

Letter from the Institute

Several contributors to the first issue of volume XVII of *Itinerario* were devoted to the various forms of colonial labour and in this issue the same topic again comes to the fore. Both Jean-Dominique Giacometti and Paul Baak contribute their views. Giacometti surveys the communities of overseas Indians between the World Wars, which had come into existence during the previous period of indentured migration, which was abruptly abolished by the government of British India in 1917. Paul Baak points to the discussion in this journal on the nature of colonial labour between Breman and Houben and adds new material on British Indian plantations outside the Western sector of the economy.

In addition to these articles on colonial labour the ramifications of decolonisation are featured in a contribution by Paul Baak. The economy of China during the era of the European trading companies is discussed by Zhuang Guoto. The section of archives deals with Venezuela (Maarten Jan Bakkum), while the first contribution of this issue directs the reader to the future rather than to the past and is devoted to an interview with Paul Kennedy regarding his new book *Preparing for the Twenty-first Century*.

The Editors