

De Nieuw-Nederlandse Mercurius

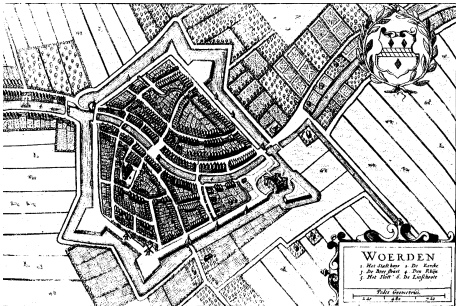
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"De Nieuw-Nederlandse Mercurius"

May 1999

Upcoming Events

4 June, 1999. The Werkgroep Nieuw-Nederland will hold its second symposium in Woerden, the Netherlands on the theme of "Church and Religion in New Netherland and Early New York." The program includes a tour of the orphanage in Woerden at 10:00 and a tour of the Lutheran Church



Plattegrond van Woerden, 1632

at 11:00. The symposium will be opened at 1:00 by Dr. Cynthia P. Schneider, USA ambassador to the Netherlands. Speakers will be prof. dr. W. Th. M. Frijhoff on "Een miskend Calvinist: de religieuze opties van Bastiaen Jansz Krol, eerste kerkedienaar in Nieuw-Nederland"; drs. J.A. Jacobs on "Lutheranen en de reikwijdte van tolerantie in Nieuw Nederland"; dr. D. W. Voorhees on "Religious aspects of Leisler's rebellion"; dr. J. H. van den Bank on "Dominee

Frelinghuysen en Nederlands piëtisme in de achttiende eeuw"; prof. Dr. J. D. Goodfriend on "The introduction of the English language in the Dutch Reformed Church in New York." Registration fee is \$45. Register with N. Plomp, Centraal Bureau voor Genealogie, Postbus 11755, 2502 AT Den Haag. Tel: (0)70-3150500; e-mail: <nico.plomp@cbg.nl>.

Until May 31: "From Botany to Bouquets: Flowers in Northern Arts," 61 Flemish and Dutch still lives from the 16th and 17th century. National Gallery of Art, west Building Dutch Cabinet Galleries, Washington, DC. Consult: (202) 842-6353; or see exhibit details at <www.nga.gov>.

16 April to 13 June: "Rembrandt; Treasures from the Rembrandt House, Amsterdam." at the Taft Museum, Cincinnati, Ohio. The Taft Museum will be the only midwest art museum to host an exhibition of works by Rembrandt van Rijn from the collection of the Rembrandt House in Amsterdam, the 17th-century house in which Rembrandt lived and worked from 1639 until 1660, during the height of his fame. This is the first time that most of these works have left

Holland to come to the U.S. Contact: (513) 241-0343; or see exhibit details at <www.taftmuseum.org>.

18 September, 1999. Mark your calendar for the New Netherland Project's 22d annual Rensselaerswijck Seminar. The theme will be "New Netherland through the decades." Five speakers will present papers on the anniversary of significant events and episodes in the colony's history. Dr. Paul Otto will speak about the significance of Hudson's voyage in 1609; Dr. Oliver Rink will discuss the debate over the Freedoms and Exemptions of 1629; Dr. Wim Klooster will focus on the significance of the opening up of the trade in 1639; Peter Christoph will address the beginnings of the Lutheran church in 1649; and Dr. Charles Gehring will discuss the ramifications of Augustijn Herman's mission to Maryland in 1659.

Dutch courses

Dutch Summer Institute at **Indiana University**. This immersion course for beginning Dutch students will be held from June 18-July 22, 1999, and will cover approximately two semesters of Dutch language study. Classes are held daily from 8:30 to 12:00 and 1:00 to

3:15. There are no prerequisites for the course. For information about the program, contact Inge vander Cruysse, Indiana University Bloomington, Ballantine Hall 644, Bloomington, IN 47405. Tel: [812] 855-7173; fax [812] 855-8927; email: ivanderc@indiana.edu

Amsterdam/Maastricht Summer University (August 2-27, 1999) and the Boswell Institute of the University of Utrecht (July 19 to August, 1999 (application deadline July 5), and August 9 to August 27, 1999; (application deadline July, 26). For the first mentioned, contact the Amsterdam/Maastricht Summer University, P.O.Box 53066, 1007 RB Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Tel: +31 - 20-6200225; fax: +31- 20-6249368; email: office@amsu.edu

For the Boswell Institute courses, contact James Boswell Instituut, Bijlhouwerstraat 6, 3511 ZC Utrecht Utrecht; tel: +31-30-2538666; fax: +31-30-2538686; email: james.boswell@jbi.ruu.nl

Antwerp University also has an intensive Dutch summer program from July 18-30, 1999, with courses at three levels. For information, contact Universiteit Antwerpen, Centrum voor Taal en Spraak, Universiteitsplein, B-2610 Antwerpen, Belgium. Phone: +32 3 827 4844; fax: +32 3 825 2167; email: centrum@uia.ua.ac.be

