

**TEXTILE RESEARCH CENTRE  
LEIDEN**

***ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR 2008***



*A pair of anti-‘evil eye’ clogs  
(TRC 2008.305a-b)*

Textile Research Centre,  
National Museum of Ethnology,  
Leiden, The Netherlands

[trcleiden@tiscali.nl](mailto:trcleiden@tiscali.nl)

[www.textdress.nl](http://www.textdress.nl)

**TEXTILE RESEARCH CENTRE  
LEIDEN**

**THE STICHTING TEXTILE  
RESEARCH CENTRE, LEIDEN**

**CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS**

Once again, over the year 2008, TRC reports an ever growing number of activities and projects. The Board is deeply grateful for the indefatigable devotion and zeal of Dr Gillian Vogelsang-Eastwood, her students, associates and volunteers, working against nearly impossible odds: lack of adequate budget and depot capacity, as well as pressure of time.

This summer (July 2009) TRC will move to a modest home-base, at Hogewoerd 164 in Leiden. This will be a decisive factor for further growth.

Therefore, we proudly present this annual report to all the persons and institutions supporting TRC. TRC is still going strong.. Now that is has finally found a firm foothold for expansion, TRC looks to the future not only with its usual stubborn determination, but also with new confidence.

\*\*\*\*\*

**BREAKING NEWS!**

As seen from the Chairman's Comments, while writing this report the Board of the TRC decided that the TRC was in a position to move to larger premises. The intended venue is the Hogewoerd 164, Leiden, which will provide the opportunity to hold exhibitions, lecture room, library, depots, exhibition preparation space, as well as a shop. Interesting days ahead.

\*\*\*\*\*

Introduction	2-5
Appeals, grants, acquisitions	5-6
Students and courses	7-8
Exhibitions and displays	8-9
Publications	10-11
TRC projects	11-13
Student research	13-14
Lectures	14-16
The Monday Group	17-18

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 people:

- Chairman: Dr. L. Leertouwer
- Treasurer: Dr. R. Bedaux,
- Secretary: Dr. K. Innemée
- Director: Dr. G.M. Vogelsang
- General members: Dr. Ruth Barnes, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford; Prof. J. Bintliff, Dept. of Archaeology, Leiden University, Mrs. V. Drabbe and Mrs. A. Rosebeek.

*Retiring Board Members*

Mr. N. Dia, Den Haag, announced his retirement from the Board. A word of thanks to Mr. Dia for all his help over the years.

*International Advisory Board*

Because of the current rate of expansion the TRC has decided to form an International Advisory Board. Several people have already been approached about serving on this board and have expressed their interest in doing so. These include Carol Bier (Berkeley, CA), Prof. J. Eicher, University of Minnesota, USA; Prof. M. Hahn, Leeds University, England and Dr. John Peter Wild, Manchester, England.

*Permanent staff*

Dr. Gillian Vogelsang-Eastwood continues as the director of the *Stichting*. She is a specialist in Near Eastern textiles and dress. In addition, there are a number of other staff members who are helping with the collection, namely, Mrs. Pauline Smilde-Huckriede and Mrs. Riet van de Velde. Their work includes cataloguing and maintaining all of the collection. In particular, Mrs. Smilde is working on the Iranian and Dutch collections, while Mrs. van de Velde is working with the Dutch and the Balkan collections. They are helped at regular intervals by Mrs. Angela Driessen-de Laat, Leidschendam and Mrs.

Ulrike Halbertsma-Herold, Huis ter Heide. Ulrike has a particular interest in Mongolian textiles and dress.

\*\*\*

### ***THE LIBRARY***

Over the years the TRC has built up a collection of over 1000 books relating to textiles and dress. However, due to a lack of a librarian many of these books remained uncatalogued. This situation changed in 2008 with the addition of Anne Beerens to the staff.. She has volunteered to take responsibility for the cataloguing of the books and the building up of the library in general.

\*\*\*\*\*

### ***LITERALLY A WORLD OF DRESS***

Because of the increased interest in the work of the TRC it was decided during the February 2004 Board Meeting of the TRC, that the TRC would encourage the study of dress from throughout the world, while continuing our specialisation in Middle Eastern dress. The importance of this aspect of the collection is reflected in the number of projects that have a Middle Eastern theme, such as the Saudi Arabian dress project, the Coptic liturgical and monastic dress project and the Zanzibari *kanga* project.

In 2006 the 'world' side of the collection was increased with the decision to include Dutch regional dress (see below). Currently there is a discussion within Dutch museums whether ethnographic museums should include Western as well as non-Western cultures. Is it acceptable to only study the cultures of others, without looking at our own cultural background as well? At the TRC we are firmly of the belief that artificial boundaries between various cultures should be ignored. As people travel around the world so do clothing ideas, therefore, not to look at one's own country and culture, just because it is based in the West, seems an outdated approach.

\*\*\*\*\*

### ***THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ETHNOLOGY, LEIDEN (VOLKENKUNDE MUSEUM)***

The TRC would like to thank the Museum 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. Steven Engelsman (Director), and Prof. Matthi Forrer, the head of research at the museum.

\*\*\*\*\*

### ***A NEW HOME FOR THE TRC***

As many people will know, the TRC has been growing rapidly over the last few years, both with respect to the demands on its resources and the dress collection (see below). As a result the TRC Board and others have been actively looking for new accommodation. Various buildings have been looked at and the TRC is now actively working on finding sponsorship in order to finance the move.

