the costuming community to share their expertise in more depth than in a newsletter or magazine article.

The next step is for the Publications Committee to develop a detailed proposal for the Board to consider, and for the Board to approve policies and procedures on how the ICG Press operates. Adopting modern publication techniques like print-on-demand and e-books will eliminate many of the costs and risks associated with traditional publishing.

I'm looking forward to seeing the ICG Press launch sometime in 2017. At least one publication is already planned, and several others are in the idea stage. Thanks to Corresponding Secretary Tonya Adolfsen for proposing the creation the ICG Press. She has considerable background in book publishing and works for a small-press



*Lord and Lady Carnivore discover the long-lost tomb of the mysterious Egyptian Pharaoh Men-her-Ra.
Photo: Nedy McCann-Myers.*

publishing house, and her expertise will be a valuable resource in helping the ICG Press get started.

The ICG Board has also approved the 2017 annual budget, which includes funding for ongoing activities like the ICG Pat and Peggy Kennedy Memorial Archives, the Marty Gear Costuming Arts and Sciences Fund, the International Costumer Newsletter, the ICG and chapter websites, public relations, and general operations. It also includes seed funding for the ICG Press. The Board will review funding for the ICG Press once it approves the policies and procedures for its operation. The 2017 ICG Budget, as well as all other ICG documents, are available for you to review on the ICG website.

Thanks to ICG Treasurer Jeanine Swick, and Finance Committee members Bruce MacDermott and Elaine Sims, for developing and presenting the budget in plenty of time for it to be approved before the end of the year. Finance is an extremely important job in helping to keep the ICG running, and we are very grateful that they do it so well every year. Well done!

Speaking of the ICG website, the web team has been hard at work for the last several months putting the finishing touches on a new ICG website. The current website has served us well for many years, but it's time for a new one. The new website will have an up-to-date look, and include many new features such as informative posts about costuming and the costuming community, information about ICG programs, and other events of interest to costumers in addition to the popular convention event list. The new site will still include all of the familiar features and information that members currently rely on, including meeting minutes, financials, chapter and SIG listings, the Archives and gallery, Grants, and Group Exemption Letter participation.

The new website is also "mobile friendly" so members can access the information from their phones and tablets as easily as from their home computers. It will also provide the ability to offer certain content in other languages to better serve the world-wide

costuming community. Look for an announcement about the new site soon.

Rosanna Caponi, who has been chair of the Communications and Public Relations committee since May, has announced that she is stepping down. I'd like to thank Rosanna for her work this year and offer her our very best wishes. Communications and PR is extremely important to increase the ICG's visibility and help attract members. Having a chair to help guide the committee's activities is a must. If you have a flair for communications and PR and would enjoy helping get the word out about the ICG's many programs and activities, please consider serving in this important role. You'll have a talented committee ready to work with you, and I'll be happy to help you transition into the role. If you are interested or can recommend another member who might be, please contact me at icg-president@costume.org and let me know why you or another member would be great in this role.

Finally, I want to remind members that I announced at the 2016 annual meeting that my fifth term as President will be my last. Prior to serving as President, I also served as Vice President for two years. I'm very proud that the ICG is growing and operating so well, and that's why I think this is exactly the right time for someone new to help pilot the ICG on the next leg of its journey. I've tied ICG founder Marty

Gear's record as the longest serving president, and I also think that his record should continue to stand. Kathe Gust also plans to step down after serving five terms as Corresponding Secretary.

Kathe and I plan to remain active on the committees where we participate. I also want to pursue an idea I've had for several years but haven't had time to move forward as President: the creation of student ICG chapters in secondary and post-secondary schools. With the decrease or elimination of arts education in schools, I can't think of a better way to further the ICG's educational mission, while helping to spark the interest of the next generation of costumers (something that Marty Gear was also passionate about). Please contact me if you're interested.

