



Textile Research Centre Newsletter: February 2015

The Wednesday morning workshops

For the last few months the TRC has been successfully running a series of workshops on Wednesday mornings, between 10.00 and 13.00, for a limited number of participants. Each workshop has a similar programme: an historical introduction to a particular subject, a technical look at specific examples from the TRC collection and/or the current exhibition and a practical element in which the participants have the opportunity to try various aspects of the subject. You do not need to have any experience with sewing to be involved, the workshops always include patterns for people with different levels of experience.

The number of participants is no higher than 15. The costs, which need to be paid in advance or at the start of the workshops, is 25 euros including tea/coffee and the required equipment and materials. You need to register well in advance for these workshops as they are popular. You can register at info@trc-leiden.nl. All of the workshops are in Dutch (explanations in English are always available). The workshops take place at: TRC, Hogewoerd 164, 2311 HW Leiden. Time: 10.00-13.00.

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25 February 2015: The World of Samples and Samplers

For many people a sample or sampler is produced in cross stitch and includes a name, year, letters and isolated images, but the world of samplers is actually much more complicated and includes band, commemorative, design, globe, map, mending, moral, stitch, and many other forms. We will start with a powerpoint presentation about the various forms of European samplers over the last 600 or so years, and then move on to Middle Eastern examples, such as the medieval Egyptian Mamluk samplers and modern Moroccan pieces. We will also look at early colonial samplers from North America; Sudanese examples; Palestinian work, and so forth. We will then examine some of the actual samples and samplers in the TRC collection, before starting trying out some sampler designs ourselves, including some medieval Egyptian Mamluk patterns in various stitches, or the typically Dutch, spinning woman/monkey motif. Don't hesitate if you want to bring an example from home for all of us to look at. Perhaps you can have a look at the relevant entries on samples and samplers in [TRC Needles](#), just to get an idea of this fascinating aspect of decorative needlework.



The workshop will be given by Gillian Vogelsang-Eastwood, director TRC.

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25 March 2015: Japanese Kimonos

This Wednesday morning we will look at many aspects of iconic garment from Japan, namely the kimono. We start with a general introduction to the kimono, worn by men, women and children in Japan for many centuries. Then we will use some of the kimonos from the TRC collection to have a close look at them and to understand



how they are worn and how the various elements (a kimono is not only one specific piece of attire, it is also a set of some ten different elements) are being brought together. Participants are welcome to bring their own kimonos for us to discuss! The third part of the workshop will provide a link with the current Geisha exhibition in the National Museum of Ethnology, Leiden, by looking at the role of the kimono in Geisha culture.

The workshop will be given by Anna Beerens, specialist in Japanese culture, with a particular interest in the history of the kimono and kimono wearing.

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29 April 2015. Straits Chinese Beadwork

The Straits Chinese are an ethnic group whose ancestors were immigrants in the former Straits Settlements of Singapore, Malacca and Penang. The beadwork of this unique Chinese community is a reflection of their syncretic cultural identity. This workshop shall give an overview of the beadwork made in the first half of the 20th century, addressing both the functional and technical aspects, viz. "what was made", and "how they were made." Use will be made of a collection of Straits Chinese beadwork owned by the lecturer, who was also taught how to work beadwork by his own grandmother, so the workshop includes a practical session on counted-thread beadwork embroidery from the former Straits. No previous experience with beadwork is required.

The workshop will be given by Christopher Ng, whose family originates from the Straits and who is now a volunteer at the TRC.



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27 May 2015: Medieval Decorative Needlework

Textile finds from early medieval sites in the Netherlands and the surrounding countries show that needlework in the period before 1000 AD was not only functional but could be highly decorative as well. This is a feature that to date has received scant attention in literature. Participants of this workshop will learn about the special sewing techniques and materials used in this period, which is linked to Emperor Charlemagne and the Vikings. But they will also practice some of the decorative stitches that have been documented in 'royal' burials in England and Denmark and those used for several garments found in the Netherlands. Participants do not need to have any previous experience with needlework.

This workshop will be given by the archaeologist, Chrystal Brandenburg, Leiden City Archaeologist