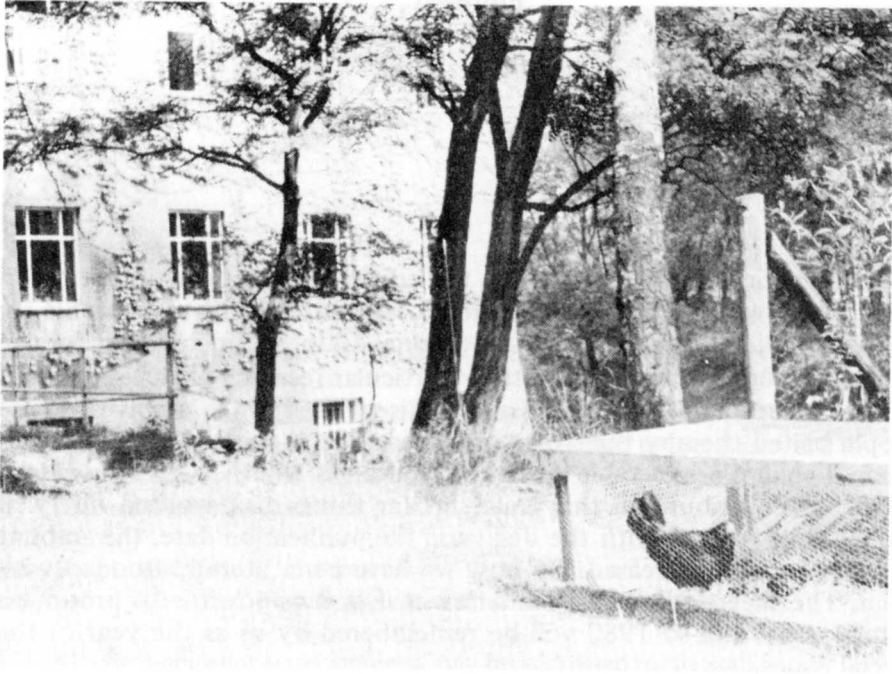


Editorial

While preparing this archival issue, the editors were caught in their own spiel. Every wednesday Leonard Blussé, who is primarily responsible for this product, meets during the traditional Chinese lunch* with foreign or Dutch scholars engrossed in their particular research topic, and listens to their tales about happy findings or discoveries at the archives. These people baited thereby their own traps, because at the end of the conversation Leonard's inevitable question would be whether they would be willing to contribute to this issue. So far things had worked out well enough, but parallel with the delays in the publication date, the amount of contributions increased. By now we have been literally flooded with them. The sheer bulk of the materials makes it impossible to produce a normal issue, and so 1980 will be remembered by us as the year of the special issues.

We do not pretend to offer a complete inventory of all the holdings relating to the non-western world. A large number of contributions deal with the 17th and 18th centuries; and this is without doubt due to the fact that they form the editors' own hunting grounds. But in a few cases there are lacunae. The importance of the materials on 19th century Ghana, for instance, that are to be found in the archives of the 'Nederlandsche bezittingen ter kust van Guinea' (Dutch possessions on the Guinea coast) is not described, notwithstanding all our efforts to get a piece on this subject.

In *Past and Present*, our first division of subject matter, we originally intended to add a short history of the Schaarsbergen depot, the former Diogenes bunker, which functioned during the second world war as the brain centre of the anti-aircraft defence system of the German army in Western Europe. Many of us treasure happy post-war memories of this building, and some even spent part of the summer holidays camping in tents with their families on the camping grounds nearby. However, four excellent articles have recently appeared in recent issues of the *Onderofficier*, anticipating the materials we intended to use: the notes by the *treu Jägerleit Offizier* Obstlt Heinz Bönsch**. Therefore one photograph may suffice here.



The Schaarsbergen Bunker and Its Guard

Under the caption *Procedures* we have accommodated our own Baedeker and two *apparatsjik* contributions by the chiefs of the reading room and the library.

The *pièce de résistance* of this archival issue is Margot van Opstall's introduction to the reading matter. Careful scrutiny of this piece will benefit the reader who is planning to make a trip to the archives, as it answers many questions before they even have been posed.

Rather than trying to describe the contents of the archives *per se*, the division *Researcher at work* aims at explaining how people have made use of materials. Some of these articles may offer *déjà vus*, but they will also offer insights or stimulation for new approaches.

Enough about the contents of this issue. ITINERARIO 1981, I will be sent to press within a month, so that we can keep you informed about congresses, new books et cetera. In that same issue we shall continue our discussion on the theme *History and Underdevelopment* with a long article by David Landes, and start a new one on *Colonial Wars* with a piece by Roger N. Buckley.

Incidentally, perhaps too few of you know that *individual* subscribers of *Itinerario* are entitled to purchase paperback copies of our series, *Comparative Studies in Overseas History* at a 20 per cent discount, postage paid by us. Please send your order to the Centre for the History of European Expansion, service department, Middelste gracht 4, 2312 TW Leiden, The Netherlands. Payment by cheque only: Dfl. 24,- for *Expansion and Reaction* and Dfl. 30,40 for *Reappraisals in Overseas History*, 'without costs to beneficiary'. Volume III, *Companies and Trade* is currently on the presses and will be announced soon. Institutions should order their hardcover copies as before with Kluwer Academic Publishers Group, Distribution Centre, P.O. Box 322, 3300 AH Dordt, The Netherlands or in the U.S.A. and Canada with Kluwer Boston inc. 160 Old Derby street, Hingham, MA 02043.

The Editors

- * See his Baedeker to the Rijksarchief.
- ** Res. sgt. Drs. W.H.Tiemens, 'Arnhem, Diogenes en de Teerosen'. *De Onderofficier* 18 (1980) I: 2-24, II: 34-35, III: 76-95, V: 152-158.

