

*From the makers of 'The Terracotta Army...'*

## Gold from Georgia

### The myth of the Golden Fleece



Once again, the makers of the successful exhibition 'the Terracotta Army of Xi'an' present a spectacular exhibition on amazing treasures from a distant past; this time treasures from ancient Georgia. In the Drents Museum in Assen, the Netherlands, some 150 wonderful gold, silver and bronze objects show that ancient Georgia possessed a high standard metal technique. Central theme to this exhibition is the Greek myth of Iason searching for the Golden Fleece in Colchis (ancient Georgia). The exhibition shows highlights from the Bronze Age, the Iron Age and the Roman Era from various places in Georgia, as well as valuable grave objects from the excavations at the famous temple city Vani. Most striking are the wonderful pieces of gold jewellery. The objects, all from the National Museum in Tbilisi, have been on show in different settings in, amongst others, Berlin, Washington, New York, Athens, Los Angeles and Stockholm. In the Netherlands, in Assen, the unique objects will be presented in a new storyline, in a breathtaking design made especially for the Drents Museum by Marcel Wouters Ontwerpers. Many extra activities will be organised for this exhibition.

#### The myth of the Golden Fleece

Since the third Century BC, Greek writers mentioned the legendary wealth of a country called Colchis, the Western part of Georgia. The presence of many gold- silver-, iron and copper ore made this area at the foot of the Caucasus Mountains an attractive target for Greek expeditions. The method used for the gold recovery by using a sheep's fleece to 'catch' gold from the rivers, forms the basis for the Greek myth of Iason and the Golden Fleece. In Colchis Iason did not only find the Golden Fleece, the wealth of the country, but also his bride, the King's daughter Medea. This legend became one of the most popular stories in Greek mythology and was the basis for the most important knighthood in the Middle Ages, the exclusive Order of the Golden Fleece.

#### Tickets

There is an added charge of € 2, – to the regular entrance fee for this exhibition.

Tickets are available at the Drents Museum and the Tourist Information Office Assen and can also be obtained online at the website of the Drents Museum.

At the moment, Georgia enjoys a lot of interest from Dutch museums. Before 'Gold from Georgia', the Natuurhistorisch Museum Naturalis in Leiden presents (from November 28, 2009 till February 28, 2010) The Face of Human Evolution, which includes the Dmanisi-skull from Georgia.



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