

Colonial Williamsburg

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
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colonialwilliamsburg.org

Colonial Williamsburg hosts inaugural Symposium on Historical Dress, Nov. 14-16

Scholarships available for students and emerging professionals



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WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (June 18, 2024) – It's not too late to secure a spot at Colonial Williamsburg's Symposium on Historical Dress, Nov. 14-16. Offered both virtually and in-person, this conference celebrates the connections between collections of historic clothing, their collectors, and the studies made possible through the preservation and care of dress and related artifacts. A limited number of in-person and virtual attendance scholarships are available to students, emerging professionals, and self-taught historians in relevant positions or programs. Visit colonialwilliamsburg.org/historical-dress to apply by July 1.

John Styles, celebrated author and historian, and **Titi Halle**, a leader in the field of textiles and costume, will deliver guest keynote addresses. More than 25 accepted scholarly papers with topics spanning the 17th-21st centuries will be presented, including: *Inferring Material Culture in Marginalized Populations: Portraying Cherokee Women in four decades*, (**Lisa & Lara Neel**), *Growing Flax, Processing Linen, and Making Clothes: A New Hampshire Fiber Staple for a Sustainable Future* (**Kimberly Alexander**), and *The Yellow Dress Project: A Collaborative Reconstruction of an 18th Century Silk Gown* (**Hilary Davison**).

The symposium will also celebrate several Colonial Williamsburg milestones including:

- The opening of the Mary Turner and Clinton R. Gilliland Gallery at the Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg and the inaugural exhibit, *Elegance, Taste & Style: The Mary D. Doering Fashion Collection*
- 90 years of historical dress and costumed interpretation at Colonial Williamsburg (1934)

- 70 years of the Margaret Hunter Shop, which was the first curated exhibit of clothing and accessories at Colonial Williamsburg (1954)
- 40 years of mantua-making in the Dept. of Historic Trades (1984)

Neal Hurst, Colonial Williamsburg’s curator of textiles and historic dress, will explore the history of historic dress at the Foundation during his opening keynote, and the **milliners and mantua-makers** of the Department of Historic Trades and Skills will share a clothing-illustrated history of the 70 years of the Millinery Shop, highlighting its evolution from a retail shop and museum space to the active trade shop it is today.

To register and view the full conference agenda, visit colonialwilliamsburg.org/historical-dress. Unless otherwise noted, all presentations will take place at the Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg. Special [pre-conference](#) programs are available for in-person attendees only, as are [special room rates](#) at Colonial Williamsburg hotels for conference registrants.

In-person registration is \$300 per person through Sept. 1 and includes presentations, opening reception, coffee & refreshment breaks, and a closing dinner at Shield Tavern. Virtual-only registration is \$100 per person and includes access to all presentations through the conference streaming platform. Both in-person and virtual-only registration include a seven-day ticket voucher to Colonial Williamsburg’s Art Museums and Historic Area, valid for redemption through May 2025. Registration and payment in full are required by Nov. 1 for in-person attendance and Nov. 14 for virtual attendance.

Additional information and registration is available at colonialwilliamsburg.org by visiting the “Learn” section and clicking “Conferences,” and by calling 1-800-603-0948 toll-free or via email at educationalconferences@cwf.org. Follow Colonial Williamsburg on [Facebook](#) and [@colonialwmsburg](#) on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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Images: Round Gown (reproduction stomacher), England, ca. 1760, silk and linen, T097-2017, 422, On loan from Mary D. Doering, T097-2017, 422; A group photo of Colonial Williamsburg hostesses at the rear of the Governors Palace, 1963; Coat, England or France, ca. 1790, silk, linen, wood and iron, On loan from Mary D. Doering, T097-2017, 102. All images courtesy of The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.

About The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation preserves, restores and operates Virginia’s 18th-century capital of Williamsburg. Innovative and interactive experiences highlight the relevance of the American Revolution to contemporary life and the importance of an informed, active citizenry. The Colonial Williamsburg experience includes more than 600 restored or reconstructed original buildings, renowned museums of decorative arts and folk art, extensive educational outreach programs for students and teachers and 18th-century inspired culinary options from historic taverns situated along historic Duke of Gloucester Street. Colonial Williamsburg Resorts complement the experience, offering guests five unique hotel properties including the iconic Forbes Travel Guide Five-Star, AAA Five Diamond Williamsburg Inn, newly renovated Williamsburg Lodge-Autograph Collection, Williamsburg Woodlands Hotel and Suites, the Griffin Hotel, and authentic 18th-century Colonial Houses. The resort offers a range of events and amenities including four historic taverns, 15 food and beverage outlets providing exquisite culinary experiences from casual to elegant dining, the Golden Horseshoe Golf Club featuring 36 holes designed by Robert Trent Jones Sr. and his son Rees Jones, a world-class full-service spa and fitness center, pools, meeting and flexible event spaces, and scenic gardens providing the perfect venue for weddings and special events. Merchants Square, built alongside the Historic Area in 1935 as one of the first planned shopping districts in the United States, features more than 40 specialty boutiques with products ranging from apparel to fine jewelry, art, specialty foods and gifts. Philanthropic support and revenue from admissions, products and hospitality operations sustain Colonial Williamsburg’s educational programs and preservation initiatives.

– CWF

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