

# De Nieuw Nederlandse Mercurius



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“De Nieuw Nederlandse Mercurius”

July 2012

## Events of interest

### Through September 2, 2012.

To consider the fascinating yet largely anonymous legacy of beer brewing in New York City, the New-York Historical Society presents “Beer Here: Brewing New York’s History.” This exhibit surveys the social, economic, political, and technological history of the production and consumption of beer, ale, and porter in the city from the seventeenth century to the present. For more information go to: [www.nyhistory.org](http://www.nyhistory.org).

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### Through September 3, 2012.

“Dürer and Beyond. Central European Drawings in The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1400–1700.” This exhibition is the first to offer an extensive overview of the Museum’s holdings of early Central European drawings, many of which were acquired in the last two decades. An emphasis on works by later 16th and 17th-century artists is balanced by a selection of German drawings from the fifteenth and earlier sixteenth century, of which some of the most exceptional

ones—including works by Albrecht Dürer—entered the Museum with The Robert Lehman Collection in 1975. Go to: [www.metmuseum.org](http://www.metmuseum.org) for more information.

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**September 14–15, 2012.** The New Netherland Seminar will be held at the Mabee Farm, Rotterdam Junction (near Schenectady), NY. “New Research, New Netherland” will feature presentations of ten former researchers who have been funded for pursuing research in the rich resources of the NYSL and NYSA. In other words, where are they now both physically and intellectually? The lineup of speakers over the day and half event will be as follows:

**Friday morning: Alena M. Buis**, PhD candidate Art History, Queen’s University, Toronto: “Imagining New Netherland: An Art Historian’s Perspective on the Visual Culture of New Netherland”; **Jeroen van den Hurk**, Architectural Historian, Coastal Carolina Research: “Buildings on Paper: Our Current Knowledge and Understanding of New Netherlandic Architecture”; **Bethany Romanowski**, Guest curator of the Vander Ende-Onderdonk House in Queens, New York:

“Curating Van der Donck’s New Netherland.”

**Friday afternoon: Virginie Adane**, EHESS, (L’École des hautes études en sciences sociales), Paris:

“Trading places: men, women and the negotiation of gendered roles in the port of Nieuw Amsterdam”; **Deborah Hamer**, PhD candidate in History Columbia University: “Marriage Law in New Netherland, 1621-1664.” **Eric Ruijsenaars**. “A man and his sloop. Abraham Staats on the North River and beyond.”

**Saturday morning: Dennis Maika**, “New Light on an Old Story: Re-examining the English Invasions of New Amsterdam, 1660-1664”; **Brecht Cornelisse**, Rijksuniversiteit Leiden: “The New Netherland Landdag, the development of a Dutch assembly (1649-1664)”; **Stephen T. Staggs**, Western Michigan University: “The View from the Dutch Republic: Protestant Conceptualizations of Indians”; **Andrea C. Mosterman**, University of New Orleans: “Researching African and Dutch Exchanges in Early New York.”

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### Through September 23, 2012.

“*Stories in Sterling: Four Centuries of Silver in New York*,” at the

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New-York Historical Society highlights the histories of 150 notable examples of silver from the Society's collection. Made across the span of four centuries, the objects in the exhibition tell a diversity of stories: many speak to individual accomplishment and family pride, while a few have unsettling ties or backgrounds. The silver, ranging from simple spoons to extravagant trophies, culled from a trove of over 3,000 objects, includes powerful eyewitness artifacts linked to significant moments in the history of New York and the United States. Go to: [www.nyhistory.org](http://www.nyhistory.org) for more information.

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### 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. Bringing together 28 of these sumptuous paintings and his only known drawing, this exhibition—the first devoted solely to this artist—celebrates the most technically brilliant Dutch still-life painter of his time. It is also accompanied by the first comprehensive publication on his work. Go to: [www.nga.gov](http://www.nga.gov) for more information.

### FYI

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The Consulate General of the Netherlands is moving! As of June 25, 2012 the Consulate will be located in the Chrysler Building East at 666 Third Avenue (between 42 and 43 Sts.), 19th floor, New York, NY 10017; 877-388-2443.

