

De Nieuw Nederlansche Mercurius



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Events of interest

January 15, 2011. The Schenectady County Historical Society at 32 Washington Avenue will present a lecture by Shirley W. Dunn. The 2 pm lecture will be based on her latest book, “The River Indians: Mohicans Making History.” A major part of the talk will be about Arent Van Curler’s close connections with Mohicans living around Beverwijck, connections made through a village, his farm at the Flatts and various purchases of Mohican land. Also included will be details of Mohican sales to the Dutch along the Mohawk River which indicate that the site of Schenectady, as well as the Cohoes Falls, were in Mohican territory prior to a Mohican concession to the Mohawks in 1629. Refreshments at 1:30 pm will precede the talk.

Until January 17, 2011. The Metropolitan Museum of Art continues its exhibit “Man, Myth, and Sensual Pleasures: Jan Gossart’s Renaissance.” The first major exhibition in forty-five years devoted to the Burgundian Netherlandish artist Jan Gossart

(ca.1478–1532) brings together Gossart’s paintings, drawings, and prints and places them in the context of the art and artists that influenced his transformation from Late Gothic Mannerism to the new Renaissance mode. Gossart was among the first northern artists to travel to Rome to make copies after antique sculpture and introduce historical and mythological subjects with erotic nude figures into the mainstream of northern painting. Most often credited with successfully assimilating Italian Renaissance style into northern European art of the early sixteenth century, he is the pivotal Old Master who changed the course of Flemish art from the medieval craft tradition of its founder, Jan van Eyck (ca. 1380/90–1441), and charted new territory that eventually led to the great age of Peter Paul Rubens (1577–1640).

Special Exhibition Galleries, 2nd floor. Go to: metmuseum.org for further information.

Publications

Kiliaen van Rensselaer (1586–1643): Designing a New World by Janny Venema, assistant director of the NNRC. During the early 1600s, as the Republic of the Seven United

Provinces was locked in a war with Spain that would last for eighty years, thousands of immigrants came to Amsterdam and greatly influenced the development of the Republic. Among them was Kiliaen van Rensselaer, a young man from a small eastern town on the war front. Young Kiliaen quickly became part of the culture of this rapidly developing city, where he was trained as a jeweler and merchant by wealthy relatives. He would work within this family network for the rest of his life, to great success. As one of the founding directors of the Dutch West India Company, he was instrumental in the establishment of the New Netherland colony on the East Coast of North America, becoming one of its first patroons. Although he never actually set foot in the New World, his patroonship, Rensselaerswijck, encompassed much of what is now New York State’s Capital District and survived as a legal entity up until the 1840s. In this engrossing biography, Janny Venema examines the time in which Kiliaen van Rensselaer lived, his surroundings, the rapidly expanding city of Amsterdam, the great trading companies, the jewelry business, and the people in his network.

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Along the way, she explores his motivations and the powerful role he played in helping to establish a Dutch presence in the New World.

Go to: www.sunypress.edu for ordering information.

William and Mary Quarterly. Third series, vol. LXVII, no. 4, October 2010 “The Merchant, the Map, and Empire: Augustine Herrman’s Chesapeake and Interimperial Trade, 1644–73” by Christian J. Koot. New Netherland and Maryland mapmaker and merchant Augustine Herrman has been previously studied either for the map he produced “Virginia and Maryland As it is Planted and Inhabited (1673)” or for his experiences as a trader. Examining these two intertwined aspects of Herrman’s life simultaneously reveals the colonial meanings of his map and the transimperial vision that produced it. Most scholarship on early modern cartography has focused on maps as objects of imperial control. But in the same manner that empire builders resorted to maps to understand the relationships between their colonies, visually analyzing Herrman’s map enables modern scholars to see that, even as empires divided the region, many colonists imagined the mid-seventeenth-century Atlantic as a unified whole. Inscribed in “Virginia and Maryland As it is Planted and Inhabited” was the colonial idea of a linked multinational world, a view that shaped not only the map but also the empire it represented.

In the same issue of *W&MQ* in the book review section: “After the Half Moon: New Approaches to the Study of Henry Hudson and the Hudson River Valley,” a review essay by Thomas Wermuth, covering: *Half Moon: Henry Hudson and the Voyage that Redrew the Map of the New World* by Douglas Hunter; *Fatal Journey: The Final Expedition of Henry Hudson—A Tale of Mutiny and Murder in the Arctic* by Peter C. Mancall; *The Hudson: A History* by Tom Lewis; and *The Roots of Hudson Valley Culture* edited by Roger Panetta.

