

Letter from the Editors

The present issue is special in several ways. Firstly, we are proud to publish an interview with Henk Wesseling, the founder of the Leiden Centre for the History of European Expansion, and for many years its director. Professor Wesseling has been recently appointed director of the NIAS research institute at Wassenaar. Last September the Centre organized a small symposium in his honour. Some of the papers presented on this occasion will be published in upcoming issues of *Itinerario*.

Secondly, this issue has been partly coedited by Dr Bhattacharya, who during her past year's affiliation with the IIAS – and in cooperation with our Centre – organized a workshop on 'The transfer of Science and Technology between Europe and Asia'. Out of a dozen papers, we selected six to be published in this journal. In order to put past problems in a contemporary perspective, we have included one article that deals with the practical problems encountered in introducing new technologies in a traditional environment.

Finally, true to our vocation of being a genuine forum for scholarly debate, we are publishing some critical comments on articles that appeared in previous issues. To accommodate these reactions, we have especially created a 'corner' in this issue, called 'Reactions from our Readers'.

The editors