

Letter from the Editors

On Christmas Eve *Itinerario* was shocked by the news of the death of our long term secretary, Mrs Ria de Kock. She died in a hospital after suffering a stroke at her home in Alphen aan den Rijn. Mrs De Kock served at the Institute for the History of European Expansion for many years until she retired in 1996. Many visitors to the institute will remember her as one of the more colourful persons within Leiden University, acting like Margaret Thatcher long before anyone had ever heard of the Iron Lady. *Itinerario* will miss her dearly and will remember her dedication to the institute and the journal.

Less dramatic was the decision by our editorial assistant, Maaïke Kuyvenhoven, to continue her career with the ABN-Bank. She is replaced by Jesca Zweijtzter, who studied Chinese at Leiden University and worked until now at the Sinology Library of this university.

As usual, the last number of 2001 is a large one, with many articles on different subjects. We are also very happy to be able to publish two interviews, one with the famous Sir Michael Howard and one with the American historian Edwin Van Kley. Some of the articles are a direct result of the *Itinerario* conferences of 2001. Walter Demel writes on 'The Images of the Japanese and the Chinese in Early Modern Europe', Edwin Van Kley on 'Perceptions of Asian Religious Diversity in Seventeenth-Century Dutch Literature' and Peter Rietbergen on 'Nihon or Japan? European Perceptions of Japan, circa 1600'. From another conference comes Helen Safa's 'Changing Forms of U.S. Hegemony in Puerto Rico'. Four articles on other subjects make this a diverse and interesting issue. In his 'Being White in Tropical Asia' Australian historian Joost Coté compares the racial discourses in the Dutch and Australian colonies in the first decade of the twentieth century, while Robert Ross writes on 'The Photographic Presentation of South Africa'. Daniel P. Hopkins's subject is 'The Danish Ban on the Atlantic Slave Trade', while J.P. Daughton focusses on 'Kings of the Mountain: Mayréna, Missionaries, and French Colonial Divisions in 1880s Indochina'.

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THE ATLANTIC WORLD AND VIRGINIA, 1550–1624

A Call for Papers for an Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture Conference, March 2004, at Jamestown, Virginia

The conference proposes to survey the Atlantic Littoral on the eve of England's colonization of Virginia. Within the Ottoman Empire, West African kingdoms, European nations, the British Isles, and South, Central, and North America, shifting forces and internal contests for political, economic, and cultural domination produced displacements and consolidations of power. Competition over resources and peoples had consequences for the convergence of Europeans, Indians, and Africans in the western hemisphere. The geopolitical realignments and socio-economic reorganizations that occurred within these circum-Atlantic territories shaped the contacts between eastern and western hemisphere peoples and influenced the formation of new world societies. The intent of the conference and the volume that will develop from it is to create a mosaic picture of the regions and influences in play that formed the context and impetus for the settlement at Jamestown in 1607.

The first set of sessions will examine the dynamics of power relations among native American populations in the southeastern coastal regions and interior, from the early sixteenth century to the arrival of the English in Virginia. The unifying theme will be how the social movements and economic-political arrangements in native America created the matrix in which subsequent interactions and experiences between English and Indians occurred. The second set of sessions will consider the reallocation of peoples around the Mediterranean with the expansion of Muslim penetration into sub-Saharan Africa and the concurrent conflicts among African kingdoms and groups. Here, the thrust will be to explore how these reconfigurations of power affected the size, contours, and expansion of the slave trade. A third set of sessions, focused on the internal social and political dislocations and reorganizations in Iberia, France, the Netherlands, and the British Isles, will address how readjustments within these emerging nation-states promoted their colonial undertakings. Zones of contact in the Caribbean and in South, Central, and North America, where encounters, conflicts, and developments contributed to the English claim and settlement of Virginia, will comprise the fourth set of sessions. The question to be explored will be how the competing presence and pressure of Europeans, Indians, and Africans in these adjacent areas influenced the conditions and events on the eastern coast of North America between 1580 and 1624. A fifth set of sessions will contemplate the period of Jamestown's settlement under the control of the Virginia Company, 1607–1624, with the aim of elucidating the impact of the converging circum-Atlantic forces set in motion in the preceding century on the early years of colonial contact and experience in Virginia.

The conference will be multi-disciplinary, and the program committee welcomes proposals from scholars in all appropriate fields. The Institute will edit the papers from the conference for a volume to be released in 2007. Please submit written proposals of three to five pages outlining the subject, argument, and relevance to the conference theme. Include curriculum vitae. Send five (5) copies to: The Atlantic World and Virginia, OIEAHC, Post Office Box 8781, Williamsburg, VA 23187-8781. Postmark deadline for proposals: 30 June 2002.