

De Nieuw Nederlanse Mercurius



Vol. 18, No. 4

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December 2002

Upcoming Events

December 7, 2002. St. Niklaas Day at Brewery Ommegang in Cooperstown, NY. Celebrate the Belgian (and Dutch) children’s holiday with Belgian brownies, clementines and hot cider, and learn the legends of Sint Niklaas (Saint Nicholas) and his sidekick Black Peter. Once again the incomparable Father Mack will travel from his parish in New Jersey to tell the tales of the Bishop of Myra. Free tours all day (Noon – 5PM). Visit www.ommegang.com/ for directions and some holiday gift ideas.

Until December 8, 2002. There is still time to catch the acclaimed exhibit “**Matters of Taste,**” if you haven’t been able to make it to the Albany Institute. The exhibit has received rave reviews in both the New York Times and the Times Union. So popular is the exhibit that bus trips (which are usually heading south from Albany) have been organized on Manhattan to visit the exhibit. For more information about “Matters of Taste,” either refer to the last issue of the Mercurius or go to: www.albanyinstitute.org/.

Until December 8, 2002. The prestigious exhibition Hans Vredeman de Vries and the Renaissance in the North, held at the Weserrenaissance-Museum Schloss Brake in Lemgo, Germany, during last summer is on display in Antwerp, Bel-



See News for an announcement of this latest addition to the website

gium. The Koninklijk Museum voor Schone Kunsten presents “Between City Palaces and Castles in the Air,” focusing on the work of the Dutch artist as painter, graphic artist, urban planner, architect, and interior and furniture designer. The Rubenshuis for its part will present “The World is a Garden,” the artist’s remarkable garden designs.

January 31–February 1, 2003. At the Municipal Archives (Gemeente-archief) of Amsterdam, **Parallel Cities:** Amsterdam–New York

1653–2003. The multifaceted relationship between Amsterdam and New Amsterdam/New York is the primal focus of this international conference. It also commemorates the 350th anniversary of the establishment of New Amsterdam as a municipality. Although it had been a settlement under Dutch West India Company rule for almost thirty years, on February 2, 1653 it received a charter which allowed the town to set up a Dutch-type city government with a schout, burgomasters, and schepens. From that day on it can be regarded as a city. This meeting will provide the opportunity to evaluate a longterm historic relation between two cities, which has lasted three and a half centuries. Usually scholars either focused on a limited time period or a single aspect. The aim of this conference is to compare the longterm developments within the two cities and the interaction between the two cities in the political/administrative, social/economic, religious, and cultural aspects in each of the four centuries. The papers of the program will cover four centuries and a great variety of disciplines.

The conference is organized by the Roosevelt Study Center and hosted by the Amsterdam Muni-

pal Archives, where all the sessions will take place. Those interested in attending the conference should contact Hans Krabbendam, Roosevelt Study Center, PO Box 6001, 4330 LA Middelburg, the Netherlands tel. (0)118-631590, fax (0)118-631593, email: rsc@zeeland.nl. For the tentative program go to: www.roosevelt.nl/rscuk12.htm/.

News

The Virtual Tour of New Netherland has arrived. If you've ever had a hankering for a visual guide to the regions of the Dutch colony, it's online at the website of the New Netherland Project (www.nnp.org). Author Russell Shorto—currently at work on a book about New Netherland for Doubleday Publishers—and webmaster extraordinaire Howard Funk collaborated on the site. Visitors navigate by means of maps, and the virtual tour breaks the colony down into six regions—the Delaware River, the Hudson River, the Connecticut River, Albany, Manhattan, and Long Island—each of which can be explored by pointing and clicking. What did the name of the Swedish fort Myggenborgh mean, and what vicious enemy forced the Swedes to abandon it? How did a dispute between two ornery Dutchmen lead to the founding of Beverwijck (later Albany)? What natural landmarks caused explorer Adriaen Block to give the name Rodenburgh to the area that later became New Haven, Connecticut? Take the virtual tour and find out.

The V-tour also links to other

sites of interest. The section on Harlem, for instance, links you to both the website for the Dutch city of Haarlem and a site devoted to the Harlem Renaissance of the early 1900s. The section on Wall Street, besides filling you in on its Dutch origins, will lead you to the NYSE's online stock quotes and to Roger Ebert's review of the movie Wall Street.

On October 7, 2002 the Vrije Universiteit (Amsterdam) announced the opening of **ReLiC**—a Center for Dutch Religious History. The name ReLiC derives from the battle cry of the Dutch Revolt, *Religionis et Libertatis Causa*. Tradition has it that the Dutch Revolt was begun “for the sake of religion and liberty.” The Center for Dutch Religious History thus combines notions of both liberty and religion in its name, and readily identifies with the slogan *religionis et liber-tatis causa*. Established literally “for the sake of” scholarship concerning religious history, the Center aims to achieve this aim in an intellectual environment in which the idea of “religion” itself is open to any cogent definition. The words “religion” and “liberty” express the rationale of ReLiC—to foster research into Dutch religious history, in an atmosphere of toleration, mutual respect, and intellectual openness. Visit the Center's website for more information: www.let.vu.nl/relic/.

