

## **Notice of Intent to Digitize Back Issues of *Costume***

With the help of Maney Publishing, The Costume Society intends to scan and make available in electronic form the back issues of *Costume*. As a means of easy access to previously published papers, of which few subscribers will have copies, we expect this to be a considerable enhancement of the benefits of the institutional subscription.

Many of you will be familiar with the current procedure in which authors assign copyright (for both print and electronic publication) to The Costume Society. This does not limit an author's ability to reuse material, but ensures that Maney, on our behalf, can protect the copyright internationally. The papers we published previously, in our back issues, were not administered in this way, nor was permission sought to obtain electronic rights. Such a form of publishing was never conceived. It would exceed the resources available to The Costume Society to identify all the authors who have previously contributed to *Costume* and obtain their (or their Estate executor where an author is deceased) permission to republish their work electronically. In any case, we are very doubtful that the addresses that we had at the time of publication are still current.

We are therefore writing this notice to ask for any authors who object to the proposed policy to let us know as soon as possible. We think it will be a pity, but if the permission, which we will be taking as given, is withdrawn, we will reluctantly omit their work from the scanned back archive. This will inevitably distort the record to a certain extent, but we will respect the decision.

We expect this notice will be seen and read by most people involved in the activities of The Costume Society, and we would be grateful if you could draw it to the attention of all your colleagues. We will be proceeding with this scanning project in the next few months, and need to ensure that notice of our intentions is disseminated widely.

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