

De Nieuw Nederlanse Mauritius



Vol. 29, No. 4

“De Nieuw Nederlanse Marcurius”

Dec. 2013

Events of interest

December 19, 2013. You are invited to an illustrated lecture and workshop at the Museum of the City of New York, exploring the historical importance of Dutch childhood activities in the 17th century. Dr. Donna R. Barnes and Peter G. Rose, co-authors of *Childhood Pleasures: Dutch Children in the Seventeenth Century*, will discuss the similarities and differences in Dutch children’s lives in Holland and in New Netherland during the 1600s. They will use art and food as an enjoyable and effective means for engaging today’s students in understanding the past.

This lecture is sponsored by the New Netherland Institute. Light refreshments will be served. The lecture is free but reservations are required. The first 20 teachers to RSVP will receive the featured book: *Childhood Pleasures*. For details: www.mcny.org.

December 18, 2013–January 1, 2014. NYC’s Film Forum presents a 15-day run of the world theatrical premiere of “The New Rijksmuseum” directed by Oeke Hoogendijk—in two parts.

If you’ve visited Amsterdam, you’ve probably been to the Rijksmuseum, one of the world’s preeminent art museums — home to masterpieces by Rembrandt and Vermeer — itself a vast, magnificent structure, built in 1895 by architect Pierre Cuypers. The renovation of the museum (it reopened this past April) went on for 10 long, expensive years, so it is fitting that a documentary on this torturous (and often, inadvertently hilarious) process should turn into not one but two feature-length movies: Spanish architects Antonio Cruz and Antonio Ortiz have designed an ingenious new entryway, but the Dutch Cyclists Union won’t tolerate reduced access for the 13,000 bicyclists who ride through the passageway daily. The museum’s magisterial director, Ronald de Leeuw’s, and his successor, the younger, scrappier Wim Pijbes’, battle with curators, politicians, designers, city bureaucrats, and the public as the price of construction soars to \$500 million. It’s a messy, complicated story that New Yorkers will relate to, but fortunately, one with a glorious ending.

Each day the two parts will be shown twice at: 1:00 and 3:15; and

6:30 and 8:45 with a short intermission between parts. There will be one admission charge to see both parts but they must be viewed consecutively. The Film Forum is at 209 West Houston Street (West of 6th Ave.). For tickets go to www.filmforum.org.

Until January 19, 2014. The Frick Collection is the final American venue of a global tour of paintings from the Royal Picture Gallery Mauritshuis in The Hague, the Netherlands. While the prestigious Dutch museum undergoes an extensive two-year renovation, it is lending masterpieces that have not traveled in nearly thirty years. At the Frick, a selection of fifteen paintings includes the beloved *Girl with a Pearl Earring* (c. 1665) by Johannes Vermeer and Carel Fabritius’s exquisite *Goldfinch* (1654). The exhibition continues the Frick’s tradition of presenting masterpieces from acclaimed museums not easily accessible to the New York public.

Girl with a Pearl Earring is the sole work on view in the Oval Room, with the other paintings shown together in the East Gallery. To accompany the exhibition, three works by Vermeer in the permanent

De Nieuw Nederlanse Marcurius 2

collection, *Officer and Laughing Girl* (c. 1657), *Girl Interrupted at Her Music* (c.1658–59), and *Mistress and Maid* (c.1666–67), are grouped together in the West Gallery, where they can be viewed along with complementary Frick Collection paintings by the represented artists.

Timed tickets are required to view this exhibition. For more information: www.frick.org.

June 5–7, 2014. International Interdisciplinary Conference of the Historians of Netherlandic Art and the American Association for Netherlandic Studies to be held in Boston. Register by December 15 for a discounted fee. For more details: www.netherlandicstudies.org.

News

The Consulate of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in New York has launched a website, featuring the wide range of Dutch cultural activities in the United States. Go to: www.dutchcultureusa.com.

Publications

The Dutch Golden Age: Gateway to our Modern World by Hans Goedkoop and Kees Zandvliet. *The Netherlands in the Golden Age* was almost unrecognizable compared with today, and yet, in some ways, it was not. Refugees sought a safe haven there, migrants did the heavy work and youngsters created a youth culture. Consumers wanted the latest fashions, investors bought

shares and large shareholders made risky speculations.

The story of the seventeenth century is and remains a miracle. A hodgepodge of provinces revolted against the Spanish king and then, in a series of ups and downs, built a new state that developed into an experiment unlike anything the world had ever seen before. A society emerged that was ruled by its citizens, a society of unprecedented freedoms and myriad religions, ships that sailed the world over and trading posts from Indonesia to Brazil. Scientists unravelled the mysteries of nature and painters presented a new vision of reality.

