



*The aim of the Royal Institute for Linguistics and Anthropology is to collect and make accessible books and other documents, to undertake and to stimulate research, and facilitate the publication of books and periodicals about South-East Asia and Oceania, Indonesia in particular, and the Caribbean Area in the Social Sciences and Humanities. The headquarters of the Institute are in Leiden with an office in Jakarta.*

## Highlights from Annual Report 2002

### Introduction

The last months of the year 2002 brought tragic news that was also received with dismay by the KITLV. On 6 October, HRH Prince Claus of the Netherlands, esteemed patron of the Royal Institute of Linguistics and Anthropology (KITLV), died. On 12 October 2002, the world was shocked by a terrorist attack on Bali, which at once not only ended many lives and was a blow to the local and national economy, but also caused Southeast Asia, and in particular Indonesia, to be placed high on the agenda of discussions about fundamentalism, as well as terrorism, in the world of Islam. The start, in November of this year, of the KITLV's new research programme on the political developments of present-day Indonesia is a wry coincidence. The "Bali bombings" and reactions to it do, however, underline the great relevance of this new line of research.

In the Netherlands, interest in the former Dutch colonies and the nature and effects of colonialism there seems to be growing, partly as a result of the influence of the substantial groups of people from the postcolonial period now living in the "land of the conqueror". The KITLV considers it an important goal to reach these groups too, partly to stimulate learning, education, and debates about the colonial past and its legacy. In this context, we can refer to the contribution the KITLV made to the commemorative year of the founding of the VOC (Dutch East India Company). The Historical Documentation department of the KITLV made an oft-visited and well-liked website about the VOC, which was established in 1602. The head of this department, Dr G.J. Knaap, and the institute's director, Professor G.J. Oostindie, gave various lectures on the history of the company and on the question of whether such an anniversary is really reason to celebrate. This was also the central question during a debate, on "Vierhonderd jaar VOC; De viering en de schaduwzijden" (Four hundred years of the VOC: Celebrations and its darker side), which was organized together with the politicocultural centre De Balie in Amsterdam and held on 18 April. Dr Knaap was one of the editors of a volume published by the KITLV Press and titled *De Verenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie tussen oorlog en diplomatie* (The East India Company between war and diplomacy).

On 1 July in Amsterdam, 139 years after the abolition of slavery in the former Dutch West Indian colonies, a national monument to commemorate slavery was unveiled in the presence of HM the Queen and the minister-president, to which, in the past years, the institute has actively lent its support. The KITLV has informed the Nationaal Instituut Nederlands Slavernijverleden en zijn Erfenis (national institute of slavery history and its legacy) that has now been founded that it is ready, if so desired, to support this institute's initiatives.

There is reason to look back with satisfaction to the developments surrounding the KITLV in the past year. This includes the collaboration between the KITLV Learned Society and the institute, which since 2001 has been affiliated with the KNAW, and the collaboration between the institute and the KNAW. There are regular discussions with the research advisory committee, chaired by Professor V.J.H. Houben, about pertinent policy decisions.

The institute's budgetary expansion, to be put towards the new research programme on present-day Indonesia, promised by the KNAW, was effective as of 1 November. The entire process was settled in frequent discussion with the research advisory committee and representatives of the Learned Society. The theme for the first four years was decided upon: "Renegotiating boundaries; Agency, access and identity in post-Suharto Indonesia". Interested parties were asked, on the KITLV's website, to put forward their ideas on how to develop this theme. Professor H.G.C. Schulte Nordholt (affiliated with the University of Amsterdam and the Erasmus University in Rotterdam) was chosen to be the research coordinator for the first period of four years. Assisted by Dr G. van Klinken, he took up his position at the institute on 1 November. The detailed research programme, which has been approved by the KNAW, can be found on the KITLV website.

Another new project is that of Dr F. Colombijn on urban development in Dutch Indonesia/Indonesia between 1930 and 1960. This four-year project is part of a research programme subsidized by the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport and coordinated by the Netherlands Institute for War Documentation (NIOD) called "Van Indië tot Indonesië/Indonesia across Borders". Furthermore, running projects continued. The decision by the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Studies to finance a study group that, in 2003-2004 will give the KITLV's EDEN (Ecology, Demography and Economy in Nusantara) project, which was started in 1992 and slated to end in 2003, a stronger regionally comparative dimension bespoke its appreciation for the project.

Although the research mission of the KITLV was reinforced by the preceding, the care for its unique collections and the activities of the press demanded much of the staff's energy. This care naturally consists not only of the maintenance and improvement of the existing services in these fields, but also in the development of new ones. As concerns the collections, there was further work to prepare the local library system for upgrading and to digitize the catalogues of photographs. At the same time, a start was made on the KITLV's contribution to the national project "Nederlands-Indië gefotografeerd" (Dutch Indonesia in photographs), part of a programme run by the Koninklijke Bibliotheek (national library) titled "Het geheugen van Nederland" (The Netherlands' memories). Moreover, it was decided that the reference publications *Excerpta Indonesica* and *Caribbean Abstracts* would, beginning in 2003, no longer be printed but instead placed on internet. The technical preparations for this, including making a database offering all previous issues, was made possible through substantial contributions from the KNAW's Digitaliseringsfonds (digitization fund) and the Vernieuwingsfonds (innovations fund), as well as from the programme "Het geheugen van Nederland."

