

International Visitors Programme

Erfgoed Nederland (Netherlands Institute for Heritage)

Report by Romulo Xavier Nascimento (AWAD partner)

30 March to 6 April 2010

This programme gave me the opportunity to participate to the [expert meeting on marronage in the Atlantic world](#) and combine it with meetings to experts in the field of mutual cultural heritage and colonial history as well as to visit some relevant institution like the National Archives (Nationaal Archief) in The Hague.

During my stay in the Netherlands I was largely aided by Barbara Consolini, coordinator of the [AWAD programme \(the Atlantic World and the Dutch\)](#) at the Netherlands Institute for Heritage ([Erfgoed Nederland](#)). She organized the visits at the National Archives (Roelof Hol), at the Leiden University (Gert Oostindie, Ben Teensma and Victor Enthoven), at the Brazilian Embassy (Carlos Alberto Asfora), at the New Holland Foundation (Oscar Hefting) as well as the meetings with Lodewijk Hulsman and Antonio Guzman.

During the expert meeting on April 1st in the Tropenmuseum, Amsterdam, I presented my research findings on maroon communities (*bosnegers*) in Dutch Brazil in the 17th century. And meet and discuss on this topic with renowned international specialists like Linda Rupert, Alex van Stipriaan-Luscus, Frank Dragtenstein and Andrea Mosterman among others. The meeting was a major occasion to know more and compare marronage in Suriname, the Antilles and the USA during slavery and nowadays. It was wonderful to exchange experience and knowledge on this same theme from different perspectives and different regions in the Atlantic. I hope these contacts will be maintained frequently and that this meeting can be the start for future new cooperation in this field, for example the organization of a larger event on marronage.

The visit at the National Archives in The Hague (31 March) has been a valuable work experience. We met the coordinator of the mutual cultural heritage programme of the Archives Roelof Hol. He informed me about the cooperation projects with Brazil, especially in the field of conservation and preservation with the Arquivo Nacional in Rio de Janeiro and about the idea of developing an integrated network of researchers related to mutual heritage in the West and East.

I also met Carlos Alberto Asfora, minister for cultural affairs at the Brazilian Embassy in the Hague.

In the afternoon I spoke in Leiden with Professor Gert Oostindie and had the opportunity to present to him a letter of intention to sign agreements between my university (University of Pernambuco) and the University of Leiden. In addition, we talked much about the Dutch colonial history and Dutch presence in the Atlantic. Later that afternoon, also in Leiden, I had a meeting, informal but very useful, with Professor Ben Teensma, expert on Dutch Brazil and author of many publications on this topic. He shared with me his impressions about the chroniclers of Dutch Brazil and about his latest works. In Leiden I was accompanied by two colleagues of mine in Recife, the PhD candidates Bruno Miranda and Daniel Vieira.

On April the 2nd I had a meeting with Oscar Hefting, of the New Holland Foundation, Lodewijk Hulsman and Barbara Consolini. The idea of this meeting was to start and strengthen the cooperation between us in the project the [Atlas of Dutch Brazil](#). Hefting proposed me to be the coordinator for the research part of the Atlas regarding the State of Pernambuco where the Dutch presence was more relevant.

In the afternoon I met the Panamanian artist Antonio Guzman who is working on the project [State of the L3](#) together with a Brazilian and a Senegalese artist. The project is an exhibition in which each of the three artists presents their personal view on diaspora, migration, slavery in the Atlantic, between Amsterdam, Dakar and Recife. Guzman will travel soon to Recife and asked my cooperation to this project as an historian. I also paid a visit to the Van Gogh Museum as cultural part of my trip to Amsterdam.

This rich professional and cultural agenda, was made possible by Barbara Consolini, who succeeded to organize for me these amount of experiences within a short time. My stay in Amsterdam represented without any doubt an important step in my professional and personal life. The International Visitors programme of the foundation Erfgoed Nederland (Netherlands Institute for Heritage) has provided me all that was required during my presence in the Netherlands. I had total support what concerns food, public transport, accommodation and cultural programme.