

International Costumer

Volume XVI, Issue 4

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Costuming and the World

Photos by Vicky Assarattanakul

President's Message

By Marianne Pease

With the summer convention season in full swing, I hope that everyone is getting out there, having fun, and showing off all of the amazing skills that you have. As I write this, I'm working on a few projects including trying to get an early start on my family's Halloween costumes (Star Wars again this year at the request of my eldest) and preparing for blerDCon- a new convention in Washington DC with a focus on minorities in fandom. It looks like there will be a great cosplaying presence with a ton of Cosplay guests of honor, and a several costuming panels- including the two that I'll be running!

This summer is jam packed with events from historical reenactments and renaissance faires to all the classic comic conventions. I've found that it's easy to get stuck in a rut of attending the same events with the same people, but this year I've made it a personal goal to reach out, see what else is going on, and get involved in something new.

Amidst it all, I've also been having ongoing conversations with people both within the ICG and costumers outside it. How can the ICG support the chapters? How can we reach out to younger costumers who have never heard of us before? What do cosplayers even want from a formal group



A photo of Marianne's son, William, in a Storm Trooper costume she made last Halloween.

and do they even want to join a group like the ICG when they do so much online already? Unfortunately, there's not a single, easy answer that will make every chapter run smoothly with full and eager leadership that arranges or hosts fun and interesting costume related events every month. It takes hard work to run a successful organization, and I am grateful for and admire everyone who steps up to the plate.

The most valuable resource we have as an organization is our members. We are an incredibly diversely talented bunch, and we

have a lot to offer if we reach out and share it. Within the ICG we have a host of experience in running effective organizations, and standing committees for Communication and Public Relations, Publications, Technology and Web, and Budget and Finance that chapter officers are encouraged to participate in.

Reaching out into our local communities we have the opportunity to reach untapped talent. Most younger costumers have never even considered the possibility of an organization like ours in the area. A few things that can be done to increase chapter visibility include:

- Participating at conventions: give ribbons to excellent hall costumes, run panels, participate or help run masquerades, organize a meetup or photoshoot at the convention, or run a repair table.
- Find other groups in your area and participate in their events, invite them to yours.
- Host meetings outside of private homes: many newcomers may not feel comfortable going to a stranger's house but meeting at a public venue like a library or restaurant is considered safe.
- Advertise! Social media is always a valuable tool but there are other routes as well. Local radio stations often allow non-profits to make

public service announcements for free, and you can always invite the local newspapers and T.V. stations are often interested in community activities.

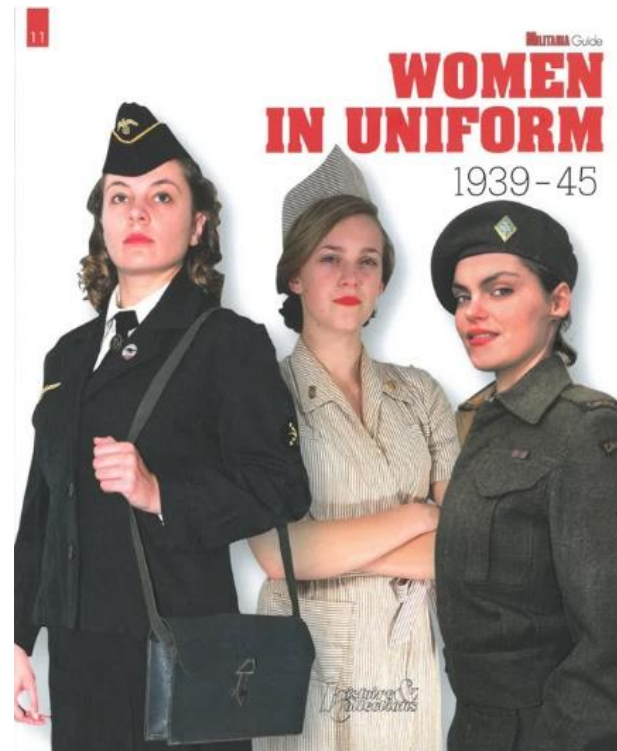
Obviously there is more to do than that and how we can improve is a conversation that will never be finished. If you have any ideas on how chapters and the ICG can improve, grow, and serve the costuming community better, please don't hesitate to speak up. You can contact me directly (icg-president@costume.org, <https://www.facebook.com/mariannelegume>) or post on the ICG-D list. (<http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/ICG-D>)

Have a great summer,
Marianne Pease

Book Review: *Women in Uniform* By Byron Connell

Women in Uniform, 1939-45. Paris: Sophia Histoire & Collections, 2016, pp. 66. ISBN: 978-2-35250-460-3

There are lots of works dealing with military, paramilitary, or civilian uniforms worn by men. Finding works dealing with the uniforms worn by women is much harder. At best, such information appears in a fragmentary and casual form in works devoted to male uniforms. That's why I



was delighted to find *Women in Uniform*, one of Histoire & Collections' Militaria Guide series. Sophia Histoire & Collections is a French publisher of militaria. Most of its catalog is in French. However, many of the Militaria Guide volumes are also available in English, as this one is.

