

TEXTILE RESEARCH CENTRE
LEIDEN

*GENERAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR 2003*



Detail from a late 20th c Baluch dress, Iran

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**TEXTILE RESEARCH CENTRE
LEIDEN**

Chairman's Comments

The Board of the Textile Research Centre (TRC) has pleasure in presenting the general report for the year 2003. The report shows abundantly that the Centre, in accordance with its aims, has been able not only to continue, but also to widen its activities. Of particular importance is the setting up of a journal for the study of dress and textiles in the Islamic World. This journal, *Khila`*, to be published by the well-known publishing company Peeters (Louvain, Belgium), will give a greater international dimension to the Centre.

The TRC depends to a large extent on the support, financial and otherwise, of many people and institutions. The Board acknowledges with gratitude that in 2003, as in previous years, this support was given generously. The report is clearly testimony, we trust, that this support was given rightly.

Prof. J.G.J. ter Haar.

The Stichting

The Stichting ("Foundation") Textile Research Centre was established in 1991 with the stated aim of supporting the academic research of archaeological and anthropological textiles and dress.

The most important part of our work is the building up and study of a textile and dress collection. These garments are available for research and exhibition purposes.

The Board

The board is currently made up of the following:

- Chairman: Prof. J. ter Haar, Leiden University
- Treasurer: Prof. R. Bedaux, National Museum of Ethnology, Leiden
- Secretary: Dr. G. van der Kooij, Leiden University.
- General members: Mr. N. Dia, Mrs. V. Drabbe, Dr. K. Innemée, Prof. L. Leertouwer and Dr. G.M. Vogelsang-Eastwood (Director).

Permanent staff

Dr. G.M. Vogelsang-Eastwood (GMVE) continues as the director of the Stichting. She is a specialist in Near Eastern textiles and dress.

Volunteers

There are a number of volunteers currently working on various long-term projects for the TRC:

Drs. A. Janssen is helping at the TRC to help with the general organisation of the collection. Drs. Janssen is also preparing

a Ph.D. thesis about Moroccan Urban Dress (see below), and helping to build up the TRC's collection of Moroccan dress in general.

Mrs. P. Smilde-Huckriede and Dr. R. van der Velde are helping to organise the dress collection. Their work includes cataloguing and maintaining the collection. They are helped at regular intervals by Mrs. A. Driessen-de Laat, Leidschendam and Mrs. P. Stein, Leiden.

The TRC also has two new students working as volunteers, Marloes van de Bijl (Leiden University), who has been working with Prof. Bedaux on Zanzibar textiles in the RMV collection. In addition, she has been cataloguing the TRC's Omani collection with the idea of using it as a basis for future university work, and for the creation of a small digital exhibition on Omani dress (see below). (Leiden University), is going to work on ancient Egyptian textile technology, notably the Beni Hasan wall paintings depicting textile production scenes. In addition, she is going to help produce a catalogue on the TRC's collection of Palestinian dress and related objects.

The TRC would like to thank all of the volunteers for their kindness and help with the collection and for giving up so much of their time. Their work is appreciated.

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ETHNOLOGY, LEIDEN (RMV) AND THE TRC

The TRC would like to thank the RMV for their continual support of the TRC's activities. Without this support we would not be able to carry out the wide range of academic and general projects that are currently being undertaken. A particular word of thanks should go to Dr. S. Engelsman (Director), and Dr. W. Fermont (Head of Research).

WWW.TEXTDRESS.NL

The Stichting's web-page, www.textdress.nl, is up and running and is used to carry information about the TRC including its aims, annual reports, donation information, and short items of current interest.

We are now working on various proposals for digital exhibitions that can be placed on the TRC's website. These plans include exhibitions about faceveils, as well as Omani and Sudanese dress.

DONATIONS AND GRANTS

During this year various drives to raise donations for the TRC and its work have taken place. We are pleased to announce that these have been successful.

This year we have focussed on the purchase of suitable *poppen* (mannequins) on which to display garments from the TRC's collection. To date we have purchased 10 *poppen* with the promise of a further 10 shortly.

Three *poppen* were donated by the *Vrienden van het Volkenkunde Museum*, Leiden (“Friends of the National Museum of Ethnology, Leiden; see below), and another three were purchased with the help of the Ancient Egyptian Society of Southampton, England. We would like to thank both groups for their generosity.

The *Weefkontakt Regio IV*, Woerden, kindly donated funds for the purchase of a *pop* following a lecture on the theme of veils given in April (see below).

In addition, private donations were made by various individuals. Again a word of thanks goes to these people. One *pop* in particular should be mentioned, Mrs. A. Goud, Leiderdorp, was recently 80 years old, so she made a donation to the TRC of the same amount in €’s. A special *pop* was purchased in her name!

These *poppen* have already been used for displays of Moroccan, Iranian and Omani garments.

On the 7th December 2003 a very special event took place in order to celebrate the birthday of Mrs. M. Portheine-ter Kuile. Mrs. Portheine-ter Kuile is a HOVO student who has attended various courses given by Dr. Vogelsang-Eastwood. In addition, she was part of the HOVO group that made a tour of Iran in the summer of 2003 (see below).

