

De Nieuw Nederlandse Mercurius



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Events of interest

Through December 31, 2009. “Early Life on the Hudson.” An exhibition of recent works by L.F. Tantillo at the Sand Lake Center for the Arts. The exhibit is open W/F 10–12 noon; Sundays 1–4. This is a rare exhibition of beautifully framed canvas prints. All artwork is available for purchase. Sand Lake Center for the Arts, 2880 Route 43; for more information and directions go to: slca-ctp.org; tel.: 518–674–2007.

December 14, 2009–March 20, 2010. The Delaware Historical Society of Wilmington will host “Light on New Netherland,” a traveling panel exhibit produced by the New Netherland Institute, consisting of 14 two sided panels arranged in 7 units covering a wide variety of topics related to the Dutch colony. Each panel contains 2–3 graphics as well, including many by Len Tantillo. The Society is located on 505 N. Market Street, Wilmington, DE 19801. For more details go to: www.hsd.org.

Through January 3, 2010. “New Amsterdam: The Island at the Center of the World.” For anyone interested in New Netherland this exhibit at the South Street Seaport Museum is not to be missed. In one exhibit you will be able to see the 1614 Block map, the 1626 Schaghen letter, and the Castello plan, all icons of New Netherland rarely seen outside their European repositories. All of this and much more in an attractively mounted exhibit. For more details: www.southstreetseaportmuseum.org.

Through January 3, 2010. “Dutch New York Between East and West: The World of Margrieta van Varick.” The Bard Graduate Center commemorates the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson’s voyage and the legacy of Dutch culture in New York with a landmark exhibition. Organized by the BGC and the New–York Historical Society and curated by Marybeth De Filippis and Deborah L. Krohn, Dutch New York will make a major contribution to the quadricentennial and to the scholarship of colonial New York by focusing on the life and times of a woman who during the seventeenth century lived in the rural village of Flatbush on eastern Long Island, a neighborhood still known by that name in the borough of Brooklyn

today. The exhibition helps elucidate what the author Russell Shorto has called the “forgotten colony” in his book *The Island at the Center of the World*. Indeed, the British roots of New York City are recognized far more widely than the Dutch, despite the city’s visible connections to the Dutch founders, most evident in street names such as Amsterdam Avenue and Varick Street. The Bard Graduate Center is at 18 West 86th Street; 212–501–3000; generalinfo@bgc.bard.edu

Through January 10, 2010. The Hudson Valley Museum presents: “Dutch New York: The Roots of Hudson Valley Culture.” The exhibition looks at New York’s Dutch roots, spotlighting five key moments of the Netherlands’ influence in NY’s history: 1609, when Hudson came up the river; 1709, when Dutch culture continued to thrive under English rule; 1809, when Washington Irving’s popular writings began to romanticize the Dutch heritage; 1909, when the Hudson–Fulton Celebration created a common Dutch past for a rapidly growing nation; and 2009, when the very concept of historical “celebration” is increasingly debated. These themes are illustrated with a rich

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assemblage of paintings, prints, photographs, furniture, maps, decorative arts, and ephemera from the Museum and other collections, including the Smithsonian, the Brooklyn Museum, and the National Gallery of Art. The Museum is located at 511 Warburton Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10701, 914-963-4550, www.hrm.org.

Through March 7, 2010. “1609” at Exhibition Hall in the New York State Museum. Two worlds collided in 1609 when Henry Hudson and the Dutch sailed up the “great river” and met the native people of New York. This exhibition introduces visitors to information about Henry Hudson, native people of New York, and the Dutch period in New York state by dispelling some commonly held myths and showing the legacy these groups left to the residents of the state and the nation. This exhibition was organized by the New York State Museum, New York State Archives, and New York State Library. For the online feature created for this exhibition go to: www.nysm.nysed.gov/1609.

Publications

Cookies, Coleslaw, and Stoeps, the Influence of Dutch on the North American Languages by Nicoline van der Sijs is the perfect Christmas gift for the linguist in your family. It is a treasure chest of words and expressions, surviving from the settlers of New Netherland. If you still use the term “winkelhawk” as a corner tear in cloth and/or “dobber” as the float on a fishing line, or are

curious about the etymology of “coleslaw” or “cookie,” this is the book for you. Published this year by Amsterdam University Press, it is available at Amazon for \$29.25. Remember to access Amazon through our website by clicking on books and more on the homepage.

