

De Nieu Nederlandse Mercurius

Vol. 21, No. 1

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March 2005

Upcoming Events

January 15 - April 3, 2005.

“Peter Paul Rubens (1577 - 1640): The Drawings.” This exhibition, the first major retrospective in the US devoted to the drawings of the great Flemish artist, brings together 115 of Rubens’ finest and most representative drawings from European and American public and private collections. On view are more than 30 sheets, many of them intimate portraits of the artist’s family and friends, from the famous collection of the Albertina in Vienna. The exhibition spans Rubens’ entire career, demonstrating his full range of drawing techniques. Included are Biblical scenes, elegant portraits of noblemen and women, animal studies, landscapes, and anatomical studies.

Metropolitan Museum of Art
1000 Fifth Avenue, New York
(212) 535-7710
www.metmuseum.org

March 25 – 26, 2005. “Going Dutch: Holland in America, 1609–2009.” This interdisciplinary conference will explore the place of Dutch history and the influence of Dutch culture in the United States. Papers include: Dutch history, art, architecture, design, customs, trade,

religion, and philosophy. For complete conference information go to our site: www.nnp.org/conferences.

April 8 to June 19, 2005.

“Time and Transformation in Seventeenth Century Dutch Art” at the Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie NY. This exhibition brings together from American collections over 90 Dutch paintings and works on pa-



Pastoral Landscape with Ruins
Adriaen van de Velde 1664

per from the 17th century. The loans, assembled by a team of international scholars, will be from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Art Institute of Chicago, Detroit Institute of Art, the Pierpont Morgan, and other institutions.

The linking theme of the art

works is “the transformative effects of time and circumstance.” The Dutch were fascinated by this idea, and the variety of motifs employed to convey it. Included in the exhibition will be such images as landscapes with ruined medieval structures in the wake of the Spanish wars, depictions of rustic cottages and farms, Dutch Italianate landscapes with Roman ruins, and representations of ruins resulting from flood and fire.

Among the artists represented are Rembrandt, Jacob van Ruisdael, Jan van Goyen, Abraham Bloemaert, Willem Kalf, Gerard Dou, and Bartholomaeus Breenberg.

The FLL Art Center is located on the Vassar College campus in Poughkeepsie. Its general collection amounts to some 15,000 works from antiquity to the present. Admission is free, and it’s open to the public 10:00 to 5:00 Tuesday to Saturday, and 1:00 to 5:00 on Sundays. For more information, call (845) 437-5632, or go to: fllac.vassar.edu.

Publications

1650: Hard Won Unity, by Willem Frijhoff and Marijke Spies.

Published last December in Europe and available in the US in March,

this ambitious study is the first volume of a series entitled "Dutch Culture in a European Perspective." It presents the latest views on Dutch society during the famous Golden Age. Philosophy, religion, and the arts are treated at length, and particular attention is paid to the institutions and media responsible for the dissemination of culture, including language, education, and the printed word.

The book emphasizes the intellectual, professional, and religious networks of which citizens could be members, and the vital role of family connections. The stadholder's court and the municipal councils appear against the background of the national and international political situation.

While 1650 is the central year, the subject is examined in a much broader time-frame, making the book an excellent introduction to 17th century society in general.

Publisher: Palgrave MacMillan,
www.palgrave-usa.com
US publishing date: March 2005
ISBN: 1-4039-3227-1. \$68.00

Revisiting New Netherland, Perspectives on Early Dutch America. Edited by Joyce D. Goodfriend. This book of essays samples current scholarship on New Netherland, touching on topics such as New Netherland in Historical Memory, New Netherland in the Atlantic World, the Political Economy of New Netherland, and New Netherland's Directors. This publication represents a selection of the papers presented at the 2001 Rensselaerswijck Seminar in NYC "New Netherland at the Millennium." Publication date by Brill

Academic Publishers is August 2005; ISBN 90 04 14507 9;

FNN News

The National Endowment for the Humanities has approved the New Netherland Project's proposal for another grant cycle, to run from January 1, 2005, through December 31, 2007. A small part of the grant is outright; the major portion is a challenge grant, to be matched through the fund-raising efforts of the Friends of New Netherland.

The Friends of New Netherland record with sadness the passing of the Reverend Dr. William Lydecker on December 7, 2004, and extend their condolences to the Lydecker family. A staunch supporter of the New Netherland Project, Reverend Lydecker served on the Friends' Board of Trustees almost from its beginning in 1986 as trustee, vice-president, president, and secretary, until failing health compelled him to resign. Many of the Friends' present Board of Trustees and membership remember Father Bill with great appreciation and affection.