Mrs. Portheine-ter Kuile has been a dedicated supporter of the TRC, and this year, in order to celebrate her birthday, she held a party, with Dr. Vogelsang-Eastwood as the guest speaker talking about the HOVO’s tour

of Iran. Instead of birthday presents she asked her guests to make a donation to the TRC. As a result, a substantial sum was raised and this was used to purchase a number of essential items of equipment, as well as well as allowing us to order some special garments (see below).

We should like to make a special word of thanks to Mrs. Portheine-ter Kuile for her kindness and generosity over the years. Her thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

This year also saw *The Times of Oman* donating the sum of €5,000 for the *Omani Dress Project* (see below). We would like to thank *The Times of Oman* for their generosity. As will be seen later in the report, this donation means that the *Omani Dress Project* was able to start Phase 1 of its work.

PURCHASES AND GIFTS

In January 2003, seven faceveils were ordered from various US Islamic clothing websites. The veils came within a few weeks and mean that we can now show some of the latest ‘fashions’ in veiling. One of the veils was used in a photo session held at the TRC by the *Algemeen Dagblad* Magazine (see below).

In February 2003, Dr. R. Barnes, Oxford, went to Qatar and brought back some veils and a girl’s outfit as a present for the TRC. We should like to thank Dr. Barnes for her kindness in thinking about us.

The delayed Coptic nun’s and

deaconess's clothing that was ordered from Egypt in 2002 has finally arrived! Due to various (some unexplained) reasons the clothing went from Egypt to Australia and then onto the Netherlands via Denmark.

Thanks to the continuing help of Dr. K. Innemée the TRC's collection of Coptic dress and related objects continues to grow. The arrival of these garments and other items means that the TRC's Coptic Monastic and Liturgical collection is now one of the most comprehensive outside of Egypt.

In March 2003, we were given an embroidered, Jordanian dress by Mrs. M. van Limburg, Leiden. The dress dates to the 1970's and is of the '6 branch' type. Also in March we were given a small cap for a man and two other items of clothing by Ms. K. de Bie, Leiden. The cap is made of silk and probably comes from Turkey. It dates to the early 20th century.

In April we were sent a covering and veil from Sana'a, Yemen, by Dr. J. Fletcher, England. Dr. Fletcher has promised to send more pieces in due course.

April also saw the arrival of a Jordanian headscarf and under dress from Mrs. J. Boertien, Leiden. Mrs. Boertien is also interested in helping to build up the TRC's Jordanian collection.

In May we were unexpectedly sent a parcel of books and postcards obtained in Saudi Arabia by Mrs. S.E. de Ruiter, Middelburg, during the 1970's. Some of the postcards have already been used in a publication about *Ithram* dress (see

below). We should like to thank Mrs. de Ruiter for her thoughtfulness in sending these items.

At the end of May we received a large parcel from S. Einarsdóttir, Moesgaard Museum, Denmark, which contained a complete outfit for an Upper Egyptian sheik (local religious leader). This was an unexpected present and we should like to thank the Moesgaard Museum for their generosity. In addition, there were copies of the catalogue (Danish and English versions) from their current exhibition about life in Upper Egypt. Dr. G.M. Vogelsang-Eastwood was the co-author, with S. Einarsdóttir, of an article about the production of some Upper Egyptian textiles.

As well as the Coptic items given by Dr. Innemée, June also saw the arrival of some modern Coptic pieces by M. Eastwood, Scarborough. She has also donated various items of Palestinian embroidery including a dress and shawl and several wall hangings, as well as various pieces with Christian motifs from Ethiopia.

In July a group of HOVO students made a three week trip to Iran (see below). During this trip it was possible to purchase Kurdish and Baluch clothing, as well as outfits for a Kerman Afshar man and a women (daily and festival clothing).

September saw the arrival of a headcovering and material for traditional trousers from the Ibra region of Oman. These objects were given by Mrs. Huisman, Heemstede.

A gift of Sudanese clothing and related objects was presented to the TRC, by Mrs. Ashry, the wife of the Sudanese Ambassador, in September (see below). These items included a complete outfit as worn by HE the Ambassador, women's dresses, *thobs* (wraps) of various types and colours, shoes, as well as jewellery and basketry. We would like to say a special word of thanks to Mrs. Ashry for her kindness in giving us these objects. As will be seen, these gifts form the basis of the *Embassy/TRC Collection of Sudanese Dress and Accessories*.

At the beginning of November we were given an embroidered dress and a small jacket from Syria. These acquisitions were organised through the help of Heike Weber, *ANAT*, Damascus, and *Ottomania*, Haarlem.

During November and early December attention was paid to the collecting of *Ihram* clothing in preparation for a digital publication on the theme of *Ihram* Dress (see below), and the possibility of an actual exhibition on the same subject.

During the year we were given various garments by the Family Longayroux-Naaktgeboren, Leiderdorp. These pieces were collected by the father of Mrs Longayroux during his many trips abroad in the 1970's. The garments include an early 1960's Palestinian dress, probably from the Bath Sheba region, some 1970's embroidered dresses, and several urban garments from Morocco.

