



# The Atlantic World and the Dutch 1500-2000

The project 'The Atlantic World and the Dutch, 1500-2000' is hosted by the Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies (KITLV). The project has been made possible by the Netherlands Culture Fund (HGIS / Ministries of Foreign Affairs / Education, Culture and Science) and by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO).



Conference in Amsterdam (GAA) last November

Main objectives are:

Preservation, accessibility and study of the mutual cultural heritage through the last 500 years between the Dutch and the people in the Atlantic region;

Building up an Atlantic Network of institutions, experts and projects related to the mentioned cultural heritage;

Developing joint projects and securing financial support;

NEWSLETTER

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## Conference and Country Workshops

The first stage of the project, the identification mission, was formerly concluded last year with an international conference in Amsterdam from November 28-30. The conference, housed at the Amsterdam Municipal Archives (GAA) saw the participations of representatives of relevant heritage institutions and projects in the Netherlands and abroad. During this conference the results of the local workshops held in a preliminary phase were presented. Workshops sessions set up a rich discussion which led to a series of minutes with recommendations for the following phase of the project. The preparatory workshops, held in 2006 in the United States, Guyana, the Netherlands Antilles/Aruba, Suriname, Brazil and Ghana, were intended to complete the inventory of the research guide available online. See [awad.kitlv.nl](http://awad.kitlv.nl)

This online database has shown to be an indispensable instrument both as inventory of the shared heritage, as well as mean of communication and cooperation among participants and partner countries.

Implementation, update and maintenance of the online research guide it therefore one of the priority of the project.

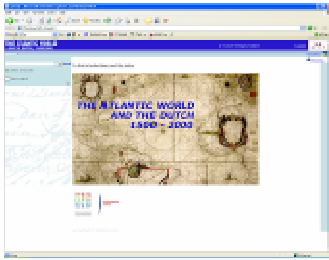
All relevant reports and proceedings of the workshops and conference are available on the AWAD website [awad.kitlv.nl/awad/introduction/conferences/](http://awad.kitlv.nl/awad/introduction/conferences/)

## Expansion of the AWAD research guide

The AWAD online database includes until now 310 organizations, 171 projects, 209 experts, 263 records and 176 settlements, among others. Settlements have been lent by the digital catalogue the Atlas of Mutual Heritage. The core of the current database is represented by the information about archival material and the Atlantic network.

This will be kept and managed centrally. However, during the conference, the countries involved have proposed to share responsibility by adding themselves information about their own tangible and intangible heritage. Therefore, the new version of the website will provide country web pages and a forum of discussion to stimulate cooperation in the shared heritage field. Implementation of the AWAD website and network will be continued until 2009 by Barbara Consolini.





## In-depth disclosure of archival sources

Besides the further expansion of the AWAD website/database, the second stage of the project (2006-2011) is carried out by KITLV together with the Institute of Netherlands History (ING) within the Programme 'The Dutch and the Culture Overseas'. This cooperation, launched in September 2006, aims to secure a more in-depth disclosure of relevant archival sources of the Dutch culture in the Atlantic region, with particular attention to the former colonies of Aruba, the Netherlands Antilles, Guyana and Suriname during the period 1670-1870. The project, supervised by dr. Gerrit Knaap, is carried out by Han Jordaen (KITLV) and Marijcke Schillings (ING). When completed the in-depth guide will be published on the website of the Institute of Netherlands History with the direct link to the AWAD-database.



*Fort Orange, Itamaracá  
Island.*

## News from ...

### BRAZIL

During the month of March representatives of the Dutch Ministries of Foreign Affairs and of Education, Culture and Science have visit Brazil for a cultural mission. Brazil is since last year registered as priority country which means that cooperation between this country and the Netherlands will be stimulated. The mission was intended to meet experts in the cultural field and to visit institutions in the South American country with relevant collections. Besides Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo and Brasilia, an important stop was in Recife, in the Northeast of Brazil, where a rich legacy was left by the Dutch in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Meetings were organized with the Instituto Ricardo Brennand, the Federal University of Pernambuco, IPHAN, the regional Secretary of Culture, followed by visits to S. Antonio Coventry, Forte do Brum, Fort Orange on the Itamaracá island and the city of João Pessoa.

