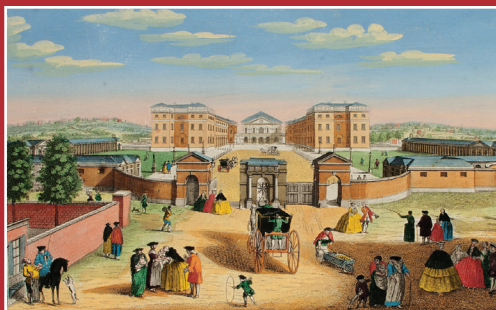


COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG
THREADS OF FEELING UNRAVELED:
THE LONDON FOUNDLING HOSPITAL'S TEXTILE TOKENS
OCTOBER 20–22, 2013



In association with the loan exhibition *Threads of Feeling*, which opens at the DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum on May 25, 2013, Colonial Williamsburg is hosting a symposium that will explore these objects in context. When a mother left her infant at the Hospital during the mid-eighteenth century, she sometimes provided a token that was attached to the paper record, allowing her to later identify and reclaim her own child if her circumstances improved. Most of the tokens took the form of scraps of fabric, ribbons, or cuttings from the baby's own clothing, identified in the record by their period names. The textile swatches are an invaluable source for identifying everyday textiles and the clothing of infants. As part of the symposium, exhibit guest curator and noted author John Styles will present two lectures. His keynote lecture will give a "behind-the-scenes" look at the development of the *Threads of Feeling* exhibit that received rave reviews in London. Styles will also discuss the history of the Foundling Hospital, the London scene, what is known about the identity of the infants, and the various meanings that can be unraveled from the evocative tokens. Other lectures will discuss clothing for infants and children, what women wore during pregnancy, childhood and orphans in America, and the use of similar textiles by adults in Britain and America.

The *Threads of Feeling* exhibition was organized by the Foundling Museum in London and curated by John Styles. The artifacts are owned by the Thomas Coram Foundation and stored at and cared for by the London Metropolitan Archives.

THE PROGRAM ∞

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2013

- Noon-7:30 p.m. Conference registration. The Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg, 326 West Francis Street, Williamsburg, Virginia.
- 5:30 p.m. Program introduction. **Linda R. Baumgarten**, curator, textiles and costumes, Colonial Williamsburg. Hennage Auditorium, the Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg.
- Creating the Threads of Feeling Exhibit.* **John Styles**, research professor in history, University of Hertfordshire, and Honorary Senior Research Fellow, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, United Kingdom. Hennage Auditorium.
- 6:30 p.m. Opening reception. Central Court.
- Dinner on your own.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 21

- 9 a.m. The Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg open for conference participants.
- Coffee and tea available in the Museum Café. Continental breakfast fare available for purchase.
- 9:30 a.m. Program welcome. **Ronald L. Hurst**, vice president, collections, conservation, and museums, and Carlisle H. Humelsine Chief Curator, Colonial Williamsburg.
- Desperate Mothers, Abandoned Babies, and Showy Textiles: London and its Foundling Hospital in the 18th Century.*
John Styles.

Colonial Williamsburg

- 10:30-11 a.m. Coffee break. Central Court.
- 11 a.m. *Children in American History*. **Steven Mintz**, director, Institute for Transformational Learning, University of Texas System, Austin, Texas.
- Noon *Children at Home: The Material Culture of Childhood in Early American Interiors*. **Amanda C. Keller**, assistant curator, historic interiors and household accessories, Colonial Williamsburg.
- 12:30-2:30 p.m. Lunch on your own and time to shop, visit Colonial Williamsburg's Historic Area, or spend time in the exhibit with the curators. Please consult the *Shopping and Dining Guide* for a listing of dining opportunities.
- 12:45-1:45 p.m. **John Styles**, **Linda Baumgarten**, and **Kimberly Smith Ivey** will be in the exhibit *Threads of Feeling* and the Textile Study Drawers will be open for viewing.
- 2:30 p.m. *Orphans in America*. **Cathleene Hellier**, historian, Colonial Williamsburg. Hennage Auditorium.
- 3:30-4 p.m. Afternoon refreshments. Central Court.
- 4 p.m. "Stitched in Adversity": *British, Asylum, Orphanage, and Charity School Samplers of the 18th and 19th Century*. **Becky Scott**, Manchester, England.
- 5-5:30 p.m. *A Charitable Society in London*. Governor Francis Fauquier of Williamsburg, portrayed by Colonial Williamsburg's **Dennis Watson**, will introduce us to the circle of esteemed philanthropists surrounding London's most fashionable charity of his day, The Foundling Hospital. In a performance combining music and conversation, Governor Fauquier, who sat on the Foundling's board of Governors prior to his move to Virginia, will describe the Foundling's public reception and popularization through the involvement of respected Londoners including the devoted services of artist William Hogarth, a fundraising concert by Handel, and numerous influential public figures of the day.
- Dinner on your own.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22

