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One hundred and fifty volumes of Bijdragen

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In a circular letter dated 3 February 1851 J.C. Baud, former Governor-General of the Netherlands East Indies and former Minister of Colonies, G. Simons, physicist and director of the Koninklijke Academie (Royal Academy) at Delft, and T. Roorda, professor of Javanese at the Koninklijke Academie, gave notice of their intention to found the Koninklijk Instituut voor Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde van Nederlandsch-Indië (Royal Institute of Linguistics, Geography and Ethnology of the Netherlands Indies). The objective of the Institute was to promote the study of the disciplines mentioned in its name. It was to be established in Delft, because Delft was the home of the Koninklijke Academie, an odd combination of a polytechnic school and an institution for educating colonial civil servants, founded in 1842. The founding fathers of the Institute were of the opinion that the best way to promote the study of the colonies was by publishing. Hence they set up a journal called *Bijdragen*, while longer manuscripts would be published as special monographs. According to article 28 of the Statutes, which were officially adopted on 4 August 1851, the name of the journal was *Bijdragen tot de Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde van Neêrlandsch Indië*. According to articles 32 and 33, the secretary of the Board of the Institute and two other members formed the Editorial Committee, which in turn could appoint another committee for a special purpose. Membership of the Institute included a subscription to *Bijdragen*, and authors were promised a fee on publication (KITLV 1).

The 150th volume of *Bijdragen* is appearing in the 143rd year of the Institute's existence. The reason *Bijdragen* is celebrating its jubilee earlier than the Institute is that the journal was sometimes issued in more than one volume per year.¹

The establishment of both the Institute and its journal can be interpreted as a sign of growing interest on the part of the West European élite in colonial affairs. In order to rule the colonies properly, the colonial powers of the time were of the opinion that they needed not only a strong army and navy and a well-trained civil service, but also scholarly and practical knowledge of indigenous society. Scholarly interest in the colonies can thus be interpreted as an offspring of the process of colonial state

¹ In fact, 152 volumes have been published so far. In 1883 two special volumes appeared on the occasion of the Sixth International Congress of Orientalists in Leiden, one on language and literature, and one on geography and ethnology. These special issues do not have a volume number and have not been listed in *Inhoudsopgave van de artikelen in de Bijdragen* (1933).

formation. During the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, in England and France as well as in the Netherlands, all sorts of journals came into being to disseminate knowledge about the colonies. Few of these journals survived the wave of decolonization after the Second World War. In the Netherlands only two survived, *Bijdragen* and (*Nieuwe*) *West-Indische Gids*, founded in 1919. The other well-known journal on Southeast Asia from this period that is still in existence is the *Journal of the Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society*, founded in 1878.

This article provides a survey of the history of *Bijdragen*. Attention will be paid to the journal's editors, the role of the journal in the Institute, its development in comparison to other journals, and the sort of manuscripts it published. In order to be able to give figures on the categories into which *Bijdragen* articles fall, the contents of about one-third of the volumes, evenly spread over time, have been entered into a database. The classification makes use of four broadly defined categories: language and literature; geography and ethnology (including anthropology); history and archeology; law and public administration. Although these groupings do not reflect modern thinking about the boundaries of disciplines, they do have the advantage of being relatively easy to apply to the situation in the first one hundred years of *Bijdragen*'s existence. However, we need to be aware of the fact that even these broad categories do not always do justice to works of an interdisciplinary nature. For instance, articles about language often make use of archeological evidence, students of public administration often write about historical events, and non-western sociologists often enter the field of public administration. Consequently, there is a great deal of subjectivity involved in deciding which category an article belongs to. A detailed analysis of the content of individual articles, for instance to see what images of the non-western world were conveyed and how these were related to their political and ideological environments, will not be attempted here. Such an analysis would require too much painstaking research for a short article like this one.

The first decades

The first volume of *Bijdragen*, dated 1852, was printed in 500 copies (KITLV 93:13). According to the preface, its publication had not been free of troubles. To begin with, it was difficult to find enough articles. The first Editorial Committee consisted of J. Pijnappel, lecturer in Malay, geography and ethnology at the Koninklijke Academie, as secretary of the Board of the Institute; the aforementioned Roorda; and S. Keyzer, lecturer in Islamic and indigenous law at the Koninklijke Academie (BKI 1:iv, xxiv). Apparently, in these years the staff of the Koninklijke Academie felt a high degree of responsibility for *Bijdragen*. The first volume included the proceedings of the meetings of the Board, a list of the members of the Institute and the annual report. Furthermore, it contained a list of topics compiled by the Board in the hope of stimulating members to write articles. The first

article in *Bijdragen* was 'Palembang in 1811 en 1812' (2). It was written by the chairman of the Institute, J.C. Baud, who as a junior colonial official had had some involvement in Palembang's difficult relations with the colonial government.