So how should we regard such a miracle? This book sees the Dutch seventeenth century, the Golden Age, as a gateway to today's times, a period in which the Netherlands, and Holland and Amsterdam in particular, became a laboratory that the world used for experimental research on globalization, migration, tolerance, consumerism, investment and media hypes, and many other modern trends.

Order at: www.walburgpers.nl
€29.95 | isbn 978.90.5730.890.1

New Netherland Connections: Intimate Networks and Atlantic Ties in Seventeenth-Century America by Susanah Shaw Romney. Susanah Shaw Romney locates the foundations of the early modern Dutch empire in interpersonal transactions among women and men. As West India Company ships began sailing westward in the early seventeenth century, soldiers,

sailors, and settlers drew on kin and social relationships to function within an Atlantic economy and the nascent colony of New Netherland. In the greater Hudson Valley, Dutch newcomers, Native American residents, and enslaved Africans wove a series of intimate networks that reached from the West India Company slave house on Manhattan, to the Haudenosaunee longhouses along the Mohawk River, to the inns and alleys of maritime Amsterdam.

Using vivid stories culled from Dutch-language archives, Romney brings to the fore the essential role of women in forming and securing these relationships, and she reveals how a dense web of these intimate networks created imperial structures from the ground up. These structures were equally dependent on male and female labor and rested on small- and large-scale economic exchanges between people from all backgrounds. This work pioneers a new understanding of the development of early modern empire as arising out of personal ties.

Available in April 2014 from UNC Press. \$45 | isbn 978.1.4696.1425.0

A Beautiful and Fruitful Place: Selected Rensselaerswijck Seminar Papers, volume 3, edited by Margriet Lacy, offers a selection of papers by leading modern scholars presented at the annual Rensselaerswijck Seminars from 1998 to 2007. Like the papers published in the first two volumes of this series, they cover a broad range of topics relating to the distinctive history

De Nieu Nederlanse Mercurius 3

and legacy of the seventeenth-century Dutch colony of New Netherland. Collected together, these papers provide an indispensable source for those interested in the European development of American culture and society.

Order online at our website or send check or money order to the New Netherland Institute for \$39.95 plus \$4.99 for S&H.

The First Italian: Pietro Caesare Alberti and the Dutch in 17th-Century Manhattan by John Keahey tells the story of the first known Italian, actually a Venetian from a noble family, to set foot, in 1635, on the tip of Manhattan Island, then known as New Amsterdam. The book ties together, in narrative form, legal documents translated from the early Dutch by the New Netherland Project, and from documents in the Brooklyn Public Library and The Holland Society of New York.

The story describes how the Alberti family rose to prominence within Venetian society. It begins with a tale about Pietro's ancestor who, 431 years earlier, emerged as a Venetian hero during the Fourth Crusade's assault on Constantinople. Our Pietro, the oldest surviving child, left Venice under mysterious circumstances, went to Amsterdam and eventually shipped out, as a crew member aboard a Dutch ship, to the New World. He jumped ship in New Amsterdam, settled there, married a Dutch woman, and raised a family on a tobacco farm across the East River

in today's Brooklyn. Locations of his homes — one on the southern tip of New Amsterdam and the one in Brooklyn — have been identified. The story concludes with the untimely deaths, in 1655, of Pietro and his wife, Judith Jans Magne, during the "Peach War" They were, however, survived by six small children.

The First Italian can be ordered directly from our website store for \$12 plus S&H.

Munsee Indian Trade in Ulster County, New York, 1712–1732. Edited by Kees-Jan Waterman and J. Michael Smith; Translated by Kees-Jan Waterman. This spring 2013 offering of Syracuse University Press is the full, annotated translation of a recently discovered Dutch account book recording trade with Native Americans in Ulster County, New York, from 1712 to 1732. The ledger contains just over two-thousand transactions with about two-hundred native individuals. Slightly more than one hundred Indians appear with their names listed. The volume and granularity of the entries allow for detailed indexing and comparative analysis of the people and processes involved in these commercial dealings in the mid-Hudson River Valley.

Waterman and Smith place this exceptional resource within its historical context, presenting figures and tables with aggregated data. They examine several key aspects of the intercultural exchanges, such as the high level of

participation by Native American women and the growing importance of the deerskin trade in this region. In addition, the appendix contains individual profiles of forty Esopus and Wappinger Indians appearing in the Ulster County account book. Cloth \$34.95 | 978-0-8156-3316-7 | ebook 978-0-8156-5221-2.