- 9 a.m. The Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg open for conference participants.
- Coffee and tea available in the Museum Café. Continental breakfast fare available for purchase.
- 9:30 a.m. *Dressing Mothers and Children: Colonial Williamsburg Collections, 1700-1800*. **Linda R. Baumgarten**, curator, textiles and costumes, Colonial Williamsburg. Hennage Auditorium.
- 10:30 a.m. Coffee break. Central Court.
- 11 a.m. "Lately Imported": *Rebuilding a Visual Lexicon of American Indentured and Enslaved Women's Dress*. **Rebecca Fifield**, collections manager, Arts of Africa, Oceania, and the Americas, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, New York.
- Noon-2 p.m. Lunch on your own and time to shop, visit Colonial Williamsburg's Historic Area or spend time in the exhibit with the curators. Please consult the *Shopping and Dining Guide* for a listing of dining opportunities.
- 12:45-1:45 p.m. **John Styles**, **Linda Baumgarten**, and **Kimberly Smith Ivey** will be in the exhibit *Threads of Feeling* and the Textile Study Drawers will be open for viewing.
- 2 p.m. *A Chronicle of the Foundling Hospital's Early Years Described by John Brownlow – Secretary*. This presentation by a character interpreter portraying John Brownlow, Secretary of the Foundling Hospital, will illustrate the early history of the hospital and its practices by examining a single fictional but typical case study: the life of the young woman and her child. Presented by the Costume Design Center in collaboration with Historic Trades Millinery and Tailor Shop and with the assistance of Historic Trades Wig and Shoe Shop staff. Hennage Auditorium.
- 3-3:30 p.m. Afternoon refreshments. Central Court.
- 3:30 p.m. *Threadbare: Orphans and Children in French Colonial Louisiana*. **Sophie White**, associate professor, Department of American Studies, University of Notre Dame.

- 4:15-4:30 p.m. *A Musical Thread*. **John Watson**, curator of musical instruments, explores the role keyboard instruments played in the education and “accomplishments” of girls with special mention of G.F. Handel’s concerts to benefit the Foundling Hospital.
- 4:30-5 p.m. Opportunity to see keyboard exhibit with curator. **John Watson**.
- 4:30-5:30 p.m. Closing reception. Central Court.
- 5:30-7 p.m. Dinner on your own.
- 7 p.m. *The Unwanted*. In this dramatic portrayal, three 18th-century women reveal the heartbreak and the hope of mothers whose circumstances lead them to relinquish their infants. A worker at London’s Foundling Hospital; a Virginia midwife; and a mother with no other options, all share a common concern for the fate of ‘the unwanted.’ Written and performed by Colonial Williamsburg’s **Abigail Schumann**. Hennage Auditorium.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23

Optional Activities – no registration required

- 10 a.m.-noon *Token Making*. Drop by the Education Studio from 10-noon and create a token inspired by the exhibit *Threads of Feeling*. Using a variety of supplies, such as ribbons, thread, linen, and punched paper, participants will create a token based on an object in the Folk Art Collection to keep or gift. Education Studio, The Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg, 326 West Francis Street. **Christina Westenberger**, assistant manager, museum education, Colonial Williamsburg.

Optional Activities – registration required, please complete registration form.

- 10 a.m.-noon *At the Margaret Hunter Millinery Shop*. Inspect the newest assortment of fashionable childbed linen, clothing, and accessories suitable for every little one’s needs. Participants will make a silk pincushion for a new baby and its mother, or a silk cap for the special infant. Bring your needles, thimble, and scissors and we’ll provide sewing silks, pins, wool, and silk. Milliners and mantua-makers of Colonial Williamsburg’s Historic Trades department. Margaret Hunter Millinery Shop. 16 people.
- 10:15-11 a.m. *Tour the Costume Design Center* where clothing is created and maintained for Colonial Williamsburg’s costumed staff. This 45-minute tour guided by Design Center staff will explore all aspects of the facility which manufactures period attire for the Revolutionary City, Preservation Virginia at Jamestown, and all Colonial Williamsburg programming, covering over 350 years of Virginia history. Costume Design Center, 250 First Street. 30 people.
- Tour of Quilts in the Baltimore Manner*. **Kimberly Smith Ivey**. Kim will lead a behind-the-scenes tour of *Baltimore Quilts*, discussing the achievements of talented textile artists who combined traditional quilt making skills with the latest innovations. She’ll point out favorites, retell family stories, and discuss the symbolism found in the appliqued motifs. Participants will learn how exhibitions are planned, in addition to the special preparations and mounting techniques employed in the installation of a quilt exhibit. Meet in exhibition. The Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg, 326 West Francis Street. 20 people.
- Tour of Textile Storage*. **Linda R. Baumgarten**. Linda will lead an informal tour of textile storage in Colonial Williamsburg’s state-of-the-art facility at Bruton Heights. Participants will have the opportunity for a close-up look at bed quilts, counterpanes, and selected costumes ranging from the 17th century through to the 20th century. Bruton Heights Collections and Conservation Building, 309 First Street. 15 people.
- Behind the Scenes in the Textile Conservation Laboratory*. **Loreen Finkelstein**, conservator, textiles, Colonial Williamsburg. Loreen will lead a behind-the-scenes costume and textile conservation laboratory tour. Participants will learn about on-going treatments and mounting techniques for upcoming exhibitions. You may bring one item needing care to share with the group. Bruton Heights Collections and Conservation Building, 309 First Street. 15 people.
- A London Orphan in Williamsburg: Thomas Everard*. On a guided tour of the Thomas Everard House, site supervisor, **Gene Mitchell**, will discuss this highly respected member of the community who even served as Williamsburg’s mayor in 1766 and 1771. This however was a world away from his orphaned childhood in London at Christ’s Hospital, an institution with a particular devotion to equipping the poor youth with a practical education. 15 people.
- 11:30-12:15 p.m. The 45-minute programs repeat.

