CARIBBEAN STUDIES (1985)*

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In this bibliographic essay, a subdivision is made between publications covering the Netherlands Antilles, Suriname and the Caribbean generally. Only Goslinga’s The Dutch in the Caribbean and in the Guianas explicitly discusses both Suriname and the Netherlands Antilles; this book is dealt with in the last section.

The Netherlands Antilles

Two noteworthy publications will be of great value for future research. Criens published a detailed bibliography for the Netherlands Antilles, covering the period up to 1984 inclusive; there are no annotations here, but the titles are listed according to Universal Decimal Classification standards. Furthermore a second, enlarged edition of the Encyclopedie van de Nederlandse Antillen was published, Palm being the editor; the first Encyclopedie had been published in 1969 by Hoetink (editor).

In the field of linguistics and literature, mention can be made of an analysis of papiamentu by Maurer and two articles with a historical focus. Goodman discusses the rise and fall of Creole Dutch on the Virgin Islands in terms of the short-lived 17th century Dutch occupations. Rutgers preludes his forthcoming book on the ‘prehistory’, i.e. 19th century development of Antillean literature, in a short essay.

Historical publications were numerous, but, some notable exceptions notwithstanding, mainly minor studies. De Haseth provides additional information on the 1795 slave revolt in Curaçao, Henriquez discusses local craftsmanship of the past and the so-called sell-out of Antillean minoral resources in the 19th century to English and American capitalists. Van Soest offers a historical synopsis of the relationship between Curaçao and Venezuela. Croes reviews the failure of the Dutch post-war policy, in spite of the obvious insularism, to maintain the six Antilles as a unity. Materials for the history of protestantism on Curaçao are provided by Smith; the same on Curaçaoan Masonry in Deo Volente.

*Based on the ongoing bibliography compiled by Ingrid Loeffen, documentalist, Department of Caribbean Studies, Royal Institute of Linguistics and Anthropology (R.I.L.A.). More detailed information may be obtained by consulting the Department’s Central Catalogue Caribiana (published annually on microfiche) or subscribing to the yearly bibliography Caribbean Studies (10-15 pages; Nfl. 15,- for a 3-year period). The column Caribbean Studies in the Boletin surveys the most important social scientific publications on the former Dutch Caribbean (Netherlands Antilles, Suriname), as well as publications of Dutch, Antillean and Surinamese authors on other parts of the Caribbean. The mimeographed overview available from the Department of Caribbean Studies (R.I.L.A.) offers detailed bibliographical data on the books and journals mentioned, as well as on articles published in this year; it covers in addition publications on Surinamese and Antilleans in the Netherlands. For further information, contact the Department of Caribbean Studies, Royal Institute of Linguistics and Anthropology, P.O. Box 9515, 2300 RA Leiden, the Netherlands.
Three publications deal with the history of the Dutch Windwards islands. Versteeg reports on ongoing archeological research on St. Eustatius. A popular account on the history of St. Martin is provided by Glassock. Van Andel describes, in detail and with abundant illustrations, the emergence and actual remnants of traditional architecture in Philipsburg, the capital of the Dutch part of this island; she furthermore pleads for a governmental policy for the conservation of this architecture.

Finally, Pietersz discusses the temporary emigration of Arubans within the Caribbean, particularly to Cuba, in the 1890-1930 period. He compares this migration in search for work with the emigration of Barbadians to British Guyana (1838-1884) and of Jamaicans to Panama (1880-1914).

Much of the social history of the Antilles remains to be written; an additional problem is that traditional archival sources are not abundant. Allen therefore rightly indicates the importance of oral tradition and oral history for the emerging Antillean historiography. Clearly, history and anthropology do intertwine here.

In the latter field, no specific studies were published. In several studies Van Leusden reports on ongoing demographic research, viz. on the course of the total fertility rate of Curaçao and Aruba in the 1900-1980 period, on indicators of marriage and marriage dissolution of the female Curaçaoan population in 1960-1962, 1970-1972 and 1980-1981 and, with Moors, on the development and factors determining fertility in the three Dutch Leeward Antilles and St. Martin. The decline of fertility since the 1960s has been uneven in the various islands. Education, income, number of income receivers, age and marital status together account for 44% of the differences in the fertility realized.

