

Letter from the Editors

The editors are happy to announce that *Itinerario* has received a generous grant from one of its readers, Arend de Roever, who in the past has been sponsoring the annual Crayenborgh honours class of the Leiden History Department. Together with matching funds from CNWS, this first of all enabled the continuation of the editorial assistantship of Olaf Peters. Secondly and even more importantly, in the next couple of years the editors plan to invite scholars from around the world to Leiden to participate in several seminars and conferences and to submit their papers to *Itinerario*. Anyone who wants to put forward themes for these seminars is invited to contact the editors. We hope these activities, which are made possible by Arend de Roever, will generate new and interesting articles and will keep *Itinerario* as fresh and ambitious as before.

For the present number of *Itinerario* we are particularly happy to publish an article by Ayodeji Olukoju on the liquor trade in Southern Nigeria. The editors hope to receive more contributions from African colleagues for future issues.

In co-operation with *Leidschrift*, a historical journal run by Leiden students, *Itinerario* has had an illuminating conversation with the eminent military historian, Geoffrey Parker. Traditionally, we have a 'VOC-article': Markus Vink describes extensively the underlying images and ideologies of the contacts between the Dutch and the Indians in Madurai, by concentrating on the diverse points of view of the main players. Russell K. Skowronek, who contributes an article on the Spanish Philippines and Puerto Rico, has a completely different perspective. He represents a scholarly specialism not very often seen on *Itinerario*'s pages, to wit anthropological archaeology. Antonio Annino reflects on the 'Long Seventeenth Century' in eighteenth and nineteenth-century Latin America. The lax response from Germany and Britain to the neo-mercantilist resurgence in the late nineteenth-century Spanish Philippines is analysed by Wigan Salazar.

Finally, we are happy to welcome aboard a new editor and an old friend from the Leiden History Department, Wim van den Doel, a specialist on twentieth-century overseas history, who therefore is a welcome addition to our team.

The editors