

Dear Mutual Cultural Heritage partner,

This is the first (XL) edition of the MCH-Archives newsletter! Another newsletter? Don't we have too many of them already? Maybe, but our partners in the MCH-program expressed their wish for a central communication platform during the MCH conferences in the Hague, Malta and Paramaribo. As MCH-partner, or as a kind of associated partner, you will receive this newsletter that specializes in information on mutual archives and adjoining themes like digitization, once every three months. The information in this newsletter is unique since it is not covered by the individual newsletters of the national archives involved in the program. With this newsletter we will keep each other updated, but above all, the newsletter will hopefully strengthen the ties between the Mutual Cultural Heritage partners even more. Your contributions and feed back is vital for this medium, so please interact and send relevant material to the MCH office (mara.de.groot@nationaalarchief.nl)!

Contents:

- New MCH colleagues: Roelof Hol and Jinna Smit
- Nomination of the DWIC-archives as UNESCO Memory of the World
- Opening New National Archives of Surinam and MCH meeting in Paramaribo
- Return of Guyanese heritage by the Nationaal Archief
- Discovery of VOC-archives in India
- New: Archives Damage Atlas
- Nationaal Archief organizes first MCH-Workshop: Collection Management and Care
- Start of project Russian-Dutch Archival Guide
- Presentation of the first copy of the Africa volume of the series Comprehensive Atlas of the Dutch East India Company (Atlas Maior)

Agenda items:

01-04-2010 till 01-06-2010 PHD research of Nadia Dwiandari (ANRI) at the Nationaal Archief
12-04 till 07-05 Internship of two conservation workers of the Tamil Nadu Archives at the Nationaal Archief
12-04 Opening National Archives of Surinam and MCH meeting
26-05: Visit of Indonesian forestry department to Nationaal Archief
09-06: Speeddate with Cultural employees of the Dutch embassy in Brazil and Indonesia
15-06 till 22-06: Visit of Jinna Smit to the Office of Cultural Education (OCE), Albany, NY
30-08 till 31-08: International Archives without Borders conference (see flyer attached and <http://www.archiveswithoutborders.org/>) with presentation of "Footsteps and Fingerprints" publication
30-08 till 03-09: MCH workshop Collection Management and Care

=====
=====
=====
Two new MCH colleagues: Roelof Hol and Jinna Smit!

Roelof Hol: Program Director MCH



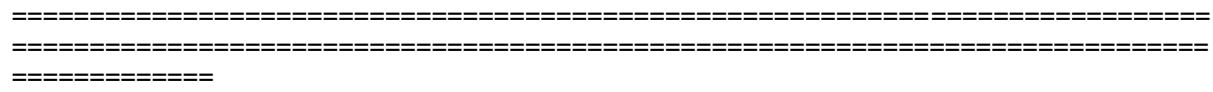
After graduating with honours at Amsterdam University (Medieval History) he started his career in 1979 in the State Dutch Archive Service at the State Archives of Gelderland as a

trainee, switched to the function as deputy director to the State Archives in Zeeland and became member of the Central Board of the State Archives Service in 1984. There his responsibilities included the coordination of the archivistic scientific program, the national conservation program and automation (ABS Archeion). He was also secretary to the Convent of State Archivists. In 1991 he became state archivist for the national program of appraisal (PIVOT program). He transferred in 1997 to the position of state archivist in the province of Noord-Holland where he organized the merging of the state archive and the regional archives of Kennemerland (region around Haarlem). After his return to the Nationaal Archief in 2005 he became secretary director of the National Foundation on developing archival programs (STAP), a cooperation between former state, municipal and regional archives as well as the Nationaal Archief in the Netherlands and the Algemeen Rijksarchief in Bruxelles. In this capacity which lasted till 2010 he contributed to the developing of the web version of ABS Archeion, the websites Watwaswaar (historical geographical information) and Wiewaswie (genealogical information). From 2007 he also became program director of the Dutch Matra project "Administrative and management reform of Croatian archive services". This program was successfully concluded in 2009. At the request of the National Archivist, Mr. Berendse, he started in April 2010 with the Mutual Cultural Heritage program and also became Head of the Research and Development department of the Nationaal Archief. Besides his formal activities he is also member of several boards in the cultural and heritage environment.
roelof.hol@nationaalarchief.nl