Finally, the **Katholieke Universiteit Leuven**, Instituut voor Levende Talen, announces a Dutch summer course with five levels from July 30 to August 26, 1999. Deadline for registration is June

30, 1999. Contact Instituut voor Levende Talen, Dekenstraat 6, B-3000 Leuven, Belgium. Tel: +32 16 32 56 60. Fax: (016) 32 56 56. email: zomercursus@kuleuven.ac.be

News

The New Netherland Project is the recipient of a grant from the Prins Bernhard Foundation of the Netherlands. The amount received, \$50,000 or approximately \$25,000, is for the transcription and translation of Council Minutes, 1656-1658, volume VIII of the series *New Netherland Documents*. The funds received will be used to match the NNP's National Endowment for the Humanities grant. The Prins Bernhard Foundation is considered the most important foundation of the Netherlands. It is a major contributor to the arts, humanities, sciences, cultural education, historic and nature preservation in the Netherlands. The Prins Bernhard Foundation contributes more than \$14,600,000 to nearly 3000 projects annually.

The Albany Institute of History and Art will be closed two years for major renovations beginning April 30, 1999. The library staff will respond to research requests addressed through the mail to the AIHA at 125 Washington Ave, Albany, NY 12210

The Brooklyn Historical Society will also be closed until the spring of 2001 for renovations. The library will be closed for researchers. The museum will remain active, however, featuring various Brooklyn authors, histori-

ans and walking tours as well as traveling exhibits throughout the borough of Brooklyn. In addition, their education program will continue. Contact: (718) 624-0890.

Publications

Lucas Ligtenberg, *De Nieuwe Wereld van Peter Stuyvesant. Nederlandse voetsporen in de Verenigde Staten*. Uitgeverij Balans, Amsterdam, 310 pages. Price \$39.90. This book describes the lasting effect the Dutch have had in America. Not only do we see



traces in New York and Albany, but also in eight American towns named Amsterdam, two named Nederland and in the Dutch enclave Barneveld, NY. Anyone who is interested in purchasing the book for \$20 plus \$3 postage can do so by contacting the author via email: lucasligt@yahoo.com

Dr. Claudia Schnurmann of Göttingen University has contributed two valuable publications to our knowledge of the Atlantic world of the 17th century: *Europa trifft Amerika. Atlantische Wirtschaft in der Frühen Neuzeit, 1492-1783*.

Frankfurt am Main, 1998; and *Atlantische Welten. Engländer und Niederländer im amerikanisch-atlantischen Raum, 1648-1713*. Köln, Weimar, Wien, 1998

Records of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of Flatbush, Kings County, New York, translated by David W. Voorhees, containing the 17th-c. records of the Dutch Reformed Church on western Long Island. Send \$60 check or money order payable to The Holland Society of New York, 122 East 58th Street, New York, NY 10022.

“Writing/Righting Dutch Colonial History” by **Joyce D. Goodfriend** in *New York History*, January 1999. A must read for anyone interested in countering the marginalization of the Dutch in histories of America. Goodfriend (author of *Before the Melting Pot: Society and Culture in Colonial New York City, 1664-1730*) provides an thorough overview of the latest books, articles and dissertations on the Dutch colonial experience in the mid-Atlantic region of North America.

Websites

Recently students from Bethlehem Middle School in Delmar and Albany’s Philip Livingston Magnet School sailed up the Hudson aboard De Halve Maen. They carried with them laptop computers connected to the internet which enabled them to communicate their experiences with students in the Netherlands. Check out the American site and the Dutch counterpart to see how educational such electronic tools can be.

Bethlehem Middle School:
<www.wizvax.net/breilly/history/Halfmoon/halfmoon.htm>
Basisscholen in Weststellingwerf:
<www.gco.nl/tyr>

News from the FNN

On April 7, the first Chapter of the FNN was inaugurated at an event at the Netherlands Embassy in Washington, D.C. The event was held in conjunction with the Smithsonian Institute, featuring a talk by food historian Peter Rose, a trustee of the FNN, on Dutch foodways in the Middle Colonies. Dr. Charles Gehring, Director of the NNP, spoke about the Project’s ongoing work, providing documentary evidence for researchers such as Peter Rose. Dr. Gehring then introduced **Coen Blaauw**, a trustee of the FNN, who is the coordinator of the new chapter. The event was very well attended and generated much interest in the endeavors of the NNP and the FNN, who acquired a number of new members that evening. The Friends thank Ms. Marion Derckx and the Netherlands Embassy for arranging this opportunity and for their great hospitality. Those in the Washington area who are interested in joining the chapter may contact Coen Blaauw at 202-547-3686/fax 202-543-7891, or by email at <coenblaauw@aol.com>. According to the Friends’ Bylaws, any group of ten or more located outside of the State of New York may form a Chapter with the approval of the Friends’ Board of Trustees. Please call or write to the Friends’ office for further information.