\*

***[www.texdress.nl](http://www.texdress.nl)***

The *Stichting's* web-page, [www.texdress.nl](http://www.texdress.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. So far we have had thousands of 'hits.' Visitors come from literally all over the world. We are now working on various proposals for digital exhibitions for the TRC's website (see below).

\*\*\*\*\*

### ***INTERNATIONAL VISITORS***

2008 saw various visitors to the TRC, including Sonia Chinn, Harvard University, USA, who came especially to Leiden to see the TRC's veil and face veil collection.

Sonia Chinn is working on an MA-thesis on the role of Muslim women. In addition, she presented her findings at the annual American

Textile Society meeting, which was held in Hawaii in September 2008. Ms Chinn has written a short report of her visit, which is given below.

\*  
**Sonia Chinn**  
**Harvard University**

I am a Harvard post-graduate student in the Russian, Eastern European and Central Asian Regional Studies program. Last year, after reading an article on the Textile Research Centre in the Textile Society of America newsletter, I contacted the director, Gillian Vogelsang-Eastwood, to discuss the possibility of a research project. In January 2008, I travelled to Leiden to digitally document the TRC's face veil collection which resulted in a presentation entitled "*Muslim Face Veil: The Beauty of Concealing the Beautiful*" at the Textile Society of America's 11<sup>th</sup> Biennial Symposium, in Honolulu, Hawaii, September 2008. The accessible resources at the TRC allowed me to discuss the diversity of Muslim face veils across time and space.

My research interests include the role of Central Asian dress and textiles in the revitalization of ethnic identity in Post-Soviet Central Asian societies. The TRC's exceptional resources will facilitate my future research. I also plan to participate in TRC course offerings and to become an active contributor to its projects. I regard the TRC as a gem for scholars and enthusiasts in the international textile community.

\*  
**Prof. Anne Morrell,**  
**Manchester, England**

Prof. Anne Morrell came in May 2008 for a week to work with Qudsia Zohab, a trainee from the National Museum, Kabul, Afghanistan. Prof. Morrell helped Qudsia with the identification of embroidery stitches, working with embroidery, how to display embroidery, and so forth.

During the week Prof. Morrell also gave two public talks, one on the identification and migration of embroidery stitches, the second on the Calico Museum, Ahmedabad, India (see below).



*Prof. Anne Morrell, Manchester, England*

## **GRANTS AND DONATIONS**

2008 has seen several named and anonymous donations. In particular the TRC would like to thank Virginia Drabbe for her help with the purchase of a complete Scheveningen outfit for a woman (see below).

Various anonymous donations meant that it was possible in 2008 to purchase complete outfits for an Urk man and woman, as well as outfits for a man and woman from the Groningen region (see below).

\*\*\*\*\*

## **THE TRC IS AN ANBI**

The TRC is registered with the Dutch tax authorities as an ANBI (*Algemeen Nut Beogende Instelling*). This means that it is possible to make donations to the TRC and declare it on income tax forms.

In addition, if a person wishes to make a donation on an annual basis for five years, then part of this amount is also tax-deductible. For more information about ANBI donations, please go to the Dutch tax website at:

[http://www.belastingdienst.nl/particulier/giften/giften.html#PO\\_0](http://www.belastingdienst.nl/particulier/giften/giften.html#PO_0) )

Several people have already organised or indicated that they are going to arrange such a

donation for the TRC. It is necessary to organise this via the TRC's solicitors (*notaris*), namely, Roes and De Vries, Postbus 11290, 2301 EG Leiden, tel: 071-5233636; email: [info@roesendevries.nl](mailto:info@roesendevries.nl)

\*\*\*\*\*

### **APPEALS**

During 2008 there were two appeals for help with acquiring items of dress for the TRC collection and activities. The first appeal was for Afghan dress, the second was for help with the purchase of a Scheveningen outfit for a woman. Both appeals proved very successful.

\*

#### **Afghan Dress Appeal**

At the end of 2007 and beginning of 2008 an appeal went out to raise money to purchase Afghan dress and embroidery in Kabul. Gifts from various people came in January and February. In addition, CNWS, Leiden University contributed towards the amount needed as part of the training of an Afghan student who was with us at that time (see below). As a result we were able to purchase a large collection of traditional and modern garments reflecting the dress of various ethnic groups living in Afghanistan. These and other garments were on display in the Volkenkunde Museum, Leiden in March 2008 (see below) and some were used as part of a digital exhibition about Afghan embroidery, which can be found on the TRC's website.

\*

#### **Scheveningen woman's outfit**

In September 2008 the TRC was offered a complete Scheveningen woman's outfit. Scheveningen is a fishing village that lies on the North Sea coast very close to The Hague and therefore also close to Leiden. Until then the TRC's Dutch regional dress collection did not include a Scheveningen outfit, so it was seen as essential to purchase this outfit. An appeal was launched in early September and thanks to a generous donation by Mrs. V. Drabbe, within a few weeks we were able to acquire the outfit.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **ACQUISITIONS, PURCHASES AND GIFTS OF GARMENTS**

2008 started quietly with respect to acquisitions, but that quickly changed, as the TRC was involved in various major projects, including a prayer bead conference, an Afghan dress exhibition and the start of a sari collection.

January 2008 saw the arrival of a most unusual object, a 'sampler' dated from 1897 given by Mrs. T. van Dijk-Corstens, Oegstgeest. It is about 4 metres long and 30 cm. wide and was used to show the maker's skill in different types of stitching, fastenings, and decorative features on clothing, etc. It was made by a member of Mrs. van Dijk's family.

