

# Textile Research Centre Update, January 2013

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The Textile Research Centre is rapidly expanding, and right now, at the beginning of 2013, we are very busy with the new exhibition about Iranian dress and textiles (open from the 23rd January). This will be followed during the summer by exhibitions about embroidery, its techniques and styles from throughout the world and European silks and velvets from the sixteenth-eighteenth centuries. In the autumn, the TRC exhibition will be about textiles and dress of the Coptic community in Egypt. All of the exhibitions are based on the TRC's extensive collection. We are also preparing a number of courses about textiles and dress (see below). For the first time, this programme also includes a number of weekend workshops, from Saturday morning to Sunday afternoon, on a variety of subjects. And at the same time, and together with some very enthusiastic contributors worldwide, we are completing an *Encyclopaedia of Embroidery in the Arab World*, planned to be published in the UK in 2014. Never a dull moment.

Finally, may I draw your attention to our **Start-of-the-Year Campaign** for 2013?

With all the best wishes for 2013, and looking forward to welcoming you again to the TRC,

Gillian Vogelsang  
Director TRC.

## TRC Start-of-the-Year Campaign 2013

All of our activities would not be possible without financial support to run the basic costs of the TRC. Although all our work is carried out by volunteers, the rent still has to be paid, gas and electricity bills have to be covered, and sometimes we are offered textiles we simply cannot refuse. We really need your help and support to run the TRC.

At the beginning of 2013, which promises to be full of activities, we are therefore asking all our friends and supporters to give a financial contribution. Your donation can be made over to **bank account ING 2982359**, under the name of Stichting Textile Research Centre. For Dutch tax payers, donations to the TRC can be highly advantageous. The TRC is an officially recognised ANBI organisation (Algemeen Nut Beogende Instelling), and within that structure the TRC is also recognised as a Culturele Instelling ("Cultural organisation"). Financial gifts are therefore tax deductible, sometimes up to 125% for individuals, and 150% for companies. [Please click here for more information.](#)

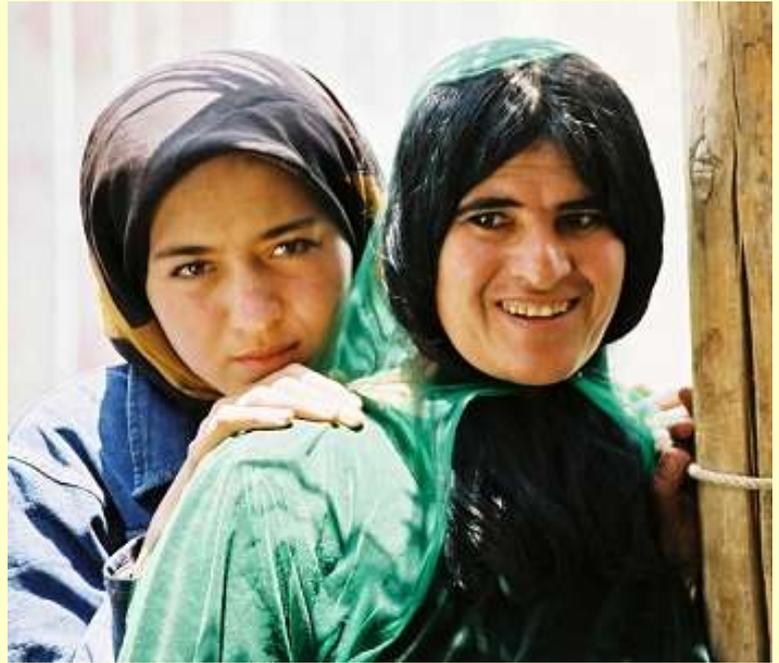
## NEW TRC EXHIBITION

### BEYOND THE CHADOR

#### Dress from the mountains and deserts of Iran

From 23 January until 30 May 2013, the TRC presents a spectacular exhibition of clothing from Iran in its Leiden gallery. Visitors will be struck by the sheer diversity, the bright colours and multitude of shapes, which constitute such a marked contrast with the dominant perception of Iranian clothing as being dull and uniform.

Iran is a country with a very ancient and proud history. It is also a country with a harsh climate, with deserts and mountains and an overall lack of water. Formerly known as Persia, it lies at the crossroads between Central Asia and the Middle East. Iran is also the homeland of many empires, including the Persian Achaemenids, the Parthians, the Sassanians and the Safavids. Over the centuries numerous groups crossed the country, in both directions. Some of the newcomers settled down, others moved on. Nowadays Iran shares frontiers with (clockwise) Iraq, Turkey, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan.



*Two Bakhtiyari women from West Iran. Photograph: Ien Rappold, 2003.*

The country's geography, climate and human history have thus created a complex tapestry that reflects a wide diversity of cultures and traditions. Although rapidly vanishing in some areas due to national pressures and globalization, many aspects of these traditions can still be found in the regional dress of the country, especially that worn by women.

Most of the outfits in the exhibition date from the late nineteenth and the twentieth centuries and are now housed in the collection of the Textile Research Centre, Leiden. Many of the garments were collected during long periods of field work in Iran between 1998-2003 by Gillian and Willem Vogelsang. The garments originate from among most of the main ethnic groups, plus some smaller ones.

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## **Intensive textile and dress courses and special weekend workshops**

The Textile Research Centre, Leiden (TRC) is currently offering a series of three and five day intensive textiles and dress courses and special weekend workshops. All of these courses are held at the TRC, Leiden, The Netherlands. Language of communication for the courses is English, unless all the participants understand Dutch. For the weekend workshops, language of communication is Dutch, unless otherwise agreed. All courses are taught by Dr Gillian Vogelsang-Eastwood, director TRC. For registration, please contact [info@trc-leiden.nl](mailto:info@trc-leiden.nl)

For further information on the courses and workshops, click the pertinent reference below:

- [Three-day course, \*\*Identification of Basic Weave Techniques\*\*, 4-6 February 2013](#)
- [Weekend workshop on \*\*Pharaonic Egyptian Textiles and Dress\*\*, 16-17 March 2013](#)
- [Weekend workshop on \*\*Iranian Textiles and Dress Throughout the Ages\*\*, 27-28 April](#)
- [Five-day \*\*Intensive Textile Course\*\*, 13-17 May 2013;](#)
- [Three-day course, \*\*Identification of Painted and Printed Textiles\*\*, 17-19 June 2013;](#)
- [Three-day \*\*Embroidery Identification Course\*\*, 12-14 August 2013](#)
- [Weekend workshop on \*\*Embroidery in the Arab World\*\*, 24-25 August 2013](#)
- [Weekend workshop on \*\*'Coptic' Textiles and Dress\*\*, 21-22 September 2013](#)
- [Five-day \*\*Intensive Textile Course\*\*, 14-18 October 2013.](#)
- [Weekend workshop on \*\*Veils and Veiling\*\*, 23-24 November 2013](#)