



# Textile Research Centre, Leiden Newsletter, Autumn 2013

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Autumn has come in with a (wet) roar and we are now making plans for the next year. There are going to be some very interesting events and happenings at the TRC! There will be more information on the TRC's website shortly, but here are some highlights.

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## TRC in het NRC

In July a photo session was held at the TRC for the Dutch newspaper *NRC Weekend Magazine*. The photographs were taken by Ari Versluis and Ellie Uyttenbroek. The guest editor of the magazine was the fashion designer Haider Ackermann. Various outfits from the TRC collection were used for a series of beautiful photographs. The results have just been published (nr. 13, September 2013) and a pdf copy of the article accompanies this newsletter.



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## *What is Embroidery?* 5<sup>th</sup> September - 5<sup>th</sup> December 2013

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September saw the opening of the TRC's next exhibition entitled *What is Embroidery?* The term embroidery is being used in its broadest 'umbrella' sense. The exhibition includes (among others) historical and modern examples of free style and counted thread forms, as well as appliqué, couching, drawn and pulled thread work, patchwork, and smocking.

The first part of the exhibition is dedicated to technical details such as equipment, thread, ground cloths, and means of transferring a design. The second section is stunning and includes examples of embroidery from the TRC's extensive collection. A wide range of forms and uses are on display that come from many regions around the world. Truly a source of information and inspiration!



The third section is about a young lady called Henriëtte Braunstahl from Den Haag (1885-1983), who was presented in 1904 with a diploma from the *Industrieschool voor Meisjes* ('s-Gravenhage) as a handwork teacher. The TRC was given her collection of exercise books, water colour albums, photographs, as well as samples of her work, by Henriëtte Braunstahl's family. The TRC embroidery exhibition is used to show the embroidery skills of a girl from over 100 years ago and to illustrate the teaching methods of the time.

*If you don't know what all these embroidery terms, such as appliqué, couching, drawn and pulled thread work, patchwork, quilting and smocking, mean exactly, then come and have a look. If you do, then there will be many items on display that will surely inspire you to explore further the amazing world of embroidery!*

This exhibition is supported by the *Prins Bernard Cultuurfonds Zuid-Holland* and the *Van der Mandele Stichting*. We would like to say many thanks to both of these organisations for their continuing support of the TRC and its work.

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## **The next exhibition: *The Silhouette of Africa***

Following the embroidery exhibition there will be display of traditional textiles and clothing from various regions of sub-Saharan Africa,. These will be used to show the wide diversity of forms and styles to be found in this vast continent. Textiles and garments from countries as far apart as Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Liberia, Sudan, Tanzania (inc. Zanzibar), and Uganda, will be included in the exhibition.

We are now looking for examples from other parts of the continent. If you have any garments you would be willing to donate, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the TRC.

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## ***Week of the Weaver (May 2014)***

The African exhibition will be on display until May, when it will be replaced by an exhibition about weaving. The end of May 2014 will see the national *Week of the Weaver*. The TRC is taking part in this special event with a display of different types of small and large looms, as well as a rare chance to see part of the Van Gerwen collection of European silks and velvets, which are now housed in the TRC. Most of these woven silk textiles date to the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, but some of the velvets go back as far as the 15<sup>th</sup> century. A unique opportunity to come face to face with some amazing textiles.

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## Intensive Textile Course

Between Monday 14<sup>th</sup> and Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2013, the TRC is organising, for the 7<sup>th</sup> time, it's very popular five-day intensive course about textiles and all that goes with them. The course, which is being given in English, looks at the processes involved in making a piece of cloth, from the raw fibres to the end product. The participants will learn about the theory and practice of fibre identification, spinning, natural dyeing, weaving, and decorative techniques including printing and embroidery. The course is practically orientated and students are encouraged to try out a wide range of techniques that are being discussed. This means that they will use microscopes and staining techniques for fibre identification. They are introduced and asked to use, a wide variety of hand spindles and spinning wheels. They also apply natural dye stuffs and mordents to produce dozens of different colours. Students may bring pieces of textiles with them that they would like to discuss during the course.

This five-day course is given twice a year and has already attracted students from around the world. The course is given by Dr. Gillian Vogelsang-Eastwood, director TRC. The group of students is always limited to eight people in order to ensure the greatest benefits to the participants. For the October 2013 course, there are still two places available. If you wish to attend, please contact the TRC as soon as possible ([info@trc-leiden.nlo](mailto:info@trc-leiden.nlo)). The course will be repeated from the 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> May 2014. Please let us know as soon as possible whether you want to join either of the courses.

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## TRC Question and Answer Day (October 2013)

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October will see the return of the TRC's popular *Question and Answer Day* when the public are encouraged to bring in textiles and garments they have at home for specialists to look at. More details will shortly be announced on the TRC website, but this is a special date for your diary!

As customary for the TRC, there will be plenty of tea, coffee and biscuits. There are no charges for the day, but a little something in the donation pot would be greatly appreciated!

**Please note: the TRC does not give valuations.**

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## HALI and the TRC

*Hali* is a fully illustrated international magazine dedicated to the subject of antique and modern textile art from around the world, especially carpets. The name *Hali* derives from the Turkish word for carpet. The quarterly magazine was established in London in 1978. More details about *Hali* can be found at [www.hali.com](http://www.hali.com)

Following a recent meeting in London, it was decided that *Hali* and the TRC should work together on various projects relating to textiles and clothing from their mutual areas of work. Discussions are now taking place as to how to develop this potentially very interesting agreement.

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The activities of the TRC can be followed on its website ([www.trc-leiden.nl](http://www.trc-leiden.nl)) as well as on its Facebook account (Textile Research Centre).