Jinna Smit: Project Manager MCH



Jasmijn Bus of the MCH team at the Nationaal Archief has handed over her MCH activities to Jinna Smit. Jinna is trained as a historian (University of Amsterdam) and an archivist (Archiefschool, The Hague) and worked for several archival institutions in the Netherlands after which she expanded her work experiences and education in Singapore, China and South Korea. Upon her return to the Netherlands, she has co-written a research guide (Michel R. Doortmont and Jinna Smit, *Sources for the Mutual History of Ghana and the Netherlands. An annotated guide to the Dutch archives relating to Ghana and West Africa in the Nationaal Archief, 1593-1960s*) and worked on her PhD thesis before joining the MCH team. Jinna is very much looking forward to meeting and working with our MCH colleagues outside the Nationaal Archief. Her contact details are: jinna.smit@nationaalarchief.nl or +31(0)703314143.



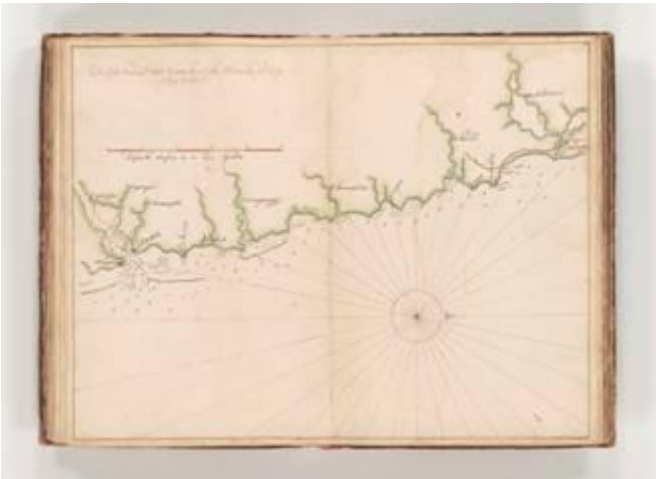
The WIC archives nominated for 'Memory of the World'

In 2003, the VOC archives were added to UNESCO's Memory of the World Register. This 'World Heritage List' for documents was established in 1992 to call for the preservation of valuable archives and library collections. This year, the Nationaal Archief has taken the initiative to nominate the archives of the Dutch West India Company or West Indische Compagnie (WIC) for inclusion in the Memory of the World Register. The Nationaal Archief has done this in collaboration with partner archives in the countries where the WIC operated: Brazil, Ghana, British Guyana, the Netherlands Antilles, Suriname, and the United States. Because parts of the WIC archives are also stored in England, The National Archives (UK) has also supported the nomination.

The archives of the WIC provide insight into the history of the West India Company*. In a broader context, they offer insight into European expansion into West Africa and the Americas. The WIC archives also contain information about the history of the regions where the WIC had established colonies or trading posts. In many cases, there are no other locally written sources available from this period.

Over the course of time, many WIC archives were lost due to bad storage conditions, fire, or other reasons. The nomination to the UNESCO Memory of the World Register is meant to focus attention on this less well-known archive, and at the same time encourage its long-term preservation. This is all the more important because so little remains of the WIC archives.

The nomination has since been accepted, and has been added to the list of other candidates. You can view the nomination of the WIC archives, as well as all the other nominations, at the UNESCO Memory of the World website (http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=30028&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html). The decision will be made in July of 2011.



DWIC Travelreport to Brazil, ca.1644

*Also relevant for the WIC archives is the MCH project concerning the digitization of the Old or First WIC, see:

http://www.en.nationaalarchief.nl/organisatie/samenwerking/gce/2010_03_01_start_digitalise_ring.asp?ComponentID=17076&SourcePageID=16172#1

