



THE FORUM ON *European Expansion and Global Interaction*

FEEGI CONFERENCE IN APRIL

The Forum on European Expansion and Global Interaction will hold its second biennial meeting at the Henry Huntington Library in San Marino, California, on April 4-5, 1998. Its format will highlight the variety of research being done in the field of European expansion and global interaction. A lot has been happening in the field, so we expect an exiting assortment of papers that can provide a venue for scholars who are conducting original research and looking for informed comment. Because of its location, this is an ideal opportunity to include our western colleagues and to view the magnificent collections of the Huntington. For further information, contact Professor David Hancock at (617)496-3685, (617)496-2111 fax. E-mail: hancockd@umich.edu.

NORMAN THROWER IS AWARD RECIPIENT

Norman J.W. Thrower is the recipient of the 1997 International Map Collectors' Society Helen Wallis Award, the highest honor conferred

by IMCOS. In the citation accompanying the award (a silver salver and a check) it is noted that Thrower, who was born in England, received his early cartographic training in the Survey of India and the Directorate of Overseas Surveys. On coming to the United States he was employed as a cartographer at the University of Virginia where he graduated with a B.A. (Hons.) in 1953. At Virginia he studied under Erwin Raisz before taking graduate work under Arthur Robinson at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, where he received his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees. In 1957 Thrower joined the faculty of the University of California, Los Angeles. He was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1963 and since 1978 has been a member of the Educational Advisory Board of the Guggenheim Foundation. At UCLA he was Clark Library Professor 1972-73, Director of The William Andrews Clark Memorial Library, 1981-1987, and in 1986 founded the UCLA Center for 17th and 18th Century Studies. Among other appointments, Thrower was Map Supplement Editor of the Annals of the AAG from 1965-1974; President of the Society for the History of Discoveries, 1973-1975; President of the Sir Francis Drake Commission, State of California, 1975-1980; Director of the

UCLA Columbus Quincentenary Programs, 1989-1993; and has been an Honorary Overseas Secretary of the Hakluyt Society since 1991. In 1992 he was awarded the Orden del Merito Civil by H.M. King Juan Carlos of Spain. The author or editor of ten books and one hundred and fifty other contributions to geography and cartography Thrower was cited by IMCOS as having 'chronicled for all of us ... the map as an expression of man's scientific and cultural evolution." The Helen Wallis Award is named for a former map librarian of the British Museum/British Library, a distinguished scholar.

NEW PUBLICATION ON DUTCH IN AMERICAS

The Dutch in the Americas, 1600-1800 by Wim Klooster

Most Americans - and New Yorkers certainly - are familiar with the story of the Dutch official Peter Minuit who, as an agent of the Dutch West India Company, bought Manhattan Island from the local Indians in 1626 in exchange for goods worth, it is said, \$24. It is the kind of tale we take for granted, without asking what Netherlanders were doing at

the mouth of the Hudson River early in the seventeenth century. In fact, so removed from any historical context is this common narrative that Peter Minuit could just as well have been an interstellar alien, who knew a good real estate deal when he saw one, as particularly a Dutchman.

The purpose of the John Carter Brown Library volume on *The Dutch in the Americas, 1600-1800* is to tell the story of the Dutch emergence as a major imperial power in the seventeenth century, with interests stretching from Japan to Suriname, and to recount in particular the Dutch role in the colonial history of the Western Hemisphere as a whole, of which New York and the Hudson Valley in, let us say, 1640 were but a small, although important, piece.

The full story, or at least as much of the full story as can be accommodated in a short narrative, makes the Dutch presence in New York more explicable. It is also a story worth telling because the Netherlands between 1600 and 1800, with a population throughout the period of never more than two million, was in many respects the wonder of the age.

The conquest of the Americas by Europeans required first of all the conquest of the oceans - the ability to project men and materiel across 3,000 miles of open sea. It is notable that by the middle of the seventeenth century, the Dutch were supreme at sea. No maritime force in the world was superior to them.

