

Letter from the Centre

With this issue, we have completed our cycle of four special issues on the Cambridge-Leiden-Delhi-Yogyakarta conferences for comparative study of colonialism and post-colonialism in India and Indonesia. We hope all our readers will have found them useful in themselves and even suggestive for study in other fields, but we recognise that those of you whose primary interest lies in the Atlantic regions may have needed long breaths between our regular numbers.

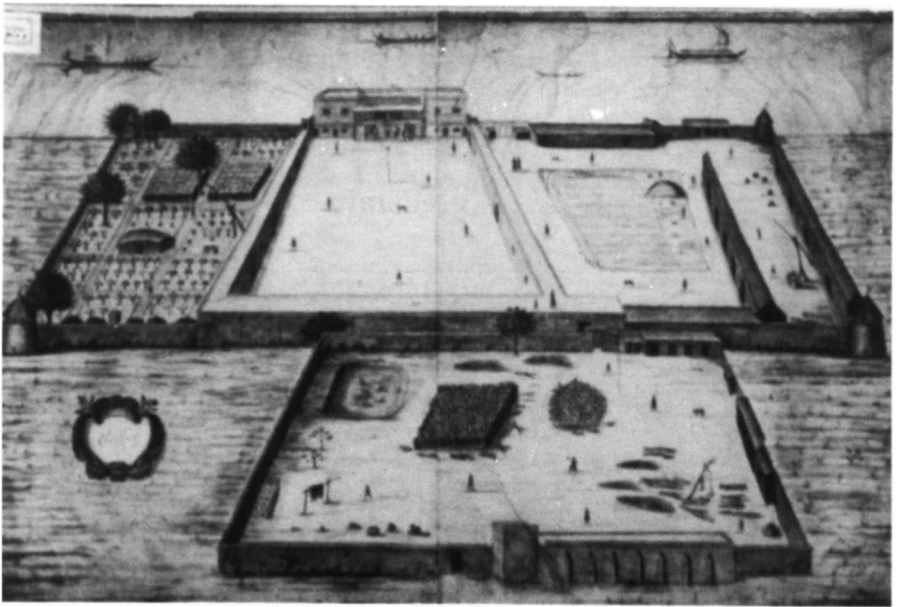
The idea for our four issues was a purely academic one, but it strongly appealed to those of us who must periodically visit the stony-faced accountants in the Central Facilities Building, the same ones who once used to smile indulgently and pay our production bills. Such visits in recent years have made us determined to hack *Itinerario* on our own – a situation precisely reminiscent of that stage in nearly everyone's youthful existence where fathers make it increasingly plain that the leisurely dependency of our young adult lives is about to become a thing of the past.

In this predicament, the special issues have provided a useful stopgap for our finances, because as we have mentioned, two Dutch ministries have taken interest in our comparative approach and helped us to pay our printer. But we realise that such a hand-to-mouth existence is not the best of all worlds possible. We would really rather build our subscribership to the point where 'angle bending' need not concern us.

In our next special issue, we will feature migrations across the Atlantic Ocean – and we trust that this will in some measure make up for our recent (over-)emphasis on Asia. We have also said many times (and we meant it!) that we especially solicit articles from the Americas on aspects of the expansion and reaction to it, and we will promise to give them our best consideration. We think that those who have submitted articles to us in the past have found us both constructive and collaborative.

From this issue on, by the way, we are including in each mailing a subscription form. You are no doubt used to such minor annoyances in commercial magazines, but they do, apparently, work. Moreover, perhaps you would be willing if the occasion presents, to recommend us to a colleague. Maybe you even play tennis with an acquisitions librarian?

The Editors



Saltpetre factory of Chapra, Bengal