

## Letter from the Editors

This letter should start with a sincere apology. We failed to deliver this issue and 1997/4 on time and we hope you can forgive us for having to wait so long for them. In fact, far too long.

The problems surrounding the production of the bibliographical issues were twofold. First, there was some reshuffling within the Leiden History Department, which gave our colleague Jaap de Moor, the man responsible for the *Current Annotated Bibliography of Dutch Expansion Studies* (CABDES), new teaching responsibilities.

Second, desktop publishing technology has increased tremendously the number of 'grey' publications in all fields of history, including the field of Dutch expansion studies. Most of these 'grey' publications have only limited importance, are on small and detailed questions or talk about work in progress, soon to be published in a more professional form. Because of this development – which increasingly creates simply too much 'grey' information in every field – it became more and more difficult to compile abstracts in time.

Therefore we have decided to publish CABDES in a new format. We will continue to list all publications on Dutch expansion, but – as you will notice – we have stopped including abstracts.

Instead, beginning with *Itinerario* 1998/4, Jaap de Moor will write an extensive essay reviewing the most important publications of a given year. We hope that through this essay you will be able to keep track of the year-to-year developments in the study of the history of Dutch expansion and its aftermath, and that for our foreign readers *Itinerario* will continue to provide a window on what is happening in the Dutch academic world concerned with overseas history.

The Editors