For a hundred years, at least, Dutch sea charts were recognized as the best and most reliable, that is, until the English and the French caught up by the end of the seventeenth century. The history of the Dutch in the Americas can be documented almost alone by the production of maps. It can safely be said that many Dutch maps of the seventeenth century were among the most beautiful ever made. The Dutch elevated geographical maps and charts to a new art form, while at the same time greatly improving cartographical and hydrographical science.

No people at that time seem to have been quite as pictorially-directed as the Dutch. More frequently than the French, the English, the Spanish, or the Portuguese - all of whom were New World imperial powers - the countrymen of Rembrandt and Vermeer illustrated their books.

The story of the Dutch in Brazil in the seventeenth century is especially intriguing. It has been remarked that the most culturally advanced place in the Americas in 1640 was not Cambridge, Massachusetts; not even Mexico City or Lima, both of which were well ahead of Massachusetts at the time; but the court of Prince Maurits of Nassau in Olinda and Recife in Brazil.

Under English pressure, the Dutch abandoned New York in 1664, but the Netherlands and the mainland British colonies continued to be closely involved commercially. In

1780 John Adams was in Europe as a representative of the nascent United States, hoping to induce the English to enter peace negotiations. He traveled to the Low Countries seeking commercial agreements and money for support of the Revolution. When in April 1782 Adams succeeded in gaining Dutch recognition of American independence - the first country to take this step after France - he considered that achievement, he said, 'the happiest Event, and the greatest action of my Life past or future.' Recognition was followed by a series of loans from the Netherlands that literally saved the new United States from bankruptcy at that perilous time.

With the *Dutch in the Americas, 1600-1800*, the John Carter Brown Library breaks new ground. No other illustrated history book on this subject is currently available - neither in English nor in Dutch. Paper - \$35; cloth - \$45. Can be ordered from JCB Library, Box 1894, Providence, RI 02912.

JCB LIBRARY RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

The John Carter Brown Library of Brown University will award both long and short-term fellowships for advanced research in history and the humanities. Eighteen distinguished scholars were recipients in 1997-98. About twenty awards are anticipated for research from June 1, 1998, to May 31, 1999. Various fellowships

are awarded for specific areas of research. Short-term awards provide a stipend of \$1,000 per month for periods of 2-4 months. Longterm stipends require residence for the academic semester and pay \$13,375 for five months. Contact Director, JCB Library, Box 1894, Providence, RI 02912 for further information.

Email: http://www.brown.edu/Facilities/John_Carter_Brown_Library.

Deadlines for applications is January 15; awards announced before March 15.

SPANISH PHILIPPINES

In March 1997, a small group of Spanish specialists on the Philippines gathered together at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona for a three-day conference on the History of the Philippines and Spanish Presence in the Pacific. The discussions showed the different policies pursued by the Spanish empire in relation to the Philippine Archipelago and how this differed from the way matters were run in the American colonies, first in Mexico and Peru and, after 1820, Cuba.

There are three main groups in Spain engaged in research on the former colony in Asia, each influenced by the documentation that is most readily accessible. The first is an Andalusian group founded by Lourdes Diaz-Trechuelo and continued at present by Professor Antonio Garcia-Abasolo, from the University of Cordoba, whose research is based

on the Archivo General de Indias and deals with 16th-18th century Philippines. A second group which is based mainly in Madrid, usually publishes in the *Revista Espanola del Pacifico* and focuses on the 19th century Philippines and its international context, using materials from the Archivo Historico Nacional, Foreign Ministry Archives and other documentation sources.

A third group is based in Barcelona, at the Pompeu Fabra University and deals with two main topics. The first topic, economic history, is covered by a research group that used to focus on Latin America, but has 'jumped' to the Philippines. The members include Josep Maria Delgado, Josep Maria Fradera, and Antonio Alonso, with Ardor Garrotes currently teaching in the U.S. The second topic, under the leadership of Dolores Folch, focuses on relations between the Philippines and China. They make extensive use of the archives of the company that was the largest in the Philippines until the 1950s, the *Compania General de Tabacs de Filipinas*, based in Barcelona, but also do research outside their city.

