

# De Nieuw Nederlansche Mercurius



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"De Nieuw Nederlansche Mercurius"

August 2001

## Upcoming Events

**October 6-7, 2001.** "Conference on New York City History." As part of the "Gotham History Festival," the Gotham Center is hosting the first conference in New York, specifically about New York -- with academics, civic leaders, politicians, educators, writers and artists all converging in Midtown to cover every possible angle on the City's past. One of the Sunday sessions will present: "When New York Was New Amsterdam: Some Myths and Misunderstandings About New Netherland." For complete program information, go to <[www.gothamcenter.org](http://www.gothamcenter.org)> and click on Gotham History Festival. All events will take place at the CUNY Graduate Center, 365 Fifth Avenue at 34th Street.

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**October 11, 2001.** "The New Netherland Papers: An Archival Adventure." A lecture presented at the South Street Seaport Museum by Charles Gehring, director of the New Netherland Project, in which he describes his work and the centuries'-long journey these papers have taken through war, fire, and mishandling. Port Life Gallery, 209 Water Street, 6-8 p.m. A New York Archives Week Program.

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**October 18, 2001.** "Dutch Houses of New Netherland." A lecture presented at the South Street Seaport Museum by Harrison Frederick Meesk, author of *The Dutch and Their Houses in the Hudson Valley*, based his book about Dutch colonial domestic architecture on extensive research in the U.S. and in Holland. In this slide lecture, he discusses his findings, documents the Dutch influences on New World houses, and looks at how these buildings came to take on a new character in the New World. 6-8 p.m., Port Life Gallery, 209 Water Street.

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**October 19-21, 2001.** "New Netherland at the Millennium: the State of New World Dutch Studies." For a complete program go to our website at <[www.nnp.org](http://www.nnp.org)>. Please send all registration checks and direct all questions *re* accommodations and other local arrangements to Annette van Rooy, executive secretary of the Holland Society of New York at 122 East 58th Street, NY, NY 10022; tel: 212-758-1675; <[hollsoc@aol.com](mailto:hollsoc@aol.com)>.

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**October 24, 2001.** "Lost & Found Spaces: New Amsterdam's Town Hall." When Lehman Brothers an-

nounced in 1969 their plans to build a skyscraper in lower Manhattan, Regina Kellerman, first executive director of the NYC Landmarks Commission, negotiated for permission to conduct an archaeological dig on the site. Her actions not only established a precedent, but also yielded a trove of information about the Dutch *stadthuys* that stood on the spot in the 17th century. Kellerman talks about her findings and about the revolution in landmarking and archaeological practice she helped inspire. 6-8 p.m., South Street Seaport Museum, Port Life Gallery, 209 Water Street.

## Reunions

**September 14-16, 2001.** The Association of Blauvelt Descendants will hold its annual reunion at the Greenbush Presbyterian Church, 614 Western Highway, Blauvelt, NY. All functions will be at the Holiday Inn, 329 Route 303, Orangeburg, NY. For further information go to the website: <[www.blauvelt.org/meeting.html](http://www.blauvelt.org/meeting.html)>.

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**October 6, 2001.** The Van Voorhees Association will hold its annual reunion at the Six Mile Run Reformed Church in Franklin Park, NJ. Mike Apgar will speak about

the Voorhees family and the Civil War. Following lunch Florence Christoph will present a computerized slide show of maps and portraits. In addition there will be genealogical workshops. Contact: David R. Voorhees at 209 Lamb-

Hope Rd., Hopewell, NJ 08525; email: <[voorhees@infi.net](mailto:voorhees@infi.net)>. The meeting is open to all.

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**October 20, 2001.** David Ackerman Descendants will hold its 40th reunion at the historical Pompton

Reformed Church, 59 Hamburg Turnpike in Pompton Lakes, NJ. Get-acquainted hour begins at 9:45 a.m. For further information go to the website: <<http://ackerman-1662.rootsweb.com/>>

## FNN News

Annual Giving – Donations of private donors, corporations, organizations, foundations and institutions. We wish to recognize and thank all contributors herein listed for their steady and generous support of the New Netherland Project. This acknowledgment reflects donations from July 1st, 2000. Foundations, corporate donors, organizations and institutions appear in italics.

