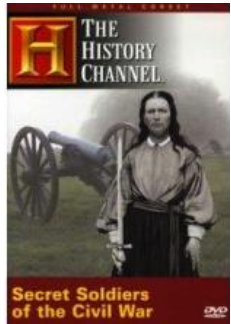


Short Subjects

Full Metal Corset

A History Chanel program highlights women who secretly served in the Civil War.



In "Full Metal Corset: Secret Soldiers of the Civil War" (2007), *The History Channel*, tells the story of the hundreds of women who secretly fought in the Civil War. The program follows two female soldiers--Sarah Emma Edmonds, who fought for the Union and and Loreta Janeta Velazquez, who fought for the confederacy.

The program uses numerous battle field reenactments, intercut with narrative and dramatization using two actresses to portray Edmonds and Velazquez. In the process, the program shows a number of types of Civil War uniforms, battle field scenes, and sequences of Edmonds and Velazquez transforming themselves into male soldiers. Edmonds wants to escape a forced marriage arranged by her domineering father, while Velazquez wants to follow after her officer husband and find adventure and freedom as a male in a male world.

Both women survived the war and later wrote memoirs of their experiences, and here is where things take a dubious turn.

Both memoirs appear to be highly exaggerated and fictitious, and the entire program seems to be based primarily on those "novels," while even admitting that they were suspect near the end of the program.

Despite this flaw, the program shows a number of Civil War uniforms, and provides an interesting glimpse into how easily the society of the time accepted the clothing the women wore as proof of their masculinity, despite indications that they were not what they seemed.

The GreenShows Fashions

A "green" fashion show highlights ideas for recycling material into elegant attire.

Gloria Dawson of "The Daily Green" reports that *The GreenShows* models strutted their stuff for the second season this April, showing off the best in sustainable, recycled. The events were held at a new yet-to-be inhabited eco-friendly apartment building in New York City's East Village.

Newspapers and laundry bags rustled down the runway, along with old sweatshirts and baseball jackets repurposed into gowns as *The GreenShows* opened with a showcase of Gary Harvey's recycled clothing designs.

The collection was designed to



The *GreenShows* sponsor, natural beauty company Weleda and its Skin Food lotion, was honored in this creation made from product packaging. Photo: Gloria Dawson / *The Daily Green*.

challenge people's perception of secondhand clothing. Harvey was previously creative director of Levi Strauss and Dockers Europe. He believes too many garments end up in landfill sites at the end of a season because they are deemed aesthetically redundant.

Can a new "green" masquerade category be far behind?

Costume Drawings by David Hunter Strother

West Virginia Regional History Collection offers drawing by famous artist/illustrator.



At the time of the Civil War, one of the nation's premier art journals described David Hunter Strother as "one of the best draughtsmen this country possesses".

Strother was a regular contributor to *Harper's Monthly*, where he illustrated travelogues on New England, the Dismal Swamp, and a winter season in the South.

After he passed away in 1888, his name and work might have faded with time, but instead, he lives on in the West Virginia Libraries' excellent on-line collection of his work.

The collection contains 730 illustrations and sketches created by Strother. Visitors will find revealing images of Americans from the late 1800's at work, play, and during the war among their number, a boon for costumers trying to locate authentic illustrations of children and "characters" as well as the usual portrait subjects.

Learn more about this fascinating collection of images at their web site: <http://www.libraries.wvu.edu/wvconline/strother.htm>.

Royal Military Uniforms

Royal spectacles offer unprecedented opportunities to study dress uniforms.



HRH Prince William of Great Britain at his wedding.

With the recent marriage of Prince William of Great Britain to Kate Middleton, with its pageantry and military parades, costumers will be reminded that royal ceremonial events are excellent sources to study

dress and royal military uniforms. Whether gathering material to recreate one of these spectacular uniforms, or just doing historical research, costumers will find a wealth of material in books, magazines, photo archives, newsreels, and video recordings made during both modern-day and historical events.

Although the United Kingdom is the best known and most studied monarchy in western countries, a number of governments throughout the world still have official connections to their royal families and observe ceremonial occasions like weddings, coronations and funerals that provide a wealth of images of military finery represented at these occasions.

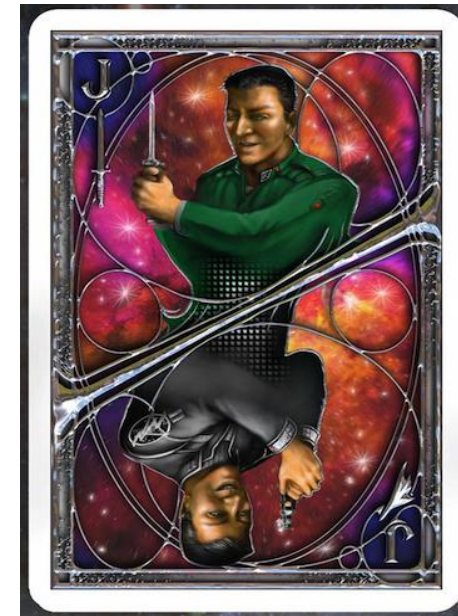
Parting Shot

A Military themed illustration links two authors and their articles in this issue.

In addition to his illustrations for Role Playing Games (RPGs), Larry Dixon also illustrates book covers for his wife, author Mercedes Lackey, and other fantasy authors. One of the authors that Larry described working with in an earlier article (see [VC volume 8, issue 4](#), page 34) is Lois McMaster Bujold. Bujold is best known as the author of the Vorkosigan series of stories. Her protagonist is Miles Vorkosigan, the eldest son of a nobleman of the planet Barrabar in the series.

Costumer Christofer Bertani describes how he created a military costume for Miles Vorkosigan from a book illustration and the

sparse descriptions that Bujold is notorious for offering her readers, in his article "Vorkosigan Militaria," which appears in this issue.



Miles Vorkosigan. Cover illustration for *Young Miles* omnibus by Larry Dixon. Image courtesy of Baen Books.

One of the most unusual illustrations that Larry Dixon did of the character is for the cover of the *Young Miles* omnibus for Baen Books. According to Larry, "Lois' manic-depressive space opera protagonist has two sides to him – on a good day. It came to me that using a playing card theme would be a great way to reflect the Manic, enthusiastic and Depressive, somber sides of Miles." (A bit of trivia is that the knife Miles is holding in the illustration used to be his grandfather's.)

Larry also worked with Lois on the GURPS RPG supplement based on her books, but had to give up the project due to illness and injury. According to Larry, "She's a neat lady."