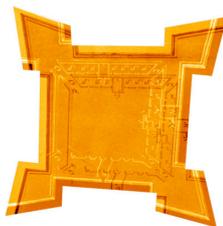


INTRODUCTIE PROJECT FORT ORANJE

In 2000 schonk de Nederlandse regering een verjaardagsgeschenk aan de Braziliaanse regering. Dit was ter gelegenheid van het feit dat Brazilië 500 jaar geleden door de Portugese kapiteit Pero Alvarez Cabral was ontdekt door de westerse wereld. Er werd in 1999 een Identificatiemissie uitgezonden, bestaande uit Dr. Hannedea van Nederveen Meerkerk en de onlangs afgestudeerde archeoloog Oscar Hefting. Zij was in 1988 in Delft gepromoveerd op het proefschrift Recife. The rise of a 17-th century trade city from a cultural-historical perspective. Promotor was Prof. Dr. Ir, Coen Temminck Groll. Dit proefschrift werd door Minister Ruud de Korte aangeboden aan de Braziliaanse regering. Hefting was op zoek naar een promotieonderwerp, Het door de IDmissie uitgekozen project werd Historisch-archeologisch onderzoek naar de Nederlandse resten bvan Fort Oranje op het eiland Itamaracá. Het project werd betaald uit de HGIS en POB gelden. Er werd samengewerkt met het Laboratório de Arqueologia da UFPE, dat geleid werd door het archeologenechtpaar Prof. Marcos de Albuquerque en Dra. Veleda Lucena de Albuquerque. Het project duurde 3 jaar, twee campanes veldonderzoek en nog een jaar documentatie. Ook namen 7 studenten van de Universiteit van Amsterdam deel en enkele vrijwilligers. Mede dankzij mederwerking van de in 2003 aangetrokken deskundige op het gebied van archeologisch fortonderzoek, Hans van Westing, kon de oiutline van het 1631 gebouwde Nederlandse Fort Oranje worden getraceerd. Van Westing was lid van de stichting Architectuur en Archeologie van de Provincie Drenthe.

Hieronder de door MoWIC samengestelde brochure waarmee het project in de openbaarheid werd gebracht tijdens het staatsbezoek van de toenmalige President van Brazilië, Zijne Excellentie Fernando Henrique Cardoso en eega Dona RuthCorrêa Leite Cardoso aan ons land, begin october 2000.

Het project had een website, ontworpen door Prof. Ney Dantas met onderstaand logo.



FORT ORANGE PROJECT

Introduction

After a first unsuccessful attempt in 1624-1654 (Bahia), the Dutch succeeded in conquering part of the North-East of Brazil ('o nordeste) from the Portuguese in 1630. Until 1654 this region under the names 'Nieuw Holland' or 'Hollantsch Brasil', remains in possession of the 'Geoctroyeerde West Indische Compagnie' (WIC). Johan Maurits, count of Nassau-Siegen, acted as governor during the years 1637 till 1644. He ordered the construction of a new capital, 'Mauritsstad', projected on the island of Antonio Vaz, opposite the isthmus of the village of Recife. The palace of Johan Maurits, 'Huis Vrijburgh', named Casa Fribourgo by the Portuguese, was

an architectural jewel. Different scientists worked in his service, often in the palace. Biology and astronomy (Georg Marcgraf), medicine (among others Willem Piso) and cartography (among others Cornelis Goliath) were the object of extensive studies. Painters and drawing artists belonged to the court, some of whom became quite famous (Frans Post, Albert Eeckhout, Zacharias Wagner). Moreover, the governor had at his disposal the pick of military and fortification experts. His vision stood out, especially by his decision to shape the governing infrastructure by means of instituting a parliament c.q. municipality. Till this day, this is considered to be the birth of national democracy in Brazil.