NNI News

The New Netherland Institute will offer an annual \$1000 prize for the best published article relating to the Dutch colonial experience in the Atlantic world, with a special sensitivity to New Netherland or its legacy. This prize is being underwritten for 2014–2018 by a generous NNI member and shall be known as the Clague and Carol Van Slyke Prize.

A committee of scholars will consider entries in the fields of history, archaeology, literature, language, geography, biography, and the arts. Entries must be based upon original research. Articles must be written in English and be published for the first time in 2013. Chapters from a monograph, works of fiction, and encyclopedia entries will not be considered. Only one submission per author will be accepted. Both academic and independent scholars are invited to participate.

Prize-winning articles should make an important contribution to the understanding of New Netherland and its legacy, specifically or broadly defined, exhibit exceptional research, and be well written. Submissions may come from self-nomination, an

outside nomination, committee members, or in response to invitations to submit articles from committee members.

Four copies of articles for consideration (non returnable) must be submitted by the author, editor, colleague, or other interested party by 1 April 2014. Articles should be sent in hard copy to the Article Prize Committee, New Netherland Institute, P.O. Box 2536, Empire State Plaza Station, Albany, NY 12220-0536. You may inform us electronically (nyslfn@mail.nysed.gov) by the deadline that you plan to submit an article for consideration. The winner will be notified by August 1, 2014 and the prize will be presented at the annual New Netherland Seminar in late September or early October.

The **Annual Hendricks Award** is given to the best book or book-length manuscript relating to any aspect of New Netherland and its legacy. The Award carries a prize of \$5,000 as well as a framed print of a painting by L. F. Tantilillo. In 2014, recently completed dissertations and unpublished book-length manuscripts, will be considered. For criteria and submission requirements go to our website under Programs/Awards/Hendricks. Deadline is February 1, 2014.

Totidem Verbis

ANCODS

by Peter Douglas

The title is an acronym for the Australian Netherlands Committee on Old Dutch Shipwrecks. It was

established in 1972 to maintain the sites and artifacts from the wrecks of 17th and 18th century Dutch ships off the coast of Western Australia. This agreement also clarified the legal and international issues over the wrecks and their cargoes between the two countries, plus the interests of the Western Australian State government, and the Western Australian Museum.

In the 1960s four Dutch East India Company (VOC) shipwrecks were discovered and identified off Western Australia, and the shared history of the two countries, along with the wealth of archaeological artifacts, led to the international cooperation that created ANCODS, which immediately sought to check the looting and souvenir hunting at the wreck sites. The goal was also to maintain the physical integrity of the many thousands of elements of this collection under the administration of the Western Australian Maritime Museum instead of their being scattered among four museums in two countries. Associated projects include education, dissemination of information, scientific research, and community access. For more information go to www.heritage-activities.nl/ancods

By 1620 the VOC had set up their Dutch-Asian shipping network that connected the Netherlands with the lucrative far eastern spice trade. Its principal trading post was Batavia (now Jakarta) and it was to this port that the four wrecked ships were heading. They were: *Batavia*, wrecked in 1629, *Vergulde Draeck* (1656), *Zuytdorp* (1712), and

Zeewijk (1727). The British East Indiaman *Tryall* also met its end here in 1622, and is Australia's oldest known shipwreck.

How did ships en route for Indonesia end up off Australia, so far to the south? Often this was due to simple navigational error, as well as the usual hazards of the ocean. To reach Batavia VOC captains would often take what would later be called the "Clipper Route," sailing around the Cape of Good Hope and then using the "Roaring Forties," the strong westerly winds between 40 and 50 degrees south, to speed their passage across the southern Indian Ocean. Then, at the correct longitude, they would head north for the Indies. However, until the development of an accurate marine chronometer in the 18th century, mariners struggled to determine their precise longitude, and some ships failed to make the turn north in time and sailed too far to the east, ending up in trouble on the Australian coast and offshore islands. Additionally, Western Australia has a long and difficult coastline with few natural harbors, and storms in that area often create strong on-shore winds that would drive the ships ashore.

These ships are the only vessels of the period known to have been lost on this coast. Three other VOC ships disappeared while sailing between Africa and Batavia and may have ended up in Australian waters, though no trace of them has been found. They are *Ridderschap van Holland* (1694), *Fortuyn* (1724), and *Aagtekerke* (1726).