

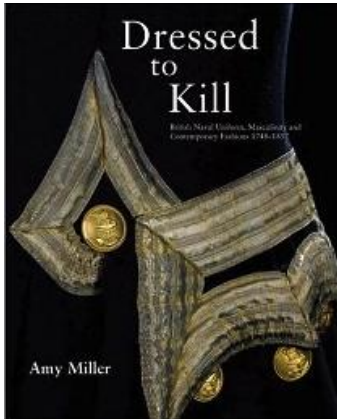
Spotlight Review



Dressed to Kill Christofer Bertani*

“Dressed to Kill: British Naval Uniform, Masculinity and Contemporary Fashions 1748-1857” by Amy Miller. National Maritime Museum. ISBN: 978-0948065743.

In *Dressed to Kill*, Amy Miller, Curator of Decorative Arts and Material Culture at the National Maritime Museum, discusses the parallel evolution of men's clothing and the changing morality that



turned the Georgians into Victorians. Since this review is for a costuming publication, I'll write about the parts that apply to costuming.

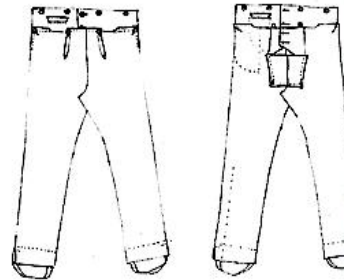
Roughly half the book is given over to gorgeous color photographs of naval uniforms in the National Maritime Museum's collection. Most garments are shown front and back, and usually include a close-up of some detail, too. The garments



Dress waistcoat, captain with over three years seniority (1748)

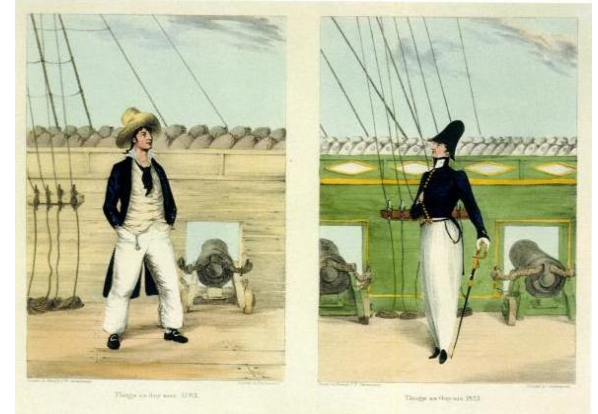
showing the fastenings.

The "patterns" discussed in the Amazon.com description of this book are actually line drawings of a number of the garments lying flat, which are useful for seeing the true shapes of lapels, or some of the seam lines of the interior of the tails.



Along with the text are also a number of pictures of portraits and prints, good source material showing contemporary views of naval officers. I did notice a few

include both dress and undress coats, waistcoats, breeches, and even a couple of cloaks and a pair of stockings. Several epaulettes are shown close-up, including pictures of the undersides



Detail: *Things as they were. 1783* and *Things as they are. 1823*. Charles Joseph Hullmandel (artist) This detail illustrates the effeminated dandy midshipman.

minor errors in the picture captions, usually where the rank of the uniform was wrong, but I would still highly recommend this book to anyone interested in naval uniforms, and particularly to costumers wanting to recreate one. The inside views of coat tails, and the disassembled sketch of Nelson's breeches have already answered a number of questions I was wondering about.

Christofer Bertani is interested in historical costume re-creation centered around the English Regency/Napoleonic era, particularly uniforms, with a sideline in SF costuming from written sources. An earlier version of this review appeared on the Regency Society of America [community board](http://community.board). His article, "Vorkosigan Militaria," also appears in this issue.