



Heritage Day Brazil

The Heritage Day Brazil took place on Wednesday 7 October at the Museum Boijmans van Beuningen in Rotterdam. This was already the fifth Heritage Day the Centre for International Heritage activities (CIE) organised. The day was organised in cooperation with the Atlantic World and the Dutch (AWAD) and the Netherlands Institute for Heritage (Erfgoed Nederland).

The CIE attempts to organise every Heritage Day at a different location, which has a special relation with the priority country. The municipality of Rotterdam included an internationalisation theme in their 2009-2012 cultural policy. Brazil Rotterdam is the first big event in the Internationalisation Program of the Arts and Culture Service of the Municipality of Rotterdam (DKC Rotterdam). Museum Boijmans van Beuningen was involved in this programme with an exhibition of contemporary Brazilian Art.

The aim of this Heritage Day was to create more coherence between the various cultural heritage projects and to discuss coordination between Dutch partners and cooperation with Brazil. This event gave the participants the opportunity to meet each other and become inspired by each other's initiatives. Twelve projects were represented on [posters](#).

The chair of this day was mrs. Geerte Wachter (deputy director CIE). During the morning session, a very international public from all types of institutions and from various backgrounds was present in Rotterdam where they listened to presentations given by Stef Oosterloo (Art and Culture Service Rotterdam), Carlos Alberto Asfora (Brazilian Embassy) and Mariëlle van Miltenburg (Netherlands Embassy Brazil).

Mister Oosterloo pointed out the special relation between Rotterdam and Brazil and especially Sao Paulo. A Brazilian Summer took place this summer in Rotterdam with various activities including three exhibitions titled Brazil Contemporary at Museum Boijmans van Beuningen, National Institute for Architecture and the Photomuseum .

Next, Carlos Alberto Asfora and Mariëlle van Miltenburg from the Dutch Embassy in Brazil spoke about the appreciation of Dutch heritage in Brazil, the MoU that was signed in 2008 between the two countries on mutual cultural heritage cooperation, and about the second international conference on Mutual Cultural Heritage the will be organised in Brazil in 2010.

The introductions in the morning where followed by panel discussions with different points of view from the heritage fields: Academic cooperation and Archives, Tangible heritage and Intangible



Heritage. These panels were the introduction to the workshops during the afternoon program. An extra workshop on *Mutuality of Mutual Cultural Heritage* was also held.

Panel 1 Intangible Heritage

Chair: Astrid Weij – Netherlands Institute for Heritage

Lodewijk Hulsman – Amsterdam University (UvA)

Paula dos Santos – Reinwardt Academy and Culturalia Foundation

Hannedea Neederveen-Meerkerk – MoWIC

Input for the workshops

Mr. Hulsman raised several questions about what should be selected when preserving heritage. Mrs. Dos Santos pointed out the importance of who is making the decisions in the field of heritage. Mrs. Neederveen-Meerkerk gave some suggestions of intangible heritage that should be included.

Panel 2 Tangible Heritage

Chair: Benedict Goes – ICOMOS / Netherlands Institute for Heritage

Oscar Hefting – New Holland Foundation

Jorn Konijn – This must be the Place

Luc Eekhout – National Carriage Museum

Input for the workshops

This discussion focuses on Tangible Heritage which is part of the cultural heritage. One must not only focus on the built heritage but also on historical aspects in present day society and what attracts the present day population. Not only built heritage but also traditions should be studied. Multicultural relations are necessary and as an issue/item must be studied by both sides to achieve a realistic research result.

A challenging aspect is how people work and how it differs from the Dutch way; this is necessary to make cooperation work. Not only technical conservation is necessary but also the interpretation of heritage must be studied.

For the Dutch it is necessary to know how to handle our position towards former colonies- there always remains some shame but we must learn from each other to cooperate in the future.



Panel 3 Academic Cooperation and Archives

Chair: Lodewijk Hulsman – Amsterdam University (UvA)

Astrid Weij – Netherlands Institute for Heritage

Marianne Wiesebron – Leiden University

Ben Teensma

Input for the workshops

All the speakers think it is important that there has to be a scientific environment where people can meet each other and exchange knowledge and ideas about mutual heritage.

