

De Nieuw Nederlansche Mercurius



Vol. 25, No. 3

“De Nieuw Nederlansche Mercurius”

Sept. 2009

Upcoming & ongoing events

September 8–October 17, 2009.

The Museum of American Finance (at 42 Wall St.) announces “*Actiën Handel: Early Dutch Finance and the Founding of America*,” an exhibit showcasing the relationship between early Dutch finance and the United States. On display will be financial documents from Amsterdam, including the oldest known share certificate, which was issued by the VOC in 1606. The exhibit will tie in with the city-wide celebration of the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson’s exploration of the area and will focus on the financial aspects of the area’s first 200 years. For more information contact Kristin Aguilera at 212-908-4695 or kaguilera@moaf.org; www.moaf.org.

September 12, 2009–January 7, 2010.

New Amsterdam: The Island at the Center of the World. Take a look back at a time when New Amsterdam was, well, new. Presented in conjunction with the Dutch National Archives, the exhibition includes the 1626 letter that notes one of the best real estate deals of all time—the purchase of Manhattan for goods worth 60

guilders. Also, examine rare maps, plans, and watercolors of what would become New York City, many of which have never before been seen in the United States (such as Johannes Vingboons’ original illustrations of the City). More details at: www.southstseaport.org

September 25–26, 2009. “New York’s 400 Years,” a conference at the Wallace Center and Marist College, celebrating the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson’s voyage in 1609. For program information go to: www.hudsonrivervalley.org; or call: 845-575-3052.

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.

October 1–3, 2009. The NNI announces its 32nd Rensselaerswijck Seminar “Kiliaen van Rensselaer’s *Colonie: The Beginning of European Settlement of the Upper Hudson*.” The conference will begin Thursday evening with a lecture by **Russell Shorto** followed by book signings and a reception. The programs on Friday and Saturday will focus on the Rensselaerswijck patroonship and genealogical resources for tracing one’s Dutch ancestors both here and in the Netherlands. **Friday** morning’s speakers will be Oliver Rink and Janny Venema, followed by a panel discussion of contributors to *Explorers, Fortunes, & Love Letters: A Window on New Netherland*. Speakers in the afternoon session include Peter Christoph, Nico Plomp, and Stefan Bielinski. **Saturday** morning’s speakers include Jan Folkerts, Charles Gehring, and Henry Hoff. After lunch William Starna will introduce James Bradley, the winner of the 2009 Hendricks Award. Speakers in the final Saturday session will be Len

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Tantillo and Martha Shattuck. William ‘Chip’ Reynolds, captain of the *Halve Maen* will be the featured speaker at the New Netherland dinner Saturday evening. In addition to the seminar programs, there will be an opportunity to visit Albany’s First Dutch Reformed Church, participate in an AquaDuck tour of Albany, a guided tour of *Hudson River Panorama: 400 Years of History, Art, and Culture*, an exhibition at the Albany Institute of History and Art, and view an orientation film on the city of Albany. Program and registration information is available at our website: www.nnp.org; or, contact Bonnie Urso at: 518-486-4815 or burso@mail.nysed.gov.

Though October 12, 2009. The Museum of the City of New York presents: *Mannahatta/Manhattan: A Natural History of New York City*, which reveals the island of Mannahatta at the time of Henry Hudson’s arrival—a fresh, green new world at the moment of discovery. Through cutting edge multi-media and historical artifacts and maps, *Mannahatta/Manhattan* will re-imagine the quiet, wooded island at the mouth of a great river that was destined to become one of the greatest cities on Earth. For more exhibit information go to: www.mcny.org; or, for much more information on the Project go to: www.themannahattaproject.org.

November 4–6, 2009. Once again the Education Committee of the NY

The New Netherland Institute gratefully acknowledges all gifts received from July 1, 2008 to July 1, 2009. Corporate donors etc appear in italics. For 2007 and 2008 donations, see www.nnp.org/nni/Membership/cc.html

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Genealogical & Biographical Society is sponsoring a three-day research trip to the NYS Archives and Library in Albany! We will provide our members with three days of assisted research at the Library and Archives, plus social events. To register: the program fee, including the banquet, reception, and all other arrangements, is \$110 for members, \$150 for non-members. Fee for dinner guests is \$30. We have arranged a special room rate at the Crowne Plaza of \$99 per night, single or double. Please call the hotel directly at 518-462-6611 and mention that you are attending the NYG&B program to get this rate. To register, please send the form on the back page of the *Researcher* or contact Lauren Maehrlein: education@nygbs.org; 212-755-8532, x 36, or at: www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org.

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 New York’s history: 1609, when Henry 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 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 September 27, 2009.

