

De Nieuw Nederlansche Mercurius



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Upcoming Events

Until April 5, 1998. "Masters of Light: Dutch Painting from Utrecht in the Golden Age," at the Walters Art Gallery, Baltimore, MD. [410] 547-9000. A website with a slide preview of the exhibit has been established at:

<http://www.thinker.org>

May 3, 1998. Hofstra University at Hempstead NY, will celebrate its 15th annual Dutch Festival, featuring music, drama, dancing, art exhibitions, food and children's activities.

The Ninth Biennial Interdisciplinary Conference on Netherlandic Studies (ICNS) will be held at the University of Wisconsin from **May 27-30, 1998**. The theme for the conference is "History in Dutch Studies." For program information contact: ICNS, c/o Dutch Studies Program, 818 Van Hise Hall, 1220 Linden Drive, Madison, WI 53706. Tel: [608] 262-2192

Email: jvtaylor@facstaff.wisc.edu
The conference has a website at:
polyglot.lss.wisc.edu/german/dutch/conf9.html

Until March 31, 1998. "The Dutch in the Americas, 1600-

1800," at the Equitable Center in NYC. An exhibit catalogue is available in paper for \$35.00 plus tax (well worth the price!) in the Brooklyn Museum of Art's shop in the Equitable Center at 787 Seventh Avenue (at 49th St.), NY, NY 10019. [212] 554-4848.

News



Rensselaerswijck Seminar xxi

Mark your calendar for September 19, when the NNP will hold its twenty-first Rensselaerswijck Seminar. This year's theme will be "Cultural Diversity and Tolerance." Speakers will be: Drs. Jaap Jacobs, Leiden University; Dr. Daniel Richter, Dickenson College; Dr. Willy Page, Brooklyn College; Drs. Adriana van Zwieten, Temple University; and Dr. James Williams, Middle Tennessee State University. Details about the program will appear in our next newsletter. As usual, the Hendricks Manuscript Award will be presented to this year's winner, and the seminar will be followed by the New Netherland Project Dinner.

The Pilgrim story is an adventure which has become the best known part of the American-Dutch heritage.

Pilgrim Life in Leiden

The Pilgrims, fleeing from religious persecution in England, found refuge in Leiden in the Netherlands in 1609 before emigrating eleven years later to America on the Mayflower. There they established Plymouth Colony, the first sustained English settlement in New England. The years the Pilgrims spent in the Netherlands is the focus of American historian, Dr. Jeremy Bang's Leiden American Pilgrim Museum, which opened on Thanksgiving day, 1997, in Leiden, the Netherlands. The museum is a 16th-century brick building which looks much as it did when the Pilgrims arrived in 1609. It is located at Beschuitsteeg 9 and is open 1-5 pm Wednesday through Saturday.

Websites

The NNP homepage has been completely renovated by our good friend Howard Funk. You can visit the site at its temporary location <http://www.hlfunk.com/nnp> until it is

relocated at our usual address.

The Archives Web: a guide to national archives around the world.

[Link to Archives Web](#)

Olive Tree is a site with considerable emphasis on New Netherland genealogy.

www.rootsweb.com/~ote

Research Interests

Evan P. Haefeli, a PhD candidate in history at Princeton University, recently joined the FNN; he submitted the following information concerning his research. "My dissertation traces the roots of religious pluralism and toleration in North America. As the Middle colonies--the English colonies carved out of the conquered Dutch colony of New Netherland--were the most religiously diverse corner of the Atlantic world, they are the focus of my study. I believe toleration and pluralism were established as a result of political struggles both in the colonies and in Europe, so I am studying the relationship between religion and politics on both sides of the Atlantic. Also, I am including Native American and African American religion as uniquely American aspects of religious pluralism. I feel the Dutch period was important in establishing the parameters of religious politics in the Middle Colonies, and the legacy of conquest was crucial in making it so religiously diverse so the descendants of New Netherland are at the heart of my story."