=====

Opening new National Archives of Surinam and MCH-meeting in Paramaribo

The twelfth of April former Surinam President R.R. Venetiaan officially declared the new building of the National Archives of Surinam to be open. With this building Surinam has at its disposal a very professional accommodation for its archives. Together with well trained staff and modern archival law it is now possible to safeguard the Surinamese archives for the future and to make them well accessible for researchers and general public. At the opening ceremony the National Archivist of the Netherlands, Mr Martin Berendse, returned more than 100 metres of records to the National Archives of Surinam. Because of fire in the past a lot of Surinamese records had been lost. Also the tropical climate and poor conditions made the Dutch colonial government at the time decide to translocate the Mutual Heritage records, which contain three centuries of mutual history Netherlands-Surinam, to the

Netherlands for an indefinite period. The archives were subsequently shipped to the Netherlands in 1916, 1930, 1975 and 1977. Many years later, in 1996, the former Dutch Minister of Development, Mr J. Pronk, discussed the idea of creating a new suitable Archives in Surinam after another fire had struck the archives. Proper storage would also create the perfect moment for returning the Mutual Heritage Archives. This idea was met with great enthusiasm by the Surinamese authorities and in 2002 cooperation started. It was not only the physical environment that needed improvement though, another priority was to create the right infrastructure and legal conditions to ensure the future of the Surinamese archives. Therefore with help of the Netherlands a renewed archival law was set up and people were trained in record management and digitization of records. With all these improvements the colonial archives are safe to return to the place they were once created. In the coming seven years 800 metres of archives will return to Surinam. These are colonial archives dating from 1667 till 1975, the year of the independance of Surinam. Before sending, the archives are being treated and brought to a stable condition by conservator workers at the National Archives of the Netherlands. Next they are digitized. This way the records will also stay accessible for Dutch researchers and for everyone who is interested in the mutual history of Surinam and the Netherlands.



=====
=====
=====

Return of Guyanese heritage by Nationaal Archief

Recently the Nationaal Archief was surprised by receiving an original piece of Guyanese heritage: the minutes of the Court of Police of Demerary and Essequibo 1774-1776. The Minutes had been lost between 1921 and 1980, than they were spotted at an antique shop in Georgetown in 2006. The book was probably sold to a tourist and finally it ended up at a Dutch bookstore: De Slegte. One of the employees of the Nationaal Archief was alarmed by seeing the work in their inventory. At the request of the Program Director of the MCH Program Roelof Hol De Slegte decided to donate the register to the Nationaal Archief. On the 15th of April Roelof handed over the material to the director of the Walter Rodney Archives (National Archives of Guyana, Georgetown), Mrs Nadia Camel-Garter. Also during this visit Roelof handed over a series of digital copies of Dutch colonial maps of Guyana to the Minister of Culture of Guyana, Dr Rose. The digital maps received will be added to a collection of maps which the minister said will then be chronologically sequenced and put on display later in the year. The visit to Guyana is the start of an ongoing and strengthening partnership with more collaboration between the two countries in the future.



=====
=====
=====

a need for a well-organised reference guide. There were also calls, at an international level, for a translation. This is why the Nationaal Archief and Metamorfoze set out to publish an English-language edition of the atlas that also pays attention to damage and infestations of a specifically 'tropical' nature, such as damage caused by termites. The translation has been coordinated with The National Archives at Kew and The British Library in London.

The project was largely funded from the budget for the Mutual Cultural Heritage programme. One of the key objectives of the Mutual Cultural Heritage programme is the dissemination of knowledge regarding conservation and restoration. A major benefit of circulating the damage atlas is that this will have the effect of standardising the identification of types of damage at an international level. This will ultimately improve communication between archives at both national and international levels.

The first copy of the *Archives Damage Atlas, a tool for assessing damage*, was presented to the National Archives of Surinam on 12 April during a Mutual Cultural Heritage meeting in the capital Paramaribo. A PDF version of the damage atlas's contents is available here: http://www.en.nationaalarchief.nl/organisatie/samenwerking/gce/2010-04-29_Damage_Atlas_translated.asp?ComponentID=17268&SourcePageID=16172#1. Each MCH partner will be send a box of copies in July. You can contact Mara (mara.de.groot@nationaalarchief.nl) if you are not an (official) MCH partner but also interested in this booklet.

