

De Nieuw Nederlansche Mercurius



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“De Nieuw Nederlansche Mercurius”

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Events of interest

March 27–28, 2014. Three hundred and fifty years ago, in March 1664, King Charles II granted a vast swath of North America to his brother, James, Duke of York (the future King James II). Stretching from the Delaware Bay to Maine, the territory encompassed the sprawling region that England’s Dutch rivals called “New Netherland.” In August 1664, four ships carrying three hundred troops under the command of Richard Nicolls arrived to make good the duke’s claims. Reinforced by militia from New England, the troops conquered New Amsterdam and Fort Orange without firing a shot, respectively rechristening them “New York” and “Albany.” Things went less peacefully farther south in present-day Delaware, but the Dutch town of New Amstel quickly became English “New Castle.” Meanwhile, the territory between Delaware and New York had been regranted by James to two of Charles II’s courtiers, John, Lord Berkeley, and Sir George Carteret. The latter hailed from the Isle of Jersey in the English channel, and so the place was named “New Jersey.”

On the occasion of the 350th anniversary of these events, “From Conquest to Identity: New Jersey and the Middle Colonies in the Seventeenth Century,” brings together scholars and the general public to consider the historical experiences and legacies that shaped the mid-Atlantic region’s early history. The program will open and close with wide-ranging discussions of the issues—on Thursday evening by journalist Mark DiIonno and on late Friday afternoon by a panel of leading scholars. On Friday morning and early afternoon, papers delving more deeply into political, social, and cultural developments will be discussed. These papers will be circulated in advance to registered conference attendees.

The conference will take place in Trenton at the NJ State Museum and Thomas Edison State College. It is free and open to the public, but pre-registration is required for on-line access to the pre-circulated papers. For registration and program information go to: www.mceas.org/conquest/register.htm.

April 1–December 31, 2014. “A Moment Past: L.F. Tantillo Paints

New York’s History,” at the Fenimore Art Museum in Cooperstown, NY. Tantillo brings the past to life through his remarkable historically accurate paintings. Much of his work celebrates maritime themes, focusing on little-known subject matter depicting the early history of New York State and the Hudson River. Taking pride in the small details, he meticulously researches his subjects to formulate what eventually comes to life on the canvas, creating an extremely realistic piece.

Widely collected, his work has appeared in national exhibitions, books, periodicals, and television documentaries in the United States, England, Netherlands, Belgium, Australia, and New Zealand.

The public is invited to an **opening reception on Friday, April 4, 2014, 5:30 to 7 pm.** If you plan to attend the opening, please send an email with the number of people to j.johnson@nysha.org. Otherwise, visit the artist’s website at: www.lftantillo.com.

June 5–7, 2014. The Historians of Netherlandish Art will hold their next conference in Boston June 5-7, 2014. This conference will be held

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in cooperation with the American Association for Netherlandic Studies, and will involve sessions and workshops with focus on Netherlandish art 1350-1750.

It will take place at the conference center of Boston University, the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, and other locations of interest in the Boston area. For more information, and registration, go to: www.hnanews.org/hna/conferences/index.html.

June 12–14, 2014. The 35th Conference on New York State History will be hosted by Marist College in Poughkeepsie, New York. The Conference is an annual meeting of academic and public historians, librarians and archivists, educators, publishers, and other interested individuals. The New York State Historical Association sponsors the Conference in collaboration with the New York State Archives Partnership Trust and New York State Museum. It is also sponsored by the Hudson River Valley Institute. For further information and registration go to: www.nysha.org/cnysh.

Save the Date

September 20, 2014. The NNI announces its 37th New Netherland Seminar, which will take place in the Huxley Theater of the Cultural Education Center in Albany, NY. The program will commemorate the 400th anniversary of the construction of Fort Nassau on Castle Island in the port of Albany. “1614” will feature five speakers, who will

place the Dutch trading post in its historical context as well as offer arguments for its probable location on the island. The complete program will appear soon on our website and in the next issue of the *Mercurius*.

Publications

Donna Merwick’s new book, *Stuyvesant Bound: An Essay on Loss across Time*, is an innovative and compelling evaluation of the last director general of New Netherland. Merwick examines the layers of culture in which Peter Stuyvesant forged his career and performed his responsibilities, ultimately reappraising the view of Stuyvesant long held by the majority of U.S. historians and commentators.

