

De Nieuw Nederlandse Mercurius



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“De Nieuw Nederlandse Mercurius”

Oct. 2012

Events of interest

Through October 14, 2012. “The Broncks: A Dutch-American Family.” An exhibit marking 340 years of the Bronck family. The Bronck Museum Visitor Center Gallery in Coxsackie, NY. Wed-Fri 12-4; Sat 10-4; Sun 1-4, Exhibit admission is free. Go to: gchistory.org for more information on the museum and beautiful Greene County in general.

Through October 14, 2012. “Elegance and Refinement: The Still-Life Paintings of Willem van Aelst,” at the National Gallery of Art. Few artists were more skilled than Willem van Aelst (1627–1683) at depicting luscious fruits, luxurious fabrics, and spoils of the hunt. His renowned still lifes are remarkable for their fine finish, carefully balanced composition, jewel-toned palette, and elegant subject matter. Go to: www.nga.gov for more information.

October 22, 2012. Missy Wolfe will be speaking about her new book: “Insubordinate Spirit: A True Story of Life and Loss in Earliest America 1610-1665,”

which is the life of Elizabeth Winthrop, the daughter-in-law of Massachusetts Bay Colony founder John Winthrop. The talk will be held at the Massachusetts Historical Society. 6:00-7:30; pre-talk reception at 5:30. No fee but registration required on-line at: masshist.org or at: 617-646-0560. See Publications for more information on the book.

October 28, 2012. The Albany Institute of History & Art presents a lecture by Donna R. Barnes and Peter G. Rose on “Childhood Pleasures: Dutch Children in the Seventeenth Century.” Join art historian Barnes and food historian Rose for an engaging look at how children in 17th-century Netherlands were raised and taught, how they played and celebrated, and what foods they ate and drank. Come and enjoy the delights of a traditional Dutch childhood including a discussion about music, pets, toys, games, traditions, and recipes to preserve the pleasures of the past. go to: albanyinstitute.org

November 3, 2012. The American Swedish Historical Museum of Philadelphia will host the 12th annual New Sweden History Conference on the

Forest Finns of Europe, New Sweden, and North America.” The Forest Finns were an important Nordic cultural group that emigrated from Finland into Sweden and then to North America through the New Sweden colony (1638-1655) on the lower Delaware River. The conference will examine Forest Finn culture in Europe and North America, and the broader Finnish material culture legacy for the United States. Please register early—space is limited! For registration information go to: americanswedish.org/calendar.htm. Registration, continental breakfast and box lunch costs \$40 per person (\$30 for students and teachers), registration deadline is Monday, October 22nd. Early bird registration by October 12, \$35 (\$25 for students and teachers).

November 13, 2012. The Alden Scholar Series Organizing Committee of SUNY Oneonta is pleased to announce Dr. William A. Starna as the first speaker in the 2012-2013 lecture series. Dr. Starna is Professor Emeritus of Anthropology at SUNY Oneonta and Adjunct Professor Emeritus of Geography at Queen’s University, Kingston, Ontario. His presentation,

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“Of Different Worlds: American Indian-Dutch Experiences in the Hudson and Mohawk Valleys,” will take place in the Alden Room of Milne Library at SUNY Oneonta at 3 p.m. A reception will follow. The lecture will be accompanied by an exhibit highlighting a selection of Dr. Starna’s many publications as well as the artwork of Len Tantillo. The lecture is free and open to the public.

November 15 & 16, 2012.

UAlbany’s annual “Researching New York” conference will focus this year on “Science, Technology, and the Environment” Go to: nystatehistory.org for program and further information.

November 16, 2012. The 31st Peter Stuyvesant Ball, celebrating his 400th birthday will be held at Pier Sixty on the Hudson in New York City. The ball benefits the Netherland-America Foundation, Inc. For additional information contact: Age Diedrick, event director, at 212-355-6363 or age.diedrick@verizon.net.

Through January 21, 2013. The Museum of the City of New York hosts a new exhibition “From Farm to City: Staten Island 1661-2012.” It highlights the history of changing land use on the island that has sometimes been called New York’s “forgotten borough.” The exhibition illuminates Staten Island’s varied history as home to farms and fishing ports, small towns and suburbs, resorts and estates,

industry and business, parks and wetlands, and dynamic and diverse down towns that continue to reinvent themselves. New panoramic color photographs by Jeff Chien-Hsing Liao capture the varied and often striking vistas of Staten Island today. For further information go to: www.mcny.org.