For those of you familiar with Jaap Jacobs's *magnum opus* on the history of New Netherland, but troubled by the price, there is good news. Cornell University Press has published a shortened version in a very well-organized format; best of all it is in paperback and affordable at \$19.40 through Amazon. The 332 page book is entitled, *The Colony of New Netherland: A Dutch Settlement in Seventeenth-Century America*. ISBN 978-0-8014-7516-0.

Looking for an exciting book for your Dutch-reading teenager? Sandy Jansen has just written one called *De laatste dagen van Nieuw-Amsterdam*. The 304 page youth novel concerns the trials and tribulations of four Brabant teenagers who are transported back in time to the final days of the Dutch colony. For more information go to: www.sandyjansen.nl.

If you have a heavily reinforced coffee table you might want to consider displaying the catalogues for the two exhibits about to expire on 3 January: *New York, New Amsterdam. The Dutch Origins of Manhattan* edited by Martine Gosselink (available at the South Street Seaport Museum's gift shop);

and, *Dutch New York Between East & West. The World of Margrieta van Varick* edited by Deborah Krohn and Peter Miller (available at Amazon).

News

New York Dutch Period Room opened at the Met

The period rooms in the Met's American Wing —reopened by Michelle Obama on May 18th— provide an overview of American domestic architecture and interior design over three centuries. This week, a New York Dutch Room was added to the collection. The eighteenth-century house was built by Daniel Peter Winne (1720–1800) in present-day Bethlehem, outside of Albany. Daniel Peter Winne was a fourth generation descendant of Pieter Winne, also known as Pieter the Fleming, from Ghent, who arrived in the early 1650s. In 1653 he married Tanneke Adams. Daniel Peter's home was part of the last generation of houses built in the tradition of the New York Dutch. The exhibit features an original painting by artist Len Tantillo of what the Daniel Peter Winne house might have looked like in 1751. The painting can be seen at: www.lftantillo.com

NNI News

Our third Quinn Fellow Virginie Adane, a Ph.D. candidate at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS) in Paris, France spent the 2008-2009 Academic year at NYU as a

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Fulbright and Georges Lurcy Fellow and is spending the fall of 2009 at the New Netherland Institute in Albany. Her dissertation "Women in a multicultural colonial society - New Netherland, New York (ca.1630–ca.1730) is focused on the role and place of women in the colony of New Netherland, then New York, over the first century of its existence. By working with court, church, and private papers, she hopes to confront the actual social practices and interactions between men and women to the evolution of law in the colonial society. In her studies as she explores the status and evolution of women's role in the colonial society she is finding that it was much more similar to that in other colonies than has been previously assumed. She wants to look at all women in society –Dutch and other European women–on the streets of New Amsterdam. She hopes to complete her dissertation by 2011.

Born in Paris, Virginie completed her undergraduate work in Lyon at the Ecole Normal Suprieure and holds both an undergraduate and Master's degrees with a history and geography major. Her interest in American history focused on the image of Indians in Paris and the image of America in France in the 19th century. She studied the 1845 exhibit in Paris of George Catlin's Indian Gallery and examined the archival documents to determine how people felt about the exhibit and the Indians depicted. She changed direction and began to pursue an interest in colonial America and was surprised to find that many professors knew about

colonial America in general but that there was so little available about New York in that period. Her professor's explanation – people don't read Dutch– so, she decided to study the Dutch language which she began at the L'Institut Néerlandais in Paris and at Columbia University where she studied early modern Dutch from Van der Donck to Jacob Cats. In addition to Dutch, she speaks French, English and has a reading knowledge of German.

Virginie enjoys the cinema, exploring neighborhoods, and spending time with real Americans. Once she completes her PhD work she hopes to find a job either in France or the United States.

Two Quinn Library Research Residencies for 2009–10 have been awarded: one to Andre Mosterman and the other to Kim Todt. Applications for the 2010 Quinn Research Residency Award must be postmarked by January 29, 2010. The Quinn Archives Research Resident for 2009–10, Stephen T. Staggs, gave a talk on October 9th to Library and Archives staff based on his research on Dutch/Indian relations. Applications for the 2010 Archives Research Residency Award must be postmarked by January 15, 2010 and will only be accepted by regular U.S. Mail. The awards are \$2,500 each and the Library and Archives share the cost 50/50 with NNI. The Quinn Foundation contributed \$10,000 in 2009 to continue the Fellowship and Research Residency Award program. Information on the Quinn recipients, their research topics, and

links to 2010 applications can be found at: [www.nnp.org/nni/Research & Education/quinn.html](http://www.nnp.org/nni/Research%20&%20Education/quinn.html).