In these early years the Institute in general and *Bijdragen* in particular were still seeking the right course. The principles were clear, but how should they be implemented? The high hopes that accompanied the founding of the Institute were regularly disappointed, and the same could be said of *Bijdragen*. In the annual report of 1855-56 the Board was still complaining about the difficulty of obtaining enough articles for the journal. This is apparent if one looks at the contents of the early issues. The journal was heavily dependent on the writings of P.A. Leupe, an officer in the Royal Navy and from 1862 onwards archivist at the Algemeen Rijksarchief (General State Archives), who published on whatever source he was able to lay his hands on. The Board explained the difficulties by noting that *Bijdragen*'s sister journal in Batavia, *Tijdschrift voor Indische Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde* of the Bataviaasch Genootschap van Kunsten en Wetenschappen (Batavian Society of Arts and Sciences), first published in 1853, had much closer connections with civil servants on the spot. As a result of this, it was decided to keep *Bijdragen*'s profile low and to give more priority to the publication of the *Werken*, the monograph series (BKI 5:vii). Apparently the lack of copy was severe, because between volumes 5 and 6 of *Bijdragen* there was a gap of three years. Moreover, in 1856 it was decided to print only 300 copies of the journal (KITLV 93:49).

The year 1856 had seen yet another change. According to article 23 of the new Statutes, the secretary of the Board was responsible for the publication of the journal in consultation with the chairman. There was no specific mention of an editorial committee, but in special cases an advisory board could be nominated (BKI 5:xii). In fact the Board itself was gradually turning into some sort of editorial committee. In the annual report of 1857-58, for instance, it was stated that the Board would turn its attention to *Bijdragen* because there were no more manuscripts to publish as *Werken* (BKI 6:vi). In 1857, after long deliberation, the Board decided to broaden the Institute's field of interest to include the Dutch West Indies (KITLV 93:62, 65). However, it took seven years before the first article on this area was published, in 1864. It dealt with Suriname's plant and animal life and was written by G.S. de Veer, former director of the West Indies section of the Ministry of Colonies (137). Contributions on the West Indies did not at any time appear in *Bijdragen* in large numbers. This was, of course, mainly the result of the relative unimportance of the Dutch possessions in the West compared to those in the East, a situation also reflected in the Institute's membership.

In the beginning of the 1860s there was another gap in publishing *Bijdragen*. Volume 7 was dated 1860 and volume 8 1862. Volume 8 an-

nounced a small change in editorial policy: manuscripts in oriental languages would no longer be published in *Bijdragen* as they were deemed to be of interest only to 'the learned public'. Henceforward they would be published as special monographs (BKI 8:xiii). Volume 9, which also appeared in 1862, was a special volume consisting of a single treatise, a report on the ethnography and geography of western New Guinea, submitted by a commission appointed by the colonial government (112). The manuscript was provided by the Ministry of Colonies in The Hague, which regularly sent the Institute manuscripts for publication containing geographical, ethnographic and historical information on the colonies. This arrangement was very welcome to the Institute. Closer ties with The Hague made sense in the light of the fact that in 1864 the Koninklijke Academie in Delft was dissolved. The training course for the colonial civil service was split off and transferred to Leiden. Preceding these developments the Institute had moved its seat from Delft to The Hague in 1862 (KITLV 6).

Considering the 1862 decision that manuscripts in oriental languages were to be published outside *Bijdragen* because they were deemed to be only for 'the learned public', one might ask what kind of public the journal was aiming at. Baud, one of the founding fathers of the Institute, clearly expressed his opinions on this subject in his speech on the occasion of the opening of the Institute in 1851. It was not in the first place academically trained scholars Baud had in mind, but civil servants in the colonies as well as those studying for such a career. Baud's ideal was to encourage among civil servants a love for scholarly research in language, geography and ethnology. His role models were the English officers ruling Java and Sumatra during the British Interregnum in the early nineteenth century, who had performed a great service both to their country and to scholarship. However, this ideal of civil servant-cum-scholar implied, in the eyes of the conservative politician Baud, abstention from politics. After all, a public servant should be loyal to the government (1:1-3; De Roo de la Faille 1926:2-6). Because of this apolitical stance, one never saw discussions in *Bijdragen* about the hot debates of colonial policy such as the continuation of the Cultivation System, the expansion of Dutch rule, or the welfare of the indigenous population, let alone independence for the colonies. Discussions about political matters were to be found in other periodicals, such as the older *Tijdschrift voor Nederlandsch Indië*, founded in 1838, and, from 1879 onwards, *De Indische Gids*.

