

Letter from the Editors

We have produced our 'summer issue' during a season here in the Netherlands that most of our readers would more likely associate with winter. However, we once again present to you an attractive mix of articles, touching upon the various continental shores hit by European expansion as well as the usual interview with a distinguished historian, this time with Om Prakash from India.

We are publishing two articles with a broad, global scope, one by Stephen Sanderson on the Modern World System, the other by David Mikosz on universal languages. Other articles cover seventeenth-century Japan (by Catharina Blomberg) and Thailand (by Alfons van der Kraan). The emphasis on Asia is balanced this time by a contribution on South America's indigenous Pampa dwellers in the colonial and early Independence periods, written by Raúl José Mandrini.

We call our readers' attention to next month's first *Itinerario Seminar*, on the 'American Experience in Asia'. Apart from the intellectual and social satisfaction we are hoping to derive from these encounters, there is, of course, an added benefit in that we will endeavour to publish as many of the presented papers as possible in this journal. The seminar has been timed in such a way as to give us both the opportunity and time to prepare the third issue of this year's *Itinerario*.

The Editors