



Kirsten Toftegaard

CIETA 2009

28 September-1 October 2009, Musées
Royaux d'art et d'histoire, Bruxelles,
Belgium

The theme of the 23rd assembly of CIETA (Centre International d'Etudes des Textiles Anciens) was "Le Commerce des textiles (tissus, dentelles, tapisseries)". About 110 members from 18 countries in Europe, USA, Canada, Japan and India were present, and 34 gave lectures in English or French. During Monday and Tuesday the lectures were grouped as following: Textiles, trade, travels until the 18th century; Textiles, trade, travels the 18th-19th centuries - mostly printed textiles; Textiles, trade, travels - focus on political, philosophical and religious aspects. The topics ranged from textile trade between Milan and Genoa in the 15th century by Chiara Buss to European designed textiles produced in China and exported to Japan in the late 16th through early 17th century by Masako Yoshida from Japan and many more interesting subjects such as The Belgian State and the worldwide promotion of tapestries by Elsje Janssen - just to mention a few. The third day of the conference was dedicated to other topics. Four lectures dealt with archaeological textiles from the Eastern Mediterranean, among others Hero Granger-Taylor talked about the textiles from Masada, Israel. Others dealt with textile techniques and case studies, amongst whom Joy Boutrup gave new insight into the application of loop braiding (see article this issue).

After the daily lectures, museum collections, historical sights and ateliers generously opened their doors to the participants of the conference. On Monday, the City Hall, Grand-Place, hosted a reception for all members of CIETA. On Tuesday the official dinner was held at Musées Royaux d'art et d'histoire. Thursday contained three optional excursions. One tour went to Malines to visit the De Wit Manufacture Royale de Tapisseries, Lier to study vestments at The Sant Gommaire Church and a visit to Antwerp to the Katoen Natie Art Collection with its impressive collection of Egyptian Coptic textiles -

tunics, bonnets and fragments - and Persian Textiles from the Silk Road.

Another tour visited the towns of Liege and Tongeren. In Liege, the participants visited the fully renovated Cathedral cloister with the Cathedral treasure and the newly opened museum The Grand Curtius. In Tongeren, relics and relic pouches of The Notre Dame de Tongeren Basilica were presented to the participants. These textiles date back to the 10th century.

The third tour went to Tournai and Bruges to study tapestries and laces. In Tournai, the Musée de la tapisserie et Arts du Tissu and The Notre Dame Cathedral were visited especially for the purpose to study tapestries, and in Bruges, the Brugge Museum-Gruuthuse and the Hospital of Notre-Dame de la Poterie were enjoyed for their collections of laces and tapestries.

During the 23rd assembly in Bruxelles, the président du CIETA Pierre Arizzoli-Clémentel, Directeur général du musée et du domaine de Versailles, stepped back and the members elected as new president Birgitt Borkopp-Restle from the Institut für Kunstgeschichte der Universität Bern.

The next CIETA conference will take place in Copenhagen, Denmark, 3-6 October 2011 arranged by The Danish Museum of Art & Design together with The Danish National Research Foundation's Centre for Textile Research, University of Copenhagen. The theme of the conference will be "Cultural encounters in textiles and dress between Northern Europe and the World".