

## "Clothes Tell Stories:" An Online Costume Workbook

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The **ICOM's Costume Committee** is looking for contributions to the **special project "Clothes Tell Stories"**, which will be launched at the meeting in **Rio de Janeiro 2013**. You can see more about the exciting program under "News – next annual meeting" on the Committee website [www.costume-committee.org](http://www.costume-committee.org).

This project, called an **on-line Costume Workbook**, is a web-based resource for museums, students and the general public about **how to use costume to tell stories**: costume is extremely evocative and always has an immediate appeal in museums. Clothes so easily illustrate many kinds of stories because, when correctly used, they bring an extremely personal aspect to our history. Costume Committee members are contributing their expertise in this project to **illustrate many aspects of working with historical costume which will be useful for others**: terminology, exhibition techniques, successful labels, contemporary collecting, aspects of proper storage and handling, exhibition walk-throughs and much more.

The Costume Committee is interested in hearing from those of you who have some under-exposed costume in your collections which they might use as **illustrations or case stories**. They found unusual, little-known and exciting items of clothing in art museums, archives, historical houses, museums of natural history, university, specialty and technical museums, and these always seem to increase in exhibition value – and contribute to costume history in general! - when a costume expert has been consulted. The Committee is interested in offering how they as costume experts can elicit **more information from special items to help tell the stories you want to tell**.

As many small and/or specialty museums do not have access to personnel trained in working with costume, **the Committee hope the Costume Workbook can help teach how to store, handle and show costume and accessories**. This will not only bring less-known historical costume out in the open, but will contribute to creating valuable new contacts between museums and ICOM specialists.

For **further information**, contact the Costume Committee's Chair, **Katia Johansen** at [kj@dkks.dk](mailto:kj@dkks.dk)

(cross posted

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