

The TRC is getting busier! As a result the number of volunteers has been increased in order to accommodate the TRC's growth. Current projects include helping with a film about magic in Ancient Egypt (RMO, Leiden) and an enlarged version of the embroidery in the Arab World (see below).

The TRC has received a number of donations for its collection in the last few weeks, including a late 19th century woman's outfit from Friesland, The Netherlands; a collection of garments from various diverse countries - literally from China to Ghana. This collection includes a genuine Mao outfit worn in China during the 1970s. As a result of the *badla* exhibition (see below), we were given a *badla* shawl from Egypt which dates to between 1910 and 1915.

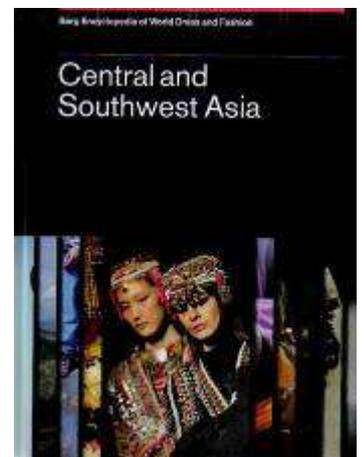
The library will open at the end of September for the consultation. The TRC library currently includes nearly 1500 books on various aspects of textiles and dress.

As will be seen, the TRC currently has a three-in-one exhibition called "Three Takes on Dress," which includes three very different types of dress. This will be followed by an large exhibition about Afghan dress.

Berg Encyclopedia of World Dress and Fashion

Volume V of the *Berg Encyclopedia of World Dress and Fashion: Central and Southwest Asia*. The volume contains 515 pages with entries on a large variety of topics relating to dress from Central and Southwest Asia, written by specialists from all over the world. Volume V was edited by Dr Gillian Vogelsang-Eastwood, director of the TRC. The book forms part of a 10-volume series with Professor Joanne B. Eicher, Regents Professor Emerita, University of Minnesota, USA, as editor-in-chief.

For further details about the series, please see:
<http://www.bergpublishers.com/?tabid=4820>



Embroidery in the Arab World

The TRC's project about embroidery in the Arab World has been extended into a much larger event. It was recently agreed with Mrs. W. Kawar, Jordan and Mrs. L. Pio, Jordan, that together we will create a joint exhibition and book based on Mrs. Kawar's embroidery collection and that of the TRC. The project will look at embroidery from all the regions of the Arab World, past, present and future. Support

for this project has already been promised by various Arab Embassies in the Netherlands.

Current exhibition: *Three Takes on Dress*

Dress is what people wear to say who they are, what they are doing and why. The latest TRC exhibition, *Three Takes on Dress*, presents three totally different snapshots about dress from India (badla embroidery), Jordan (the huge Thob 'Ubb) and Turkey (circumcision dress). *Three Takes on Dress* has been made by various staff members and students from Leiden University.

- **First take:** *The Thob 'Ubb: The longest dress in the world?*

This exhibition features a Bedouin dress from Jordan that is 3 metres long and nearly 2.5 metres wide, sleeve end to sleeve end. The story goes that women started to wear these enormous dresses in order to prevent tax collectors taking small items of value such as money and jewellery. It would have been a brave man who was prepared to search these Bedouin women! The exhibition includes replica garments that can be tried on.



- **Second take:** *Badla: silver embroidery from India*

Badla is a metal thread embroidery technique that originated in India and then spread throughout the Middle East. The Egyptian version became popular in the West during the 1920s following the opening of the tomb of Tutankhamen and the ensuing Egyptomania. The exhibition includes fine nineteenth and twentieth century examples from India, Iran and Egypt, as well as a rare 1920s flapper dress from Europe that is made out of two Egyptian shawls.



- **Third take:** *'Prince for the Day': Turkish circumcision outfits*

One of the most important markers of a Muslim boy's life is his circumcision. This operation identifies him as a member of the Islamic community. When this event occurs varies from one country to another. In Turkey, for example, it normally takes place when the boy is between 6 and 10 years old and for one day he is regarded as a prince and treated to a large party to celebrate this important moment. The exhibition includes a late nineteenth century circumcision outfit, as well as several examples of the current fashions in Istanbul.

Next exhibition: A Well-Dressed Afghanistan: Traditional clothing from Afghanistan

For hundreds of years Afghanistan has been a crossing point between Asia and the West. Over the centuries Afghanistan has been given various names, ruled by different groups, but what has never changed is their love of colourful clothing, jewellery and embroidery.

The cloth, form and colour of the clothing used by the Afghans give an indication of the central and strategic position of their country. The important ethnic groups in Afghanistan are the Baluch, Hazaras, Nuri, Pashtun, Tajik, Turkmen and Uzbek. Each group not only has its own traditional way of life and history, but also characteristic clothing. Although more and more Afghans are wearing Western style clothing, they are still very proud of their own dress forms. The exhibition includes numerous outfits as well as individual garments and accessories for men, women and children. There is also a special outfit worn by men playing buzkashi ("Afghan polo").

The exhibition includes a number of photographs by Hans Stakelbeek, a photographer who has been working in Afghanistan at the request of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The exhibition is co-produced by Dr. Willem Vogelsang, who has been working in Afghanistan since 2008.

The exhibition will open on the 25th October and will be officially opened on the 4th November 2010 by the Honorary Consul for Afghanistan in The Hague, Mr. The exhibition will run until the 23rd March 2010.

Events

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