



The Medieval Dress and Textile Society

Volume 4 Issue **11**

www.medats.org.uk

May 2009



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Editorial

We have great regret to announce the death of John Edmonds, a pillar of the MEDATS committee, most recently as Ticket Secretary. He passed away on the 11th of April after a short illness diagnosed in February as Amyloidosis. He will be sorely missed. The committee have resolved to make a donation in his honour and in recognition of their care to the Iain Rennie Hospice at Home. (Gillian King House, Hodgemoor View, Three Households, Chalfont St.Giles HP8 4LS.) A full obituary will appear in the next newsletter.

Well, the year is not yet half done and I, at least, am already a little weary of hearing about Henry VIII! ;-) But I trust those who went to the May Meeting were not so jaded and go a lot out of it. There should be a report in the next newsletter for the benefit of any who were not able to attend.

The option for receiving the newsletter as a PDF file by e-mail remains available. The advantages to you are colour, and getting it at least a week before the print version would arrive. The advantage to MEDATS is a reduction in our costs. You may e-mail me via medatseditor@hotmail.co.uk to arrange this method of delivery.

Otherwise, information about MEDATS and application forms may be had from the Membership Secretary, P.O. Box 948 Guildford GU1 9AH, or from the society website: www.medats.org.uk

TIMOTHY DAWSON

COVER PICTURE:

A 700 year old mummy from Peru prior to its unwrapping at the Bolton Museum in 2008. <http://www.boltonmuseums.org.uk/> See also the Collections section below.

COLLECTIONS

Museo Nacional de Etnografía y Folklore

La Paz, Bolivia

Recently visited by a member, Stella Jundul, and strongly recommended by her. The collection of MUSEF has South American textiles back to the second century BCE.

Contacts and further information

E-mail: musef3@entelnet.bo. Web: www.musef.org.bo.

The Center for Traditional Textiles of Cusco

Avenida del Sol 603, Cusco, Peru

The CTTC is a non-profit organisation fostering the preservation of Incan textile traditions. The Centre collaborates with communities pursuing traditional textile crafts to assist them in continuing their traditions, and gaining economic benefits through national and international trade.

In addition to such modern activities the Centre hosts a museum which also contains some of the textiles and dress dating back to the period which was the middle ages in Europe, and which were preserved by the natural and man-made mummification processes of the Andes.

Contacts and further information

Phone: + 51 228117. E-mail: cttc@terra.com.pe. Web: www.textilescusco.org

Information provided by Stella Jundul.

Recommendations and suggestions of institutions in Britain and abroad can be sent to the Editor, medatseditor@hotmail.co.uk, or by post to 45 Bismarck Drive, Leeds LS11 6TB.

EXHIBITIONS

Found in Alva's Ditch

Rijksuniversiteit, Gröningen

Now until August 9th 2009

Displaying 16th century textile finds from the so-called Alva's Ditch in Gröningen, unearthed during excavations in 1996 and 2000.

The book, *Textiel in Context*, based upon Hanna Zimmerman's doctoral dissertation on the material has been recommended by a member. (Dutch language text)

Charles the Bold (1433–1477)

Groeningemuseum, Brugge.

Now until 21st July 2009

Two of our members who visited this exhibition when it was held at Bern in Switzerland described it as "one of the best exhibitions ever". So it is a good thing for those of us who missed it the first time, that we have a second chance!

Further details

Web: www.bhm.ch/en/ausstellungen_sonder_uebersicht.cfm

Rogier van der Weyden 1400-1464

Louvain,

20th September 2009 to 6th December 2009

This is the chance of a lifetime to discover or rediscover one of the greatest Flemish Primitives. A prestigious exhibition about a master painter with an exceptional talent for portraying emotion. More than 100 masterpieces on loan from major European and American collections - including works which last saw Flanders over five centuries ago.

Further information

Web: www.rogiervanderweyden.be/en

CONFERENCES FORTHCOMING

The 44th International Congress on Medieval Studies.

Kalamazoo, U.S.A.

May 7th - May 10th 2009

DISTAFF (Discussion, Interpretation and Study of Textile Arts, Fabrics and Fashion) will be sponsoring four sessions:

- 1) Techniques with Thread;
- 2) Heroes, Ladies and Fools;
- 3) Inside and Outside the Church;
- 4) Long Ago and Far Away.

Further details from Robin@netherton.net or www.distaff.org

Henry VIII and the Tudor Court, 1509-2009

Hampton Court Palace, East Molesey, Surrey, U.K.