At the December 2004 meeting of the Board of Trustees, nominating committee chair Charles Wendell presented the following slate: returning trustees Funk (secretary), Douglas, De Leeuw, Reynolds, and Tibbitts, and new nominees John Milnes Baker, Jippe Hiemstra, and Robert E. Van Vranken. The Board approved the slate and accepted with regret the resignation of Coen Blaauw, whose term had ended, and the earlier resignation of Dr. Andrew Brink. At the Friends' An-

nual Meeting on January 29, 2005, the chair reported on the ballot results, confirming the election of the nominees. The composition of the new Board of Trustees is as follows, with the year of expiration of the term in parentheses:

John Van Schaick, president (06); Dr. Charles W. Wendell, vice-president (06); Peter J. Paulson, treasurer (06); Dr. Elisabeth P. Funk, secretary (08); John Milnes Baker (08); Anneke Bull (06); Hubert J. W. de Leeuw (08); Marilyn Douglas (08); Dr. Arthur Fontijn (2006); Jippe Hiemstra (08); Ruth Piwonka (06); William T. (Chip) Reynolds (08); Fred. M. Tibbitts, Jr. (08); Robert E. Van Vranken, Esq. (08); Greta Wagle (07); Dr. Theodore P. Wright, Jr. (06). Serving ex officio: Dr. Charles T. Gehring, director; and Mary Redmond, NYS Library liaison.

The Annual Meeting of the Friends of New Netherland was held on January 29, 2005, at the Stockade Inn, in Schenectady's historic Stockade district, followed by a luncheon and a talk by Dr. Charles Gehring at the Schenectady Historical Society on the occasion of the 300th anniversary of the Mabee Farm. President Van Schaick opened the meeting and recognized Dr. Gehring and trustees of the Board. Charles Wendell, chair of the nominating committee, announced the election of the slate of nominees. Treasurer Paulson reported that FNN's finances overall are in good shape, but that the need for contributions remains. Director Gehring noted that his joint appearances with author Russell Shorto are ongoing.

He announced the forthcoming translation of Adriaen van der Donck's 17th-century work, *Description of New Netherland*, an authentic, detailed, and intelligent report on the area and the native Americans. He also announced the new Quinn Foundation initiative and plans for the Rensselaerswijck Seminar in 2005, to be held at the Cultural Education Center in Albany on the Dutch in the Caribbean. He has been appointed to the Board of the Quadricentennial Celebration of 2009, commemorating Hudson's voyage of discovery of 1609. Vice-president Wendell noted that the Director and Russell Shorto each received the annual medal of honor of both the St. Nicholas Society and the Holland Society. In closing, president Van Schaick expressed satisfaction that goals of the New Netherland Institute are being realized and issued an open invitation to those members who would be interested to serve on the Friends' Board of Trustees.

Remember, if you're buying **anything** via AMAZON, first go to: www.nnp.org/fnn/fnnstore/books, then AMAZON.COM. All purchases made this way – whether books or other items – earn FNN a small royalty.

Save the Date

The Alice P. Kenney Memorial Award ceremony will take place at Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY, on Saturday, **June 18, 2005**, in conjunction with the exhibit, "Time and Transformation in Seventeenth-Century Dutch Art."

See our website at www.nnp.org for further particulars as they become available.

August 12-14, 2005. The Dutch House in America: 1624-1830. A conference at Eastfield Village in Rensselaer County, NY. See our website under <conferences> for more information.

September 17, 2005. Rensselaerswijck Seminar xxviii, "The Dutch in the Caribbean," at the Orientation Theater of the Cultural Education Center in Albany, NY. More information will be posted soon on our website.

News

New McNeil Center/New Netherland Institute Fellowship Opportunity

With the generous support of the Doris Quinn Foundation, the New Netherland Institute at the New York State Library and the McNeil Center for Early American Studies at the University of Pennsylvania have joined forces to offer a new nine-month dissertation fellowship to facilitate research on New Netherland and on the Dutch Colonial Atlantic World. Holders of this fellowship will spend one semester in Albany, New York, working in the rich collections of the New Netherland Institute, the New York State Library, and the New York State Archives and one semester in residence at the Center in Philadelphia. Doctoral candidates in any discipline who are in the research or writing stage of the dissertation are eligible, and any project dealing with the Dutch experience in North

America in the Atlantic world before 1850 will be considered. The stipend for a nine-month term beginning 1 September is \$18,000.