In the past years, the KITLV Press has been further developed, which is evident through, for instance, the steady increase in the number of published titles and the improved appearance of the publications. Nonetheless, problems persist, namely the long wait for titles in the "Verhandelingen" series, frequent delays in the publishing schedule of the "Bijdragen," as well as distribution abroad. There are also questions of whether it is desirable or whether there is room to alter the present list. A commission formed by Professor F. Gouda (research advisory council), Dr G. Persoon (KITLV Learned Society), and Professor Oostindie summarized the state of affairs and inventorized problems and options in a notice "KITLV Press; Versterking en vernieuwing" (KITLV Press; Reinforcement and renewal). It was decided that the editorial department would be reinforced by reallocating funds from the budget to increase the staff. This notice was, at the same time, part of a request, one that has since been fulfilled by the KNAW, for funds from its Vernieuwingsfonds. This substantial financial support was mainly used to eliminate a few management bottlenecks and to make room for new press activities. Unrelated to this was the policy, implemented several years before, to improve distribution in the United States and increase the number of copublications with foreign publishers, which has been bearing fruit.

This year, the KITLV Press published, besides its regular journals, about twenty books, some of which deserve special mention. These are two historical studies, whose presentation was met

with great interest, namely the long-awaited biography of Sukarno by Bob Hering and the compilation of letters and archival sources of Herman Neubronner van der Tuuk by Kees Groeneboer. The edited volume by Freek Colombijn and J. Thomas Lindblad, *Roots of violence in Indonesia*, is strongly oriented to reflect current events. An important Caribbean publication was the *Atlas of the languages of Suriname*, edited by Eithne Carlin and Jacques Arends.

Because of a request for funds from the Digitaliseringsfonds that the KNAW had fulfilled earlier, a thorough market and users survey could be conducted in the second half of 2002. Intensive discussions within the KITLV preceded the actual survey. These were – for the goal was not only to get feedback from the institute's existing users and services – to identify possible new users and services. The results of this survey, which was carried out by Pleiade, appeared in late December in the report "De informatiediensten van het KITLV; Markt- en gebruikersonderzoek" (The information services of the KITLV; Market and users survey). Generally, the survey's results support the institute's policies and in particular the changes that took place in the last years. Naturally, as a result of this survey, the conclusion was reached that new policies need to be developed. These will be implemented in or beginning in 2003. A summary of the report and its recommendations has been placed on the KITLV website. Funds from the Digitaliseringsfonds have allowed a start to be made on the digitization of bibliographies of Suriname, the Netherlands Antilles, and Aruba.

The discussion about the housing problem with the University of Leiden on the one hand, and the KNAW and KITLV on the other, proceeded in a pleasant vein, but there were few concrete solutions. The slow progress is worrisome for two reasons. The present arrangement, whereby the university offers the institute housing and the accompanying services free in exchange for the services and prestige it lends to Leiden academia has been terminated by the Governing Board as of 1 September 2003. If the approaching deadline compels a speedy resolution to the conflict, the soon-to-be insufficient storage room adds further pressure, and ideally the expansion of the present accommodation would soon begin.

In the first half of 2003, Dr R.G. Tol, head librarian at the KITLV in 2002, will succeed J. Erkelens as the representative of the institute in Jakarta. The KITLV's ambition is to reinforce the representation and to create a research profile for itself while maintaining its primary tasks of acquisition and cataloguing for the library and the list of publications, founded by Erkelens and much appreciated in Indonesia. These ideas were recorded by Professor Oostindie and Dr Tol in a notice titled "KITLV Jakarta; From representative to scholarly institute". This goal, which was applauded by the Learned Society was also supported by the KNAW, given the subsidy from the Vernieuwingsfonds. In November, Professor Oostindie and Dr Tol travelled to Southeast Asia (besides Indonesia, also Malaysia, the Philippines, and Singapore) and Australia to discuss these plans with a number of prominent organizations. Reactions to them varied from polite to explicitly positive; some plans in the notice were altered as a result of the discussions. An advisory council, chaired by honorary KITLV member Professor Tuafik Abdullah, was formed.

As concerns the personnel, there were several changes, of which the retirement of the head of documentation H.C. Kemp deserves special mention. There were no important problems regarding staff policy. Meetings with the KITLV's works council were constructive and held in a positive atmosphere.

As was mentioned, there are good reasons to look back to the year under review with satisfaction. It must be said too that the results of the users survey bespoke the great appreciation for the institute of users both nationally and internationally. May it be clear that this appreciation reflects, to a great measure, the continuous efforts of all the staff of the KITLV.