

International Costumer

Volume XIV, Issue 4

July–August 2015



Congratulations to
Kathy Bushman
Sanders – winner of
the 2015 Lifetime
Achievement Award!

President's Message

By Philip Gust

Costume-Con 33 took place from May 15-18 in Charleston, South Carolina. It was a lively event with some great parties, interesting sessions, and wonderful costuming. Rob Himmelsbach, Sandy Swank, Dora Buck, and all those who volunteered worked tremendously hard to make this a memorable and enjoyable event, I would like to congratulate them and thank them for it.

I share the sadness that all of you felt at Rob's announcement a short time later that Sandy Swank passed away after a long illness. Sandy was a sweet and gentle man, and an inspiration and mentor to many costumers, especially younger ones just getting started. It was so nice to have a chance to talk with him during CC33 and feel his enthusiasm. The next issue will be a special one honoring Sandy.

The annual ICG members and board meetings took place on May 15th. Recording Secretary Kathe Gust posted draft meeting minutes to the ICG website (<http://www.costume.org/bod/annualmeeting>). I also posted the notes for my report to the meetings. The 2015-2016 officers include a new ICG Vice President, Stace Feldmann. She succeeds Aurora Celeste, who has served as both Vice President and

Recording Secretary. Please join me in welcoming Stace in her new role, and thanking Aurora for her many years of service as a board member.

At halftime during the Science Fiction / Fantasy masquerade, it was my privilege to present the ICG's highest honor, the Lifetime Achievement Award, to Kathy Bushman Sanders. Kathy co-chaired Costume-Con 4 in 1986 and Costume-Con 14 in 1996. Her costuming frequently delved into mythology and traditional SF themes, often working with large, elaborate groups. Her style and stagecraft influenced the early development of costuming as an artform. You can learn more about Kathy's work on the ICG website.

I also presented three ICG President's Awards. Elaine Sims received hers for



Kathy Sanders with past Lifetime Achievement Award recipients at Costume-Con 33. Photo by Richard Man. For details, see

http://www.costume.org/lifetime/2015/2015_laa_group.html.

setting up and administering software and templates for chapters and SIGs who become non-profits by participating in the ICG Group Exemption Letter (GEL). Byron Connell and Jeanine Swick received theirs for helping establish and serving on the Administration Committee of the Marty Gear Costuming Arts and Sciences Fund. The Fund has made two grants since it began in 2014. Thanks to all three for your continuing service to the ICG.

An area of focus that I highlighted in my message at this year's ICG Annual Meeting is providing value for ICG chapters and SIGs. There are two parts to this. One is making it attractive for new and existing costuming groups to affiliate with the ICG. The other is providing affiliated chapters and SIGs with benefits, tools, and resources they need to prosper and grow.

I'm pleased to announce a new section on the ICG website: "Resources for Chapters and SIGs" (<http://www.costume.org/resources>). This new section focuses on providing useful tips, guides, and articles for new and existing Chapters and SIGs.

It includes a list of benefits and step-by-step guides for applying for affiliation, tips for new chapters and SIGs, and articles on specific topics like adopting bylaws and a code of conduct, setting up bank and online payment accounts, and getting online.

The new resource section also includes articles to help existing chapters and SIGs run smoothly, including sample officer job descriptions, details on membership reporting, how to become a non-profit, automating event registration and payments, and an events and activities idea bank. Finally, this new section includes PR tips and templates that chapters and SIGs can use to help promote themselves.

We'd like to continue adding new content about starting, running, and promoting chapters and SIGs to this section. If your chapter or SIG has useful tips, guides, or articles to share, please consider contributing new pages or enhancing existing ones. If you have web skills and would be interested in helping write, edit, and post content for this new resource section, please contact me at icg-president@costume.org.

Editor's Note:

You may have noticed that this issue is out late – I do apologize! My daughter was born three and a half weeks earlier than expected. We are both doing well!



