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Layered loyalties: the Natuurkundige Commissie in the Netherlands Indies (1820-1850)

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Stellingen

Behorende bij het proefschrift

Layered Loyalties: The Natuurkundige Commissie in the Netherlands Indies (1820-1850)

1. The Natuurkundige Commissie can only be comprehensively interpreted across space (between the Netherlands and the Netherlands Indies) and time (over a period of thirty years).
2. Studying the members of the Natuurkundige Commissie individually is not enough to come to a full understanding of the Commissie as a whole.
3. The dissolution of the Natuurkundige Commissie was a reflection of the fact that the stakeholders had either lost interest or found other ways to achieve their goals.
4. Only through indigenous agency and knowledge were the members of the Natuurkundige Commissie able to meet the goals of the stakeholders.
5. The important role of natural history in the propagation of empire in Europe regularly turned it into an important arena of transimperial rivalry in a colonial realm.
6. It is impossible to fully comprehend any natural history expedition in a colonial setting without paying ample attention to ulterior imperial motives.
7. Natural history and agricultural innovation in the colonial world often started out as two sides of the same coin and deserve to be studied much more in relation to each other.
8. European scientific knowledge of the colonial world is often based on a mostly invisible corpus of indigenous knowledge.
9. Natural history museums should increase their decolonisation efforts by systematically commissioning research into the provenance of their collections.
10. Natural history museums should point out the quintessential value of indigenous agency and knowledge in their permanent exhibitions.

Pieter van Wingerden
Leiden, October 10, 2023