

De Nieu Nederlandse Mercurius



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Support the work of NNI

Our year-end fundraising appeal is off to a great start and we'd like to thank everyone who has contributed so far. If we haven't heard from you yet, we hope you will send us a check or visit our website to make a generous, tax-deductible gift toward our mission of preserving, promoting, and educating the world on New Netherland. When you donate to this campaign, you can be sure that you are helping us build a sound foundation for that work. STM

When you consider your charitable giving for 2018, please be aware that all persons over 70.5 years old who have an IRA are required to take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) each year. The amount taken is taxed as ordinary income, which is usually higher than capital gains taxes. However, one can avoid such taxes by instructing their IRA custodian (bank, brokerage house, etc.) to send a specific amount, up to \$100,000, directly to the New Netherland Institute. No tax is owed on the amount contributed and the taxes on the RMD are correspondingly reduced.

Newsletter News

We produced the first issue of *De Nieu Nederlandse Mercurius* in February 1985, and after thirty-four fruitful years, this December 2018 issue will be its last. But fret not, we at NNI/NNRC are working on a new publication that will be more content-(and less news-)oriented, which we will mail or email to NNI members, depending on your preference. For the news side of things, we will now produce a monthly, e-mailed newsletter, which will be sent out on the last Wednesday of each month. All members and recently expired members will receive the newsletter. Simply unsubscribe if you are not interested.

Events of Interest

Now until October 4, 2020 at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Dutch paintings of the seventeenth century—the Golden Age of Rembrandt, Hals, and Vermeer—have been a highlight of The Met's collection since the museum's founding purchase in 1871. This exhibition brings together some of the museum's greatest paintings to present this remarkable chapter of

art history in a new light. Through sixty-seven works of art organized thematically, *In Praise of Painting* orients visitors to key issues in seventeenth-century Dutch culture—from debates about religion and conspicuous consumption to painters' fascination with the domestic lives of women.

Now until February 28, 2019. New York City is nowhere near the small Minnesota city of Winona, but for the next five months its presence will be felt there. The exhibition *This Is New York*, which opened this week at the Minnesota Marine Art Museum, includes 15 paintings depicting the Big Apple, from its early days as a small Dutch colony to its present-day, skyscraper-filled skyline. Celebrated historical painter L.F. Tantillo's *East River Waterfront, c. 1662* portrays New Amsterdam, with its modest one-room houses, windmills, and dirt roads where Wall Street and the Brooklyn Bridge would later be built.

March 1–August 4, 2019 at New-York Historical Society. The Hudson River is more than a body of water. For centuries, the river and its environs have provided habitat for both humans and hundreds of species of fish, birds, and plants.

Writers and artists have captured the Hudson in paintings, drawings, stories, and photographs, while surveyors and scientists have mapped and measured its every parcel.

Hudson Rising explores two centuries of ecological change, artistic imagination, and environmental thinking along what one writer called, “the most interesting river in America.” This comprehensive exhibition, rich in art, artifacts, and stories, evokes beloved Hudson River landscapes and weaves together 200 years of history. Spanning the industrial era, *Hudson Rising* presents a compelling account about how the Hudson has been an incubator for our ideas about the environment and our relationships to the natural world. Curated by Marci Reaven, vice president of history exhibitions, and Jeanne Haffner, associate curator.

Publications

Amsterdam's Sephardic Merchants and the Atlantic Sugar Trade in the Seventeenth Century by Yda Schreuder surveys the role of Amsterdam's Sephardic merchants in the westward expansion of sugar production and trade in the seventeenth-century Atlantic. It offers a historical-geographic perspective, linking Amsterdam as an emerging staple market to a network of merchants of the “Portuguese Nation,” conducting trade from the Iberian Peninsula and Brazil. Examining the “Myth of the Dutch,” the “Sephardic Moment,” and the impact of the British Navigation Acts, Schreuder focuses attention on Barbados and Jamaica and demonstrates how Amsterdam remained Europe's primary sugar refining

center through most of the seventeenth century and how Sephardic merchants played a significant role in sustaining the sugar trade.

Dictionary of the Dutch Republic in the 17th century [in French] provides a full state of the art of studies on the Dutch Golden Age. The book (800 pages, more than 450 articles) includes two articles about New Netherland and Stuyvesant by Jaap Jacobs).

