

SOUTHWEST COSTUMERS GUILD

CONTACT INFORMATION

*Southwest Costumers Guild
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www.southwestcostumersguild.org

We would love for you to join us. We have created many exciting opportunities this year to create clothing, costumes and/or craft projects. We plan to attend many events to show off our talents.



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"History of the Parasol" Copyright 2006 by Diane Harris
Layout by Diane Harris and Randall Whitlock
Graphics by Randall Whitlock

SOUTHWEST COSTUMERS GUILD

A Chapter of the International Costume Guild



Southwest Costumers Guild is an exciting organization, comprised of amateur and professional designers, as well as hobbyists. We design, build, model, and appreciate costumes from many eras including Victorian, Regency, Medieval, Renaissance and modern. We invite any and all who have a desire to have serious fun to join us.

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LANGUAGE OF THE FAN

(Source lost in the mists of time)

Carrying in right hand – You are too willing
Carrying in left hand open – Come and talk to me
Carrying in right hand open in front of face – Follow me
Clasping the hands under the open fan – Forgive me
Drawing across the cheek – I love you
Dropping the fan – We will be friends
Fanning slowly – I am married
Fanning quickly – I am engaged
Letting fan rest on right cheek – Yes
Letting fan rest on left cheek – No
Placing fan behind the hand – Do not forget me
With the little finger extended – Goodbye
Fan open wide – Wait for me
Fan presented shut – Do you love me?
Shut fan held to the heart – You have won my love
Twirling fan in the left hand – I love another
With fan handle to lips – Kiss me



A HISTORY OF THE PARASOL

by Diane Harris

From the French and Italians, the English received “ombrelle,” “ombrella,” “ombriere,” and “umbrella,” which come from the Latin word “umbra,” meaning shade. They also received the French and Italian words “parasol” and “parasole,” from the Latin “parare,” meaning to shield and “sol,” meaning sun.

The Popes used parasols in the 15th century; one being open and one being closed to denote spiritual and temporal powers. In the Victorian era, ladies used them to protect their beautiful skin from the sun. The parasol is a delightful flirtatious device, as well. I am certain that many a lady played a game of peek-a-boo behind her parasol.

Parasol covers lent themselves to elegant materials and decoration. The papal parasols were frequently red and yellow, and greatly bejeweled, with perhaps a cross affixed on top. Mary, Queen of Scots' parasol was covered in satin, decorated with silk and gold fringe with tassels and painted buttons. Henri IV's was made of blue silk, and Elizabeth I's was of damask. No expense was spared in building, covering, or decorating the parasols of the sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries. The early 19th Century (Regency and Romantic) produced tiny parasols that were covered in ruffled laces with very small shafts that folded and bent; as well as later (Late Victorian - 2nd Bustle and Early Edwardian) the parasols were larger and built on shafts so tall they could be used as walking sticks when closed.

Many of us have discovered and will go to great lengths to achieve the beautiful “English” (undamaged-by-sun) skin of the past eras. In this modern century, there has been a great resurgence of interest in using something to shade one's skin so that it can remain undamaged and lovely. We call this “sunscreen.”