As for sociology, mention may be made of two articles by Schweitcz on the poor labour market situation of women in Curaçao; their unfavourable situation is the more serious, since almost one out of three Curaçaoan households is headed by a woman. In view of this it is not surprising that various women's organizations have been established in the past decade, several of these in fact being trade unions; Cuales surveys their emergence and actual functioning.

Several articles and reports on the (socio-)economic situation of the Antilles may be mentioned. Haan presents a detailed overview of the development within the public finance sector of the island of Curaçao. Apart from discussing sources of income and sectoral allocations in general, he indicates the risky preponderance of (now quickly diminishing) off-shore revenues. He also argues that, due to lack of proper procedures and information, public finance is in reality not as "public" as it should be.

Next, Beers updates the information on the major characteristics and institutions of the Antillean economy he had presented in his Introduction to the financial system of the Netherlands Antilles (1980); in addition he documents the transition of Antillean banking in the 1970s towards its present international orientation, as well as the monetary policy of the Central Bank. The report of the Curaçaoan Chamber of Commerce compiled by Kolff provides additional economic data on the 1969-1983 period.

Guda et al., assessing the economic development of Aruba and Curaçao in the 1970s, state that the former island's position was improved through the growth of the tourist industry. Hence, unemployment decreased from 17% to 9% in 1981. In Curaçao, economic development was negative. Diversification was only partially successful and, moreover, did not generate a decrease in unemployment levels, which in fact rose from 14% to 20%. The authors indicate that both in Aruba and Curaçao women and young people were the worst off in terms of employment and salaries. In addition they argue that subsequent governments have been mostly concerned with protecting the position of private enterprise, in contrast to improving the situation of the unemployed and those in the lower income brackets in general.
Economic growth in itself is no guarantee for an overall improvement of standards of living, as Eisdon demonstrates in a survey of the Curaçaoan economy in the 1917-1980 period. In order to realize both economic growth and a more even distribution of income and productive activities, according to the author the Antillean government should opt for policies specifically stimulating employment possibilities rather than social welfare per se for the lowest income brackets.

With the acute economic crisis facing the Dutch Leeward Antilles, Hasham argues for the need to provide the Antillean economy with a firmer basis and to create a necessary 23,000 jobs in the 1986-1996 decade through diversification. In his opinion, the service, commercial, tourist and agricultural sectors alone will not suffice. He therefore pleads for a policy of industrialization, focusing on local entrepreneurialism and small firms. The author makes some suggestions regarding policy implications and finding Caribbean markets.

In the field of economics two more publications may be mentioned. Opdam discusses the effects of a devaluation of the Antillean currency that has been in a stable parity to the U.S.-dollar in the post-War period. He argues that any devaluation, far from stimulating economic growth, would only be detrimental to the reputation of the Antillean economy. He also pleads against monetary financing, if parity is to be maintained. Finally, Winkel reports on research regarding the, admittedly limited, possibilities to stimulate the Curaçaoan agricultural sector through improved methods of securing and using the limited water supplies.

With Aruba attaining a ‘status aparte’ within the Kingdom of the Netherlands Antilles in 1986, this being linked to independence in 1996, and a possible future independence of the Netherlands Antilles in ardent political discussion, it is not surprising to find several publications in the field of political sciences and international relations addressing this issue. In an article precluding his dissertation Dependence and development in Aruba (not available as yet), Cvejanovich indicates that in 1982 a clear majority of the Arubans was in favour of ‘status aparte’, whereas only 12% would opt for independence. He suggests that neither Aruban nor Antillean politicians are willing to head for independence.

