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Irene Whalley

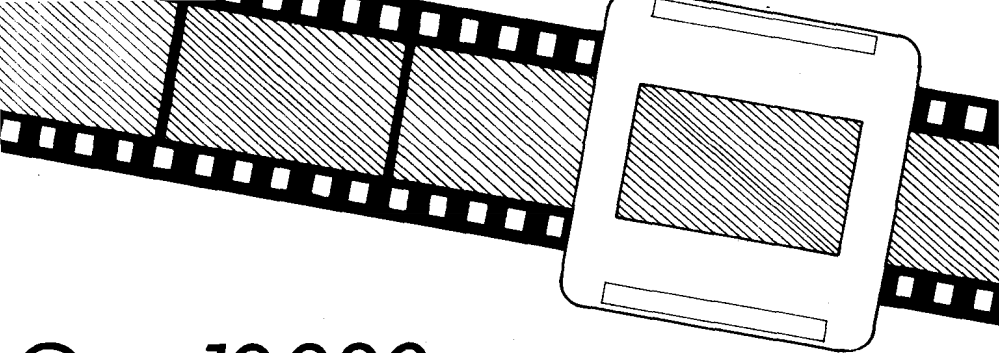
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## Letters

### *Costume study centres*

I should like to clarify a point raised by Penelope Byrde's article on the 'Costume and Fashion Research Centre at Bath' in your recent issue (vol.1 no.3, Autumn 1976). Miss Byrde states 'There would appear to be a valuable and useful place for local centres of information on this subject in various parts of the country, situated near important collections of costume such as Bath and Manchester'. Since she goes on to say that the Victoria and Albert Museum already fulfils this function for London, the implication is that Manchester does not.

The Gallery of English Costume houses in one building its extensive collections of costume, whether on display or in store, and a library which provides similar facilities to the Bath centre. On any weekday, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4.30 p.m., any student who has made an appointment may come and study here. Available for their use is a sizeable handling collection, including some eighteenth century items; substantial runs of thirty-six fashion



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magazines from *The Lady's Monthly Museum* of 1798 to the present issue of 19, and including an almost complete run of *Vogue* from 1918, as well as innumerable smaller runs; thirty-five boxes of trade catalogues; over 2,000 fashion plates; 6,000 photographs in boxes and twenty albums; about 200 paper patterns and 1,100 books and catalogues. There is also a small but growing file of literary references extracted from letters, journals, autobiographies, etc., and a number of pamphlets and articles of a specialised nature. The fact that all this is contained within one building enables the student to study secondary material in conjunction with the displays and the catalogue of the permanent collections.

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