January also saw the arrival of a Buddhist nun's outfit from Nepal. In 2007 the Volkenkunde Museum was the host of several Nepali nuns who stayed for a week. During this time it was agreed that the TRC would acquire a nun's outfit from them in return for a donation to the nun's monastery in Nepal, which was agreed to with great pleasure.



*The Buddhist nuns at prayer/work in the Volkenkunde Museum, Leiden*

The outfit arrived in 2008 after the nuns had finished their tour of Europe.

Shortly afterwards the TRC was given a collection of Asian headgear by R. van der Poel, Leiden. They come from Nepal, Tibet, China, Mongolia as well as India.

In February we were given a collection of lace for the lace identification section. These were kindly donated by N. van Hove, Leiden. At the same time, as part of expanding the lace collection the TRC acquired a small collection of lace bobbins from various European countries.

At the beginning of March 2008 the TRC purchased a small collection of Dutch lace caps. These included Fries and Brabant types. Later in the year more lace caps were added to the collection, including items from the Groningen region, Leeuwarden and Twente. In particular we should mention Mrs. M. Steghuis, Zuidwolde, who very kindly gave us some caps worn by her aunt from Almelo, and the Leeuwarden Museum, who donated some caps and other items of Dutch regional dress to help build up the TRC collection. The Almelo and Leeuwarden items were given on the same day, which made it a very memorable moment!

We were also given a collection of lace caps from Zuid-Beveland by Mrs. A. Begeer-Geukes, Barendrecht. Mrs. Begeer has been a long standing supporter of the TRC and we greatly appreciate her thoughtfulness and kindness.

Other items of Dutch regional dress acquired in 2008 included items from Scheveningen, Staphorst, Urk, Volendam, and West Friesland. A long standing project of the TRC is its work within the field of veils and veiling. So it was with great pleasure that we were given a collection of late 19<sup>th</sup>, early 20<sup>th</sup> century Dutch mourning veils from the Groningen area. These were donated by Sytze and Hyke Pilat, Kostuummuseum "De Gouden Leeuw" Noordhorn.



*Some embroidery printing blocks from Ahmedabad India now in the TRC collection (photograph by Michael Pollard; TRC 2008.0355 and TRC 2008.0356)*

In August 2008 Prof. Anne Morrell, Manchester, very kindly gave the TRC some small, wooden blocks used to make embroidery designs in India. In addition she donated some pieces of Indian embroidery and shisha glass used to decorate clothing.



*Sabina learning to weave in the Chihuahua manner (2007; photograph by courtesy of S. Aguilera)*

A colourful addition to the TRC collection was a small collection of Chihuahua dress from northern Mexico. These were purchased in Mexico by a TRC student, Sabina Aguilera, who was studying in the region at the time.

Throughout the year the TRC's collection of prayer beads has been increased by donations and purchases. These included Korean shaman prayer beads, a range of Buddhist beads from Mongolia, China, Nepal; Sikh prayer beads from India, as well as Catholic rosaries. One of the more unusual examples was purchased in Sicily and is made from lava from Mt. Etna.

Another section of the TRC collection that was expanded was its Afghan holdings. This section was increased by various outfits, individual garments, headgear, footwear, as well as embroideries of various types. These items have been acquired from various sources, including "Women of Hope", an NGO based in Kabul.

As part of the research for a lecture on fezzes and tarbushes (see below), various examples of this type of headgear were acquired throughout the year. These included Turkish, Arab, European and American forms.

Finally, as part of building up the TRC's sari collection for an exhibition to be held in 2010, numerous saris were acquired in 2008. Some of these were purchased, others were donated. We would like to thank all those who donated saris, notably H. 't Hart, for their kindness.

\*\*\*\*\*

## ***COURSES AND WORKSHOPS***

Various courses and workshops were presented by the TRC in 2008. Some of these took the form of in-house training, while others were open to the general public.

\*

### ***Training of Afghan students***

The TRC was asked by Dr. Massoudi, the director of museums in Afghanistan, to help with the training of Afghan students in the collection, cataloguing and care of Afghan textiles and dress. The first student, Qudsia Zohab, came to the TRC in 2007 and stayed in Leiden for one year. She was given courses, among others, in textile identification (fibres, spin, dyes, weaves, decoration) and basic dress forms; making a dress collection; cataloguing and caring for such a collection, and basic collection 'housekeeping.'

\*

### ***Prayer Bead Workshop 26-27<sup>th</sup> March 2008***

A two-part workshop on prayer beads was held at Leiden University in March 2008. It was jointly organised by the TRC and the Research School of Asian, African and Amerindian Studies, Leiden University

On the first day, there was a practical workshop on how to make various types of rosaries. The workshop was run by Chris Laning, who is a specialist in rosaries and their history.

The second part of the workshop was a full day of talks and discussions concerning the history and role of prayer beads in different cultures and communities. The following talks were given: Dr. Ellen Raven (Leiden University) on the use and appearance of prayer beads in early Hindu iconography. This talk was followed by Dr. Henk Blezer (Leiden University) on the use of Tibetan Buddhist prayer beads over the last 100 years and how their appearance and function has changed. The next speaker was Prof. Boudewijn Walraven (Leiden University), whose paper was on Korean shaman prayer beads. Unfortunately Prof. Walraven could not be

present so his paper was kindly read by Allard Olof.



