

# The Atlantic World and the Dutch 1500-2000

NEWSLETTER

August 2009 / No. 4

'The Atlantic World and the Dutch, 1500-2000' is a joint cooperation between the Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies (KITLV), the Netherlands Institute for Heritage (Erfgoed Nederland) and the Dutch National Archives (Nationaal Archief).  
As of October 2008, AWAD is hosted by the Netherlands Institute for Heritage.

#### Main objectives:

[The preservation, accessibility and study of the mutual cultural heritage formed over a period of 500 years between the Dutch and the people in the Atlantic region;](#)

[Creating an Atlantic network of institutions, experts and projects relating to this shared cultural heritage;](#)

[Developing joint projects and securing financial support.](#)

## Towards a new partnership

On 27 February 2009, [NiNsee](#) (National Institute for the Study of Dutch Slavery and its Legacy), in cooperation with [Erfgoed Nederland](#)/Netherlands Institute for Heritage, [KITLV](#)/Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies and [Nationaal Archief](#)/National Archives, organized a new Atlantic Day entitled 'The Atlantic World and the Dutch, 1500-2000. Towards a new partnership'. During the event the directors of three institutions (Erfgoed Nederland, KITLV and Nationaal Archief) signed a cooperation agreement to ensure the continuity of the Atlantic World and the Dutch (AWAD), remarking on the relevance of AWAD. The programme continued with four short lectures, in which the speakers highlighted current projects on cultural heritage in which they are directly involved. Prof. Dr A. van Stipriaan Luiscius (KIT and Erasmus University) presented the Maroons project, consisting of research and an exhibition on the Maroons communities in Suriname; Dr H. Den Heijer (Leiden University) described the research on the Dutch slave trade carried out with a group of students in the Zeeland archives; Dr A. Bijnaar (NiNsee) and Mrs D. Stam (IMHP) discussed their recent project '[Child in chains](#)', a project and exhibition on child slavery (see more in this newsletter). Mr. D. Tang (Royal Library) closed the meeting with a lecture on the ongoing project '[Sailing Letters](#)'. During the day the final report of the first AWAD phase was presented. This [brochure](#) gives an overview of the major results achieved by AWAD in the last five years and presents the new goal for the near future. The signing of this new partnership is a natural outcome of the new phase embarked on by AWAD in October 2008. Since then the AWAD website has been hosted by Erfgoed Nederland and has been restyled, offering new tools and new functions that, we sincerely hope, will serve our network better. To encourage the use of social networking we have added a [wiki page](#) to AWAD, where one can initiate discussions, react and join other blogs ([awad.intodit.com](#)). More information can be found on the [AWAD website](#) under [documents and proceedings](#).



## Joint cooperation

### Research visit to the Archives in Paramaribo

Between 8 November and 6 December 2008 Han Jordaan visited Paramaribo to do archival research for the project '[The Dutch and the culture in the Atlantic world, 1670-1870](#)', a joint venture of the KITLV/Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies and the Institute of Netherlands History. The primary goal of this visit was to obtain a good impression of the archival collections kept in Suriname and to select relevant material to be included in the online archival guide, which will be one of the final products of the project. When completed, this archival guide will be linked to the AWAD database. The research focused mainly on the sources kept by the National Archive of Suriname, such as the 19<sup>th</sup> - century archives of the governor, the government secretary and of the district commissioners. A visit was also made to the library of the [Suriname Museum Foundation](#). This institution possesses a collection of manuscripts, the majority of which are of importance to the project. Unfortunately, other relevant archives, like those kept by various religious organizations in Suriname, could not be included in the research due to lack of time. For the same reason, an intended preliminary visit to the National Archives of neighbouring Guyana had to be cancelled. A follow-up visit, mainly focusing on the Dutch archives kept in Georgetown, is scheduled for the end of 2010. *(We thank Han Jordaan for the information)*

