



## Introduction

2009 was a productive year for the Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies (KITLV), but also a year in which it was decided that there would be a number of alterations in the organisation. This did not concern changes in the mission or structure of the institute, but improvements in the manner of working. The Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) rightly expects that its institutes are excellent, or at least very good, and that should include the internal organisation.

An external audit of the department of Collections confirmed the suspicion that the organisation of this large department should be improved in various ways: this applies partly to routine work and also the response to technological developments. Moreover the examiner who carried out the external audit pointed out the possibilities to make the rich collections more prominent by using the website, as mentioned in 2008 collections report. The recommendations of this evaluation were accepted and a start was made during the year of this report to execute them. Earlier the request to step down by the head of Collections Rosemarijn Hoefte had been granted. On 1<sup>st</sup> September 2009 she went on research leave. It was decided to strengthen the management of the department. 1<sup>st</sup> November the new head, Reinder Storm started: at the beginning of 2010 he will have the support of Kathryn Wellen as librarian and deputy head.

Each year Special Collections is augmented by many unique works, some of extraordinary (art) historical importance. This was also the case in the year with which this report deals. The Baud family gave in permanent loan a portrait of our joint founder, Jean Chrétien Baud, painted about 1830 by the famous Javanese artist Raden Saleh. From his collection, the renowned photographer Kalman Muller donated around two thousand slides made in post-war Indonesia.

The policy started a number of years ago for implementation of title descriptions and key words of the works acquired in Indonesia, and to be carried out entirely by KITLV-Jakarta, was realised this year. This step, which was only possible due to the extremely intensive collaboration between the Collections department and KITLV-Jakarta, has led to savings in time and expenditure. Excellent collaboration between the Collections department and KITLV Press has led to the production and ceremonial presentation of two commemorative publications of unique works from Special Collections, namely the book *Herinneringen in beeld; Fotoalbums uit Nederlands-Indië (Memories in images: Photographic albums from the Dutch East Indies)* compiled by Liesbeth Ouweland and that compiled by Jan van Rosmalen *Treasures; Uit de collecties van het Koninklijk Instituut voor Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde te Leiden (Treasures; From the collections of the Royal Netherlands Institute of South-East Asian and Caribbean Studies)*. Our patroness Princess Máxima of the Netherlands wrote a foreword for *Treasures*.

Among other publications of KITLV Publishing, special mention must be made of the splendid standard work by Sandra Niessen, *Legacy in cloth; Batak textiles of Indonesia*, as well as the collection *Sumatra, Crossroads of cultures*, which appeared on the occasion of an exhibition in the National Museum of Ethnology in Leiden. The publishing house was also audited by an external instance: the conclusions confirmed suspicions concerning efficiency. It was decided to reorganise. In the final months of the year of this report a formal reorganisation was prepared that will be executed in the first half of 2010. The aim of this reorganisation is to make the publishing house less expensive and more flexible.

In recent years the Research department has carried out a great number of research programmes, mostly with external financing. In a mid-term evaluation the biggest programme, 'Tracking

development' was judged to be very good. The research, carried out by three Academy institutes – the International Institute for Social History (IISG), the Meertens Institute and the KITLV – was focussed on post-colonial migrations, integration and identity politics and was rounded off by a presentation of the study written by the research team leader and director of the KITLV Gert Oostindie *Postkoloniaal Nederland; Vijfenzestig jaar vergeten, herdenken, verdringen (Post-colonial Netherlands: Sixty-five years of forgetting, recollecting, repressing)*.

Various new research subsidies have been obtained. The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) granted a subsidy request of the head of Research, Henk Schulte Nordholt, 'Articulating modernity; The making of popular music in 20th century Southeast Asia and the rise of new audiences', which will run from 2010 to 2014. The KITLV is the initiator and co-ordinator of a consortium of instances participating in this programme that focusses on the emergence of new forms of popular music and the effects of this on the rise of new social groups in Southeast Asia. Moreover Oostindie accepted a commission from the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations (BZK) to do research into the administrative dismantling of the Antilles. In this he will work with Inge Klinkers with whom he had published earlier, also on government commission, the three part study *Knellende koninkrijksbanden (Constrictive kingdom connections)*. In the past year Frank Okker also started his research for a biography of G.P. Rouffaer, the founding father of the KITLV library.

To our great disappointment the process that should result in the extension to the present building has once again been delayed because the negotiations between Leiden University and the KNAW, despite earlier expectations, have not been completed. This means a delay of at least a year; all parties agree that there will be no alteration in this delay.

Oostindie was on research leave until 1<sup>st</sup> September. During this time the head of Research, Schulte Nordholt, was acting director. On his return Oostindie resumed his position as director.

The honorary member Dr. Silvia W. de Groot-Rosbergen died at an advanced age. In accordance with her wish, a legacy from her estate will come to the KITLV and is intended for the support of young researchers of Caribbean origin. This fund will probably be available in 2010.