*An appliqué thangka depicting Chenrezig, the patron and protector of Tibet. He is holding a white mala (prayer beads) in his upper, right hand (TRC 2007.1162).*

This lecture was followed by Chris Laning (USA) on Roman Catholic prayer beads and the main types, namely paternosters, chaplets and rosaries and their history. The final talk of the morning was given by José van Santen and was a discussion about the role of *tasbirwol*, Islamic sufi prayer beads, in North Cameroon.

The afternoon session included a talk from Dr. Nico Arte, Eindhoven, about various prayer beads that were recorded from medieval and post-medieval sites in the Dutch city of Eindhoven. A controversial and very different talk was given by Dr. Anneke Mooi (Leiden University) on Protestant attitudes towards prayer beads. The talk was funny, pithy and very 'anti' the use of prayer beads within the Protestant community. It was very useful having a very different point of view.

Mooi's talk was followed by a paper from Andreas Marks on Japanese Buddhist prayer beads. Sadly Andreas Marks was unable to come but his paper was read by Arendie Herwig-Kempers.

After a break papers were given by Dr. Karel Innemee (Leiden University) on Orthodox prayer beads, with an emphasis on the Coptic world. He was followed by Mr. Yusuf Alan on modern Islamic prayer beads,

with particular reference to the Turkish tradition, and Dr. Gillian Vogelsang-Eastwood (TRC, Leiden), on modern non-conformist prayer beads (Neo-Pagan, Eco-spiritual, and so forth). The afternoon was rounded off with drinks for those who wished.

All in all it was a very interesting gathering, which caused many people to reflect on how understated, but important the role of prayer beads are within the religious and spiritual lives of people through out the world.

\*\*\*\*\*

### ***EXHIBITIONS AND DISPLAYS***

During 2008 the TRC was involved in a number of displays and exhibitions on the theme of dress. Emphasis was placed on producing digital exhibitions in order to reach a wider audience.

\*

#### ***Afghan dress exhibition, Volkenkunde Museum, Leiden, March 2008***

The theme of the 2008 Nauruz (New Year Festival) TRC display in the Volkenkunde Museum, Leiden, was *New Clothes for the New Year*. We wanted to show Afghan dress at its best. So the display included both festival and daily garments and jewellery for men, women and children from all the main groups including Baluch, Hazara, Nuristani, Pashtun, Tajik, and Turkmen items. This exhibition was increased in size from previous years by the inclusion of a collection of men and women's caps from various regions of Afghanistan.



*Various caps on display in the Afghan dress exhibition, Volkenkunde Museum, Leiden*



*Pashtun garments in the Afghan dress exhibition, Volkenkunde Museum, Leiden*



Many of the garments were collected by various Afghan/NGO women's groups in Kabul, so helping the local communities directly. In particular, garments are being made and organised by *Women of Hope*, under the direction of Mrs. Betsy Beamon ([www.womenofhopeproject.org](http://www.womenofhopeproject.org)).

The basic exhibition was designed by Qudsia Zohab (with a little help from the TRC staff), as part of her in-house training in collection and exhibition management.

\*\*\*\*\*



## Digital Exhibitions

There are now a number of digital exhibitions on the TRC website including: *Afghan embroidery*, which looks at the main types of embroidery to be found in Afghanistan. The exhibition was created by Qudsia Zohab, Kabul, Afghanistan, as part of her training in Leiden. In addition, she made a small *Object of the Month* exhibition about quls – the beaded or embroidered discs on Pashtun women’s clothing.



*A Coptic monk wearing a characteristic hood with 1 large and 12 small crosses, representing Christ and the 12 apostles (photograph by courtesy of K. Innemee).*

Dr. Karel Innemee was the force behind the digital exhibition on *Coptic monastic dress*, which looks at the main types of clothing worn by monks within the Coptic Christian community in Egypt. Many of the garments were collected by Dr. Innemee for the TRC.

\*

*Evil eye amulets* is a small exhibition on the role of an amulet in the form of a blue and white eye that can be found throughout the Middle East, literally from Turkey to Central Asia. The clogs on the front cover of this report were found in Paris, France, and are actually a pair of Dutch clogs that have been ‘converted’ into an evil eye amulet by painting them with blue and white eyes



*Jewish and Christian amulets with blue and white evil eye pendants (TRC 2008.308 and TRC 2008.315)*

Shortly there will also be one on *Badla*, a form of metal thread embroidery to be found in India, Iran and the Middle East. This exhibition was created with the help of Prof. Anne Morrell, Manchester, England.

It is the intention to increase the number of digital exhibitions in 2009 in order to create a digital museum, based on the TRC’s collection.

\*

## Object of the Month

There is now a section called “Object of the Month” on the TRC’s website. As the name suggests, each month an object is chosen to be described in detail with information about its historical and social background.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Loans

Various 19<sup>th</sup> century Iranian garments from the TRC collection were lent to the Twentsewelle Museum, Enschede, for their exhibition on quilts and quilting. The exhibition ran from the 22<sup>nd</sup> April until October 2008.