In mid-December, we were given an

interesting collection of textiles and garments by Mrs. L. van der Laan-de Brouwer. These objects include a late 19th century silk 'apron' of Turkish origin, which is beautifully embroidered using satin stitch and tambour techniques. The apron bib includes a cartouche enclosing the name of Sultan `Abd-al-Hamid (1876-1909). In addition, relatives of Mrs. van der Laan-de Brouwer lived in Indonesia in the early half of the 20th century and there they purchased a number of handwoven textiles from various islands. Some of these textiles were included in the gift to the TRC.

Finally, during the late 20th century, Mrs. van der Laan-de Brouwer travelled in Indonesia and Thailand and purchased or was given more modern examples of Asian textiles. These textiles included a set woven at the famous "Jim Thompson" silk weaving factory, Bangkok. We would like to thank Mrs. van der Laan-de Brouwer for the generous nature of her gift.



Sultan `Abd-al-Hamid (1876-1909).

2003 saw the addition of over 200 garments and accessories to the collection. The Iran section continues to be the strongest point, but the Moroccan and Palestinian sections are steadily growing. As will be seen below, in 2004 we hope to concentrate on Oman.

SLIDE AND PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTION

The TRC now has access to a flat-bed scanner and a slide scanner and is actively looking for photographs, postcards, slides, etc., which can be scanned and added to its growing collection of illustrative material. Part of this collection, for example, was recently used in the catalogue from the Moesgaard Museum's exhibition about life in Upper Egypt mentioned previously.

Slide loan

We have been lent a large collection of slides by Mrs. R. M. van Schravendijk, Den Haag, (a HOVO student). The slides were taken in Iran between 1957 and 1959 by Mrs. van Schravendijk's late husband.

In addition we were also lent a small collection of slides depicting Luris, taken in western Iran in the early 1960's by Mr. van den Brug, Wassenaar.

All of the above slides have now been scanned and form part of the TRC's growing collection of illustrations depicting Iranian dress.

Thanks to the scanners it is now possible to work on a series of digital catalogues of the TRC collection. It is

the plan that these catalogues will be available in the form of CD Roms and on the TRC's website in order to make the collection more widely known and accessible.

The following catalogues are now available or are currently being worked on:

- Kerman Afshar Dress (Iranian Dress Collection, 2003)
- Qashqai Dress (Iranian Dress Collection, 2003)
- Abayaneh Dress (Iranian Dress Collection, 2003)
- Iranian Zoroastrian Dress (with Dr. Willem Vogelsang, RMV, Iranian Dress Collection; 2003)
- Sudanese Dress (with Mrs. Ashry; available 2004)
- Coptic Dress (with Dr. K. Innemée; see below; available 2004)
- Kurdish Dress (available 2004)
- Moroccan Arab Dress (A. Jansen; available 2004)
- Omani Dress (with Mrs. AlZedjali, Muscat; see below)
- Qajar Dress and Accessories (see below)

For more information about these catalogues, please contact Dr. Gillian Vogelsang-Eastwood (textile@rmv.nl).

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

Ar@besk

In October 2001, the Stichting Ar@besk contacted the TRC about the idea of a

virtual-reality Islamic Museum and the digitalization of Islamic collections in the Netherlands. It has been agreed that the TRC should help Ar@besk in the setting up of this museum, notably in the field of Islamic textiles and dress. It is the intention that the museum will come on line in 2004. One of the proposed exhibitions to appear on the Ar@besk website will be about veiling. Garments from the TRC's collection form the basis for this exhibition.

Dutch Exhibitions

Garments from the TRC's collection were used in two exhibitions in the Netherlands in 2003. The first was a photographic exhibition at Fort Asperen, on the theme of armour (7th June -29th September, 2003).

The second exhibition was called *Hoofd Zaken* and is concerned with various types of veiling. This exhibition will be travelling to various museums including those in Enschede and Zwolle (December 2003 to December 2004).

Moesgaard Museum, Denmark

Garments from the TRC's Egyptian collection are now on display at the Moesgaard Museum, Denmark. as part of their exhibition called: *Nilen: Aegyptens Gave* on life in Upper Egypt (English title: *Upper Egypt: Life Along the Nile*).

The exhibition is accompanied by a book with the same title, which has a series of articles about different aspects of life in Middle Egypt. One of the articles is about four different types of textiles woven in the region and is illustrated by items from the TRC's collection.

Palestinian Costume Archives, Canberra, Australia

Since early 2002 the TRC has been in regular contact with Jeni Allenby, director of the Palestinian Costume Archives, Canberra (PCA). The Archive is active in a wide range of work relating to dress throughout the Near East and Indonesia.

A number of exchanges have been made with the idea of increasing our respective collections

AD MAGAZINE

On the 3rd March 2003, journalists and photographers from the *Algemeen Dagblad* magazine came to the TRC in order to make a four page article about the different types of face veils and main forms of body coverings.

As a result of this article a glass artist, Dana Lindzon, Amsterdam, has used the TRC collection as a source of inspiration for a series of glass sculptures. These will take several years to make, and it is hoped that a joint exhibition will be made with the actual veils next to the glass veils they have inspired.

Some of the photographs taken for this article will also be used in a digital exhibition about faceveils, which the TRC is currently preparing (see below).