Terra Rei Assarattanakul

Sasquan Hotels

By Carole Parker

Excited about coming to Sasquan, this year's 73rd World Science Fiction Convention? While the event promises to be lots of fun, the hotels are going to be nice, too. If you are having trouble getting a hotel room, please check the website at <http://sasquan.org/hotels/> for more information. If you scroll down to the Reservations section of the page, you will see the steps to take if you have problems. This is the system that the city of Spokane uses, so please be patient.

For those of you that have reservations already, you are in for a treat. As part of the All Hands meeting at the end of May, we got to tour several of the hotels.

Some measures that I used were:

Pouffy Dress Measure - How many pouffy dresses could fit in a closet? Imagine an 1860s ball gown without the hoops or a crinoline dress. That's what I'm calling a pouffy dress.

Standard - What I consider standard for the brand that I've been at before. Nothing special, it is what you would expect going to this particular chain.

All of the hotels mentioned have irons and ironing boards in the rooms.

Something really exciting for non-smokers is that Spokane is a non-smoking city. In fact, they have rather strict laws about smoking there. So, you can enjoy a meal outdoors without having to worry about a smoker ruining your appetite.

Red Lion at the Park

Upgraded Standard



Red Lion at the Park. Photo courtesy of Kevin Standlee.

They had a sign in the lobby which had a newspaper article explaining that a financial group bought twelve of the Red Lions, so they could be upgraded. Red Lion will still run the operation, but some nice stuff is being put in. My room had nice stone counter tops in the bathroom and on a hall platform just outside the bathroom. I am not sure this was one of the upgraded rooms or not.

Room: The dresser has three drawers,

reasonable depth and size. Two nightstands with a reasonable drawer for putting medications and jewelry in plus space to put a backpack underneath in the cubby.

Closet: Two, maybe three pouffy dresses with a little squishing.

Notable Amenities: Dorm sized refrigerator and very small microwave above it in the right half of the dresser.

Food: On site restaurant/bar combination but I was warned that it was slow and not that great. A tiny cafe/quick grab seemed to be there, but I was not able to check it out. Other food is close by.

Closeness to Convention Center: Across the river from the Convention Center. An easy five minute walk if you have no mobility restrictions or injuries. Those with crutches or canes may want to leave more time to get to the Convention Center. The light mobie had no problems with the paths in Riverside Park.

DoubleTree

Standard

Did not stay long in the rooms, so did not get to closely examine them. Looked pretty standard, really. This is the hotel that those with mobility issues have been encouraged

to stay at if they can. Some programming will be happening in the DoubleTree, with late night items that cannot happen in the Convention Center. Gaming is here. Filking will be here in the evening hours. I believe meetups will be here, too.



The DoubleTree. Photo courtesy of Kevin Standlee.

Closet: Two, maybe three pouffy dresses with a little squishing.

Closeness to Convention Center: Connected to the Convention Center by a pedestrian bridge, near the Exhibit Hall end. The bridge is locked at midnight from the Convention Center and hotel sides.

The Davenport

Spokane has four Davenport hotels, but Sasquan only has contracts with three of them, I believe. These three have the same spacious sized rooms, and the standard room bathrooms are the same size and layout.

Standard Davenport Bathrooms: They are

special enough to deserve comment. Sinks with counters to put the stuff you need on it. Not cramped feeling at all. The toilets have a full wall between them and the sink but no door. Those with larger bodies might feel a tiny bit squeezed when going to the toilet. However, when you stand up, the walk in shower is only a couple steps away. The entry to the shower has a one inch rim/curb that needs to be stepped over. The shower walls and floor are travertine, and the shower is generous enough that two adults can easily fit in it. Even adults of size should have no issue with these showers. I would like to be able to have these showers in my home, they're that nice.

Room Size: Generous. Two king sized beds can fit in these rooms with easy walk space around them. Rooms which only have one bed have lots of open floor space. You could easily store large masquerade costumes in this space, and party supplies would not be an issue. Or, you could easily do yoga exercises without feeling cramped.

