

TRC Newsletter *November 2011 Special*



A 17th century European silk (van Gerwen gift)

The last few months were much busier than expected, with some unusual and special events we thought you might like to know about.

Question and Answer Day

On Saturday, 22nd October, 2011, the TRC had an open house with various specialists who were willing to answer questions about textiles and clothing from around the world. The specialists included Els de Baan (European textiles and fashion), Anna Beerens (Japanese textiles and clothing), Ineke Borgardijn (lace), Rene Lugtigheid (conservation and storage), Sigrid van Roode (Middle Eastern jewellery), Paul Spijker (African textiles and clothing), and Gillian Vogelsang-Eastwood (Middle Eastern textiles and dress).

Thanks to this Day being the main 'tip' for a day out in the Dutch national newspaper *Trouw*, over 70 people came to the TRC. Some came from as far away as Brabant and Limburg. The TRC visitors brought a wide range of textiles, garments and accessories.

Generous donation of some special, European textiles

As a direct result of the article, mentioned above, about the TRC in *Trouw* (Saturday 22nd October), the TRC was approached by Mrs. C. van Gerwen about the potential donation of a collection of European textiles from the 16th to the early 19th centuries. These pieces formed part of the collection of the van Gerwen-Lemmens Museum, Valkenswaard, which closed in 2008. Following a visit to Valkenswaard on the 12th November, Mrs. Van Gerwen very kindly gave over 101 textiles to the TRC.



A 16-17th century European silk textile (van Gerwen gift)

The majority of the textiles date to the 18th century. The collection is mainly made up of woven pieces, including velvets, brocades and damasks. In addition, there are a few printed and embroidered pieces. There were also several, very rare 'Coptic' silk embroideries dating from the sixth to the seventh centuries AD. These include scenes

depicting what appears to be Christ and various saints.

These pieces mean that the TRC's collection will take on a greater depth with respect to quality and range of subjects. The textiles will be on display at the TRC Gallery in June 2012 until September 2012.

Intense textile course

Between the 17th and 21st October the TRC held a one-week intensive textile course for beginners. There were participants from Denmark, England, America and Germany.

The course is a mixture of theoretical and practical elements, with an emphasis on trying out the various techniques, on holding and examining fibres, textiles and finished items in order to learn and understand what is happening and why various combinations take place. The aim is to make textiles less 'frightening' and allow people to look at a textile from virtually any historical period or culture and be able to understand it. The course will be run again in May 2012.



TRC Leiden, Intensive Textile Course, October 2011

The next TRC exhibition

Although the Spinning World exhibition is still running and still attracting many visitors, plans are already being prepared for the next TRC exhibition in Leiden, which will open in late January 2011. The proposed exhibition is about women's headcoverings from around the world and will be 'divided' into two sections. Firstly, there will be a series of about 50 Dutch lace caps and related items including all of the main forms worn in the Netherlands during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The second section will display 101+ forms of women's head and hair coverings and decoration from around the world, including Europe, Russia, the Middle East, India, Mongolia, China, Tahiti, and South America. This exhibition is supported by the *Ambassadors Spouse Association*, Den Hague, and with the financial support of the *Prins Bernhard Fonds Zuid-Holland*.

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