KHILA`

This year saw the setting up of a journal for the study of dress and textiles in the Islamic World. The journal concentrates on dress and related textiles from the Islamic World.

Any aspect of dress will be considered for inclusion, including anthropological, archaeological, economic, literary, political, religious social, technical approaches, as well as articles about specific garments of particular interest. There will also be a select bibliography with commentary on relevant books and articles since 1980.

In the first issue subjects as varied as naked monks and nuns from within the Coptic community; a Jewish wedding dress in a private collection; veiling in classical and Qajar era Persian literature, Palestinian embroidered dresses, and the political use of clothing within Afghan and Central Asian traditions.

The intended articles for the following issue include an equally wide range of articles including items on the Yemeni trade in textiles; Turkish influence on Magreb dress and oriental dress and European feasts.

Anyone who has a suitable article or who is interested in writing for future issues of the journal should contact:

- L. Hannsen.
(l.hannsen@depotwereldmuseum.rottterdam.nl)
- G.M. Vogelsang-Eastwood
(textile@rmv.nl).

If you wish to subscribe to the journal, please contact P. Peeters (Paul@peeters-leuven.be).

IRANIAN DRESS PROJECTS

The TRC is involved in a number of projects about Iranian dress. This work was initially sponsored by Shell Iran, and we would like to thank Shell Iran for their support. Without their help at the beginning of the project none of the following would have been feasible.

Iranian Urban and Regional Dress Collection

Between 1997-2000, Dr. W. Vogelsang and Dr. G.M. Vogelsang-Eastwood, made various fieldtrips to Iran in order to make a survey of Iranian dress. During this period we were able to acquire over one thousand garments including items from all the major groups in Iran, including the Kurds, Qashqa'i, Arabs, Bandar, Baluchi, Turkmen, and so forth. Catalogues of all these garments are now prepared.

Since then the late 20th century collection of dress has been increased due to the generous support of various people, notably C. Breedvelt, The Dutch Embassy, Tehran, and Dr. S. Shahshahani, Tehran.

All in all, it is now accepted that the TRC's collection of contemporary Iranian dress is one of the best outside of Iran. These garments are available for study and exhibition purposes.

Iranian Regional and Urban Dress Book

One of the long-term aims of the Iranian dress project is to make a survey of Iranian dress at the end of the 20th century. The manuscript for this work is well under way, and will be illustrated by the garments described above.

Encyclopaedia of Qajar Era Dress

The RMV's and TRC's collections of Qajar era dress also form part of a general study of Qajar Era Dress.

The TRC, with the help of the Bayani Family and others, is gradually building up a Qajar era dress collection. This collection will reflect the range of mainly urban dress worn at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th century. This was a period that saw dramatic changes in the life styles of many Iranian people.

Financial support for the Qajar Era Dress Project has come from various sources including, Shell Iran, Iran Heritage Foundation, London; Persian Heritage Foundation, New York, and the Barbasvan de Klaauw Fonds, Amsterdam.

HOVO'S Iranian Trip

In January 2003 we finalized plans for a trip to Iran for the HOVO students, Leiden University, who had been following Dr. Vogelsang-Eastwood's series of lectures on textiles and dress in the Middle East, and Dr. W.J. Vogelsang's lectures on the history of Iran.

Sixteen Participants, some with their partners, and the Vogelsang family registered for the trip and we left for

Iran on the 6th July 2003. The three week trip focussed on urban and regional dress and the material and cultural history of the country. The group travelled from Qashan in the north-west to Bam in the south-east. The trip was organised by Dr. G.M. Vogelsang-Eastwood, Dr. W.J. Vogelsang, and the travel agency, Djoser of Leiden.

Dr. W. Vogelsang dealt with the archaeology and more recent history of the country, while Dr. G.M. Vogelsang-Eastwood looked after clothing and textiles. Some of the group asked for attention to be paid to (a) carpets, (b) modern art, (c) music, and (d) snakes and scorpions, so even before we started it promised to be an interesting trip.

The TRC Trip to Iran, 6th July to the 27th July, 2003.

S. Smilde

Dr. Gillian Vogelsang-Eastwood gave two courses in the cadre of the HOVO, Leiden University, on the themes of textiles in antiquity and dress in the Middle East. As a result of these courses a number of participants became so enthusiastic that the idea of a trip somewhere was born, with the idea of putting into practise the knowledge that had been gained during the lessons.

The choice of Iran occurred because "at home" there was considerable knowledge of the country in the form of her husband, Dr. Willem Vogelsang, archaeologist and curator at the National Museum of Ethnology, Leiden. Dr. Vogelsang is a specialist in the ancient languages and history of Iran.

As a result of various discussions it was agreed that Dr. Vogelsang would give a HOVO course on the History of Iran. This course acted as an introduction to Iran for those going on the proposed fieldtrip.

There were twenty members of the summer fieldtrip to Iran, made up of hardcore textile ladies, plus a number of husbands and other enthusiasts.

The day to day agenda of the trip was organised by Willem and Gillian and carried out with the help of an Iranian guide, Mohammed Ali Dastras (see below).

Ali was extremely flexible and did his utmost best to bring about any special wishes of the group. It was clear that Ali and Willem, who was directly responsible for the group, could work well together, which meant we experienced far more than was normal.