The first Quinn Dissertation Fellowship may be appointed as early as the 2005-2006 academic year. The application process and general selection criteria for this fellowship are the same as for all McNeil Center dissertation fellowships. For application instructions and further details, please visit www.mceas.org/dissertation_fellowships.htm or phone 215-898-9251. **To accommodate applicants for this new fellowship, the postmark deadline for all McNeil Center dissertation fellowship applications has been extended to 15 March 2005.**

Your editor has a co-editor! Beginning with this issue, Peter Douglas, senior librarian in the NYSL's Talking Book and Braille Library, will serve as co-editor on the NNM. Peter has 30 years experience at the Library--many as editor of two newsletters. Contact Peter at: pdouglas@mail.nysed.gov.

Websites

Tired of randomly searching the internet for sites relating to Dutch culture and language? Search no further. The following sites should keep you busy for the rest of the winter [NB all begin with a www.]:

- dutchgrammar.com/links.html
- speakdutch.nl
- languages-on-the-web.com/links/link-dutch.htm

Totidem Verbis

Following is the final installment of the story of Admiral de Ruyter and New Netherland, which was begun in vol. 20, no. 3.

De Ruyter and New Netherland

Following his successes in Africa De Ruyter received new instructions reflecting awareness of the loss of New Netherland. He was ordered to do as much damage to the English as possible whether it be at Barbados, New Netherland or Newfoundland. After which he was ordered to return to the Netherlands—not Cadiz—*achterom*, i.e., round about the British Isles. His fleet consisted of twelve warships (his flagship *de Spieghel*), a supply ship, and a fireship called *Martha*, captured from the English, crossed the Atlantic to the Caribbean Sea. On April 30, 1665 De Ruyter entered Barbados' Carlisle Bay where he encountered 29 merchant ships protected by a warship. It was the same warship commanded by James Reynolds, which he let leave the Cape Verde Islands because of its neutrality. De Ruyter approached the English ships in file, holding his fire until they were at point blank range from which broadsides were fired in both directions. The ships, which he didn't sink, were forced to beach themselves. The warship was quickly silenced; at one point Captain Reynolds was seen falling head over heels with a cutlass in his hand. Some of the ships directed their fire at the forts on both sides of the bay. It was observed that so many shots were fired that walls were crumbling. The battle continued for several hours at which time De Ruyter decided to withdraw for fear of running aground with the ebbing tide. Most of the English ships were destroyed but De Ruyter's fleet

also sustained damage to its rigging and injury to the crews, including many amputations of arms and legs. De Ruyter retired to the French port of Saint Pierre at Martinique where he repaired his ships and recruited replacements for his crews.

These activities weren't missed in New Netherland. In a letter dated July 2, 1665 Baltazar Stuyvesant writes the following to Nicolaes Bayard on Manhattan: "Admiral de Ruyter has retaken Gunea as you honor shall be able to see from the accompanying papers; and has gone from there to the Barbados, where he has destroyed 22 ships together with the castles and a portion of the houses with about 1500 people killed. [English report that the only casualties were two people and a goat] He went from there to Marthinca, where he was treated magnificently and where he also took on some crew. From there he sailed Monsoratten, Mivis [Nevis] and took 15 English ships there. After having done all this, he went with his accompanying fleet to St. Crisstoffel. Upon coming to the roadstead he blockaded it in a half moon in order to see whether any English ships were there. Where he found none, he ordered the shot taken from the cannon and let all the ships fire salvos in turn. The French rejoiced in this and answered immediately. He was also treated very well there. He departed from there after staying a few days however we do not know whether he then headed for the Ternuefse bank or for New Netherland, which I hope he did. If he should be there with your honor, I request that your honor be pleased to write about what happened this summer as well as last winter, which I

trust your honor would not neglect to do."

It is during De Ruyter's sweep through the Lesser Antilles (taking five more English prizes) that he learned of the declaration of war [March 4]. He surely realized that all hands would be needed in the struggle to come and decided to avoid any involvement in retaking New Netherland with his depleted force; instead he directed course for Newfoundland where he captured a few English fishing boats and refits in Saint John's from 16 June until 20 June. According to instructions he returns to the Netherlands *achterom*, arriving in Delfzijl on August 6. He returned after an absence of 15 months with 90% of his personnel. Not only did he return without losses to his fleet but brought five prizes full of booty with him.

It is unfortunate that De Ruyter was unable to attempt a recovery of New Netherland; however he couldn't have returned at a better time. During his absence the Dutch suffered a disastrous defeat at Lowestoft on June 13. A slightly superior English fleet commanded by James, duke of York, decisively defeated Wassenaer van Obdam's fleet. During the engagement Van Obdam's ship exploded killing himself and 500 men. The loss of 17 ships and more than 4000 men spread a pall of gloom throughout the United Provinces. De Ruyter's return turned gloom into rejoicing, spreading a wave of hope throughout the land. Within a week of his return De Ruyter was appointed lieutenant admiral. New Netherland's loss was the Netherland's gain.

Concluded