Thursday 14th July, Victoria and Albert Museum

The literal (bodily) and figurative incorporation of flora and fauna into costume

Breakout leaders: Marion Kite and Susan North

The session began with an exposition by Susan North of some examples of sixteenth-century embroidery featuring floral motifs. Such depictions are often similar in style to those found in contemporary herbals, and this was particularly evident in some 'blackwork' on display: these black and white square pieces looked very much like the illustrative engravings of such texts, down to the straight borders, graphic style and the curvilinear arrangement of the plants shown. While this probably originated in printed engravings as a means of showing leaves, stems and flowers within a small rectilinear box, these sinuous curves are characteristic of English floral embroidery. A good example of this style is seen in the repeating spirals of an embroidered early seventeenth-century linen jacket (919-1873, please see attached sheet). Here the miniature leaf, fruit and flower motifs are varied within a repetitive curvilinear framework. This beautiful and richly coloured garment would have belonged to a woman of some status. It features the use of silver-gilt thread and from the intricacy of the work and techniques used we can infer that it was created by a professional needlewoman, unlike the examples of blackwork, which were probably created by amateur embroiderers. Another fine example of floral motifs in embroidery can be seen in an early seventeenth-century purse (T.127-1992, please see attached sheet), in which a technique of detached embroidery has been used to create a textured as well as richly coloured finish. This example again shows the typical sinuous style. Both pieces display an interest in naturalistic detail which suggests observation from nature.

Marion Kite then exhibited several items that incorporated animal products/animal motifs and even entire animals. Two pairs of kid gloves, one with embroidered satin cuffs from the seventeenth century (711-1875; 711-1875A) and one from the late nineteenth or early twentieth century (T.607:1-1999; T.607:2-1999) helped illustrate the long duration of the use of animal products in costume. As well as leather, fur, feathers and other materials can also be found in garments through the centuries. Whalebone (T.38-2000), for example, was used to stiffen corsets from the sixteenth to the mid-nineteenth century. Its use illustrates an issue often highlighted today with using animal products in clothing: the wide use of baleen from certain species of whales in corsets meant that they were hunted almost to extinction by the nineteenth century. An eighteenth-century feather hat, featuring feathers dyed vivid pinks, greens and blues (T.90-2003), shows how materials from nature were
often altered by artificial means in order to be more fashionable or more striking. The feathers used in this hat, for example, were taken from commonly available birds and would have looked rather drab and uninteresting if colour had not been added through the use of dye. Other items on display brought home forcibly the different attitude to the use of animal products of people in the past. A pair of silver fox fur stoles, for example, showed use of the complete pelt of the animals, including head and legs. To most twenty-first century eyes, the idea of draping a fox head over one’s shoulder is disturbing, if not repugnant. Similarly provocative to our contemporary sensibilities was a set of a woman’s hat, stole and muff, each featuring the head and feathers of a peacock. While the iridescent blues and greens of the feathers are beautiful, the use of animal products for adornment has gone out of fashion in Western societies in, although only in recent decades. The long history of fur and feathers in costume in the West is testament to humankind’s exploitation and admiration of nature.
Object Name: Jacket
919-1873 (Jacket)

Collection: T&D
Created by: SUP
on 25/04/2003
Amended by: ToW
on 23/02/2005

Descriptive Line: Linen jacket embroidered with silk, silver and silver-gilt thread, Great Britain, early 17th century

Attribution:
Role: Made
Name: Unknown
Date: 1600-1625
(Upper 1600 - 31/12/1625)

Attribution:
Role: Place
Made: Great Britain

Physical Description: Linen embroidered with silk, silver and silver-gilt thread. The ribbon fastenings are modern reproductions

Materials & Techniques:
Materials: Linen, hand-sewn and embroidered with silk thread
Techniques: Linen, hand sewing, hand embroidery

Category:
Textiles
Embroidery
Clothing
Valuation
Amount (sterling) £30000
Date 11/03/2002

Exhibition History
Cat No./Date
35
01/12/2002
(01/01/2001 - 31/12/2012)

Title/Venue
Marcus Gheeraerts
Tate Gallery, London

Reproduction
Number
CT82581
Type CT
Picture Date 12/09/2002
Dimensions 5x4 in
View Front
Location Costume - 17th Century

Number
CT82579
Type CT
Picture Date 12/09/2002
Dimensions 5x4 in
View Left 3/4
Location Costume - 17th Century