Koot too reports that both on Aruba and in the Netherlands Antilles the majority of the population is opposed to independence. He argues that the Netherlands will have to comply to this opposition, even though the Dutch would prefer complete decolonization. A more active policy of economic integration between the Antilles and the Netherlands could be implemented, without however impairing the Antilles’ right to political self-determination.

This link between political development and a possible decolonization on the one hand, economic development and aid on the other is discussed by various others. Cline and Faurlin for instance summarize the emergency in the Dutch Caribbean under the headings ‘An economy in decay’ and ‘Political uncertainties’, indicating Dutch, U.S. and Venezuelan aid as indispensable for economic recovery, this having priority over any change in political status. Moreno Colmenares, in discussing the Caribbean politics of Venezuela and the current insecure situation of Aruba and Curaçao, pleads for greater Venezuelan involvement with the islands.

The political scientist Vertoed published a series of articles on the political system of Curaçao over the past years. In his recent work he emphasizes the crucial link between economic development, development aid and the need for a stabilization of the political system, including a down-playing of the independence issue. Development aid and decolonization are central issues too in a publication by Koulon, Vertoed and Silberie. Koulon locates the Antillean decolonization dilemma in a Caribbean context, Vertoed discusses the unequal relationships between the decolonizing and subsidizing Netherlands as against the politically and economically vulnerable Antilles, Silberie
finally surveys the governmental role in the Antillean development process. The three individual contributions in fact present a program outlining necessities for future research.

In three other publications regarding Curaçao, Verton reports on his ongoing research regarding the (low) levels of political participation, in problems regarding the heavy government bureaucracy and on the functions and responsibilities of trade union leadership, both in socio-economic and political matters.

Quite a few of the above mentioned titles, especially in the sphere of economics and political studies, were published in the recently established UNA-cahiers, a series of working papers published by the University of the Netherlands Antilles (see Beers, Eisdon, Haan, Hasham, Koulen, Verton and Silberie, Opdam, Verton). In this series, a number of studies in the field of law appeared as well; these however do fall without the scope of the present essay. This applies to the various contributions to the Tijdschrift voor Antilliaan Recht-Justitia as well.

**Suriname**

As a general observation regarding publications on Suriname, I should emphasize the preponderance of studies in the arts. Not surprisingly in view of limited research possibilities within Suriname at present and, perhaps, the difficulty of obtaining funding abroad, serious research in the field of social sciences has been extremely limited over the past few years. As against a modest boom in publications on history and linguistics, very few studies cover contemporary Suriname. Even migration studies seem to have come to a standstill, as indeed the migration process itself. The focus is now on the position of the Surinamese community in the Netherlands – a topic outside the scope of this overview.

The Surinamese ‘lingua franca’, Sranantongo, began to acquire a measure of official respectability only from the late 1950s onwards, a few earlier attempts notwithstanding (see Harris). This was both reflected in and stimulated by series of publications in the field of linguistics, spearheaded by the late Jan Voorhoeve. Still, as the dictionary by Sordam and Eersel and the elementary grammar by Titjari, two recent general introductions to Sranan, indicate, much essential work remains to be done.

The ethnic segmentation of Suriname’s population has a linguistic component as well. Thus, in addition to Sranantongo and the traditional first language Dutch, Amerindian and Maroon tribes and the population of British Indian and Dutch East Indian origins each continue to use their own languages. Short studies on (Maroon) Saramaccan syntax were published by Byrne and Kouwenberg. In two issues of the journal for Surinamese linguistics, literature and history OSO (4/1, 4/2), Adhin, Damsteegt, Bosch and Nabibaks discuss various aspects of the East Indian Surinamese vernacular Sarnami, whereas Vruggink reports on his research on the Javanese spoken in Suriname. An elementary grammar of Sarnami is presented by Marké.

In an interesting research report, Depez and De Bies explore the evaluation in Paramaribo of Sranan, Dutch and Surinami by Surinamers of Afro-Caribbean, respectively East-Indian origins. None of the three languages is used or considered as the single most important. Not surprisingly, socio-economic position and race of the user, as well as the occasion determine the choice of language, with Dutch and Sranan having greater diffusion.

