

## Letter from the Institute

On Tuesday, October 2, 1990 the 'Centre for the History of European Expansion' changed its name. From that date on the Centre has been renamed as 'Institute for the History of European Expansion and the Reactions to it'. To the outsider this seems just to be a change of names, in actual practice the change provided the Institute with a different and better financial and administrative basis within the School of Humanities of Leiden University.

In order to mark the event, H.R.H. Prince Claus, the president and the academic vice-chancellor and the Dean of the School of Humanities in addition to many other guests, attended a small symposium, celebrating the opening of the Institute. In addition to a talk on the past, present and future of the Centre/Institute by its Director, Prof. H.L. Wesseling, three foreign guest-speakers had been invited. First Prof. J.L. Miège (University of Aix-en-Provence/Marseille, France) gave a survey of the current research on the role of European expansion and international migration. Then Prof. W.J. Mommsen (University of Düsseldorf, Germany) gave a talk on 'European cooperation in Humanities' in view of the fact that the Leiden Institute has been instrumental in creating a 'Network for the History of European Expansion' financed by the European Science Foundation (Strasbourg). As the last speaker, Prof. Om Prakash (Delhi School of Economics, India) took the floor and talked about 'The Transfer of Science and Technology Between Asia and Europe'. This topic was chosen to underline the comparative history project on India and Indonesia of which the avid readers of this journal have been so well informed. It is envisioned that this project will be broadened in order to include the history of technological developments in Japan and China.

The editors of the journal thought it a good idea to publish the speeches by Profs. Mommsen (in its original German) and Om Prakash. For the contents of the talk by Prof. Miège, the readers are advised to turn to the special issue of *Itinerario* (1990-1) on the history of European expansion and intercontinental migration.

Lastly, you undoubtedly will have noticed that we have returned to our former publisher, Grafaria in Leiden. The editors of *Itinerario* trust that both the new Institute and the publisher will provide the journal with a secure base and expertise for its continued publication.

The Editors