Along the North-East coast of Brazil the Dutch built forts, like Fort Orange, and fortifications on strategic points. Forts that were captured from the Portuguese were reinforced and extended. However, the colony has existed only a short time. Internal controversies, lack of profits from the sugar production and the diminishing investments of the WIC were at the basis of this decline. The opposition on the side of the Portuguese increased in a dramatic manner with the waning of the Dutch power. In 1654 'Dutch Brazil' was carried over to the Portuguese combat forces. Apart from the Portuguese themselves (Lucitanians), these consisted of several Indian tribes and groups of Negro slaves. Hence the Brazilians preferably speak about 'Luso-Brasileiros' (Luso-Brasilians) in this respect. In the nineteenth century the republican tendencies would be based upon the identity acquired at that time. At the same time, reference was made to the democratic principles of Johan Maurits van Nassau. Against this background, the Brazilian independence was achieved.

About Fort Orange

Other historical denominations

Fort Oranje/Forte de Orange/Fortaleza de Santa Cruz de Itamaracá/Fortaleza de Santa Cruz/Castrum Auriacum.

Location:

On the Southern point of the island of Itamaracá, State of Pernambuco

Short history:

- 1630/33 From 1630 onward Recife constituted the bridgehead of the Dutchmen in Brazil. The island of Itamaracá was fertile and was vital for the provision of food of the young city of Recife. The Portuguese had themselves entrenched on the mountain of Nossa Senhora de Conceição. On the beach, at the location of the present Fort Orange, the Dutch constructed a wooden fortification with a horn work. In 1633 a sturdy wooden fort was built at this location, from where the Dutch commander Sigismund van Schoppe was able to chase the Portuguese in 1634. Architect was Pieter van Bueren, in co-operation with Andreas Drewisch and possibly Cristóvão Álvares. Supervisor was Tobias Crommersteyn.
- 1638 After his arrival, Johan Maurits had Fort Orange reinforced with natural stone and brick. Supervisor was again Tobias Crommersteyn, in co-operation with Cristóvão Álvares. At that time the strategically strong entrance was probably constructed, of which the double walls were mounted in a strong curve.
- 1654 The Dutch carried over Fort Orange to the Portuguese under the command of Francisco Figueira.
- 1696 The Portuguese rebuild the fort with local limestone.
- 1777 The fort underwent several adaptations. The principle of an arched entry was maintained.
- 1817 During the Revolution of Pernambuco Padre Ténorio occupied the fort.
- 1971 Fort Orange was dug out of the sand that had for so long protected its structure. This undertaking was executed by the Laboratório de Arqueologia of the Universidade Federal de Pernambuco. At this time the kitchen, the chapel, the residential lounges, the storerooms and a draw-well laid in IJssel-bricks in the inner court, were identified. Also some archaeological finds were made, such as personal belongings from the Dutch period, munition and guns of different caliber, pottery fragments and white pipe-bowls (cachimbos).
- 1973 The fort was partially restored.
- 1999 Dutch archaeological identification mission to Brazil. Thorough inspection of the state of repair of Fort Orange
- 2000 The Laboratório de Arqueologia of the Universidade Federal de Pernambuco in cooperation with the Amsterdams Archeologisch Centrum of the Universiteit van Amsterdam develops a plan for archaeological research of Forte Orange (Resgate Arqueológico da História do Forte de Orange). Luciana Menezes, Consultores e Projetos Ltda. evolved the Proposal for Restoration (Proposta de Restauração). Together, the archaeological research and the restoration form the Fort Orange Project.

Present situation:

For the greater part the walls of the Forte Orange are still standing. The fort offers an imposing view by its

majestic location on the beach. The fort, harboring a small museum within its walls, is open to the public during daytime.

Threat:

Unfortunately, erosion by wind and water has greatly damaged the fort. This can be clearly observed in the pediment above the gate. The walls of the North-East bastion have already partially caved in. The mouth and the course of the Southern river along this part of the island have gradually changed in such a way that the fort now lies practically in the sea. This process has continued with accelerating speed during the last fifteen years. This way the foundations of the fort are affected from the bottom up. On fact, the seawater level rises so high a few times a month that the foundation of the South-East bastion is eroded.

If no short-term action is taken for conservation of the fort, the expectations are that it will crumble within the foreseeable future.