Borrowing its form from the genre of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century learned essays, *Stuyvesant Bound* invites the reader to step into a premodern worldview as Merwick considers Stuyvesant’s role in history from the perspectives of duty, belief, and loss. Stuyvesant is presented as a mid-seventeenth-century magistrate obliged by his official oath to manage New Netherland, including installing Calvinist politics and belief practices under the fragile conditions of early modern spirituality after the Protestant Reformation. Merwick meticulously reconstructs the process by which Stuyvesant became his own archivist and historian when, recalled to The Hague to answer for his surrender of New Netherland in 1664, he

gathered together papers amounting to almost 50,000 words and offered them to the States General. Though Merwick weaves the theme of loss throughout this meditation on Stuyvesant’s career, the association culminates in New Netherland’s fall to the English in 1664 and Stuyvesant’s immediate recall to Holland to defend his surrender. Rigorously researched and unabashedly interpretive, *Stuyvesant Bound* makes a major contribution to recovery of the cultural and religious diversity that marked colonial America.

University of Pennsylvania Press | Cloth 2013 | ISBN 978-0-8122-4503-5 | \$59.95 | £39.00.

The Contest for the Delaware Valley: Allegiance, Identity, and Empire in the Seventeenth Century by Mark L. Thompson. In the first major examination of the diverse European efforts to colonize the Delaware Valley, Thompson offers a bold new interpretation of ethnic and national identities in colonial America. For most of the seventeenth century, the lower Delaware Valley remained a marginal area under no state’s complete control. English, Dutch, and Swedish sources all staked claims to the territory, but none could exclude their rivals for long—in part because Native Americans in the region encouraged the competition. Officials and settlers alike struggled to determine which European nation would possess the territory and what liberties settlers would keep after their own colonies had surrendered.

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The resulting struggle for power resonated on both sides of the Atlantic. While the rivalry promoted patriots who trumpeted loyalties to their sovereigns and nations, it also rewarded cosmopolitans who struck deals across imperial, colonial, and ethnic boundaries. Just as often it produced men—such as Henry Hudson, Willem Usselinx, Peter Minuit, and William Penn—who did both.

Ultimately, *The Contest for the Delaware Valley* shows how colonists, officials, and Native Americans acted and reacted in inventive, surprising ways. Thompson demonstrates that even as colonial spokesmen debated claims and asserted fixed national identities, their allegiances—along with the settlers’—often shifted and changed. Yet colonial competition imposed limits on this fluidity, forcing officials and settlers to choose a side. Offering their allegiances in return for security and freedom, colonial subjects turned loyalty into liberty. Their stories reveal what it meant to belong to a nation in the early modern Atlantic world.

288 pages | Hardcover | \$48.00
ISBN 9780807150580 | June 2013.

If you’ve read the notarial records published in Simon Hart’s *Prehistory of the New Netherland Company*, you were probably fascinated by the account of Jan Rodriquez, who spent the winter of 1613–14 in New Netherland. The Dominican Studies Institute (DSI)

of NYC has published a “Research Monograph” which contains an in-depth examination of Rodriquez, including a new translation of the notarial records by Tom Weterings. The translation is accompanied by a transcription of the originals, including extensive notes and commentary. The 65-page publication, entitled *Juan Rodrigues and the Beginnings of New York City*, is available directly from the DSI at: ccny.cuny.edu/dsi. Email: dsi@ccny.cuny.edu | 212–650–7496.

NNI News

The Clague and Carol Van Slyke Prize for the best article published since 2013: applications are due April 1. Four copies of articles should be submitted by the author, editor, colleague, or other interested party. You may inform us electronically by the deadline that you plan to submit an article for consideration. The winner will be notified by August 1, 2014 and the prize will be presented at the annual New Netherland Seminar in September.

The Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, May 17 at the Van Schaick Mansion and Van Schaick Country Club in Cohoes. A tour of the Mansion will begin at 9:30 and the meeting will start at 11:30 at the Club. Details will be sent to members and available online under “Programs” in April. Members and non-members may attend the meeting, tour, and luncheon.

Kenney Award. Nominations now being accepted for the 2014 Kenney award for contributions to colonial Dutch studies and to understanding

the Dutch significance in North America. Deadline is April 7th.

New Netherland Research Center Student Scholar. 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.