Finally, mention should be made of a particularly useful introduction by Van Kempen to the work of the Surinamese poet, novelist, literary critic and in Van Kempen’s words, ‘curator of the Afro-Surinamese heritage’, Edgar Cairo.

In the field of history, especially the period of slavery and Maroon resistance continues to attract both Dutch and Surinamese scholars. Most studies are based on
the Dutch archival sources, which cover Suriname’s history well into the nineteenth century, and are published in The Netherlands.

The history of the Surinamese Maroons has been amply recorded over the past decade. Scholarly research has been focused particularly on the pacified ‘Bush-negroes’: the Djuka, the Saramaccans and the Matawai. Recently however, some studies were published on tribes of later origins. In a short article Wekker reviews some sources regarding the Kwinti.

In the series of the Utrecht Center for Caribbean Studies on Maroon history, Hoogbergen published De Boni-oorlogen, 1757-1860. Drawing on extensive archival research, the author describes the emergence and guerrilla warfare of the Boni tribe in Eastern Suriname. In addition to a very detailed overview of the various stages of guerrilla and pacification, this book offers information and interpretations on the tribe’s social organization which understandably was heavily marked by the necessities of belligerence. The preceding volumes in the Utrecht Maroon series were predominantly annotated publications of the original archival sources; with De Boni-oorlogen, the eleventh volume in the series, Hoogbergen has definitively broadened the series’ scope.

In two articles, Silvia de Groot makes some of the work she published in the past two decades available to an English-reading audience. In The Maroons of Surinam: agents of their own emancipation she demonstrates how the Maroons fought for, then secured through negotiation their freedom from slavery. In a second article, she compares the Surinamese Maroon experience with Jamaica, where an important Maroon community developed, too. In Jamaica, contacts between colonial administration and the Maroons were more intense. In addition to a shortage of unoccupied land, this factor explains the facts that Jamaica Maroons became more integrated in society than did their Surinamese counterparts.

The warfare of the Surinamese Maroons against colonial society would probably not have become as notorious as it was, had not John Gabriel Stedman written about his participation (on the Dutch side) in one of those many wars. His Narrative of a five years expedition, against the revolted negroes of Surinam, first published in 1796, is still a major source. As a prelude to their forthcoming re-edition of the Narrative, the first unabridged ever, Richard and Sally Price published a hitherto unknown poem of Stedman, recounting his outward voyage to Suriname (1772/3). Some imaginative footnoting is added to this poetical epistle.

Christianizing of the plantation slaves was not tolerated by the planters until well into the 19th century. Hence, it was especially the protestant Hernhutters (Moravians) that set themselves this task, for better or for worse. Drawing on the archives of the Moravian Evangelische Broedergemeenschap (recently made accessible through the detailed inventories of Van den Broek and Van Hoogstraten), and, in addition, on oral tradition, Humphrey E. Lamur published a booklet on the christianizing of the slaves of a former sugar plantation, called ‘Vossenburg’. On the basis of the diaries of the Moravians visiting this plantation in the 1849-1878 period, Lamur illustrates some aspects of slave culture. He emphasizes the persistence of traditional slave religion which served as a means of preserving the unity of the slave community. Next, Lamur stresses the variety of kinship patterns and the relatively independent position of the female slave; in vain did the Moravians try to alter these patterns. According to the author, they were perceived by the slaves to be one with the plantocracy – not surprisingly so, since the Moravians did not object to the institution of slavery as such.

The abolition of slavery in Suriname is discussed from different angles in three articles. Siwpersaad states that the hesitant Dutch authorities’ approach to abolition was shaped by their assessment of the results of emancipation in other colonies. Negative reports about unsatisfactory behaviour of the ex-slaves and a drasic decline
following abolition in adjacent British Guyana (1834) thus retarded the final abolition in Suriname (1863), according to Siwpersad.

