

De Nieu Nederlandse Mercurius



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November 1998

Upcoming Events

Until January 3, 1999. "From Van Eyck to Bruegel: Early Netherlandish Painting in the Metropolitan Museum of Art." This exhibit displays more than 140 works by the



Detail from Bruegel's Corn Harvest, 1565

great artists of the period, including Jan van Eyck, Petrus Christus, Hans Memling, Gerard David, Rogier van der Weyden, Robert Campin, Joachim Patinir, and Pieter Bruegel the Elder. One of the lectures that can still be attended is Sunday December 20 at 3:00, in the Grace Rainey Rogers Auditorium entitled: Flanders and Italy: the case of Giovanni Bellini, by Keith Christiansen and Jane Wrightsman, Curator European painting. On December 29, documentary films related to the exhibit are scheduled. Consult the calendar or call (212) 570-3710 for times. Information about the exhibit can

be found at the Museum's website <www.metmuseum.org>.

Until 13 December, 1998: "Sinners and Saints, Darkness and Light: Caravaggio and his Dutch and Flemish followers." North Carolina Museum of Art at Raleigh. A breathtaking exhibition of European Old Master paintings showcasing the artistic contributions of the Italian painter Caravaggio and his Dutch and Flemish followers. Dramatic lighting, an engaging theatricality and a compelling naturalism combine in these intriguing biblical and genre scenes, portraits and pastorals.

Paintings have been carefully selected from public and private collections in the U.S. and Canada, including one of Caravaggio's rare masterpieces and outstanding works by Hendrick ter Brugghen, Gerrit von Honthorst, Dirck van Baburen, Gerard Seghers and Matthias Stom. On display are more than 35 masterpieces from North American collections. The exhibition is accompanied by a 256-page, fully illustrated catalogue, available mid-September 1998. For more information, call the Museum Shop at (919) 834-1912.

Other venues for this exhibit are: Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwau-

kee, Wis. Jan. 29, 1999 April 19, 1999. <www.mam.org>; and The Dayton Art Institute, Dayton, Ohio, May 8, 1999-July 18, 1999.

Until 3 January, 1999 at the West Building of the National Gallery, Washington, DC, "Van Gogh's Van Goghs: Masterpieces from the Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam" presents seventy paintings by Vincent van Gogh (1853-1890) and two related works on paper, the largest survey of his career outside The Netherlands in more than a



Van Gogh's Peasant Woman Stooping with Spade ca. 1885

quarter of a century. This unique group of paintings—part of the artist's treasured oeuvre kept together by his brother Theo and his family—will form an unprecedented loan from the Van Gogh Museum, home to the single greatest collection of the artist's paintings, drawings, and letters.

Admission to the exhibition while it is on view at the National Gal-

lery of Art is free; however, passes are required for entry. All advance passes for Van Gogh's Van Goghs have been distributed. Approximately 2,000 same-day passes are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis daily beginning at 10 a.m., Monday-Saturday, and 11 a.m. Sunday. Visitors are advised to line up early at the West Building's Sixth Street entrance on Constitution Avenue, N.W. By closing hour on Monday, October 26, 104,114 people had seen the exhibition, an average of 4,527 per day since it opened on October 4, 1998. The National Gallery of Art, located on Constitution Avenue between Third and Seventh Streets, N.W., is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is free of charge. For general information, call (202) 737-4215; or the Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) at (202) 842-6176.

Other venue: Los Angeles County Museum of Art, January 17 - April 4, 1999.

Until 10 January, 1999. "Master Drawings from the Hermitage and Pushkin Museums," with drawings by, among others, Rubens, Rembrandt, Van Dijck, and Van Gogh. The Pierpont Morgan Library, 29 East 36th Street, New York, N.Y. (212) 685-0008.

News

Call for Papers for the **Conference on New York State History**, June 10-12, 1999 at Hartwick College, Oneonta, NY. Individual papers, panel proposals, workshops, and

other program suggestions are invited for this conference. Presentations may consider any aspect of the history of New York over the past 400 years. Diverse theoretical perspectives and innovative methodological approaches are welcomed. The deadline for the proposals is December 31, 1998. A proposal is a one or two page description of each presentation. It must include paper and/or session titles, names, phone numbers and e-mail addresses of all participants. Special scheduling and equipment requests should also accompany the proposal. All program participants are required to register for the conference. Address proposals to Stefan Bielinski, Conference on New York History, 3093 Cultural Education Center, Albany, N.Y. 12230. (518) 474-6917, Sbielins@mail.nysed.gov. Applicants will be notified by mid-February 1999.

Voices from Holland is a new illustrated quarterly update of news and backgrounds from the Netherlands. All articles are printed in Dutch and English on a variety of subjects ranging from "history & folklore," and "royalty news" to "arts & culture," "youth and education," "travel & tourism," and "economy & finance." There is also a readers corner for announcements, interviews, reviews, and readers' comments or questions. Back copies of the Dutch spring and summer issues are still available. You can order the two upcoming issues by sending your name and address plus a check for US\$14.-/Can\$18.-/£25.- by credit card or Dutch bank (add an extra bank

charge for cheques and overseas bank transfers of US \$5.- / CAN \$8.-). Send to: A&E translations, Rijksweg 46, 9731 AC Groningen, the Netherlands.