La traite négrière sur la baie de Loango pour la colonie du Suriname (Slave trade on the Loango coast for the colony of Surinam) by Arsène-Francoeur Nganga, who was born and lives in Brazzaville (Congo), was published in November of this year. As the book's forward by Dr. Willem Fijhoff reads, “We must be grateful to Mr. Nganga for patiently gathering the sources, testimonies and documents that allow us a fresh look at this sad part of our common history. He has drawn our gaze to the least well-known segment, the countries of origin of slaves. Contrary to the common opinion which places it on the coast of Guinea (Elmina for the Dutch that they have possessed from 1637 to 1872) Mr. Nganga shows the preponderance on the Loango Coast, in the former kingdom of Loango, much further south.”

Cornell University Press announces that, beginning in 2019, the Press will publish the century-old journal, *New York History*. Working in association with an editorial team at the New York State Museum, Cornell University Press will

expand the scope of the journal to include public history and museum studies. The first issue published under this new arrangement will appear, in both print and electronic formats, in July. Now published twice a year, the journal will present articles dealing with every aspect of New York State history, as well as reviews of books, exhibitions, and media projects with a New York focus. New York State Historian, Devin Lander, and Chief Curator of History at the New York State Museum, Jennifer Lemak, invite article submissions (NYHJ@nysed.gov) and Cornell University Press encourages current and past subscribers, both individuals and institutions, to inquire about subscriptions (nyhjournal@cornell.edu).

Web

In recent years, the study of New Netherland and the Dutch Atlantic has become attractive to a new generation of scholars. In an effort to introduce them and their new work to a wider audience, NNI would like to offer these “new stories” on our website. Most of this work has never before appeared in print. We hope you find them both interesting and informative. See the NNI website for this new feature.

The fourth episode of the podcast “A New York Minute In History” features as guests, among others, NNI's Russell Shorto and NNRC's Charles Gehring. It details Henry Hudson's exploration of what would become the Empire State and how his journey up the aptly-named Hudson River led to the Dutch settlement of New Netherland. It explores how the Dutch colony

differed from its counterparts in New England and Virginia via relative tolerance, its multi-ethnic population, and free trade. Co-hosts Devin Lander and Don Wildman also discuss the impact of Peter Stuyvesant, arguably New Netherland's most notable citizen, and that of Adriaen van der Donck, a figure largely forgotten by history. Finally, this episode explains how slavery existed in a society often celebrated for its tolerance.

NNI Grants & Awards

Applications due February 15.

NNI is pleased to offer a research grant with financial support from the estate of Charles W. Wendell. The research project must deal with the Dutch experience in North America and the Dutch Atlantic World, and is expected to result in a publishable article or a component of a larger work. Researchers in any discipline, including family history or biography, are encouraged to apply. This annual grant honors the memory of Dr. Charles W. Wendell, a valued trustee, vice-president, and president of the New Netherland Institute's board of trustees from 2000 to 2015. The grant covers a period of one week up to six months, part of which may be devoted to residency at the NNRC, and provides a stipend of \$1,000–\$5,000, depending upon the scope of the project. A time frame for fulfilling the grant requirements will be established in consultation with the director of the NNRC. No housing, travel funds, or health insurance are provided.

Submissions due February 1. The Annual Hendricks Award is given

to the best book or book-length manuscript relating to any aspect of New Netherland and the Dutch colonial experience in North America up to 1776 and its legacy. The award carries a prize of \$5,000, as well as a framed print of Len Tantillo's painting *Fort Orange and the Patroon's House*. The prize-winner, chosen by a five-member panel of scholars, is selected in May or June and the award is given at a ceremony in conjunction with our Annual Conference held in September.

Nominations due March 1. The New Netherland Institute is the recipient of an annual grant from the Alice P. Kenney Memorial Trust Fund that enables the Institute to award an annual prize of \$5,000 to an individual or group who has made a significant contribution to colonial Dutch studies and/or has encouraged understanding of the significance of the Dutch colonial experience in North America by research, teaching, writing, speaking, or in other ways. Individuals or groups to be considered for this award can be involved in any pursuit of any aspect of Dutch colonial life in North America. Emphasis is on those activities that reach a broad, popular audience in the same way that Alice P. Kenney's activities did. Candidates can be nominated by members of the New Netherland Institute, by historical organizations, or by the general public.

Save the Date(s)

May 10, 2019. NNI will hold its 2018 Annual Meeting at the University Club in Albany. Doors at 5pm; business meeting at 5:45;

lecture at 6:45. Featured speaker will be Dr. Wim Klooster, author of the 2018 Hendricks Award-winning book *The Dutch Moment: War, Trade, and Settlement in the Seventeenth-Century Atlantic World*. This talk is part of NNI's 2019 lecture series. See below.