If anyone is interested in purchasing a copy of Donald Shomette’s *Raid on America: The Dutch Naval Campaign of 1672–1674*, the NNI has a half dozen copies left over from the New Netherland Seminar in September. The [book is available for \\$22](#) payable to the NNI.

NNI News

Dirk Mouw, University of Iowa PhD, is the 2010 winner of the Hendricks Manuscript Award for his dissertation “Moederkerk and Vaderland: Religion and Ethnic Identity in the Middle Colonies, 1690-1772.” The dissertation explores the “well-established stereotypes” of scholarship on the Dutch in British North America: that British ecclesiastical and colonial officials, together with the waves of Anglophones disembarking in the Middle Colonies succeeded quickly in eviscerating

Dutch religion, identity, and culture. In addition, honorable mention is given to the editors of *Dutch New York Between East and West: The World of Margrieta van Varick* for creating a magnificently designed and meticulously researched work that deftly constructs from one woman’s inventory in seventeenth-century Flatbush the entire world of Dutch colonization in the East Indies and New Netherland/New York.

Ralph DeGroff, Jr. received the 2010 Alice P. Kenney Award on behalf of the DeGroff family. Ralph DeGroff, Sr. was responsible for securing initial funding to support the New Netherland Project in 1974. Additional funding continues through the Holland Society’s Marion Wilson De Groff Fund.

The deadline for the Quinn-supported residencies and fellowship, is Jan. 28 and March 1, 2011 respectively. Go to: bit.ly/gh0ksj for application information.

As of this writing, Congress has NOT extended the legislation bypassing the income tax on Required Minimum Distributions up to \$100,000 for individuals over 70½. However, many have seen their stock and especially their bond portfolios increase this year. That presents another opportunity to support the New Netherland Institute by donating appreciated securities thereby avoiding the capital gain. If you sell the securities first, and then donate all

or part of the proceeds, you are liable for the tax on the gain. However, if you have a loss on your securities but want to make a donation to NNI, sell the stock or bond first so that you can use the loss to offset any other gains you might have accrued and then send your contribution to NNI.

Contact Jim Sefcik, NNI Associate for Development and Special Projects, at 518-374-2747 if you have any questions.

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Our September newsletter inadvertently placed member Gerald Auten in the incorrect category of "Circle of Friends." We wish to acknowledge him as a Vice-Director.

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Over the past year, the New Netherland Project has transformed itself into the New Netherland Research Center. In November, Dr. Gehring cut the ribbon on a public face for the NNRC, a dedicated reading room in the NYS Library where scholars and the public can peruse the vast collection of New Netherland materials which the Library holds.

The development of the NNRC was launched during 2009 through a three-year grant of €200,000 from the State of the Netherlands to the New Netherland Institute. The Institute has long been a key financial supporter of the Project and is now matching the contribution from the Netherlands.

With these funds, the Institute and the NYS Office of Cultural Education are broadening the scope of activities beyond the translation work Dr. Gehring and Dr. Venema have undertaken over three decades. The NNRC's activities include programs to conserve New Netherland source material and make it available online, to support scholars researching in the field and to build awareness and interest in the period through publications, public programs and teaching aids.

Projects underway include publication of the New Netherland Papers of Hans Bontemantel—a Director of the West India Company; conservation, translation and publication of the memorandum book of Anthony De Hooges, business manager of Rensselaerswijck; and update of the Guide to Dutch Manuscripts which Dr. Gehring completed 30 years ago.

Dutch historian and genealogist Eric Ruijssenaars has been selected as the NNRC's first Senior Scholar. He will be in residence during 2011 researching the world of prominent New Netherlander Abraham Staats. PhD candidates Deborah Hamer of Columbia University and Alena Buis of Queens University will be in residence as Student Scholars.

Also in November, the Office of Cultural Education hosted the conference of the Mutual Cultural Heritage Council, a program led by the Dutch National Archives to bring together countries sharing a heritage with the Netherlands over five centuries. As a leader in conserving and digitizing archival materials, OCE offers a model as

the MCH countries build an Internet portal through which their mutual heritage materials will be available.

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If you are curious about the appearance of the New Netherland Research Center at the Cultural Education Center in Albany, go to: www.dutchinamerica.com, which is featuring a front page article on the NNRC in the New York State Library, accompanied by photos of the exterior and interior.

