



# The Atlantic World and the Dutch 1500-2000

NEWSLETTER

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## IN MEMORIAM

It is with deep sorrow that we inform you that dr. Glenn Willemsen has passed away on 29 February 2007, at the age of only 59 years. Glenn Walter Frank Willemsen was director of the NiNsee Institute and prominent member of AWAD. He studied Social Sciences at the University of Amsterdam and in 1980 received his Ph.D. at Erasmus University Rotterdam. In his dissertation he focused on colonial politics and economic transition in the plantation economy of Suriname between 1873-1940. During his career he wrote many publications on minority policies and racism in the Netherlands, as well as on slavery and abolition. His last book, *Dagen van gejuich en gejubel* (2007), discusses the abolition of slavery in the Netherlands, Suriname and the Netherlands Antilles.

As an active member of the AWAD advisory committee, Glenn played an important role within our project. We could always count on his support. His cooperation was invaluable during activities such as the annual 'Atlantic Day' at the NiNsee and at AWAD's International Conference, held in Amsterdam in November 2006. In memory of Glenn, NiNsee organised a commemoration on 4 April 2008, in the Muiderkerk, Linnaeusstraat 35, Amsterdam. For further information, see the [NiNsee Institute](#).



## 'Back to the roots': a new Atlantic Day

On 14 December 2007 a second Atlantic Day was organised at NiNsee (National Institute for the Study of Dutch Slavery and its Legacy) in Amsterdam, in cooperation with KITLV, the National Archives and *Historisch Nieuwsblad*. 'Back to the roots' was the central theme of this event on Dutch slavery and its perception. During the afternoon there were four presentations, followed by a lively debate. Gert Oostindie, director of the KITLV, presented an update of the AWAD project database/website, which was followed by a talk by Michiel Doormont, author of the recently published *Ghana Gids*, a guide containing relevant sources relating to the history of Ghana and the Netherlands.

Following in the footsteps of the publication *Op zoek naar de stilte* Alex van Stipriaan and Aspha Bijnaar presented two aspects of the history of slavery and its memory. Stipriaan underlined how the human body can be viewed as a slavery archive. Through sophisticated new DNA tests it has become possible to unravel our ancestral trail and our origins, in some cases leading to unexpected revelations. Bijnaar emphasised how mental roots can influence the representation and daily life of the descendants of slaves.

These presentations contributed to a passionate final debate, generating new avenues for discussion on this topic (Source: [Historisch Nieuwsblad](#)).

We hope to fix dates for two more Atlantic days during 2008: one day in spring devoted to the history of Brazil and one in the autumn relating to the new project 'Dutch Connections'. Visit our website for more information on these two events.

## AWAD research guide: future prospects

Due to political changes, Dutch government policy on subsidising international cultural heritage projects seems to have altered. As a direct consequence, alternative sources of financial support may have to be found in order to secure AWAD's future after September 2008 – when funding for the present stage of the project expires. That is, if we want to do more than merely keep the AWAD website up and running. One of the most realistic options for continuing AWAD is through institutional cooperation with, and co-financing by, other organisations in the Netherlands. We are optimistic about the future of the project as a first round of talks has generated some very positive reactions. Of course, we will keep you informed.

Meanwhile we are in the process of expanding the AWAD website. In addition to this we are keeping it updated and are constantly adding new information. The website is currently undergoing a 'face-lift' which will not only ease the access to information already published, but will also offer new tools that facilitate communication. We hope to launch the restyled AWAD website in the next months.





The project 'The Atlantic World and the Dutch, 1500-2000' is hosted by the Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies (KITLV). The project has been made possible by the Netherlands Culture Fund (HGIS / Ministries of Foreign Affairs / Education, Culture and Science) and by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO).

