

EDITORIAL

This is the last issue, at least for the time being, which will be coedited by *Itinerario* founding coeditor, Leonard Blussé. His place beside George Winius will be taken by Robert Ross, the Centre's Africanist. To say that Blussé will disappear from the scene, however, would be like the premature reports of Mark Twain's demise, which, as Twain himself observed, were greatly exaggerated. Blussé's office is located directly between those of Ross and Winius, and he is too full of ideas and energy for his presence not to be felt.

The reason for the shift is to allow him to become secretary of the Centre, to cover for Pieter Emmer, who beginning January 1, 1982, will perform a two-year stint as boardmember of the Faculty of Letters at this university. As such, we will probably see far less of Emmer than of Blussé, if only because Emmer will move into quarters across the Witte Singel, ones even newer than our own, where nameplates have not yet replaced crayoned bits of paper stuck to doors with masking tape.

The other important mutation in the staffing of the Centre is that, finally, a successor has been appointed to Gerard Telkamp as documentalist. This is Jaap de Moor. He will be concerned among other tasks, with the continuation of the *Current Annotated Bibliography of Dutch Expansion Studies*, which was such a valuable feature of *Itinerario*. In the first issue, he will attempt to fill up the gap caused by the two year hiatus in this series, and thereafter continue on an annual basis.

From now on, this Bibliography will be published in the same format as the editorial issues. The cumulative index on the five years of CABDES, which is included with this sending, is therefore the last in the A4 format.

In this issue, incidentally, we have no formal archival piece, but we are happy to publish in its place Jan Hogendorn's field notes from the Maldives which we have just now received (see our piece in 1982-1 on the Colombo archives).

The observant reader of *Itinerario* will have noticed that in the last few issues the character of the journal has been changing somewhat. Although we have maintained all the old

features and, we hope, have kept the relaxed style that it has always had, we have been including a slow trickle of articles that resemble more closely those in traditional academic journals. This is something which we hope to expand in the future. It is thus a good time to lay out the qualities that we hope these articles have because we do not intend *Itinerario* to become indistinguishable from other historical journals.

As we see it, any piece in *Itinerario* must be of interest not just to a small group of specialists, but to a wide spectrum of our heterogenous readership. This is the basic criterion for publication of any piece in *Itinerario*. This does not mean that an article cannot be specialized in itself, only that, in the view of the editors, it has to have a relevance beyond its immediate subject. This could be, for instance, because of its exemplary nature, because it describes and analyses phenomena which can be compared with similar ones in other parts of the world or because it presents recent trends in a particular historiography which may be valuable to those scholars working in other fields but which may have escaped their notice. Certainly we do not wish to develop a particular line, but rather will strive to remain eclectic in outlook. If you have any ideas in these, or other equivalent directions, do get in touch with us, either by sending us a piece or, at the least, by giving us an idea of what you intend to write, so that an article can develop out of the dialogue between author and editors.

This is a good moment to bring these matters to your attention, and not only because we need your cooperation in the establishment of our aims.

Editors and
Robert Ross.

LETTERS FROM CORRESPONDING EDITORS

DUTCH PERIOD MUSEUM - COLOMBO

Sri Lanka is fortunate to have established its first Dutch Period Museum in a typical colonial Dutch building in