The Davenport Grand

Sumptuous Contemporary

The newest of the Davenport hotels, we walked through before they opened on June 17th. I normally do not care for contemporary design. This, however, is beautifully done, and had me wondering if

we chose the wrong hotel. The lobby area has seat groupings that do not require you to sit in the bar to be able to sit down.

The carpets were nicely padded and felt good to our feet. The light mobie did not have any trouble with it. No official programming will be happening in the Grand, but they have some lovely spaces that future conventions will want to take note of.

Item of note: The Grand only has king sized beds. Nothing else. Do you want one or two king sized beds in your room?

Rooms: The rooms we toured did not have a view of any sort. They do have blackout curtains. The suite room bathroom had two sinks with counters at either end of a triangular soaker tub. Sorry, no jets or jacuzzi. We did not get to view the Presidential Suite because it was still being worked on.

Closet: Five, possibly six pouffy dresses can fit in these closets. No squishing required. Two levels of shelves, but the top shelf could not be reached by one of our petite members. Someone over 5'7" can reach the top shelf without problem. Good for some additional storage.

Dresser: Three drawers mounted on the

wall. This is the one item that I would ding them on. Someone pointed out that some stuff that you would normally put in a dresser could be put in the closet.

Food: A cafe, bar, plus two restaurants. A nifty hot and cold buffet setup will make for some great buffets. The restaurant and bar situation look good, and they have a second food and beverage space with wood booths that seat eight as the standard size. The backs of the booths are very straight, and they go high enough that you'll feel like you have some conversational privacy.

Closeness to Convention Center: A pedestrian bridge connects the Grand to the Convention Center, near the INB end. That's where the Masquerade and Hugos are going to happen. So, if you have a bulky Masquerade costume, this could be your place if you get in. The bridge is locked at midnight from the Convention Center and hotel sides.

The Davenport

Historical Squee

Originally, I was worried that this hotel would be like my hotel experience in Toronto, where the rooms were barely large enough to squeeze around the bed, and the closet was miserably small. My fears turned out to be unfounded.



Regency Dance space at The Davenport. Photo courtesy of Kevin Standlee.

This is the original hotel, only better. One friend had been there when it was run down. Well, the right developer bought it and brought it back to its original beauty, with some modern upgrades. They took three years to do it, but they did it right. They took the time to remove the black paint from the original leaded glass in the lobby. They took the time to preserve and restore a lot of the Edwardian decoration, as well as the Doge's rooms that were inspired by an Italian palace. The space where the Regency dance is going to be has me wanting to create a Regency gown to wear in such a beautiful space. It is inspiring.

The lobby begs to have a costumed high tea in it. The room where the evening dances are going to be is lovely. If you enjoy dancing, you will enjoy the Marie Antoinette room. Think French Provincial, and you will have the look of the room.

Rooms: The rooms we toured had nice sized armoires, with the television in the upper cabinet and three drawers below. The single king that we viewed had a high four poster bed that had a step for those that needed it. Enough room was available for extra storage or doing yoga without restriction. The furnishings are in the antique theme without being fragile.

Closet: Four, possibly five pouffy dresses, without restriction. Again, two levels of shelves available.

Bathroom: The room we viewed had a sink opposite the closet, a regular tub, the toilet, and the walk in shower a couple steps from the toilet. Again, the shower was comfortably large for two adults. Watch out for that one inch rim/curb.

Food: Lobby restaurant, separate bar with beautiful stained glass peacocks on the ceiling. Other restaurants nearby.

Closeness to Convention Center: Approximately one-half mile away. Shuttle buses will be running on a regular basis to the Convention Center. Details on the Sasquan website, and sign boards will be at the hotel as well.

The Davenport Towers

African Modern

If you like a tasteful African theme, you should enjoy this hotel. The African is modest, not hit you over the head with a sledge hammer. The lobby had a lot of hard surfaces, so it was rather noisy. The bar had seating and carpeting in its space, but it was still hard to have a conversation in the lobby. Also, I did not see many places to sit without being in the bar. Very pretty, very clean, very sleek, very hard, very noisy. Kitty corner to the original Davenport.