Fort Orange Project

Goal

The restoration and conservation of Fort Orange. Together with a new to be built museum, Fort Orange will be a paragon for the mutual heritage of Brazil and The Netherlands.

The archaeological research

It is important to execute archaeological research preparing for a restoration. In this way the building history of the fort can be recovered. It would be interesting to trace remnants of the earliest construction of the fort in wood. Remains are expected to be found as well, from the later Dutch building-phase in natural stone and bricks. To this end the typically Dutch yellow IJssel-bricks will be the key. In the first place excavations could be undertaken in the inner-court and in the residential lounges. Subsequently it is possible to look for traces of the fort, as Barlaeus summed it up, inclusive of the dry mote and the horn-work. In this way the Dutch period of Forte Orange could be further documented. Possibly, the various building phases could be emphasized during the restoration.

17th Century cartographic material shows that the surrounding country of Forte Orange was lotted out.

Archaeological research could clarify this issue. To this end the Laboratório de Arqueologia of the Universidade Federal de Pernambuco, in cooperation with the Amsterdams Archeologisch Centrum van de Universiteit van Amsterdam, has developed an archaeological project.

The restoration

Under the supervision of IPHAN and ICOMOS a proposal for restoration of Forte Orange is presented by Luciana Menezes, Consultores e Projetos Ltda. This plan includes the reconstruction of the walls and the gate, and the construction of a museum inside of the fort. In the present plan, the hydraulic works to protect the fort are not included.

Possibilities for co-operation

Presently the fort is under the supervision of the Fundação de Apoio ao Desenvolvimento (FADE) of the Universidade Federal de Pernambuco. The UFPE, who has the excavation-concession for the fort until 2002, is highly interested in co-operation with the Dutch authorities and with the University of Amsterdam. The Pact of Friendship between Recife and Amsterdam, signed on the 9th of April 2000 by the Mayors of the two cities, will add an extra dimension. Concerning the restoration, Icomos, The 'Rijksdienst voor de Monumentenzorg' and the 'Stichting Menno van Coehoorn' will be consulted. The Mowic Foundation will coordinate all contacts.

Political commitment

The municipality of Itamaracá, wherein Forte Orange is located, is strongly in favor of restoration of the fort. The government of the State, o Governo de Pernambuco, has indicated to support any initiative.

Public awareness

The restoration of Forte Orange offers an ideal opportunity to visualize and further strengthen the age-old bond between Brazil and the Netherlands. The foundation of a modern museum, that could, among others, accommodate the finds of the excavation, would further highlight the history of this relation.

Social-economical context

Archaeological research as well as restoration of the fort will trigger employment for the region. Once the fort shall be restored, it will mean an even greater tourist attraction for the island of Itamaracá, with favorable economical consequences.

Carry-over of knowledge/training

The Universidade Federal de Pernambuco has the authority and the circumstantial knowledge to excavate this location. Dutch archeologists could contribute essentially to this research with know-how of materials, of the Dutch sources and comparative possibilities. It is also the intention to have Dutch archaeology students participate in Brazil. In return, Brazilian students could learn from Dutch working methods in the Netherlands.

Recommendations

Restoration of Forte Orange, preceded by an excavation, offers the best possibility at present to start the project. As the excavation-license of the UFPE for Forte Orange expires in 2002, short-term decision-making is required.

Estimate of Costs (Archaeological Research and Restoration)

Total	R\$ 6.832.121,50	FL 7.925.261,09	€ 3.602.389,84
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Further information

MOWIC foundation (Foundation for Exploration and Conservation of Monuments of the Dutch West India Company)

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Illustrations

Front page: Brazilian scholars on the walls of Fort Orange

1. Aerial view of Fort Orange
2. South side of Fort Orange
3. South-East bastion of Fort Orange threatened by the water
4. South-East bastion from the North
5. The East wall
6. The main gate of Fort Orange
7. Inner court of Fort Orange. Note the water well on the left, made of Dutch yellow 'IJsselbricks'
8. Some finds at Fort Orange, in between Dutch materials like pottery and white pipe bowls (cachimbos)

Amsterdam, May 2001