

ABEGG-STIFTUNG

Media release, September 2019



14 SEPTEMBER TO 10 NOVEMBER 2019
OPEN DAILY FROM 2 P.M. TO 5.30 P.M.

MAGNIFICENT PRINCELY COSTUME FROM DRESDEN TO GO ON SHOW FOR A FEW WEEKS ONLY FOLLOWING PAINSTAKING CONSERVATION

The Abegg-Stiftung is to showcase a magnificent costume once worn by Augustus, Elector of Saxony (1526–1586). The three-part ensemble belongs to the Dresden Armoury and was entrusted to the Abegg-Stiftung for analysis and conservation. It consists of a short-sleeved jacket or jerkin, a doublet and short, puffed hose. The cut and make of the outfit represent the German variant of the Spanish-dominated courtly fashions of the 1560s–1570s.

The colour scheme is exclusively yellow and black, the colours of the ducal house of Saxony. The ensemble counts among the few late Renaissance courtly costumes to have survived practically in its entirety. Earlier conservation work, the light damage caused by nearly a century on display and the stresses of evacuation and transport during the Second World War have nevertheless taken their toll on its aesthetic impact. The expanses of black embroidered filet and the cloth of gold of the puffed hose are the parts that have suffered the most. The task of analysing and conserving the ensemble was thus as demanding as it was time-consuming, despite the astonishingly good state of preservation. The textile conservators at the Abegg-Stiftung invested around five "woman-years" in the project. Now that the costume has been stabilized and its appearance improved, its festive impact can be all the better appreciated. The costume can now be marvelled at in Riggisberg for a few weeks before it returns to Germany.

Both media release and photo are available as e-mail attachments.

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Caption:

Jerkin of Augustus, Elector of Saxony, made 1550–1570, silk satin, silk embroidery on a filet ground.
Dresden, Rüstkammer, inv. no. i.5

The exhibition «LUXURY ON THE NILE – LATE ANTIQUE ATTIRE FROM EGYPT» will remain open until 10 November 2019.