Davenport Towers Lobby. Photo courtesy of Kevin Standlee.

Rooms: Same generous size as the other Davenports. The one we viewed had a modern chaise with a slightly cantered back and swoop of a seat. It was comfortable to stretch out in. I could easily see someone falling asleep on this leopard print chaise. Dresser was standard modern, nothing special. No views noted.

Closet: Four, possibly five pouffy dresses,

without restriction. Again, two levels of shelves available.

Bathroom: Sink with roomy counter, toilet, and generous walk in shower. I do not recall a tub being in this room.

Food: Bar noted, but I did not notice a restaurant. Not to say one doesn't exist - just that I did not see it when we were there for the tour. Other restaurants nearby.

Closeness to Convention Center:

Approximately one-half mile away. Shuttle buses will be running on a regular basis to the Convention Center. Details on the Sasquan website, and sign boards will be at the hotel as well. You may have to cross the street to the original/historic Davenport to pick up the shuttle bus.

The nice thing about Spokane is that the city wants us. People who have never been to a Worldcon before are looking forward to attending their first Worldcon with anticipation. The city is practically bending over backwards to help make this a successful event.

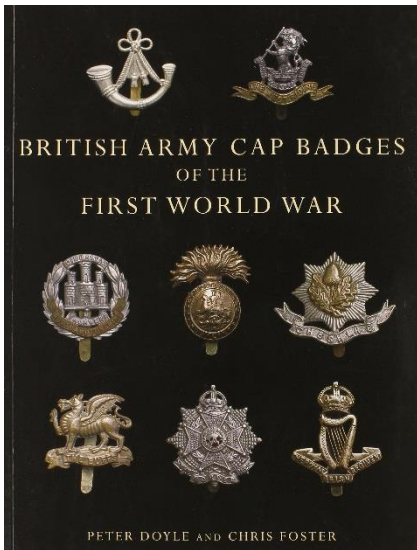
During the daytime, I'll be running the Costume Programming rooms. I hope to see you at Sasquan.

Two Interesting Books

By Byron Connell

Doyle, Peter and Chris Foster. *British Army Cap Badges of the First World War*. Oxford, UK: Shire Publications, Ltd., 2010. pp. 128. ISBN: 978-0-74780-797-1.

Mirouze, Laurent. *World War One Soldiers, 1914-18*. Paris: Histoire & Collections, 2013. pp. 66. ISBN: 978-2-35250-268-5.



Recently, several books relating to the uniforms worn during the First World War have come into my hands.

That's

probably not surprising, since this is the Great War's centennial. I wanted to report on two that I found interesting.

British Army Cap Badges of the First World War. Books about uniforms can be narrowly specialized; however, this is one of the most esoteric ones I've seen. In most armies, a soldier's cap carried the national insignia, or perhaps a badge identifying his arm or

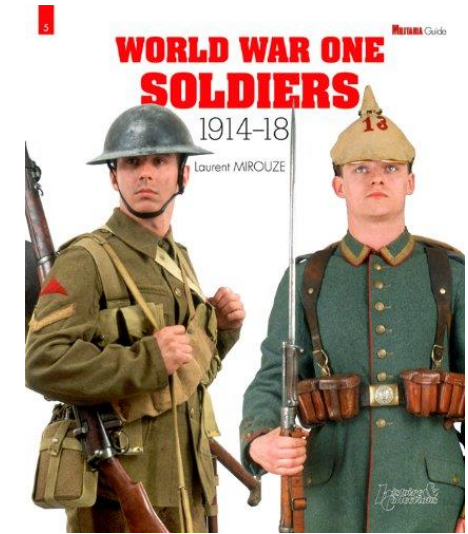
service (e.g., infantry, engineers). In the British Army, however, a soldier's cap carried the insignia of his regiment or similar unit. This book provides clear, color photographs, in uniform scale, of every cap badge used by British Army units (and the Royal Navy Division, which fought on land).