In the meantime *Bijdragen* continued to appear each year. Before publication, every article was thoroughly reviewed and sometimes edited by individual members of the Board. At times Board members were less than fully satisfied with the performance of the journal, not only in terms of the number of issues or the number of articles but also in terms of content. For instance, in the 1871 annual report it was said that the journal still seemed to be a collection of occasional papers which, although not lacking in academic quality, nevertheless was not very appealing to the majority of

readers. Some manuscripts were said to be totally unintelligible to most readers. Instead of high-level scholarship, the Board felt that readers wanted more general news about Asian linguistics, geography and ethnology (BKI 19:xv). Whatever the complaints, the supply of articles remained sparse. Some of the reasons given for an occasional rejection of a manuscript for publication were: the content was too heterogeneous, illustrations or maps made it too expensive to print, the subject lay outside the interests of the Institute, or the article did not add substantial new knowledge.

The journal's colonial heyday

In spite of the difficulties of running the journal, spirits remained high. This was especially true in 1876, when the Institute commemorated its 25th anniversary. Volume 24 of *Bijdragen* was a special issue entirely devoted to the festivities (289). Two years later, in 1878, the first contribution by an indigenous author from Java was published. The short article commented on the meaning of some Javanese expressions and was written by R.M.A. Tjandranegara, Regent of Kudus, who had previously published accounts of his travels in Java under the pseudonym of Purwalelana (316). Two years later he published a longer article about the development of language in his regency (336).

More than 20 year later, in 1899, *Bijdragen* published an article submitted by Tjandranegara's younger brother, R.M.A.A. Sasraningrat, Regent of Jepara. This article, about marriage among Indians in Indonesia (615), is generally ascribed to R.A. Kartini (Sitisoemandari 1977:97-8). If this claim is right, Kartini should be considered both the first female author and the youngest scholar ever to publish in *Bijdragen*.

During the colonial period, articles by Indonesians in *Bijdragen* were rare, constituting about one percent of the total number of articles. This lack of Indonesian authors has to do with the tremendous gap that existed between the worlds of the colonizers and the colonized. Dutch policy generally aimed at keeping Europeans and 'Natives' apart. The civil service, for instance, remained open exclusively to Dutch nationals until the end of colonial rule. Western, meaning Dutch, education for the indigenous population, even for the élite, was slow to develop (Fasseur 1993:487; Groeneboer 1993:469-70). Although the number of Indonesians studying at universities in the Netherlands increased during the twentieth century, such a period of study was seldom followed by a career in academic research and publication. The few who succeeded in the latter, for instance P.A. Hoessein Djajadiningrat or R.Ng. Poerbatjaraka, usually published the results of their research in *Tijdschrift voor Indische Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde* in Batavia.

Returning to *Bijdragen* around 1880, the number of copies printed rose to 500, the level which the founders of the Institute originally had in mind (KITLV 334, 335). Volumes containing one treatise were published occa-

sionally. For instance, the 600 pages of volume 33 in 1885 were entirely devoted to the report of K.F. van Delden Laërne to the Minister of Colonies on coffee production around the world and particularly in Brazil, in order to compare this with the situation in the Netherlands East Indies (391). A similar (and shorter) report for the Minister, written by J.H.F. Sollewijn Gelpke and published eleven years earlier, concerned the cultivation of rice in Italy (265). Other monographs that filled a whole volume were volume 43 in 1894, a treatise on the sources of law in South Sumatra by L.W.C. van den Berg (536), and volume 48 in 1898, a history of the Dutch in China by W.P. Groeneveldt (583). The number of copies printed increased steadily, to over 900 by the turn of the century (KITLV 352, 353).

By the middle of the 1880s the supply of articles for *Bijdragen* had become more plentiful. Since there were now enough submissions to fill an issue of *Bijdragen* every three months, the Board could be more selective in accepting manuscripts for publication (BKI 35:lxvii). However, the proceedings of the Board make it clear that policies on accepting manuscripts did not change much after the middle of the 1880s. As before, a manuscript was read by one or two members of the Board who were specialized in the relevant discipline or area. If it was a contribution by one of the members of the Board itself, the decision to publish was usually taken without asking further advice (KITLV 134:19v). It would seem that during the first half century of *Bijdragen* the manuscripts most critically reviewed were linguistic contributions from authors outside the circles of the Board. For a long time, manuscripts of a linguistic nature were refereed by G.K. Niemann, a theologian with a broad knowledge of oriental languages who ended his career as professor of geography and ethnology at the school for colonial civil servants in Delft.

After 1900 *Bijdragen* continued to publish a wide variety of articles, many quite lengthy. P.H. van der Kemp published regularly on early nineteenth-century history, while J.H.C. Kern, professor of Sanskrit at the University of Leiden, who was chairman of the Board for several terms between 1882 and 1911, turns out to have been the most productive author in *Bijdragen* during its entire existence to date. Kern's publications were mainly concerned with Old Javanese literature.

