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First and foremost a HAPPY NEW YEAR, and may 2011 be a peaceful and prosperous year for everyone.

Lots of things have been happening at the TRC in 2010, and 2011 looks as if it is going to be even more busy. Word about the TRC is going around and we are welcoming more and more visitors. The exhibition list for 2011 is very varied and includes the colourful Afghanistan display (running until 23 March 2011), Chinese *cheongsam* dresses (March to August), Iranian garments (from October onwards), and during the autumn we will also set up a small exhibition in Leiden city hall about a guild exam hat made by Hendrik Visser of Leiden in 1796.

The TRC is now working with Pepin Press, Amsterdam on a book about dress in the Islamic World. The TRC's project about embroidery in the Arab World continues and is now being helped by the Saudi Arabian Embassy and the Tunisian Embassy, both in The Hague. More details about these and other events are given below.

Activities

The TRC is increasing its range of activities in 2011. To simplify matters, **each Wednesday afternoon** the TRC organizes a guided tour of the current exhibition, **starting 19 January**, 14.00 h. The guided tour will take about one hour; tea and coffee are provided, but we do charge a fee of 7.50 euros. Furthermore, we organize a number of lectures and workshops. You can attend the tours and lectures without prior registration, but registration for the workshops on Saturdays is obligatory.

- **Thursday 20 January:** Willem Vogelsang will talk about the *kosai*, a curious garment from southern Afghanistan with a rich history, an example of which was given to the TRC by an Afghan tribal leader with a most intriguing background. Time: 14.00 – 16.00. Fee: 7.50 euros p.p.
- **Saturday 12 February:** Gillian Vogelsang-Eastwood will give an extensive introduction to Ancient Egyptian dress. Replicas of many types of garment will be available, and can be examined and worn by those attending the workshop.

Time: 10.00 – 16.00. Fee: 60 euros p.p. Tea and/or coffee will be provided. Please do not forget to register beforehand.

- **Thursday 24 February:** Gillian Vogelsang-Eastwood will talk about the fascinating world of Arab embroidery, and show actual examples for people to examine and touch. Time: 14.00 – 16.00. Fee: 7.50 euros p.p.
- **Saturday 5 March:** Gillian Vogelsang-Eastwood and Mariet ter Kuile-Portheine will give a workshop on basic embroidery techniques for beginners. All necessary materials will be provided. Time: 10.00 – 16.00. Fee: 60 euros p.p. Tea and/or coffee will be available. Please do not forget to register beforehand.
- **Thursday 17 March:** Willem Vogelsang will talk about and show a number of old prints from 19th century Afghanistan showing Afghan people and their clothing, and compare the dress to actual examples in the current exhibition. Time: 14.00 – 16.00. Fee: 7.50 euros p.p.

In addition, it is possible to book the TRC for group visits to see a current exhibition, or to stage a conference, workshop or some other special event. Please contact the TRC at the address given below for further details concerning dates and tariffs.

The “Well-Dressed Afghanistan” exhibition

This beautiful exhibition was opened on the 5th November by H.E. the Honorary Consul for Afghanistan in Rotterdam, Mr. Ehsan Turabaz, with additional (short) speeches by Dr. Gillian Vogelsang-Eastwood (director) and Dr. Willem Vogelsang (co-curator of the exhibition). The evening was made particularly special by an Afghan feast that left everyone feeling very pleasant. The exhibition includes over 30 outfits, plus other garments and accessories, for men, women and children. There is an unusual outfit for *buzkashi*, the aggressive game of ‘polo’ played by Afghan men on horseback.

Afghan girl from the Kandahar region (photograph by Hans Stakelbeek)

In addition there is the opportunity to try on a *chadari* (*burqa*), the (in)famous Afghan veil for women. Also on display is a series of photographs taken by the Dutch photographer, Hans Stakelbeek, who during the last few years often visited Afghanistan on behalf of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The organisation of the exhibition is being supported by Dr Willem Vogelsang, former curator Southwest and Central Asia of the National Museum of Ethnology, Leiden, and since June 2008 working in Uruzgan, Afghanistan. Various members of the Afghan community in the Leiden region provided the final and invaluable last details, which have made such a difference in the appearance of this exhibition. The exhibition will remain on view until 23 March 2011.



Changes in the TRC Board

At the last meeting of the TRC Board, in November, Prof. R. Bedaux stepped down as treasurer, but will remain a member of the Board. A word of thanks is due to his long standing support and help of the TRC and all its activities. Prof. J. Bintliff has kindly agreed to take on the role of treasurer. Prof. R.B. ter Haar Romeny (Leiden University) has graciously agreed to become a general Board Member.

1,000 visitors

On the 10th November 2010 the TRC had its first 1000th visitor since we opened our doors in late 2009! She is a young German student who just moved to Leiden. She and her family will be visiting the TRC shortly again, for an extensive guided tour. Our aim is to double the number of visitors in 2011! For this we need your help, so come with lots of friends and tell people about the TRC and its activities.