If you want to learn more about what being ICG President or Corresponding Secretary involves, and perhaps consider standing for one of these positions at the 2017 ICG Annual Meeting in late April, please contact me at icg-president@costume.org and I'll be happy to talk with you. For the President position, past experience as an ICG or another non-profit board member, committee chair, or chapter president would be ideal.

Kathe and I both wish you a very Happy New Year!

From the Editor

By Vicky Assarattanakul

Happy New Year! This year will bring about many new and exciting changes within the ICG. Will your chapter be doing something new? Are you attending a costumed event, or have you read a great costuming book recently? Let us know about it!



*Shopping in style at TeslaCon.
Photo courtesy of Jamie Butler.*

I am looking for a co-editor to help out with the newsletter. Don't worry, I have no intention of stepping down as editor yet, but I think it is a great idea to have someone

learn the ropes. Perhaps you'd like to start your own chapter newsletter, and would like to see what it all entails. Or perhaps you have a great idea for a new format for the newsletter. I'd love your help! No experience is necessary, so if you're interested, please contact me at icg-newsletter@costume.org.

Tall Ships: Chicago, IL

By Shelly Kumar

Vikings and Pirates and Costumes, oh my! With movies like *Pirates of the Caribbean*, *Master and Commander*, and *Goonies* cultivating fiercely loyal fan bases, it's not difficult to see the fascination with antique boats powered by nothing but wind and sails. Who wouldn't want to climb the mast of a Spanish Galleon or navigate the oceans on a Viking ship? This fascination forms the foundation for the Tall Ships event at the Navy Pier in Chicago IL. *Tall Ships 2016* ran from July 17 to July 31 and gave attendees the opportunity to board multiple majestic vessels, learn about their history, and even become passengers for cruises on the lake.



Being an avid costumer and new resident of the Chicago area, how could I pass up such an amazing photo shoot opportunity? The answer of course, is that I didn't. Several friends and I leapt at the chance and suited up in our Rococo era dresses to head out and see the ships!

Our group arrived on the sunny Saturday afternoon eager to get onto the Spanish Galleon and Viking vessels. Naturally Navy Pier was packed with people there to see the ships and enjoy the day, most of whom were dressed in regular street clothes and assumed that we were wearing costumes as part of one of the crews or that we were somehow attached to the event. Having shown up at other events in costumes previously, this neither surprised nor deterred us. It did, however, slow us down a bit due to the overwhelming number of attendees who wanted pictures with us. This too, was very flattering and added to our enjoyment of the event.

We stood in line to see the Viking ship first because it was closer to where we entered. This was a long line, but it moved at a decent pace. The crew of the ship were taking attendees on in groups of about ten to fifteen at a time and giving them a guided tour. They explained how they lived while on board the ship now and how it would have been back when the Vikings were using it to explore the world. The tour itself only lasted about ten to fifteen minutes but it didn't feel rushed and there was plenty of opportunity to take pictures, though it was difficult to get one without other attendees in the shot.

Next we made our way to the Spanish Galleon, it was going to be our main focus since it went so well with our dresses. The line was much longer than that for the Viking ship, but it still moved at a good pace since, being a much larger ship, they could allow a lot more people on board at the same time. They didn't have a guided





tour, but there was a path laid out for you to follow, with ropes in some places to encourage you to follow the loop around the upper decks before taking you below and returning you to the ramp to exit. It was truly amazing to see all the rigging, masts, cannons and other equipment that they used on board. They even had state rooms and the captain's quarters furnished

and displayed for you to see what it would have been like when these vessels dominated the seas. It was easier to get pictures here because there was simply more space in which to



maneuver. There were even angles where you could avoid having the city in the background and it felt almost like you were really at sea.

Unfortunately, we were not able to go out on any of the cruises and due to time constraints, did not board the other thirteen ships present at the event. However, everyone in our group loved the experience and are eager to return. This isn't a typical costuming event where you meet and socialize with lots of likeminded costumers, but it is an absolutely amazing place to wear a costume. We had nothing but good responses to our costumes, and I would highly recommend costuming here.