The group quickly came together and as a result of the various backgrounds of the participants there was an exchange of knowledge and interests that richly supplemented the official programme. This development was stimulated by the open and enthusiastic leadership of Willem and Gillian.



The 2003 HOVO group at the Ali-Sadr Caves, Iran

The round trip covered a distance of about 3500 km through Iran, starting and ending in Tehran. The fieldtrip included many wonderful Iranian cities and archaeological sites.

The attention paid to Near Eastern clothing in earlier HOVO textile courses, notably the subject of veiling, could really be applied in the Islamic Republic of Iran, as the wearing of veils, usually in the form of headscarves, is compulsory. What this means for women, especially in the temperatures of 35°C or more, was tested to the full by the female members of our group, as they were also obliged to be veiled.

In nearly every town and city we visited the important bazaars where in addition to seeing the local people and their lifestyles, attention could be paid to the local dress and, at times, items were purchased.

During the trip we also had various contacts with nomads who had erected their tents in fields near the roads while looking after their herds. We were able to meet Kurds, Qashqai and Afshar nomads.

Following "initial talks" by our Iranian guide and Gillian with the nomads, we were then able to visit the tents. Here we were offered tea and given the opportunity to talk with people as well as see and buy carpets of various types. The nomadic women were beautifully dressed in their traditional garments. The number of nomads in Iran is dropping quickly and with it the chance

to see them, their way of life and, not least of all, their dress.

The importance of a knowledge of dress as part of academic research into the culture and norms of people in antiquity was also demonstrated by Gillian at various ancient monuments during the trip. The representations of kings, courtiers, and court servants on walls and paintings and their dress were described by Gillian, while a full, historical interpretation was given by Willem and Ali. Through them, the archaeological story was, without the aid of written texts, brought to life for us all.

The importance of the TRC work in collecting information about the role of textiles and clothing as part of a culture inheritance was made very clear to the participants during this trip to Iran. It was a wonderful experience.

Mohammed Ali Dastras

Our guide during the HOVO study trip to Iran was Mohammed Ali Dastras, known as Ali. During the trip we were also joined by Ali's brother, Javad.

At first Ali was a little hesitant about the role of dress, but quickly became an active member of the Iranian dress project, helping to acquire Afshar and Baluch clothing. During the trip we also went to the historic city of Bam, where his family lives. When we returned to the Netherlands, he continued to seek out information about Baluch clothing (his family are Baluch).

In September Ali and his cousin came

to the Netherlands and stayed with various members of the HOVO group, and so we were able to return the compliment of showing him Holland.

On Christmas Day 2003, Ali rang Gillian and Willem Vogelsang to wish us all a Happy Christmas. He also said that he was staying with his family in Bam, and that they had experienced several earthquakes and were expecting a large one in the near future. In the early morning of the 26th December the earthquake took place resulting in the death of thousands of people in the Bam region. A few days later we received a phone call from Iran, but the line was extremely bad and we do not know what has happened to him and his family. Since then, however, we have heard, to our great relief, that he and his family survived the quake.

A report on the various activities that have taken place under the auspicious of the Iranian Dress Project is available. If you would like a copy of the report please contact Dr. Gillian Vogelsang-Eastwood (textile@rmv.nl) or Dr. Willem Vogelsang (willemv@rmv.nl).

OTHER TRC PROJECTS

In addition to the Iranian dress projects outlined above, the TRC is also involved in a number of other projects. These include (in alphabetical order):

The Coptic Dress Project

In the Annual Report of 2002 there was an item about the *Coptic Liturgical and*

Monastic Dress Project organised by the TRC.

As noted earlier, we now have an extensive collection of Coptic dress and related pieces that reflects a wide range of aspects of contemporary Coptic life in Europe. A digital catalogue of the collection will be available shortly for which Dr. Innemée has kindly agreed to write an introduction to the catalogue. We also intend to use the collection in order to create a small, digital and/or actual exhibition on the theme of the Coptic Church and the Copts.

Anyone interested in supporting this collection or in having the exhibition should contact the director of the project:

- Dr. K. Innemée
(K.C.Inneme@let.leidenuniv.nl)
- Dr. G.M. Vogelsang-Eastwood.

The Ihram Dress Project

As part of a larger study about the *Hajj*, the TRC has produced a digital publication for the National Museum, Leiden, on the theme of *ihram* clothing, namely the special dress worn by pilgrims on the annual *Hajj* or pilgrimage to Mecca. The garments for men consist of two lengths of plain cloth, which are wrapped around the waist (*izar*) and draped over the shoulders (*rida*).

The dress for women is more liberal, and as long as it is subdued in colour and cover the body, except the face and hands, virtually anything can be worn. However, many women choose to wear a white version of their traditional dress, so an Arab woman from Morocco might

wear a *kaftan* with a *jallaba*; while an Iranian woman would wear a white *chador* over a dress.

So far, outfits from Morocco, Egypt, Turkey, Lebanon, Syria, Iran, Oman, and Pakistan have been acquired, while Afghan, Indonesian, Kurdish, Kuwaiti, Palestinian and Senegalese versions have been ordered.