It is important to include heritage and to try to bridge the gap between heritage academic world and archives.

Obviously the identification process of projects has led to some main questions, about themes like identity, the mutuality of mutual heritage, shared knowledge, capacity building. This has made us believe that it will be fruitful to discuss these themes further, during workshops, which were held in the afternoon. We would thus be able to inspire each other and to enhance and increase international cooperation.

The outcomes of the workshops and the lectures presented during the morning will be sent to our Ministry of Education, Culture and Science. This will help our policy makers to develop a view on knowledge exchange on cultural heritage, with results directly from the field itself.

In November Robert Parthesius (director CIE) and Annemarie Willems (staff member heritage CIE) will travel to Brazil to identify and meet several stakeholders in the Brazilian heritage field to determine whether a basis exists for a similar meeting on the Brazilian-Dutch heritage cooperation next year in Brazil.

We are positive that this day contributed to the preservation of important tangible and intangible heritage in Brazil and The Netherlands.

The Workshops

Workshop 1 Academic cooperation and Archives

Academic knowledge is a fundament for many heritage projects. However, in the executive phase of projects, it often plays a minor role while the connection between the heritage and university fields strengthens both the practical input as well as the academic output. Therefore, attention



should be paid to cooperation between heritage and academic institutions. Cooperation is a necessary ingredient for capacity building, and in the future, better academic cooperation is needed in order to succeed. What are the experiences with this kind of cooperation and what can be recommended to improve cooperation between Brazil and The Netherlands concerning the

heritage sector and universities? Essential for research are historical sources. In the case of Brazil and The Netherlands a great challenge lies ahead for the accessibility of these sources, due to the language barrier.

Conclusions

- It is of great importance to ensure that data is not forgotten after the project ends and the focus shifts to something new. Because when results are not shared, what is the added value?
- Let more foreign students come to The Netherlands and let them learn the language, so that they can work with 17th century Dutch.
- Translate key-documents to Portuguese, so that Brazilian students can be introduced to the shared heritage.
- Make a handbook on the historical Dutch-Brazil connection, to give fresh input to the literature available on the subject.
- Language barriers are a big problem for cooperation with other speaking countries.
- Learning Dutch from a Dutch professor would be the most suitable way for Brazilian researchers and students. This way they do not necessarily have to come to The Netherlands to learn Dutch. Financing such a Dutch institute is hard.
- A bi-lingual publication would help with sharing knowledge and perspectives on the shared history.
- Both the academic and the heritage field have to find ways to overcome barriers and to use means in the most efficient way, in order to complement each others work.

Workshop 2 Intangible Heritage

Over the years the awareness for intangible heritage has grown. In the Brazilian Federal Constitution of 1988 cultural heritage has been defined as “a set of cultural assets, material and intangible in nature, referring to the action, the memory and the identity of the different groups that form the Brazilian society”. Questions to be discussed during this workshop: What does intangible heritage mean in The Netherlands in comparison to Brazil. What role does the arts play, are the arts considered heritage in Brazil? In The Netherlands there is a thick line between



the arts and heritage, how does this differ from Brazil? How is intangible heritage integrated in the heritage projects today? How do you preserve something that is not tangible?

Conclusions

- In the field of research we should cooperate more, together we can find the money that is needed and publish all research results so that it is accessible to everyone.
- Focus on younger people to cooperate more, because they will work for a long time in the heritage field.
- The academic and professionals should always integrate a great social dimension/ component in their research.
- Brazilian people (from working to high upper class) relate more to their own heritage. The Dutch could learn from that. Brazil could learn from the Dutch formality on the professional level.
- There should be much more exchange and interaction between Brazil and The Netherlands through culture. Brazil is very dynamic, they should introduce their festivals in The Netherlands. This can also be a job for the Brazilian people who live in The Netherlands.
- Think of exchange of social and economic relations. Students and academic communities could cooperate and exchange knowledge. The past and common is a link between Brazil and The Netherlands.
- There should be much more platforms like the Heritage Day Brazil to get to know each other better and their ways of working.
- We shouldn't on what we give to Brazil, but what we want to learn from Brazil. For example by making the Dutch more conscious of Brazilian culture and society.
- Never underestimate the role of memory, particularly popular memory.

