



Annual Report 2006

'Upstairs you'll find a library of sorts with a reading-room. The floor below, below ground, is a large depot. The contents...books! Full of them! All about Indonesia. Books, of every imaginable year! [...]' A Ph.D. student in Indonesian History said, 'Come to the KITLV. There you'll find all manner of sources for research. It's ALL there. [...] It is sad to realize at that moment that another country is keeping our documentation, in such large numbers, so complete, with so much care. It does, however, give one a good feeling; this documentation is still around. It does not matter where it's kept. It would be a shame if it were lost.'

Introduction

For more than a century and a half, the KITLV/Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies has been striving to be a centre of excellence for Southeast Asian and Caribbean studies. During the past few years, the institute's performance has been frequently measured against the requirements set by the international scholarly community. It can be concluded that the institute is generally looked upon favourably. That makes us content, even proud to some degree, but not complacent: in the last years, this consistently high opinion represented a crucial condition for the institute's further development. Then we are presented with the message which one of our staff members happened to find on an Indonesian weblog. Following a visit to the institute, the extremely enthusiastic student Rho Mayda shared his experiences with an untold number of readers. For the library staff and, ultimately, all the employees of the KITLV/Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies, it is messages such as this one which add extra lustre to the many academic tributes to the institute. In early 2006, the international evaluation committee, established by the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, summarized its findings on the institute in more academic but scarcely less positive wording. The committee, which was chaired by Prof. Frans Hüsken, rated the institute as "very good", even qualified the collections as "excellent", and "leadership", "academic reputation" and KITLV- Jakarta as somewhere in the range between "very good and excellent". The entire evaluation procedure - writing the self-assessment (Deep roots, maturing shoots), the committee's site visits in Jakarta and Leiden in 2005, the report and subsequent consultations with the Academy in 2006 - was indeed a time-consuming exercise, but did provide every reason for subjecting the institute's goals, strategy and working method once more to a critical examination. It is pleasing to know that the Academy Board seconded the evaluation committee's particularly positive views without any reservations.

In the first half of the year under review, the resolution, approved by the Academy, to implement a mandatory reorganization was prepared and carried out. In keeping with its main tasks, the institute now has, in addition to the General Services Department and KITLV-Jakarta, three main departments: Collections, Press and Research. The new management team is made up of the director, the three heads of department in Leiden, the head of KITLV-Jakarta and the administrator/manager.

The reorganization did not give rise to any particular problems. A number of staff members were relocated after the reorganization, as a result of which staff members are now grouped together by department. The reorganization did not have any substantial financial consequences.

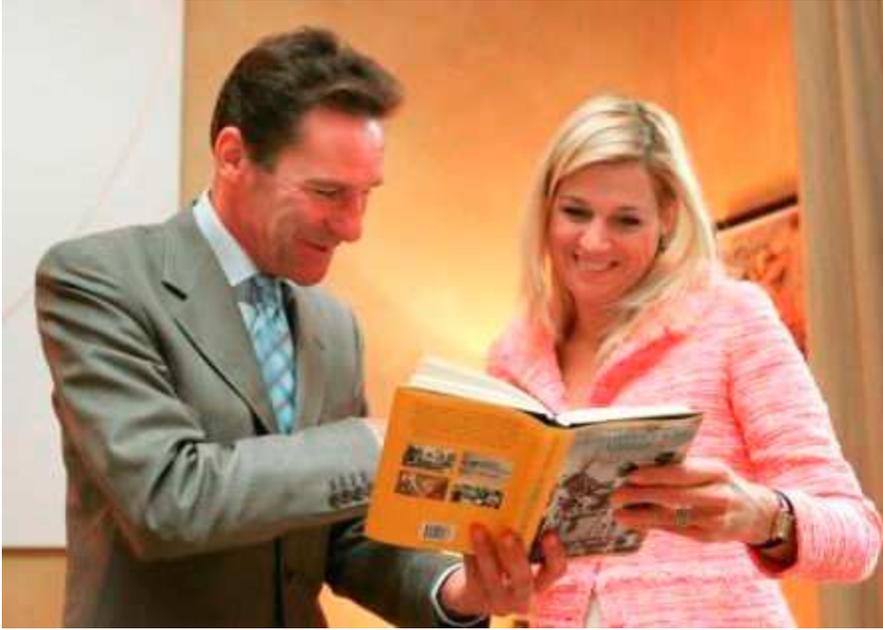
The new Collections Department started with much energy. To retain the qualification "excellent" in a new context, in which digital technology continually creates new opportunities and problems, has become a major challenge. Consultations on the subject usually take place at Academy level,