## AWAD and ...

*KITLV aims to promote cooperation in the field of mutual heritage and to this end is working on various projects and programmes in cooperation with relevant institutions in the Netherlands and abroad.*

### THE DUTCH AND THE CULTURE OVERSEAS

The project 'The Dutch and the Culture in the Atlantic World 1670-1870', a cooperation of KITLV and the Institute of Netherlands History (ING) within the Programme 'The Dutch and the Culture Overseas', is on schedule. For more information please refer to the [website of the project](#).

### DUTCH CONNECTIONS

KITLV together with Leiden University and the Free University of Amsterdam will participate in the new long-term historical research project '[Dutch Connections: the Circulation of People, Goods and Ideas in the Atlantic World, 1680-1795](#)'. This project, funded with a grant of € 550,000 by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO), will start within a few months and is scheduled to be completed in 2013. Historians of Leiden University and the Free University of Amsterdam will work together to analyse the way in which the network of people, goods and ideas was functioning within the Atlantic sphere.

### MIGRATION AND CULTURE IN THE DUTCH COLONIAL WORLD

KITLV is also the base for a [pilot project](#) aiming to formulate building blocks for a comparative analysis of Dutch migration and settlement patterns, including the resulting mutual heritage in former colonies in both Asia and the Atlantic. This short-term project began in the summer of 2007 and will be completed in the summer of 2008. It is carried out at the request of the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, which contributed a grant of nearly € 150,000. Preliminary results will be discussed at an international workshop in Cape Town, South Africa, in April 2008 (see also [Short news](#)). The subsequent publication will become available on the internet soon after.

## News from ...

Main objectives are:

[Preservation, accessibility and study](#) of the mutual cultural heritage through the last 500 years between the Dutch and the people in the Atlantic region;

[Building up](#) an Atlantic network of institutions, experts and projects related to the mentioned cultural heritage;

[Developing joint projects and securing](#) financial support.

### THE UNITED STATES

**New York** - 2009 will see the commemoration of 400 years of relations between the Netherlands and the United States of America. Initiatives are being set up by many organisations involved in the preparation of the celebrations. The [New Netherland Institute](#) proposes a four-part project in cooperation with other relevant American institutions. This project consists of the following elements:

1. *Light on New Netherland* is a travelling panel exhibit on the Dutch in North America curated by Robert E. Mulligan Jr. It will open at the NYS Museum (December 2008), at the Historical Society of Delaware, at the FDR Library and Museum and at the Purchase College.
2. *Reflections on Dutch America* is a compilation of essays on various topics, including medicine, Jews, children and architecture, to illustrate the significance of New Netherland to American history.
3. *Illuminating New York's Dutch Past* is a documentary on the New Netherland Project: the translation and publication of over 18 volumes to date of the official archives of New Netherland by Dr. Charles Gehring and Dr. Janny Venema.
4. *Discovery and Invention: the Worlds of Henry Hudson* is a major exhibition developed by the Museum of the City of New York. Dr. Gehring will provide historical expertise for the exhibit.  
(We thank Charles Gehring for the information)

## News from ...

### THE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

**Curaçao** –On its tenth anniversary NAAM has changed its name to National Archaeological Anthropological Memory Management (however, the acronym remains the same). This reflects the increased attention given to the documentation of collective memory, alongside its traditional tasks. This anniversary also saw the [inauguration of NAAM's new location](#), in a completely renovated building at Johan van Walbeeckplein 13 in Willemstad. The inauguration of NAAM's new home took place on the 14th of March, with 150 guests attending. As part of the celebration the exhibition [Free Ports of the Caribbean: Curaçao and Statia](#) opened, organised by NAAM together with SECAR and St. Eustatius Heritage Foundation. This exhibition gives an impression of life on Curaçao and St. Eustatius as free ports in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. NAAM has also appointed a new president, Mr. Lionel Janga. Despite the fact that Curaçao and Aruba will no longer be countries in their own right, during the last board meeting NAAM has stressed, together with the members of the five islands, the intention to continue cooperating as Antillean islands, so that the Caribbean identity of each island can be preserved. [More...](#)  
(We thank Ieteke Witteveen for the information)



