

The Costume Society

CALL FOR PAPERS

**The Costume Society Conference in London**

**Friday 30th June – Sunday 2nd July 2017**

2017 marks half a century since the first publication of *Costume,* the journal of the UK Costume Society and the first conference held by the Society. It was also the year in which two classic texts - Roland Barthes’ *The Fashion System* and Francois Boucher’s *History of Costume in the West* - exploring dress were published. What was termed costume has developed through dress history to the new growing academic discipline of Fashion Studies. In 2017 dress and fashion, history is big business, regularly the subject of blockbuster museum exhibitions and a desirable field of enquiry for academics from a multitude of disciplines. The Costume Society is marking this golden anniversary milestone for *Costume* by exploring the topic of writing on dress and fashion history for its 2017 annual conference, ***Writing Fashion***.

We invite submissions considering writing on dress and fashion history from a wide mix of viewpoints. They could include, but are not limited to, the following themes:

* Definitions of dress and fashion, and theory and dress history
* Early writings about dress
* Evolution of fashion journalism
* Imaginative interpretations of surviving garments through the written word
* The portrayal of dress in literature
* Influence of the internet on writing about dress and fashion and fashion blogging
* The relationship between writing and dress exhibitions, including catalogues and accompanying books
* The rising fortunes of dress history in academia
* Global fashion writing

For the main conference theme we welcome submission for **30 minute papers**, illustrated by Powerpoint, from academics, collectors, curators, journalists, bloggers, designers, research students and independent scholars. Those wishing to offer papers should submit an abstract of about 200 words in Word (no formatting, keywords or details of applicants) with a short biography.

**FASHION FOCUS**

Are you currently undertaking research, or have just completed research? At the Society conference each year, a speaker/speakers will be invited to present their latest research and ideas in the context of fashion, design or conservation. Speakers will be invited to use image-rich and/or object-based content to illustrate their work, which is not required to be linked to the Conference theme. The successful applicant(s) will be required to speak for 20-40 minutes. Please submit your application in Word format with a 200-word abstract supplied with a short biography on the same page.

**‘SOAPBOX’**

‘Soapbox – get up and speak!’ – an informal way of giving the whole audience a chance to share their knowledge or build confidence through public speaking. Four ‘soapbox’ speakers will be invited to speak for 10 minutes. There is no requirement to submit a paper for consideration; however, you must be registered as a delegate and advise the Conference Co-ordinator of your intention to speak.

Abstracts and CVs should be sent to [**conference@costumesociety.org.uk**](mailto:conference@costumesociety.org.uk) **by 21st October 2016.** Submissions will be considered by a committee from the Costume Society Planning and Executive Committee. All submissions will receive replies by January 2017. TheSociety regrets that it is not possible to pay for expenses in the preparation and presentation of a paper, or for travel to the Conference.