



Costume & Textiles Symposium

Queens Birthday Weekend

Saturday 30 May - Monday 1 June 2009

Members and non members welcome

To register or for more information visit

www.hbmag.co.nz

When in 1979 Farah Diba, Empress of Iran, fled the fall of Tehran she did so in a dress designed by Valentino. It was neither the first, nor the last, time that luxurious textiles and high fashion were intimately linked with the image of an Empire. Historically, extravagant clothing and textiles, ceremony and pageantry have been central to the way in which the allure of Empires has been constructed. In contrast everyday clothing and ordinary textiles have often been part of the set of tools by which revolution and sedition have been able to dismantle the rule of Empires.

Despite a strong association with the past, the idea of empire still occupies our daily diet of ideas. Here, at the beginning of the twenty-first century, and at the beginning of the 8th Costume & Textile symposium, then - the concept of Empire has been chosen to provide a starting point for the discussion for a broad range of aspects of textile and costume from the products of past cultural Empires to the outpourings of current fashion Empires - the tale of the Emperor's new clothes might even expect a mention.

The Programme

The programme for the Queen's Birthday weekend symposium includes a range of events including: **two key note presentations**; the presentation of **twenty papers** by speakers from around the country: the launch of the exhibition *Last, Loneliest, Loveliest; New Zealand & the Empire*; a special screening of *Fashion on Film 1925 – 1958*, a compilation of footage from The New Zealand Film Archive; a **conference dinner**; and **gallery floor talks** with textile artist Clare Plug and HBMAG Director Douglas Lloyd Jenkins.



The two keynote speakers for the conference are Writer, Curator and Textile Artist **Rosemary McLeod**, and **Louis Le Vaillant**, Director/Curator of The Johnston Collection, Melbourne, and the former Curator of Applied Arts at Auckland Museum. Rosemary McLeod will be looking at how ideas of empire were incorporated into women's domestic textile handwork in the 1930's - 1950's, and how this was encouraged by women's magazines of the period; Louis Le Vaillant will give a keynote presentation on garments and jewellery ornamenting and promoting Empire from the reign of Queen Elizabeth I through to that of Queen Elizabeth II (and beyond).

The symposium is being held in conjunction with an exhibition of textiles by Hawke's Bay artist Clare Plug titled *Look South!*, which will feature a selection of embroidered works based on her trip to Antarctica in 2006 through the Antarctica NZ/Creative New Zealand *Artists to Antarctica* programme.

The weekend will be launched with the opening of the exhibition *Last, Loneliest, Loveliest; New Zealand & the Empire* on Friday night, and the core part of the symposium will take place on Saturday and Sunday allowing plenty of time on Monday to take advantage of the other attractions Hawke's Bay has to offer.

Empire Costume & Textiles Symposium

8th Annual Symposium

Costume and Textile Association of New Zealand

aka New Zealand Costume and Textile Section of the Auckland Museum Institute

Both members of the Costume and Textiles Association, and non members are welcome to attend the event.

To register or for more information on the symposium go to: www.hbmag.co.nz

For more media information please contact

Pam Joyce

Marketing Team Leader

P: (06) 835 9245

E: pjoyce@hbmag.co.nz