

# Silicon Web Costumers' Guild

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## From the Editor **Philip Gust\***

Welcome to the first issue of *VC* for 2011. In honor of Spring, this issue is about “Fantasy Costuming,” which means many things to different costumers. The articles in this issue explore a range of topics that revolve around the idea of *fantasy material*.

The word “material” has several meanings. For costumers it usually refers to the cloth we use to create costumes. But it can also refer to the ideas and concepts we draw inspiration from, the techniques and other materials that we employ for costume construction, and new ways to present or exhibit our fantasy costumes.

Many of us turn to fantasy literature for ideas and concepts. Kathe Gust leads off with the work of Louis Carroll and his enigmatic Hatter character from a historical perspective. Were hatters really mad?

Continuing to explore *Costuming by the Book*, I interview four well-known fantasy authors and illustrators to get their perspectives on visualizing what their characters wear.

In a first of its kind interview, cartoon artist Greg Evans discusses costuming with his “virtual costumer” creation, Gunther Berger from the “Luann” comic strip.

Lenna Andrews illustrates a simple technique to stamp designs on velvet that is ideal for creating fantasy costume material.

New Orleans Mardi Gras costumer Deborah Lynn Dixon shows some of the amazing presentation gowns she has created for the Krewe of Contraband’s annual ball for over 23 years, and a new embellishing technique that she has developed.

World-renowned artist Isabelle de Borchgrave demonstrates how she created the paper sculpture dresses from historical paintings that are now on exhibit at the Legion of Honor in San Francisco California in an event report by Kathe Gust.

The wearable cloth dolls created by a long-time costuming community member, Kayta Barrows, demonstrate a novel way to present fanciful costumes, as the dolls introduce us to the work of their creator.

Finally, theatrical costumer Tara Maginnis shows a simple technique she used

to create fantasy photos, like the one on the cover, of the costumes she designed for a production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Here is a quick preview of what is upcoming in *VC*. The May 2011 issue is about Militaria, covering all aspects of military and military-influenced historical and sci-fi/fantasy costuming. The August 2011 issue will have the theme “East Meets West,” about Eastern influences on Western clothing, and how Western styles influenced Eastern clothing.

I'm pleased to announce that the November 2011 issue will have the theme “Heros and Villains.” As “clothes make the man,” they certainly also define the heros and villains of our imagination.

See the [Upcoming Issues](#) page of the SiW web site for details. Now is a great time to start writing for *VC*, and share what you know and love with your fellow costumers.

## Editor's Note

The “President's Message” column will return in the next issue.

