

## Letter from the Editors

The editors are proud to present the first issue of 2014! As historians across the world commemorate the outbreak of the First World War, *Itinerario* has decided to showcase little known photographs of wartime events in Palestine and the Sinai on our covers this year. We would like to thank Anton Feddema for the beautiful design.

The new year has also brought some changes in the editorial board: we have the pleasure of welcoming Kris Lane (Tulane University) into our team. This issue is also the last issue to have been copy-edited by Lincoln Paine, although he will remain involved with the journal. We will miss his masterful editing, but we are fortunate to have found a worthy successor in Matt Cook (North Carolina Central University). Finally, Nigel Worden (University of Cape Town) has joined the advisory board.

The research articles in this issue offer a truly global spread. We open with an interview with Leonard Andaya on his life and work on Southeast Asia. From there, we continue with three articles dealing with the intellectual history of early modern company- and colonial policy. First, Arthur Weststeijn challenges the historiography that presents the Dutch East India Company as a multinational corporation and non-state colonial actor. He meticulously reconstructs the environment of continuous debate on Dutch colonial politics in the 1660s and 1670s and argues that the VOC should be considered a political institution in its own terms, a body politic that was neither corporation nor empire, but rather a Company-State. This article is a great companion to the contribution by Alan Rome, who delves into the background to British colonial policy in early Virginia. He shows that motivations of benevolence, driven by a fatal assumption that the Indians were the same as the British themselves, played a crucial role in the impetus and direction of the colonial enterprise. This “prejudice of equality” justified settlement, policies, plans and interactions on the ground, and later amplified tensions into violence and violence into massacre. These articles are accompanied by Lisa Hellman’s contribution, who sheds light on knowledge production of China in the Swedish East India Company, and the ways in which this was tied to constructions of masculinity. Her article discusses the implications of this connection for men employed in an East India Company from a militarily weak country, and the role that the perceived and pre-

mented knowledge of China played in this intertwining of gender, natural history, and power.

With Theresa Levitt we move into the realm of the history of science, and the invention of the Fresnel lens which made seacoast lighting possible. Her article shows the interplay between the production of lighthouse lenses and their installation in remote colonies as European empires expanded, and highlights the crucial role of maritime commerce in driving technological innovation. The articles by Alexander Keese and David Fettling, finally, take us into the political history of the twentieth century, albeit in very different locations: São Tomé e Príncipe and Indonesia, respectively. Keese examines the complexities of São Tomé under the Gorgulho administration, and its attempts at realising state-controlled growth, modernisation and a degree of labour legislation, all of which abruptly ended with the 1953 Batepá massacre. Fettling, by contrast, examines the policies of an outsider: Australian Richard Kirby, who was sent by the Australian Government to revolutionary Indonesia to look into the murder of three Australian war crimes investigators. Kirby adroitly navigated an issue which could easily have become a diplomatic conflict. Fettling sheds light on Kirby's ideas, and shows that his attitude was a combination of a romanticised notion of Indonesia coupled with a structuralist approach to conflict as prevalent in progressive circles of the times. As always, this issue closes with a book review section, which has a global spread to rival the research articles.

The Editors