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## THE DOMINO AND THE EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY LONDON MASQUERADE

*A Social Biography of a Costume*

Meghan Kobza  
*Newcastle University*



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Meghan Kobza

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# The Domino and the Eighteenth-Century London Masquerade

## A Social Biography of a Costume

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Meghan Kobza  
*Newcastle University*

**Author for correspondence:** Meghan Kobza, [meg.kobza@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:meg.kobza@ncl.ac.uk)

**Abstract:** This Element presents new cultural, social, and economic perspectives on the eighteenth-century London masquerade through an in-depth analysis of the classic domino costume. Constructing the object biography of the domino through material, visual, and written sources brings together various experiences of the masquerade and expands the existing geographical, chronological, and socio-economic scope of the entertainment beyond the masquerade event itself. This Element examines the domino's physical and figurative movements from the masquerade warehouse, through eighteenth-century fashionable society, and into print and visual culture. It draws upon masquerade warehouse records, newspapers, manuscripts, prints, and physical objects to establish a comprehensive understanding of the domino and how it reflected contemporary experiences of the real and imagined masquerade. Analysing the domino through interdisciplinary methodologies illustrates the impact material and visual sources can have on reshaping existing scholarship.

**Keywords:** masquerade, costume, warehouse industry, material culture, consumer history

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