

De Nieuw Niderlansche Mercurius

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“De Nieuw Niderlansche Mercurius”

Sept. 2017

Events of Interest

Through September 17. “An Inner World,” is an exhibition at the Clark Art Institute in Williamstown, MA supported as part of the Dutch Culture USA program by the Consulate General of the Netherlands in New York. Genre painting—scenes depicting everyday life—flourished in the Dutch Republic in the seventeenth century. The style of *fijnschilderijen* (or fine painting: highly detailed, naturalistic paintings rendered with an extraordinary precision of brushstrokes) became particularly popular in the university city of Leiden as a result of the artistic innovations developed by the painter Gerrit Dou (1613–1675). Dou’s small-scale, finely executed genre scenes, which often feature a single figure leaning out over a stone window ledge, display a splendid degree of illusion in the depiction of space, light, and material surfaces. The exquisite character of these works, taken together with their possible symbolic or moralizing meaning, encourages close study by viewers.

For more information go to:
www.clarkart.edu.

September 22 & 23, 2017. In celebration of the 100th anniversary of women’s suffrage in New York State, NNI’s 40th Annual Conference will convene in Albany at the New York State Cultural Education Center’s Huxley Theater, where eleven speakers will

explore the important role of women in the development of New Netherland and early New York. The program will feature talks by the following participants:

Susanah Romney, “Housewives and Businesswomen: Changing How We Think about Dutch Women in the Atlantic World”;

Ruth Piwonka, “Female Traders: Obscured, Unexpected”;

Artyom Anikin, “The Short History of Witch Trials in Colonial New York”;

Peter G. Rose, “Ms. Cookbooks as Documents of Social and Family History”;

Dirk Mouw, “Women and the Dutch Reformed Church in North America: What We Can Learn from Congregational Records”;

Lana Holden, “Catalina Trico: A Reflection of New Netherland”;

Bill Greer, “Who Wears the Trousers? Dutch Folk Tradition and the Battle of the Sexes in New Netherland”;

David William Voorhees, “Women in Leisler’s Rebellion”;

Julie van den Hout, “Mary Doughty van der Donck: This Preacher’s Daughter was no Shrinking Violet”;

Kate Lynch, “She Removed to the Dutch Against the Advice of Her Friends’: Lady Deborah Moody and New Netherland’s Dissident Women”;

Karen Hess, “A Sketch of a Portrait: Ariaantje Coeymans, Dutch Colonial Dame.”

In addition to the conference, we will host our annual dinner on

Friday night at 7pm (cocktail hour at 6pm) at the Hampton Inn in downtown Albany. The dinner will feature a talk by historical artist Len Tantillo titled “Dutch Influences on the Hudson” as well as the presentation of this year’s Hendricks Award and the Clague & Carol Van Slyke Article Prize. The meal will be a *rijsttafel* prepared by Yono’s Restaurant.

Following the close of the conference on Saturday. We have also arranged for “Women of New Netherland” tours at Crailo State Historic Site. Visit our website to sign up. See tour description below.

Until October 28, 2017. Crailo State Historic Site offers a “Women of New Netherland” tour. Using museum collections, artifacts, and historically recreated spaces, the tour tells the stories of the Dutch, Native American, and African women who called the Hudson River Valley home. Visitors will learn about women’s everyday lives, their roles in the development of the trading colony of New Netherland, as well as the challenges Dutch women faced after the English takeover of New Netherland. The tour also features a first-person interpreter. This “person from the past” will allow the visitor to step back in time and listen to a woman discuss her life—the mundane issues of running a household, the latest gossip and news, the domestic delights, tragedies, and annoyances

of a Dutch colonial woman at the end of the 17th century. Tours are \$5.00 adults/ \$4.00 seniors; children 12 and under are free. The tour is offered on Saturdays, except for September 16.

November 13, 2017. Russell Shorto, acclaimed author of *The Island at the Center of the World*, will lecture at the Huxley Theater in the Cultural Education Center on his new book *Revolution Song: A Story of American Freedom*. Shorto's latest book will be released by W.W. Norton & Co. on November 7, making it available for purchase and signature following the lecture. The event is a collaboration of the New York State Writers Institute and the NYS Office of Cultural Education.

Requiescat in Pace

It is with great regret that the New Netherland Institute and the New Netherland Research Center announce the passing of Dr. Leo Hershkowitz on August 10th.

David Voorhees has noted the significance of his contributions best in a recent email posting: "A much beloved history professor at Queens College of The City University of New York, he is author and editor of, among many works, *The Lee Max Friedman Collection of American Jewish Colonial Correspondence: Letters of the Franks Family, 1733-1748* (1968), *Tweed's New York: Another Look* (1978), and *Courts and Law in Early New York: Selected Essays* (1978) as well as numerous essays on New Netherland and early New York.

