

De Nieuw Nederlans Mercurius

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“De Nieuw Nederlans Mercurius”

October 2006

Events

September 16, 2006–January 10, 2007. The Bruce Museum in Greenwich, Connecticut, presents an exhibition of works by Jan van der Heyden (1637–1712), the greatest painter of cityscapes in the Golden Age of Dutch painting. The exhibition is the first monographic exhibition of Jan van der Heyden’s art to be mounted in seventy years and the first show ever in the United States. The exhibition will have its only showing in the United States at the Bruce Museum. It will then travel in a slightly abridged form to the renowned Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, the foremost museum of Dutch art in the world (February 1, 2007–April 30, 2007). Go to: www.bruce-museum.com for further information.

October 21, 2006. The New Netherland Institute will sponsor a membership meeting and program at Siena College, Sarazen 243 (Student Union Building) on Saturday, **beginning** at 10:00 am. Parking is available in Lots G and H (Directions at www.siena.edu/directions.asp) Registration will begin at 9:30 and coffee, tea, and pastries will be available. At the membership meeting, we will provide an update on current activ-

ities of the Institute and describe our plans for the quadricentennial celebrations in 2009. Following the meeting, Charles Gehring, director of the New Netherland Project, Janny Venema, associate director, and Martha Shattuck, editor and researcher will talk about their work transcribing, translating, editing, and researching information found in the official 17th-century Dutch colonial documents of New York. More information about the program can be found on our web site at: www.nnp.org

Publications

The editor apologizes to Donna Merwick for omitting her name in the last newsletter as author of the new publication *The Shame and the Sorrow*.

The latest contribution to the documentary history of the South River region of New Netherland has appeared in print. Volumes 1 & 2 of the “Gloria Dei Records Project” represents the culmination of over one hundred years of research into the colonial records of Pennsylvania’s Old Swedes churches. This project was recommended by Rev. David B. Rivers, now retired but for many years

pastor of Gloria Dei Church. With his invaluable assistance, grants necessary to translate the many Swedish documents at Gloria Dei and in various archives in Sweden were secured from a number of foundations and individuals, all of which are gratefully acknowledged. Peter Stebbins Craig is the editor as well as historian and genealogist for the Swedish Colonial Society; translation of the Swedish records at Gloria Dei was the responsibility of Rev. Kim-Eric Williams, who serves as assistant editor and is currently governor of the Swedish Colonial Society.

Colonial Records of the Swedish Churches in Pennsylvania, volumes 1 & 2 are available through the church office; \$25 each (s/h add \$5) For further information call the office at: 215–389–1513 or visit: www.old-swedes.com.

Looking for a one-volume history of the Low Countries in English? Berghahn Books has announced the publication of a new paperback edition of *History of the Low Countries*, edited by J.C.H. Blom and E. Lamberts. According to History: Review of New Books: “This remarkable book is the first single volume history available in English of the region from the

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Roman times to the present...It successfully integrates recent scholarship [and] is well written throughout...generously supplied with well-chosen maps, and illustrations...it will appeal to general readers as well as scholars interested in this important region.” Order direct from the publisher: 800–540–8663; orders@berghahnbooks.com

“New York Was Always a Global City: The Impact of World Trade on Seventeenth-Century New Amsterdam” by Dennis Maika, in *OAH Magazine of History*; April 2004, vol. 18 issue 3, pp. 43–45. New York has always been a “global” city if people employ that adjective the way it is presently being used. “Global” suggests a connection to a wider world; “globalization” is offered to characterize one’s current “interconnected system.” But the world’s interconnectedness is not a new phenomenon. The “world that trade created” has existed for centuries. An awareness of a unique type or degree of globalization before the post Cold War era opens up new opportunities for teaching American history, and offers to teachers and students new ways to consider current issues using the historical past. This new view is especially relevant to the colonial period in American history and to the history of New York in particular. From its earliest beginnings as Dutch New Amsterdam, New York’s involvement in global commerce had an impact on the people who lived and worked in the city.

News

CHARLOTTE WILCOXEN

1905–2006

It is with extreme sadness that we announce the death of Charlotte Wilcoxen, a good friend of the New Netherland Institute and a good friend to many of us associated with both the NNP and NNI over the years. Charlotte died in Albany on August 27, 2006, at the age of 101. Visit our website for a complete obituary.

PETER J. PAULSON

1928–2006

It is also with extreme sadness that we announce the death of Peter Paulson, former director of the NYSL and supporter of the New Netherland Project from its inception in 1974. He held the offices of president and treasurer of the Friends of New Netherland. Peter died in Albany on September 29, 2006 at the age of 78. Visit our website for a complete obituary.

An *Associated Press* article has been appearing in various publications, claiming that the Dutch are now the tallest people on earth: “In the last 150 years, the Dutch have become the tallest people on Earth—and experts say they’re still getting bigger. With their protein-rich diet and a national health service that pampers infants, the Dutch are standing taller than ever. The average Dutchman stands just over 6 feet, while women average nearly 5-foot-7. The Dutch were not noted for their height until recently. It was only in the 1950s that they passed the Americans, who stood tallest for most of the last 200 years, said John Komlos, a leading

expert on the subject who is professor of economic history at the University of Munich in Germany. He said the United States has now fallen behind Denmark.” The article caught the editor’s eye because of the following diary entry made by a Portuguese soldier in 1638 after an unsuccessful Dutch assault on Bahia in Brazil: “We counted their dead when we handed them over— 327 of the finest-looking men who ever were seen; they looked like giants and they were undoubtedly the flower of the Dutch soldiery.” Could it be that the Dutch were also among the tallest people 400 years ago?

