



## **Call for Papers**

### **A Reconstructed Visitable Past: Recreated Period Attire at Heritage Sites**

**17 & 18 March 2011 - DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum, Williamsburg, VA**

**Submission Deadline: 15 October 2010**

For over three quarters of a century Colonial Williamsburg has dressed its frontline interpretive staff (formerly hostesses) in recreated attire of the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century. Initially used to create and enhance period ambience, this practice has become an integral component of many heritage site interpretive programs. At its best, recreated dress now serves to instruct visitors on the social, economic, political and personal lives of the inhabitants of the past, illuminating the layered and complex message that dress imparts.

In conjunction with the Accessories Symposium and in recognition of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of costumed interpretation, Colonial Williamsburg will host a conference on the use of costume and reproduction dress at historic sites. Our purpose is to examine the use and function of this practice - past, present and future on Thursday and Friday, March 17 & 18, 2011. Prospective speakers are invited to submit abstracts for paper or panel presentations on a variety of subjects relating to this topic, including but not limited to the following headings:

- The Past Addressed - exploring the use and development of recreated dress at heritage sites.
  - Past practices
  - Costume vs Dress
- The Present Observed - examining the current use of recreated dress.
  - Function and Purpose
  - Case Studies and Surveys
  - Trends
  - Best Practices and components of a successful costume program
  - Past, Present and New Technologies used in the recreation of period attire
  - Expanding programs and shrinking budgets
  - Visitor expectations and analysis
  - Training the maker and the wearer - internal and external education
  - Pattern and product research and development
  - Dwindling and changing market resources - the search for period correct patterns, textiles and accessories.
- The Future Considered - contemplating the future use of recreated period attire.
  - Trends
  - Digital technology - the real vs the electronic, friend or foe.

Proposals for papers and panel discussions are welcome from those working in the field of reproduction dress as well as students, teachers, museum professionals, re-enactors, costume scholars and designers. We are seeking abstracts for papers 20 minutes in length and panel discussions of up to 60 minutes. All abstracts are to be submitted electronically using the following format: outline your proposed paper or panel in 700 words or less with separate title page including name and affiliation, presentation needs and format (PowerPoint, slides, video assist, etc.), abstracts of not more than 700 words may include images (limit of 4 maximum) and a brief bibliography (not more than 1 page). Submit to: Brenda Rosseau, Abstracts Administrator [brosseau@CWF.org](mailto:brosseau@CWF.org). Subject heading should read: Abstract Submission. Submissions must be received by Friday, 15 October 2010. You will receive confirmation of submission by e-mail. Notification of acceptance will be conveyed by Monday, 29 November 2010.

Submissions and questions contact:

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