

Letter from the Centre

If *Itinerario* could have invited Charles Dickens to contribute a guest editorial, he probably would write that our publication was undergoing the best of times, the worst of times, as he did in the famous first lines of his *Tale of Two Cities*. We are finally becoming a professional organ – we hope *the* journal of European expansion, and we have just added a new editor, Dirk Kolff. Dirk, an Indologist, has long been associated with us in an advisory capacity, and he has already brought many suggestions and improvements. In addition, the university has just described our Centre as ‘famous’ in a recent city blurb.

Unfortunately, we have to be content with such tokens of affection, because it is not giving us any money. In fact, more than ever, we are living on your subscription fees, and gone are the days when we could send *Itinerario* gratis, in return for your scholarly writings. The Dutch state’s revenues are linked to its natural gas, which is in turn linked to the price of oil. As OPEC struggles but slips downward, so does our educational funding. The only bright spot is that subsidies from the Ministry for Development Cooperation have come for our special issues on India and Indonesia.

What we need most is more institutional subscriptions, and it has occurred to us that you might be willing to help. One personal word from a satisfied consumer is better than all the publicity campaigns advertisers can concoct. If your university does not subscribe, could you ask it to? We will soon be coming out with a ten-year index and a microfiche of our back issues, and we will send you all the information anon. If you would take it to your acquisitions librarian together with your personal testimony, like Tinker Bell (to switch from Dickens to Sir James Barrie) we might the better keep our light burning in the world.

The editors