FYI

The Delaware Valley will be celebrating the 375th anniversary of the founding of the colony of New Sweden in 1638. Planning is underway for a whole year of celebratory events sponsored by the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation, the Swedish Colonial Society, the American Swedish Historical Museum, and many other regional organizations. A royal visit by the King and Queen of Sweden to Wilmington, Delaware – home of Fort Christina and the reconstructed Kalmar Nyckel – will highlight a number of educational, musical, dramatic, and cultural activities. A calendar of events will soon be available. Go to: kalmarnyckel.org.

Friends of the Albany Rural Cemetery (ARC) announce that its burial records are now searchable electronically on Ancestry.com. A partnership between Ancestry.com, the largest genealogical database in the world, and ARC has made accessible 100,000 burial cards from the beginning of the cemetery in 1841 up to early 2011. For more information go to: www.albanyruralcemetery.org

The Nationaal Archief of the Netherlands has created an archival research guide to 17th and 18th century Dutch shipwrecks. The research guide is based on three archives: East India Company (VOC), West India Company (WIC) and Admiralty. The guide is categorized accordingly and only gives information on where to start your research on Dutch shipwrecks in the collection of the Nationaal Archief. The idea to create a research guide on shipwrecks originated from the Nationaal Archief and the Netherlands Cultural Heritage Agency (RCE). The guide is developed especially for (international) students in maritime archaeology or maritime history. For access to the guide go to: bit.ly/QwWXZj. The contact person for the guide is Mara de Groot: mara.de.groot@nationaalarchief.nl.

Publications

INSUBORDINATE SPIRIT: A True Story of Life and Loss in Earliest America 1610-1665, by Missy Wolfe is a unique, exciting, and exceptionally well documented life of Elizabeth Winthrop, the daughter-in-law of Massachusetts Bay Colony founder John Winthrop. The arc of this impressive woman’s life took her from post-Elizabethan England into the wilds of unsettled Massachusetts and Connecticut and then into the world of Dutch New Netherland that surrounded Manhattan. Much new research, excerpts from personal diaries and recent new translations of Dutch New York

documents provide readers with fascinating insights into the philosophies, hardships, hopes and dangers experienced by the Indian, the English and the Dutch settlers in 1600s America, and first-hand observance of the massacres of the native Munsees near Manhattan at this time. Elizabeth's remarkable story provides fascinating insight into the physical and intellectual hardships, dangers, and conflicts faced by all three cultures at this time and their unique combustion within New Netherland. Go to: Globepequot.com.

Childhood Pleasures: Dutch Children in the Seventeenth Century by Donna R. Barnes and Peter G. Rose. As historians search for a fuller understanding of the Dutch Republic's unique character, they continually return to the central role of the family. Children are an essential part of the story, because how they were raised and taught, how they played, and what they ate and drank offer fundamental insights into Dutch lives. The images in the book are organized around eight themes: Infancy; St. Nicholas: Bringer of Sweets and Toys; Celebrations and Music; Toys and Games; Animals as Pets and Companions; Inventing Fun, Games, and Mischief; Shopping for Food Treats; and Winter Activities: Outdoors. Through words and images, we learn that while some pleasures enjoyed by Dutch youngsters 400 years ago have changed, some have remained the same and are sources

of fun and excitement for children today. SU Press, paper, \$29.95.

NNI News

The NNI—in partnership with the New York State Museum's Department of Anthropology—held its first summer workshop for elementary and middle school educators. Eighteen teachers and librarians attended the weeklong event, August 20-24. Highlights included a trip to an active archaeological site at the Van Hoesen House in Claverack, a behind-the-scenes tour of the Historical Archaeology offices and artifact storage, and lectures by prominent scholars and educators, including Charles Gehring, Janny Venema, Dennis Maika, William Starna, and Evan Haefeli.

Participating educators worked collaboratively to develop four model lessons based on New Netherland documents, artifacts, and images. All four lessons will soon be available on the NNI's new website.

The effectiveness of the summer institute is evident both in participating teachers' hard work and in their responses to NNI's anonymous evaluation survey. All 18 participants agreed that the workshop improved their understanding of the history of New Netherland and the origins of the United States. And all of them told us that they planned to incorporate information and materials from summer institute into their curriculum. One wrote, "I enjoyed this tremendously! The wealth of knowledge that was given was

excellent and I feel very comfortable in being able to introduce my students to the Dutch in NY and discuss their relevance within New York & beyond."

The 2012 summer institute proved such a success that the NNI is planning to offer another institute next summer.

"New Netherland New Research," the 35th New Netherland Seminar sponsored by the New Netherland Institute held September 14–15, 2012 at the Mabee Farm, Lower Rotterdam Junction, NY was extraordinary in several ways.