Louis A. Wilkinson of Sausalito, CA is another of the FNN's new-

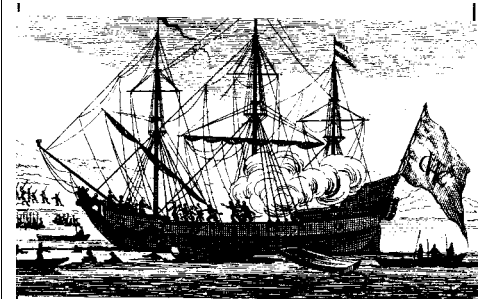
est members. He sent the following paragraph, in which he introduces himself with the hope of finding an answer to a family mystery: "I am seeking information about my maternal great grandfather Edgar de Peyster, born 1839, died Sept. 2, 1901 in Lakewood, NJ. Edgar was of the seventh generation of de Peysters. I have used Belknap's *The de Peyster Genealogy* (Boston, 1956) to trace Edgar back to the first generation Johannes de Peyster. On page 104 Belknap states that Edgar died without issue. However, my research indicates that he married Louisa Godward and had ten children, and, more intriguing, he is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery under the name of Charles Mortimer. At some point in his life he stopped being known as Edgar de Peyster and became Charles Mortimer. I am interested in learning when and why that name change occurred. I have also been told that Edgar attended Columbia University."

Originally from Nanuet, New York, **Richard Brabander** is currently a full-time graduate student/assistant at Villanova University. Richard received his Bachelor's of Arts degree in History and Political Science in 1995 from Muhlenberg College His main research interests focus on the interactions between the Dutch, Scandinavians, Germans, and Russians in the Baltic region during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Richard is also interested in the interactions of European powers in North America, specifically the relations between the Dutch, Swedes, and English in the Early

Colonial American period. His paper, "An Analysis of Dutch, Swedish and English Settlement in the Delaware River Valley" is going to be published in the spring 1998 edition of "Concept - Graduate Journal of Interdisciplinary Research." Richard is currently working on a research project analyzing the interactions between the Dutch and English on the eastern border of New Netherland.

Publications

Illicit Riches, Dutch Trade in the Caribbean, 1648-1795. **Wim Klooster** revises the history of Dutch world trade in the 17th and 18th centuries. By examining the transit trade in the Caribbean, this thorough and original study presents an alternative view of the Dutch seaborne empire, facing east as well as west. Enterprising merchants turned St. Eustatius and Curaçao into entrepôts, from where a wide variety of European commodities was sent to foreign colonies in exchange for tropical produce. Inter-imperial commerce became a booming business, providing the Dutch in the New World with a niche which was much more profitable than historians have real-



A WIC ship under attack in the Caribbean
Stichting Atlas van Stolk, Rotterdam

ized. The Caribbean contraband trade thus helped the Dutch to sur-

vive the loss in the mid-seventeenth century of most of their territorial empire in the Western hemisphere.

ISBN 90-6718-123-4; ca. 200pp, \$25 plus postage. Send orders to: KITLV Press, Box 9515, 2300 RA Leiden, The Netherlands

The John Carter Brown Library announces the publication of *The Dutch in the Americas 1600–1800* by Wim Klooster. A narrative history in six chapters and a record of the John Carter Brown Library exhibition on this subject now showing at the Equitable Gallery in NYC.

ISBN 0-916617-50-5; cloth \$45
ISBN 0-916617-51-3; paper \$35



Admiral Michiel Adriaensz de Ruyter, 1607–1676

Send orders to: JCBL Books, Box 1894, Providence, RI 02912

In Remembrance and Hope; the Ministry and Vision of Howard C. Hageman, by Gregg A. Mast, pastor of the First Church in Albany, NY, chronicles the impact of Dr. Hageman's thinking and the character of his commitments. This new study of the life and work of Howard Hageman (Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., no. 27 in the Historical Series of the Reformed Church of America) can be ordered at the First Church in Albany, 110

North Pearl Street, Albany, NY 12207-2231. The \$30 cost includes \$15 for one copy of the book, including postage and a \$15 contribution to assist in publishing expenses. Your name will be included in the list of subscribers, if your order is received before 3/15/98.

The Great Admirals: Command at Sea, 1587-1945, edited by Jack Sweetman (Annapolis, 1997). Combining scholarship with readability, this collection of nineteen biographical essays has been written by a distinguished international team of naval historians in a style readily accessible to the general reader. Of interest to readers of this newsletter will be that two of the nineteen great admirals are Maarten Harpertz **Tromp** and Michiel Adriaensz **de Ruyter**. The 576 page hardback is available from Naval Institute Press, 118 Maryland Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21402-5035 for a list price of \$49.95; <www.amazon.com> discounts it for \$34.97.

The Emergence of Tolerance in the Dutch Republic. Edited by C. Berkvens-Stevelinck, J. Israel and G.H.M. Posthumus Meyjes (Brill, 1997). This volume is the product of a colloquium on "Les Pays-Bas, carrefour del la tolerance aux Temps Modernes," which was held in Wassenaar in 1994 under the auspices of the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIAS). What better way to review issues in preparation for this year's Rensselaerswijck Seminar on "Cultural Diversity and Tolerance."

