

## Letter from the Editors

It is a happy coincidence that this issue contains three articles by three Dutch scholars dealing with cross-cultural encounters in three different parts of the seventeenth-century world: G.J. Knaap's article on the Dutch East India Company's efforts to establish a spice monopoly in the Central Moluccas (Amboin) in 1638; L. Hulsman's publication of a pamphlet from 1657, containing two remonstrances (petitions) from the Brazilian Amerindian Antonio Paraupaba to the States General of the Dutch Republic. These remonstrances were submitted to Their Eminences in the immediate aftermath of the fall of Dutch Brazil in 1654. E. de Groot presents and analyses a selection from a series of fifty-five watercolours, which is kept in the Bibliothèque de l'Arsenal in Paris. The drawings are the work of the Dutch artist Andries Beeckman, who depicted the Khoikhoi men and women of the Cape of Good Hope in 1658. Beeckman worked for the VOC and one of his tasks was to portray exotic peoples. These watercolours represent the earliest colour depictions of the Khoikhoi, and they have never been published before. Sufficient reason, for *Itinerario*, to print these images in full colour here.

Michael H. Fischer, Thomas Benjamin, and Roger B. Beck have written the review articles for this issue, which also contains 33 regular book reviews collected by the journal's Book Review Editor Markus Vink. The editorial board, as always, acknowledges the hard work of each of the contributors to this important section of the journal.

This issue launches the 29th year of *Itinerario* and that means we are approaching the 30th anniversary of the journal. The next issues, plus our new website [www.itinerario.nl](http://www.itinerario.nl), will provide further information on the special celebrations to be scheduled to commemorate 30 years of *Itinerario* in 2006.

The Editors