

## Letters

We received the following letter from Richard Price of the University of Paris X-Nanterre:

### On Historical and Anthropological Editing

I am sorry to have to call attention to a misunderstanding arising from my distinguished colleague Peter Emmer's (mis)reading of my *To Slay the Hydra (Itinerario IX*, number 1). He stated that because I did not include 'the original Dutch transcriptions of the archival sources [...] there is no way in which the [sometimes free] translation can be checked against the original text'. He further took the opportunity to generalize that 'the anthropologist and the historian have learnt a different trade [...] As early as his first year, a history major is taught to shiver at such editorial practice' (as I used, and discussed explicitly, in the book). And finally, alluding to my next book (a new edition of *Stedman*, coedited with Sally Price), he took it upon himself to proclaim (with faint hope?) that: 'No doubt, this time Richard Price will stick to the rules of the editorial profession.'

Fortunately, for all of us, this whole issue is a red herring. In the lengthy methodological note (pp. 222-223) from which Emmer quotes and in which I discuss the process of transcription and translation, I make clear that the reason for my presentation of the English translations in their present form is that I (together with C. de Beet) had *already* presented the complete 'original Dutch version of these materials' in *De Saramakaanse vrede van 1762: geselecteerde documenten*, published in 1982 by the Centrum voor Caraïbische Studies, Rijksuniversiteit Utrecht — and readily available to a Dutch scholarly audience (as well as to Surinamers). Given the prior publication of these materials in Dutch, it would seem reasonable to view the publication of a readable English translation (as in *Hydra*), not as an anthropologist's folly, but as a responsible act of mainstream interdisciplinary scholarship.

August 31 1986

Richard Price

### Trevor Reese Memorial Prize

The Trevor Reese Memorial Prize for 1986 has been awarded to Dr C.A. Bayly for his *Rulers, Townsmen and Bazaars: North Indian society in the age of British expansion, 1770-1870*, CUP, 1983 (Cambridge South Asian studies series, 28).

The Prize was established with the proceeds of contributions to a memorial fund to Dr Trevor Reese, Reader in Commonwealth Studies at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London, and a distinguished scholar of imperial history, who died in 1976. The Prize, of 500 sterling pounds, is awarded every two years to what is in the opinion of the adjudicators the best book published in the field of imperial history in the preceding two years.

Publishers or authors wishing to submit titles published in 1985 and 1986 for consideration for the 1988 award should send one copy to the Director's Secretary, Institute of Commonwealth Studies, 27 Russell Square, London WC1B 5DS.

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