

Letter from the Editors

This first issue of 1996 contains contributions dealing with practically the entire non-European world: Africa, Asia, North and South America, and Australia.

We would especially call your attention to two articles. Firstly, the contribution by professor Bernard Bailyn, written to celebrate our twentieth year of continuous publication. Secondly, the article by Frans-Paul van der Putten, who after having served as our staff assistant for the past year, is currently preparing a doctoral dissertation on Western business in Republican China.

We have also done some thinking on the proper way to celebrate our twentieth anniversary. Faced with the insurmountable practical and financial hurdles of transporting hundreds of people to Leiden, we concluded that the only way we can let our readers participate in this event, is by making a special commemorative volume with the interviews *Itinerario* has published so far. This volume, provisionally entitled *Peregrinations to the Past*, will be published at the end of this term.

Those who have visited the Centre in the past will be sorry to hear that Mrs Ria de Kock, a true pillar of *Itinerario* since its very beginning in 1976, will retire this coming May. Thanking her for two decades of pleasant cooperation, we shall truly miss her unfailing common sense and her good humour.

Leonard Blussé & Hans Vogel