



*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 2003

The year 2003 was a period in which important new development initiatives were undertaken and accomplished, but it was also a year in which financial impediments forced the postponement of other plans. In the introduction to this Annual Report the most important achievements and the most pressing problems will be briefly highlighted.

During the past few years there had been plans afoot to introduce some sweeping changes in the KITLV Office in Jakarta, which was set up in 1969. Such plans were aimed to create a more clearly defined academic institution, the KITLV-Jakarta. At the beginning of this report year, the Librarian Roger Tol exchanged his post in Leiden for Jakarta, where he smoothly took over the reins of running the office from Jaap Erkelens, who retired after having fulfilled thirty years service. This is the right and proper place to express our deep gratitude to Erkelens for his sterling work. Tol was charged with the task of undertaking the desired upgrading of the office. In very many respects he has carried out his commission with outstanding success. In the summer the office was moved to new, more spacious and more presentable premises, situated in the Kebayoran Baru area. On 23 October, the KITLV-Jakarta office was officially opened by Dr Dewi Fortuna Anwar, on behalf of the Indonesian Academy of Sciences (LIPI), and the Director of the KITLV, Gert Oostindie. The festive opening ceremony which was thronged underlined the excellent relations which exist between the KITLV and LIPI.

The research programme 'Renegotiating boundaries: Agency, access and identity in post-Suharto Indonesia', which was launched at the end of 2002, really got under way in 2003. The project leader, Henk Schulte Nordholt and his colleagues Gerry van Klinken and Fridus Steijlen carried out research in Indonesia, organized the first seminars in Leiden and published the first articles based on this research. Working in collaboration with Gusti Asnan, Schulte Nordholt edited *Indonesia in Transition*. Van Klinken published *Minorities, Modernity and the Emerging Nation*. Two Indonesian researchers who had been appointed fellows there carried out research at KITLV.

Several publications on the Caribbean area by KITLV staff members aroused a great deal of interest when they were presented. The head of Caribbean Studies, Dr Rosmarijn Hoefte, working in collaboration with C. Medendorp MA, produced *Arnold Borrel; Suriname; Gezichten, typen en costumen*, based on a unique collection of water-colours by Borrel which is one part of the collections kept by the department Archives and Images (formerly Historical Documentation). The book was presented in March at the opening of an exhibition devoted to Borrel's work held in the Amsterdam Maritime Museum. In November, Oostindie and his co-author Dr I.A.J. Klinkers presented the book *Decolonising the Caribbean*.

Progress has been made on the digitalization of the collections with the help of external subsidies. With the assistance of an earlier subsidy obtained from digitalization funds of the KNAW, the transition was made from the printed to the online publication of 'Caribbean Abstracts' and 'Excerpta Indonesica'. The conversion to an online publication of earlier numbers of both publications has been finished for 'Caribbean Abstracts' (1990-2002) and is practically finished for 'Excerpta Indonesica' (1970-2002). Likewise supported by the digitalization fund, the digital bibliography of the Dutch Caribbean area was completed and is now available on the website. With the financial assistance of 'Het Geheugen van Nederland' (The Memory of the Netherlands),

a selection of the photographs from the Netherlands Indies has been made available as a section of the educative programme developed by Archives and Images.

The publications programme of the KITLV Press was continued with both journals 'Bijdragen tot de Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde' and the 'New West Indian Guide', a new series was launched 'Oost en West' (East and West) and various books. The year 2003 finally saw the chronic backlog in the publication of 'Bijdragen' removed. In this respect it should be remembered that the enormous size of the volumes, which had gradually crept up, has been reduced to an average of some six hundred pages, which appear in three instead of four numbers. The traditional Book Week publication was produced by two editors, Sirtjo Koolhof and Oostindie. The theme of Book Week 2003 was Death; entering the spirit of the theme they produced a *Koloniaal dodenkabinet*.

The results of the Users Investigation held in 2002 were summarized in the Annual Report for that year. In 2003 a number of the recommendations emanating from it were introduced. An English language summary and a commentary by the director were published on the KITLV website. A digital alert service, KITLV News, was also launched on this site. In a broader context the Institute is hard at work endeavouring to formulate an ICT policy which should include a more intensive use of the Institute's own website, for the digital reproduction of KITLV publications, for journals, not to mention in the sphere of public relations.