=====

Nationaal Archief organizes first MCH-workshop: Collection Management and Care

As was introduced to you during the MCH-meetings, the Nationaal Archief wants to offer workshops on different archival themes to its MCH-partners. The first workshop will be on Conservation and will be held in the Hague at the end of summer.

WORKSHOP COLLECTION MANAGEMENT

Aim: to share experience and knowledge on collection management and care. To introduce several international tools and methods for risk and damage assessment, with the aim to help identify collection needs and prioritise actions.

Target audience: (middle) management, specifically head of collection, head of conservation. Group size ca. 8

Teachers: Gerrit de Bruin and Foekje Boersma, Nationaal Archief

Type of workshop: interactive presentations and group activities. Theory will be combined with practice, for example an assignment will be coupled with a visit to a cultural institution/museum.

Duration: 1 week (30/8 -3/9)

Course content:

Day 1: introduction, 10 agents of deterioration (e.g. Physical forces, pests, climate, light)

Day 2: condition assessment (UPAA)

Day 3: risk assessment (impact, frequency, mitigation)

Day 4: excursion

Day 5: collection management, prioritisation

(A more detailed plan will be offered prior to the workshop).

If you are interested, we kindly request you to select a staffmember (head of collection/conservation) and send his or hers curriculum so we can make a tailor made programme. The Nationaal Archief will reimburse the flight and pay for accommodation and per diem for **one person from each MCH partner institution** during the period of the workshop. Please contact Mara (mara.de.groot@nationaalarchief.nl) for more information.

=====

Start of project Dutch Russian Archival Guide

One of the aims of the MCH program is to provide access to information relating to the mutual past. The Russian-Dutch Archival Guide, a project started on March 1st by the Nationaal Archief in agreement with the Federal Archival Agency Russia, will offer archival descriptions of Dutch records relating to Russia from the 13th century onwards. These records, representing an important part of the diplomatic, cultural and trading relations between The Netherlands and Russia, will be embedded in their institutional and historical context as well. To maximise accessibility to the history of Russian-Dutch interaction, the guide will be written in Russian and in Dutch. Hopefully this guide will inspire many researchers! For more information email Jinna Smit (jinna.smit@nationaalarchief.nl).

Presentation of the first copy of the Africa volume of the series Comprehensive Atlas of the Dutch East India Company

In November 2009 in the auditorium of the Nationaal Archief, the first copy of the Africa volume of the series *Comprehensive Atlas of the Dutch East India Company* was presented. The atlas, in which all surviving manuscript maps and drawings from the VOC territories in Africa are reproduced, contains mostly material held in the Nationaal Archief. The Comprehensive Atlas project is one of the ways in which the Netherlands is providing access to important sources relating to the history of other countries.

In the context of the Mutual Cultural Heritage project, two senior staff members specialising in information management and image materials travelled to South Africa in March this year to attend a seminar in order to explain this project and other digitisation projects involving the map collection. During the official part of the meeting before the presentations, the Consul General, David de Waal, presented the Atlas to the provincial Minister for Cultural Affairs, Sport and Recreation, Mr Sakkie Jenner (see photo).

During the conference in Cape Town, it became apparent that the publication of the atlas has fulfilled an important need. Several renowned researchers praised the work of publishing house Asia Maior and the Nationaal Archief in publishing the series. Almost all of the oldest maps of South Africa have been held at the Nationaal Archief since De Graaff, Governor of the Cape and a cartographer, brought them with him at the end of the eighteenth century so that he could continue his work in the Netherlands. They are held in the archives of the Dutch Topographic Service.

The publication of the Africa volume of the atlas has made available a wealth of source material on the history of the Cape.



Hope you enjoyed this first newsletter. Please send us your feed back and relevant news/agenda items for the next edition.

Kind regards,

MCH-team National Archives of the Netherlands

Nationaal Archief

Prins Willem-Alexanderhof 20
Den Haag

Postbus 90520
2509 LM Den Haag

All newsitems are stored on the website of the Nationaal Archief:

<http://www.en.nationaalarchief.nl/organisatie/samenwerking/gce/default.asp?ComponentID=16156&SourcePageID=1433#1>

If you want to change your email or add another person to the distribution list or if you are no longer interested in receiving this email please contact: maria.de.groot@nationaalarchief.nl