Decisions about the content of the journal were kept by the Board firmly in its own hands. General policy on accepting manuscripts was seldom discussed. J.E. Heeres, professor of colonial history at the University of Leiden, formed an exception to this rule when, in 1920, he asked what guidelines should be applied to historical contributions. He was of the opinion that editions of primary sources were much more 'academic' than articles on specific historical events or developments, and that the latter should not be accepted. The Board was not willing to follow Heeres in this, partly because this latter category was one that appealed to many readers of the journal (KITLV 118:25-9-1920).

Between the two world wars *Bijdragen* continued to appear regularly. However, fewer copies were printed during the 1920s and 1930s. In 1920 the printing run was 1,000, and by 1940 only 650 (KITLV 447, 450). Of course, the economic crisis of the 1930s may explain this decrease. However, there are other reasons, particularly the increasing competition from other journals. Because of its strict avoidance of political subjects, the content of *Bijdragen* remained 'academic', which meant that it had no direct relation to 'practical' matters, such as problems of colonial administration or economics. A very substantial part of *Bijdragen* was filled by authors who taught Indonesian studies (Indologie) at Dutch universities, primarily at the University of Leiden. Meanwhile, for civil servants and other interested readers were soon many other journals to choose from, some of them more oriented to the practical problems of managing the colonies. Two examples are *De Indische Gids* and *Tijdschrift voor het Binnenlandsch Bestuur*, which appeared from 1887 onwards. During the First World War the latter was incorporated into *Koloniaal Tijdschrift*, established in 1912. From 1916 onwards another choice was *Koloniale Studiën*. Furthermore, around 1920 those interested in the West Indies could turn to *West-Indische Gids* and those in Javanese studies to *Djawa*.

During the 1930s several authors complained about the long period between submission of a manuscript and its publication. In 1937 it was noted that this took three to four years. The Board had the matter investigated by a special committee of four members. The committee concluded that the delay was mainly the result of two factors. First, the number of manuscripts submitted was steadily growing. Second, in recent years the Institute had had to reduce the number of pages of *Bijdragen* for financial reasons. The financial difficulties resulted not only from the economic crisis, but also from the Institute's commitment to covering publication costs of the *Adatrechtbundels*. To cope with the problem, the committee proposed a three-part solution. First, the commitment to *Adatrechtbundels* should be reduced in order to increase the number of pages of *Bijdragen* again. Second, in 1938 two issues of *Bijdragen* should be published, one financed out of the regular budget, and the second by drawing on the Institute's fixed capital. Third, a special fund for monographs (Werken) should be created, for publishing manuscripts too long for an article (KITLV 220:19-6-1937; 16-10-1937). This proposal was critically reviewed by the Board, where it met with opposition from specialists in the field of indigenous law. The two parties finally worked out a compromise, in which the number of pages of *Bijdragen* would be increased and the Institute's financial contribution to *Adatrechtbundels* decreased, however not to the extent advised by the committee. Furthermore, the Board decided that the extra issue should not be paid for out of the Institute's fixed capital. Instead, outside funding should be sought. One year later, it was admitted that this effort had not been successful. For the time being, the special fund for monographs was postponed, and the

maximum length for an article was set at 200 pages (KITLV 220:20-11-1937; 221:18-6-1938).

In the twentieth century there were still several cases of a volume being filled by a single manuscript, usually an edition of a primary source. G.E. Rumphius's chronicle on the history of Ambon, written in the seventeenth century, was published as volume 64 in 1910 (782). Part One of the collection of treaties concluded between the Netherlands colonial authorities and the indigenous states in Asia during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, edited by J.E. Heeres under the title *Corpus Diplomaticum Neerlandico-Indicum*, constituted volume 57 in 1907 (695). It took Heeres almost 25 years to bring out Part Two, which filled volume 87 in 1931 (1100). Part Three appeared posthumously as volume 91 in 1934 (1150), after which the task of publishing the treaties was taken over by F.W. Stapel. Stapel, secretary of the Board between 1934 and 1948 and chairman from 1948 to 1950, published the fourth and fifth parts of the *Corpus* as volumes 93 (1164) and 96 (1175), in 1935 and 1938 respectively. The sixth and final part of the *Corpus* appeared outside *Bijdragen* in 1955, in line with the previously mentioned discussion in 1937. The decision in 1937 to limit the length of articles gave birth to another Institute series for monographs, the *Verhandelingen*. Number 1 of the *Verhandelingen*, published in 1938, was a monograph by H. Terpstra on the relations between the Dutch East India Company and Patani, the manuscript originally having been submitted for publication in *Bijdragen* (KITLV 219:19-9-1936; 17-10-1936).

