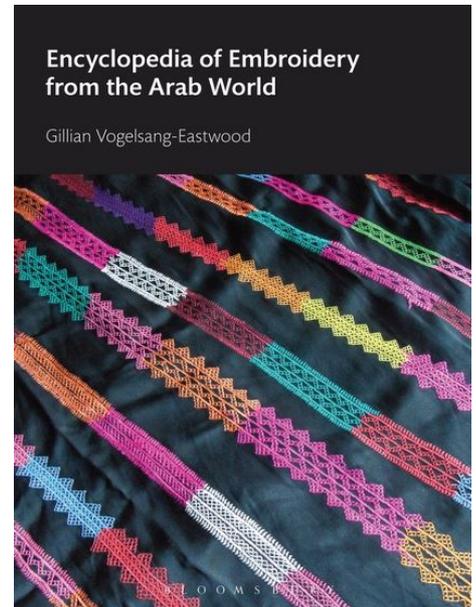




# Textile Research Centre Newsletter: Winter 2015/2016

This year has just rushed by and it's been a very busy time at the TRC, with respect to visitors, objects received, workshops and lectures and much more. The *Wednesday Workshops* have proved to be a great success, as have the 5-day textile courses. We normally give the latter two times per year, but in 2015 it was five times! All of which proves that the TRC has found the right formula for storing and passing down knowledge about, and our love of, textiles.

Sorry for asking for money, but since the TRC is growing rapidly, both in size and in the quality of the collection, and with the expanding library, the new exhibitions, and the growing number of workshops, all of this means that more financial support is highly desirable. And please bear in mind that all TRC activities are carried out by volunteers! Please transfer your donation to account **NL39 INGB 000 298 2359**, in **the name of the Textile Research Centre, Leiden**. Note that the TRC is a Cultural ANBI, which means considerable advantages with respect to your (Dutch) tax returns.



A major TRC project has just been 'put to bed'!! For five years we have been busy working on an *Encyclopaedia of Embroidery from the Arab World*, with various authors throughout North Africa and the Middle East. On the 7<sup>th</sup> December it went to the printers and will be available from Bloomsbury (London), at the end of February! This is a major work of c. 700 pages with hundreds of full colour illustrations, charts and line drawings, about the range and role of hand embroidery in this vast and important part of the world.

The TRC Library is now on-line so that people can browse the titles in this ever expanding resource. The latest *Books Showcased* has also just been placed on-line (please go to the TRC home page and look under Research), which reflects recent acquisitions to the TRC Library, with the comments and recommendations that TRC reviewers have made about them.

In spring 2016 the first of the TRC Collection will come on-line (see below), as well as mini-catalogues of specific aspects of the collection, such as the kangas from East Africa, lotus shoes from China, silk embroidered postcards from the First World War, and much more.

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## The Next Exhibition!

### Decorated with Gold and Silver: The use of metal thread and paint in and on textiles



*Gold thread embroidered coat  
from Uzbekistan. TRC collection*

The TRC's next exhibition about the use of gold and silver in and on textiles and garments will open on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2016 and will be on display until the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016. It will include applied, embroidered, painted, printed and woven textiles that use gold and silver coloured objects, paints and threads in some manner. The many objects on display range from the 13<sup>th</sup> century to the present day and include items from many different cultures around the world. The exhibition includes, among many others, Afghan and Indian wedding dresses and outfits, Indonesian textiles with painted and woven gold decoration, European silks, velvets, and ecclesiastical embroideries, as well as a wide range of embroidered caps from Europe to China.

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### Wednesday Workshop, 27 January Professional necklace making

This workshop will be given by Jaap Hoorneman, a professional jeweller and teacher. It will focus on a range of knots, different types of threads and the many varieties of clasps, which can be used to make a necklace. The workshop will be of specific interest to people working with Dutch regional dress and jewellery, with the repairing of original examples and with the creation of new forms and replicas. The workshop, following the tradition of the TRC Wednesday morning workshops, will include a discussion and showing of historical and contemporary examples, and provide ample time for the participants to produce and try out certain forms themselves. Please register well in advance !

Date: 27 January 2016. Venue: TRC, Hogewoerd 164, Leiden. Time: 10.00-13.00. Fee: 25 euro, incl. coffee/tea and materials. Registration: [info@trc-leiden.nl](mailto:info@trc-leiden.nl). Maximum number of participants: fifteen. Language of communication: Dutch (and English if required).