\*\*\*\*\*

## PUBLICATIONS

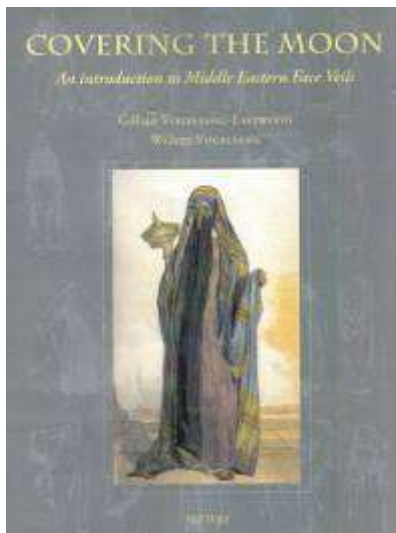
An important part of the work of the TRC is to help stimulate the publication of textiles and dress. The TRC aims to produce a range of books and articles that reflect the interests and needs of different audiences.

Various books have appeared over the last year, including a catalogue to the Dutch lace cap exhibition held at the city hall, Leiden (2007/8). This catalogue is in English and Dutch. Copies are available from the TRC and cost €10 plus postage.



\*

### *Covering the Moon: An Introduction to Middle Eastern Face Veils*



2008 saw the publication of Gillian Vogelsang-Eastwood and Willem Vogelsang's work on the history and range of face veils worn in the Middle East. Face veils included in this volume include items from North Africa, Egypt, Arabian Peninsula, Turkey, Iraq, Iran, as well as Afghanistan and Central Asia. So the term

“Middle Eastern” should be seen as the Muslim world. The book is copiously illustrated with full colour illustrations. Many of the objects illustrated come from the TRC collection and reflect the director's mini-obsession with this subject.

The book costs €78 and is obtainable from Peeter's Leuven: <http://www.peeters-leuven.be>

### *Studies in Textile and Costume History*

The fourth book in the TRC/Brill series, *Studies in Textile and Costume History*, came out in 2006. The book is called *Textile Messages: Inscribed Fabrics from Roman to Abbasid Egypt* (Leiden, 2006). It is edited by C. Fluck and G. Helmecke. *Textile Messages* is a series of papers given at a conference in Berlin in January 2003. The theme of the conference was textiles with written messages.

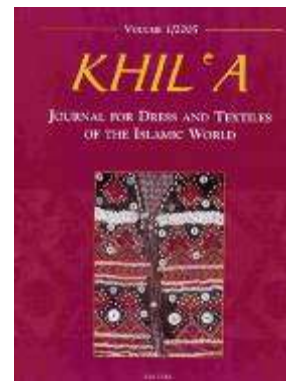
The fifth book planned for the series is about Etruscan textiles from Verucchio, Italy. Further information about this series can be found at:

<http://www.brill.nl/default.aspx?partid=10&pid=7530>

\*

### *Khil'a*

*Khil'a* is an academic journal for the study of dress and textiles in the Islamic World. The journal is published by the oriental publishers, Peeters of Louvain, Belgium. It is produced in co-operation with the TRC and RMV.



The articles in the second edition covered a wide range of subjects including *kangas* from Zanzibar (M. van der Bijl); textiles and the VOC in Yemen (J. Brouwers, part two); Safavid silks from Iran (Zohar Rofer); Iranian silks found in

the Caucasus (Zvezdana Dode), a 19<sup>th</sup> century Coptic priest's tunic in the National Museum of Edinburgh (Ulrike al-Khamis); the dentist's outfit, being an example of a Saudi Arabian *khil`a* from the 1950s (H. Seidler and G.M. Vogelsang-Eastwood) and the *pakul* from Afghanistan (Willem Vogelsang). In addition, there was information about some current publications relevant to the theme of the journal.

Articles for the third issue of Khila cover a wide variety of subjects including Afghan dress in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century; the nature of khila; fezzes and tarbushes, Omani trousers; hijab; the kaffiyeh, and the laws of differentiation in Islamic dress codes.

Further information about this series can be found at: [http://poj.peeters-leuven.be/content.php?url=journal&journal\\_code=KH](http://poj.peeters-leuven.be/content.php?url=journal&journal_code=KH)

\*

### ***Berg Encyclopaedia of World Dress and Fashion***

Berg, Oxford, is well-known for its publications of books about textiles, dress and fashion. It has initiated an monumental project entitled *Berg Encyclopaedia of World Dress and Fashion*. The series will include ten volumes dedicated to the study of world dress and fashion. The editor-in-chief of the encyclopaedia is Dr. Joanne Eicher, Minnesota University, USA. Dr. Gillian Vogelsang-Eastwood has been asked to be editor of volume 5, Central Asian and South-West Asian dress. The encyclopaedia will cover dress in Turkey, the Eastern Mediterranean, Sinai, Arabian Peninsula, Iranian Plateau, Afghanistan and Central Asia. The publication date is expected to be 2010.

Many of the garments in the TRC collection will also be used within this volume of the encyclopaedia.

One of the initial ideas of the TRC was to publish an encyclopaedia of Middle Eastern dress, so the opportunity to work with this project means the fulfilment of this long-standing ambition and reorganisation of the TRC's work about and collection of dress from the region.

For further information about this series, please contact: [EncyDress@bergpublishers.com](mailto:EncyDress@bergpublishers.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

## ***TRC PROJECTS***

During 2008 the TRC was involved in a number of projects, which included (in alphabetical order):

\*

### ***DUTCH REGIONAL DRESS***

At the end of 2006 the TRC made the decision to build up a Dutch regional dress collection. In order to achieve this aim we started different activities, namely, making contact with people who could help us with the creation of such a collection, either because they know about regional dress and/or they have a collection of their own and are willing to donate or sell items to the TRC. We also started to collect books and articles on the subject; visit various museums in order to talk with curators and other people actively working with Dutch regional dress and to see how they displayed such garments. And finally, we visited and talked with people in historic and folklore groups who are keeping the tradition of Dutch regional dress very much alive.