In addition to the digital publication, the TRC is also preparing a small exhibition.

The Omani Dress Project

The project has taken an interesting turn as we now have contact with Mrs. Julia AlZedjali, Muscat (see below), who has agreed to help build up the Omani collection and to work together on. This work is broken down into two phases, namely:

- Phase 1: the production of a digital exhibition and booklet about Omani dress. Thanks to the generosity of *The Times of Oman* we are now in a position to build a basic collection of Omani dress and accessories. This collection will be housed at the TRC, Leiden.
- Phase 2: a more detailed, academic, study on the same subject (providing that funding can be found, this stage will be finished by the end of 2008).

The digital exhibition and accompanying booklet will be used to show the wide diversity of present-day Omani dress, as worn by men, women and children, and place Omani dress in its rightful niche within Oman's and Middle Eastern culture.

This work will also be used to explore and illustrate the ideas and traditions behind the main forms of Oman's urban and regional dress, with additional information about local origins and influences from abroad. In particular, emphasis will be placed on the international character of many features of Omani dress, which reflects the country's geographical position and history, including its contacts with the Far East, India, Iran, the Near East, East Africa, Western Europe and America.

Omani Dress Project: A Report by J. AlZedjali

This summer presented me with an exciting opportunity when my cyber-path crossed with Dr. Gillian Vogelsang-Eastwood of the TRC, Leiden.

What began as an ordinary summer ended with me having taken on the responsibility of co-researcher and fund raiser here in Oman for what is now called the *Omani Dress Project*.

Many an email was exchanged, often several times in a single day, and by September, I had a well rounded understanding of the task at hand.

The last three months have been very exciting. We sought and gained financial assistance from our first sponsor, *The Times of Oman*, and Mr. Essa AlZedjali, the founder and chairman, without hesitation not only offered financial assistance, but also the services of his newspaper to support this project. His many blessings were offered as well, the latter is equally as

important as the financial assistance, if not more so!

At present we are awaiting a reply from another potential sponsor from whom we have requested an amount that could cover the entire cost of this project, both Phase 1 and Phase 2.

In addition, to seeking funding for this unprecedented body of work, I have also been busy establishing contacts with ministries and other institutes, who are potentially interested in our work.

Thus far we have the support of the Ministry of Heritage and the Public Authority for Crafts Industry. We have also spoken informally with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. These bodies are very important as they will make our movement around Oman so much easier and far more productive simply because of their blessings for the success of this project.

As for the research itself, various aspects of the essential fieldwork have begun, as have a number of interviews. I am concentrating on learning about the people who call themselves "Omani", and how the various groups relate to each other, and the role that dress plays in their lives.

Asides from the interviews; a private collector of Omani items has graciously opened up to me his private library, which contains literally hundreds of books, everyone of which is about Oman in some way or another. Many of these books also contain information, sometimes directly, sometimes indirectly, about Omani dress. The oldest book in this collection dates back

to the late 1600's. Other books include the writings of famous travellers such as Neibuhr and Zwemer, and more recently, Betram Thomas. While browsing through these books it was very easy to get lost in the personalities of the writers that were so graphically revealed in the pages of their works. With that in mind, caution had to be exerted in understanding his (or sometimes her) descriptions of the Omanis and their clothing. For example, the more frightened writers, who were unable to handle culture shock very well, tended to refer to Omani Bedouins as "monsters", while others could speak of the same Bedouin group with great fondness and excitement.

Further, whether the writings were hundreds of years old or far less, it seems each had a greater fascination with the barely dressed Omani than the dressed ones. While this was at times humorous, it made finding information on clothed Omanis all the more difficult.

While working in this private collection I have come across illustrative materials, in the form of photographs, postcards, even stamps, all of which will provide an essential dimension to our work. I would like to say a special word of thanks to this private collector, for his generosity in letting me into his special world, that of Oman and the Omani people.

And finally, I would like to say something about making the collection of Omani dress. The TRC had already started collecting items thanks to the help of the Omani Embassy in The

Hague, the Netherlands. In particular the help extended by the previous ambassador, HE Jaifer Salim Al-Said and the present ambassador, HE Mrs. K.H.S. Al-Laati. A catalogue of this collection is currently being prepared.

It is now my job to extend the TRC collection. This will be done by making:

- a basic collection of men, women and children's dress from all the main regional and ethnic groups (Arab, Baluch, and Lawati) and all the more significant secular and religious festivals (such as births, weddings, the *Hajj*, *Id*, etc).
- making a more detailed and refined collection, which will include items of the smaller, tribal groups, other, smaller, ethnic groups living in Oman, as well items of historical interest.

All of which will help to make the TRC collection into a valuable research tool for anyone looking at Omani culture, now or in the future.

While this is only the start of this exciting project, and I look forward to every element that lies ahead. We have received nothing but support, encouragement and offers of assistance. It will be our pleasure to accept whatever help is extended and to produce a series of exhibitions, books and so forth, that will be of benefit to this great nation!