with KITLV's expertise in the area of IT now finally up to standard. KITLV Press published some twenty books. In addition, it saw to the publication of *Bijdragen tot de Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde*, the *New West Indian Guide* and a new publication entitled *Oso; Tijdschrift voor Surinamistiek*. The subscription levels of the first two journals decreased somewhat, as did the proceeds from book sales. This is a focus of attention. The Research Department is doing extremely well. Very substantial research grants were once again obtained. Over the last few years, external fund-raising has not only contributed to the Research Department's considerable growth, but also to its international status which is now, in the words of the evaluation committee, "very good". The Tracking Development programme, which was developed by KITLV researcher David Henley in collaboration with the African Studies Centre in Leiden, and the Middle Indonesia programme, which was written by Henk Schulte Nordholt and Gerry van Klinken, deserve special mention. In most cases, the KITLV researchers met the publication standards which were set by management after comparison with traditional academic standards; KITLV's average lies well above the standard.

As always, KITLV-Jakarta has not only been indispensable for the institute's collection development, but also for facilitating Dutch-Indonesian contacts within the sphere of the humanities and social sciences. It also aims to expand the its publication and research tasks. The room to do so has turned out to be limited, however, on account of the myriad tasks which local management needs to perform. This will continue to be a focus of attention.

Talks with Leiden University and the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences concerning the renewal of the housing agreement for KITLV on the university campus were successfully concluded. This has cleared the way for the building's expansion, which will ultimately result in more storage and office space. Agreements were made with the Academy's Board about this. The present aim is to complete the extension around the start of 2009. The institute's financial situation is good. Since 2000, the budget has increased from approx. 2.5 million euros to well over four million euros. Like the year before, an operating surplus was generated in 2006. These surpluses will partly be used to strengthen the general reserve, and partly to carry out occasional projects within the sphere of collection management, IT and research. A number of the institute's highly valued employees sought and found employ elsewhere, or went into retirement. Towards the end of 2006, KITLV employed 66 people (57.6 fte's), 13 (12 fte's) of whom in Jakarta.

Over the last few years, the KITLV Learned Society's membership has been developing less than optimally. Although it does not affect the institute's work in any way, the steady decline does warrant further consultations with the Learned Society's Board.



On October 18, 2006, at De Eikenhorst in Wassenaar, HRH Princess Máxima of the Netherlands received the first copy of *De parels en de kroon; Het koningshuis en de koloniën*, written by Gert Oostindie and published by De Bezige Bij and KITLV Press.

The year under review had a royal touch. On October 18, Our Patroness, HRH Princess Máxima of the Netherlands, received the first copy of *De parels en de kroon* from the author. In this study, Gert Oostindie, the director of KITLV, discusses the ties between the House of Orange-Nassau and the colonies over the past four centuries. This event and the book generated substantial media coverage. A few weeks later, the princess paid her first working visit to the institute. After a lengthy precursory talk with the chairman of the Learned Society, the director, the heads of department and a few researchers as well as a tour of a number of the collection's prize pieces, Princess Máxima met other KITLV employees in the reading-room. Both sides found this working visit particularly pleasant and informative.



Working visit to KITLV by its Patroness, HRH Princess Máxima of the Netherlands, on November 6, 2006. From left to right: Irene Rolfes, Gert Oostindie, Ellen Sitinjak, Jan van Rosmalen, Alfred Schipper.