

De Nieu Nederlandse Mercurius

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“De Nieu Nederlandse Mercurius”

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Events of Interest

December 2, 2017. The National Maritime Historical Society presents “Early Dutch New York” at the Cortlandt Yacht Club in Montrose, NY. Historical and marine artist Len Tantillo will present on paintings of early Dutch New York, inspired by the “rivers of New Netherland” — the Hudson, the Connecticut and the Delaware. Upon these waterways hundreds of vessels carried goods and passengers, and the diversity and organic beauty of their varied designs has long been an inspiration to the artist.

Registration is at 10:30 am; lecture at 11:00. If you plan to attend, please contact NMHS at 914-737-7878, ext. 0 or via email. A \$10 donation is appreciated. After the lecture, NMHS will host its annual “Holiday Potluck Party” — please bring a favorite dish, drink or dessert that serves six to eight people and join in the fun!

December 5, 2017. The Town of New Scotland Hist. Assoc. presents, “To Serve in a Free Country: Slavery & Freedom in New Netherland and Colonial New York.” Sam Huntington, Fort Crailo’s asst. director, will discuss the history of slavery in colonial New York and the enslaved Africans’ lives, culture, and traditions. 7:30 pm at the NSHA museum in New Salem. Go to: bit.ly/2zG1J4T for details and directions.

Until Jan. 7, 2018. “Drawn to Greatness: Master Drawings from the Thaw Collection” at the Morgan Library in NYC, featuring fifteen Dutch drawings by Rembrandt, Van Gogh and Saenredam. This exhibition highlights more than 150 master drawings from the Thaw Collection, one of the world’s finest private collections containing over 400 sheets.

“Drawn to Greatness” focuses on pivotal artists and key moments in the history of draftsmanship. Works by major masters from the Renaissance to the modern era will be on view, including Mantegna, Rubens, Rembrandt, Canaletto, Piranesi, Watteau, Fragonard, Goya, Ingres, Turner, Daumier, Redon, Degas, Cézanne, Gauguin, Van Gogh, Matisse, Picasso, and Pollock. For more information, go to: www.themorgan.org.

Until Jan. 21, 2018. “Vermeer and the Masters of Genre Painting: Inspiration and Reality” at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. This landmark exhibition examines the artistic exchanges among Johannes Vermeer and his contemporaries from the mid-1650s to around 1680, when they reached the height of their technical ability and mastery of genre painting, or depictions of daily life. The introduction of quiet scenes unfolding in private household spaces and featuring elegant ladies and gentlemen was among the most striking innovations of Dutch painting of the Golden Age, a time of unparalleled

innovation and prosperity. The exhibition brings together nearly 70 works by Vermeer and his fellow painters, including Gerard ter Borch, Gerrit Dou, Pieter de Hooch, Gabriel Metsu, Frans van Mieris, Caspar Netscher, and Jan Steen, who lived in various towns throughout the Dutch Republic, from Delft and Deventer to Amsterdam and Leiden. Juxtaposing paintings related by theme, motif, and composition, the exhibition explores how these artists inspired, rivaled, surpassed, and pushed each other to greater artistic achievement. The exhibition features 10 paintings by Vermeer (many of which have not been seen in the United States since the Gallery’s 1995–1996 exhibition “Johannes Vermeer”), including *The Lacemaker* (c. 1669–1670, Musée du Louvre, Paris) and *The Love Letter* (c. 1669–1670, Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam). A fully illustrated catalog features essays by the curators and essays and entries by a team of international scholars.

For more information, including thumbnails of the paintings and videos about Vermeer et al., go to: www.nga.gov.