The organizer of the conference was Josep Maria Fradera, therefore the discussions were biased toward economic history. The first day was dedicated to the earliest period, just after the arrival of the Spaniards in Manila, the attempts to expand alternatively in China or other parts in Southeast Asia, and the difference in the way the natives were exploited

through the 'Encomienda' in contrast to the American colonies, a topic extensively researched by Patricio Hidalgo. The discussions centered on the scanty number of Spaniards in Manila and the attempts they made to expand their presence. One participant suggested the idea that for a brief period (1580s-1606) Asia was 'Eldorado' for Western adventurers (not only Spaniards). This hypothesis was based on the idea that Manila was occupied as a stepping stone towards Asia Mainland and some contemporary references do indeed discuss the need to find occupations for the very large number of Spaniards in the Archipelago who had come from America. The recent publication of the book 'Spaniards in Siam, 1540/1939' prompted a debate on the quantification of migration movements using the Manilla Galleon, the annual voyage between the Philippines and Asia and America. Ardor Giraldez pointed to the silverization of the Chinese economy as a central point in the expansion into Asia by Europeans. In his view, they mostly acted as middlemen between the producers and end-purchasers.

The 17th and 18th centuries were discussed the second day. Antonio Alonso, who is directing a research group on 'Costs and Profits in the Spanish Empire' emphasized the importance of those annual silver remittances to the Philippines from Mexico, the 'Situado'. Some data suggest that the quantity carried by these galleons was three quarters of the total carried by English, Dutch,

and the Portuguese 'Estada da India'. Josep Maria Fradera underlined the structural changes of Spanish dominion after the British seizure of Manila (and Havana) in the mid-eighteenth century. The monetary core switched from taxes to focus on revenues from monopolies like tobacco or native liquors, and these changes prompted an effective occupation of the islands, something that had not been undertaken before. These changes bore fruit at the time, but the independence of Latin American colonies and the subsequent end of the 'Situated' remittances meant the new incomes remained in the islands instead of being sent to Spain, which was what the original idea had been.

The final day started with the end of the Galleon, the alternative route attempted by the 'Compania de Filipinas' to form a direct link with the Peninsula and the aims of the representative of the Philippines in the Spanish Parliaments at the beginning of the 19th century. Again, the comparison between the situation in America (this time Cuba and Puerto Rico) and the Philippines emerged. The common view of a rich Cuba and a poor Philippines has to be adjusted when analyzing the last decades of the empire. Although Cuba's budget was bigger than that of the government of Manila, Ines Roldan pointed out that Havana was ridden with debt (half the income had to be spent for servicing payment of this debt) but this was not the case with the Philippines. Other researchers pointed out the dyna-

mism in the Philippine economy and its relations with the metropolis just before 1898.

Professors Denys Lombart (Ecole Frangaise d'Extreme Orient) and Peter Boomgaard (KITLV, the Netherlands) also participated. Quite apart from the history a conference was given on the project to microfilm documentation in the Philippines from the Spanish period, run by the Spanish Council for Research (CSIC) and the Philippine National Archives. Forty thousand bundles are to be catalogued and when this is compared to the mere two thousand that can be consulted in Madrid or Mexico, historians can only dream: the history of the Philippines will have to be rewritten. Next November there will be the Fourth Conference of the Spanish Pacific Studies Association at Valladolid, focusing on the Centenary of 1898. There, we will have time to continue our discussion, joined by scholars of many other nationalities.

DUTCH FACTORIES IN BURMA

Setting myself the target of finding out just how much material pertaining to those factories in Burma lie hidden within the VOC archives at the *Algemeen Riiksarchief* in The Hague, I commenced my search in the summer of 1994. In my naivety I judged a maximum of six months to be sufficient for this task. However, it is only now, three very long years on, that I am finally near-

ing the end of my quest. From the outset it became clear that my search could not remain limited to Burma itself and the Coromandel Coast under whose jurisdiction it fell, but that I would also need to plough through vast numbers of manuscripts from and about such diverse locations as Siam, Persia, Japan, and of course, Batavia itself. This test of endurance has yielded a rich harvest indeed. For, from the murky depths of these ancient writings has emerged a colorful and highly fascinating kaleidoscope of details that paints a vivid picture of how a distinct group of foreign traders functioned in seventeenth-century Burma and what was involved in their relationship with the Court of Ava, the capital city of what the Dutch always referred to as the 'Kingdom of Pegu'. Furthermore, the VOC archives also contain detailed eyewitness accounts of destructive internecine wars between Burma and both Siam and China in the seventeenth century; a period in Burma's history suffering from a dearth of information.