Until now, the only book I knew that dealt with female uniforms was Elizabeth Ewing's 1975 study, *Women in Uniform: Their costume through the centuries* (London: B.T. Batsford, Ltd.). Ewing's work dealt solely with British women. This one addresses uniforms worn by women in – or associated with – the armed forces of the

United States, Germany, Finland, the USSR, Great Britain, the Italian Social Republic, France, and Canada.

Both service dress uniforms and field uniforms are shown for female members of the respective armies, navies, and air forces, and including both women in general service and women nurses.

In the same style as the volume in this series on *World War One Soldiers*, which I reviewed in the July-August 2015 issue of *The International Costumer*, this is primarily a work of photographs. The book provides 31 two-page spreads of nearly full-page photos of women modeling vintage uniforms and accouterments, accompanied by occasional detail shots of insignia. Detailed descriptions of the items shown accompany each photo.

Where appropriate, uniforms of both officers and enlisted personnel are displayed. Both uniforms designed for women and those designed for men and adapted for use by women are shown. Generally, the photos are very clear and give a good idea of how the uniform actually looked as worn. Many were quite dowdy!

I can recommend this book as one that the costumer interested in women's uniforms – or uniforms in general – will find of interest.

Costume-Con 35 Sci-Fi and Fantasy Masquerade Awards

Workmanship

Novice

Honorable Mention: Headdress - The Morrigan of the Winter Court

Honorable Mention: Wings - A Glimpse of Fairy Magic: Water Fairy

Honorable Mention: Handbag - Sailor Who

Best Wirework Jewelry - Titania, Queen of the Fairies



Sailor Who. Photo by Alex Kung.



I am Canadian. Photo by Alex Kung.

Best Novice Fursuit - Nicodemus

Best Detailing - Dance Practice with Moana

Best in the Novice Class - My Fair Lady Embassy Ballgown

Journeyman

Honorable Mention: Beading - Once Upon a Costume-Con

Honorable Mention: Design Mashup - I, Jupiter Jones

Honorable Mention: Maillework - I am Canadian

Best Fursuit - When Twilight Brings Your

Shadow

Best Traditional Armor - Beware, Kensei the Samurai

Electronic Wizardry - The Rose and the Witch

Mechanical Ingenuity - Tarazel the Guardian

Best in Journeyman Class - The Diva Strikes Back

Master/Open

Honorable Mention: Fabric Painting - Set the World on Wildfire

Honorable Mention: Doublet (Tailoring) - Disney in a Nutshell

Honorable Mention: Props - 'Tis a Good Day to be a Pirate

Honorable Mention: Dyework - Hana the Warrior

Best Recreation - Be the Unicorn



Late One Night in the Laundry Room. Photo by Alex Kung.

Frappuccino You Want to See in the World
Best Traditional Leatherwork - Aloy
 Horizona Zero Dawn
Innovative Use of Materials - Late One
 Night in the Laundry Room
Best Leather Tailoring - A Wiggly Surprise
Best Embroidery - The Young Pasha
Best Fantasy Armor - Pharah
Best Breadth of Techniques - Don't Mess
 with Kefka
Best Use of Recycled Materials - Hope
Best Transformation - Never Going to
 Happen
Best in the Master Class - Weddings



Dance Practice with Moana. Photo by Alex Kung.

Best in Show Workmanship - Here Comes the King

Presentation

Novice

Most Elvish - Amarantha
Best Ambience - Badb - Wicked + Divine
Most Intense - Ghost Rider
Best Fictional Goddess - Maude Lebowski
Best Murder Face - Maleficent
Best Mascot Movement - Nicodemus
Most Elegant - My Fair Lady Embassy



Here Comes the King. Photo by Alex Kung.