From the start of the journal in the 1850s until the eve of the Second World War over one thousand articles appeared in *Bijdragen*. Measured in numbers of articles and numbers of pages, about two-fifths of these articles were devoted to the fields of history and archeology, with the former being more prominent. Language and literature covered about one-third, although in a lower proportion during the first twenty volumes. Geography and ethnology had a much smaller share, hardly one-fifth, while law and public administration proved marginal. The reason law and public administration were hardly represented in *Bijdragen* is obvious. First, during the latter half of the nineteenth century these disciplines were hardly recognized as a separate field of academic study (Fasseur 1993: 487). Second, in the twentieth century scholars in this discipline could publish in other series, for instance in KITLV's *Adatrechtbundels*, which appeared regularly between 1911 and 1955 (Otto and Pompe 1989:242-3). Moreover, since *Bijdragen* avoided publishing anything political, problems of public administration, which often touched on political matters, were traditionally not discussed in *Bijdragen*. Finally, geographers had their own journal as well, *Tijdschrift van het Aardrijkskundig Genootschap*, founded in 1876. For ethnographers and ethnologists, who still constituted a relatively small group in academia during the colonial period, there were several colonial journals.

War, revolution, reorientation

Because two volumes of *Bijdragen* were sometimes published within a single year, volume 100 appeared in the 90th year of the Institute's existence, in 1941. Times were rather uncertain, however. German occupation of the Netherlands in May 1940 made communication with the colonies impossible. Moreover, in early 1942 the Netherlands East Indies was occupied by the Japanese. Already in 1940 it was clear that the Institute would experience hard times, in particular financially. Consequently, it was decided to postpone certain publications. At the same time the Board was of the opinion that *Bijdragen*, being the Institute's flagship, should be kept going as long as possible (KITLV 223:16-11-1940). Volume 101 was more or less published on schedule in 1941 and 1942, but soon after that, lack of paper and lack of fuel to keep the printer's machines going took their toll. The liberation of the Netherlands from German occupation in 1945 did not immediately end the difficulties. It was not until 1949 that regular publication of the journal was resumed (BKI 102:xxiv; 105:lvii). This was already much more than other journals could say, for most of *Bijdragen*'s competitors had not survived German or Japanese occupation. Only the sister journal in Batavia/Djakarta, *Tijdschrift voor Indische Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde*, was able to make a new start, managing to hold out until the mid-1950s.

But there were still more changes to come in the last decade of the first century of the Institute's existence. In the Far East, Indonesian nationalists responded to Japanese defeat at the hands of the Allied Forces by immediately proclaiming the independence of Indonesia on 17 August 1945. In the four years that followed, it gradually became clear that the Dutch would not be able to turn back the clock and restore colonial rule. The words 'Nederlandsch-Indië' in the name of both the Institute and the journal thus became obsolete. In 1948, after the Dutch government stipulated that the words 'Nederlandsch-Indië' should be replaced by 'Indonesia', the Board decided to appoint a special committee for reexamining both the Institute's Statutes and its name. Finally, in March 1949, 'Nederlandsch-Indië' was officially struck from the Statutes; from that time onwards the journal's name was simply *Bijdragen tot de Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde* (KITLV 9; 90; 231:16-10-1948).

After the late 1940s, both the Institute and its journal had to adjust to the post-colonial situation. Colonial relations could no longer be taken for granted. As such, most of the disciplines in the Netherlands collectively labelled 'Indologie', or more recently 'Indonesianistiek', were in danger of losing their *raison d'être*. The two Indologie faculties in the Netherlands, one at the University of Leiden and one at the University of Utrecht, went into a process of liquidation, which was completed in the 1950s (Fasseur 1993:472-6). These developments led to a drive for 'internationalization' of Indonesian studies. As early as 1947 and 1948 the Board had discussed

the desirability of using English in *Bijdragen* as a means of attracting international interest in the results of Dutch scholarship on Indonesia (KITLV 88; 230:19-4-1947; 231:20-3-1948). Another consequence of changing international relations was the dismantling of the Ministry of Colonies in The Hague. This led to a discussion on whether the seat of the Institute should remain in The Hague. After long deliberation, it was decided to move to Leiden, where the University showed great interest in closer cooperation with the Institute. In 1966-67 this decision was put into effect, with the result that the Institute once again became a focal point of Indonesian studies (KITLV:NAV 21-3-1959, 16-10-1964; BKI 124:421).

In mid-1949 the Board started working on a new set of Rules, including regulations for *Bijdragen*. It was G.W.J. Drewes, professor of Malay at the University of Leiden, who put forward the idea of installing a special Editorial Committee to take over responsibility for the Institute's publications. Furthermore, Drewes proposed that *Bijdragen* should include book reviews. These proposals were promptly accepted by the Board (KITLV 232:21-5-1949, 11-6-1949). Finally, in October 1949 the new regulations for *Bijdragen* were officially adopted as article 6 of the Institute's new Rules. The Board delegated the editing to a special Editorial Committee, which consisted of a maximum of five members, at least one of whom should also be a member of the Board. In case an individual author disagreed with a decision of the Editorial Committee, he or she could appeal to the Board. It was also stipulated that the journal should not publish articles of a political nature and that articles should not be longer than 160 printed pages (KITLV 9; 232:15-10-1949).