Kenney Award

Professor C. Carl Pegels, Professor Emeritus of the University of Buffalo, received the 2009 Kenney Award at the New Netherland Dinner on October 3, 2009. Nominations for the 2010 award are due February 1, 2010. Mr. Michael T. Brockbank, executor of Mrs. Kenney's estate, will continue to fund the Award. Furthermore, as of 2010 the Award will be increased to \$1,000. Website information has been updated: www.nnp.org/nni/Awards/kenney.html.

Hendricks Award

Dr. Andrew Hendricks has generously increased the award to \$5,000 beginning with the 2009. Each winner will receive a Tantillo print with a brass plate indicating the year the person won the award. The print will be of a recent painting of Fort Orange, which Tantillo did for Governor Paterson as New York's gift to the Prince of Orange. Submissions for the 2010 award are due March 15, 2010. Information can be found at www.nnp.org/nni/awards/hendricks.html.

For those required to take a RMD or distribution from their IRA, this is the last year that the IRS will allow gifts of up to \$100,000 to be made to the NNI or other qualifying

non-profit organizations without any tax consequences to the donor as long as you direct the custodian of your IRA to do so with the check sent directly to NNI. Any amount up to \$100,000 is allowed as long

as the donor does not receive the money from their IRA account. You have until the end of the year to execute this. As always, you may want to check with your tax advisor. If you desire further

information, call NNI's Development Officer Jim Sefcik at 518-374-2747 or send an email to jfssrny@yahoo.com.

Totidem verbis

In 1652 the WIC directors ordered that Stuyvesant establish a drop box for settlers' mail intended for patria. What happened to these letters? Finding them would provide valuable information about ordinary life in New Netherland, as well as relations with the Indians and the English colonies. Recently we found out what happened to some of the letters. A doctoral student at Leiden University informed me that a 1664 letter from Hendrick Meessen Vrooman in Schenectady to his brother Jacob back in Leiden had surfaced. The student is working on a project called *brieven als buit* "letters as loot." The English seized these letters from Dutch ships during the 17th-c Anglo-Dutch wars. Each month a particularly interesting letter is selected for posting on the project's website: www.brievenalsbuit.nl. Following are extracted portions of the letter translated by Leiden students. For a complete analysis of the letter go to the website where you can select the English language version of the site. The letter can be found at Monthly Letters/ May-June 2009. Vrooman begins:

It has been a good summer here. Very fine grain has grown here and the cultivation was good and the land still pleases me. At snechten-deel [Schenectady] the land is

more beautiful than I have ever seen in Holland. [The students paraphrase the following:] Hendrik lives in Schenectady with his eldest son Adam. His other children are staying with his brother Pieter Vrooman, who apparently arrived earlier in New Netherland and lives near Fort Orange – now Albany. Hendrik and his son are farming the land. He proudly explains that he has plowed for a certain man called Korrelaer [Arent van Curler] for about a month now and that he will be able to stay on working for him for another month. They have sown about 12 *morgens* of wheat (almost 9 ha/22 acres) and there are still 6 *morgens* (4.5 ha/almost 10 acres) to be done. He will get 16 bushels of wheat a month. His son Adam has plowed for three weeks for another farmer and will keep working for him for another 5 weeks. This will earn him 14 bushels of wheat. [Vrooman also makes the following observation:] "*Furthermore I let you know that there have arrived three English ships at the Mannhattans with soldiers and they have claimed the land and they say that it belongs to their king. And Stuyvesant [the director general of New Netherland] has given it to them without one shot, with an agreement. But the English soldiers say that Stuyvesant and Decker [Johannes de Dekker] already sold the land to them two years ago. On*

28 September a hundred soldiers with their officers have occupied Fort Orange and the guardhouse with permission and the English now keep watch." According to Vrooman this is not a bad thing, because the English seem to control the *wilden*" better than the Dutch do: *The Indians have to lie low and be a bit calmer than they have been before.*

Vrooman concludes the letter by asking his sister to send some black, gray, and yellow thread in a little package by the next ship coming to New Netherland. He also asks for news about whether it is peace or war with England. Earlier in the letter he expressed hope that the *Hollanders* would return soon. Vrooman may have written more letters to his family in Leiden, and may have eventually received the desired thread. Such letters may still survive among private papers in the Netherlands; however, what we do know is that a little over 25 years later his life would be cut short in the Schenectady Massacre.

We can only hope that the students at Leiden will turn up more correspondence from New Netherland. The fact that at least one letter was found should indicate that there may have been more letters or documents aboard the same ship. Hope springs eternal!