*Inauguration of the new location of NAAM and the exhibition Free Ports of the Caribbean: Curaçao and Statia, on 14 March 2008.*



*Exhibition at NAAM.*

## Short news

### PAST EVENTS

**Suriname Day, Nationaal Archief, Center for International Heritage Activities (CIE).** On 27 September 2007, CIE organised a Suriname Heritage Day in cooperation with AWAD and ICOMOS-NL, at the National Archives in The Hague, [more...](#)

**Inaugural Lecture Prof. Gert Oostindie.** On 19 October 2007, G. Oostindie, KITLV director, was appointed Professor of Caribbean History at the University of Leiden, [more...](#)

**Inaugural Lecture Prof. Corinne Hofman.** On 18 March 2008, C. Hofman was appointed Professor of Caribbean Archaeology at the University of Leiden, with special attention to those regions with which the Netherlands maintain historical ties. Her lecture was titled 'Tall Tales' and Threatened Antillean Heritage, [more...](#)

**Project Conference 'Dutch Colonialism, Migration, and Cultural Heritage', Stellenbosch University, South Africa.** From 24-28 March 2008 within the programme ['Migration and Culture in the Dutch Colonial World'](#) a series of workshops was organised with experts in the field of colonial history and cultural heritage. These workshops – which took place at Stellenbosch University, South Africa – saw participants from Brazil, Ghana, India, Indonesia, the Netherlands, the Netherlands Antilles, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Suriname. The workshops' aim was to discuss and formulate long-term concerns and priorities for preservation and research in the field of material and immaterial cultural heritage. The articles written by Dutch researchers became the starting point for the discussions. The revised articles and the conclusions of the debates will be published later this year.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**Atlas of Dutch Brazil, New Holland Foundation.** During April 2008 the website of the project Atlas of Dutch Brazil will be launched, presenting the first results of the pilot project on the State of Paraíba. This online database aims to map the mutual heritage of the Dutch period in Brazil (1625-1654), with a special focus on fortifications. Research has been carried out in the Netherlands, Brazil, Portugal and Spain. The official visit of the Brazilian president Lula da Silva this month will offer a unique opportunity to present another successful cooperation in the field of mutual heritage.

**Brazil info-day, Stichting Internationale Culturele Activiteiten (SICA).** Within the framework of European Cooperation with third countries a call for proposals has been announced regarding cultural projects with Brazil (Culture Programme 2007-2013). Conditions and application forms can be downloaded from the website of the European Commission. The deadline for presentation of the proposals is 1 June 2008. SICA is organising an Info Day on international cooperation with Brazil on Thursday 17 April 2008. This meeting will provide further information on the call for proposals of the European Commission, as well as on the programme 'Brazilian Summer 2009 in Rotterdam' and on the cultural exchanges between Brazil and the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science. The meeting begins at 15.30 at Boijmans Van Beuningen Museum, Museumpark 18-20, Rotterdam. For those interested in attending, please register at [secretariat@sica.nl](mailto:secretariat@sica.nl)

## PUBLICATIONS

**Op zoek naar de stilte (KITLV Press, Leiden 2007).** In this book Alex van Stipriaan, Wando Heilbron, Aspha Bijnaar and Valika Smeulders answer in a fascinating way questions relating to the material and immaterial slavery legacy in the Netherlands. More...

**Sources for the Mutual History of Ghana and the Netherlands (Brill, 2007).** This annotated guide to Dutch archival records in Ghana and West Africa offers a comprehensive overview of available sources in the National Archives in The Hague. The authors, Michel R. Doortmont and Jinna Smit, succeeded in offering a valuable research tool for the mutual history of Ghana and the Netherlands. More...

**New West Indian Guide (KITLV).** The latest available issue is now online! More...

Visit our website at:  
[awad.kitlv.nl](http://awad.kitlv.nl)

In order to keep our website/database updated your cooperation is essential. Please report to us any corrections, change/additional information, news about your institution, project and expertise. Suggestions for further issues of this newsletter are welcome too.

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