The **American Association of Netherlandic Studies** [AANS] is offering one grant of \$1000 in support of graduate research in the field of Netherlandic studies, to be

conducted in the Netherlands or Belgium, during the academic year 2003-04. Under exceptional circumstances, an additional scholarship may be awarded.

The field of Netherlandic Studies is broadly defined and includes research on aspects of Dutch culture as they relate to Indonesia or South Africa, or research on the Afrikaans language. The grant is intended for citizens or residents of the United States who study at an American university. Preference is given to those scholars who do not receive research support from their home institutions.

Applicants must submit a 2 to 5-page proposal, timetable, budget, 2 letters of recommendation, a curriculum vitae, and a set of transcripts. The proposal should establish the scholarly contribution and significance of the project, its relevance to the applicant's professional goals, and progress already made.

Applications for the year 2003–2004 must reach the AANS by February 15, 2003. The selection committee will consist of members of the Executive Council of AANS. Send completed applications to: Dr. Amy Golahny
Mox 147—Art Department
Lycoming College
Williamsport, PA 17701
email: golahny@lycoming.edu.

The **25th Rensselaerswijck Seminar** held at the Albany Institute of History and Art attracted nearly 200 attendees. Its success can be attributed to the excellent quality of the morning papers presented on Beverwijck and the proximity of

the “Matters of Taste” exhibit which fit well with the afternoon speakers’ theme of sugar and salt. Next year’s Seminar will be held in New York City to commemorate the 350th anniversary of Nieuw Amsterdam’s municipal charter.

News from the FNN

The annual dinner following the Rensselaerwijck Seminar was hosted this year by the Albany Institute of History and Art in cooperation with the Friends of New Netherland. This event was also held in conjunction with the opening of the Institute’s exhibit “Matters of Taste,” of which FNN member Peter Rose is co-curator. Over 100 persons were treated to a sumptuous dinner with wine donated by Tibbitts Associates and beer donated by the Brewery Omegang in Cooperstown, NY. His Excellency Joris Vos, Ambassador of the Netherlands to the United States and Matthew Bender IV were honored guests at the event.

In December, 2001 John Van Schaick, President of the Friends of New Netherland (FNN) appointed a Long Range Planning Committee. Members of the Committee included Marilyn Douglas, Chair, John Van Schaick (ex officio), William Crotty, Anneke Bull, Dr. Charles Gehring, Hubert de Leeuw, William (Chip) Reynolds, Janny Venema, and Dr. Theodore Wright. The purpose of the Committee was to develop a plan with some achievable goals and a conceptual framework to guide the work of the Friends over the next three to five years. Marilyn

Douglas, chair, presented the Committee’s report Long Range Plan for the Friends of New Netherland, 2002–2007 which was accepted by the Board at their September 14th meeting.

In brief, present and future activities of the New Netherland Project will consist of translation and copy preparation called for in the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) grant that provides matching funds for the New Netherland Project. Activities of the Friends of New Netherland will be fundraising and membership. All other functions of the Project and the Friends would become functions of a new body called the **New Netherland Institute**. The Institute will be an unincorporated subsidiary of the Friends. The Friends have filed the necessary paperwork to begin doing business as the New Netherland Institute. Charles Gehring will serve as Executive Director of the Institute and John van Schaick will serve as Executive Secretary.

More information on proposed activities of the Institute will be provided at the Annual Meeting to be held in Schenectady on Saturday, January 18th or 25th depending on availability of the location. Members will receive copies of the Long Range Plan for the Friends of New Netherland, 2002 -2007 and details of the Annual General Meeting in their December membership renewal mailing. The Long Range Plan for the Friends of New Netherland, 2002–2007 will also be posted to the Friends of New Netherland web site. The next meeting of the Board of Trustees of the

Friends of New Netherland will be held on December 14th at 10:30 am. Members are cordially invited to attend.

Books

Calvinism and Religious Toleration in the Dutch Golden Age by R. Po-chia Hsia and Henk van Nierop, eds., Cambridge University Press. This collection contains essays by leading historians from the U.K., the U.S. and the Netherlands, including “Religious Toleration in the United Provinces: from ‘case’ to ‘model’” by Willem Frijhoff.

Embodied Belief. Ten essays on religious culture in Dutch history written over the years by Willem Frijhoff. The collection is first volume in the new series “ReLiC. Studies in Dutch Religious History.” The book can be purchased directly from Uitgeverij Verloren at www.verloren.nl/. See News for more information on ReLiC.