"Dr. Hershkowitz was instrumental in saving many early New Amsterdam and New Netherland records when New York City and other communities were in the process of disposing them. He was also instrumental in getting official recognition for the Dutch period in New York City history

when, with New York City Council President Paul O'Dwyer, he presented a bill to change the year on New York City's official flag and seal from 1664, the year the Dutch surrendered New Netherland to the English, to 1625, the year of the founding of New Amsterdam. It is with Dr. Hershkowitz that the modern period of New Netherland studies truly begins. In recognition of his many efforts on behalf of preserving the Dutch origins of New York, The Holland Society of New York made him a Fellow of the Society in 2014." RIP, Leo.

Websites of Interest

It wasn't that long ago when translations by O'Callaghan and Fernow were being scanned and made available on CDs for a price. Now there are many websites offering free access to sources relating to the colonial history of New Netherland and New York. One such site is "New Netherland & Beyond." Go to: bit.ly/2v1YQHI

For a website devoted to the role played by the Dutch in Western Australia, go to: indigitrax.org.au. Tom Vanderveldt, the founder of the organization, has been persisting for years to give voice to the neglected story of the Dutch in the early history of Australia. Sound familiar?

Although the following websites have appeared in previous issues, it may be worth revisiting them: "The World of Peter Stuyvesant: Digitisation for Education and Research." bit.ly/2vM6t5E. "The Life & Voyages of Henry Hudson: English explorer & navigator." bit.ly/2vly4Wf

News

The Spring 2017 issue of *de Halve Maen* has just been published. As a reminder, the journal is now

published digitally with an option to receive a printed copy by request. The Spring 2017 issue can be read at www.hollandsociety.org or at ISSUU, the online publisher.

With technological advances increasing the efficiency and reducing the cost of information sharing, NNI is *considering* offering the Mercurius exclusively in electronic form, sent directly to your inbox and posted on our website each quarter. Please email your thoughts to nni@newnetherlandinstitute.org or call 518-486-4815. Please leave a voicemail if no answer.

Publications

Verre forten, Vreemde kusten: Nederlandse verdedigingswerken overzee, or, "Distant Forts, Foreign Coasts: Dutch Defensive Works Overseas," edited by Kees Ampt, Ad Littel, and Edwin Paar, is an extensive collection of articles (412 pages with numerous illustrations) recording the histories of VOC and WIC forts from Asia to the Americas. All articles are in Dutch with the exception of Paul Huey's article, "Colonial Dutch Forts in New Netherland."

For an abstract and TOC, go to: www.sidestone.com. Publication date is Sept. 15, 2017. ISBN: 9789088904493. Hardback €34.95; pre-order €29.95. *PayPal* is available.

NNI News

The New Netherland Research Center (NNRC) is offering a joint Student Scholar Research Grant with the Fulbright Center of Amsterdam, the Netherlands. The application must include an invitation to apply from the Director of the New Netherland Research Center. Application for this grant is due the first of November.

The New Netherland Research Center provides a grant of \$ 3,000 for research, which is intended to defray the cost of a three-month residence at the NNRC, with the research taking place at the NNRC itself, the New York State Library and the New York State Archives in Albany, New York. The research must take place in the field of New Netherland history and the Dutch Atlantic World, using the Records of New Netherland. Genealogical research is excluded. In addition, the Fulbright Center stipulates that candidates must have Dutch nationality, but not dual (Dutch and American) citizenship, not be presently residing in the US or having resided there within the past few years, and must return to the Netherlands at the end of the student residency. Application details can be found at: bit.ly/1lnX8YZ

The Dutch American Group (DAG) launches DAGNN-L, an email list which includes Dutch-related historical societies, family associations, institutions, organizations, and other groups representing some relationship with the Dutch in America and its legacy. The list brings these organizations together to share information about their work, to collaborate on projects, and to assist each other in promotion and communication. About sixty organizations have been identified and invited to join the list.

We formed the Dutch American Group to give all known Dutch historical societies, institutions, and organizations the opportunity to share their historical records and learn from each other the phenomenal stories about the Dutch in the formation of American society and the building blocks of Church and State. We also want to share our historical research about the Low Dutch who originally migrated to New Amsterdam and then to New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and onward to Kentucky.

Often, we recognize that one organization doesn't know what the other is doing: conflicting dates occur; new information is disseminated unevenly; existence of programs and holdings are only known locally; unneeded duplication of resources and events occurs; assistance is unreachable or unknown; etc. In other words, where weaknesses occur, there could be strength in unity or *Eendracht maakt macht*. In addition to our information list, we also have a DAG Facebook page to which members can post events, requests, current research projects, etc.

DAG will meet periodically online or via conference call to exchange information and air problems. Every two years, a face-to-face meeting at a central location may be held at which a speaker or speakers could address DAG on a topic of mutual concern or interest. Results of these meetings will go out to the constituent members via their own newsletters, mailings, or posted online as a video or document.

This is an exciting venture that will strengthen all of us as we work together in stimulating cooperation, interest in, and research about the Dutch in America, together with their contributions to our history and culture.

The DAG Steering Committee includes Michael Vande Woude, Chair, New Netherland Institute Trustee; Russell Gassero, Archivist, Reformed Church of America; Charles Gehring, Director, New Netherland Research Center; Dirk Mouw, Historian; Marilyn Douglas, New Netherland Institute VP). If your historical society, institute, or organization would like to become a member of DAG please email Dirk Mouw at dirk.mouw@earthlink.net, or Marilyn Douglas at marilyn.douglas@nysed.gov. Please indicate the organization that you are representing. Remember that DAG is for organizations only, not individuals.