During 2008 the TRC's collection started growing rapidly thanks to various gifts of textiles, garments, accessories, photographs, books, as well as financial support.

In particular, the collection was enriched with various complete outfits including a Scheveningen woman's outfit, and two outfits from Urk, for a man and a woman.

The lace cap section of the collection is growing rapidly thanks to the help of various people and museums. In particular we were able to acquire caps from Groningen and Leeuwarden, north-eastern Netherlands. The lack of these caps had formed obvious gaps in the collection, which were a source of some 'irritation.' The TRC now has most of the main types of Dutch lace caps, and can now start looking for the more unusual, regional variations.

The Dutch regional dress collection is an important resource for the TRC and its work in the field of dress and identity.

For the last few years the TRC has been helped by Mr. Hermann Roza, Amsterdam, in building up and understand Dutch regional dress. Sadly, Mr. Roza passed away at the end of 2008. He was a character within the field of

Dutch regional dress and will be missed by many.

\*

### ***FEZ OR TARBUSH***



*A British stamp depicting Tommy Cooper wearing a tarbush, or is it a fez?*

A simple question can often lead to making a small collection! The TRC was asked whether Tommy Cooper, the famous English comedian, was wearing a fez or a tarbush? This question was to result in the TRC carrying out research into its own collection of fezzes and tarbushes to see what, if any, the difference was. The results were surprising – yes there is a subtle difference, but it was a difference that carried significant social and ethnic weight within the Turkish and Arab worlds. Was the wearer a Turk or an Arab, official or not, and so forth. In addition the use of tarbushes was taken to America in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, where it became an important aspect of the Shriners' (a Masonic group) fund raising activities to support children's hospitals.

Many fezzes and tarbushes were made in Eastern Europe, such as Hungary and Czechoslovakia, for the Middle Eastern market. When the wearing of fezzes and tarbushes stopped in the 1920's and later, these countries were hit by an economic crisis.

The results of this research will be published shortly in an article in *Khil`a 3*.

For those of you who are curious, Cooper started wearing a tarbush, but later wore both fezzes and tarbushes without any difference being made.

\*

### ***PRAYER BEADS***



*A Japanese priest holding prayer beads in his hand (2008; photograph by courtesy of Andrew Thompson, Leiden)*

The sight of a person with a string of beads in one hand gently telling the beads is well known throughout the world. They are used by religious and lay individuals and groups, but what exactly is a prayer rope or set of beads, why and how they are used, what are the different forms?

Basically a set of prayer beads is a length of cord with a fixed number of either knots or beads on it. Sometimes prayer beads are used to count the number of prayers said, for example, repeating the name of God or a specific prayer a specific number of times, or they may be used as aids while repeating several different prayers in a specific order. Prayer beads can also be used while meditating on a series of spiritual themes.

The use of prayer beads is encouraged by the majority of the world's religions, including Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Jainism and Sikhism. Judaism is the only one that does not use prayer beads. The use of prayer beads was developed in India by early Hindu worshippers by the middle of the first millennium BC. They were adopted by Buddhists in about the fourth century BC. Through Buddhism they were spread eastwards to Tibet, China, Korea, and Japan.

Christians started using stones and later - beads to help with the recitation of prayers by the fourth century AD, so spreading their use westwards. It is thought that Islam adopted prayer beads through Sufi contacts with India, the homeland of Buddhism and Hinduism, sometime in the early medieval period.



*Lutheran 'Pearls of Life' prayer beads  
(TRC collection)*

Prayer beads are one of the few items that join the world religions together. But prayer beads also have economic, gender, social and status functions and roles. The aim of this workshop was to take a broader view about the history and use of prayer beads and to place them within a wider, global setting.

The TRC now has a collection of nearly 300 different types of prayer beads. These include Buddhist (Burmese, Chinese, Japanese, Tibetan), Christian (Catholic and Protestant), Hindu, Islamic (Sunni and Shi'ite), Sikh, Neo-Pagan, as well as eco-spiritual and military versions.

An exhibition is currently being prepared and will be available for loan to interested groups in 2009.

\*

### **SARIS**

In 2008 the TRC was asked by the organising committee of the International Textile Festival if it would be willing to participate in the 2010 textile festival to be held in Leiden. The theme was international inspiration.

After considering the nature of the TRC's collection and the theme, it was decided that the TRC would produce a small exhibition on the theme of saris and how they are decorated. It was also agreed that the exhibition will be held in the Volkenkunde Museum, Leiden. The exhibition will be on display for three months from March to May 2010.



*Detail from a printed silk sari (TRC collection)*

During 2008 a number of saris were acquired from various sources and these will form the basis for the exhibition about how saris are decorated (a) painted and printed, (b) woven, and (c) applied decoration. The TRC sari collection includes early 20<sup>th</sup> century and well as more modern examples to show how the decoration of saris is not static and is related to and inspired by fashion and technological changes.

Since agreeing to create the sari exhibition for the Textile Festival in 2010, the TRC has also been asked to help with displays on Middle Eastern Embroidery and Balkan embroidery. Both of these displays will be held in the Pieterskerk, Leiden. They will be there for one week only.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **STUDENT RESEARCH**

Various projects were conducted in 2008 by Leiden University students working with the TRC.

