

## Letter from the Institute

In 1992 *Itinerario* cannot avoid to pay attention to the effects of the voyages of Columbus. In view of this the present issue contains an article on the migration from Europe to Brazil and a contribution on the legal ramifications of the Spanish conquests in the New World.

In addition to these two articles on the New World there are four contributions which deal with Africa's past. Two of these contributions are a result of the recent changes in the government policies on race relations of the Republic of South Africa. The doyen of the Afrikaans-speaking historical community, Prof. dr. F.A. van Jaarsveld came to Leiden and the editors of *Itinerario* talked to him about his life as well as his career as a historian and educator. Van Jaarsveld's historiographical contribution to the Institute's one-day seminar on the history of South Africa has also been included. Two other visitors of the Institute have also contributed to *Itinerario*. G. Nováky spent a research year at our Institute and contributed an article on the Swedish Africa Company. Prof. Jan Vansina also spent some time in Leiden and he wrote an article on the historical dimension of the development of Central Africa.

The Editors