NewMarc-L reaches 1500 subscribers

Our information list is a source for New Netherland related events, activities, conferences, research, etc. that occur outside the quarterly timeframe of the *De Nieu Nederlanse Mercurius* newsletter. The work of the New Netherland Research Center is sustained by your support and membership and we encourage you to become a member of the Institute. To subscribe using our online form, go to: bit.ly/2xKkkel. If you have an information item that you would like posted to the list, please email Marilyn Douglas at: marilyn.douglas@nysed.gov

Based on the many responses we received to a NEWMARC-L request, "Does anyone know of a list of resources for pursuing family genealogy in the Netherlands?" a small trustee committee is gathering the information together to create a web page for our site which will provide links to a variety of resources for pursuing family genealogy in the Netherlands.

Like all non-profits, The New Netherland Institute depends upon the generosity of its members and friends for financial support in order to continue to advance knowledge of the role of the Dutch in the Atlantic world. While annual gifts are always most welcome, there are several other ways to support NNI. For example, consider naming NNI as a beneficiary of your estate. This can be accomplished by a bequest in your will or a directive to your trustee wherein you donate cash or stocks to NNI as either a percentage of the whole or a defined amount. Your attorney can supply the appropriate language. Or you can designate NNI as a primary or secondary beneficiary of an insurance policy or an IRA.

Totidem Verbis

The Mirror and the Treasure:
The Navigational Charts of
Lucas Janszoon Waghenaer
by Peter A. Douglas

Most dictionaries will give you only one definition of the word “waggoner,” that is, the driver of a wagon. They will also let you know that the preferred spelling is now “waggoner,” the other spelling being chiefly British. In any case, the word is fading into obsolescence as there are now few wagon drivers to be seen. A dictionary might also mention the proper noun “Waggoner,” another name for the northern constellation Auriga, the Charioteer.

The exception is the Oxford English Dictionary, which offers a second definition, saying that the word also means “a book of charts for nautical use.” With our thoughts still ruminating on horses and carts and astronomical mythology, this meaning might at first strike us as rather odd. But the OED goes on to say that the word is the anglicized form of the Dutch surname “Waghenaer,” and specifically that of Lucas Janszoon Waghenaer (c.1533-1606), a noted marine cartographer from the harbor town of Enkhuisen in the province of North Holland. This derivation at least partially explains the connection.

In the latter part of the 16th century, increasing trade within European waters led to a rising demand for accurate navigational charts that would ensure both the safety and swiftness of a nation’s commercial fleet. Ships’

officers did not rely solely on their own country’s cartographers for their sea charts, or on translations of the works of foreigners, such as Pedro de Medina’s *Arte de Navegar*, 1545. It was not unusual for skippers to make their own maps of anchorages, channels, and coastal features to help them recognize landmarks on future voyages. Sometimes these were later published or were incorporated into volumes of charts. Nautical charts were so prized that they were often taken from plundered ships along with the usual booty.

Lucas Janszoon Waghenaer, an experienced former navigation officer, produced and published in the late 16th century a series of sea charts that would come to be eponymously called “waggoners.” He was prominent in the early development of maritime cartography in the northern Netherlands, and was one of the founders and the most notable member of the North Holland School of cartography. While Amsterdam was developing into a vital commercial center, demanding and controlling the production of maps and sea charts, this major cartographic school was already flourishing in the Kop van Noord-Holland region. It specialized in small-scale charts of larger areas, including European and Atlantic Ocean coastlines. The cities of Enkhuisen, Hoorn, and Edam were important trading ports, and ideal for becoming centers of cartography that served sea-borne navigation.

Waghenaer’s long sea-going experience made him well qualified for his new

occupation. He recognized the market for mass-produced sea charts, and the publication milestone that he is known for appeared in 1584 under the title *Spieghel der Zeevaerdt* (The Mirror of Seagoing), the world’s first nautical atlas and pilot’s guide, for the first time incorporating charts in a book of sailing directions and astronomical tables. Dedicated to William I, Prince of Orange, it was one of the most important contributions to the art of navigation in Western Europe. A totally original work, it was based on Waghenaer’s own observations and practical knowledge as a pilot. It covered the area regularly sailed by Dutch ships in the coastal waters of western and northern Europe. The charts in the *Spieghel* were intended for pilots entering ports and for coastal sailing, not for ocean navigation. As well as the maps there were also coastal profiles so the skipper could recognize where he was in relation to the shore, along with notations for depth measurements, tides, shoals, and currents. While the details of the coastlines were simplified, the charts were very clear and even included landmarks such as windmills, beacons, church spires, castles, and houses visible from the sea. A particular feature of Waghenaer’s charts was the standardization of symbols for such things as safe anchorages, buoys, hidden rocks, and other dangers to navigation. The *Spieghel* was immediately popular, and ran into many editions and was translated into several languages.

[to be continued]