First, this annual seminar brought together researchers unknown to each other for the first time and created camaraderie among them. It was also an opportunity for the speakers and the participants to visit the Mabee Farm, a historic site on the Mohawk River and to hear about the preserved Dutch barn on the site as an added attraction.

Another remarkable point was that the seminar brought together representatives of ten or more organizations, each with different concentrations on the history of the area and its colonial families. Participants heard ten speakers from the Netherlands, France, Canada, New York, Michigan, North Carolina, and Louisiana and took part in lively discussions over the two days.

Presented by the NNI, a membership organization which seeks to increase public awareness of the work of the New Netherland Research Center and supports research in early American history,

the seminar speakers shared the results of their scholarship on art, architecture, gender roles, marriage laws, the New Netherland *Landdag*, and a re-examination of the English invasions of New Amsterdam, among others.

Once it is edited, the seminar program will be uploaded to our web site and many of the papers will appear in forthcoming issues of *De Halve Maen*, the journal of the Holland Society. An announcement of these events will be sent out to subscribers via NEWMARC-L, our electronic information list.

The Annual Hendricks Award was presented to two recipients this year: *New Netherland and the Dutch Origins of American Religious Liberty* by Evan Haefeli which offers a new reading of the way tolerance operated in colonial America and Danny Noorlander's dissertation: *Serving God and Mammon: The Reformed Church and the Dutch West India Company in the Atlantic World, 1621-1674* which will be bound, cataloged and available in the New Netherland Research Center. Haefeli's book is described in detail in the July 2012 issue of *De Nieu Nederlandse Mercurius*.

A walking tour "Schenectady Stockade through a Researcher's Eyes." was led by Laura Lee Linder on Friday afternoon. A tour of the Mabee Farm was the last activity of the seminar, on Saturday afternoon and included the grounds of the Mabee family house, Inn, a brick slave house, Dutch barn, English barn, blacksmith and carpenter shops.

Next year the 36th New

Netherland Seminar, will be held in New York City in early October.

Totidem Verbis

The Dutch Discovery of Western Australia

[The story continues from the previous issue and is herewith concluded.]

The crew of the *Eendracht* went ashore at the northern tip of a skinny island. It was uninhabited, and they found nothing of great interest or value, but spent three days examining the coast and nearby islands. Hartog named this area *t'Landt van d'Eendracht* or "Eendracht's Land," after his ship. The island where he landed was subsequently named Dirk Hartog Island in his honor. Before leaving he acknowledged the landing by leaving a flattened inscribed pewter plate, now known as "Dirk Hartog's Plate," nailed to a post in a location now called Cape Inscription. The inscription goes like this:

Ao 1616, den 25sten October, is hier vangecommen het schip de Eendracht van Amsterdam, den Oppercoopmen Gilles Mibais van Luyck; schipper Dirch Hatichs, van Amsterdam, den 27sten, ditto t'zeijl gegaen na Bantam, den Ondercoopman Jan Stoyne, Opperstierman Pieter Dockes van Bil, Ao 1616

Translation: "In the year 1616. On the 25th October the ship Eendracht of Amsterdam arrived here. Upper merchant Gilles Miebais of Luick [Liege]; skipper Dirk Hartog of Amsterdam. On the 27th ditto we sail for Bantam. Under merchant

Jan Stins; upper steerman Pieter Doores of Bil [Brielle]. In the year 1616."

Eighty-one years later in 1697, the Dutch captain Willem de Vlamingh was in command of the frigate *De Geelvinck* (Yellow Finch) on a rescue mission to locate a VOC capital ship that was thought to have run aground on the west coast of New Holland. Vlamingh landed at Cape Inscription and found Hartog's badly weathered plate, which he removed and substituted his own. Hartog's plate is now in the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, and is the oldest-known artifact of European exploration in Australia. It was not long before "Eendracht's Land" began to appear on maps of the world, and Hartog's voyage heralded the beginning of the Dutch unveiling of the west coast of that vast continent. There still exist place names of Dutch origin on that shore, some the names of subsequent explorers, and some, sadly, from the names of wrecked VOC ships.

After leaving the island, the *Eendracht* sailed northwards along the coastline of Western Australia as far as the North West Cape, Hartog making nautical charts as he went, up to about 22 degrees south. Hartog arrived safely at Batavia harbor on December 16, 1616, some five months after his expected arrival. He left the VOC upon his return to Amsterdam in 1617 and resumed private trading in the Baltic until his death at the age of 41 in 1621. Ω