Anyone interested in supporting this collection in the form of garments, accessories, funding, and so forth, should contact either:

- J. AlZadjali
(stehlin@omantel.net.om)
- Dr. G.M. Vogelsang-Eastwood
(textile@rmv.nl)

The Sudanese Dress Project

For the last two years, Mrs. E. Ashry, the wife of the (now former) Sudanese Ambassador to the Netherlands and Dr. G.M. Vogelsang-Eastwood have been working together on building up a Sudanese dress collection. Some what unexpectedly the Ambassador was recalled to Khartoum to take up a place with the new peace plans between the various factions in the civil war.

The project, however, is continuing and Mrs. Ashry and GMVE hope shortly to have a draft copy of the first chapters of the book finished. In addition, a proposal for a digital exhibition and accompanying book has now been written and it is hoped that these will be made available by the end of 2004.

Last year we were given a grant of €3,000 by the Dutch Embassy in Khartoum for the purchase of garments for this project. Thanks to this generous donation in July, Mrs. Ashry was able to start ordering and purchasing suitable garments in Khartoum. These garments include a complete wedding outfit for a woman from the east coast region. In addition, this work is being helped and supported by two well-known Sudanese scholars in this field, namely Prof. A.S. Gasim, Khartoum, International Institute for Arabic, and Dr. S. al-Salahi, also of Khartoum.

The TRC would like to thank the Dutch Embassy, Khartoum for their kindness in giving the project this grant.



Sudanese wedding outfit of the type ordered by the TRC (photograph by Dr. S al-Salahi, Khartoum)

The Yemen Dress Project

Sadly, due to the uncertain situation in the Near East in 2003, the Yemen dress project was officially suspended by the Yemeni Government, as they felt it was too risky for us to travel within the region. We look forward to the day when this project will be resumed, and in the meantime we will carry on collecting information about Yemeni dress.

PH.D. STUDENTS

The TRC is involved in supervising and helping a number of students working on textile and dress related subjects.

In 2003 G. Lett-Marsh (University of Western Sydney, Australia), was awarded a Ph.D for her thesis on the subject of *Ancient Egyptian Linen: The Role of Natron and Other Salts in the Preservation and Conservation of Archaeological Textiles*. We would like to congratulate Dr. Lett Marsh on the completion of her Ph.D.

In addition, Fanni Faegersten, Lund University, Denmark, received a Ph.D. for her thesis on the subject of *The Egyptianizing Male Limestone Statuary from Cyprus*. Again, we would like to congratulate Dr. Fanni Faegersten on the completion of her Ph.D.

Other students currently working on their theses include:

- A. Jansen (Leiden University): a thesis about Moroccan Arab dress
- W. Minkes (Leiden University): a thesis about Peruvian archaeological textiles
- Z. Rouhfar (Leiden University, but based in Tehran): a thesis concerned with the technical classification of Safavid textiles from Iran

The Moroccan Dress Project (2003)

Angela Jansen, TRC.

During the year I have become fascinated by the cultural and social role that Moroccan clothing plays in the major

cities of Morocco. In contrast to many non-western countries, western clothing traditions have not ousted local traditions and both forms are happily worn together.

In general, women are strongly attached to their "Moroccan wardrobe", despite the financial costs involved. The production of such garments is expensive, as most of the work is done by hand. Despite the costs involved most women will purchase a minimum of one new *kaftan* or *tk`chita* per year, normally for a special, social event, such as a religious festival or a wedding. Nowadays, it is an unwritten rule that Moroccan dress is worn at such events.

At the same time there are considerable and rapidly changing fashion trends involved in women's clothing. This also means that such garments can only be worn for a short period before they are regarded as "old fashioned".

Since the end of the 1980's, Moroccan urban dress has been influenced by a new phenomenon, namely, Moroccan *haute couture*. Notable designers include Nourredine Amire, Zineb Joundy and Tami Tazi. These designers have started to create collections specifically for a select Moroccan clientele. In addition, these designers are having a greater and greater influence upon Moroccan fashion clothing. It was Tami Tazi, for instance, who was trained in the ateliers of the French designer Yves Saint Laurent, who encouraged in her own workshops the revival of ancient Moroccan embroidery techniques that were on the verge of dying out.

Locally woven materials that were still being produced on a small scale also developed a new life as these fashion designers started to use local weavers and their products in their collections.

Although the collections of these designers were intended for a small elite, the garments have had a great influence upon the street. Via fashion shows and various Moroccan fashion magazines such as *Femmes du Maroc*, trends have been presented to a much larger public. Materials, colours, cut and decorative forms now change with each season within Morocco itself. In addition, these fashion garments have created a source of inspiration for international fashion.

My interest and attention on the changing nature of Moroccan urban dress and the development of Moroccan *haute couture* has led to the production of an exhibition proposal on the theme of 400 years of Moroccan urban dress. The exhibition is made in the context of the *Moroccan Year: 400 years Moroccan/Dutch Links*, and is produced in co-operation with the TRC and the Wereldmuseum, Rotterdam.

The fashion designer Nourredine Amir has lent one of his creations, a red bridal dress, for this exhibition. The garment is currently housed at the TRC.

Moroccan Evening

On the 6th May 2003, Angela Janssen gave a talk about Moroccan food and dress to an evening for the Friends of the RMV. Four Moroccan outfits were displayed during the evening.

