

Well, spring has sprung and the TRC is full of happenings!

The current exhibition about African textiles and clothing is attracting many people who have never been to the TRC before. Directly as a result of the exhibition we have also been given a range of African pieces that are nicely further building up the TRC collection. We have also recently been given a collection of early 20th century Indonesian textiles; 9 different lace pillows and bobbins from Europe, and then there is a promise of a Greek skirt (*fustanella*) for a man.

Detail of a Maasai outfit from Eastern Africa currently on display in the TRC Gallery



The recent courses on goldwork embroidery given by Ulrike Mullners in early March proved very successful and an extended version will be given in June. We hope that this will be the first in a series of workshops about different embroidery techniques from around the world that will be given at the TRC over the next year or so. In the autumn, for example, Gillian Vogelsang-Eastwood will be giving a workshop on ancient Egyptian embroidery techniques using flax threads.

Plans for the next exhibition on hand looms and hand woven textiles are also well on their way. The exhibition will open at the end of May and take place with the help of *West Weeft*. It will include various historical and modern looms from around the world. The exhibition after that will be about modern lace and how a group of Dutch bobbin lace makers have used the TRC collection as a source of inspiration.

TRC Textile Courses

PLEASE NOTE: There are only 3 places left for the TRC's intensive textile course from the 12th to 16th May 2014

And there are 4 places left for the 3-day Middle Eastern and Central Asian course that will take place on 20 – 22 June, and 2 places left for the 1-day workshop on Middle Eastern goldwork embroidery workshop on 23 June.

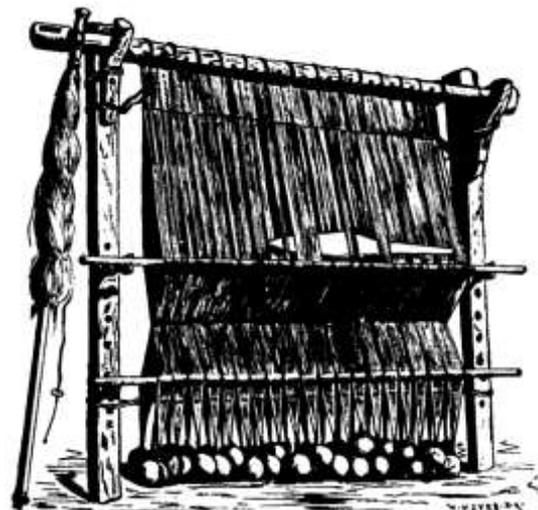
If you would like to attend any of these courses please contact us at info@trc-leiden.nl as soon as possible, as these places are going quickly.

TRC Spring Actions

The TRC has two, very different actions this spring to help with exhibitions and to build up our amazing collection of over 9,000 textile and dress related objects.

Help us build a warp-weighted loom

Next month, there will be in Holland the *Week of the Weaver* (www.week-van-het-weven.blogspot.nl) and the TRC, with *West Weeft* is holding an exhibition about unusual handlooms and hand woven textiles. The exhibition will open on 26 May and run until the end of September 2014. The looms will include, among others, a Bedouin ground loom; a Taiwanese foot braced loom; Ecuadorian, Guatemalan, and Mexican back strap looms; a replica of an Ancient Egyptian frame for making a **circular** collar, as well as various forms of sprang, braids and band frames and looms. And as a highlight we also want to include a warp-weighted loom of the type used by the Romans and Vikings!



We have a carpenter, and a potter for manufacturing the warp-weighted loom and its weights. We now need to pay for the materials and construction of the loom. Once finished, there will be something really intriguing that everyone can actually try!

We need 800 euros to cover all the costs. Please help us get the loom by making a donation to Textile Research Centre, account: NL39 INGB 000 298 2359, with the text **For the loom**

Sponsor a cap!

The second action is much more genteel. We have been offered a collection of Dutch lace caps - of types and styles we do not have in the TRC collection. Again we need to find c. 800 euros. The planned purchase includes the caps, acid free boxes and paper, and in some cases, a little tender care. We thought people might like to adopt a cap, so here follows a list of the caps and how much we need per cap.