## News from ...

### THE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

#### Aruba – New NAMA opened its doors

After a period in which the old historical building was restored and renovated the new [National Archaeological Museum of Aruba \(NAMA\)](#) was officially opened on 26 July 2009. The opening was part of the Kingdom Cultural Games programme and marked the starting point of a week filled with special activities such as workshops, lectures, book presentations and much more. The first temporary exhibition of the new museum is entitled 'Rancho' in recognition of the neighbourhood in which the museum is located. [For more information contact NAMA](#). *(We thank Arminda Franken Ruiz for the information)*



#### Curacao – NAAM activities

The [National Archaeological and Anthropological Memory Management](#) in Curacao mounted an exhibition in cooperation with NiNsee on Suriname's slavery past, with a special focus on the written heritage of Maroons (escaped slaves) entitled "Under the Protection of the Master" (from 22 May to 23 August). The exhibition was opened on the eve of Africa Day (25 May), celebrated for the first time in Curacao, and was followed by a series of lectures on this theme. NAAM also held a seminar on cultural heritage legislation in the Dutch Antilles. *(We thank Ieteke Witteveen for the information)*

## Short news

### PAST EVENTS

#### **Workshop Mutual Cultural Heritage Suriname - The Netherlands.**

On 14 November 2008 the Suriname-Netherlands Mutual Heritage workshop took place in Paramaribo. This workshop, organized by Suriname's Directorate of Culture together with the Centre for International Heritage Activities ([CIE](#)), aimed to bring together people and organizations from the Dutch and Surinamese heritage fields to discuss the opportunities and bottlenecks of this cooperation. [Read more...](#)

#### **Built heritage, monument care and public housing in the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba**

The Centre for International Heritage Activities (CIE) organized an expert meeting on the care and conservation of monuments in the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba. The meeting was held on 9 December 2008 in collaboration with the National Restoration Fund ([NRF](#)). The main aim of this meeting was to provide more insight in the existing cooperation between the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba and the Netherlands in the fields of built heritage and public housing. [Read more...](#)

#### **Launching of the NY400 website and celebrations year**

The [NY400 website](#), Holland on the Hudson, was launched on 28 January 2009. This date also marked the official kick-off of the celebrations of 400 years of relations between the United States of America and the Netherlands. On 27 January, the Dutch State Secretary F. Timmermans (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) paid a visit to Albany where he met AWAD partner Charles Gehring, director of the New Netherlands Institute. [Read more...](#)

The highlight of this year's celebrations will be the [NY400 Week](#) (8-13 September) with a calendar full of events. Read more on the [NY400 website...](#)

#### **Policy framework for shared heritage**

Shared heritage is one of the priorities in Dutch international cultural policy. State Secretary Timmermans (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and Minister Plasterk (of Education, Culture and Science) have set up a new policy framework for mutual cultural heritage. This policy framework offers basic guidelines for shared heritage, providing insight into the criteria and conditions of policies and programs and how projects can be implemented. For more information see the [policy framework document](#) and the [application form](#).

#### **Cultural Mapping of Brazil**

On behalf of the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, SICA (Centre for International Cultural Activities) developed and implemented the Cultural Mapping of Brazil. Brazilian experts were asked to map out the Brazilian cultural field and help define priorities for cooperation and the strengthening of the cultural relations between Brazil and the Netherlands. The Mapping, presented by Judith van Kranendonk, Director General of the Ministry and Carlos Alberto Asfora, Minister of the Brazilian Embassy, on 17 March was received by the public with great interest. A mission to Brazil followed this presentation in June, when a delegation of Dutch cultural experts visited São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro and met Brazilian colleagues (see more in this newsletter). The part of the mapping dedicated to heritage is available on the [AWAD website](#).

