



Internationaal & interdisciplinair congres

10 - 11 juni 2015

CALL FOR PAPERS

**From battle field to drawing room:
textile and (military) fashion around 1815**

June 18, 2015 will mark the 200th anniversary of the battle of Waterloo. Napoleon's defeat in 1815 put an end to French imperialism. However, on societal, economic and artistic levels the legacy inherited from the French Empire was enormous, for Europe in general and for our regions in particular, as under Napoleonic rule the latter had evolved into the continent's leading industrialized area.

Mechanization of textile production, increased industrialism, shortage of materials and other rapid transformations influenced fashion, military uniforms, arts and life in general in the French Empire. How and to what extent were these changes implemented? Which uniforms, civilian or military, were innovative and what did they symbolize? What was the effect of expansionism on textile production and industry between 1800 and 1820?

The Napoleonic era constituted a unique parenthesis in our region's economic history, as it combined both the opening and the closing of markets. Our provinces indeed gained access to the important French market, but the continental blockade also caused it to lose the British one. Poland and Russia became major influences and their impact was translated very visually through fashion. How did the fall of the Empire affect these situations? Can we say that it provoked a sudden mutation in fashion, as had been the case a decade earlier, when Napoleon founded the Empire? What were the clothing codes of the Brussels it-people, on the eve of the battle of Waterloo, for the large ball organized by the Duchess of Richmond upon initiative of the Duke of Wellington? And why do Wellington boots remain so popular, whereas the bicorne hat has completely disappeared?

For the 200th anniversary of the battle of Waterloo this congress offers an international and interdisciplinary platform to scientists wishing to present new research concerning the era from 1800 to 1820.

Target public

This congress is aimed at researchers, curators, heritage experts, textile and costume historians, managing and/or studying collections from the 1815 era. Contributions by post-graduate students are most welcome. We also hope to reach re-enactment groups interested in the Napoleonic period.

The congress will broach following themes, all related to the period just prior or posterior to the battle of Waterloo:

1. Mutual influences between European armies regarding uniforms and equipment
2. Stylistic developments in fashion and interior decoration, before and after the battle of Waterloo
3. Technical innovations in the applied arts under Napoleon and after the battle of Waterloo: (military) architecture, interiors and decorations
4. The revival of the textile industry under Napoleon in Europe during and after the battle of Waterloo: cotton, wool, damask cotton, braid, lace, metal embroidery, textile dyes
5. Archaeological finds: influence of archaeological finds on textile aesthetics, around 1815
6. Multidisciplinary approaches (military history, art history, anthropology, economics)

You are kindly invited to submit a **paper**. Deadline for contributions (**title and 300 word summary**) is **January 15, 2015**. Proposals are to be sent to ilse.bogaerts@klm-mra.be

A scientific committee will select the entries.

Each speaker will be granted 20 minutes.

Papers will be published in the congress Proceedings.

Scientific committee:

Willem Elias PhD, president of the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium of sciences & arts and professor of cultural agogics at the VUB, university Brussels

Ilse Bogaerts, curator section Uniforms, Royal Military Museum, Brussels

Luc François PhD, honorary professor of contemporary history, Ghent university

All questions regarding the congress are to be put to Ilse Bogaerts: (+32) (0)2-737 79 18

Practical information

* Venue: Royal Military Academy, rue Hobbema 8, 1000 Brussels, GPS: 50.84451 North: 4.39342 East
<http://www.rma.ac.be/nl/rma-locate-us-nl.html>

* Date congress: June 10 – 11, 2015

* Fees: 90 euros (students 45 euros) on bank account:
IBAN BE57 6791 6925 8835 BIC PCHQBEBB
with mention of your NAME and Congress Waterloo 1815

* Hotels:
<http://www.toerismebrussel.be>
<http://www.booking.com/>

* Languages: Lectures can be given in Dutch, French and English. Lectures in Dutch and French will be translated simultaneously in English.