Gowricharn on the other hand explains the ‘Dutch delay’ by reference to the backwardness of the Dutch economy itself, and by the absence of a Dutch anti-slavery movement. He argues that when abolition finally came about this was simply a result of slavery being incompatible with the necessary technological adjustment of the declining plantation economy.

Emmer, finally, approaches the Dutch abolition of slavery from an international relations point of view. In the context of the historiographical debate on the explanation of British abolitionism, he states that the Dutch abolition of the slave trade (1805/1814) was effectuated through British, mainly economically inspired reasoning. With the decline of the West Indian interest in Britain itself, British interest in ‘finishing the job’ elsewhere declined too. According to Emmer, the absence of British pressure to abolish slavery in Suriname itself left the Dutch to decide for themselves – which delayed final abolition until 1863.

In the above article, Emmer cites British Consent for the migration of some 34,000 East-Indians to Suriname (1873-1916) as another example of the British retreat from moralist policies. The contours of this migration process are summarized by Meel. Emmer analyzes the actual procedure of recruitment in India in his contribution to a special issue of OSO devoted to indentured labour. In The great escape finally, he argues that for female indentured servants from India, the passage to Suriname turned to be a step forwards, both in terms of material circumstances as in providing an escape, especially for single or widowed women, to a society in which more personal freedom would be attainable.

In the same OSO-issue, there are short contributions by Lamur and Vriezen, and Ankum-Houwink on Chinese indentured immigrants. This migration did not live up to the planters’ expectations, as the authors emphasize; no more than some 2500 Chinese were contracted for Suriname. The alternative was to be provided by the indentured immigrants from British India mentioned above, and by Javanese contractees. Unfortunately, the OSO-issue does not offer more than one 3-page article on the latter group, their initial immigration number of the 33,000 (1891-1938) notwithstanding.

Only three titles on 20th century history may be added to this survey. Carlo Lamur’s The American takeover explores in detail the emergence of the Surinamese bauxite industry (1914-1921) under the aegis of the Aluminium Company of America (Alcoa). He argues that the Dutch government’s open-door policy enabled Alcoa to achieve a de facto nationalization of Suriname’s bauxite ores within five years. The author contrasts Dutch neglect and ignorance with the more active British policy in British Guyana, where a greater degree of control over the bauxite sector was secured through the obligatory refining of the ore on British soil. The American takeover, based on extensive archival work, was a 1983-doctoral thesis.

Scholtens published a booklet on Suriname during World War Two. Drawing mainly on contemporary sources and interviews post hoc, the author collected elementary findings on this hitherto neglected episode. In an article for OSO, he singles out the political development in the same period; with the Antilles, Suriname was at the time the only unoccupied part of the Kingdom of The Netherlands. The emphasis here is on the emergence of a proto-nationalist movement.

Finally, a collection of data for the medical history of Suriname up to 1900 was published by Van der Kuyp. Post-World War Two historiography on Suriname is discussed by Bakker, though highly schematical and not comprehensively.

Extremely few studies were published in the fields of anthropology, sociology and social geography. Mention must be made of Van Gelder’s Werken onder de boom, a

Lagerberg's Suriname '85 analyzes the political past and present in terms of the country's ethnic segmentation and its implications for nation building, the functioning of the political system and economic development. Sceptical about both a Westminster type of political system and about the non-democratic military regime, he explores possibilities for a so-called plural 'consociational democracy' model, defined as a balanced partition of power to the factor of ethnicity (perceived to be diminishing in importance) and the factor of socio-economic differentiation (which is assuming ever more importance).

The progressive worsening of bilateral relations between Suriname and The Netherlands since the military coup of 1980, and particularly the adjournment of the previously extensive Dutch development aid, have had their share in the dramatic economic decline of Suriname. Moreover, it has resulted in a situation of bilateral stalemate, as may be learned from the contributions by Doeve and Van Gelder to a special 'Dutch West Indian' issue of the International Spectator, covering the field of international relations. The stalemate, of course, has not been broken since.