#### **Child in chains**

From 20 March 2009 NiNsee presents a new exhibition entitled Child in Chains. With this exhibition the institute aims to break the silence surrounding child slavery. Besides the [exhibition](#), Child in Chains presents to the public a website, a publication and a children's book. [Read more...](#)

**Return to Manhattan. The 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson's voyage.**

On 31 March 2009 the Rijksmuseum, in collaboration with the Dutch National Archives, opened an exhibition on the Dutch colony New Netherland and the trading post New Amsterdam – which later became New York City – at the beginning of the 17th century. The exhibition presented earlier documents on New Netherland and one of the highlights was the Schagen letter dating from 1626 from the National Archives. [Read more on the website of the Rijksmuseum.](#)

**KULTURA mission**

During the month of April, a Dutch delegation travelled to the Netherlands Antilles to present 'KulturA' to the cultural field (see [blog](#) for details). KulturA is a collaborative venture between the [Mondriaan Foundation](#), the Netherlands Foundation for Visual Arts, Design and Architecture, the Netherlands Fund for Performing Arts+, the Fund for Cultural Participation, the Dutch Foundation for Literature and the Foundation for the Production and Translation of Dutch Literature. A delegation of representatives of the participating funds organized information meetings to explain the possibilities of KulturA. The main aim is to support projects that reinforce the cultural infrastructure in the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba and strengthen (international) cultural exchange. Organizations on the six islands can submit applications to the [Mondriaan Foundation](#) throughout the year. [More on KulturA...](#)

**Cultural Mission to Brazil**

Following the presentation of the Cultural Mapping of Brazil (see more in this newsletter), a Dutch delegation of cultural experts travelled to Brazil in June to visit a large number of institutions and individuals in São Paulo and in Rio de Janeiro (see [blog](#) for details). The aim of the visit was to further orient and to intensify cultural relations between the two countries. Ms. Monique Vogelzang, Director of the Department for the Arts of the Netherlands Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, headed the delegation. During this trip, A. Weij, head of the [International Programme](#) at Erfgoed Nederland and chair of the AWAD steering committee, made a stop in Recife to meet the most relevant organizations and experts involved in mutual heritage with the Netherlands for an update on the ongoing projects and on future plans.



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### **Tula commemoration**

On 17 August 2009, the National Institute for the Study of Dutch Slavery and its Legacy ([NiNsee](#)) is organizing the national commemoration of the great slave revolt led by Tula in 1795 in Curacao. The meeting's keynote speaker is the sociologist, philosopher and ex-Prime Minister Prof. Dr Jandje Paula A. Cain, director of NiNsee, will present the book 'Tula, de slavenopstand van 1795 op Curacao'. A varied cultural programme including Izaline Calister and Raymi Sambo will close the event. The commemoration will take place from 19.30 to 21.00 in the Muiderkerk in Amsterdam. For more information check the [NiNsee website](#).

### **Heritage Day Brazil**

On 7 October 2009, the Centre for International Heritage Activities (CIE), in cooperation with Erfgoed Nederland and AWAD, will organize a Heritage Day Brazil. This day is intended to bring together persons and organizations in the Dutch heritage field that are cooperating with Brazil and to further improve bilateral relations between Brazil and the Netherlands. During the morning a series of panels on different heritage themes are scheduled, followed in the afternoon by a number of workshops focusing on relevant heritage topics. The location and programme of the Heritage Day will be announced soon on the [CIE website](#).

### **Four Centuries of Dutch-American Relations Conference**

On 15 and 16 October 2009, the [conference on four centuries of Dutch-American relations](#) will take place in Amsterdam. The conference, jointly organized by the Roosevelt Study Centre and the Netherlands American Studies Association, the Free University, the John Adams Institute, and Erfgoed Nederland, aims to explore this topic and to generate discussions on Dutch-American relations over the last 400 years. Within the two-day programme, AWAD will hold a parallel session focused on the tangible and intangible mutual heritage of the two countries (15). During this session, historian Dr Jaap Jacobs and archaeologist Dr Joel Grossman from New York will present the most recent results of their research on this topic. More information can be found on the [Roosevelt Study Centre's website](#), including the [programme](#) and [registration form](#).

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