Until March 11, 2018. “Mapping America’s Road from Revolution to Independence” at the New-York Historical Society, showcases hand-drawn and engraved maps from the 18th and early 19th centuries that illuminate the tremendous changes—geographic, political, and economic—that occurred before, during, and just after the Revolutionary War. The exhibition features rarely displayed manuscripts and printed maps from

New-York Historical's own premier collection, including the original manuscript surveys of Robert Erskine, geographer and surveyor general of the Continental Army, and his successor Simeon De Witt. Also on display will be John Jay's personal copy of John Mitchell's Map of the British and French Dominions in North America (1755) to which hand-drawn red lines representing proposed boundaries were added during the negotiations of the Treaty of Paris, 1782–1783. This exhibition was organized by the Norman B. Leventhal Map Center at the Boston Public Library as "We Are One: Mapping America's Road from Revolution to Independence" and curated at New-York Historical by Nina Nazionale, Director of Library Operations and Curator of Printed Collections. The book, *Revolution: Mapping the Road to American Independence, 1755–1783*, is available for purchase at the NYHistory Store. For more information, go to: www.nyhistory.org.

News

Congratulations to Janny Venema for receiving a knighthood in the Order of Orange-Nassau! This award recognizes her publications and work at the New Netherland Research Center since 1984. The presentation was made by Dolph Hogewoning, Consul General of the Netherlands, at the NNI conference dinner last September.

Museum News

The New York State Museum recently announced the acquisition of over 100,000 archaeological artifacts from Fort Orange and Schuyler Flatts, documenting Dutch and early English settlement of the Albany area in the 17th century.

Archaeological excavations in the early 1970s under the direction of Dr. Paul Huey resulted in the recovery of 36,000 artifacts from

Fort Orange and over 80,000 artifacts from Schuyler Flatts. Among the thousands of artifacts recovered are everyday items such as ceramic plates, tobacco pipes, drinking glasses, firearm parts, and food remains. Trade items in the collection include glass beads, mouth harps, and other items. Together, these two collections tell the story of the first Native Americans who lived in the upper Hudson Valley for thousands of years before Europeans arrived, interaction between native people and the first Dutch colonists, the development of Fort Orange as a trading center, the establishment of Rensselaerswijck, and everyday life in 17th-century New Netherland.

The Fort Orange and Schuyler Flatts collections were transferred to the New York State Museum by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. Some of the artifacts remain on public exhibition at Crailo State Historic Site in Rensselaer, Senate House State Historic Site in Kingston, and Schuyler Mansion State Historic Site in Albany. The State Museum plans to open an exhibition featuring artifacts from the Fort Orange and Schuyler Flatts collections in 2018.

Research News

Foul play in the Caribbean?

[Contributed by Elizabeth Johnson]

Peter Minuit was hired by the Dutch West India Company as an early explorer of the Delaware River area of North America. His mission was to explore the region around the Delaware River in order to discover other resources besides furs that could be exploited for profit. In 1626 he was appointed as one of the earliest directors of the Dutch colony in North America and served in that position until his recall in 1632. He left the service of the West India Company in July of 1632 over a dispute about expenses incurred while he was running the

Dutch colony.

In 1636, Peter Minuit participated in a corporation formed by a group of Swedish and Dutch investors who wished to plant a new colony under the flag of Sweden. They chose to settle a group of colonists on the Delaware River, in order to engage in the fur trade and in fishing, whaling, and agriculture. The chosen location for the colony was at a site in the lower end of the territory claimed by the Dutch, which had not been maintained or occupied by them. Minuit founded the New Sweden colony in March 1638 on the Minquas Kil (now the Christina River) at the site of the present city of Wilmington, Delaware.

On his way back to Sweden in August 1638, Peter Minuit had sailed to the island of St. Kitts in the West Indies, where he was trading for tobacco to take back to Sweden, before picking up his second group of New Sweden settlers. He was visiting a Dutch ship captain on his ship, the *Vliegende Hart*, in the harbor at St. Kitts when a sudden hurricane arose, which drove many ships out to sea. After the storm was over, most of the ships returned to the harbor, but the *Vliegende Hart* wasn't among them. Minuit's crew waited for him for several days, searching in the harbor, but finally concluded that the *Vliegende Hart* had sunk in the storm and that Minuit had gone down with it and drowned. They returned to Sweden where they reported his death to the New Sweden authorities.