When it came to appointing the Editorial Committee, the Board had high hopes that Drewes, the man who had played such a stimulating role in defining the journal's new position, would become a member of the Committee. Drewes, however, refused on the grounds that the new Rules had abolished the fee for authors. In the discussion, it also became clear that Drewes had changed his ideas about the Editorial Committee. He now thought that the journal would not be fundamentally changed if editorial decisions collectively taken by members of the Board were replaced by those of some other group. Drewes wanted a single editor to take responsibility (KITLV 232:24-9-1949; 17-12-1949). As the Board did not support Drewes in this opinion, he decided not to join the Editorial Committee, which was officially installed in January 1950. It consisted of five members, of whom the secretary was E.M. Uhlenbeck, a former editor of *Balai Pustaka* in Batavia who had just been named professor of Javanese at the University of Leiden. A few months later the Committee presented its first proposals. The articles should be shorter and more accessible to a wider public; detailed scholarly work should be published in the *Verhandelingen*. Furthermore, in order to actively acquire articles, one could not do without a fee for authors. Finally, book reviews as well

as summaries of articles in English should be added (KITLV 233:21-1-1950, 15-4-1950).

The journal in the post-colonial period

As a result of these proposals, volume 107, published in 1951, the year of the Institute's centennial, was the first to systematically include book reviews. Since the mid-1950s almost one-sixth of the pages of *Bijdragen* have been devoted to book reviews. Moreover, within a few years, the decision to publish more and shorter articles began to bear fruit. Between the First World War and the mid-1950s each volume contained an average of 10 articles. After that, it was almost 25. The average length of an article, which had been over 50 pages during the entire colonial period, dropped to between 15 and 20. On the other hand, the proposal to include English summaries of articles was never put into effect.

During the 1950s Uhlenbeck ran the KITLV's publishing programme with great spirit. However, the increasingly heavy workload was too much for one person. Consequently, the inside cover of volume 114 of *Bijdragen* in 1958 listed two editors specifically for the journal: A. Teeuw, professor of Malay/Indonesian at the University of Leiden, for the articles, and P.E. de Josselin de Jong, professor of cultural anthropology at the same university, for the book reviews. Uhlenbeck remained secretary of the Editorial Committee, with the special task of editing the *Verhandelingen* and *Werken* series. Throughout the post-colonial years, scholars at the University of Leiden, the most prominent institution for Indonesian studies in the Netherlands, were heavily involved in the editing of *Bijdragen*. In 1959, the Institute decided to cooperate more closely with two national associations of cultural anthropologists. As a result of this, one of the four annual issues of *Bijdragen* was to be entirely devoted to the field of anthropology, about half to the anthropology of Southeast Asia, and the other half to more theoretical topics in anthropology. The first of these issues, appearing under the title *Anthropologica*, was published in 1960 (KITLV: NB 18-4-1959, 23-5-1959; personal communication A. Teeuw). In 1966, this joint venture was further formalized by appointing someone from the anthropological associations as a special member to the Editorial Committee for the *Anthropologica* issues (KITLV: NB 14-5-1966).

In the meantime the 'internationalization process' continued. By 1960 the number of articles written in English had increased considerably, a sign that Indonesian studies was no longer an exclusively Dutch field (1734: 123). The language in which *Bijdragen* articles were published changed from almost exclusively Dutch to about 50% Dutch and 50% English. In the 1970s English-language articles started to outnumber Dutch-language ones. This gradual switch to English was accompanied by an increase in the number of non-Dutch members of the Institute. This increase occurred in a period, when new English-language journals specializing in the same

area made their appearance, such as *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies* and *Indonesia*. Also in line with this internationalization was a broadening of the Institute's geographic scope in the early 1960s from Indonesia, Suriname and the Antilles to Southeast Asia, Oceania and the Caribbean (KITLV: NB 18-6-1960; NAV 18-3-1961). Furthermore, in the 1960s there was more attention in *Bijdragen* for Caribbean topics, which is not surprising if one realizes that ties between the Netherlands and the Netherlands Antilles and Suriname remained very close, whereas relations between the Netherlands and Indonesia had suffered considerably because of the Irian question. In 1963, increased interest in Caribbean affairs led to a special issue in volume 119 entirely devoted to Suriname, which appeared as an issue of *Anthropologica*. Thus, two out of the four issues of volume 119 were *Anthropologica* issues.

