

## English Abstract

Turunen, Arja & Niiranen, Anna (eds) *Säädyllyistä ja säädytöntä. Pukeutumisen historiaa renessanssista 2000-luvulle*. Helsinki: Finnish Literature Society, Historiallinen Arkisto 150.

(Title in English: *Decent and Indecent. The History of Dress from the Renaissance to the 21st Century*)

This book is an anthology of twelve chapters representing the latest Finnish studies in dress history. The time span is extensive, from the sixteenth century to the present day. The history of dress and fashion is discussed in a broad cultural, historical and social context by paying attention to the roles of dress in representing social status, codes and norms and in challenging and converting them.

Susanna Niiranen examines the portrait (c. 1553–1556) of Princess Catherine Jagiellon, later the Queen of Sweden, depicting Catherine in a luxurious black dress heavily evocative of Spanish influence. The chapter by Kustaa H. J. Vilkkunen discusses the role of the wig in the representation of the right kind of masculinity in eighteenth-century Finland.

In their chapters, both Merja Uotila and Kati Mikkola study typical dress in the nineteenth-century Finnish countryside. Uotila illustrates how clothes owned by countrymen were – contrary to the stereotype – often colourful and made by professional artisans. Mikkola discusses the influence of religious revivalist movements in Eastern Finland and especially how social peer control worked in the making of acceptable appearance in the late nineteenth-century Finnish countryside.

Essi Huuhka and Anna Niiranen both examine the conflict between reality and ideals. Huuhka analyses an unsuccessful clothing project of the Finnish missionaries in Ovamboland, Namibia, at the turn of the twentieth century. Anna Niiranen investigates popular health manuals, discussing the medical discourse of pregnancy clothing in the nineteenth-century British context.

The last part of the book focuses on the twentieth century. Seija-Leena Nevala studies the uniforms of the paramilitary *Lotta Svärd* organisation for women between the 1920s and 1940s. Arja Turunen discusses the history of women's trousers; it was not until the 1970s that women wearing trousers became commonly accepted in Finland. Ildikó Lehtinen examines the history of the traditional codes of decorum dictating the use of stockings and footwear amongst the Mari people living in Russia and the Soviet Union.

The chapter by Laura Ekholm and Matleena Frisk shows how modernization, new technologies and consumerism changed the ideas of dress and materials used in clothing after the Second World War. In the last chapter of the book, Päivi Roivanen discusses children's clothing and new research approaches, including materiality and the meaning of the senses in dress studies.