Amsterdam/New Amsterdam: The Worlds of Henry Hudson, presented in collaboration with the New Netherland Institute, Albany, and the National Maritime Museum Amsterdam/Nederlands Scheepvaartmuseum Amsterdam, will employ rare 16th- and 17th-century objects, images, and documents from major American and Dutch collections to bring the transatlantic world to life and reveal how Henry Hudson’s epic third voyage of exploration planted the seeds of a modern society that took root and flourished in the New World. For more information go to: www.mcny.org

Publications

Food historian Peter G. Rose has two new books this year: *Food, Drink and Celebrations of the Hudson Valley Dutch* (The History Press, March, 2009); and *Summer Pleasures, Winter Pleasures: a Hudson Valley Cookbook* (SUNY Press, September, 2009). NB she will be giving numerous talks this fall (book signing ops!): as banquet speaker for the NYGenealogical &

Biographical Society in NYC (September 10); as part of a Dutch Literary Afternoon at the Brooklyn Museum (September 26), at the Bronck Museum in Coxsackie (October 18), at the Schenectady Historical Society (November 21), and Historic Huguenot Street (December 5), to mention only a few.

Gideon’s People, 2-volume set, *Being a Chronicle of an American Indian Community in Colonial Connecticut and the Moravian Missionaries Who Served There*. Translated and edited by Corinna Dally-Starna and William Starna. The story of this Indian community in the Housatonic Valley is based on three decades of nearly uninterrupted German-language diaries and allied records kept by the missionaries who had joined the Indians at a place called Pachgatgoch, later Schaghticoke. It is supplemented by colonial records and regional political, social, and religious histories and ethnographies. As such, it represents the only comprehensive, thoroughly contextualized description of a Native people in southern New England and adjacent eastern New York for the mid-18th century. This work is published by Nebraska University Press in its series “The Iroquoians and Their World.” For more information go to: www.nebraskapress.unl.edu.

News

The Crailo State Historic Site recently opened a new permanent

exhibit, “A Sweet and Alien Land: Colony of the Dutch in the Hudson River Valley,” focused on the world of Dutch colonists in the region. The new exhibits combine archaeological artifacts and other displays and modern multimedia effects to depict 17th-century life on the Hudson River. The new permanent exhibit at Crailo, located at 9½ Riverside Ave. in Rensselaer, is part of an investment of between

\$200,000 to \$300,000 in the site that also included new exterior signs and other work. The Crailo State Historic Site is open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday in July and August and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday in September and October.

Russell Shorto *et alia* are developing an online game involving 17th-c Manhattan called

“The Island.” As part of the Hudson 400 festivities the Waag Society and the John Adams Institute have created an urban mobile game that connects students in Amsterdam and New York in real time. By becoming a merchant, they connect with the history that links both cities together. For more details go to: www.john-adams.nl/theisland.

Totidem Verbis

The Native Place of Manhattan: Where Did the Manhattan “Purchase” Take Place?

by Peter Douglas, contributing editor

(continued from NNM vol. 25 no.2)

The site is now by the Henry Hudson Bridge, where the Harlem River Ship Canal meets the Hudson River, and the area would have been nothing but remote wilderness in 1626. It is also some fourteen miles upriver from Nut Island and the site of New Amsterdam, making it quite an inconvenient sail for Minuit and his party. Thus the Inwood site is much less plausible than downtown as the site for the trade. There is really nothing here but the local legend (“now-disputed”) on this rock and plain wishful thinking to substantiate the account, and the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation is quick to acknowledge that “the celebrated sale has also been linked to sites in Lower Manhattan.”

Perhaps it is not too cynical to suggest that such a legend would be very helpful to the local Chamber of Commerce. The reason may, on the other hand, be purely sentimental. It is tempting, perhaps, to see, as some have, these backwoods as a more fitting and proper setting for the Dutch meeting with the natives, for Inwood Hill Park is a living piece of old New York. Much has occurred on the land that now composes this park since the arrival of the Europeans in the 16th century, though most of the land thereabouts was largely untouched by the wars and development that took place.

Mario Maffi [New York City: *An Outsider’s Inside View*, Columbus, Ohio State University Press, 2004, p.2, translation by Derek Allen of *Sotto le Torri di Manhattan*] while very skeptical that Inwood was the site of Minuit’s transaction, writes: “I still prefer to imagine the episode having taken place here, among the last remaining woods of Manhattan’s primeval forests—somewhere in the watery, leafy silence of these paths and hills (Minuit forging along the path at the head of his men in baggy puffed trousers and broad-brimmed hats; the Weckweesgeeks lined up in front of the village with their canoes ditched along the shore just a few yards off)—and not amidst the frenetic cacophony of narrow canyons downtown.”

The author continues: “Reading the plaque [on the Shorokkepoch rock] after two mazelike hours meandering about the hills of Inwood Park, with its blocks of shale and dolomite, its oaks and nut trees, makes an odd impression. No matter how doubtful the legend might be, you feel as if you are in the native place of Manhattan.” (concluded)