

Letter from the Editors

This issue of *Itinerario* includes a wide range of articles by scholars from around the world. Martine Julia Van Ittersum continues her ongoing research into the career and influence of Hugo Grotius, this time investigating a lesser known chapter of his work involving interlopers in the Western Hemisphere. Reminding us of the often elusive nature of researchers' prey, Lennart Bes returns to the pages of *Itinerario* with a contribution on VOC documents that can be found in the India Office Records in London and the National Archives of Malaysia. This issue's interview is with Allison Blakely, Professor of African-American Studies and Professor of European and Comparative History at Boston University. We are grateful to Suzanne de Graaf for preparing this interview, which in addition to examining the background to Professor Blakely's career as a historian reflects on his research into the history of race relations in the Netherlands.

The editors are also honoured to present in this number Andrew Alexander's contribution on Dutch slave traders in eighteenth-century Madagascar. Shortly after accepting this article for publication last spring, we learned that this promising young historian, who had recently completed an honours thesis at the University of Cape Town, died in a car accident. We are grateful to Andrew Alexander's parents and the Department of Historical Studies of the University of Cape Town for their permission to print this article, and to Nigel Worden for helping us to make this publication possible.

The Editors