

IN MEMORIAM

ADRIAAN VAN OSS 1947 - 1984

Readers of *Itinerario* will undoubtedly be as shocked and dismayed as we were in Leiden to learn of the sudden and totally unexpected death of Adriaan van Oss, during the course of a Spanish-Dutch historical conference which he himself had largely organised.

His formal connection with Leiden University, as lecturer in Latin American History, lasted only one and a half years, during which time he had been able to build up a considerable reputation as a teacher. We had known him much longer, though, and come to appreciate his great knowledge of Latin American history, above all of the colonial period of Guatemala. His dissertation, entitled *Catholic Colonialism: a Parish History of Guatemala* was chosen as 'Dissertation of the Year' for the University of Texas at Austin in 1983. As readers of *Itinerario* will know from the article published in Vol. VII, 1, which was largely based on his thesis, this provided an important new interpretation of the Spanish colonial system in the New World. It was his intention to expand on these insights in a major work, in collaboration with B.H. Slicher van Bath, to be entitled *Colonial Culture and Society in Latin America*. That he did not live to complete this is a major loss to historical scholarship and to the development of Latin American studies in the Netherlands. But this of course palls into insignificance compared to the loss to his wife, Ines, and his family, to whom our deepest sympathy is extended.

