

PRESS RELEASE

Tropenmuseum and Wikimedia collaborate on an exhibition

The Tropenmuseum in Amsterdam and Wikimedia Netherlands will join hands to present an exhibition *Art of Survival* about Maroon culture of Suriname. As part of this collaboration, the museum will make approximately 2100 pictures available through Wikimedia Commons, the shared image repository used for Wikipedia and related projects.

By involving multiple language editions of Wikipedia at the exhibition, the Tropenmuseum reaches out to new audiences and invites them to add to the available information on the subject in the online encyclopaedias. The Tropenmuseum will incorporate valuable contributions into its exhibition when it becomes available through Wikipedia.

“The exhibition is about Maroon culture, and we hope that the exhibition and Wikipedia together will provide audiences with information about the Maroon, their culture, and their history - particularly in the languages of the countries where the Maroon live” says Susanne Ton of the Tropenmuseum. “Of particular interest will be the contributions in the English, Dutch, Sranang, French, and Spanish Wikipedias.”

“It is a novelty that a museum collaborates with an Internet community in this way”, says Gerard Meijssen, who as a Wikimedia volunteer played a major role in the realisation of this partnership. “Extraordinary information will be made available about the Maroon and it will be really interesting to learn what extra material will become available through the Wikipedias.

“Cultural institutions, not only in the Netherlands but in the whole world, are becoming more and more aware of the possibilities offered by the Wikimedia projects to give their collection a bigger audience”, says José Spierts, chair of Wikimedia Netherlands. “We are really happy that the Tropenmuseum is willing to play such a pioneering role and we hope that this example will be followed by more initiatives aimed at making our cultural heritage generally available”. The Tropenmuseum and Wikimedia Netherlands worked previously together in “Wiki Loves Art /NL”. Forty-five museums opened their doors to volunteer photographers to make parts of their collections available through Wikipedia.

The exhibition “Art of survival: Maroon culture in Suriname” will be on display at the Tropenmuseum in Amsterdam from November 6, 2009 to May 9, 2010.

About Wikimedia Nederland

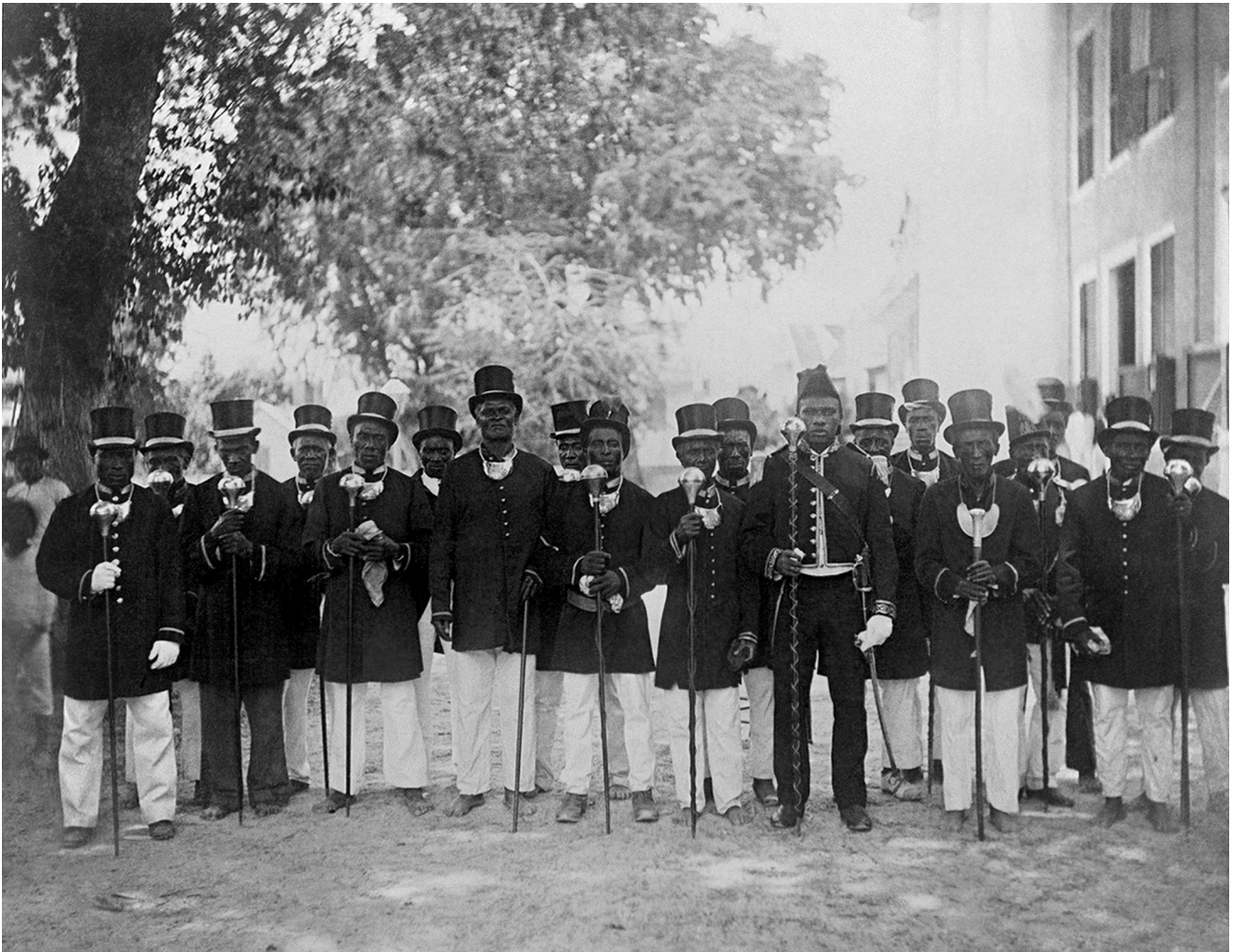
<http://www.wmnederland.nl>

Wikimedia Nederland supports within the Netherlands the activities and goals of the Wikimedia Foundation - the non-profit organization which hosts Wikipedia and sister projects. Wikimedia aims to make the sum of human knowledge available to every single person on the planet. To reach that goal, Wikimedia cooperates with the volunteers on the Wikimedia projects (such as Wikipedia) and by organising all kinds of activities and events.

About the Tropenmuseum

<http://www.tropenmuseum.nl>

The Tropenmuseum is part of the Royal Tropics Institute and presents, researches, and promotes the exchange of knowledge between cultures. The museum pursues cultural exchange through exhibitions, collections, expertise, publications, its historic building, and educational and other activities. The museum is innovative in its choice of themes and presentation. It offers an experience to a broad and diverse public, helps the appreciation of a cultural diversity, is internationally active in culture and development, and fulfills an important educational role.



Digital image restoration is one of the many ways that volunteers contribute to the exhibition. This digital restoration by Lise Broer of a picture of Granman Jankoeso of the Saramakaner Maroon and his captains is an example.

For the Editor; not for publications

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