Spurred on by the results of the investigation, it was decided to set up an Inter-university Indonesian Course, to take its place alongside the existing Caribbean Course. In the report year this plan was given a more concrete shape; the course will begin in January 2004. Researchers at the KITLV have been encouraged not to confine their knowledge to scientific circles, but to present their results to the wider public. The evidence of the efforts of a number of them can be found in the lists of publications and lectures included in this report as an appendix. It is also important to remember the regular contributions of staff members to the press and relevant radio and television programmes.

As was intimated in the opening paragraph, financial problems led to the postponement of several plans. The background to this step is that, largely through, non-compensatory price rises, the Institute had to run at a loss in 2002 and the budget for 2003 cannot be balanced. The upshot was the early in the report year a package of economies was set up, designed to minimize the shortfall of 2003 and to achieve an ample balance in the 2004 budget. This policy was consistently followed, with such success indeed that in the in the report year it was possible to record a slight positive balance. This strict price control has led to the existence or the non-solution of some bottlenecks, both in the research capacity and in the collection forming and digitalization policy.

The necessity to economize meant that plans to introduce one or two chairs for Indonesian professors at the KITLV-Jakarta could not be pursued. Moreover, it had to be decided to cut the post-doctoral and the doctoral study places which fell vacant at the end of 2003 and the beginning of 2004. This emphasized how imperative it is that the Institute present proposals for external financing for research. In the report year a number of people working at the Institute did submit proposals for financing to third parties, but only one of these reaped a satisfactory result. This was a request submitted to NWO and the HGIS programme of the Ministries of Education, Culture, and Science and Foreign Affairs by Oostindie for carrying out an identification mission in 2004 to discover the possibilities for establishing a project dealing with the WIC (West Indian Company). A few such applications are still outstanding. The securing of external subsidies still needs to be paid considerable attention.

External subsidies are absolutely essential to be able to carry out ambitious plans in the field of digitalization and improved access to the photograph and audio-visual collections of Archives and Images and for the digital publication of the Institute's own publications. In the report year various plans have been developed which should lead to concrete applications in 2004.

Administratively speaking, there is little to report as there were no drastic developments. This year it can certainly be said that the relationship with the KNAW may be described as excellent. The Onderdeelscommissie (the successor to the Ondernemingsraad) met with the director on a two monthly basis to carry out efficacious discussions about the general running of the Institute and personnel affairs. There was no break-through in the chronic housing problem between the KITLV and the University of Leiden. Naturally at this point it is impossible to make any statements about current discussions between the parties involved.

The Academic Committee, under the chairmanship of Professor V.J.H. Houben, met three times. Apart from the general research policy of the Institute, special attention was paid to the programme 'Modern Indonesia' and the role the KITLV might play in Dutch Southeast Asian Studies. On the initiative of the Academic Committee, in November the Institute organized a meeting of Dutch academics who are involved in this field; these deliberations will be continued in 2004.

*Ex-officio*, the director of the KITLV attends the meetings of the General Board of the Learned Society under the chairmanship of Professor R. Schefold. A report of the activities of the Learned Society is included in this Annual Report. All that needs to be said here is that relations between the KNAW Institute KITLV and the Learned Society continue on a excellent footing. The steady decline in the number of members of the Learned Society is naturally a cause for concern to the KNAW Institute. Our joint policy is to concentrate on building up as broad as possible support for our work.

In a nutshell: 2003 was a year of satisfactory progress in the accomplishment of current plans, but it was also a year which saw the emergence of various bottlenecks or the pursuit of other initiatives had to be postponed. Despite all this, in the Institute – both in Leiden and in Jakarta – achievements on the work front and the working climate were good. In this connection it should be recorded that in the report year not only Erkelens but also two other outstanding figures at the Institute retired, Dorothée Buur and Ria van Yperen, after thirty-four and thirty-one years service at the KITLV.