But what really happened? There is more to the story that hasn't been known until now.

Recently-discovered evidence concerning Peter Minuit's sudden disappearance can be considered in my recent article: "Whatever happened to Peter Minuit?" Read it online at: <http://bit.ly/2mfpggA>. Please send the editor of the *Mercurius* any comments, conjectures, additional clues or suspicions for publication in a future issue.

Publications

Our friend in Australia, Thomas Vanderveldt, has sent us a Christmas gift. His message and a link to the book follows:

<Dear friends,

As a Christmas present to you and as a reward for your support, I am sending you *The New Holland Story* that I have compiled over the past 18 years. Next year there is a programme that will widen the scope of the pre-history (1611 to 1829) relating to the European presence in Western Australia due to shipwreck events or simply getting lost while searching for survivors. I have chosen 'European' instead of Dutch because the crews were often of mixed nationalities. This also widens the DNA scope as the current analysis was confined to searching the Dutch data base. Each country has its own DB and this is not necessarily freely accessible. A further search is therefore warranted.

Kind regards,

Thomas>

For *The New Holland Story*, go to: <https://goo.gl/Zx34Hk>.

In the May 2004 issue of the *Mercurius* the "Totidem Verbis" section featured the results of a project in Stellenbosch, South Africa. At that time Annemarie Krzesinski-de Widt had made available on a CD the transcriptions of estate inventories beginning in 1687. The following is a digest and an update of the project. In 1976 many historical documents from the Cape Town Archives Repository relating to the history of Stellenbosch were recorded on microfiche. The purpose was to make these documents more readily available to researchers. As very few people are proficient in reading the old handwriting, all the estate inventories relating to Stellenbosch needed to be transcribed. This manuscript contained all the extant inventories in chronological order

as well as an alphabetical index of the surnames and the names of farms. The manuscript comprises approximately 2600 typed A4 pages. Eventually the original transcript was scanned and made available in PDF format. Finally the computer files were converted into three PDFs consisting of an Introduction, five volumes of farm inventories from 1687 through 1804, and a Register (name index). The three PDFs of more than 2600 pages can be ordered at the Stellenbosch Museum for R250 (South Africa Rands), which amounts to ca. \$18.00. To order email: Debbie Gabriels: <manager@stelmus.co.za> and ask for *Die Boedelinventaris van Erflaters in die Distrik Stellenbosch 1679-1806*.

NNI News

A long-term project is under consideration, involving the re-translation of Dutch manuscripts at the Archives of the Reformed Church in America in New Brunswick, NJ known as the "Amsterdam Correspondence." The Archives has already begun the digitization of the approximately 350 documents on more than 400 leaves of paper, which will make it possible for translators to work at remote locations. The NNI intends to support this five to ten year project by providing "seed money" to get it started and is approaching other potential supporters to join.

Spanning the years 1642 to 1786 the documents are almost entirely in the Dutch language. They consist primarily of letters written from the American colonies to the Classis of Amsterdam. In excellent physical condition, the documents in the Amsterdam Correspondence represent a profoundly important collection of primary sources relating both to religious history as well as the broader history of the Dutch colony of New Netherland and the English colonies of the mid-Atlantic region. A majority of them were translated (with varying

degrees of success) in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries; most of the translations appear in *Ecclesiastical Records: State of New York* (Albany: James B. Lyon, 1901-1916, 7 vols.) edited by Edward Tanjore Corwin and Hugh Hastings.

On 19 October 2017, Dennis Maika joined Gehring, Douglas, Shorto, and McErleane to participate in a full-day conference on "Connecting Dutch Heritage in the Hudson Valley Corridor," organized by Cordell Reaves of the New York State Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, held at their Taconic regional office in Staatsburg, NY. We have been in regular contact with Cordell about NNI's role and participation in future events.

The NNI is pleased to offer a research grant with financial support from the estate of Charles W. Wendell. 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. Applications are due February 15.