LODGING, DINING, AND SPA

The following special rates are available at the Colonial Williamsburg Hotels for conference registrants. Hotel rates are for single or double occupancy, per night. (Rates do not include applicable taxes.)

WILLIAMSBURG WOODLANDS HOTEL & SUITES

Located adjacent to the Colonial Williamsburg Visitor Center, this moderately priced hotel includes a daily continental breakfast and an array of recreational amenities. A fitness room is available to all guests of the Williamsburg Woodlands.

~ Superior \$124 ~ Deluxe/Suite \$154

WILLIAMSBURG LODGE

Colonial Williamsburg's restored and expanded hotel is known for its southern charm and hospitality.

~ Superior \$176 ~ Deluxe \$206

LODGING AND DINING

Distinctive dining options are offered throughout Colonial Williamsburg's restaurants and historic dining taverns. Dining and group lodging reservations can be made by calling 1-800-261-9530, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. (ET).

SPA SERVICES

The Spa of Colonial Williamsburg provides a full menu of services. A team of experts has collaborated to create a spa that exudes southern charm, harmonizes with its historical surroundings, reflects its colonial heritage, and honors traditions of wellness and relaxation throughout American culture. The Spa Fitness Center and classes are open to all guests of official Colonial Williamsburg Hotels. Experience the wonders of our spa for yourself by calling 1-800-688-6479.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

FOUR EASY WAYS TO REGISTER

ONLINE history.org/conted PHONE 1-800-603-0948 FAX (757) 565-8921
MAIL Office of Conferences, Forums, and Workshops
 The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
 Post Office Box 1776, Williamsburg, Virginia 23187-1776

REGISTRATION

Preregistration and payment in full are required. Payment can be made by check or charged to American Express, Discover, Visa, or MasterCard. Registration includes four coffee breaks, two receptions, presentations proposed in this brochure, and a Colonial Williamsburg admission ticket valid through October 25, 2013. The presentation schedule is subject to change without notice.

CANCELLATION POLICY

If notice of cancellation is received in writing by 5 p.m. Monday, October 14, 2013, Colonial Williamsburg will refund your registration fees, less a \$50 administrative fee. Cancellation notices should be emailed to dchapman@cwf.org or adodson@cwf.org. Refunds will not be made after October 14, 2013. Travel and/or trip interruption insurance is recommended. Check with your travel agent for details.

HOW TO REACH WILLIAMSBURG

Williamsburg is easily accessible by plane, train, and car. Located in eastern Virginia, Williamsburg is about 150 miles (240 km) south of Washington, D.C., and midway between Richmond and Norfolk. The Williamsburg area can be reached via many major airlines, with more than 200 flights arriving daily, to three airports just 25 to 45 minutes away: Newport News–Williamsburg (PHF), Richmond (RIC), and Norfolk (ORF). Each airport has rental car and limousine services. Amtrak also serves Williamsburg with trains daily to and from the northeast corridor.

REGISTRATION FORM

THREADS OF FEELING UNRAVELED

Mr./Dr./Mrs./Ms./Miss (Print full name) _____

Address _____

City, state, zip/postal code _____

Daytime phone _____

Email address _____

I would like my name badge to read:

Name _____

City, state _____

☐ Yes, I plan to attend *The Unwanted*, 7 p.m. Tuesday, October 22

☐ I need _____ additional tickets to *The Unwanted* for my guest(s) (\$5 per person)

Optional Programs (rank first, second, and third choice)

10 a.m.-Noon

☐ At the Margaret Hunter Millinery Shop

10:15-11 a.m.

☐ Costume Design Center Tour
(250 First Street)

☐ Baltimore Quilt Exhibit Tour
(Museum)

☐ Textile Storage Tour
(309 First Street)

☐ Textile Conservation Lab Tour
(309 First Street)

☐ Everard House Tour
(Historic Area)

11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

☐ Costume Design Center Tour
(250 First Street)

☐ Baltimore Quilt Exhibit Tour
(Museum)

☐ Textile Storage Tour
(309 First Street)

☐ Textile Conservation Lab Tour
(309 First Street)

☐ Everard House Tour
(Historic Area)

REGISTRATION FEE AND PAYMENT

Full conference registration \$349 _____

Total of extra tickets for *The Unwanted* \$ _____

Total of enclosed check (Payable to "The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation") \$ _____

Total credit card charge \$ _____

Check one: ☐ Discover ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ American Express

Credit card number _____

Expiration Date _____

Cardholder name (please print) _____

Cardholder signature _____