Per region		Twente: mourning cap	30
Achterhoek: white under cap	15	Veluwe: cap	20
Cadzand: lace cap	50	Waltheren: girl's cap	40
Drenthe: lace cap	45	Walcheren: hat	50
Drenthe/Friesland: 'night cap'	15	Walcheren: under cap	5
Drenthe: half mourning cap	15	Winterswijk: mourning cap	30
Drenthe: mourning cap	15	Zandvoor: simple lace cap	20
Huizen: <i>oorijzermuts</i> with lace edge	60	Zuid-Holland Islands: mourning cap	30
Kampen: cap for an orphan girl	20	Zuid-Holland Islands: lace cap, c. 1880	60
Markelo: daily cap	30	Zuid-Holland/Utrecht: mourning cap	20
Nieuw-en St.-Joostland: under cap	10	Zuid-Holland: mourning cap	20
Noord-Holland: mourning cap	20	Zuidwest Drenthe: mid 19 th c. cap	35
Noordwest Veluwe: mourning cap	25		
Noord-Zeeuwse Islands: lace cap	40	General	
Nunspeet: 'droefmuts'	40	Black under cap	5
Rijssen: mourning cap	25	Black velvet hat for over a lace cap	50
Salland/Achterhoek: mourning cap	25	Daily crochet cap	20
Tholen: half mourning cap	15	Lace <i>knipmuts</i> , finely pleated back	30

Sponsor a cap: please make over the indicated amount to the Textile Research Centre account NL39 INGB 000 298 2359, stating which cap you are sponsoring. You are, of course, welcome to help with more than one!

Culturele ANBI

Please note that financial donations made by Dutch taxpayers to the TRC can be reclaimed from the tax man at a much higher rate than is normal because the TRC is a *Culturele ANBI*. It benefits you and us to make a donation!

Current Exhibition

The TRC's current exhibition is about the colours and shapes associated with African textiles and clothing. The vast continent of Africa is home to a wide range of cultural and ethnic groups, many of whom have their own styles of traditional textiles and garments. For thousands of years these have been used as an important means to show, not only the group's identity, but also a person's social and economic status, and his or her role within the group. And above that, the textiles also reflect ideas about colour, patterns and iconography, as well as religion and spirituality.

Vlisco, Africa and the new Dutch king (TRC Africa exhibition)



The aim of this exhibition at the TRC Gallery, **which runs until 15 May 2014**, is to give a feel for this diversity by focusing on various types of garments and textiles from different parts of sub-Saharan Africa. In doing so, emphasis is placed on types of fibres used for special garments; on some specific dyeing techniques, and on some of the silhouettes created by the garments and outfits worn by both men and women. Overall, many developments in the use of local and imported textiles have taken place in the 20th and early 21st centuries, and these are reflected in the garments. As a result, there have been some dramatic changes in the fibres

used, the dyeing techniques, and the silhouette of Africa and Africans.

The exhibition is co-produced with Paul Spijker (*Toguna Art*), a specialist in African textiles and artefacts.

Digital Encyclopaedia of Decorative Needlework

The TRC's Digital Encyclopaedia of Decorative Needlework is well on its way and the first 500 entries will appear in the late summer. We now have help from various organisations including HALI, and the Centre for Textile Research, Copenhagen University. In addition various individuals have offered their help from around the world, including America, Denmark, Germany, India, Sweden and Japan.

The TRC Library

Thanks to the hard work of a group of TRC volunteers, notably Martine de Nijs, the TRC library has been totally reorganised and will be open to the public again in May. The library has over 2,000 books on textile and dress related subjects.

Please note that books can be used at the TRC, but are not lent out.

TRC Recommended Book List

The next TRC recommended book list will soon be published. It includes a very diverse range of books, from Jordanian Bedouin woven textiles to details about a museum collection in Prague.

Publishers who are interested in having their books reviewed for the *TRC's Recommended Book List* should contact us at info@trc-leiden.nl

HALI Carpet and Textile Tour Of Britain

HALI is organising a luxury textile tour of Britain in June 2014. They are offering a 5% discount per person on the tour for friends and associates of the TRC, Leiden.

The tour will include various events and venues in London, the Ashmolean Museum (Oxford), Boughton House, Hardwick Hall, Farlam Hall, and the Burrell collection (Glasgow), as well as a range of other visits and opportunities to see carpets and textiles, plus the chance to talk with specialists and fellow enthusiasts.

If you are interesting in taking part in the tour and would like further information, please email Rachel Meek, Assistant editor of HALI at rachel.meek@hali.com

TRC Facebook

Thanks to the hard work of Shelley Anderson, the TRC's Facebook page is very active and getting more and more attention. There are items about TRC events, textile related 'news' items such as places to visit, tv programmes, and so forth, which are of interest, as well as comments by (TRC) supporters.

Remember: be sure to 'Like' us on Facebook!

The Encyclopaedia of Embroidery from the Arab World

The Encyclopaedia is edited by Dr. Gillian Vogelsang-Eastwood and will be published by the end of the year by Bloomsbury, London. Although the ms has been presented to the Publisher, some minor changes can still be made to the chapter on Saudi Arabian embroidery following Gillian's planned visit to Riyadh in mid-April of this year.