

The Atlantic World and the Dutch, 1500-2000 (AWAD)

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- Increasing global awareness of the importance of cultural heritage
 - Increasing awareness of the need for international cooperation to this end
 - E.g., CITRA conference last week in Curaçao
 - Previous Asian-Dutch experiences: Archives Dutch East Indies Company (VOC, now UNESCO World Heritage)
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- ‘Shared’ and ‘mutual’ cultural heritage
 - Culture, national identities, heritage tourism
 - Broad definitions:
 - Archival documents, maps etc.
 - Visual documentation, arts & artefacts
 - Constructed landscapes and built heritage
 - Immaterial cultural heritage
 - Wide-ranging management and research needs
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‘Atlantic’ = ‘Dutch Atlantic’

- Dutch West India Company (1621-1791)
 - Africa: primarily Ghana
 - Americas
 - New Holland/Dutch Brazil & New Amsterdam
 - (Netherlands) Antilles & Aruba
 - Suriname & Guyana
 - Cross-border links, e.g. Venezuela
 - Europe: primarily Netherlands
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- (Post)colonial chronologies
 - Defining (?) early episodes and subsequent political, administrative and cultural fissures
 - Brazil, U.S., Guyana, Ghana
 - Long-term and ongoing political and cultural linkages
 - Suriname, (Netherlands) Antilles & Aruba
 - Non-constitutional (migratory) continuities
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Objectives

- Systematic online inventory
 - Building of an Atlantic network
 - Developing joint projects
 - Securing financial support
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Systematic online inventory

- Relevant archival collections in the Netherlands and abroad
 - Initiatives concerning record management and preservation
 - Historical research projects
 - Projects pertaining to the material legacy of the Dutch overseas presence
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Building of an Atlantic network

- Identification of specialists in cultural heritage and researchers
 - Digital correspondence, one-way or in collaboratories?
 - Country workshops
 - International Conference 27-30 November, 2006 in Amsterdam
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- Archives: *shared* interest mainly in (early) Dutch collections
 - Material heritage and cultural heritage tourism
 - Immaterial cultural heritage: mainly 20th c.
 - Suriname, (Netherlands) Antilles & Aruba
 - Research: *shared* history mainly 17th and 18th centuries
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Securing financial support

- So far, exclusively Dutch funding, mainly
 - HGIS programme, ministries of Foreign Affairs/Education, Culture and Sciences
 - plus NWO, Amsterdam Archives, KITLV
 - Vast discrepancies in financial means, historical interest and Dutch engagement
 - Long-standing initiatives in Brazil and U.S.
 - Isolation of Ghana and particularly Guyana
 - Dominant Dutch interest in ‘Dutch’ Caribbean
 - Challenges: more Dutch funding, more international matching funds
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- Dutch bias vs. local interests
 - Common ground in Dutch colonisation
 - Divergence in subsequent histories
 - Local vs. (Dutch) Atlantic interest
 - Defining characteristics
 - ‘Dutch’ colonisation and colonists
 - Slave trade and slavery (all, in varying degrees)
 - Asian immigration (Suriname only)
 - Political and cultural continuities (‘Dutch’ Caribbean)
 - Post-World War Two migratory links (‘Dutch’ Caribbean)
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- General information:
<http://www.kitlv.nl/atlantic.html>
 - Database: <http://awad.kitlv.nl/awad/>
 - Need and guarantees for further development of AWAD's website and network (KITLV/ING)
 - Challenge of further development in a *joint* endeavour!
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Our agenda



- This afternoon's country presentations
 - Tomorrow's mixed discussion groups
 - Thursday morning: wrapping up
 - Thursday afternoon: web opportunities
 - Wrapping up: challenges, shared priorities and country-specific needs and objectives
 - AWAD's future: from real-life and virtual debates via proposals to fund-raising and implementing our ambitious plans!
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