One might wonder why the history of these factories was never written. Not only has there been no systematic and thorough study of these VOC establishments but, unfortunately, Burma is rarely, if ever, touched upon in Dutch research. One could argue that the factories in the remote 'Kingdom of Pegu' were of no importance whatsoever in the grand design of VOC activities in the East. After all, the Dutch came to the East Indies in search of spices,

and Burma was not a producer. However, once they reached the Spice Islands, the Dutch discovered that the celebrated pungent condiments cum medicaments could only be had in exchange for the equally celebrated textiles from the Coromandel Coast. And once there, they stumbled upon the ancient and hugely lucrative trade across the Bay of Bengal. Thus it was rumors of vast profits to be made across the Bay that in turn brought the ever-avaricious Dutch to the shores of the 'Kingdom of Pegu'.

Perhaps the Burma trade as such was not vast or important enough to Dutch historians to justify a full-fledged research project resulting in a monograph of its own. However, it is Burma's pivotal position along ancient and crucial maritime and overland trade routes that, in the end, will decide the overall importance and scholarly value of the study I have embarked upon. Cogently, the Dutch factories in Burma were stepping-stones along a trade artery that ran from China to India and beyond.

From time immemorial to this very day, Burma has been of critical importance to the Chinese province of Yunnan. From this remote part of China, Burma affords the nearest, easiest, and most direct access to the sea. Through the ages and in all manner of ways, the Burma-Yunnan border has been a crossroads of some consequence to the inhabitants of both sides of this divide. Many a time it was the scene of bitter bat-

ties, however, in times of peace, it was and remains an essential corridor through which pass a wide variety of goods and people.

If, in the end, the VOC manuscripts shed some light on this crucial Southeast Asian region and extract fit from the seventeenth century murkiness that envelops it, that, in itself, will add greatly to the knowledge we have about this specific trade route during the period in question.

As to the intrinsic value of this particular research in the grand scheme of VOC studies, I might venture to suggest that placing Burma, for the very first time, squarely within the vast and intricate network of VOC trading posts in the East Indies might give us deeper insight into how Batavia, in the seventeenth century, reacted to certain critical events which occurred all along the arteries of its far-flung empire of trade, and, furthermore, how these very events forced the VOC trading activities to evolve over time.

The history of the Dutch factories in Burma deserves to be written. For all too long these remote trading posts have languished as a mere footnote, if that, in Dutch historiography. I do believe, and the results of my research bear me out, that the VOC lodges in seventeenth century Burma deserve to be brought out of the shadows and given their rightful place in the sun.

RECENT RESEARCH

Eric Klingelhofer has completed his excavations at Kilcolman Castle in Ireland and has plans for a Norman site in England next summer. He has located Sir Walter Raleigh's fort of 1595 in Trinidad and plans to return with geophysical equipment in May for nondestructive testing. Eric can be reached at (912)752-2854.

FEEGI MEMBERSHIP AND NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

The Forum on European Expansion and Global Interaction is a broad interdisciplinary group devoted to the study of European expansion in a world-wide scope before ca. 1820. FEEGI is equally interested in native responses and adaptations to this expansion. Membership is \$10.00 per calendar year. Please send checks to FEEGI Treasurer Tom Cohen, at the Oliveira Lima Library, Catholic University of America, Washington, DC 20064.

Articles for the FEEGI Newsletter, information about conferences, research activities, and brief book reviews may be submitted to FEEGI Secretary, Robert L. Hoover, Social Sciences Department, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, CA 93407. (805)544-2528 fax. Next issue deadline: March 1.