Rensselaerswijck Seminar, 1998. On a beautiful autumn day about 150 people attended the twenty-first Rensselaerswijck Seminar, which was held September 19, 1998 in Albany. All five talks were recorded and are available on audio tapes for \$15 from the New Netherland Project. They also will be published in the fall and winter issues of the journal of the Holland Society of New York, *De Halve Maen*.

Websites

Yes there is a Dutch Amazon. The website <www.boeknet.nl> now lists 130,000 book and cd-rom titles from more than 1000 publishers. Search for author, title or topic.

Interested in how the internet can be used for the study of history? Check out the website: <www.geohistory.com> for an eye-opening experience.

Buy books online at a discount and benefit the Friends of New Netherland.

Win-Win

Point your Web browser to <www.nnp.org>, select Friends of New Netherland and then Bookstore. From there you may go directly to the Amazon website or search the Amazon website. Books ordered in this way provide a roy-

alty payment to the Friends of New Netherland. Accessing the Amazon website directly does not result in credit for the Friends.

Publications

The Sensible Cook: Dutch Foodways in the Old and the New World, translated and edited by food historian Peter G. Rose is now available in paperback from Syracuse University Press. Send orders to Syracuse University Press, 1600 Jamesville Avenue, Syracuse, N.Y. 13244-5160; fax: 315 443-5545 or call 800-365-8929 for orders only.

De Nederlandsche Leeuw, Journal of the Royal Dutch Society for Genealogy and Heraldry is now available on 4 cd-roms. It represents 100 years of publications from 1883-1983. Considered a leading Dutch journal for genealogy and heraldry, it is an invaluable source for any scholar interested in Dutch family history, as well as for historians and art historians dealing with Dutch culture in general. The more than 20,000 pages of text contain a wealth of biographical information on tens of thousands of members of families in the Low Countries and its adjacent territories since the Middle Ages. The cd-roms provide an indispensable tool to anyone interested in Dutch genealogy. Its research module may help you find at last the missing link to your Dutch or Belgian ancestry. The cd-roms contain images of all the original text pages, including a large number of illustrations. The search module allows the user to

search every name, word, or combination of words. Price: f140, (including handling and shipping), within the Netherlands f125,-. You can order the cd-roms by mail. Please supply name, address, credit card number and expiration date. De Nederlandsche Leeuw. PO Box 85630, NL 2508 CH The Hague, The Netherlands.

News from the FNN

The NNP Dinner was held in Albany on September 19, 1998, at the Cultural Education Center's Terrace Gallery, in the presence of his Excellency, Ambassador Joris Vos, and Consul General of the Netherlands Bob Hiensch. Akzo Nobel Inc. and Rabobank International sponsored the event, which raised \$13,000 to benefit the New Netherland Project. About 110 guests attended, among them many from other states and the Netherlands.

Save the Date! The Annual Meeting of the Friends of New Netherland will take place on Saturday afternoon, January 23, 1999, at Philipse Manor Hall, 29 Warburton Avenue in Yonkers, NY, a historic site located two blocks east of the Yonkers Railroad station. The program will include the introduction of the new Board of Trustees; a talk by Dr. Gehring on Yonkers' association with Adriaen van der Donck, and a tour of the Hall. Box lunches and coffee will be available.

On November 16 the FNN sponsored its first event in the Washington, DC area. Marion Derks of the Royal Netherlands Embassy work-

ing with our events chairperson, Peter Rose, and DC friend Coen Blaauw arranged a concert by the Dutch pianist **Marcel Worms**. The embassy concert "Pictures at a Van Gogh Exhibition" was introduced by Dr. Gehring, who also informed the audience of 170 people about the work of the FNN and NNP.