WORLDCON 76 SAN JOSE 2018

Worldcon 76 is being chaired by the president of the Silicon Valley Costumers Guild, Kevin Roche. The masquerade will be run by Aurora Celeste.

Early bird prices end at midnight on January 31st, so if you haven't gotten yours, now is the time to do so! Register at <http://www.regonline.com/worldcon76>

A Comprehensive List of Costuming Panel Ideas - Part Two

By Lisa Ashton

Planning a convention? In charge of the costuming programming at your local event? Need a workshop idea for your chapter? Here is part two of an extensive list of ideas for programming, organized by Lisa Ashton. More ideas will be included in the next issue.

Historical Topics

- Lady's and Gentlemen's Regency Styles
- Regency Costuming: From Corsets to Coats
- Viking Wardrobe: What's Authentic Vs. Fantasy
- The Revolutionary War Period
- Men's Historical Fashion Accessories
- Men's Historical Hair and Facial Hair Styles
- The History of the Necktie
- Jewelry in History from Ancient to Modern
- Style and Fashion of the 1960's
- Ladies' Historical Hair Styles
- Makeup in History
- The "Retro" Look: the 1940's and 1950's in Fashion
- Historical Military Gear

- Understanding Banners and Coats-of-Arms
- Victorian Costuming: Overview of an Era
- The Industrial Revolution and How it Changed Fashion Forever
- Belle Epoque Wardrobe
- The REAL Renaissance Gowns
- Dressing Pre-History
- Women’s Work: The History of Loom Woven Fabric
- From Sheep to Shawl: Working with Woolens
- Children’s Clothing in History
- Medieval Dress Realities
- Historical Re-enactments: The Critical Details
- Trim in History: Tassels, Fringe, Beads, Soutache
- Historical Footwear
- Elizabethan Fashion from Peasants to Nobles
- Laying the Foundations: Historical Undergarments and Their Importance
- The History of Underwear
- Building Victorian Corsets, Hoops & Bustles
- Variations on the Victorian Bustle
- Drafting or Modifying a corset Pattern (Could be a workshop)

- Historical & Ethnic Profiles in Contemporary Costuming: Folkwear Patterns & Beyond
- Basic Corsets & Hoops: Historical Periods and Fantasy Costumes
- How to Pattern A Corset (Could be a workshop)
- Historical Armor
- Armor as a Fashion Statement
- Authentic Historical Western Dress
- Native American Beadwork and Decoration
- Costume Overview: Kimono: How to Pattern, Make and Wear Kimono
- Victorian and Edwardian Millinery
- Costume Overview: Samurai: From Underlayers to Armor
- Historical Footwear & Stockings
- Henry Tudor: What a Wardrobe!
- Historical Costume Dramas, and Where They Often Go Wrong
- The History of the Pocket
- Have Fun Documenting your Historical Costume: Content, Appearance, Research
- Deportment and Manners: How to Act in Your Historical Costume

Techniques

- Can’t Find the Fabric you Need? 1) Painting, Beading & Embellishment

- Can’t Find the Fabric you Need? 2) Re-design your Fabric from the Threads Out
- Hand-sewing: When, Where, and Why?
- Painting on Fabric: From Airbrush to Squeezy Paint
- Ribbon Embroidery Intro
- Basic Sewing Machine Operation and Skills
- Fantasy Fabrics: Layering & Collage Techniques
- Beyond Fabric: Riveting, Sculpting, and Innovative Materials
- Distressing Fabric: Adding Age or Trauma to Your Costume
- Intro to Dyeing Techniques
- Using, Making & Modifying Commercial Sewing Patterns
- Pattern Altering for Special Considerations: Size, Mobility, Disability
- One Way to Make an Alien: Stretch Fabrics and Spandex
- How to Handle Difficult Fabrics Without Severe Injuries
- Sewing Machine Trickery: Free-Style Machine Embroidery, Reverse Applique, quilt techniques (good demo)
- Making Sense of Patterns & Sewing References: Tricks of the Trade
- Expanding Scaled Patterns

