

De Nieu Nederlandse Mercurius



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Events of interest

May 3, 2013. Russell Shorto, historian and journalist, will deliver the Fossieck Lecture at 3:15 p.m. in Assembly Hall, Campus Center, the University at Albany. Mr. Shorto is renowned for his bestselling history of life in Dutch colonial New York, *The Island at the Center of the World* (2005), which the New York Times called, “Astonishing . . . A book that will permanently alter the way we regard our collective past.” Shorto’s work-in-progress, for which he is conducting research at the NYS Archives and Library, is a new history of the American Revolution. His most recent book is *Descartes’ Bones: A Skeletal History of the Conflict Between Faith and Reason* (2008), which traces the strange adventures of the skeletal remains of the Enlightenment philosopher—bought, sold, stolen, fought over, studied, revered and reviled—following his death in 1650. The Nature reviewer called it, “Beautifully written . . . entertaining, enlightening and, perhaps, disturbing.” A contributing writer for the New York Times Magazine, Shorto lives in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, where he directs the John Adams Institute for

Dutch-American cultural exchange. Open to the public free of charge.

May 9, 2013. Kalmar Nyckel Foundation Lecture Series presents: “Royal Ship *Kronan* — Swedish Naval Power in the 17th Century,” Thursday, 6:00–8:30 pm by Lars Einarsson, *Kronan* Project Director, Kalmar Läns Museum, Sweden. The event will take place at the Chase Center on The Riverfront in Wilmington, DE. Price: \$12.00 in advance, \$8.00 for members, \$15.00 at the door. Go to: www.kalmarnyckel.org.

News

The South Street Seaport Museum, now operating under the auspices of the Museum of the City of New York, has debuted its inaugural installation—OPENING: A WORK IN PROGRESS—presenting 16 galleries interweaving the city and the sea, then and now, through photography, video, historic artifacts, and contemporary design. The offerings are diverse, pointing toward a future for the museum as a cultural oasis that is as lively, dynamic, and varied as this seaport city itself has always been. For

more information go to the website: southstreetseaportmuseum.org

Study Abroad

The University of Amsterdam’s Graduate School of Humanities has announced its programs for the academic year 2013-2014. Courses range from Archaeology, the Classics, History, Literary and Religious Studies, the Dutch Golden Age, to Linguistics, which course has been ranked the best in Europe for two years in a row. Courses are given in English. For more information go to: www.gsh.uva.nl.

Save the dates

The 36th annual New Netherland Seminar will be held on Saturday, October 5, 2013 at the New-York Historical Society. Five speakers will discuss the Flemish role in the war against Spain and the development of New Netherland.

November. 8 to 10, 2013. The 375th Anniversary Conference of New Sweden will take place at the University of Delaware’s Clayton Hall in Newark, Delaware.

De Nieuw Nederlanse Mercurius 2

Websites

The histories of the Dutch and Swedes on the Delaware River are so tightly intertwined that one can't be understood without the other. For the latest on New Sweden go to: www.colonialswedes.org.

Learn more about the ship that brought Peter Minuit to the Delaware to found New Sweden. Although the colony had a short life (1638–1655) it played a significant role in shaping Dutch interests in this highly strategic area of the Northeast. www.kalmarnyckel.org

Publications

The University of Nebraska Press announces the forthcoming (June 1) publication of *From Homeland to New Land: A History of the Mahican Indians, 1600-1830*, by **William A. Starna**, Professor Emeritus of Anthropology, State University of New York College at Oneonta. From the catalog: "This history of the Mahicans begins with the appearance of Europeans on the Hudson River in 1609 and ends with the removal of these Native peoples to Wisconsin in the 1830s. Marshaling the methods of history, ethnology, and archaeology, William A. Starna describes as comprehensively as the sources allow the Mahicans while in their Hudson and Housatonic Valley homeland; after their consolidation at the praying town of Stockbridge, Massachusetts; and following their move to Oneida country in central New York at the end of the

Revolution and their migration west. The emphasis throughout this book is on describing and placing into historical context Mahican relations with surrounding Native groups: the Munsees of the lower Hudson; eastern Iroquoians; and the St. Lawrence and New England Algonquians. Starna also examines the Mahicans' interactions with Dutch, English, and French interlopers. The first and most transformative of these encounters was with the Dutch and the trade in furs, which ushered in culture change and the loss of Mahican lands. The Dutch presence, along with the new economy, worked to unsettle political alliances in the region that, while leading to new alignments, often engendered rivalries and war. The result is an outstanding examination of the historical record that will become the definitive work on the Mahican people from the colonial period to the Removal Era."