Number
CT50140
Type CT
Dimensions 5x4 in
View Front
Location Costume - 17th Century

Number
CT50139
Type CT
Picture Date 01/10/1997
Dimensions 5x4 in
View Front
Location Costume - 17th Century

Number
CT50138
Type CT
Picture Date 01/10/1997
Dimensions 5x4 in
View Front
Location Costume - 17th Century

Number
CT40140
Type CT
Location Costume - Late 20th Century

Condition
Code 2 (Pair)
Curator Sue Pritchard
Date 25/04/2003

Handling Restrictions
Needs two people to dress the mannequin. Very vulnerable to splitting if put under strain.

Environmental Requirements
Code 2 (sensitive)
Humidity 50 +/- 5%
Light < or = 50 lux
Pollution UV: <75 µw/lumen
Temperature 19° - 21° C

Display Requirements
Object requires specially adapted mannequin for display

Packing Note
Lie flat on board with tissue padding in sleeves and at shoulders.

Object Name
Jacket
Museum Number 919-1873

Attribution
Role Name
Unknown

Attribution
Role Date
made 1600-1625
(01/01/1600 - 31/12/1625)

Attribution
Role Place
made Great Britain

Materials & Techniques
Linen, hand-sewn and embroidered with silk thread

Credit Line
Given by A Soloman

Category
Textiles
Embroidery
Clothing

Object Entry Approval
REC Yes
User lynmp
Date 16/12/2004

group fields (AccesoImages)
00.AccesoImages Yes

group fields (Every Object Tells a Story)
01.Every Object yes
03.Story Title Maternity clothes in the 1600s
04.Story Text It's 1610 and you're pregnant. What are you going to wear?

This is a difficult question for dress historians to answer. There is no evidence for special 'maternity dress' for women at this time. That didn't develop until the twentieth century. There are a number of portraits of very definitely pregnant women from the late 1600s and early 1700s. They are clearly wearing something and something quite luxurious. We know that dress was very expensive at this time. A formal gown, embroidered with gold and jewels, to be worn at court, could cost the equivalent of a luxury car today. So we think that women adapted their regular clothing to accommodate expanding girth. They laced their bodices loosely at the back, pulled their skirts over the bump and adjusted the tie fastenings at the back.

A style of very loosely cut linen jacket for women also survives from this period, like this beautifully embroidered example. It would have been a very comfortable garment to wear when pregnant or even when just having a 'fat' day.

07.Category Keywords 1600-1650, England, Fashion and Fabric, Family Life
08.Author Name Susan North
09.Author Display Name Textiles and Fashion

No. of Parts 1
919-1873 (Jacket)
Object Name: Purse  
T.127-1992 (Purse)

Collection: T&D
Created by: SUP  
on 25/02/2003
Amended by: SFN  
on 24/03/2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attribution</th>
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<th>Name</th>
<th>Uncertainty</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Attribution</td>
<td>Role</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attribution</td>
<td>made</td>
<td>ca. 1600-1625</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attribution</td>
<td>made</td>
<td>Place</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attribution</td>
<td>made</td>
<td>England</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Physical Description
Square flat purse of canvas with an embroidered ground of silver thread. A raised pattern of scrolling chains of silver-gilt purl surrounds honeysuckle, borage, rose, gilly flower, rosehips, grapes, peapods and a butterfly. These are embroidered with detached leaves and petals in coloured silks, silver thread, silver-gilt thread, purl and spangles. The purse is lined with salmon pink silk taffeta. Flat salmon pink silk braid forms the ties with two pear-shaped finials covered in silver thread and coloured silks.

Materials & Techniques
Canvas and silk, hand sewn and embroidered with silk and metal threads, with plaited silk strings

Materials
- canvas
- silk thread
- metal thread
- silk taffeta
- silk thread
- silver thread
- silver-gilt thread
- spangles

Techniques
- hand sewing
- hand embroidery

Dimensions
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Qualification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Length</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>145.0</td>
<td>mm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Width</td>
<td>12.6</td>
<td>cm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>126.0</td>
<td>mm</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Category
- Accessories
- Embroidery
Reproduction
Number CT59165
Type CT
Picture Date 16/01/1999
Dimensions 5x4 in
View Front
Location Bags & Purses

