

# 110<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

*Newsletter Summer 2014*



**KNIR**  
KONINKLIJK  
NEDERLANDS  
INSTITUUT  
ROME



*On June 1<sup>st</sup>, 1904, the historian Gisbert Brom arrived in Rome by train to establish a small Dutch academic outpost in the Eternal City. Now, 110 years later, the Royal Netherlands Institute in Rome thrives as an ever-expanding intellectual community of students and scholars who engage in specialized teaching, interdisciplinary research and international collaboration. In the wake of a highly dynamic period in which the KNIR opened up new horizons over the past couple of years, this Newsletter looks to the future, introducing our recently appointed new director, our next ambitions, and our upcoming events and courses.*

## **HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS NEWSLETTER:**

- 1 New director: Harald Hendrix**
- 2 KNIR Masterplan**
- 3 Retrospective Spring semester**
- 4 Upcoming events and courses**

## 1 New director: Harald Hendrix



As of May this year, [prof. Harald Hendrix serves as the new director of the KNIR](#), the twelfth in line since Gisbert Brom came to Rome 110 years ago. Harald Hendrix is professor of Italian studies at Utrecht University, where he also held a range of important management positions. He has published widely on the European reception of Italian Renaissance and Baroque culture, the early modern aesthetics of the non-beautiful, and the relationship between literary heritage and cultural memory.



Under his directorship, the KNIR aims at strengthening its role as a breeding ground for cultural and intellectual exchange between Italy and the Netherlands.

Just before Harald Hendrix arrived in Rome, we said goodbye to one of our senior co-workers: Sandra Buffoni. Having worked for the Institute for over two decades, Sandra left us to enjoy her well-deserved retirement.

## 2 KNIR Masterplan



To prepare for the challenges of the future, the KNIR plans a series of major renovations, carried out in close collaboration with the University of Groningen. This summer, the lodging facilities for scholarship students and fellows will be entirely renewed and refurbished. Further phases of the KNIR Masterplan will follow over the next years, ensuring the Institute will continue to flourish for many more decades to come.

## 3 Retrospective Spring semester



Two of the main events the KNIR organized this year took place in the Netherlands. The first was the [official launch of the project HADRIANVS](#) in the Amsterdam Rijksmuseum on February 20<sup>th</sup>. Speaking to a large audience of students, researchers and the general public, specialists on Italian-Dutch artistic connections discussed the project, chaired by our art-historian and acting director Marieke van den Doel. The initiative was widely covered in the national press; for a short impression see [this clip](#).

To celebrate the KNIR's 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary, another event was hosted by Amsterdam's cinema *Rialto* on May 23<sup>rd</sup>: a [program dedicated to the theme Rome: Dream and Reality](#), including the sold-out screening of the recent prizewinning documentary *Sacro GRA*.

In Rome, the KNIR continued its well-established program of courses, lectures and book presentations. Particular highlights of this semester included:

- The [masterclass Archaeology of Mythology](#), organized together with the Dutch Institute in Istanbul. A group of 12 students followed in Aeneas' footsteps from Istanbul to Troy and from the Campi Flegrei to Rome, debating the relationship between material culture and mythological construction in the history of archaeology.



- The [masterclass Science and Religion in Rome](#), organized in collaboration with the Descartes Centre of Utrecht University. The program, focusing on the contested relationship between science and religion from the Renaissance to fascism, included visits to many remarkable sites, including the Vatican Observatory in the papal palace at Castel Gandolfo.



## 4 Upcoming events



In the next semester the KNIR will organize a series of large international conferences on a range of topics:

- **4-6 SEPTEMBER:** [Mandeville in Rome - Mandevillean Readings](#), in collaboration with the American University in Rome and the University of Camerino
- **17-20 SEPTEMBER:** [3rd International Landscape Archaeology Conference](#), in collaboration with VU University Amsterdam, the Swedish Institute in Rome, and Sapienza University
- **25-27 SEPTEMBER:** [Rethinking Expropriation Law](#), in collaboration with Groningen University
- **16-18 OCTOBER:** [The Making of the Humanities IV](#), in collaboration with the University of Amsterdam and the Huizinga Institute of Cultural History
- **21-24 OCTOBER:** *I percorsi della "romanizzazione"*, in collaboration with the British School at Rome, the Swiss Institute in Rome, the University of Geneva and Sapienza University.

### Upcoming courses at the KNIR:

- **22-29 SEPTEMBER:** [Federalisme en democratie. Rome, Amerika, Europa](#)
- **3-13 NOVEMBER:** *Italië op drift: van Berlusconi tot Renzi*  
**Deadline applications: 1 October**
- **5-19 JANUARY 2015:** [KNIR Winter-school Roma Caput Mundi](#)  
**Deadline applications: 15 October**

With sadness we communicate the loss of our generous benefactor **Piero Santi**, who died on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Dott. Santi will live on in the many wonderful books he bequeathed to our library.