\*

***Mongolian Dress***  
Ulli Halbertsma-Herold

My focus on Mongolian attire in my studies at Leiden University enabled me to make a collection of Mongolian dress for the TRC.

The collection of the TRC comprises not only the specific *deels* but always consists of complete outfits. Apart from the *deel*, the typical Mongolian boots, the accompanying hats, belts, vests and other accessories are all essential items of Mongolian clothing culture.

The TRC's collection consists of a winter outfit for a boy, an outfit for a woman for special occasions, an ethnic dancer's outfit, a summer *deel* for a herder and a monk's outfit. This collection conveys an insight into Mongolian culture with its many unique facets. As clothing is such a central cultural element in Mongolia, not only the appearance of ethnic Mongolians is being showcased by the collection, but Mongolian history, society, religion and economy are all being equally explored.

The collection is built to preserve the rapidly fading clothing traditions of Mongolia, and future funds will see the expansion of the collection to older, special and other rare Mongolian garments (Shamans, former Mongolian nobility, wrestler's costumes, etc.).

In 2008 Ulli moved to Mongolia with her husband and two children. They will be staying there for at least two years. During this period Ulli will be carrying out research into Mongolian dress and collecting modern traditional items for the TRC.

\*

***Afghan dress***

In 2007/2008 the TRC was the host to Qudsia Zohab, from the National Museum, Kabul, Afghanistan. Qudsia was in Leiden to learn about working in museums, collection building and management. In addition she was carrying out research into Afghan dress and embroidery.

Her work resulted in an exhibition on Afghan dress that was held in the Volkenkunde Museum, Leiden, and a digital exhibition on Afghan embroidery that is hosted on the TRC website (see above).

\*

***Egyptian Tunics***  
Tinkeke Rooijackers

On the 13<sup>th</sup> October 2008, Tineke Rooijackers defended her MA thesis on the theme of dress and identity in Egypt from the Pharaonic to late Byzantine periods. Her thesis centred around the tunic worn by men and women and how its construction, appearance and use changed over a period of about 1000 years. These changes were due to social, economic and religious influences and developments.

Since gaining her MA, Tineke has been given a PhD position in Leiden University to continue her research into the concept of dress and identity among the Copts, an important Christian group in Egypt.

\*\*\*\*\*

***LECTURES***

Throughout the year members of the TRC have given talks and lectures on various aspects of the dress and the TRC's collection.

\*

***Archaeological Textiles***  
(January 2008, Leiden University)

At the end of January 2008 Dr. Vogelsang, assisted by Tineke Rooijackers, gave a series of lectures and practical demonstrations about textiles to the first year students from the Department of Archaeology, Leiden University. Because the group was so large (over 90 students), it had to be divided into three groups (30 students per group), and repeated three times over a two day period. The subjects covered ranged from the basics of hand spinning to a case study in textile archaeology, namely the textiles and garments from the tomb of Tutankhamun. This course will be repeated in 2009 for the first year students.

\*

***General lectures and workshops***

On the 15<sup>th</sup> February 2008, G. Vogelsang-Eastwood gave a lecture on ancient Scythian dress as relating to Tilia Tepe, Afghanistan as

part of the Afghan exhibition at the Nieuwe Kerk, Amsterdam.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> March, Chris Laning, USA, a specialist in rosaries, gave a workshop for the general public on the theme of prayer beads and how to make them. A great morning was spent making three different types of prayer beads: a paternoster, a rosary and a medieval circular rosary, which was used in Germany. In addition, some of those attending chose to make Islamic prayer beads (*tasbih*).



*Participants of the March workshop on prayer beads (Volkenkunde Museum, Leiden)*

During the evening of the 14<sup>th</sup> April 2008, G. Vogelsang-Eastwood presented a lecture on the decorative body (tattoos, piercings, scarification) for the Museum Boerhaven, Leiden, as part of their lecture series accompanying an exhibition entitled *Skin*. This lecture was not for the faint hearted as it also looked at the extremes to which some people decorate their bodies.

In June 2008, Prof. Anne Morrell came to Leiden to work with Qudsia Zohab, a trainee from the National Museum, Kabul, Afghanistan. While she was here, Prof Morrell gave two workshops to the general public. The first talk was on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June, and was about embroidery and the movement of stitches from one type into another and how to identify various forms. The second talk was on the Calico Museum, Ahmadabad, India. All present would like to thank Anne for giving two very different but insightful talks.

\*

### ***Veiling lectures***

The most popular lecture and demonstration given by the TRC is its veils and veiling lecture. This is a one to two hour lecture with demonstration that allows the public to try on various types of well-known forms of veiling for women.

The lecture traces the use of head, face and body veils from about the third millennium BC to the present day and looks at them from historical, social, gender and religious aspects.

A large group of students attending Leiden University diplomatic course spent a day (23<sup>th</sup> May) at the RMV to look at objects, attend a seminar on Afghanistan held by Dr. W. Vogelsang and to participate in a practical discussion concerning veils and veiling.

The students opted for the veil section of the day, which constituted an intense session on the different types of veils and face veils, what they are made of, their cultural and religious significance, and so forth. As part of the TRC's philosophy that the only way to understand a garment is to try it on, the students were encouraged (actually it was difficult to stop them), to wear various garments. Once again the Afghan *chadari* (*burqa*) proved to be the most popular item to try on.

Judging from the comments made during the course the students really enjoyed the opportunity to see, touch and try on the garments, rather than simply having a theoretical discussion concerning the nature of veils and veiling.