13th - 15th July 2009

3-day academic conference to celebrate the 500th anniversary of Henry VIII's accession. To honour the occasion, Historic Royal Palaces, along with Kingston University London and Oxford Brookes University, will host a three-day international conference at Hampton Court Palace on 13 – 15 July 2009.

The conference will be interdisciplinary, drawing on history, literature, music, art, textiles, architecture and theology. It will focus particularly on the fashioning of Henry VIII's court, including the occasion, itinerancy and material culture of the Tudor court (particularly relating to Hampton Court Palace), the European context of Henry VIII's reign, biography, and image, whilst also situating Henry as the sacral monarch around whom it all revolved, and honouring his continuing legacy.

The conference will feature a number of keynote speakers, including:

- Prof. G.W. Bernard (Professor of Early Modern History, University of Southampton)
- Dr Susan Brigden (Reader in History, Lincoln College, Oxford)
- Prof. Eamon Duffy (Professor of the History of Christianity, Magdalene College, Cambridge)

- Dr Maria Hayward (Reader in Early Modern History, University of Southampton)
- Prof. Greg Walker (Masson Professor of English Literature, University of Edinburgh)
- Dr David Starkey, CBE

It will also include a roundtable on image and iconography led by Prof. Dale Hoak (Chancellor Professor of History, The College of William and Mary, Virginia) with Prof. John N. King (Professor of English and Religious Studies, (Ohio State University), Dr Tatiana String (Lecturer in the History of Art, Bristol University) and Dr Tarnya Cooper (Sixteenth Century Curator, National Portrait Gallery).

Topics to be discussed

- Continuities with the Late Medieval past
- The occasion of court
- The ceremony of court
- New directions on Henry's Queens
- Music and the Reformation
- Royal education
- Architecture and the court
- Patronage and gift-giving
- Itinerancy and the itinerary of Henry VIII
- Painting at the Tudor court
- Thomas More and humanism
- Courtly biography - A European court?
- Display and disorder: using material culture
- Gender and power at the Tudor court
- Measuring Henry VIII's legacy
- Plays and playwrights at the Tudor court

Tickets

Conference tickets will be available to buy online from 19 January 2009. The full ticket price is £239 plus VAT. This does not include accommodation. Day tickets, at £90 plus VAT a day, will be available to purchase from 2 March 2009.

Further Information

www.hrp.org.uk/HamptonCourtPalace/WhatsOn/Default/Henryconference2009.aspx?EventDate=13/07/2009&Step=View

International Medieval Congress

Leeds, UK,
13th - 16th July, 2009

The theme for 2009 is "Heresy and Orthodoxy". There will be sessions on textiles, notably on **Copes and Cloaks, and Decoration and Disguise.**

Further Information

24-hour Telephone: +44 (0)113 343 3614

Fax: +44 (0)113 343 3616

E-mail: imc@leeds.ac.uk

Web: www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc/index.html

Future dates are 12th - 15th July, 2010 and 11th - 14th July, 2011.

PUBLICATIONS

Timothy Dawson, *Byzantine Cavalryman, Eastern Roman Empire c.900–1204*

Warrior series, Osprey Publishing, 2009

40pp. 8 colour plates, 42 b/w illustrations and photographs.

Companion volume to *Byzantine Infantryman* of 2007. In addition to describing the basic dress of mounted soldiery of the Roman Empire of this era, the volume illustrates the hitherto unappreciated practice of Roman heavy cavalry of wearing thick surcoats which might not only be brightly coloured, but which could also be decorated with figural depictions of beasts and other emblems. With the early Crusades his practice is likely to have had a great influence on the military dress of the knightly class of Europe and on the advent of heraldry.

MEDATS FUTURE MEETINGS

Call for Papers

The committee would welcome proposals for papers or themes for future MEDATS meetings.

We would particularly from, or about, people working on the following subjects:
fur, black, checks, and stripes.

Help!

In addition, we would most eagerly like to hear from anyone who would be interested in organising a meeting on any theme whatsoever! The question of who is to organise our meetings is one of the reasons why our future meeting schedule tends to be in a state of flux from one newsletter to the next.

Provisional topics 2009:

Autumn 2009 Meeting and AGM: October

Aspects of Jewellery & Clothing

Including Elizabeth Heckett, 'The Limerick Mitre'.

Provisional topics 2010:

We hope to return to three meetings in 2010.

Spring Meeting: February

Underwear/linens against the skin

Summer Meeting: May

Quilting (to coordinate with the V&A exhibition, 'Quilts' March-July)

Autumn Meeting: October

Tapestries

Future topics

Reconstruction, Re-enactment, Living History

Dyes

Dress and Textiles for Coronations