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The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History has moved from the New-York Historical Society to a new location at 19 W. 44th Street, Suite 500 NYC, NY 10036. Founded in 1994 by Richard Gilder and Lewis E. Lehrman, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History is a nonprofit organization devoted to the improvement of history education. The Institute has developed an array of programs for schools, teachers, and students that now operate in all fifty states, including a website that features the more than 60,000 unique historical documents in the Gilder Lehrman Collection. Each year the Institute offers support and resources to tens of thousands of teachers, and through them enhances the education of more than a million students. The Institute's programs have been recognized by awards from the White House, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Organization of American Historians. Among its extensive holdings is the Livingston- Redmond Collection, formerly held by the Roosevelt Library in Hyde Park. [www.gilderlehrman.org](http://www.gilderlehrman.org).

### Publications

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*New Netherland and the Dutch Origins of American Religious Liberty* by **Evan Haefeli** offers a new reading of the way tolerance operated in colonial America. Using sources in several languages and looking at laws and ideas as well as their enforcement and resistance, Evan Haefeli shows that, although tolerance as a general principle was respected in the colony, there was a pronounced struggle against it in practice. Crucial to the fate of New Netherland were the changing religious and political dynamics within the English empire. In the end, Haefeli argues, the most crucial factor in laying the groundwork for religious tolerance in colonial America was less what the Dutch did than their loss of the region to the English at a moment when the English were unusually open to religious tolerance. This legacy, often overlooked, turns out to be critical to the history of American religious diversity. By setting Dutch America within its broader imperial context, this work offers a comprehensive and nuanced history of a conflict integral to the histories of the Dutch republic, early America, and religious tolerance. University of Pennsylvania Press, 2012; \$45.00.

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*The Dutch: Prelude to their Golden Age. A Historical Novel* by **Richard E. Schultz**. This novel is the epic tale of the fifteen hundred years of evolution that led to two of history's most important

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revolutions: the first, the Dutch's own, when they challenged the right of the kings of Spain to rule the Netherlands; the second, our own American Revolution, two hundred years later. The author has devoted four years in researching, consulting, and writing in order to bring his fellow Americans an insight into their contributing Dutch heritage. It is an ancestry that has been lost or too often minimized within the depth of America's English language and culture. This swashbuckling saga of the early Netherlands reveals another contributing heritage that many Americans will come to value as they marvel at its rich tapestry and contemporary significance.

While a work of historical fiction, the novel actually crosses a host of genres. They include action, adventure, mystery, romance, and war. In the process it tells an epic tale. Within its pages, the author answers one of history's great mysteries: by whom and how was the very first yacht created? The answer will surprise readers. The accomplishments of Dutch shipwrights in those times will astound seafarers even more.

The story line follows two Dutch families over generations, and readers meet an assortment of brave warriors, skilled craftsmen, and unfettered women as these characters battle the adverse forces of nature and nation-states. Eternal Press/Damnation; \$9.95/ebook; \$33.99/cloth with dust jacket. For more information go to: <http://bit.ly/x4zIyh>

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**Hendrik Willem van Loon**, Dutch-born historian and journalist, (1882-1944) was probably best known for his popular *The Story of Mankind*, a history of the world oriented toward children. Published in 1921 it won the the first Newbery Medal in 1922. His bibliography numbers some fifty publications, including works on Rembrandt and Petrus Stuyvesant. An entire list of his books can be found in *Wikipedia*. All of which is an introduction to a query of Ralph DeGroff, Jr. who is owner of thirty-three of Van Loon's titles, including duplicates of nine. If there is anyone interested in this nearly complete collected works, please email [cgehring@mail.nysed.gov](mailto:cgehring@mail.nysed.gov) for contact information.

### NNI News

A ton of history was given to the New Netherland Research Center (NNRC) as Charles T. Gehring accepted the Jacob Schiltkamp Collection on Saturday, May 19 in the NYS Library at the Annual General Meeting of the New Netherland Institute (NNI). Some 2,100 pounds of document, maps and books, the entire library of the late Jacob Schiltkamp, was given to the NNRC. "This is one of the best collections of materials on the Dutch in the Atlantic World," said Dr. Charles T. Gehring, director of the NNRC. Dr. Gehring spoke of his long-time collaboration and friendship with Dr. Schiltkamp. Mrs. Schiltkamp, their son and his wife attended the event. Schiltkamp was a highly placed legal official in Curaçao and co-editor of the Curaçao Papers. The 68 cartons

presented include a significant research library, as well as 17th-century books and atlases. The resources will be accessible for study through the NNRC. The NNRC's new location on the seventh floor of the New York State Library was declared officially open on Saturday, as well. It will be open for research during the library's hours. Officers of the NNI were also announced including Jippe Hiemstra, President, Marilyn Douglas, Vice President, E. James Schermerhorn, Corporate Secretary, and William Greer, Treasurer. Janny Venema, PhD, who was presented with the annual Hendricks Award at the 2011 New Netherland Seminar in September in Wilmington, Delaware was the featured speaker.