Ballgown
Best in Novice Class - Dance Practice with Moana

Journeyman

Honorable Mention for Timing - Rey (Star Wars)
Best Anthropomorphic Characterization - Tarazet the Guardian
Best Movement - Persona 5: Codename Queen
Best Stage Presence - Lord of Isengard
Best Characterization - Escape from Cannibal Island



The Diva Strikes Back. Photo by Alex Kung.



Hope. Photo by Alex Kung.

Most Graceful - Lady Rainicorn
Audience Appreciation - I am Canadian
Most Regal - Once Upon a Costume-Con
Most Energetic - Super Sailor Moon
Best in Journeyman Class - The Diva Strikes Back

Master/Open

Best Royalty - Weddings
Best Future Arsonist - Set the World on Wildfire
Trixiest Trixie Award - The Trixie Show
Most Otherworldly - Hana the Warrior



Weddings. Photo by Alex Kung.

Most Prepared - Never Going to Happen
Play of the Masquerade - The Wraith, the Muscle and the Devil
Best Narrative - Expensive Journey
Best Lipsynch - Don't Mess with Kefka
We're All Going to Need Therapy Award - Once Upon a Nightmare
Awards Rain from Above Award - Pharah
Upcoming Netflix Original Award - LOOFA: League of Older Female Action Heroes
Best Use of Stage Props - Aloy Horizon



League of Older Female Action Heroes. Photo by Alex Kung.



Disney in a Nutshell. Photo by Alex Kung.

Zero Dawn
Best Grace Under Fire - Gru Zinkerbell from 'Despicable Me'
So That's Where My Socks Went Award - Late One Night in the Laundry Room
Best Musical - Tentacles
Best Abstract - Hope
Best in the Master Class - Disney in a Nutshell
Best in Show Presentation - A Special Beauty



A Special Kind of Beauty. Photo by Alex Kung.

Southeast Asian Costume

By Vicky Assarattanakul

This past May, I had a wonderful opportunity to travel to Southeast Asia with my family. We visited Vietnam, Singapore, and Thailand. For those that may not be aware, Asian historical costume, specifically that of Southeast Asia, is an area of significant interest for me. Museums are a fantastic resource for researching historic garments.

While in Singapore, Andrew and I visited the Asian Civilizations Museum, which had an extensive exhibit on the Joseon Period in Korea. The Joseon Period spanned from July 1392 to October 1897. There were several beautiful reproduction hanbok, but I felt like a kid in a candy store when we came to the extant garments. My husband and I took so many pictures, and spent so much time



An extant Korean hanbok.



The back of an extant Korean wedding hanbok.

ogling over the garments, that I believe we made the guards nervous. They started watching us quite closely!

In addition to the incredible exhibit on Korea, the museum had Chinese dragon robes on display. The lighter robe is from



Dragon robe from the Qing Dynasty.

the Qing Dynasty, specifically the early 18th century. It was worn during ritual occasions and during holiday celebrations.

In a stroke of luck, I visited the Contemporary Art Gallery in Bangkok and there was a special event on the “Jewel of Thailand.” This dress was worn by the Miss Universe contestant representing Thailand in 2016. It was inspired by a Thai dress worn by Queen Sirikit in 1960.

My mother-in-law and I were able to hold the dress and examine the accessories. The



Chalita Suansane in the "Jewel of Thailand" dress.



A woman holding the "Jewel of Thailand" dress at the Bangkok Contemporary Art Gallery

dress was incredibly heavy! Over one hundred artisans contributed to the construction of the dress.

Finally, we visited the Rattanakosin Exhibition Hall. Inside was a display of the women of the court during the Rattanakosin Kingdom period, which spanned from 1782 to 1932. While the historical garments of this time were simple, they were still quite beautiful.

If anyone would like high resolution detail photos of any of these garments, please let me know! I have many!



A woman of the court in the Rattanakosin period.

HELPS Sponsored Meet Up for Masquerade Runners at Costume-Con 35

The Masquerade Runners SIG, aka "Hey, Everyone, Let's Put on a Show (HELPS)" sponsored a successful meet up at Costume-Con 35 of those of us interested in running masquerades and similar costumed events. Even though the two-hour session was scheduled at 9:00 AM on Sunday (!), about a dozen of us turned up to talk about what we do and how to do it better. Not everyone was there for the whole two-hour period; some came and left early while others arrived at a more civilized hour. Overall, we were knowledgeable and opinionated!

HELPS hopes we can do this again soon – certainly at CC 36 if not sooner.

Byron Connell
Acting Director, HELPS

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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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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