Workshop 3 Tangible Heritage

The tangible heritage field is very broad with disciplines like archaeology, architecture and collection management. In this session we would like to focus on the question how mutual cultural heritage can serve as a motive for creating cooperation. How can cultural heritage be reinterpreted and build bridges with the present. Key issues will be: technical cooperation, knowledge exchange, integrated heritage management, tangible heritage management in present and future, multilateral- and multi-sectoral cooperation and public awareness.

Conclusions



- Contemporize mutual cultural heritage for the Dutch and Brazilian public. The different layers of the population in Brazil can be reached and the involvement of all parts of society can be attained by:
 - An exchange of artists, with an exhibition such as Eckhout, sponsored by multinationals such as Akzo Nobel.
 - An event with a broader outlook including for example Surinam, with themes as cooking and Jewish settlements.
- Cultural differences should be discussed; language problems solved. More physical presence by the Dutch in Brazil to understand how local organisations and authorities work is necessary. More possibilities should be looked into: study projects which affect all layers of the society and their involvement. (local theatre/dances, free of charge exhibitions). Bring Brazilian people to The Netherlands to understand how things work there.
- Brazil is not a backward/developing country- there should be an exchange of information from both sides. Working together inspires people, evokes energy.
- Mutual Cultural Heritage projects should focus on what you can do **in** Brazil and not **for** Brazil. Exchange of information should be multilateral and general: one cannot deal with heritage as something exclusive.
- Brazil needs a new Maurits van Nassau to awaken public awareness: use the 2014 Soccer World Championship and the 2016 Olympic year to create awareness: many new contemporary projects could be implemented by large or individual organisations but it is not a question of **either or** but of **and and**.

Workshop 4 The mutuality of mutual heritage

Dual parentage, shared, mutual, colonial, common, European, Brazilian heritage? Mutual Cultural Heritage is a loaded term; it defines the cultural heritage between the Netherlands and Brazil. But which heritage is labelled with this definition, how does Brazil experience common cultural heritage and how do we share this heritage? Discuss the responsibilities for this type of heritage for the Netherlands and for Brazil and specify the definition of mutual cultural heritage.

Conclusions



- The definition of mutual heritage is broadened. Mutual heritage is said to be synonymous for 'in between worlds'. This refers to people who are from a Dutch and Brazilian descent. In this respect you can think of (the children of) mixed marriages. This means that for a lot of people in the Netherlands, mutual heritage is a personal experience. These people are of great value and should be recognised as such. An essential feature of heritage is that people are willing to carry it.
- The Dutch heritage is of great importance in Brazil and in Brazilian history. The Dutch presence in Brazil is very much a contemporary phenomenon. It is remarkable that Brazil puts a strong emphasis on the Dutch-Brazilian connection. By doing this other countries, like Portugal, are excluded. Brazil attaches emotional value to the Dutch period. This is mostly related to the Dutch Maurits van Nassau. He is considered to be a hero in Brazilian society. Without him the Dutch presence would have been a form of piracy.
- Whereas a part of Dutch history is alive in Brazil, it is not in the Netherlands. There is no question about a mutual history. At present however, the Netherlands does not value this history and we do not consider the history with Brazil as a part of our identity. The Dutch period is part of history and heritage in Brazil. In the Netherlands it is just part of our history.
- The process of appreciating the bond between the Netherlands and Brazil more has started by way of adding Brazil to the list of priority countries of the mutual heritage policy. Attention is growing; on a cultural, academic and economic level. Brazil was added probably due to genuine mutual heritage interest, as well as economic interest. More attention could be raised in the future. An already made first step are priority stamps which can contribute to awareness raising.
- The term mutual is loaded, but this is a good thing because it instigates discussions.

