

Letter from the Editors

In the nick of time, meaning just before Christmas, we were able to finish this year's last regular issue of *Itinerario*. Issue no 4 (with the customary bibliography on the history of European Expansion) will reach you early next year. Needless to say, you will also receive the long overdue 1996 bibliographic issue, delayed due to an unfortunate organisational problem at the institute.

We realise that these Yuletide wishes will not reach most of our readership in time, but nonetheless we hope that every reader will have a peaceful end of 1997 and beginning of 1998, and we certainly extend our best wishes for the new year.

We are also happy to announce that the first *Itinerario* Seminars sponsored by our member and benefactor, Arend de Roever will be organised at Leiden in the Fall of 1998. The topic will be: The American Experience in Asia. If everything goes as planned you will be among the first to hear about the programme and results since the papers will be published in issue no 3 of next year. Of course, suggestions for future seminar themes are most welcome; we greatly appreciate such feedback from our readers, especially from our FEEGI members, whom we hope to meet at the on-coming FEEGI conference at the Huntington Library in the beginning of April.

Now for the content of the issue in your hands: you will notice a strong emphasis on matters Taiwanese, in this issue dedicated to the mentor of Taiwanese historical studies, prof. Ts'ao Yung-ho. Contributions are by our former guest and editorial aide, Paul van Dyke, and by Tonio Andrade and prof. Ts'ao Yung-ho himself. The perennial issue of East-West relations, at least its cultural aspect (Orientalism), is the topic of a probing essay by Hans Hägerdal. Walther Bernecker enlightens us on nineteenth-century Mexican foreign trade and the rivalry between European states and the United States. During one of his frequent visits to Leiden, we were able to catch John Darwin and subject him to an interview, which we are publishing

in this issue. Finally, we are publishing two smaller essays on archival affairs: one by Ben Teensma on a curious document found in the Netherlands National Archives, written by a Sephardic daydreamer suggesting the Dutch Republic conquer Florida, and one by our editorial staffer Marten Brienon on doing archival research in Bolivia. Needless to say, we are also including a small sampling of book reviews.

The Editors