Leon van den Broeke, Hans Krabbendam, and Dirk Mouw, eds. *Transatlantic Pieties: Dutch Clergy in Colonial America*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2012. *Transatlantic Pieties* explores the ways in which the lives and careers of fourteen Dutch Reformed ministers illuminate important aspects of European and American colonial society of their times. The portraits humanize and contextualize the lives of these men who served not only as religious leaders and cultural mediators in colonial communities, but also as important connective tissue in the

Dutch Atlantic world. Robert P. Swierenga, senior research professor, A.C. Van Raalte Institute, writes: "Finally we have a book with succinct interpretive biographical sketches of the long forgotten Dutch Reformed clerics who shaped the religious culture of colonial New York and New Jersey, each written by an internationally renowned scholar. Every student of the middle colonies will find this book an invaluable resource."

Dutch language courses

Dutch course in June 2013 at **Columbia University** for Graduate Students (tuition-free)

Applications are invited for a month-long course in modern Dutch, early modern Dutch/paleography, and archives in The Netherlands, each section of which can be taken separately. The course is free-of-charge. Funding has been provided through the Queen Wilhelmina Professorship at Columbia University and by the University of Amsterdam.

The course has three distinct sections, and students may apply to any or all of the three. A single letter of application will suffice for any section(s) of the course, but applicants should be sure to include the appropriate supporting materials for the section(s) of the course to which application is being made. Applications for all sessions are due April 30.

- two weeks of Modern Dutch for Reading Knowledge [(Week I & II (5/28 – 6/6)]

De Nieuw Nederlanse Marcurius 3

- one week of 17th-century Dutch/paleography [(Week III (6/10 – 6 /13))]
- one week archival workshop in Amsterdam [(Week IV (6/17 – 6/21))]

Applications, along with supporting documents, should be emailed to Wijnie de Groot at: wed23@columbia.edu. They are due April 30, 2013. Inquiries should also be directed to Ms.de Groot at the same email address.

NNI News

New website exploring America's Dutch heritage:

The New Netherland Institute in collaboration with the New Netherland Research Center has launched a new web site exploring America's Dutch heritage at www.newnetherlandinstitute.org.

In History & Heritage, explore Dutch America through documents, artifacts, people and places. Currently featuring two new exhibits: "Arent van Curler & the Flatts: How History, Archaeology & Art Illuminate a Life on the Hudson" and "Charting New Netherland: 1597–1684."

In Research, discover original documents through which scholars study the New Netherland era and its ongoing legacy. Just published online: A new translation of the memorandum book of Antony de Hooges, business manager of Rensselaerswijck, and an introductory essay by Dirk Mouw.

In Education, find tools for teachers and fun ways for students to

explore on their own. Now introducing lesson plans from the 2012 Summer Institute for teachers held at the New York State Museum—first in the series is "The Fur Trade: Contact and Commerce between Indians and Dutch Settlers."

In the new Shop, explore, celebrate, educate or just have fun with a basket of products related to New Netherland. (The Shop now accepts Mastercard, Visa and American Express.)

Nominations now being accepted for the 2013 Kenney award for contributions to colonial Dutch studies and to understanding the Dutch significance in North America. Deadline is April 8th.

Applications are now being accepted for the next NNRC Student Scholar Research Grant. Scholars beyond the undergraduate level and actively working on a thesis, dissertation, or scholarly article are invited to apply. The deadline is May 15.

Beginning this year, the New Netherland Institute will offer an annual \$1000 prize for the best published article relating to the Dutch colonial experience in the Atlantic world, with a special sensitivity to New Netherland or its legacy. A committee of scholars will consider entries in the fields of history, archaeology, literature, language, geography, biography, and the arts. Entries must be based upon original research. Articles must be written in English and be published for the first time from 2010 to the present. Chapters from

a monograph, works of fiction, and encyclopedia entries will not be considered. Both academic and independent scholars are invited to participate.

