

# De Nieuw Nederlansche Mercurius



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August 2007

## Events

**September 15, 2007.** The New Netherland Institute announces its 30<sup>th</sup> Rensselaerswijck Seminar, a one-day conference to be held on Saturday, September 15, 2007 in the Carole Huxley Theater of the Cultural Education Center at the Empire State Plaza in Albany, NY. The theme is "The Truce, 1609–1621" — a breathing spell in the United Provinces' eighty year struggle for independence. During this period the Dutch East India Company [VOC] searched for safer trade routes to Asia and expanded its commercial operations. 1609 marks the explorations of the VOC ship *De Halve Maen* in what will become New Netherland, while 1621 marks the establishment of the West India Company, founded when the truce ended and the war with Spain resumed. The following speakers will explore the ramifications of this period of peace with Spain on developments in the Netherlands and the New World:

**Henk den Heijer**, "The Twelve Years' Truce and the Foundation of the Dutch West India Company";

**Jaap Bruijn**, "Did the Twelve Years' Truce alter Dutch Shipbuilding, Shipping and Trade?";

**Kevin McBride**, "The Source and Mother of the Fur Trade': Native–Dutch Relations in Eastern New Netherland"; with a demonstration of the production of wampum by **Arthur Kirmss**;

**Joost Jonker**, "A Tale of Two Revolutions: Financial Parallels between the Dutch Revolt and the American Revolution";

**Janny Venema**, "Kiliaen van Rensselaer and the Twelve Years' Truce."

To register, send a \$50 check payable to: New Netherland Institute, addressed to PO Box 2536 Empire State Plaza Station, Albany, NY 12220. For information about the NNI Dinner contact the office at 518–486–4815. You can also register online at [www.nnp.org](http://www.nnp.org) and also find out more about the program.

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**September 18, 2007–January 6, 2008.** "The Age of Rembrandt: Dutch Paintings in the Metropolitan Museum of Art." The Met celebrates the 400<sup>th</sup> birthday of Rembrandt van Rijn by mounting an exhibit of the finest collection of Dutch art outside of Europe, including 20 works by Rembrandt himself. The 228 Dutch master-

pieces will be displayed together for the first time and coincides with the publication of the first catalogue of the Met's Dutch collection. For more information go to:

[www.metmuseum.org](http://www.metmuseum.org)

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**November 16–18, 2007.** The Pieter Claesen Wyckoff House of Brooklyn announces the groundbreaking for the Wyckoff Durling Barn—the first barn to be built in Brooklyn in more than 150 years. This event will coincide with a reunion of the Wyckoff Family Association. Questions concerning these events can be directed to Yvette Windley at: 718–629–5400 or [cwycoff1@msn.com](mailto:cwycoff1@msn.com).

## Research Interests

We still welcome details of your research interests and will be glad to share this with all Marcurius readers. Here's what we said in the very first edition of the Marcurius in February 1985:

"It has been suggested that this newsletter carry a column devoted to uncovering the gaps in the knowledge of New Netherland that would benefit from further research. Anyone is welcome to submit such

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topics to this column to spur on research. We hope knowledge of ongoing research will spread to other interested colleagues and that scholars will in this way exchange ideas and information about New Netherland.”

Research needs were subsequently submitted in the area of anthropology, archaeology, genealogy, and history.

What we wrote in 1985 is still true today. We would like to emphasize that we still regard this as an important part of the role of this newsletter. If you are about to begin, or are already engaged in, any research on New Netherland and the Dutch in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and would like to share this information, or are seeking input from others, we will be happy to publish brief details of your work or research needs. Email submissions as an attachment to: [cgehring@mail.nysed.gov](mailto:cgehring@mail.nysed.gov). Please type “Marcurius Submission” in the subject box.

### **Publications**

Just out! James Bradley’s *Before Albany: An Archaeology of Native-Dutch Relations in the Capital Region, 1600-1664*. Here is the story of the Indians of the upper Hudson region and their encounter with the Dutch after the arrival of the East India Company ship *De Halve Maen*. The story unfolds both above and below the surface, incorporating both historical and archaeological evidence in an engaging narrative accompanied by 159 illustrations. This book is

**The New Netherland Institute** gratefully acknowledges gifts received from July 1, 2006, to July 1, 2007. For donations received in 2006 and January through June 2007, see [www.nnp.org/nni/Membership/cc.html](http://www.nnp.org/nni/Membership/cc.html).

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available at Amazon.com via  
www.nnp.org.

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*From Vernacular to Spectacular. Function Follows Form: How Houses Changed Lifestyles of the Hudson Valley Dutch, 1700–1830* by Harrison Meeske. Introduction by Roderic H. Blackburn. During the eighteenth century, new concepts in domestic design were introduced and adopted. Modifications to elevation during the period suggested even a small house could reflect an owner's stylish aspirations. Increasing material wealth enabled many householders to enlarge their dwellings and introduce the concept of specialized and personalized rooms. Older vernacular houses were adapted and new structures were built. The new plans' change of form preceded and unintentionally resulted in new lifestyles. The adoption of specialized rooms fragmented earlier living arrangements and effectively ended the communal post-medieval household. Hall passageways, private rooms, and locking doors established the setting fundamental to the emergence of attitudes concerning individual personal privacy and popularized perceptions fundamental to contemporary lifestyles. Lushly illustrated with 32 pages of large-format color plates by noted architectural photographer Geoffrey Gross. 163 pages, 8.5 x 11, \$25.00, paper.