Towards the end of 1963 the Board drew up a modest set of regulations specially for the Editorial Committee, which replaced most of article 6 of the Rules of 1949 (KITLV: NB 16-11-1963). In 1967 Uhlenbeck retired as secretary of the Editorial Committee. For seventeen years he had been one of the most inspiring personalities behind the KITLV's publishing programme. Although figures on the printing runs of *Bijdragen* during those years are not available, somewhere during Uhlenbeck's period the level must have reached 1,000 copies. As secretary of the Board and editor of the *Verhandelingen*, Uhlenbeck was succeeded by Teeuw, who left the task of editing *Bijdragen* to R. Roolvink, who at that time was curator of oriental manuscripts of Leiden University Library (KITLV: NB 21-10-1967; BKI 124:425). Aside from an interruption of three years, Roolvink, who eventually was appointed reader (*lector*) in Classical Malay at the University of Leiden, was to be editor for the next ten years. During the three-year interruption J. Noorduyn, the Institute's general secretary, did the job. In 1973 De Josselin de Jong was replaced as review editor by C.P.J.H. Baks, at that time lecturer in non-western sociology at the University of Leiden (KITLV: NB 9-12-1972, 17-2-1973, 1-11-1975).

It will be no surprise that the work of editing the Institute's journal, whose printing run exceeded 1,500 copies by the early 1970s, as well as of the other series became increasingly heavy (KITLV: financial report 1976). The Institute responded in two ways to this development. First, the Editorial Committee was enlarged; by the middle of the 1970s it had grown to eleven members. Furthermore, the Committee was given assistance from a salaried staff. Such assistance was necessary for external reasons as well. In the 1960s Dutch universities experienced a considerable increase in students and, hence, a dramatic increase in educational and bureaucratic duties for academic staff. Persons with university appointments thus had less time to devote to non-university activities, such as editorial work. The Institute had provided some secretarial assistance starting in the late 1950s. However, in 1974, it created a separate Editorial Department. The first head of this department was B.J. Boland, a former Protestant missionary with a

great interest in Islamic studies. Boland not only became responsible for leading the department and editing the *Verhandelingen*, but also became permanent secretary of the Editorial Committee (BKI 131:391; 132:389). In 1977, when Roolvink retired as journal editor for *Bijdragen*, he was replaced by H.J.M. Claessen, then associate professor, later full professor, of cultural anthropology (specializing in Oceania) at the University of Leiden. Claessen remained journal editor until 1994. From 1978 onwards he was assisted by a salaried associate editor, M.J.L. van Yperen. Also in 1978 J.G. Oosten, associate professor of cultural anthropology at the University of Leiden, took over as review editor. In 1983 Oosten was succeeded by C.D. Grijns, lecturer in Indonesian at the University of Leiden, who continued until 1993 (KITLV: NB 21-5-1977, 23-9-1978, 26-2-1983).

The 'internationalization' of *Bijdragen* led to increased participation by non-Dutch authors. Since the 1960s between one-quarter and one-half of the articles have had non-Dutch authors. With the exception of the 1970s, the number of Indonesian authors has remained small, however, for various reasons. To a large extent Indonesia's academic sector was and still is being built up. Foreign languages are not yet frequently used as a medium for exchanging views. Moreover, for many a scholar, securing a decent income (for example by giving as many courses as possible and by writing project reports for the government and other organizations) is much more important than publishing in a far-away journal.

Besides internationalization, another trend in the content of *Bijdragen* during the post-colonial period is further specialization, as evidenced by special issues devoted to a single topic. Volume 136 in 1980, for instance, included a special issue on Indonesian studies in the Soviet Union. Volume 144 in 1988 and volume 149 in 1993 each included a special issue on Oceania. By the mid 1970s the number of articles submitted was large enough that the journal could afford to abolish the author's fee, the last such fee being paid in 1977 (KITLV: financial report 1977). The large number of submissions even caused a backlog, so that by the early 1980s, authors usually had to wait a year or more before seeing their work in print. More lines were put on a page and more pages added to a volume in an attempt to accommodate more articles. The printing run of *Bijdragen* reached 2,000 in 1986 (KITLV: NB 16-5-1981; BKI 141:391; 143:418; 144:405).

In the past ten years other important decisions concerning the journal were taken. For instance, in 1988 it was decided to discontinue *Anthropologica*, the special annual issue for anthropology, 30 issues of which had appeared over the years. From 1988 on, articles of an anthropological nature were no longer reserved for a special issue, but could be published in any issue (KITLV: NR 29-11-1988, NB 17-12-1988). One of the consequences of including the *Anthropologica* issues had been that they covered a geographical area reaching beyond Southeast

Asia, Oceania and the Caribbean. 'Crossing the border' was nothing new, though, because even during the colonial period, when *Bijdragen*'s field of interest was theoretically limited to the Dutch colonies, articles regularly appeared on other parts of Asia, particularly South Asia. The *Anthropologica* issues had occasional contributions on subjects ranging from an Amerindian tribe in Brazil to Scandinavian mythology.

