

Notes for guidance

- *The competition is for a reconstruction, not an interpretation. The student should aim to reconstruct a garment from one of Janet Arnold's Patterns of Fashion books or from C17 Women's Dress Patterns books 1 & 2, to the pattern specifications – not to a contemporary figure or to a scaled down size.*
- *Wherever possible the student should have viewed the garment in the collection it is held in, or a similar garment. Some of the garments are now becoming too fragile to be handled any more – we will try to keep an up to date list on the website.*
- *Fabric used should be of the correct weight and type, wherever possible although an appropriate weight calico could be used.*
- *Garments dated pre introduction of the sewing machine must be entirely hand sewn.*
- *Photographs for the initial submission should be no larger than A4, as many as the student wishes to submit, but they should be clear to assist the judging process and include all the relevant views, including views of the inside of the garment, any detailed finishes and details highlighted by the primary research shown in the books*

The three selected finalists, who will be invited to present their work for final judging at our annual Symposium, will be expected to include a small portfolio containing the following details:

1. *Photocopies of the original drawing and pattern, book and page number where appropriate*
2. *Photographs and drawings of the original/similar garment as possible*
3. *Samples of fabrics used, also samples of any techniques employed e.g. buttonholes*
4. *Yardage*
5. *Costing*
6. *Suppliers list, book list and details of any internet sites visited*
7. *Timing: this could include a proposed timetable of work, an actual one, or just total hours worked*
8. *Background contextual research*
9. *Research into underpinnings*
10. *Accessory research if applicable*
11. *Anything the student feels is relevant to the process and experience of reconstruction*
12. *Reflection on the process and any new skills acquired.*

The Award will be given to the student who has, in the opinion of the judges, produced a reconstruction of a garment from a pattern in one of the books which reflects the high standards presented in the books

We have been informed by the Gallery of Fashion at Platt Hall, Manchester that the following outfits that are in the Patterns of Fashion books are not available for close study:

Book 1

pp40 & 42, 1780s (on view in the permanent displays)

pp 64 & 66, 1839-45 (on view in the permanent displays)

Book 2

pp 46-7, c1895 (on view.)

pp 48-9, c1898 (too fragile to handle) pp 52-3, c1902-3 (too fragile to handle)

The Museum of London have advised us that you should look at the Collection Online group:

<http://collections.museumoflondon.org.uk/Online/group.aspx?group=21610&ga=1.15637427.483835168.1337356403>

This explains the reasons for restricting access to their collections but includes records of all the costumes in their collection included in the Janet Arnold books, mostly with detailed photos of the construction.