Finally, two publications in the sphere of economics deserve mention. In a short article, Kalpoe provides figures on recent market developments of the bauxite and aluminum industry, so crucial to Suriname's economy. The booklet by INDEX deals with technological options for Suriname, arguing for the use of intermediate levels of technology and policy support for small and middle size enterprises, rather than for large, capital-intensive units of production.

The Caribbean: general and non-Dutch

As a sequel to his 1971-book The Dutch in the Caribbean and on the Wild Coast 1580-1680, Goslinga published The Dutch in the Caribbean and in the Guianas 1680-1791. This book shares many of the merits and some of the flaws of its predecessor. Based on meticulous archival research and covering themes hitherto inaccessible to a non-Dutch reading public, the voluminous 1985 book too will be a standard reference work for some time to come. Not only does it cover the history of Suriname and the Dutch Antillean islands, but of the Dutch endeavours in the Caribbean generally, the Dutch West India Company, the slave trade and the colonies Essequibo, Demarara and Berbice as well. Criticism (of both books) was raised to the author's predilection for 'histoire evenementielle' and the absence of a synthetic and comparative approach.

In his contribution to Caribbean Contours, Hoetink readresses the theme of several of his publications of the 1970s, viz. race and color distinctions in the Caribbean (see Hoetink 1971, 1973). Summarizing the crucial differences in historical experience of the Hispanic vs. the non-Hispanic Caribbean, he discusses the significance of factors such as economic (plantation) development, population composition, the character of slavery and post-Emancipation immigrations for the cristalization of contrasting 'race' and color classifications in Caribbean societies. Hoetink contrasts the existence, at least until recently, of a socioracial continuum and of a relatively homogeneous culture in the Hispanic Caribbean with the more rigid internal divisions in the three-tiers socioracial societies of the non-Hispanic Caribbean. Within the latter group, a special position is taken by Trinidad, Guyana and Suriname, where the numerical importance of the population of Asian origin alongside and often in competition with the Afro-Caribbean segment has given rise to vertical lines of division instead of the hierarchical ordering of 'racial' groups found elsewhere.
Hoetink also surveys the effects of migration processes on the race and class issue.

The remaining titles to be discussed here mainly concern the non-Dutch Caribbean. In his thesis *El compromiso en la poesía Afroantillana de Cuba y Puerto Rico*, Habibe explores the Afro-Antillean poetry written in these countries during the late 1920s and early 1930s. Focussing on the poetry of the Cubans Nicolás Guillen and Emilio Ballagas and of the Puerto Rican poet Luis Palés Matos, he argues that the negro-theme is not treated as exotic, but in a conscious commitment (‘compromiso’) to oppose the racial discrimination characterizing their societies. Parallels with the ‘Nègritude’-movement are obvious; in contrast to the latter, however, according to Habibe the Afro-Antillean poetry did not reject Western civilization as such.

Having published an article on *La gente del tabaco* in the village of Villa González (República Dominicana) earlier, by way of sequel and accounting for his method Baud added an article on the use of oral tradition and oral history in the reconstruction of this particular theme. In the first paragraphs however he discusses the emergence, possibilities and limitations of the oral history method in general.

A special issue of the AWIC-Nieuwsbrief is devoted to food production within the Caribbean region. Immig gives an overview of regional integration and agrarian development in the Caribbean and Venezuela. Uzozie emphasizes the importance of intermediate technology for food production, whereas Mans discusses the failure to promote agriculture through a consistent educational policy in Jamaica during the 1970s.

Mention may be made next of a short article by Kalpoe on the economic development of Jamaica in the last decade, emphasizing the increasing influence of the International Monetary Fund, and of an introductory essay by Van Gelder on urbanization and the urban informal sector in the Caribbean, drawing mostly on his above-mentioned thesis *Werken onder de boom*.

Finally, a useful tool for research is the annotated bibliography *Women in the Caribbean: A bibliography, Part Two*, compiled by Cohen Stuart as a sequel to part one of this project, published in 1979.

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