

**Costume Society
Museum Work Experience Grant (MWEG)
Yarwood Grant (YG)
September 2021
Ben Whyman**

MWEG

In 2021, The Costume Society agreed to award two MWEG awards, presuming the applications were deserving. It was agreed that the deadline for the MWEG would be shifted to 30 May to allow students more time to plan for a number of eventualities.

We received four MWEG applications, which is 2 more than the 2020 application numbers. The application numbers are lower than I would like, but ongoing COVID restrictions and few museum collections been open to work in will continue to have an effect on what students can apply for in the near future.

The awardees for the MWEG 2021 award are:

- Harris Museum & Art Gallery and Mihaela-Adelina Diaconescu, University of Central Lancashire
- Leeds Museums and Galleries and Emily Yates, University of York.

Despite ongoing restrictions and tiered social and professional lockdowns, Emily Yates commenced her work experience in August. Mihaela-Adelina Diaconescu has still to commence her work experience, but the Museum is confident she will start within the next month or two.

I have asked that both students supply at least one blog for the CS website.

MWEG 2020

Due to ongoing COVID lockdowns and accessibility issues, one of the MWEG 2020 awardees, Greer Parker (MA Fashion Curation, London College of Fashion), whose work experience was due to commence at the North Hertfordshire Museum last year, is about to commence her position. The delay in funding this grant was agreed by the Costume Society Executive Committee (15 May 2021).

YG

Given the COVID-19 situation, it was agreed that the YG deadline would be extended to 30 May. In 2021, CS received five applications for the two Yarwood Grants offered this year. This was a decrease of one application from 2020.

The two judges agreed on awarding YG awards to the following students:

- Megan Eames, MA Fashion Cultures and Histories, London College of Fashion - research into the history of Welsh Plains fabric, used to make clothing for enslaved people between 1650-1850
- Imogen Mann, MA Fashion Cultures and Histories, London College of Fashion - 1970s Northern Soul music subculture and fashion.

Both students reflected in their project outlines feasible and reflective responses to ongoing COVID restrictions.

The quality of applications across 2021 was very strong.

ACTION

None required.

Finances

No financial support is required for me to undertake administration of the MWEG and YG.

The judges for the 2021 MWEG and YG, Philip Warren and Dr Susan North, are thanked for their time and efforts in making the judging process easy to oversee. It is much appreciated.

I would like to thank Chris Wright for her ongoing financial oversight and support for the MWEG and YG grants.

Ben Whyman
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