NNI Fundraiser. In commemoration of the 400th anniversary of Fort Nassau, NNI will be raffling a “1614 Quilt” which was designed by Len Tantillo and quilted by Bonnie Urso and Corliss Tantillo. Raffle tickets will be sent to members in April and available for purchase online and by mail. The quilt will be on display at the Albany Visitors Center and the NYS Museum.

For more information on these items, go to our web site.

Totidem Verbis

Andries Dionyszoon
Winius & Son

Recently the Russian Federation successfully flexed its military muscle in Crimea. A hastily arranged “referendum” led to the annexation of this strategic Black Sea province. Along the border with eastern Ukraine it displayed the most modern military equipment in an act of intimidation under the guise of “planned” maneuvers. Again, Russia sent in provocateurs to create a situation which its military would have to resolve.

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Whether eastern Ukraine will suffer the same fate as Crimea remains to be seen. However, such blatant aggression would not have intimidated the Tsar's neighbors in the 17th century.

Still mired in the technology of the Middle Ages, the Tsar's forces were barely a match for such geopolitical enemies as the Swedes and Turks in the age of gunpowder. Russia was still mostly dependent on imports of hard goods in return for natural resources. For example, in 1629 it traded 100,000 lbs of saltpeter for 10,000 first quality Dutch musket barrels. Such contact with the Dutch Republic would eventually lead Russia's army into the "modern" age.

The beginning of Russia's "great leap forward" arrived in the person of Andries Dionyszoon Winus, engineer and merchant. Born in Amsterdam in 1605 Andries married Geertruyd van Rijn with whom he fathered three children: Andries, Maria, and Matthias. As a merchant he was granted rights to export grain from Russia in 1631. Shortly thereafter he was licensed to build a water-powered iron mill in the Tula district near deposits of iron ore. It was the first producer of industrial quality iron in Russia. The Winus company, which included his brother Abraham, was given a ten-year monopoly to produce iron and weapons for the army. When a dispute arose with his partners he withdrew from the production of iron, only to be granted a monopoly in the production of tar.

After Winus became a Russian subject the Tsar sent him to the Netherlands to trade for weapons and uniform cloth, and to enlist officers for positions in the army. Again, natural resources, such as potash and grain, were serving as payment for hard goods. In the final years before his death in 1662 he served as Russian representative in various European countries.

Winus's eldest son Andries Andriesz (or Andrei Andreyevich Vinus in Russian) was a chip off the old block. He apparently had spent his formative years working with his father in the construction and operation of the iron works at Tula. Speaking both Russian and Dutch he became the first post-master in Russia. But, it would be his friendship with Peter the Great that allowed him to draw on his knowledge of producing iron. Peter and Andries probably met in the *Nemetskaya Sloboda* or "German settlement," a suburb of Moscow. For all practical purposes it was a ghetto where all foreigners were required to live. Peter became such a frequent visitor that he participated in weddings and baptisms, and often served as godfather at both Lutheran and Catholic churches. However, it was during the Great Northern War (1700-1721) between Russia and Sweden that their friendship flourished. But it all began with a disaster.

In 1700 Charles XII's Swedish army decisively defeated the Tsar's army at Narva in Estonia. During the retreat the Russians were forced to abandon all of their heavy mortars and field artillery. The army needed

a total makeover before it could confront the Swedes again. It was on this occasion that Peter turned to Andries Andriesz. Peter made him inspector of artillery and gave him broad powers. Now almost 60, Andries knew that time was of the essence.

Instead of mining and processing iron ore he looked for ready-made materials. Peter himself gave the order to collect a certain number of bells from monasteries and churches to be melted down for artillery pieces. Peter also threatened that heads would roll if there was any delay in recasting the bells into cannon. By the end of 1701 Andries had sent 300 new cannon to the army. Peter was so pleased that he sent him to Siberia in search of new ore deposits. Now in his 60s Andries managed to establish seven new iron works in the Ural mountains. These new sources of armaments played no small role in Peter's ability to crush Charles XII's Swedish army at Poltava in eastern Ukraine.

Andries's final years were a rocky road. In 1703 he was dismissed from office for various financial improprieties and for delay in supplying the army. He eventually sought refuge in the Netherlands. Several years later Peter exhibited the strength of their friendship by pardoning Andries. In 1708 he returned to Russia where he lived out his life translating books about the military and technology. In 1717 he died at the age of 75.

R.I.P. Father and son, heroes of mother Russia.