

Stitches in Time Mid-19th Century Clothing Workshops

Old State Capitol - Springfield Illinois - June 5-7, 2009

Is Pleased to Present a Series of Classes by

Carolann Schmitt – The Genteel Arts Academy

Friday, June 5, 2009

The Nitty-Gritty Details of Dress Construction. Period construction methods are very different from modern techniques. The bodice on a one-piece dress opens at the center front but the skirt opens at the side front. Skirt lengths are adjusted at the waistline, not at the hem. Tiny piping at key locations provides strength and serves as a finishing technique. Raw edges are often hemmed to the right side of the garment. What looks like a seam is really a tuck. Wool braid protects the hem. During a review of the characteristics of mid-19th century dress construction, participants will learn how to do gauging, create a *faux* curved back seam, and make and apply tiny piping. **Hands-on workshop, 5:30-8:30 PM.** Fee: \$35.00; includes kit with fabric and notions.

Saturday, June 6, 2009

Hardware and Software: The System of Women's Underclothing, a Structural Support for Fashion. It is impossible to achieve a period silhouette without the appropriate undergarments. Using images of original undergarments, this presentation will trace the evolution in style of each of the basic undergarments, discuss common characteristics, fabrics, trim and construction; and review when, where, why and how each garment was worn. 'Hot button' topics will be addressed, including tight-lacing, crinoline size and whether to tuck or not to tuck. **Illustrated presentation, 8:00-10:00 AM.** Fee: \$15.00; includes handouts.

The Artifice of Dressing Well: Selecting Styles that Flatter You and Your Figure. There are dozens of articles in period publications that offer advice on the *art* of dressing well. These articles are interesting to read but they frequently lack any practical advice. Extensively illustrated, this presentation will focus on the *artifice* of dressing well – the skillful and artful practice of interpreting these guidelines to recreate mid-19th century garments that fit and flatter a 21st century body. Learn which styles are more flattering for certain body shapes; how changing one element of the style can add or subtract ten pounds; how to choose fabrics and trimmings that are practical, age-appropriate and pretty; and how to use period construction techniques that can conserve fabric without affecting style. Mid-19th century women were adept at using these techniques; learn how to include them in your wardrobe. **Illustrated presentation, 10:30AM-12:30 PM.** Fee: \$15.00; includes handouts.

Fichus: Simply Elegant Accessories. Change the look of a dress with this simple accessory. Fichus are easy to make – just two shoulder seams – and require minimal fitting. Embellish them with lace and ribbon. **Hands-on workshop, 2:00-5:00 PM.** Fee \$35.00; includes kit with cotton net and cotton lace.

The Difference *Is* in the Details: Little Things *Do* Mean a Lot - Free Illustrated Presentation. Learn how to take your impression from good to great. Using a variety of primary sources, we will review common characteristics of period attire for men, women and children that are often overlooked in reproduction wardrobes. Participants will learn how to incorporate these details into their clothing to improve their overall appearance. **Illustrated presentation, 5:30-6:30 PM. No cost to attend; registration requested.**

Sunday, June 7

The Crowning Touch: A Simple Net, Lace and Ribbon Cap – Simply elegant and elegantly simple! Copied from an original, this cap can accent a simple day dress or an elaborate dinner gown. It is created from a single piece of cotton net, some silk ribbon, linen tape and cotton lace edging. While the design looks complicated and will intrigue experienced seamstresses, the actual construction is simple – perfect for those with minimal sewing skills. **Hands-on workshop, 9AM-Noon.** Fee: \$35.00; includes kit with cotton net, cotton lace, linen tape and silk ribbon.

Carolann Schmitt has a lifelong interest in historic costume, sewing, needlework and knitting and believes you can never have too many books or too much fabric. She is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Shippensburg University Fashion Archives and Museum, the Costume Society of America, the Association of Living History Farms and Museums (ALHFAM), the North-South Skirmish Association (N-SSA) and several national sewing, knitting and needlework organizations. An accomplished seamstress, she has won numerous awards for her reproduction clothing and needlework. Carolann has contributed articles to several Civil War-themed publications and is a featured speaker at conferences and historic sites across the country.

Carolann founded the Genteel Arts Academy in 1988 to encourage interest in the clothing and needlework of the mid-nineteenth century. The Academy offers a continuing series of hands-on classes and seminars on 125+ topics related to mid-19th century clothing, accessories, sewing and needlework for women, men and children. In 2001 Carolann assumed sponsorship of the annual *Ladies & Gentlemen of the 1860s Conference*. The Conference offers a full program of presentations by nationally-recognized speakers on clothing and material culture c.1855-1865, pre-conference workshops, displays of original garments, needlework competition and juried Marketplace.

Carolann and her husband, Don, are fifth-generation residents of Gettysburg, where they reside on the edge of the battlefield. Studying mid-19th century clothing has been a passion of hers for four decades.

The Stitches in Time June Workshop is at the Old State Capitol State Historic Site in conjunction with the Civil War Encampment. The encampment, which will feature medical displays, presentations, book signings, K. Krewer's original clothing collection and civilian and military displays, will be on the grounds of the Old State Capitol. Program sponsorship is by the Memorial Medical Center.

All classes will be held in the Old State Capitol, Foundation Hall, Second Floor. Pre-registration is required for All Stitches in Time sessions. Class size is limited; early registration is encouraged. A confirmation of your registration and a list of sewing notions will be sent.

REGISTRATION FORM

**Complete form and mail, fax or email to Genteel Arts LLC, PO Box 3014, Gettysburg, PA 17325
(P) 717-337-0283 • (F) 717-337-0314 • cschmitt@genteelarts.com**

<u>X</u>	<u>Session</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Fee</u>	<u>Amount</u>
()	Nitty-Gritty Details	Friday	5:30-8:30 PM	35.00	_____
()	Women's Underclothing	Saturday	8:00-10:00 AM	15.00	_____
()	Artifice of Dressing Well	Saturday	10:30-12:30	15.00	_____
()	Fichus - Elegant Accessories	Saturday	2:00-5:00	35.00	_____
()	The Difference is in the Details	Saturday	5:30-6:30 PM	Free	_____
()	Net and Lace Cap	Sunday	9:00 - Noon	35.00	_____
				Total Due	_____

Name _____

Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email Address _____ Phone (Day) _____ Phone (Night) _____

Method of Payment (circle one): Check Money Order Visa Mastercard Discover

Card # _____ Expiration Date _____ Security Code _____ Signature _____