

Letter from the Editors

This issue comprises first of all an interview with Dr Norman Fiering at the John Carter Brown Library in Providence, which is at the same time an acknowledgement for his continuous support for both FEEGI and *Itinerario*. We have included the new FEEGI flyer that reached us via Dr James H. Williams from Middle Tennessee State University. We would like to encourage our readers to become a member of this organisation, especially because an increasing number of FEEGI-members are actively involved in writing articles and book reviews for *Itinerario*. Starting with the next issue vol. XXVIII 2004/3, *Itinerario* will also regularly publish review articles.

Second, this issue offers three papers originally presented at a conference on *Rivalry and Conflict, European Traders and Asian Trading Networks, 16th and 17th century*, organised by Leiden University's Institute for the History of European Expansion and Global Interaction, in cooperation with the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Studies (NIAS) in Wassenaar from 23-26 June 2003. This meeting was made possible by the financial contributions from Leiden University's *Centre for Non Western Studies* (CNWS), the *International Institute for Asian Studies* (IIAS), the *Nederlandse Organisatie voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek* (NWO), the *Stichting Leids Universiteits Fonds* (LUF), the *Koninklijke Nederlandse Academie voor Wetenschappen* (KNAW) and the *Gratama Stichting*.

We are grateful to both Dr Ernst van Veen and Prof. Leonard Blussé, the organisers of this conference, that we are able to publish a selection of the conference papers, and we thank the authors, Dr Peter Borschberg, Dr Markus Vink, and Dr Arie Pos for their willingness to revise and submit their papers to *Itinerario*.

Finally, this issue contains an article written by Vincent Kuitenbrouwer from Amsterdam, and some 28 book reviews collected by our book review editor Markus Vink. The most attentive readers will find in the colophon of this issue that FEEGI's acting president, Prof. Wim Klooster from Clark University, has also joined the editorial board of our journal.

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