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A Recent article on New Netherland: "The Example of Married Women in New Netherland and New York in the Seventeenth Century," by Michael Gherke, *The Hudson River Valley Review*, Vol. 23, no 2, Spring 2007, pp 1–15

### NNI News

Board Meeting April 14, 2007 at the Albany Visitors' Center: President Wendell welcomed a new Board member, William DeWitt of the Holland Society, from Maryland, and thanked him for donation of equipment to the Institute including a laptop computer. Treasurer Lies Funk announced that a bookkeeper, Bonnie Urso, has been hired part time. Director Gehring reported that the 564 page "Fort Orange Records" translation has been completed and is presently being indexed. Board member, Jippe Hiemstra reported progress on all four parts of the 2009 project which will open in September of that year.

Board meeting June 9, 2007 at the Ten Broeck mansion: President Wendell's report congratulated Hiemstra of the 2009 committee for the reception June 4<sup>th</sup> hosted in New York City by Consul General Cora Minderhout. In his absence, the Director's report was read by Douglas. The matching NEH grant for translation of the Dutch documents has been renewed for one year only, but another three year grant proposal is being prepared. Nebraska University Press has informed us that the

publication of Van der Donck's *Description of New Netherland* will appear in January of 2009.

Rachel Laufer of the University of Delaware has volunteered to update our bibliographic database. The renewal of Jim Sefcik's contract to last until December 2009 was approved and thus cover the 2009 Project. The new fundraising brochure, "Light on New Netherland and the Dutch: Henry Hudson Quadracentennial 1609–2009" was distributed. Hiemstra reported on the 2009 committee's progress in raising funds for those projects. The contract with Martha Shattuck to edit the *Liber Amicorum* volume for 2009 was approved. Most of the writers approached, including Russell Shorto, have accepted. Sefcik reported he has sent the exhibit panel to Adirondack Studios to work up for August delivery and discussion.

Douglas reported on the Quinn fellowship applications that no application was considered acceptable by the McNeil Center for Early American Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, but two Quinn Library Research Residency awards were made by the Library. There were no applications for research in the NYS Archives. The Kenney award will be made this afternoon to Karen Hartgen and her late husband, Charles Fisher for their archaeological work in Albany. Introduction will be by fellow archaeologist, Paul Huey, with Phoebe Bender, a member of the Albany Convention Center Working Group, as speaker.



### Totidem Verbis

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Following is the third installment of the life of Michiel de Ruyter by our contributing editor Peter A. Douglas. The portrait of De Ruyter was done by Ferdinand Bol in 1667.

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**Michel de Ruyter**, *Held van Nederland*, part 3

In [1664](#), a year before the Second Anglo–Dutch War officially began, De Ruyter clashed with the English off the [West African](#) coast, where both the English and Dutch had significant slave stations, retaking the Dutch possessions occupied by [Robert Holmes](#) and then crossing the Atlantic to raid the British colonies in America. Arriving off [Barbados](#) the end of April [1665](#) aboard his flagship *Spiegel*, he led his fleet of thirteen vessels into Carlisle Bay, exchanging fire with the English batteries and destroying many of the vessels anchored there. Unable to silence the English guns and having sustained considerable damage to his own vessels, he retired to French [Martinique](#) for repairs.

Sailing north from Martinique, De Ruyter captured several English vessels and delivered supplies to the Dutch colony at [Sint Eustatius](#). Given the damage he had sustained, he decided against an assault on [New York](#) to retake [New Netherland](#). He then took off to [Newfoundland](#), capturing several English fishing boats and temporarily taking [St. Johns](#) before proceeding to Europe. On his return to the Netherlands he learned that Van Wassenaer Obdam had been killed in the disastrous [Battle of Lowestoft](#), June 13, 1665. Many

expected that Tromp's son Cornelis would now take command of the confederate fleet, especially [Cornelis Tromp](#) himself, who had already been given a temporary commission. Tromp however was



not acceptable to the regent regime of Johan de Witt because of his support of the cause of the Prince of Orange. De Ruyter's popularity had grown after his heroic return and he therefore was made commander of the Dutch fleet on [11 August](#) 1665, as LieutenantAdmiral (a rank he shared with four others) of the Amsterdam admiralty.

In this [Second Anglo–Dutch War](#) (1665–1667) De Ruyter won a hard-fought victory in the [Four Days Battle](#) (June [1666](#)) but narrowly escaped disaster in the [St James Day Battle](#) (August 1666) which brought him into conflict with Cornelis Tromp, eventually leading to Tromp's dismissal. He

then became seriously ill, recovering just in time to take nominal command of the fleet executing the [Raid on the Medway](#) in June [1667](#), a successful [Dutch](#) attack on the largest [English](#) naval ships, laid up in the dockyards of Chatham, their main naval base. The Medway raid was a costly and embarrassing defeat for the English, resulting in the loss of the British flagship [HMS Royal Charles](#), bringing the Dutch close to [London](#), and the war to its end. Between 1667 and 1671 De Ruyter was forbidden to sail in order not to endanger his life. In 1669 an attempt was made on his life by a Tromp supporter, trying to stab him with a bread knife in the entrance hall of his house.

De Ruyter saved the situation for the Netherlands in the [Third Anglo–Dutch War](#). His strategic victories over larger Anglo–French fleets at the battles of [Solebay](#) (1672), [Schooneveld](#) (1673) and [Texel](#) (1673) warded off invasion and countered English naval support to the French. The new rank of Lieutenant–Admiral–General was created especially for him in February 1673, when the new Stadtholder [William III of Orange](#) became Admiral–General.

(to be continued)