Throughout the year various groups from the Dutch police attended the veiling lecture and demonstration. It came as a surprise to many that veiling was not a simple matter, that it had a long history. Again the most popular veil tried on was that Afghan *chadari*.

\*

### ***HOVO lectures***

In February and March 2008, G. Vogelsang-Eastwood gave a series of talks on the theme of *What is Dress* for the HOVO's (courses for mature students), Leiden University.

The subjects covered included the different approaches to the study of dress (archaeological, art historical, economical, etc); as well as Dress and Status, Dress and Politics, Dress and Transportation, Dress and Religion. The theme of Dress and Fashion was covered by Els de Baan, a fashion writer and lecturer, also from Leiden.

\*

***Ancient Egyptian Garments  
for Granada Television***

In December 2008 the TRC was asked to make replicas of Ancient Egyptian garments for a television documentary about the funeral of Tutankhamun. The documentary is called *The Race to Bury King Tutankhamun* and is being made by Granada TV, Manchester, England, and the National Geographic.

Two sets of garments were agreed upon, a hand made set for the three main characters, Ankesenamun, the widow of Tutankhamun; General Horemheb, and Vizier Ay. These garments were totally hand sewn because the figures would come into close-up and there is nothing worse than seeing machine stitching on 'ancient' garments!

The other garments were already 'in-house', as they had been used for an AVRO tv. production some years ago. These garments were simpler forms used for lower officials, attendants and so forth.

The garments were made in December 2008, ready for their use in filming in Egypt in January 2009. The programme will be aired in May 2009.

After the filming of the documentary, Granada Television has kindly agreed to give the garments to the TRC so that we can use them for work with students, schools, and so forth.

The production of accurate, replica ancient garments from the Middle East, notably those from Egypt, is a speciality of the TRC. Prices are available on request.

\*\*\*\*\*



## ***THE MONDAY GROUP***

Every Monday students and volunteers of the TRC come together to work on various aspects of the collection and library. The names of these brave souls have been given on various occasions in this and previous annual reports. So we thought it would be helpful for the reader if they could actually 'place' each person.



**Dr. Gillian Vogelsang-Eastwood** (director): a textile and dress historian who specialises in Near Eastern and Iranian dress. Her current projects include editing the Central and Southwest Asian volume of the *Berg Encyclopaedia of World Dress and Fashion*. In addition, she has various smaller projects about veils and veiling (especially face veils), and trying to keep a group of wonderful, but very individual, people focussed and busy on Mondays.

**Angela Driessen** (general volunteer): Angela has been working as a volunteer at the TRC for several years. She trained as a handwork teacher and textile designer, but has many more interests and skills. She currently teaches several days a week, so she does not have the amount of time she would like to help out at the TRC, but she regularly 'appears' to help out the Monday Group. She regularly gets 'homework' and jobs via emails from Gillian. In the next few years (following retirement) Angela hopes to have more time at the TRC.



**Ulrike Herold**: Ullii has only been working a short time with the TRC. She is currently studying for a MA degree in the Dept. of Art History, Leiden University. Her interests lie with Asian clothing, especially from China, Korea and Mongolia. The work at the TRC allows her to get hands-on experience with textiles and clothing and gives her the necessary technical and practical background for future work in the field.

**Mrs. Pauline Smilde** (head of volunteers): Mrs. Pauline Smilde is a former nurse and teacher and has been working at the TRC for the last five years. She is interested in many things, from bonsai trees, to pottery and dogs. However, there has always been a long standing interest in textiles, especially embroidery and knitting. Pauline became fascinated with dress after following various HOVO courses at Leiden University. She is particularly involved in the Iranian dress collection. More recently her energy has been directed towards building up the Dutch regional dress collection.





**Mrs. Riet van de Velde** (general volunteer) is a doctor and in 2001 she retired after 31 years of working in an institute for mentally retarded people. She then started to look for something quite different to do. She has been interested in various kinds of needlework and textiles since she was a young girl - her grandmother loved to repair clothing and domestic cloth in huge piles and she became her enthusiastic and sound teacher for many types of needlework. After a HOVO course in Leiden by Gillian Vogelsang, Riet started to work at the TRC as a volunteer in 2002. There is a lot of work to do and objects to study!

**Tineke Rooijakkers** (general assistant): Tineke is a research MA student in archaeology at Leiden University, specialising in textiles and dress. She has been a member of the TRC since 2003. Currently, Tineke manages the Palestinian collection. Her research projects include an analysis of the textile production scenes from the Ancient Egyptian tombs at Beni Hasan and the role of traditional dress in contemporary Palestine. Her main interests are ancient Egyptian and Neolithic Near Eastern spinning technology and the development of the Egyptian tunic from the Pharaonic to early medieval period.



**Rose-Anne Vermeer** (student volunteer): Rose-Anne is a student of cultural anthropology at Leiden University. She is particularly interested in how textiles and clothing are used in cultural situations. Since September 2006 she has been a member of the TRC's Monday group.

**Marije Wouterse** (student volunteer): Marije is an anthropology student at Leiden University., 2006/7). Finally, Marije is involved in the Dutch regional dress project which will occupy her for several years to come!



**The Stichting will be happy to answer any questions that 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:**

**Stichting Textile Research Centre, Postbox 212, 2300 AE Leiden, The Netherlands.**

**[trcleiden@tiscali.nl](mailto:trcleiden@tiscali.nl)**

**[www.textdress.nl](http://www.textdress.nl)**

**ING Bank account no: 2982359**