News from the NNI

Research Residencies for 2007

APPLY NOW!

Quinn–NYS Library: Through generous support from the Doris Quinn Foundation, the New Netherland Institute (www.nnp.org) and the New York State Library will make a special Cunningham grant of \$2500 in 2007 for specialized research in Dutch-related documents and printed materials at the New York State Library. Researchers interested in the history of New Netherland and the Dutch Colonial Atlantic world are encouraged to apply for these funds. More information and an online application can be found at: unix2.nysed.gov/library/researchres.htm

Quinn–NYS Archives: With the generous support of the Doris Quinn Foundation, the New Netherland Institute www.nnp.org at the New York State Library and the New York State Archives have joined forces to offer a research

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residency to facilitate research on New Netherland and on the Dutch Colonial Atlantic World. The holder of this research residency will spend up to a year in Albany, New York, working in the rich collections of the New Netherland Institute and the New York State Archives. More information can be found at: www.nysarchivestrust.org/apt/hackman/

Bequests

The future of the New Netherland Institute lies with the generosity of its members and friends. In addition to your dues and your response to the annual appeal, please consider a bequest to the organization by adding a codicil to your will identifying a particular asset or providing a specific sum designated for NNI. Other options can also be selected. If you would like to discuss any of these opportunities, please call Jim Sefcik, Associate for Development, at 518-783-4251, 518-473-7209, or 518-374-2747.

New Netherland Primer

The NNI is planning a short bibliography of 10-12 titles on New Netherland for those who have little or no knowledge of the subject. We'd like your help in choosing the books and/or articles that you think should be part of an introductory list of titles on the subject. The titles should be suitable for a general audience and easily accessible. Please send your suggested list to Marilyn Douglas at mdouglas@mail.nysed.gov by November 6th. We will publish the list of titles in a future issue of the Marcurius and also make it available on our web site.

Annual Giving — Donations of private donors, corporations, organizations, foundations, and institutions. We would like to extend our gratitude to all supporters who have generously contributed to the NNI. The following list recognizes your gifts received between July 1st, 2005 and June 30th, 2006. Foundations, corporate donors, organizations, and institutions appear in italics.

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Totidem Verbis

Volunteers generally offer their services to the NNI to help with the translation work. However, recently Carl Pegels of Buffalo proposed something unique. He offered his biographies of Dutch-Americans for posting on the NNI website. Following is a sample of his project, which will appear soon on www.nnp.org.

Frederick Theodore Frelinghuysen, 1817–1885

Frelinghuysen was the third U.S. Senator in the Frelinghuysen political and governmental family dynasty. He was the son of Frederick Frelinghuysen [1788–1820] and Mary Dumont. Upon the death of his father, when he was only three years old, his uncle Theodore Frelinghuysen [1787–1862], the future U.S. Senator, adopted him. Frederick T. Frelinghuysen was also the grandson of Frederick Frelinghuysen, the first U.S. Senator in the Frelinghuysen political dynasty. His grandfather was not only a U.S. Senator but also fought in the Revolutionary War as a Colonel, and later became a Major General, and was a framer of the U.S. Constitution.

Frederick T. Frelinghuysen attended and graduated from Rutgers College, New Brunswick, New Jersey in 1836. He studied law under his uncle in Newark, New Jersey, was admitted to the New Jersey bar in 1839 and commenced law practice in Newark, New Jersey. He became the Newark City Attorney in 1849, and a Newark, New Jersey City Council Member in 1850. From 1861 to 1866 he served as Attorney General of New Jersey. In 1866 he was appointed by the Governor of New Jersey, a Republican, to fill the vacant U. S. Senate seat. He was elected to fill the remaining time in the seat in the following

year and served until 1869 when he was unable to get reelected. In 1871 he ran again for the U.S. Senate and was elected for a full term. He then served in the U.S. Senate from 1871 to 1877.

In addition to the above governmental and political activities he was engaged in a number of other related governmental activities. In 1871 he was nominated by President Ulysses S. Grant, and confirmed by the Senate to serve as U.S. Minister to England, but for some unknown reason he declined the appointment. During his period in the U.S. Senate from 1871 to 1877 he was chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs during the Alabama Claims negotiations. He was also a strong opponent of the Reconstruction measures of President Andrew Johnson. He voted for President Andrew Johnson's conviction at the impeachment trial. And he was a member of the Electoral Commission that decided the 1876 Presidential election. As a Republican he voted with the eight-member majority on all counts. And finally, at the end of 1881 he was appointed U.S. Secretary of State by President Chester A. Arthur to succeed James G. Blaine, and served until the inauguration of President Grover Cleveland in 1885.

Frederick Theodore Frelinghuysen married Matilda Elizabeth Griswold and the couple had sever-

al children including George Griswold Frelinghuysen whose summer estate is now the Frelinghuysen Arboretum [in Morristown, NJ]. Frederick T. Frelinghuysen is also the uncle of U.S. Senator Joseph Sherman Frelinghuysen [1869–1948], the cousin, several times removed, of U.S. Representative Peter Hood Ballentine Frelinghuysen [1916] and the cousin, several times removed, of U.S. Representative Rodney P. Frelinghuysen [1946].

In addition to his political, governmental and legal activities Frederick T. Frelinghuysen also served on the Board of Trustees of Rutgers College from 1851 to 1885, the year of his death. A dormitory at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey is named after him.

Shortly after the end of his position as U.S. Secretary of State, and after his return to his home in Newark, New Jersey, Frederick Theodore Frelinghuysen passed away, in 1885, at the age of 68. He was interred at Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Newark, New Jersey.

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