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On 10/10/10, the Federation of the Netherlands Antilles ceased to exist. The islands of Sint Maarten and Curaçao, following the political path of Aruba in 1986, became constituent states within the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Bonaire, Saba, and Sint Eustatius, became special municipalities of the Netherlands. Curaçao and St Maarten became fully self-governing, except in matters of defense, foreign policy, and judicial and financial affairs, which will remain the responsibility of the Dutch government. There will be specific exceptions for the islands, such as the phasing in of the U.S. dollar as the official currency come January 2011 instead of the euro, and the islands can take a different standpoint on issues like abortion, euthanasia, and gay marriage. Dutch Prince Willem-Alexander and his wife, Princess Máxima, were on Curaçao to attend the ceremonies related to the transition. [eqr{ 'It qo 'f' wej kpc o g t k ec Qeqo]

Totidem Verbis

The Voyage of Pieter de Lint, 1598–1603, part three.

Now De Lint oversaw the construction of a small seaworthy bark, large enough to bring himself, his crew, and his cargo to Bantam, the trading post at the northwestern tip of Java. If such a feat seems remarkable, it was no great accomplishment for mariners of the period, who were experienced in the construction of small vessels. No doubt De Lint's crew benefited from the use of shaped planks from the wreck of their ship. The construction was probably completed between September 1601 and January 1602, and, after about eleven months in Ternate, De Lint sailed sometime that February, arriving at Bantam on April 20. This was reported by the skipper of the *Duyfken*, Willem van Westzanan upon his arrival in the Netherlands, stating that Van Noort's Under-Admiral had been lost in the Strait of Magellan more than a year before, their admiral not having the weather to search and find them.

Meanwhile, Olivier van Noort returned to the Netherlands in August 1601 with little to show for his three-year expedition. Only one of his four ships, the *Mauritius*, made it back and with a much-depleted crew. He returned with almost nothing to offer as saleable goods, just a little pepper and mace, the least of all the spices. The expedition was a financial disaster for the commander and for the company formed to outfit the

fleet. Van Noort was, however, the first Dutchman to circumnavigate the globe, and in the process brought the war against Spain to the west coast of South America and to Manila Bay. Despite the economic failure of the voyage it was an achievement that captured the imagination of his countrymen and was the inspiration for more such expeditions.

De Lint arrived at Texel on April 13, 1603. He and his remaining crew, divided among the various ships of a returning fleet and crowded into any available space, departed from Bantam on May 11, 1602, in the *Amsterdam*, *Hoorne*, *Enkhuisen*, *Zwarte*, and the *Groene Leeuw*, under the flag of Admiral Hans Schuurmans. They stayed for two months at the island of Mauritius, then on to St Helena before making landfall in the Netherlands. We can only estimate how many of the crew of the *Hendrick Frederick* survived the expedition. The crew's strength was some sixty men in the South Sea; some were lost on the voyage, and some remained in Ternate. Only thirteen clearly identifiable as crewmembers, including De Lint, are specifically named among the living.

When news of his return was known, the expedition's backers were thrilled to learn that, unlike his leader, De Lint had brought back a very rich cargo: all the cloves from Ternate that he had carried to Bantam on his newly constructed vessel. Moreover, the contracts that De Lint had negotiated with the sultan of

Ternate for future delivery of cloves continued long after his death. Shareholders of the company and their heirs filed lawsuits for reparations due to them for the abrogation of these contracts by the Dutch East India Company (founded in 1602, the States General granting it a monopoly to carry out colonial activities in Asia). Final settlement was reached in 1635 for the significant sum of 117,000 guilders, far more than the value of the few bags of pepper and mace carried home by Van Noort.

What befell De Lint after returning to his home country is not known, though we do know that he found his father in dire straits, owing money and his possessions sold at auction. We also know that De Lint's achievements have been unjustly overshadowed by those of his commander. For 400 years Van Noort has enjoyed renown for his arduous voyage, about which he took great pains to inform the world in his popular self-serving autobiographical journal. Sadly, the recognition of his second-in-command, Pieter De Lint, has not been forthcoming. De Lint's masterly seamanship, his leadership and commitment to the welfare of the men under his command, had brought him and his crew safely across the Pacific, where others before and after met with tragedy. Furthermore, his astute negotiations and unwavering commitment to the objectives of the company led to the ultimate financial success of the enterprise.

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