Generally, the photos are crystal clear and enable the reader to see all the details of the badge. Descriptions accompany each plate, identifying the metal(s) used and the method of affixing the badge to the cap. Where pertinent, the descriptions point out differences between original wartime badges and later re-strikes or reproductions.

The book also provides many vintage photos of British soldiers – usually enlisted men – in service uniforms. It includes a brief history of the British Army of the period as well as the evolution and construction of cap badges.

On the whole, if you're interested in the uniforms of the British Army at the time of the First World War, I can recommend this as a clear presentation of an esoteric part of those uniforms.

World War One Soldiers, 1914-18. Histoire & Collections is a French publisher of militaria. Most of its catalog is in French only. However, a few works are available in English. This is one.



Again, this is primarily a work of photographs. It uses two-page spreads to show the uniforms of 30 enlisted men in the principal armies on both sides of the war. Each photo is of a model wearing vintage uniforms, accouterments, and weapons. The photos generally are very clear and give a good view of how the uniform actually looked as worn with all the belts, packs, and other equipment over it. Surprisingly detailed descriptions of the items shown accompany each photo. With only the occasional need to quibble, I found them accurate. The photos start with uniforms as worn in 1914, when the war began, and end with those in use in 1918, when it ended, showing and describing the changes that took place over the period.

I can recommend this book as one that the costumer interested in military uniforms will find of interest.

Cosplaying Star Wars

By Anne Davenport

On Friday 17 April 2015 I won the Star Wars Celebration VII Cosplay Contest for best Jedi Costume and First Place in the competition overall. Here's the story.

Background, Celebration (Anaheim CA, 16-19 Apr-2015):

The Star Wars Celebrations are not really 'cons' at all. They are Star Wars trade shows with a lot of fan participation; exhibitors, dealers, panels, set recreations for fan photo-ops, art show (invited pro artists only), previews and more licensed Star Wars themed merchandise than any sane fan would want to contemplate. Star Wars Celebrations are conspicuously scheduled prior to the release of movie and/or TV projects to boost publicity for Lucasfilm (now Disney).

Background, My Costume: It is a recreation of Jedi Master Tera Sinube from Star Wars: The Clone Wars (cartoon), 2nd season episode "Lightsaber Lost". This costume has digitigrade legs, a long tail in back, a hump, three-fingered hands with claw-like fingernails, a walking cane with a concealed lightsaber blade, and a full head with 95% obscured vision, hand-painted silk knit creature skin. It is by far the most ambitious and difficult to wear, full-body costume I have ever made and people have expressed

surprise that anyone would attempt it. But I must admit also that it was fortuitously chosen for this contest. One of the stage judges was the lead voice actress for the episode that this character is from. Another one was the cartoon's lead writer and also wrote "Lightsaber Lost". I cannot discount the possibility that they might have been biased.



Master Tera Sinube outside in the hall waiting for the workmanship judging. Photo courtesy of Ann Davenport.

This costume was first made in 2012 and worn for a group photo at Celebration VI (Aug 2012, Orland FL). It won Best in Show

at the DragonCon Star Wars Costume Contest (Atlanta GA, 2012) and I also wore it at Costume Con in 2013 (Denver CO). The costume was revised/repared after each wearing and I decided to give it one more showing at Celebration VII.

The Cosplay Contest:

Cosplay contestants needed to submit an application to be in the contest seven weeks before Celebration. This included submitting a photo of the finished costume. Only single entries were allowed: no groups, special music, skits nor special presentations. Contestants would come on stage, present their costumes to the audience in whatever way was appropriate for their character and leave. Contestants were notified by e-mail if they were accepted. Apparently they had about 100 applications and only 30 were accepted due to the fixed time allowed for the contest. Contestants could ask questions of the cosplay organizers via e-mail. I tried to ask about as many details that might come up that were not mentioned in the sparse acceptance e-mail but there were still some significant surprises on the day of the contest.

