

2016

3rd Place: "Who Wore What When: A Literary Collection on the History of Costume and Fashion"

Manon Wogahn

Chapman University, wogah100@mail.chapman.edu

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Manon Wogahn

Chapman University

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Who Wore What When:

A Literary Collection on the History of Costume and Fashion

My book collection came together organically, which is arguably the most exciting way for a collection to develop. It began with *...isms: Understanding Fashion*, a book I came by about four years ago. Since then, I have acquired books on the subjects of art history, costume history, and contemporary fashion. The following collection is a celebration of the history of costume and fashion. However, the other books in my collection that relate to art history are not only indicative of my studies at Chapman University, but serve also as historical support to my more specific interests of clothing and textiles. It is because of this that I included in this collection *Gardner's Art through the Ages*, a comprehensive history of art containing images and information that serve as an indispensable background to the study of costume history.

In the future, I hope this collection will expand to one that encompasses even more reference books on costume and fashion. As I currently only have one book on the costumes of Hollywood film, I plan to include more that describe not only the costumes themselves but also the designers and illustrations that bring the films to life. I also want to modernize my collection; meaning, I plan to add books on modern fashion icons and designers that have contributed to our contemporary understanding of fashion and style. I would also like to find more books similar to *Out-of-Style: A Modern Perspective of How, Why, and When Vintage Fashions Evolved*, which explains the trends and transitions of fashion. Of course, I cannot neglect other comprehensive reference books on costume history, so I also plan to continue adding more of that genre to my collection.

Annotated Bibliography: My Collection

1. Ewing, William A., and Todd Brandow. *Edward Steichen: In High Fashion - The Conde Nast Years, 1923-1937*. New York City: W. W. Norton, 2008. Print.

This book highlights the large body of work of fashion photographer Edward Steichen and includes over 200 photographs taken for Vogue and Vanity Fair. Though this book does not pertain specifically to the history of costume, it offers a much-needed photographic perspective on 20th century fashion.

2. Hennessy, Kathryn, ed. *Fashion: The Definitive History of Costume and Style*. London: Dorling Kindersley, 2012. Print.

I consider this the fashion equivalent of Gardner's Art through the Ages. Covering the history of costume from ancient times the contemporary world, this book is an incredibly extensive source that includes reference drawings, paintings, and photographs from various periods.

3. Kleiner, Fred S., Christin J. Mamiya, and Richard G. Tansey. *Gardner's Art through the Ages*. Ed. David Tatom. 11th ed. N.p.: Thomson Learning, 2000. Print.

This textbook is essential to studying art history, and I keep it in my collection as a reference book. It is necessary to study fashion in historical context, and this book helps me do so.

4. Kreisel Shubert, Betty. *Out-of-Style: A Modern Perspective of How, Why, and When Vintage Fashions Evolved*. Mission Viejo: Flashback, 2013. Print.

If I had to pick a favorite out of my collection, this would be it. This book ties all the others together as it explains not only what the trends were, but how they evolved over time. From dresses and corsets to hair and hats, this book covers it all from the 19th and 20th centuries.

5. Mackenzie, Mairi. *...isms: Understanding Fashion*. New York City: Universe, 2010. Print.

This is the perfect pocket-sized history of fashion. It was my first book of the subject, and I still use it for quick reading on more contemporary fashion.

6. Maeder, Edward, Alicia Annas, Satch LaValley, and Elois Jenssen. *Hollywood in History: Costume Design in Film*. Comp. Edward Maeder. Los Angeles: Thames & Hudson Inc. and Los Angeles County Museum of Art, 1987. Print.

My only book on the subject of costume and film, this source includes film stills, costume illustrations, and other details about iconic films such as *Cleopatra* (1963) and *Blade Runner* (1982).

7. Racinet, Auguste. *The Costume History: From Ancient Times to the 19th Century*. Cologne: Taschen, 2015.

Print.

Originally published in 1888, this book contains hundreds of color plates detailing a 19th-century perspective on the history of costume. Many of these illustrations are referenced in other books on costume history, and the book's extreme detail and extensive visuals make it a historically important point of reference.

8. Schoeser, Mary. *Textiles: The Art of Mankind*. New York City: Thames & Hudson, 2012. Print.

My most recent acquisition, this book is a celebration of all things fabric. It includes over 1,000 images of textiles as a both visual and practical form of art and expression. Within my collection, this source serves as a reference point for the material that creates fashion.

Annotated Bibliography: Future Additions

1. Bowles, Hamish. *Vogue and The Metropolitan Museum of Art Costume Institute: Parties, Exhibitions, People*. Ed. Chloe Malle. New York City: Harry N. Abrams, 2014. Print.

I want to keep my collection updated with contemporary fashion in relation to popular culture. This book would contribute valuable information on fashion exhibitions that combine the iconic institutions of Vogue and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

2. Koda, Harold. *Charles James: Beyond Fashion*. New York City: Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2014. Print.

A discussion on 20th century fashion would be incomplete without the mention of designer Charles James. His mid-century defined the era, and my collection would benefit from a book that details his contributions to and influence on modern fashion.

3. Laver, James. *Costume and Fashion: A Concise History*. 5th ed. New York City: Thames & Hudson, 2012. Print.

This book would be especially valuable as a smaller and more condensed book detailing the history of costume from ancient to modern times. It would be extremely helpful to have this travel-friendly reference book that includes pre-18th century fashion.

4. Nadoolman Landis, Deborah. *Hollywood Sketchbook: A Century of Costume Illustration*. New York City: HarperCollins, 2012. Print.

My collection is lacking in books about costume design, and this compilation of Hollywood illustrations would be invaluable in terms of reference and comparison.

5. Talley, André Leon. *Oscar De La Renta: His Legendary World of Style*. New York City: Skira Rizzoli, 2015. Print.

One of my favorite designers, Oscar de la Renta's contributions to fashion are innumerable. I would love for my collection to begin including more specific books on iconic designers such as de la Renta.

6. Vreeland, Alexander. *Diana Vreeland: The Modern Woman - The Bazuar Years, 1936-1962*. New York City: Rizzoli, 2015. Print.

This book contains pages of visuals of the work of fashion icon Diana Vreeland. Magazines during

the 20th century illustrate trends in editorial fashion, and including this compilation of Vreeland-era Harper's Bazaar in my collection would serve as a contemporary catalog of fashion history.