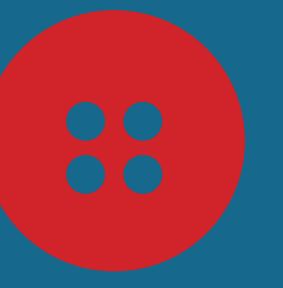


# The Mantua-Making Mentor



Frances in her studio

## FRANCES BECKWITH

1737-1773

Mantua Maker

Lived and worked in York

Mantua maker Frances Beckwith was not registered as a 'freeman' or 'freewoman' as most York traders were, but was still able to become a member of the Merchant Taylors in 1761, likely made possible by the membership of her husband Thomas Beckwith. At the time, women made up just 34.5 percent of new entrants. Frances took on many different apprentices, including three recorded instances in 1764, 1765, and 1771. Her marriage provided connections to a large network of tradespeople including Thomas's former mentor Ambrose Etherington.



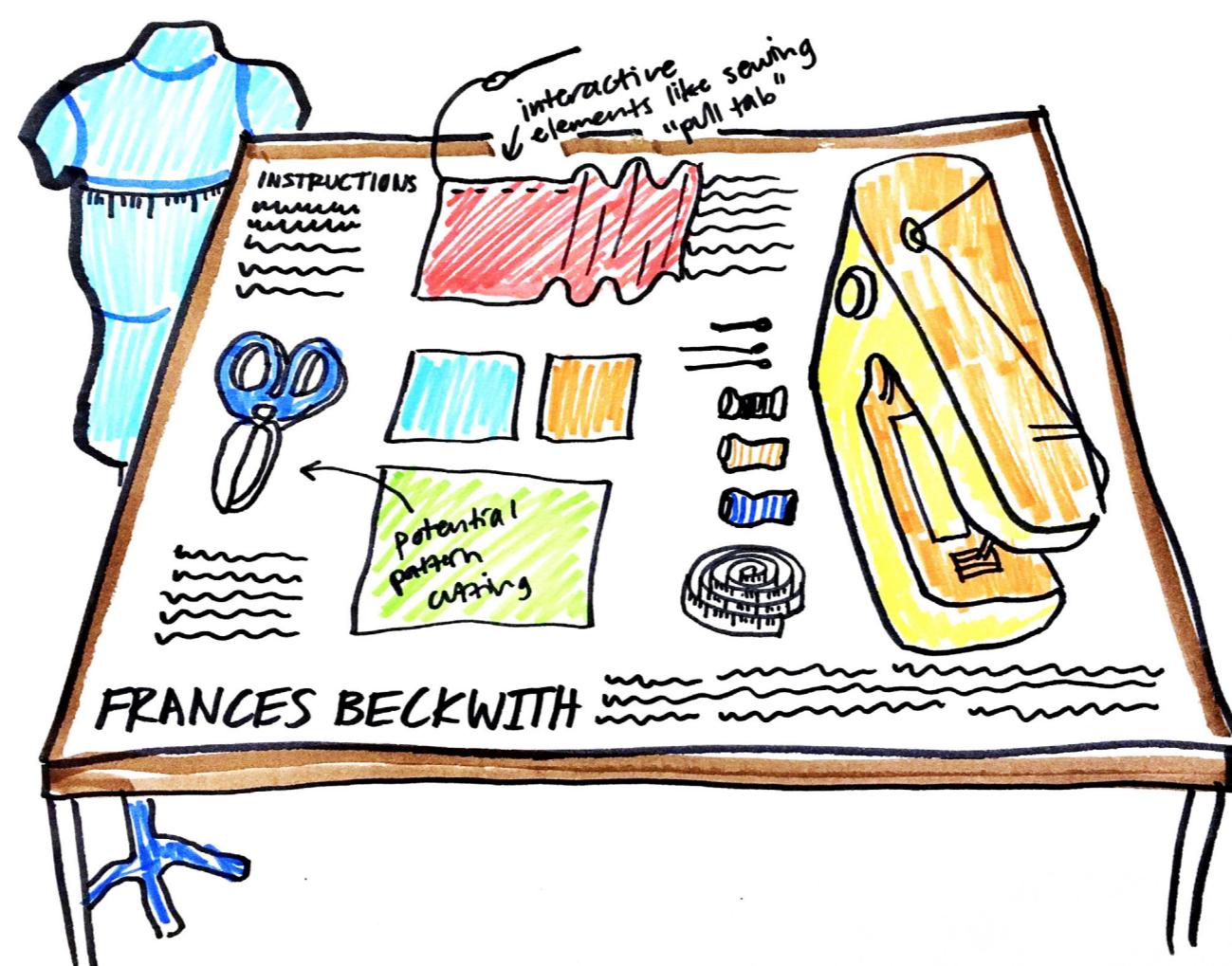
## FRANCES'S WORK



Detailed mantuas, petticoats, stomachers, etc. for high society

## BRINGING FRANCES TO LIFE

Our exhibits use mantua-making tools in order to look inside Frances Beckwith's life and work. Exhibits will treat viewers as apprentices looking to learn about Frances (under whom they would be training) and to better understand the mantua-making trade. Our low-budget option presents mantua-making tools which, when physically engaged with, reveal relevant information through written text, sound bites, and instructions for simple interactive activities like cutting out a pattern. Our high-budget option uses a trained actor to represent Frances, who would give informative tours of these tools to groups of visitors treated as potential apprentices.



Low budget

~£350 for example tools and glass-paned table



High budget

~£710 incl. actor salary, actor clothing, example gowns