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We also wish to express sincere thanks to all of you who contributed valuable time in preparing for the annual dinner and seminar, and supported us with a gift or an in-kind contribution: The Consulate General of the Netherlands; William Buehl, Anneke Bull, William and Mary Jane Crotty, Shirley Dunn, George Damiano, Richard Day, Joep de Koning, Firth Fabend, Arthur Fontijn, Elizabeth Funk, Carol Hageman, Liz Lane, Frank Ligtoet, Ruth Pivonka, Jacob Schiltkamp, Martha Shattuck, Erica Stupp, Peter Ten Eyck, John van Schaick, Anna Glen Vietor, Harold Vroman, David Wanzer, Johanna Woltring.

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Finally, a very special thank you to all Friends of New Netherland for their annual membership contributions. Your continued support is vital to our mission.

## News

Congratulations to **Adriana van Zwieten**, 2001 winner of the annual Hendricks Manuscript Award for her dissertation from Temple University entitled: “‘A little land...to sow some seeds’: Real Property, Custom, and Law in the Community of New Amsterdam.” An abstract of her work can be found in the February 2001 issue of the *Mercurius*. Dr. van Zwieten will receive her award at the conference banquet on October 19th.

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Anyone with a book-length manuscript on any aspect of the Dutch colonial experience in North America is encouraged to submit it for the 2002 Hendricks Manuscript Award. The deadline is February 1, 2002. For information, please contact Henny Newhouse at the Friends of New Netherland, Box 2536 Empire State Plaza Station, Albany, NY 12220-0536; tel: 518-486-4815.

## Books

Were you wondering how long it would take for a biography of Charles R. Boxer, author of the *Dutch Seaborne Empire* and the *Dutch in Brazil*, to appear? As he only died in April of 2000 such a work seemed to be years away. Imagine my surprise to open the July 27, 2001 issue of the *Times Literary Supplement* to find a review of Dauril Alden’s biography of *Charles R. Boxer, An uncommon life: Soldier, historian,*

*teacher, collector, traveller;* 616pp. Lisbon: Fundaçao Oriente. Paperback, £30. ISBN 972 785 023 5.

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*The Missing Sixth* by Mark Graham involves yet another painting of Vermeer! Or, is it? This novel’s complex plot of murder, forgery and political intrigue can be added to the growing list of books about 17th-century painters from the Low Countries.



Lt.-Admiral Michiel Adriaensz de Ruyter  
Painting by K. Du Jardin in 1669  
Scheepvaartmuseum  
Amsterdam

## Websites

Searching for missing branches in your family tree? The following site offers an alphabetical listing of web pages devoted to families of Dutch descent. Go to <[http://members.tripod.com/~Don\\_Arnoldus/index.html](http://members.tripod.com/~Don_Arnoldus/index.html)> for “Dutch Home Pages by Familyname.”

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For a wealth of genealogical information concerning New Netherland visit “The Olive Tree” at: <<http://olivetreenealogy.com/index.shtml>>.

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For English translations of primary documents relating to the history of the Netherlands, go to <<http://library.byu.edu/~rdh/eurodocs/netherla.html>>. I’ve included this site because it contains a complete translation of 1621 charter of the West India Company.

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Recently I thought that I’d check on the progress of the construction of the replica of Lt.-Admiral de Ruyter’s flagship *De Zeven Provinciën* at the shipyard in Lelystad. As is often the case, my bookmarked web address for the *Bataviawerf* was no longer active. If you also have a “dead” address and would like to check on the ship and navigate a much-improved site, go to <[www.bataviawerf.nl](http://www.bataviawerf.nl)>.

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While on the subject of Dutch naval activity in the 17th century, if you are interested in a foundation devoted entirely to **Lt.-Admiral Michiel Adriaensz de Ruyter**, go to <[www.deruyter.org/bibliotheek\\_link\\_zeven%20provincien.html](http://www.deruyter.org/bibliotheek_link_zeven%20provincien.html)> which includes a timeline, bibliography, history, in addition to other features and links.

