

Textile Research Centre, Leiden Newsletter, Winter 2013/2014

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Christmas Appeal

As can be seen in this newsletter, the TRC is involved in a wide range of activities that encompass many aspects of the world of textiles. We do need your continuing financial support and help to carry on and expand this amazing work! In particular, we need your help with several projects that we are working to realise in 2014, notably the expansion of the library, the purchase of a number of lace caps and related items for the TRC collection of Dutch regional dress, and the weaving exhibition that will be opening in May 2014.

Financial gifts can be made over to the Textile Research Centre's ING bank account (IBAN) NL39INGB0002982359.

Don't forget that the TRC is a cultural ANBI (*Algemeen Nut Beogende Instelling*), which means that donations made to the TRC are deductible by Dutch tax payers at a very favourable rate, namely for 125%. Any financial support given to the TRC in 2013 you can simply include in your tax forms as a gift to a 'Cultural' ANBI, and will be rated at 125%. It is very simple! Financial support means that you and other textile enthusiasts can enjoy more and more exhibitions, courses, lectures and workshops at the TRC, as well as use our facilities such as the collection, library, shop, and not forgetting the all essential tea/coffee and biscuits.

A view of the participants at a Taiwanese indigo workshop recently held at the TRC, with an Egyptian appliquéd recently purchased in Cairo to the left and an Hungarian embroidery, which is part of the current TRC exhibition, to the right. The world of textiles is indeed varied!!

Well, lots of things have been happening since our last newsletter. There have been



many visitors to the embroidery exhibition, we organised a Taiwanese textile week (unbelievable fun and extremely interesting), and Gillian Vogelsang spent ten days in Cairo and this trip has some potential ramifications for the TRC. In October we did the week-long intensive textile course, and we decided to repeat the course again in March, May and October of next year and to have a separate embroidery course of three days in June. The TRC library is expanding rapidly and is currently being re-organised by one of our volunteers. And the collection keeps growing. In other words, the TRC is thriving, and your help will make even more things possible!

Open Day: Saturday 21st December 2013

The TRC's exhibition "What is Embroidery?" is proving to be very popular, so we have decided to extend it to 30th January 2014 in order to give more people the chance to see the amazing items on display. In addition, it has been decided to have an Open Day at the TRC on Saturday, 21st December 2013; again to give people an extra opportunity to see the exhibition. The TRC will be open from 10.00 until 16.00 on that day.

TRC closed for the winter period

The TRC will be closed from Monday 23rd December 2013 until 5th January 2014. We open again on Monday, 6th January 2014. However, the embroidery exhibition has been extended until the 30th January 2014, so that will give you a little more time to see these beautiful objects. We look forward to welcoming you back in January!



Images of the Atayal hand woven garments exhibition

Taiwan Textile Week



As part of an intensive Taiwan textile conference and demonstrations organised by Taipei National University of the Arts (TNUA), the International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS, Leiden) and the TRC, and sponsored by the Taiwanese Ministry of Culture, there were various events held at the TRC between the 25th -28th November 2013. These included a lecture, a weaving demonstration, reception and most intriguing of all, indigo workshops. It was an amazing few days, which taught us a lot about indigo and Atayal weaving in Taiwan in general.

Another image of the Taiwan exhibition

The TRC would like to thank everyone for their hard work, especially Mrs. Yuma Taru, founder of the Lihang studio, Mrs CHENG Mei-Shu, founder of the Zhuoye studio, and Mr CHO Tzu-Lo. This was a unique opportunity for people at the TRC to see a virtually unknown aspect of textile craft. Truly inspiring for everyone who joined in.

The (very) temporary exhibition included both traditional and modern forms of hand woven textiles from the Atayal people of Taiwan. The children's garments on display are based on the garments worn by the Mliba, Nanao, Peishih, Tatekan and Truku, sub-tribes of the Atayal. There was also an outfit for a Peishih bride (50% scale). The modern installation based on traditional Atayal weaves and patterns was produced by Mrs. Yuma Taru.