Further information on these awards can be found on our website www.newnetherlandinstitute.org under "News and Events."

New Netherland in a Nutshell: A Concise History of the Dutch Colony in North America, by Firth Haring Fabend, our newest title is available for purchase through our office (518-486-4815 or 518-474-1195) or online at our website, Amazon.com, and will soon be available online from Barnes and Noble. Said one reviewer "Perhaps the most impressive thing about this little tome is the way in which Fabend deftly interweaves a surprising amount of social and material history into the more standard political narrative." With the assistance of the New York State Library and New York's library systems, the New Netherland Institute sent a copy of the book to each public and academic library in New York.

"Decoding the Dutch" an article by Shamanth Rao recently appeared in the electronic magazine called *Narratively*. <http://narrative.ly>. In it, you'll learn how Charly's passion and perseverance has brought the New Netherland Research Center and the New Netherland Institute to where we are today. For a fuller account of the translation project, the booklet *Dutch Renaissance: The Story of the New Netherland Project* by Peter Douglas is

available in our bookstore as well as the DVD documentary “Uncovering America’s Forgotten Colony: the New Netherland Project.” The thirty-minute video (now on our new web site) provides some historical background about New Netherland, explains the importance of using documentary evidence, makes clear why the New Netherland documents are unique and important, and contains interviews with both Charles Gehring and Janny Venema.

The **Annual General Meeting** will be held on Saturday, May 4 at the University Club in Albany. The meeting will begin at 10:30 am followed by a luncheon at the Club. Details are included in the mailing to members and available online under ‘Programs’. Members and non-members may attend both the meeting and luncheon.

Totidem Verbis

In the interest of acquiring reactions of young adults to *New Netherland in a Nutshell*, two area high schools students were asked to read the book and offer their assessments. Following are their reviews:

Sophia Schermerhorn, sophomore at Guilderland High School.

“After reading *New Netherland in a Nutshell* I was very pleased with all the newly acquired information I had just read. My first view of the book was the cover. Some say never to judge a book by its cover, but it was too late I was already hooked. On the cover there is beautiful vessel gliding across the water, behind it stands buildings

with traditional Dutch architecture. This was a perfect illustration to start off the historical literature. When I first started to read the book I was dreading the fact that it might be like my global textbook, but I was pleasantly surprised. The book was easy to read and the narrative flowed rather than listing facts or stating information. This writing style made it much more appealing than any factual textbook. Along with composition I really appreciated the illustrations; they added something special to the text. The illustrations helped me to visualize and understand in depth, what I was reading. While reading I was proud that I could recall learning some of the information being presented. Having prior knowledge of some topics definitely encouraged me to read on. Although having background knowledge was helpful, it was not entirely necessary because the writing was so clear and comprehensible. *New Netherland in a Nutshell* was an engaging piece of historical literature, that I truly enjoyed reading. The concise and coherent writing style made it a pleasure to read. The book goes farther into detail and tells a story unlike any textbook I have read. I would gladly recommend it to anyone.”

Wolfgang Gehring, sophomore at C.A. Bouton High School, Voorheesville

“I found *New Netherland in a Nutshell* to be a very helpful resource for learning about Dutch influence in the New World through

their colony New Netherland. I found the book both readable and enjoyable. The book is very easy to understand but uses some more advanced language some students my age would probably find difficult.. This book would be a good resource for most high school students it is an easy to read narrative full of information. A student reading this would definitely need a fair amount of background knowledge on Colonial America because it refers to colonies of other nations some of which I had not heard of such as the Swedish Colony. I enjoyed how the book told the story of the New Netherland colony sort of as a narrative with a historical text undertone to it. I thoroughly enjoyed the illustrations. They added to the story immensely giving me a good idea of what the forts and houses actually looked like. There are some things in the book I feel students should know before reading. First off students really should have a fair amount of knowledge about Colonial America before reading. Also students may want to have a way to look up some of the words used in the book because I thought some of the language used was a little challenging. There was not anything in particular that I disliked in the book except for the way the author broke up the different parts within the chapters, I felt the way this was done made the book seem more like a textbook and that may turn some students away.”

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