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**Gaynell Stone**, PhD, of Stony Brook, NY, received the 2012 Alice P. Kenney Award at the Institute's annual meeting in Albany on May 19th. The Award is in recognition of Dr. Stone's contribution to the understanding of the significance of the Dutch colonial experience in North America. Dr. Stone was sensitized to the multi-cultural nature of 17th-century Long Island through her dissertation research photographing over 4,300 colonial Long Island gravestones, of which over 15% were "Dutch"—all who were not English. She has taught this new view of Long Island's history in courses at Stony Brook University, SCOPE, and Suffolk County Community College, as well as being a speaker in the humanities on "Evidence of Dutch

Culture in Coastal New York.” A major contributor to the award nomination was her direction of the documentary film, “The Sugar Connection: Holland, Barbados, Shelter Island,” which shows for the first time Long Island’s important role in 17th century global trade through its Manors, especially Sylvester Manor on Shelter Island. The \$1000 Kenney Award will be contributed toward the cost of the sequel film, “The Manors of Long Island,” which shows the role of the other six manors of Suffolk County in the Caribbean sugar and other world trade. The Kenney Trust has purchased 20 copies of Dr. Stone’s documentary to be distributed to all schools and museums in the Schenectady area.

### Totidem Verbis

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At a recent luncheon in the Fort Orange Club of Albany sat an Australian, a New Zealander, two Dutch nationals, and an American. The conversation inevitably turned to Dutch explorations south of the Indonesian archipelago. We all agreed that most people would be at a loss to suggest an origin for the place name Tasmania—even New Zealand might be a problem. With this in mind the next several installments of this section will provide the reader with essential information on the subject should a similar occasion arise. The following is from the digital pen of our contributing editor Peter A. Douglas.

### The Dutch Discovery of Western Australia

The name Dirk Hartog sounds as if it belongs to the swashbuckling hero of a Rafael Sabatini adventure novel or a similar Hollywood epic, and perhaps that’s fitting, for this Dutch sailor and explorer certainly led such a life. However you spell his name (Dirck Hartogh, Dirch Hartichs, and even Theodoric Hertoge) he holds a place in history for being, in 1616, the second European to make landfall in Australia, and the first to sight Western Australia. This, as with so many of such outstanding discoveries, was naturally under the auspices of the Dutch East India Company (VOC).

Hartog was born into a sea-faring family in 1580 and received his first command at the age of thirty, spending several years in trading ventures in the Baltic and Mediterranean. He was employed by the VOC in 1615 and appointed master of a brand new ship, the *Eendracht*. This was a popular ship’s name of the period, meaning “concord,” “unity,” or “harmony,” and taken from the motto of the *Republiek der Zeven Vereingde Nederlanden*: “*Concordia Res Parvae Crescunt*,” (“through union the small prosper”). The *Eendracht*, at 700 tonnes, was quite a large vessel for the time, carrying 32 guns and a crew of about 200.

The *Eendracht* set out on her maiden voyage from Texel on January 23, 1616, in the company of several other VOC ships, on a trading venture bound for Batavia. Off Africa a storm separated

Hartog’s ship from the rest of the fleet, and he put in at the Cape of Good Hope, where he stayed several weeks. In August he decided to set out unaccompanied for Batavia.

The ship’s course across the Indian Ocean was more southerly than had previously been customary, and it was one that made the best use of the prevailing westerly winds at that latitude, the “Roaring Forties,” a route pioneered a few years earlier by the Dutch navigator Hendrik Brouwer (1581-1643) as a faster route to Java. The VOC had instructed captains to take advantage of this route as it could reduce the travel time from Europe by several months. The routine was, however, to change to a northerly heading at a more westerly longitude than the *Eendracht* did, though whether Hartog had intended to keep to the southerly track, or was perhaps blown off course, is not clear.

Whatever the reason for this deviation, the result was that Hartog was farther east than he should have been and thereby unwittingly found Australia. On October 25, he came unexpectedly upon uninhabited islands in the region that would become known as Shark Bay in Western Australia. Hartog was the first European to see this area, though he was not the first to make landfall on this new continent, that honor having gone to Willem Janszoon in the *Duyfken* ten years earlier when he set foot on the western shore of the Cape York Peninsula.

(to be continued)