Hot off the press!

Merchants & Empire, Trading in Colonial New York by Cathy Mattson, Baltimore, 1998. More about this work will appear in the next issue of the newsletter.

News from the FNN

The 12th annual meeting of the FNN was held at the NY Genealogical and Biographical Society on Saturday, January 24, 1998 from 12:15 to 2:30. About 50 members and guests were present.

Peter Rose reported that the **Corporate Circle** now contains corporations in the following categories: *Director General \$5000* Unilever, and KLM Royal Dutch Airlines (sponsor of the 1997 NNP dinner). *Council \$3000* Ernst & Young LLP (who bore the cost of design and printing of the orange NNP brochure).

Burgomaster \$1000 ABN-AMRO; Akzo Nobel Inc.; Citibank/Citicorp; Heineken NV (sponsor of the 1996 NNP dinner); ING (U.S.) Financial Services Corp.; Loyens & Volkmaars; Nauta Dutilh. *Magistrate \$500* Ahold Real Estate Company; KPN US, Inc.; Philip Morris Holland BV.

Members of the Corporate Circle were honored at a reception hosted by Consul General Bob Hiensch at the Rainbow Room in October.

In September the 4th annual New Netherland Project dinner (which has become the FNN's major fundraising event) was held at the Terrace Gallery of the Cultural

Education Center in Albany. Sponsored by KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, the event raised a net of \$13,000.

The Alice P. Kenney award ceremony is scheduled for June 20 at the Senate House in the historic town of Kingston. The program will begin at 2:00 pm with a performance of the Dutch musical group *Kat yn 't Zeyl*, followed by refreshments. The award ceremony itself will take place at 3:15.

The 5th annual **New Netherland**

Project dinner is scheduled for September 19. Invitations will be mailed in August. This year's sponsor will be **Akzo Nobel Inc.** Ambassador Joris Vos has accepted our invitation to attend.

NB that the Friend's office hours have changed. From now on you may reach us at [518] 486-4815 during the hours of 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm, five days a week. Our answering machine will gladly accept your messages at other times.

Te koop

A popular segment of last year's Rensselaerswijck Seminar was the viewing of the film *Under Two Flags*, a documentary about the Dutch settlement of New Netherland, produced by the Acorn Foundation of New York City. If you wish to order a copy of the video, please send \$30 to David B. Vietor at The Acorn Foundation 620 Park Avenue NY, NY 10021; tel: 212-639-9579; fax: 212-628-4214.

Totidem Verbis

This issue continues the publication of passages from Adriaen van der Donck's *Beschrijving van Nieuw Nederlandt* taken from the new translation by Diederik Goedhuys of South Africa. Because of space constraints I had to choose one of the shorter passages. Nevertheless, it concerns the production of sewant/zeewant (you may call it wampum) which was central to Dutch trading activities from the earliest times.

Of Money And Their Manufacture Of It



Sewant found *in situ* on the floor of what appeared to be a small closet of the Hendrick Andriessen van Doesburgh house during the excavation of Fort Orange in 1970-1971. The eight strung beads equaled a *stuiver*. Photograph by Paul Huey, Courtesy of NYS Parks and Recreation, Division for Historic Preservation, Bureau of Historic Sites.

That there should be no greedy desire for precious metals in that country no one believes who has ever looked the place over. Yet the use of gold and silver or any other minted currency is unknown there. In the areas which the Christians frequent the Indians use a kind of currency they call "zeewant" (wampum). Anyone is free to make and acquire it, so that no counterfeiters are to be found amongst them. The currency comes in black and white, the black being worth half as much again as the white. /058/ It is made of conch shells which are cast up by the sea about twice a year or taken from it. They knock off the thin shell wall all around, keeping only the middle standard or pillar that is surrounded by the outer shell. These they grind smooth and even, and trim them according as the sticks are thick or thin. They drill a hole in each, string them on tough stalks, and file them down to equal size. Finally they restring the sticks on long cords and issue them in that form.

This is the only money circulating among the Indians and in which one trades with them. Among our people, too, it is in general use for buying everything one needs. It is also traded in quantity, often by the thousand because it is made in the coastal districts only and is mostly drawn for spending in the parts where the pelts come from. Among the Dutch, gold and silver currency also circulate, and in increasing amounts, though as yet much less than in this country.