Number CT59164
Type CT
Picture Date 16/01/1999
Dimensions 5x4 in
View Pair
Location Bags & Purses

Condition
Code 1 (Good)
Curator Susan North
Date 23/03/2005

Environmental Requirements
Code 2 (sensitive)
Humidity 50 +/- 5%
Light < or = 50 lux
Pollution UV: <75 μW/llumen
Temperature 19° - 21° C

Object Name Purse
Museum Number T.127-1992

Attribution
Role Name Uncertainty
Attribution Role Date
made ca. 1600-1625
(01/01/1600 - 31/12/1625)
Attribution Role Place Uncertainty
made England

Materials & Techniques
Canvas and silk, hand sewn and embroidered with silk and metal threads,
with plaited silk strings

Dimensions
Type Value Units Qualification
Length 14.5 cm
145.0 mm
Width 12.6 cm
126.0 mm

Public Access Description
Sue Prichard
In the seventeenth century, needle lace and embroidery patterns were
disseminated through pattern books such as The Needle's Excellence
published by James Boler (1631). Many seventeenth-century embroidered
purses have been collected and prized for the liveliness of their embroidery
and tiny scale. They were particularly valued by Edwardian collectors, such
as Lord Lever, who formed large collections of sixteenth- and seventeenth-
century embroidery.

Credit Line Given by Margaret Simeon

Category Accessories
Embroidery

Object Entry Approval
Author Yes
Collection Yes
REC Yes
Editor Yes
User clareb
date 25/02/2003
Collection SHW
date 13/04/2004
REC kcollins
date 26/03/2003
Editor helena
date 31/03/2003

group fields (AccessstoImages)
00.AccessstoImages Yes

No. of Parts 1
T.127-1992 (Purse)
Object Name: Pair of gloves
711-1875 (Glove)
711A-1875 (Glove)

Collection: T&D

Created by: BritGill_Iona on 27/03/2003
Amended by: KC on 03/06/2003

Attribution (WHOLE)
Role: Name
Unknown

Attribution (WHOLE)
Role: Date
made
1600-1625
(01/01/1600 - 31/12/1625)

Attribution (WHOLE)
Role: Place
made
England

Materials & Techniques (WHOLE)
Kid leather and satin, embroidered with silk, silver-gilt threads and seed pearls, with silver-gilt bobbin lace and spangles (sequins)

Dimensions (WHOLE)
Type: Value
Length: 32
320.0
mm

(WHOLE)
Width: 20
200.0
mm

(WHOLE)
Depth: 6
60.0
mm

Dimension Notes (WHOLE)
Dimensions checked: Measured; 28/03/2001 by NH

Category (WHOLE)
Clothing
Accessories

Label Text (WHOLE)
Date: Text
27/03/2003
British Galleries:
Gloves played an essential part in 17th-century etiquette. Both men and women aspired to a narrow hand with long fingers and gloves were cut to exaggerate these features. Similar decoration appears on gloves for both sexes, so it is difficult to distinguish women's gloves from men's.

(27/03/2003 - 27/03/2003)

Reproduction
711A-1875
Number: CT73711
Type: CT
Picture Date: 17/07/2001
Dimensions: 5x4 in
View: Front
Location: British Galleries Project
Object Number: 711A-1875

Environmental Requirements
- Code: (none)
- Light: 50 lux

Display Requirements
- British Galleries rotation period: the show thumb side out.

Object Name: Pair of gloves
Museum Number: 711&A-1875

Attribution
- Role: Name
  - Unknown

Materials & Techniques
- Kid leather and satin, embroidered with silk, silver-gilt threads and seed pearls, with silver-gilt bobbin lace and spangles (sequins)

Dimensions
- Type: Value
  - Length: 32 cm
  - Width: 20 cm
  - Depth: 6 cm

Public Access Description
Susan North
Object Type
Gloves served several purposes in early 17th century Britain, apart from the obvious ones of protection and warmth. Many were solely decorative, to display the wealth and status of their owner. They were worn in the hat or belt, as well as carried in the hand. Gloves were popular as gifts and were often given by a young gallant to his favourite mistress. In combat, a glove was thrown down as a game, or challenge.

Materials & Making
The gauntlet of the glove is covered and lined with maroon satin. The seams on the back of the hand are embroidered with silver-gilt thread in plaited braid stitch to emphasise the length of the fingers. The spangles worked into the lace would have trembled with movement and glistened in the light.