As far as I could tell, the audience was happy with the show. All the entries were excellent; the MCs were professional, energetic and entertaining. Because the stage was busy all the time during

Celebration, there was no rehearsal. The contest started and ended on time and backstage the contestants were not kept waiting either. I did not have a watch, but I heard later that the on-stage judges took only 10 minutes to make their final decisions, presumably with input from the workmanship judges who interviewed and viewed the costumes of all the contestants earlier in the day.

The workmanship judges were efficient, polite and well-informed. One of them thanked me for bringing reference photos of my character from the cartoon it was from. Workmanship judging ran late but not because anyone wasted any time. They just needed more of it than they had scheduled, taking 5-6 minutes per contestant instead of the allotted 3 minutes.

The backstage crew was very helpful and polite, especially with limited mobility costumes like mine. They also adapted well to the demands of the show; no one backstage knew the presentation order of the costumes until less than half an hour before we went on stage, and it looked like that was written on only one piece of paper that one person had. We were just lined up in the hall behind the stage, sorted into five different groups depending on the type of costume we wore. I was in the Jedi group. There was no green room, no chairs, no mirrors, no extras at all, and no expectations

of anything more than that from the other contestants.

What this cosplay contest lacked in amenities, was made up for in efficiency. The show started on time and the contestants were moved on and off for their 30 seconds of fame. It moved very well, even for mobility challenged contestants like me. But none of the cosplay organizers mentioned that the show's two MCs were positioned on stage, center stage left and right, with podiums and mobile microphones. I found out about this when I walked out on. Fortunately my costume was of a doddering old Jedi Master, so it looked perfectly natural for me to feel my way around the first podium and totter to center stage. My presentation could have been better, but remembered to turn all the way around to show off my costume and do most of the moves I had practiced. And one of the MCs satisfyingly jumped back when I managed to get my lightsaber blade out of my cane and wave it around. There is video of this contest on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eNvlxVa4hNw> time 1:36-2:26.

My next surprise was the awards. The costumers were all brought back on stage by groups and awards given out for each. The winners of each group remained on stage while the other groups were brought out and first place for the whole show was selected from the group winners. I knew I

would not make it standing on stage that long, but the backstage crew and the MCs were quick and helpful with bringing out the folding stool that I take with this costume because I can't sit in a normal chair with a big tail sticking out the back.



Master Sinube on stage. Photo by R.L. Cunningham.

They read off the names, 5th place, 4th place 3rd, place 2nd place ... and when they got to 1st place, mine was the only name left that had not been read. I stood and took my bows, but I do wish I could have seen more than the little circles of light visible through the mask. The seating capacity at the Anaheim Convention Center Arena where the contest was held is 7,500. So, there was a good crowd. But I got a strange kind of glory after the show when I gave an interview to a Japanese Disney cable channel about winning the contest. There is almost no chance that I will ever see this or find out how it looks in translation; I may be famous in Japan and never know it.

About the ICG

Membership Benefits

ICG membership benefits include participation in local Chapters and in Special Interest Groups, voting rights, eligibility for grants, online forums, learning and volunteer opportunities, and the International Costumer.

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<http://www.costume.org/>

Join us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/internationalcostumers>

Join the ICG-D Yahoo! group for lively discussions on costuming-related topics:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/icg-d>

Send comments and suggestions to the ICG board and standing committees:

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The Kennedy Memorial Archives and Gallery

The ICG's Pat & Peggy Kennedy Memorial Archives is the world's largest archive of photographs, video and paper ephemera, spanning 70+ years of Science Fiction costuming. Exhibits include an online photo gallery (<http://www.costume.org/gallery2/>) and the ICGArchives YouTube channel (<http://www.youtube.com/user/ICGArchives>).

The International Costumer

The *International Costumer* newsletter is published bi-monthly by the ICG. The current issue is for members only. Back issues are freely available to the costuming community on the ICG website.

Online Submissions

We welcome short costuming articles, book reviews, event reports, and news items. Submit your copy as rtf, doc, docx or txt files to the International Costumer editor: icg-newsletter@costume.org. All graphics formats are accepted.

Contacting the Editor

Please contact the editor to report problems, or to offer comments and suggestions: icg-newsletter@costume.org.

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