Mrs. Yuma Taru giving a demonstration of Atayal weaving using a traditional foot-braced, back-strap loom

During the afternoon of Tuesday 26th November there was a lecture and weaving demonstration of traditional weaving using a body-tensioned back-strap loom – whereby the feet provide the tension needed for the warp threads on the loom. Mrs. Yuma Taru very kindly donated one of her looms to the TRC. This loom will be on display during the TRC's weaving exhibition in the summer of 2014. The lecture and demonstration were attended by many guests, including Mr James Lee, the Taiwanese Representative in The Hague, and by other members of the Taiwanese delegation, including Professor LIN Hui-Cheng, dean of the School of Culture Resources, TNUA; Professor CHIANG Min-Chin of the Graduate Institute of Architecture and Cultural Heritage, TNUA, and Professor CHEN Wan-Lee, Chief director, Center for Traditional Arts, TNUA.



Three 2-hour workshops were held on Wednesday 27th November at the TRC. The workshops were given by Mrs CHENG Mei-Shu and her son, Mr CHO Tzu-lo. The workshops included two types of indigo dyeing, batik (using wax) and tie-and-dye using sticks to block off areas of cloth which are not to be dyed. Each workshop was booked very quickly, and we were still getting requests for places at 22.00 the evening before.



One of the indigo workshops conducted by Mrs CHENG Mei-Shu and her son, Mr CHO Tzu-lo, with the help of Mrs Yuma Taru.



Examples of indigo tie-and-dye produced by Mrs CHENG Mei-Shu. The loom donated to the TRC can be seen underneath the indigo pieces.

HALI

In an earlier newsletter we mentioned that there was going to be further co-operation between the internationally recognised carpet and textile journal HALI (London) and the TRC. Things are progressing nicely! Just recently we have been discussing various potential projects including a digital textile database and working together on various articles about

textiles and dress. In addition, HALI has very kindly sent a large number of back numbers of the HALI journal as a donation to the TRC. This is greatly appreciated and will strengthen the TRC's ever growing textile and dress library.

The TRC and Cairo

For some time the TRC has been working with craftsmen along the so-called Street of the Tentmakers in Cairo. This included helping to organise, this autumn, an exhibition at the NVIC (Netherlands-Flemish Institute in Cairo), where examples of the famous Egyptian appliqués, produced by these craftsmen, were on display.

Some of the appliqués on display in NVIC (November 2013)



Following a recent visit to Cairo, the director of the TRC, Dr. Gillian Vogelsang-Eastwood gave a lecture at NVIC on the history of the appliqué technique in Egypt, followed some days later by a discussion and demonstration of the clothes found in the tomb of the ancient Egyptian pharaoh, Tutankhamun.

Following the various events in Cairo it was decided that NVIC and the TRC should work more closely on various projects, including an Arab/English textile dictionary, as well as organising a number of lectures and exhibitions on the theme of textiles and dress over the next few years. Interesting days ahead.

TRC's Library

One of the important TRC facilities is its library. It contains a wide range of books in various languages about many aspects of textiles, dress and accessories from around the world. The library includes a range of anthropological, archaeological, historical, practical, as well as fashion books and books on modern dress theory.

We are always interested in getting new or used books about textiles, clothing, accessories and so forth. Please contact us at info@trc-leiden.nl if you have items that you would like to donate. Let's make the TRC library a superb facility for all textile lovers!

The library is in the process of being re-organised and expanded. It will be reopened to the general public again in January 2014. Please note that the books in the library are for use at the TRC, so we cannot lend out books.

TRC recommended books

There are many books on textiles, clothing and accessories and related subjects now available, and we are often asked to recommend books for students, academics and the general public. So the TRC is now starting a webpage about recent acquisitions to our library that we feel will be of interest to 'textile' people. Some of these books will be general interest, others intended for specialists. Not all books will be new to the market, but they will form an important part of the TRC's ever expanding library.

TRC and Facebook

Thanks to the amazing efforts of Shelley Anderson and Sergio Klok (Charity Events, Leiden) interest in the TRC on Facebook is growing rapidly and every week come more and more subscribers to the TRC Facebook page (Textile Research Centre Leiden). The site is in Dutch and English and includes news about all the recent developments and events at the TRC, plus some personal comments about items on display or in the TRC collection.

Coming up

The following TRC exhibition will open at the beginning of February 2014 and is called 'The Silhouette of Africa'. It will include textiles and garments from various parts of sub-Saharan Africa. The exhibition is co-produced with Paul Spijker (Toguna Art), a specialist in African textiles and artefacts.