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For a summary of the Anglo-Dutch wars accompanied by the tune “The Drowned Lover,” go to: <[www.contemplator.com/history/dutchwar.html](http://www.contemplator.com/history/dutchwar.html)>.



## Totidem Verbis

South Seaport Museum, in addition to hosting a Sunday program in conjunction with the October Conference, will also dedicate its Fall issue of *Seaport Magazine* to the theme of New Netherland. Following is a summary of its contents:

### *SEAPORT Magazine*

Special New Netherland Issue.

Publication Date: October 15, 2001.

“Manhattan’s Dutch Past” — Although it’s been centuries since Dutch was the official language of Manhattan, evidence of a Dutch presence persists, not just in certain place names, but also in the culture of this, the most commercial of western cities, as Charles Gehring, director of the New Netherland Project, explains.

“Social Climbing” — The early development of New York City was as dramatic and as colorful as the Shakespearean tales of the Italian city states, according to historian David William Voorhees. In this article, Voorhees, editor of the *Leisler* papers at New York University, explores the rise of the New Amsterdam/New York oligarchy through the lens of the 1642 fundraising effort for the building of the Reformed Church, and the implications of the existence of this European-style oligarchy for the economic, political, and cultural life of New York City, where intra-familial disputes often exploded into the political life of the community.

“Culture Wars” — Soon after arriving in New Amsterdam in 1647, Petrus Stuyvesant, the new Director-General of New Netherland, embarked on a crusade to impose Calvinist values on the populace and, in particular, to curb the wide-

spread profanation of the Sabbath. His primary target was New Amsterdam’s ubiquitous taverns. Outraged that taverns were abetting the desecration of the holiest day in the Protestant week, Stuyvesant used his considerable power to curtail Sunday revelry at the town’s drinking places, a move that did not sit well with New Amsterdam’s diverse peoples — Dutch, English, French, German, Norwegian, Swedish, Danish, African and Native Americans — who regarded drinking and gaming as an integral part of life. In this article Joyce Goodfriend, professor of history at the University of Denver, examines the contest over the Sabbath in New Amsterdam and connects it to the broader cultural debate between Stuyvesant, who hoped to create a Calvinist community in New Amsterdam, and the diverse populations that stood in his way.

“Just Another Port of Call” — In the 17th century, New Amsterdam was one of a network of far-flung “seaports” that Netherlandish skip-pers found familiar, but that are exotic to us today: the island of Kilduyn off Lapland, the Island of the Church Burying-Ground, Goa, Dashima, and Djakarta. This essay by historian Donna Merwick, a visiting fellow at the Australian National University, based on her study of mariners’ logs, will return readers to the so-called prehistory of New Netherland and help readers view it not as the modern city

it has become, but as an expression of the skills and imagination of Dutch mariners.

“Tobacco Frenzy” — In 1662, Manhattan merchants Cornelis Steenwyck, Johannes Verbrugge, and Nicholas Varlet pursued the market in Chesapeake tobacco so aggressively that it led to the demise of one of their associates, according to historian Dennis Maika. Other merchants were also drawn into the “tobacco trading frenzy,” attracted by low commodity purchase prices, large supply, and a significant European demand. This story puts to rest old stereotypes of New Amsterdam as a sleepy, declining outpost of the Dutch West India Company and replaces it with a more accurate rendering of a vibrant local merchant community — supported by a sympathetic city government — that aggressively pursued timely trading opportunities on a regional and transatlantic scale.

Illustrations—The issue will be illustrated with photographs of Dutch colonial materials from our archaeology collection. Artifacts, chosen for their relevance to the article being illustrated, will be interpreted by the museum’s archaeology curator, Diane Dallal, in short sidebars.

Membership in the South Street Seaport Museum includes a subscription to *Seaport*: Individual \$40, Dual/Family \$60. Contact: 207 Front St., NY, NY 10038; tel.: 212-748-8600.