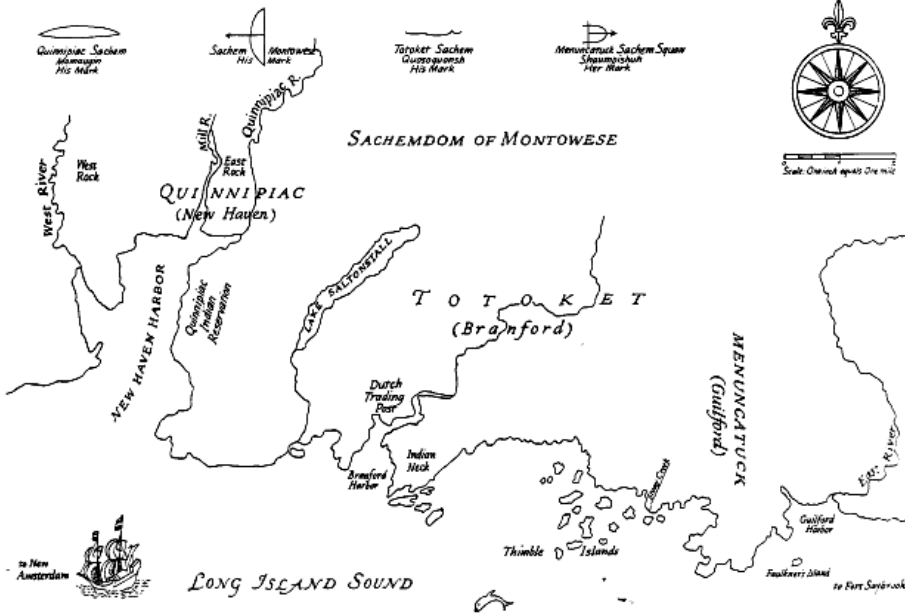
On November 18, 1998, the Board of Trustees amended the bylaws to permit the organization of Chapters of the Friends of New Netherland. Trustee **Coen Blaauw**, a resident of Washington, DC, is organizing the first such Chapter, whose inaugural meeting is planned for April 7, 1999, at the Netherlands' embassy. Residents of the Washington area can contact Coen at 552 Seventh Street, S.E., Washington, DC 20003; tel. 202-547-3686; fax 202-543-7891; or via email at: <coenblaauw@aol.com>

As you are preparing your Christmas list, please visit the Friends' on-line shop at <www.nnp.org> for great gifts and a quick, easy solution to some of your shopping woes. For the book lovers on your list, click Books on the Friends' page to connect with Amazon, who will provide just about any title at a modest price and will pay FNN a commission on the sale when accessed via our Web page. For art lovers and anyone whose roots are in the Hudson Valley, select a lovely Tantillo print, ready for framing, or a collection of our beautiful note cards. Double the joy of the gift-giving season by knowing that your purchases will help support the New Netherland Project!

Totidem Verbis

Albany has had its share of archaeological discoveries from the Dutch period in the last decade. But New Netherland covered much territory, and much still lies below the surface. It is expected that other material evidence of Dutch occupation and settlement will appear from time to time between the Connecticut River and Delaware Bay. One such development is along the Connecticut coast where Dr. John Pfeiffer has been excavating what appears to be a Dutch fort and trading post from the earliest years of New Netherland. Following is a report submitted by Dr. Pfeiffer, who can be contacted through email at <jepfeiffer@worldnet.att.net>. Your support is needed to continue this work. The orientation map is courtesy of John B. Kirby Jr. of Banford, Connecticut.

THE QUINNIPJAC INDIANS 1635-1640



Preliminary Results: Historical and Archaeological Evidence Demonstrating an Early 17th-Century Dutch Presence in Branford, Connecticut. By Dr. John Pfeiffer

This past summer students and volunteers have been studying the archaeological site of a Dutch Fort. The initial documentary evidence that led us to the site was a 1760's notation by Ezras Stiles of the "Dutch Fort" at Totoket, the name he used for the Native American reservation in Branford, Connecticut.

Solid archival evidence in the town records refers to a Dutch presence in the same general area during the 16401s, however, does not specify a particular owner. This is a colonial English attempt to downplay non-English claims. While there are many references to Rodenburgh (New Haven) which was five or six miles to the west, documentation from New Nether-

land pertaining to Branford and the fort are not thus far known. (The area in question shows up as roduyne - red dunes and in fact our geologist confirms that we are digging on an ancient dune field.)

Our experience with the writings of Stiles strongly suggests that he is an extremely reliable reference. His academic background and critical observation are to be totally trusted. A secondary reference suggests the existence of the Dutch Fort and adds that it was abandoned in the 1620s. We are unable to ascertain from where the author gained this information. Armed with the Stiles map, town records, and secondary less reliable data we began a test excavation at the location as indi-

cated by Stiles.

While archaeological findings are preliminary, there is very strong evidence of a Dutch presence, artifacts related to the early 17th or late 16th century, and features indicating perimeter earthworks as well as interior structures. A daub outline of one structure was carefully uncovered and a raised hearth was discerned and sampled. Found within a 1' x 2' test unit placed inside the hearth were two wrought nails, a copper alloy button, and a shard of majolica Isabella Polychrome ceramic plate. Comparison to assemblages from other 17th century components demonstrated a close correlation. Significant in their absence were classic pipe fragments and trade beads. While this may be reliance upon negative evidence, such findings may represent an early date of the occupation and a time when the Dutch had interests in mind other than trade with the Native American population.

We will continue to study the site. It would appear that the Dutch Fort is real, is quite early, and may in fact document an earlier phase of Dutch interest in New Netherland. Such presence may not have been based upon local trade with Native Americans and the acquisition of beaver pelts. Rather, their interest may have been oriented toward attaining wood, specifically oak for casks that would have facilitated trade and transport of cod and whale oil back to Europe aboard Dutch ships or those of trading partners such as the Basques, Portuguese, and English who had active fisheries on the Georges and Grand Banks.