

Exhibition and Book Project

“In the Land of Man(kind) – The Missionary and Painter Eduard Fries and the Island of Nias”

Dear Sir or Madam,

From 1903 to 1920 the Missionary Eduard Fries lived on the island of Nias close to Sumatra working for a local German society of missionaries (Rheinische Missionsgesellschaft – RMG). When he died in 1923 as director of the RMG he left a work of 400 watercolours and drawings. 150 were created on Nias and deal with the culture and landscape of this island.

In 2000 an informal group of historians, ethnologists and theologians set up a project to make Fries' letters, paintings and other sources from him available to the public. They produced an exhibition plus an accompanying catalogue. In May 2003 this exhibition was opened at the museum of ethnology in Wuppertal. After that it was shown at the Franckesche Stiftungen in Halle and at the Bodelschwingsche Anstalten Bethel in Bielefeld. The exhibit consists of original photo material and 51 of Fries' paintings framed in an identical style as well as 6 text displays with introductions to some of Fries' different topics. The catalogue which contains lots of visual material was edited by M. Humburg, D. Bonatz and C. Veltmann and was published by Verlag für Regionalgeschichte, Bielefeld.

We are writing to you because we wondered whether you would be interested in presenting this exhibition in the second half of 2004 or from May 2005 onwards. Depending on the size of the venue the fee for a presentation would only be 1000 – 1500 €. For transport and insurance usual conditions for museums would apply. Please contact one of us if you are interested in housing the exhibition. And don't hesitate to get in touch with us if you need more information.

If you are interested in using this exhibition we are happy to send you the book which allows a fascinating insight into an early chapter of Indonesia's history and its perception through European eyes.

M. Humburg / D. Bonatz / C. Veltmann (Hrsg.):
„Im ‚Land der Menschen‘. Der Missionar und Maler Eduard Fries und die Insel Nias“.
Verlag für Regionalgeschichte (Bielefeld), 128 S., 36 Farbbilder, 60 sw Abb.
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Kind regards

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