Looking for a holiday gift that will do justice to anyone’s coffee table? I strongly recommend *Dutch Colonial Homes in America*. This beautiful publication by Rizzoli is the collaborative effort of Geoffrey Gross and Roderic Blackburn. Gross’s stunning color photographs of interiors and exteriors of surviving Dutch homes from the colonial period are accompanied by Blackburn’s informative, intelligent, and thoughtful text. Never has the tension between form and function been better illustrated. If you plan to order a copy through Amazon, you may [order it online now](#) or later at www.nnp.org/.

Websites

www.zaanseschans.nl/ is the website of the Zaanse Schans in

the Netherlands. The “Zaanse Schans” is an open air museum on the River Zaan with wooden houses and windmills dating from

the seventeenth and eighteenth century.

Totidem Verbis

Following is the conclusion of Tom Vanderveldt's article entitled “One Australian History!” begun in the last issue. The author can be contacted at: tjv@riobay.com.au/.

After the Dutch formally annexed the western half of New Guinea in 1828, Britain annexed New Holland in 1829. On the 2nd of May, 1829, “James Stirling founded a fort at the mouth of the Swan River, on the orders of the British Government, which had decided a few months earlier to occupy the entire continent to the west of New South Wales. On 18 June of that year the territory was officially entitled ‘Western Australia’. The name of New Holland gradually disappeared from maps and charts.” [From *The Netherlands and Australia - 200 years of Friendship*. Otto Cramwinckel. Published in 1988 by the Dutch Government.]

To make matters worse, a British naval officer arrived in 1829 in the East Indies to buy provisions for the settlement at Perth. They reluctantly agreed as “to refuse the request on the grounds of its minor significance, would offend the applicant and be beneath the dignity of the Netherlands Government.” [*The Netherlands and Australia*. p. 28]

The Dutch were further disappointed in the British with their refusal to help King William I in his bid to keep the southern and northern Netherlands united as had been decided in 1814 urged mainly by Britain at the Congress of Vienna. This forced the Dutch to bear the cost of mobilising a large army for many years until an agreement was finally made in 1830.

Once the agreement was settled on 1830, the Dutch could now offer greater resources and concentration to the East Indies. The British responded to what was possibly a potential threat by operating an embargo on Dutch ships.

In 1838, “the Government Gazette in Sydney published an order by the Govern-

nor of New South Wales prohibiting trade between the colony and the Dutch East Indies.” [*The Netherlands and Australia*. Otto Cramwinckel] The Dutch East Indies Council advised their own Government not to be provoked as they saw very little profit in any trade with Australia. However, trade did resume in 1842.

This gives rise to further questions : When did New Holland become British? Why did the British annex New Holland from the Dutch?

On the 2nd May, 1829, the entire Australian continent came under British rule when James Stirling annexed New Holland to the British Empire. A visitor would think that such a significant date in our history would be as well known as 1770, 1788 or even 1901, the date of Federation, when we became a nation. But like, 1606, it is whispered quietly and, if at all, only briefly as the date when New Holland became a British colony.

Much is written about the ambitious scheme to form a new, convict free colony advocated by Thomas Peel. The political significance is almost completely disregarded. As a result the myth that the entire continent became a British colony in 1788, or worse still, 1770, has continued.

How did the Dutch react? The Dutch were very much preoccupied with trying to hold onto Belgium. They could ill afford to send ships to defend New Holland or establish a settlement. In 1830, when the Belgium question was solved, the British had placed an embargo on all Dutch shipping into Australia. Why did they choose 1830? Was it a mere coincidence that the British had just taken New Holland from a close European ally? One could be forgiven for thinking that the

British wished to keep the Dutch away from what was once a Dutch possession. An embargo is a very hostile act certainly not used against allies. It is little wonder that historians have not shouted and celebrated from the rooftops the final annexation of New Holland. It was not a proud moment in our history to steal half a continent from your close friends. There was no discussion, no agreement signed, grand announcement - nothing except an embargo on Dutch shipping. Instead a new myth had to be created: the Dutch were not interested in Australia after the discoveries made by Tasman in 1642. The British were forced to annex New Holland to stop it falling into the hands of the French.

The end result is firmly established now. Australia became part of the British Empire, by fair means or foul!?

As Australians - one and all - we can demand that “The Captain Cook Myth” is done away with for Australian History is “our” history and should therefore not be an extension of the British Empire exploits. I have a great admiration for James Cook, not only because of his explorations but most of all his integrity and attention to detail. Australians are no longer just descendants of Britain but descendants from everywhere. The end of the millennium seems a good time to set the record straight that Australia was discovered by charting the coast at Cape York Peninsula and the “Duyfken” is truly our Santa Maria and its captain Willem Janszoon our Columbus. Australian history started in 1606 and not in 1770.

[Acknowledgement to Henry van Zanden - Author, for making some historical research available.]