As noted earlier, the Friends have donated funds for 3 *poppen* to the TRC

so that the garments could be properly displayed.

CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND LECTURES

HOVO'S

In March and April 2003, Dr. G.M. Vogelsang-Eastwood gave a 6-part course on Iranian regional and urban dress for the HOVO students, Leiden University. The subjects discussed included medieval and Safavid period textiles and dress; Qajar dress; modern urban dress, as well as regional dress (Arab, Bakhtiari, Baluch, Bandar, Gilani, Kurdish, Luri, Qashqai, Turkment, and so forth)

World Art: Islamic Art and Material Culture, Leiden University

At the end of March 2003, Dr. G.M. Vogelsang-Eastwood gave two lectures to the World Art series held at Leiden University. The theme of the lectures was (a) Islamic Textiles, and (b) Islamic Dress. Both lectures were well attended and it is the intention that in the future the TRC will give further lectures on the theme of textiles and dress.

General

On the 25th January 2003, P. Smidt gave a lecture on life and veiling for the *Cultuur Club Benoordenhout* in the Bronovo Kapel, Den Haag. Around forty people attended the lecture, which used a combination of slides and actual garments from the TRC's collection to give a deeper picture of the role of veils and veiling within Muslim groups. In

addition there was a very lively discussion about the general position of men and women within a society dominated by religion.

On the 5th April, Dr. G.M. Vogelsang-Eastwood gave a demonstration of the various types of veils to the annual *Weefkontakt Regio IV* group, in Woerden. The audience was extremely enthusiastic and it was clear that there were many views on the theme of the lecture. As a result of this lecture the board of the Weefkring very kindly supported the work of the TRC by making a donation towards the purchase of a *pop*

On the 23rd September a similar, veiling demonstration was held for a group at Waddinxveen.

Slightly earlier in the month (9th September 2003), Dr. G.M. Vogelsang-Eastwood, assisted by M. M. van de Bijl, gave a lecture to the students of the National Fashion Academy, Amsterdam. The theme of the lecture was Islamic textiles and dress, with an emphasis on veiling. The students and teachers were very enthusiastic especially when they had the chance to experience some of the different sorts of veils themselves and to tell the group how they felt while wearing them.

One of the aims of the lecture and demonstration was to inspire the students to think about use of cloth and veiling in particular in different ways. We look forward to seeing how the students were inspired by what they had seen and experienced.

Studium Generale, Leiden University

A series of 6 lectures was given under the auspices of the *Studium Generale*, Leiden University, on the theme of *Dress and Identity*. These lectures were for a general audience (members of the university and the public) and included: Dr. G.M. Vogelsang-Eastwood (general introduction); Prof. H. Gaus (*kleding en economie; clothing and economics*); B. Sliggers (*De Versierde mens; Decorated people, about tattoos, piercing and body modification in general*); P. Tereehorst (*kleding en vrouwbeeld; clothing and fashion*); Drs. C. Buijs (*Kleding en antropologie; clothing and anthropology, about current research in Greenland*); Prof. P. Nissen (*Kleding en religie; clothing and religion*), and Dr. R. Ross (*Kleding en politiek; clothing and politics*).

PUBLICATIONS

Conference Papers: Antinoë Riding Coat

In September 2000, the *International Coptological Conference* was held in Leiden. One of the workshops run during the conference was *Riding Costume from the Nile Valley*. The workshop was about a specific type of coat, specimens of which have been excavated at various sites in Egypt.

The book containing the lectures and other articles is called *Riding Costume in Egypt: Origin and Appearance*, (Brill, Leiden 2004; ISBN: 90-04-131639), and is published by the academic publishers Brill as part of their *Studies in Textile History Series*.

In January 2003 there was a workshop in Berlin on the theme of *Textiles and Inscriptions from Egypt of the First Millennium AD*. It is the intention that the papers from this conference will be published in the Brill series.

Quseir al-Qadim 1978-1982: Textile Report

Between 1978 and 1982 a team from the Oriental Institute, The University of Chicago, under the direction of Dr. D. Whitcomb and Prof. J. Johnson, excavated at Red Sea coast site of Quseir al-Qadim. The site included a first century AD Roman and a thirteenth century AD Mamluk settlements. Among the thousands of inorganic and organic objects recorded from the site, were numerous examples of textiles and items of clothing. Many of which were brought to Chicago in 1978 and 1980.

In 1982 Dr. Voglesang-Eastwood worked at the site noted the textiles and creating comparative collection, which was divided amongst various museums in Egypt and the Oriental Institute, Chicago.

Between 1982 and 1990 Dr. Vogelsang-Eastwood worked on the collection in Chicago, producing an extensive report in 1990.

Due to various technical problems in Chicago, it was not possible to publish the textile report. However, modern technology has come to the aid of the collection, and the report has been digitalised. It has also meant that more colour illustrations than originally anticipated could be included.

If you are interested in ordering a copy of the report please contact Dr. Vogelsang-Eastwood at the address given below or at the following email address: textile@rmv.nl

The Stichting will be happy to answer any questions which readers may have about our work. In addition, gifts of clothing, books and visual material are always welcome! Anyone wishing to help financially or take part in the activities of the Stichting should contact us at:

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