- Fabric Manipulation and Tricks
- A Plethora of Pockets
- Intro to Needle Felting
- Leather, Fur & Feathers: Working with the Real Thing
- Working with Synthetic Leather and Furs
- Chain mail as Armor or Decoration (Great as a demo or workshop too)
- Fun With Thermoplastics
- To Bead or Not To Bead: Beads on Costumes (could also be a Workshop)
- Quilting in Costuming
- Too Much Time on my Hands: Hand Sewing & Hand Embroidery
- Perfectly Finishing Your Costumes
- Variations on Seams
- Utilizing Your Sewing Machine Feet
- Inside Out: Linings, Interlining & Padding
- Making & Using Trim on Costumes
- Basic Millinery Supplies, Tools, Methods
- Working With Ruffles & Ribbons By Hand or Machine
- Elastics for Every Purpose
- Working With Natural Fabrics: Wool, Silk, Linen, Cotton
- Working with Synthetic Fabrics And What to Expect
- Planning and Making Belts
- Other Uses for Boning Steel and Hooping
- Matching Trim to Your Costume
- Using Foam Latex: Carving, Sculpting, Glueing & Painting
- Uses of Cardboard and Foamcore
- Faux Paws: Reproducing Fur, Gems, And Any Texture
- Dyeing, Silk Painting & Resists Overview
- Intro to Kumihimo, Macrame, and Braiding
- Defying Gravity: Understructure to Hold Up Your Costume
- Tambour Beading (could be a workshop)
- Puppets Large and Small
- Body Paint for Costume & Cosplay
- Masks and Hoods
- Making Repairs: How to Repair Anything on the Fly
- Using Your Printer to Decorate Fabric
- Cleaning Your Costumes and Specialty Fabrics

TeslaCon Review

By Vicky Assarattanakul

When I first heard about TeslaCon, I admit that I was not terribly impressed. Steampunk was one of the few costuming genres that I had not developed a strong interest in, and the idea of an immersion convention was quite unfamiliar to me. But because of the location, and the number of costumers it attracted, I volunteered to attend the convention to spread the word about Costume-Con 34.

And that was all it took to get me hooked.



Vicky at TeslaCon 7. Dress by DMinx Designs.



The Duchess, a cast member who also takes part in the Suffragette Tea.

people were even playing a character. Although I have done a fair amount of acting in my life, I had never really roleplayed, outside of posing for a few photos in character, so it was a new experience for me. And it was fun!

This year, I commissioned a friend to make a dress for me that I could easily move in. I have taken to documenting and “reporting” on costuming events on YouTube, so I knew I couldn’t miss this opportunity. And I was not disappointed. I was blown away by the innovation and creativity of the attendees.

TeslaCon has a tea room, and each morning, I drank my cup of Earl Grey while chatting



TeslaCon is an immersion convention, which means that attendees are made to feel like they are really in the world that the event takes place. The theme this year was *La Grande Exposition Scientifique*, or in essence, a trip to Paris. The hotel was decorated to resemble Paris in the late 1800s, and actors had miniature “shows” in various locations at the convention center.

Nearly every attendee was in costume. Gadgets and contraptions adorned the garments of many costumes, and some



with the International Steampunk Women’s Suffrage Association. I watched dirigible races in the hotel atrium, and teapot races in the convention center. And of course, I avoided drooling on my fellow costumers, but I admired their work anyway.

If you are interested in checking out the video I created, you can see it at https://youtu.be/-5nynMGLQ_g. It is specifically aimed at audiences who may be curious as to what TeslaCon is all about. I have invested in a new camera, so hopefully next year’s video will be even better!

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:

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icg-board@costume.org

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icg-financecommittee@costume.org

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The Marty Gear Costuming Arts and Sciences Fund

The Marty Gear Costuming Arts and Sciences Fund provides grants for projects and activities that promote the art and science of costuming. For information on how to apply for a grant, please visit <http://www.costume.org/grants/grants.html>.

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

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