May 30, 2019. New Netherland Family History Day. Cultural Education Center, Albany, NY. Descendants of New Netherlanders are a large and enthusiastic part of NNI's growing membership. With this in mind, we are holding a New Netherland family history/genealogy workshop for next year in Albany. The event— which will feature consultations with professional genealogists and talks on using New Netherland's records in your family research— promises to be an excellent opportunity to meet and chat with fellow descendants of New Netherlanders.

April–June 2019. NNI will host a lecture series at sites throughout New Netherland's former territory. Confirmed talks are Russell Shorto at Brooklyn Historical Society on April 16, Wim Klooster at Albany's University Club on May 10, William Starna at Mabee Farm in Rotterdam Junction, NY on May 23, and Amy Ransford at Rough Draft Bar & Books in Kingston, NY on June 12. NNI would like to thank Peter and Rose-Marie Ten Eyck for graciously agreeing to sponsor the series.

Totidem Verbis

A Veritable Bontekoe Journey
By Peter A. Douglas
(part two)



Despite Bontekoe's recent ordeal, Coen made no move to send him home. In fact he received a new command, the 700-ton *Groeningen*, and he participated reluctantly in Coen's campaign to harass the coast of China and establish a Dutch base there. Coen demanded too that China expel from Macau the Portuguese, whom the Dutch were fighting in the long Dutch-Portuguese War. The battle of Macau in June 1622 was the most decisive defeat by the Portuguese over the Dutch in the Far East, and remains the only major engagement fought between two European powers on the Chinese mainland. It was not until January 1625 that Bontekoe finally sailed for home. He traveled on the *Hollandia* in the company of two other ships, the *Gouda* and the *Middelburg*. Bontekoe being a magnet for misfortune, it should come as no surprise that this voyage was not without its problems. Storms ravaged the ships while crossing the Indian Ocean. The *Hollandia* lost her mainmast, and the *Middelburg* lost all her masts. The *Gouda* was nowhere to be seen, but a large

quantity of floating pepper indicated that she was lost. The *Hollandia* limped to Madagascar and spent three weeks undergoing repairs before resuming her voyage, arriving at Vlissingen on November 16, 1625. Bontekoe, having been away for almost seven years, was content to settle down in Hoorn as a retired skipper, to marry, and to live a quiet merchant's life.

Many years later, a local bookseller called Jan Deutel persuaded him to tell the story of his travels. Bontekoe might well have been quite forgotten had it not been for the account of his adventures that Deutel published in 1646 under the title *Journael ofte gedenckwaerdige beschrijvinge van de Oost-Indische reyse van Willem Ysbrantsz.*

Bontekoe van Hoorn, begrijpende veel wonderlijcke en gevaerlijcke saecken hem daer in wedervaren [Journal or memorable description of the East Indian voyage of Willem Bontekoe from Hoorn, including many remarkable and dangerous things that happened to him there]. In the 17th century there was a surge of travel literature, and the greatest interest was for books containing descriptions of journeys around the world or to the Indies. As the bold seafaring explorations of Europe's nations increased and colonies were established, there was a need to bring these feats and discoveries to the eager public's attention.

From its first edition, the Bontekoe book was a huge success. Deutel published a reprint the same year, and a cheaper reprint in 1648, a revised edition that marked the start of what can be called "the Bontekoe craze." His story became the most popular and enduring of the many

contemporary travel narratives, and was a true bestseller. It was reprinted thirty-eight times in the 17th century, and seventy times by 1800, and was translated into several languages. Part of the account's appeal is its earnest and direct style, and a narrative full of appealing and lively details. Also, Bontekoe himself appears honest, straightforward, and unsophisticated, without a hint of self-importance, and a person of simple religious devotion. He comes across as easygoing and congenial, doubtless a rarity among VOC captains.

The book's popularity continued through the 18th century, with increasingly cheaper editions. In the Netherlands Bontekoe's story remained popular throughout the 19th century and into the 20th, and new versions were adapted for a fresh generation of readers. In 1996, to commemorate the 350th anniversary, a new Dutch edition included a descriptive bibliography of all recorded editions, adaptations, and translations.

In 1924, the Dutch writer Johan Fabricius based his book *De Scheepsjongens van Bontekoe* [Bontekoe's Cabin Boys] on the original story. The book became a children's classic, with many editions and translations [*Java Ho!* in English]. It spawned a film in 2007, a television production, and even a comic book version. Fabricius added three fictitious cabin boys, Hajo, Padde, and Rolf, to Bontekoe's story, and statues of these celebrated boys have looked out over Hoorn harbor since 1968. How ironic that invented characters should be so celebrated and not the real hero of his own story. Ω