Designs & Designing
The shapes outlined in pearl reflect the taste for strapwork, a style of decoration deriving from France and Italy in the 16th century. Popular in England in the early 17th century, strapwork appears on furniture and metalwork, as well as in textile designs.

Category
- Clothing
- Accessories

Object Entry Approval
- Author: Yes
- Collection: Yes
- REC: Yes
- Editor: Yes
- User: BritGall_load
  - Date: 27/03/2003
- User: BritGall_load
  - Date: 27/03/2003
- User: kcolellas
  - Date: 03/06/2003
- User: BritGall_load
  - Date: 27/03/2003

Group fields (AccessstoImages)
No. of Parts  2
711-1875 (Glove)
711A-1875 (Glove)
Object Name  Pair of woman's gloves
T.607.1-1999 (Glove)
T.607.2-1999 (Glove)

Collection  T&D
Created by  FIC on 20/11/2000
Amended by  LNN on 19/08/2002

Descriptive Line  White kid leather gloves decorated with black embroidery and fastened with four small white buttons, Britain, 1890-1910.

Attribution  (WHOLE)
Role  made
Date  ca. 1890-1910
(01/01/1885 - 31/12/1910)

Attribution  (WHOLE)
Role  made
Place  United Kingdom
made  France
Uncertainty
probably
possibly

Physical Description  (WHOLE)
Pair of white kid leather gloves, with separate thumb piece, decorated with three bands of black embroidery running from the top of the wrist to the base of the fingers. Fastened with four small white iridescent (mother of pearl) buttons. The glove would have reached below the wearer's wrist.

Materials & Techniques  (WHOLE)
White kid leather, machine-sewn, decorated with embroidery in black cotton, machine-embroidered, mother of pearl buttons.

Materials  (WHOLE)
(ROUGH)
leather
cotton fibre [cotton]

Techniques  (WHOLE)
hand sewing [hand sewn]

Dimensions  (WHOLE)
Type  Value  Units  Qualification
Length  29.5 cm  longest
295.0 mm
Width  6.8 cm  widest
68.0 mm

Production Type  (WHOLE)
Mass produced

Reason For Production  (WHOLE)
Retail

Marks and Inscriptions  (WHOLE)
T.607:1-1999
Content  '26' stamped in blue dye; '28', 'D', and '611/2' stamped in black dye inside centre and centre right of glove; stamped; dye

Condition  (WHOLE)
Code  1 (Good)
Curator  Suzanne Lussier
Date  20/11/1999

Object Name  Pair of woman's gloves
Attribution  (WHOLE)
Role  made
Date  ca. 1890-1910
(01/01/1885 - 31/12/1910)

Attribution  (WHOLE)
Role  made
Place  United Kingdom
made  France
Uncertainty
probably
possibly

Materials & Techniques  (WHOLE)
White kid leather, machine-sewn, decorated with embroidery in black cotton, machine-embroidered, mother of pearl buttons.

Dimensions  (WHOLE)
Type  Value  Units  Qualification
Length  29.5 cm  longest
<table>
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<tr>
<th>(WHOLE) Width</th>
<th>295.0 mm</th>
<th>6.8 cm</th>
<th>68.0 mm</th>
<th>widest</th>
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</thead>
</table>

**No. of Parts** 2

T.607:1-1999 (Glove)
T.607:2-1999 (Glove)
Object Name: Strip
T.38-2000 (Whalebone strip)

Collection: T&D
Created by: SN
on 22/02/2000
Amended by:
on

Attribution
Role: formed
Date: 01/01/1800-31/12/1899
(01/01/1800 - 31/12/1899)

Attribution
Role: formed
Place: Britain
Uncertainty

Physical Description
A strip of whalebone, greenish black, with one side smooth, the other striated

Materials & Techniques
Cut from baleen

Techniques
Cutting (dividing) [cut]

Dimensions
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<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tr>
<td>Width</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>mm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length</td>
<td>53.4</td>
<td>cm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>534.0</td>
<td>mm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Historical Context Note
From the 16th to the mid-19th century, whalebone was the primary stiffening material in the stays/corsets worn by women in Europe. Over all other materials, whalebone was preferred for its malleability, flexibility and comfort during wear. A strip such as this would be inserted into a channel stitched between two layers of linen. The number of whalebone strips used and their proximity to each other would depend upon the style and date of the stays/corset.