Friends of the TRC

It is that time of year again! In order to make sure that all the activities of the TRC can take place we do need your support. To be, or become a Friend of the TRC you are asked to make an annual donation of a minimum of €25, or €250 for life membership. Donations can be made over to the TRC ING bank account 2982359, in the name of the *Stichting* Textile Research Centre, Leiden. Please remember, the TRC is an ANBI, so all financial donations are deductible for Dutch tax payers. This also means it is possible for Dutch tax payers to make a fixed annual donation for a period of 5 years. These can be deducted at a higher rate than a normal donation. Please consult either the TRC or your *notaris* for further details.

Some recent acquisitions and donations

Some recent donations include complete outfits from Bhutan, Ethiopia, Nigeria and Pakistan. Other donations are garments worn in the Netherlands in the 1920s to 1940s. In December 2010 various Chinese *cheongsam's* were acquired for the upcoming exhibition on this theme. In addition, a range of embroidered garments from Tunisia were acquired as part of the TRC *Tunisian Dress and Embroidery Project*.

Inventory of the TRC collection

During 2010 over 500 items were added to the TRC collection. They include a wide range of garments and textiles. This means that the collection has increased to well over 6,000 items. So as part of its 2011 activities the TRC is starting to make a more detailed inventory of its complete collection. This task includes checking, and when necessary photographing, measuring, collating details, and bringing up to date the collection data base. This work will take about one year. Several volunteers are needed to help with this project who can come on a regular basis to the TRC on Tuesdays or Wednesdays.

Japanese Dress Project

During December and part of January Dr. A. Beerens is in Japan as part of her research into the history and use of Japanese kimono. Dr. Beerens is planning an exhibition about the four seasons and the kimono. In the meantime she will be giving various lectures and workshops at the TRC on the theme of kimono.

Embroidery in the Arab World Project

The TRC Embroidery in the Arab World Project is progressing with fieldwork in Tunisia (December 2010) and another visit to Amman, Jordan, planned for January 2011, to discuss the project with co-authors, Mrs. W. Kawar and Mrs. L. Pio. The visit to Jordan will also be used to work further on the extensive Kawar collection of Arab dress. As a result of talking with the Saudi Arabian Ambassador, The Hague, a project proposal has been sent to the Saudi Arabian government about Saudi dress and embroidery. Further details about this project will follow in due course.

Tunisian Dress and Embroidery Project

As part of the TRC's extensive project on embroidery from the Arab World, the TRC is starting a *Tunisian Dress and Embroidery Project* with Dr. M. Chida (University of Washington, USA) as Project Advisor. Dr. Chida is a specialist in Tunisian textiles and dress. This project is assisted by the Tunisian Embassy, The Hague. As part of the groundwork Dr. Vogelsang-Eastwood and Mrs. M. ter Kuile-Portheine went to Tunis in December 2010 to establish contacts with the Dutch Embassy, talk with representatives of NGO's working in the field of embroidery, and so forth. In addition, time was spent in the Tunis *suq* talking with professional passementerie and embroidery makers. A further trip is planned for March 2011 when an annual handicraft festival takes place in Tunis.



A professional embroiderer from Tunis (December 2010, photograph by G. Vogelsang-Eastwood)

PEPIN®
THE PEPIN PRESS

The TRC is now working with Pepin Press, Amsterdam (<http://pepinpress.com/>). This publisher concentrates on books about textiles and clothing with an emphasis on designs as a source of inspiration. A range of garments taken from the TRC collection will appear in the forthcoming Pepin Press book about dress in the Islamic world. Pepin Press is prepared to publish the proposed extensive study on embroidery from the Arab World. In addition, there are plans to establish a series of booklets about embroidery from around the world. More details about this will appear in course.

TRC shop

Always new items in the shop. Once a month a new list appears on the TRC website with updates of new articles, and new and second-hand books about textiles and dress for sale. Current new items include woven braids for sheep (!) from Syria and frog fastenings for Chinese garments (as part of the *cheongsam* exhibition). To accompany the Afghanistan

exhibition, some new items from Uruzgan have just been received. In 2011 the TRC shop will also sell a range of Pepin Press books.

TRC exhibition loans

Most of the TRC exhibitions are available for hire by suitable institutes. These exhibitions cover an enormous diversity of subjects, but all related to textiles and dress! You can check the TRC website, and see the full list, together with short descriptions, and an indication of the required space to show the exhibition. For further details please see the TRC website (www.trc-leiden.nl) or contact Dr. G. Vogelsang-Eastwood (info@trc-leiden.nl).

COMING SOON

Cheongsam Exhibition

The exhibition planned for after *Well-Dressed Afghanistan* is something totally different for the TRC. It is about the *cheongsam*, a dress form for women that developed in China in the 1920s. It was first popular in Shanghai, where it became fashionable for elite women and then spread throughout China and other parts of the world thanks to the Chinese diaspora. Its peak of popularity was in the 1950s and 1960s. During the 1970s the wearing of the *cheongsam* was more or less banned in China and replaced by the ubiquitous, blue Mao suit. The *cheongsam* has recently made a revival both in China and the West due to the changing economic situation of China over the last decade. This exhibition is being staged with the very active support of Pepin Press, Amsterdam and members of the Leiden Chinese community. The exhibition will open on 28 March 2011.

1930s poster depicting two Shanghai women wearing cheongsam

