

Short Subjects

Lifetime Achievement

SiW members Bruce and Dana MacDermott receive ICG's highest award for 2009.

Congratulations to Bruce and Dana MacDermott, who received the [International Costumers' Guild Lifetime Achievement Award](#) for 2009 earlier this year. The Lifetime Achievement Award is the highest honor the ICG pays to costumers for their contributions to the costuming community.

Bruce and Dana join a [distinguished group of costumers](#) who have received the award since 1990, including SiW members [Betsy Marks Delaney](#) in 2008, and [Kevin Roche](#) in 2007. They were also honored with a retrospective at [Costume-Con 26](#).

According to the [citation](#), Bruce and Dana began Convention Costuming in 1983. Since then, they have worked with each other and on teams with other Costumers, always on the far end of the creative scale, specializing in aliens and other bizarre creatures.

Together they have helped in the formation of two chapters of the ICG, and have both served multiple terms as ICG Officers. Bruce, as Treasurer for three years, brought the ICG into the 21st century

putting ICG finances into a professional accounting program.

Strongly dedicated to Costuming as an Art Form and to sharing their abilities and knowledge with the Costuming Community, Bruce and Dana are active Judges and panel participants, and have been on the staffs of several Costume-Cons. Dana was on the ICG Guidelines Committee and is proud to have been the author of the "Excellence Deserves Award" guideline.



Historical Colors

SiW member Deb Salisbury edits a volume on colors in history.

Author and historical costumer Deb Salisbury recently edited a volume entitled *Elephant's Breath and London Smoke*,

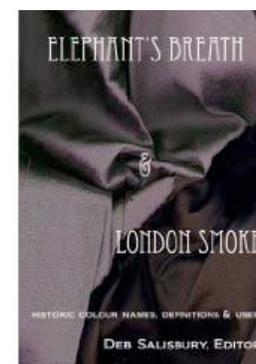
published by Five Rivers Chapmanry in February 2009.

This 304 page paperback book tells you all about colors in history – their names, when and how they were used, what they looked like, and where they came from.

Deb's historical research included fashion magazines, books of dye recipes, art books, painter's manuals, mineralogy guides, tomes on color theory, metaphysical texts, poetry and fiction, but especially period dictionaries and encyclopedias. Most of the entries were printed in English, American, Canadian and Australian publications from around 1380 to 1922.

The book defines color names in the words of the English-speaking people who used them. It is especially aimed at women's fashion, but artists will also find it useful.

Elephant's Breath and London Smoke is available from the Deb's [Mantua-Maker](#) web site, as well as from [Amazon](#) and [Barnes & Noble](#). What a great holiday gift idea!



A (Not So) Retiring Costumer

SiW member Kathe Gust takes part in a Stanford study on “Redesigning Retirement”

Kathe Gust, an Engineering Librarian at Stanford University, was recruited by a group of Design School “Bootcamp” students to participate in a quarter-long project on redesigning retirement.

According to an [article](#) on their web site, “Twelve teams spent three weeks using the design process to re-invent ‘the Golden Years’ for rebellious Baby Boomers. Students were asked to give particular focus to the empathy phase of the process, and develop a strong user Point of View (POV).”

One of the students met her in his first week on campus, and his group decided to interview her about retirement plans. The article continues, “Her rediscovered passion for sewing and need to share it was so compelling, that they did what a great design thinking team would do: they narrowed down to focus on designing for her.”

The students produced a [short video](#) as part of their report, using clips they made during interviews with Kathe. In it, she talks about teaching sewing, and how she got back into sewing and costuming because of the “Lord of the Rings” movies.

As part of the project, she taught basic sewing stitches to the students, who had to work out design details of a mobile sewing center based on interviews and experiments

Team 10—A Time to Sew

by Stanford d.school



with her. Kathe and the students had fun with this project.

Comic-Con Founder Dies

Former comics artist founded convention in 1970 that drew more than 125,000 last year



Shel Dorf, founder of Comic-Con International, died Nov 3 at age 76. A fan of comic strips, Dorf worked for a time in comics and was friends with many comic artists. He has not been active in running the convention for decades. Comic-Con is famous for its outlandish sci-fi, fantasy, comics, and anime costuming.

Trek at the Tech

Exhibit in San Jose includes costumes, props, and sets

Star Trek: The Exhibition at the Tech Museum of Innovation in San Jose,



California includes original costumes, genuine props and

authentic recreations of sets from all 5 Star Trek television series and 11 Star Trek feature films. You can even sit in Captain Kirk’s chair on a replica TV Enterprise bridge. Yes, it really was that cheesy.

The Exhibition began October 23 and runs at least through the Christmas holidays, but may be held over. This is a great opportunity for costuming research. Bring your sketchbook, though, because photography is not allowed.

Whatzis?

A puzzling photo of a costuming related object. Can you guess what it is?

From time to time, VC will present an unusual photo of a costuming, sewing, or prop-making related object. Can you guess what it is? Find the answer in the next issue.



Do you have an unusual photo? Send it, together with a description of what it is, to vc@siwcostumers.org.

Parting Shot

A photo that's just too good not to use

Sometimes, a story has a great leftover photo that deserves to be used, but there's no room or it's slightly off-topic and doesn't fit in. The report on the San Francisco Opera costume sale is a case in point.

After checking out, the author saw a wonderful dragonhead mask on display. It had no tag to say what opera it was from, or whether it was for sale, but it was so cute, charming, and bubbling with personality, that he couldn't resist getting his camera back out to take a photo.

Unfortunately, the article was already chock full of photos, and the mask just didn't fit in the space or with the story. So here it is, the magnificent dragonhead mask at the San Francisco Opera costume sale.



Editor's Note

VC is pleased to recognize and thank those who have contributed to Volume 7.



Christy Bertani



Kathe Gust



Philip Gust



Mette Hedin



Laura Mason
Lockard



Bruce
MacDermott



Dana MacDermott



Richard Man



Chris O'Halloran



John O'Halloran



Carole Parker



Kevin Roche



Jeanine Swick



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