Condition
Code: 1 (Good)
Curator: Susan North
Date: 22/02/2000

Environmental Requirements
Code: 2 (sensitive)
Humidity: 50 +/- 5%
Light: < or = 50 lux
Pollution: UV; <75 µw/lumen
Temperature: 19º - 21º C

Object Name: Strip
Attribution
Role: formed
Date: 01/01/1800-31/12/1899
(01/01/1800 - 31/12/1899)

Attribution
Role: formed
Place: Britain
Uncertainty

Materials & Techniques
Cut from baleen

Dimensions
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Qualification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Width</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>mm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length</td>
<td>53.4</td>
<td>cm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>534.0</td>
<td>mm</td>
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</table>

No. of Parts: 1
Object Name  Hat  T.90-2003 (Hat)

Collection  T&D

Created by  SFN on 18/11/2003
Amended by  SFN on 07/12/2004

Attribution
Role  Name  Uncertainty
Attribution
Role  made
Date  1750-1770  (01/01/1750 - 31/12/1770)
Attribution
Role  made
Place  Great Britain  Uncertainty

Physical Description
A round hat with a shallow crown and wide brim decorated with cock and guinea feathers in natural colours and dyed blue, yellow, red and green. The feathers are stitched to a linen ground which is lined with blue taffeta.

Materials & Techniques
Feathers, linen and silk, hand-stitched with silk and linen thread

Materials
feathers
Silk taffeta [silk]
Linen (material)  [linen]

Techniques
hand sewing

Dimensions
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<td>overall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>mm</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diameter</td>
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<td>cm</td>
<td>crown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diameter</td>
<td>132.0</td>
<td>mm</td>
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Category
Access_to_Images 2003

Object History Note
Formerly part of the Castle Howard Costume collection, the private collection of George Howard. Purchased on 7 October 2003 from Sotheby's.

Historical Significance
In the 18th century, wide-brimmed, shallow crowned hats were popular for women in a range of materials such as straw, openwork, paper, ribbons. This example demonstrates the use of feathers, of common origin, but dyed in a variety of colours.

Purchase Price
Amount (sterling)  £1200
Order Number

Reproduction
Number  CT126983
Type  CT
Picture Date  27/02/2004
Dimensions  5x4 in
View  Top
Location  Costume - 18th Century

Number  BW126983
Type  BW
Picture Date  27/02/2004
Dimensions  5x4 in
View  Top

Condition
Code  1 (Good)
Curator  Susan North
Date  18/11/2003
Environmental Requirements
- Code: 2 (sensitive)
- Humidity: 50 +/- 5%
- Light: < or = 50 lux
- Pollution: UV: <75 µW/lumen
- Temperature: 19° - 21° C

Object Name: Hat
Museum Number: T.90-2003

Attribution
- Role: Name
- Uncertainty
- Role: Date
- made: 1750-1770
  (01/01/1750 - 31/12/1770)
- Role: Place
- made: Great Britain

Materials & Techniques
- Feathers, linen and silk, hand-stitched with silk and linen thread

Dimensions
- Type: Diameter
- Value: 38.0
- Units: cm
- Qualification: overall
- Value: 380.0
- Units: mm
- Value: 13.2
- Units: cm
- Qualification: crown
- Value: 132.0
- Units: mm

Public Access Description
- Susan North
  Wide-brimmed hats with shallow crowns were popular for women in the mid 18th century. They were often made in a range of materials such as straw, openwork, paper and ribbon. This example shows the use of feathers of common origin, such as those from cocks or guinea fowl, dyed in a variety of colours for a vivid effect. Such hats were worn as fashionable daywear with short jackets and petticoats. They demonstrate the 18th-century trend for taking items traditionally associated with working-class dress and transforming them into fashionable styles.

Credit Line
- Purchased with the assistance of the National Art Collections Fund, the Friends of the V&A, and a number of private donors

Category
- Access_to_Images 2003

Object Entry Approval
- Author: Yes
- User: susann
- Date: 12/03/2004
- Collection: Yes
- clareb
- 11/03/2004
- REC: Yes
- kcolins
- 19/03/2004
- Editor: Yes
- phaker
- 22/03/2004

group fields (Access_to_Images)
- 00.Access_to_Images: yes

No. of Parts: 1
- T.90-2003 (Hat)