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Textile Research Centre, Hogewoerd 164, 2311 HW Leiden, The Netherlands  
[info@trc-leiden.nl](mailto:info@trc-leiden.nl) [www.trc-leiden.nl](http://www.trc-leiden.nl)

## Wednesday morning workshop, 24 February Bethlehem embroidery



Gold thread embroidered coat from Uzbekistan. TRC collection

On the occasion of the pending publication of the *Encyclopedia of Embroidery from the Arab World*, this workshop is dedicated to the study of Palestinian embroidery and in particular that which is traditionally associated with Bethlehem, the birth place of Jesus Christ. The workshop will provide information about this type of needlework, and the opportunity for the participants to try out working some Palestinian embroidery themselves. The background information will look at the wide variety of dress forms and their embroidery found in Palestine prior to 1948, and a separate look at the so-called flag dresses from the 1980s.

The practical part of the workshop will look at a typical white dress from Bethlehem, known as a *thob al-malek* ('royal dress') and a woman's jacket with couched metal cords (*passementerie*) with floss silk details. Examples of both types of garments are in the TRC collection and will be on display during the workshop and available for closer inspection. Couched work is typical for traditional Bethlehem embroidery (see TRC Needles). The participants will be encouraged to try out some of the embroidery techniques found on these garments. In addition, for those who enjoy working cross stitch designs, a range of traditional Bethlehem patterns will be available for experimenting with. Registration in advance is required. The workshop will be given by Dr Gillian Vogelsang-Eastwood, director TRC.

Date: 24 February 2016 Time: 10.00 - 13.00 hrs. Venue: TRC, Hogewoerd 164, Leiden. Fee: 25 euros. Maximum number of participants: 15. Registration: [info@trc-leiden.nl](mailto:info@trc-leiden.nl) Language: Dutch (and English when and if necessary).

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## Ancient Egyptian Sewing Bee, 9 April 2016

In April 2016 the TRC is organising a one-day workshop on sewing (hems and seams), mending and patching, as well as beading and embroidering techniques from ancient Egypt. This meeting follows on a similar and very successful sewing bee, organised in London's Petrie Museum and led by Gillian Vogelsang, on 11 December 2015. The examples used for the meeting are all based on actual techniques identified on linen textiles and garments from various excavations in Egypt, including that of the famous Egyptian pharaoh, Tutankhamun, as well as objects in museums throughout the world.

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Following the example of the very successful TRC Wednesday morning workshops, this full day will be filled with brief talks, PowerPoint presentation(s) and actually trying out various forms of ancient Egyptian needlework. The workshop is given by Dr. Gillian Vogelsang-Eastwood, a specialist in ancient Egyptian textiles and clothing. No experience in sewing required. Materials, threads, beads, etc., will be provided.

Date: Saturday 9 April 2016; Time: 09.30 – 16.30; Lecturer: Dr. Gillian Vogelsang-Eastwood, director TRC; Language: Dutch (English if required); Costs: 55 euros per person incl. materials (lunch is not provided); Number of participants: maximum 15 people; Registration: [info@trc-leiden.nl](mailto:info@trc-leiden.nl)

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## **The TRC Five-Day Intensive Textile Courses**

The TRC is officially organising three five-day intensive textile courses, in March, May and October, although specials may also be arranged if required. The March course is already fully booked, while there are still four places available for May and five for October. So if you wish to attend the course please contact the TRC as soon as possible.

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## **TRC Volunteers needed**

The TRC Collection is moving towards 11,000 items, including textiles, garments and accessories (headwear, footwear, jewellery, etc). We need several volunteers who can help with the cataloguing of these items and who can come on a regular, weekly basis, namely someone with a textile background who can help with the cataloguing of all the items in the collection. If you can help and enjoy working within a team, can you please let us know as soon as possible?

Our aim is to have the first major group of objects from the TRC Collection on-line in the spring, followed by new batches every month after that. All of this will take time, but the TRC now has an international level collection with some unique items, and these deserve to be made well-known to the textile community around the world.

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## **Closed for Christmas and the New Year**

The TRC is shut for Christmas and the New Year from the 20<sup>th</sup> December until Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2016.