After the first appearance of *Anthropologica* in 1960, one can say that cultural anthropology, together with a bit of non-western sociology, became the field of study best represented in *Bijdragen*. A remarkable development in Indonesian studies in the post-colonial era was the growth of cultural anthropology as a successor to ethnography and ethnology. More than one-third of the past forty volumes of *Bijdragen* have been devoted to anthropological topics. The proportion of articles on history fell to about one-fifth, while archeology practically vanished. The proportion of articles on language and literature, after a boom in the 1940s and 1950s, gradually sank to less than one-fifth. There are several reasons for these developments. First, anthropology shared in the world-wide growth of social sciences in academic circles in general, at the cost of the humanities. Second, the ban on the publication of long treatises in *Bijdragen* forced the humanities, which had a strong tradition in text editions and textual criticism, to look for alternative forms of publication. As before, *Bijdragen* remained faithful to its political 'neutrality'. There was no discussion about the Irian conflict or the granting of independence to the Dutch West Indies. Neither has there been any comment recorded on internal political developments in Indonesia since 1965.

In 1991 a reorganization of the Editorial Committee was proposed and implemented. In an attempt to streamline decision-making, the number of Committee members was reduced from fifteen to five. At the same time, an Advisory Board for *Bijdragen* was set up; its international composition was intended to encourage more contributions by non-Dutch authors in *Bijdragen*. Another decision in 1991 was that the KITLV would acquire the long-standing but floundering *New West Indian Guide/Nieuwe West-Indische Gids* as its second journal. This journal was meant to serve KITLV members having an interest in Caribbean studies (KITLV: NB 20-9-1991, 29-11-1991). After the acquisition of *Nieuwe West-Indische Gids*, beginning in 1992, *Bijdragen* was to be devoted exclusively to Southeast Asia and Oceania. It seems that this division of the membership between two journals has not led to a substantial loss of subscribers for *Bijdragen*, whose printing run has stabilized at about 2,500 (*Jaarverslag* 1991:8; 1992:11).

Concluding remarks

Throughout the history of *Bijdragen* certain trends are discernible. The most important is that *Bijdragen* started out as a Dutch journal strongly related to colonial state formation, and developed into an international

journal in a post-colonial world. During the colonial period most of the authors were Dutchmen, primarily staff of the 'Indological' educational institutions, retired civil servants, and missionaries. Today, *Bijdragen* authors originate from many countries, mostly western ones; they are almost exclusively academics by profession. Unfortunately, the number of Indonesian authors is still very limited, which might give rise to an impression of 'scholarship *for* Indonesians, but *without* Indonesians'. This is something that needs to change in the decades to come.

The readership of *Bijdragen* has changed as well. Initially, *Bijdragen* was regarded as a journal aimed at promoting intellectual curiosity about the colonized societies among those who had to administer them. Gradually, the readership became more academic. Today, *Bijdragen* is a journal *by* academics *for* academics. This change is also discernible in the kinds of articles published. At first, the aim was simple dissemination of all sorts of information, much of it purely descriptive. Given the state of knowledge about the colonies during the mid-nineteenth century, this aim is quite understandable. Today, *Bijdragen* articles are more often devoted to analysis and intended to contribute to theoretical debates. In line with post-Second World War developments in academia, the predominance of articles in the humanities has changed to a more even balance with the social sciences.

In the first century of its existence, the Board of the KITLV did the editorial work itself; after that, editorial work was delegated to an Editorial Committee, which gradually came to be supported by professional staff. 'Editorial policy', if it can be said to exist, has always been 'passive' and 'liberal'. Policy has been passive in the sense that the editors did not actively go out to acquire articles on specific topics. Nevertheless, the last forty years have shown some improvement in this respect. Policy has been liberal in the sense that any manuscript which more or less fell within the KITLV's fields of interest and which met some vague standard of quality was accepted for publication. There have never been specific programmes for steering the content of the journal. It is questionable whether such programmes would have been successful in any case, considering the independent-mindedness of academic authors in general.

Bijdragen has survived, while other journals have come and gone. One of the main reasons is that the journal is firmly integrated in the KITLV. As such it can count on many fruitful connections with the Dutch academic world specialized in Southeast Asian, Oceanic and, formerly, Caribbean studies. With respect to content, the survival of *Bijdragen* is somewhat of a paradox. The complaint in the annual report of 1871, that most of the articles were uninteresting and sometimes even unintelligible to the majority of readers, has continued to be heard, right up to the present. This lack of general appeal may be due to the wide variety of disciplines covered. On the other hand, the wide variety of disciplines is one of the reasons *Bijdragen* has survived. There is something in *Bijdragen* for everybody –

the cultural anthropologist, the linguist, the historian and many others. Finally, and probably most important, subscription to *Bijdragen* is only one part of a package of services provided by the KITLV to its members.

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