The Legacy of Dutch Brazil

This book argues that Dutch Brazil (1624–54) is an integral part of Atlantic history and that it made an impact well beyond colonial and national narratives in the Netherlands and Brazil. In doing so, this book proposes a radical shift in interpretation. The Dutch Atlantic is widely perceived as an incongruity among more durable European empires, while Brazil occupies an exceptional place in the history of Latin America, which leads to a view of Dutch Brazil as self-contained and historically isolated. *The Legacy of Dutch Brazil* shows that repercussions of the Dutch infiltration in the Southern Hemisphere resonated across the Atlantic basin and remained long after the fall of the colony. By examining its regional, national, and cosmopolitan legacies, thirteen authors trace memories and mythologies of Dutch Brazil from the colonial period up until the present day and engage in broader debates on geopolitical and cultural changes at the crossroads of Atlantic and Latin American studies.

Michiel van Groesen is a Lecturer in Early Modern History at the University of Amsterdam, specializing in European representations of the Atlantic world. His first book, *Representations of the Overseas World in the De Bry Collection of Voyages, 1590–1634* (2008), reveals how European publishers manipulated textual and visual information of encounters with Africa, Asia, and the Americas. His articles have since appeared in the *Sixteenth Century Journal*, the *Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies*, the *Journal of Early Modern History*, and *Colonial Latin American Review*. In 2013, he was Queen Wilhelmina Visiting Professor at Columbia University in New York.
The Legacy of Dutch Brazil

Edited by

MICHIEL VAN GROESEN

University of Amsterdam
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Roquinaldo Ferreira is Vasco da Gama Associate Professor (History/POBS) at Brown University. He is the author of *Cross-Cultural Exchange in the Atlantic World: Angola and Brazil during the Era of the Slave Trade* (2012).

Mariana Françozo is Assistant Professor of Museum Studies at Leiden University and research associate at the National Museum of Ethnology, Leiden. Her research focuses on the circulation of Amerindian material culture between Brazil and Europe and on the production of ethnographic knowledge. She is the author of *De Olinda a Holanda: a circulação de objetos e saberes no Atlântico Holandês (1600–1700)* (2014).

Evan Haefeli is an associate professor at Columbia University, where he teaches colonial American history. Among other works, he is the author of *New Netherland and the Dutch Origins of American Religious Liberty* and is currently completing a study of religious pluralism and English expansion from the sixteenth through the eighteenth centuries.

Julie Berger Hochstrasser is Associate Professor of Art History at the University of Iowa. She is the author of *Still Life and Trade in the Dutch Golden Age* (2007) and has published extensively on the impact of Dutch visual culture around the world.

Wim Klooster is professor and chair of the history department at Clark University, where he has taught since 2003. His works include *Illicit Riches: Dutch Trade in the Caribbean, 1648–1795* (1998) and *Revolutions in the Atlantic World: A Comparative History* (2009); his forthcoming book is titled *The Dutch Moment in Atlantic History*. 
Notes on Contributors

Mark Meuwese is Associate Professor of History at the University of Winnipeg. One of his recent publications is *Brothers in Arms, Partners in Trade: Dutch-Indigenous Alliances in the Atlantic World, 1595–1674* (2012).

Rebecca Parker Brienen is Vennerberg Professor of Art and head of the department of art, graphic design, and art history at Oklahoma State University. Her book *Visions of Savage Paradise: Albert Eckhout, Court Painter in Colonial Dutch Brazil* (2006) has been revised, expanded, and translated into Portuguese as *Albert Eckhout: Visoes do Paraíso Selvagem* (2010).


Neil Safier is the Beatrice and Julio Mario Santo Domingo Director and librarian of the John Carter Brown Library in Providence, Rhode Island, and Associate Professor of History at Brown University. He has published articles in *Annales: Histoire, Sciences Sociales* and *Revista Brasileira de História* and is the author of *Measuring the New World: Enlightenment Science and South America* (2008).

Stuart B. Schwartz is George Burton Adams Professor of Latin American History at Yale University. He has published extensively on colonial Brazil and the empires of Portugal and Spain in the early modern era.


Arthur Weststeijn is Director of Historical Studies at the Royal Netherlands Institute in Rome. He is the author of *Commercial Republicanism in the Dutch Golden Age* (2012).
This book took shape over two stimulating days in January 2011, when forty scholars gathered in Amsterdam to discuss fourteen papers at the workshop “The Legacy of Dutch Brazil,” organized by Het Scheepvaartmuseum (National Maritime Museum Amsterdam) and the University of Amsterdam. I would like to express my thanks first and foremost to Joost Schokkenbroek, who created the Dr. Ernst Crone Fellowship that in 2007–08 enabled me to start a new research project; subsequently he helped me organize and host the workshop that was the belated climax of my time as a Fellow at Het Scheepvaartmuseum. At the University of Amsterdam, Henk van Nierop’s unconditional support for this as well as previous (and, I hope, future) projects is something I deeply cherish. Many other colleagues in the department of history and the Amsterdam Center for Golden Age Studies attended the workshop and have provided important encouragement over the years. I especially appreciated Éléa de la Porte’s good-humored assistance in making last-minute practical arrangements. Finally, the workshop would not have been possible without the generosity of the Samenwerkende Maritieme Fondsen, the Brazilian embassy in the Netherlands, the Centre for Education and Documentation Latin America (CEDLA), and the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO).

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