*(thanks to Carlos Alberto Asfora for the information)*



*Dutch Heritage  
Museum opens.  
F. Anthony, ministry of  
Culture and Lloyd  
Kandasammy at the  
exhibition.*

### GUYANA

In the 18<sup>th</sup> century Dutch Court of Policy Hall on Fort Island (Essequibo River) a new museum has opened on 19 February 2007. The building has been restored by the National Trust of Guyana, together with another important monument on the same island: Fort Zeelandia.

The establishing of a Dutch Heritage Museum in the Court of Policy Hall is a great achievement for the L. Kandasammy and the National Trust after many years of hard work. Residents have been involved in this major project for Guyana heritage since the very beginning in 2000 and have contributed actively to the museum opening donating artifacts.

*(thans to Lloyd Kandasammy for the information)*

## THE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

In order to support the Cultural Heritage Platform Dutch Caribbean an initiative has started to set up local platforms on the islands. In Curacao this project will be carried out by the Public Library together with the National Archives and the National Archaeological Anthropological Museum (NAAM).

Main activities to be reported lately:

- the plenary meeting of the Cultural Heritage Platform Dutch Caribbean is planned in October this year on Aruba;
- an International Museum Day about Museum and International Heritage was organized on Curacao. Landhuis Kenepa was reopened as Tula Museum, focusing on the afro-curacaos population;
- the Maritime Management Law was approved by all 5 islands unanimously. This is a relevant step towards protection of the rich underwater cultural heritage. This new legal instrument could be usefully applied to the recent finding of a bronze canon from 1770 (see photo aside);
- four museums (Curacaos Museum, Mongui Maduro Library, Museo Bonaire and NAAM) started the project Digitalizing Cultural Heritage Dutch Caribbean. The Mondriaan Foundation is one of the co-financer of this project;
- the *Slavenmuur* (Slavewall) on the plantation near Silberie will undergo restoration thanks to the NAAM, Monuments Foundation, Monuments Department and the residents organization Plataforma Banda Bou;
- Bureau monuments and Archaeology, and the Municipality of Amsterdam are supporting the development of the Curacao cultural heritage digital atlas;
- The PhD dissertation of Rose Mary Allen 'Di Ki Manera' on oral history is worth to be mentioned as it documents a post slavery period which not many people know.

NAAM has moved to a new restored building with its own storage/depot.

The new website is [www.naam.an](http://www.naam.an)

(thanks to *Ieteke Witteveen* for the information)



*Bronze canon of 1770  
found in the harbor of  
Curacao.*

Visit our website at:  
[awad.kitlv.nl](http://awad.kitlv.nl)

In order to keep our website/database updated your cooperation is essential. Please report to us any corrections, change/additional information, news about your institution, project and expertise. Suggestions for further issues of this newsletter are welcome too. Thank you.

## AWAD PROJECT BOARDS

### ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Barbara Consolini MA (KITLV), Dr. Henk den Heijer (Leiden University), Han Jordaan, MA (ING & KITLV), Dr Pieter Koenders (National Archive), Prof. Gert Oostindie (KITLV), Prof. Alex van Stipriaan Luiscius (Erasmus University Rotterdam & Royal Tropical Institute), Dirk Tang, MA (National Library), Dr. Glenn Willemsen (NiNsee/National Institute for the Study of Dutch Slavery and its Legacy).

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### COORDINATORS:

Dr. Michel Doortmont (RUG/ University of Groningen), Johan van Langen MA (National Archives), Dr. Janny Venema (New Netherland Project), Dr. Lodewijk Wagenaar (University of Amsterdam & Amsterdam Historical Museum).

KITLV  
Royal Institute of  
Southeast Asian and  
Caribbean Studies  
Reuvenplaats 2  
PO Box 9515  
2300 RA Leiden  
Tel. 071-5272295  
[www.kitlv.nl](http://www.kitlv.nl)

AWAD Project  
[awad.kitlv.nl](http://awad.kitlv.nl)  
Contact:  
Barbara Consolini  
[consolini@kitlv.nl](mailto:consolini@kitlv.nl)  
or [awad@gmail.com](mailto:awad@gmail.com)