The Hendricks Award is presented by the NNI at its Annual Conference to the best book or book-length manuscript relating to any aspect of New Netherland and its legacy. The Award carries a prize of \$5,000 as well as a framed print of a painting by historical artist L. F. Tantillo. The 2017

Hendricks Award was awarded to Kenneth Shefsiek for his book *Set in Stone: Creating and Commemorating a Hudson Valley Culture*. Book-length manuscript submissions for the 2018 Hendricks Award are due February 1, 2018. For more information on the award as well as a listing of other award winners, go to our website and click on “Programs and Awards.” It is worth noting that 2018 will be the thirty-first year that Dr. Andrew A. Hendricks has generously supported this Award to encourage scholarly research on New Netherland. For his efforts, H.M. Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands appointed Dr. Hendricks a Knight in the Order of Orange–Nassau in 2009.

Totidem Verbis

[The Mirror and the Treasure: The Navigational Charts of L.J. Waghenauer aka the *Spieghel* by Peter Douglas is hereby concluded.]

The English translation of the *Spieghel* by Anthony Ashley was published in the Armada year of 1588 as *The Mariner’s Mirror*. The charts were much admired in England, and sailors called them the near-homophonic familiar word “waggoners,” after their maker.

Waghenauer’s *Spieghel* was printed in a large folio, along with colorful and detailed depictions of ships, sea creatures, legends, navigation instruments, and wind roses. The lavishness of the decoration did not mean, however, that geographical accuracy came second. The meticulous nature of the maps’

artwork, and the splendor and intricacy of the engraving suggest that the charts were not made for use at sea but served a more decorative and consultative purpose on land, perhaps as illustrative conversation pieces in the offices of ship owners and wealthy merchants. Although the work was a great success in such circles and among academics, by and large, despite its fine qualities, pilots found the hefty format impractical at sea.

The result was that in 1592 Waghenauer introduced a new sea atlas in a compact oblong format. This was his *Thresoor der Zeevaerdt* (The Treasure of Seagoing), which was compiled on similar lines as the *Spieghel* but with the text altered and expanded, and with the charts on a different scale showing the coasts very much in their true proportions. Harbors and estuaries appear in much greater detail than the intervening coastlines. It was cheaper and smaller than his previous work, and better adapted to the shipboard needs of the users. Like his earlier work, the *Thresoor* was intended for use in European waters, and included Scotland, Ireland, and parts of the White Sea and the Baltic. Reflecting the expanding global outlook of Dutch navigation, it also included coastal details of the Mediterranean, plus a supplementary section, with text only, describing navigation to the East Indies and China.

Waghenauer’s last pilot-book was his *Enchuyser Zeecaertboeck* (Enkhuisen Sea Chart Book), published in 1598. Here he returned to the old style of a simple pilot’s pocket book in octavo. It was

without maps but contained a detailed text and numerous coastal outlines.

From that period on, consistent efforts were made to produce reliable sea charts, and revisions reflected the growth of knowledge and the widening range of travel and discovery. They were essential to the Dutch Republic whose vigorous trading and maritime ambitions overlapped. The nation’s commercial drive was reflected in the creation and evolution of marine cartography in which Waghenauer played so significant a part. He became an important pioneer in the development of safe navigation for trade along Europe’s coasts, and shaped the tradition of seamen’s guides for long-distance ocean voyages. Waghenauer set a high standard for cartographers such as Willem Blaeu who followed.

The Dutch East India Company was established in 1602, so before Waghenauer’s death in 1606 he was able to see the first Dutch ships back from the Indies at anchor in the harbor of his hometown. His contribution to marine cartography helped bring great wealth to others, but not to himself. Despite the value and success of his publications, Waghenauer died in poverty, leaving his widow in such needy circumstances that the municipal authorities of Enkhuisen were moved to ask the States General to provide her with a pension.

Waghenauer’s name also survives marginally in the science of oceanography: the Waghenauer Fracture Zone is named for him, a long narrow rift in the ocean floor of the Pacific. Such is fame.