On Saturday, May 1, 1999, Ms. Shirley Dunn received the Alice P. Kenney Award at a ceremony held in the garden of the Quackenbush House, the oldest existing structure in Albany and one of the finest remaining examples of Dutch urban architecture in the nation. Mr. Peter Paulson, FNN president, welcomed the gathering and thanked events chair Dorothy Holt and her committee for organizing the event. Among those present was NYS Assemblyman Paul Tonko. Mr. Paulson congratulated Ms. Dunn and presented her with the Alice P. Kenney Award, consisting of a check and a silver replica of a 17th-c. Dutch medallion. The award was established and endowed as a memorial to Alice P. Kenney, one of the pioneer researchers and writers on early Dutch history of New York, by her mother. The Awards Committee chose Ms. Shirley Dunn, a resident of East Greenbush, New York, for her long and continuing scholarship pertaining to the Dutch in America. In accepting the Award, Ms. Dunn praised the NNP’s work, noting that its translations are invaluable to scholars, and provide a much needed focus on the Dutch history of the area. Ms. Dunn announced that her book *The Mohicans and Their Land* is now in its third printing and is at work on another, which goes beyond the Dutch period but not beyond the Dutch influence. Later in the day, many joined a private tour of the replica of the *Half Moon*, which was on a visit in Albany. The FNN thank the crew for generously sharing their knowledge and hospitality.

Save the Date! The New Netherland Project Dinner is scheduled for Saturday, September 18, following the Rensselaerswijck Seminar.

Invitations will be mailed in August. Further information about this event will be published in the next *Marcurius* and on our website

<www.nnp.org> or call the Friends' office (518) 486-4815) between 1:00 and 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday.

Totidem Verbis

Anyone who has been in the Netherlands seven weeks after Easter has experienced Pinkster, a holiday celebrated with as much enthusiasm and intensity as our Memorial Day—both veritable rites of Spring. What would be more appropriate for this section of the newsletter at this time of year than an article about Pinkster in the New World? The following article by Peter G. Rose, culinary historian and trustee of the FNN, was published in the 1999 May-July issue of *The Valley Table* under the title "Pinkster: A Forgotten Hudson Valley Holiday."

When I am searching in the so-called "dusty" archives (in reality temperature controlled and spotless), I look for diaries, scrapbooks or handwritten cookbooks. I search not only because I want to find recipes but also because these old recipes often indicate social customs of times past.

For example, the handwritten recipes for hot wine and *doot coekjes* (death cookies) from Maria Van Rensselaer (1749–1830) reveal an old Dutch custom brought here by the early settlers. For funerals, biscuits as large as saucers were prepared in great quantity—"as much as two bushel baskets full" reports a diary—and accompanied with hot, spiced wine.

Frequently occurring recipes for waffles not only point to the Dutch love for this pastry but also to the fact that waffles often were served at festive occasions such as Pinkster (also *Pinxter* or *Pinksteren*), in English the Christian holiday of Pentecost or Whitsuntide. The holiday, which occurs 50 days after Easter, marks the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles.

In the seventeenth-century Netherlands, secular festivities associated with Pinkster were a kind of combined May and fertility celebration. A young girl was chosen as the *Pinxterblom* and was carried around bedecked with silver and gold and flowers to foster a good harvest.

In the New World, the celebration took on an entirely different form. The eighteenth-century journal of Alexander Coventry relates religious observances of the day, but also describes visiting among neighbors and the consumption of colored eggs and waffles. On June 4, 1786, Coventry observes: "It is all frolicking to-day with the Dutch and the Negro...they have eggs boiled in all sorts of colors, and eggs cooked in every way, and everybody must eat all the eggs he can. And the frolicking is still kept up among the young folks, so that little else is done to-day but eat eggs and be jolly."

It was a time of merrymaking, for the Dutch as well as for their slaves, who got the day off. (That the Dutch kept slaves in the North is an oft-overlooked detail of

history.) "The blacks as well as their masters were frolicking and the women & children look'd peculiarly neat and well dressed," another diary reports.

After the Revolution and into the beginning of the nineteenth century, the holiday became more an African-American celebration. Now York City, where freed slaves had arrived in large numbers, was especially known for its lavish Pinkster festivals that assumed more and more traits of African culture.

Historic Hudson Valley researcher Jackie Haley argues that this is the time that "African" churches and "African" benevolent societies began to blossom in the northern urban centers. It was a period when small communities of freed blacks

Mary Young and Evelyn Richardson of Harlem, NY prepared this drink for an early Pinkster festival at Philipsburg Manor.

Ginger Beer

1. Add 1 cup minced fresh ginger to 1 quart boiling water.
2. Steep 3 hours.
3. Strain liquid into pitcher.
4. Add juice of 2 lemons and 3½ cups pineapple juice.
5. Stir in generous dash nutmeg.
6. Taste and add sugar if desired.

Serve over ice; or, as a cocktail, add 1½ oz of rum for every 8 oz of ginger beer.

already were established, providing "the opportunity for an African identity and culture to gain ground and come to the surface."

Descriptions of nineteenth-century celebrations of Pinkster refer to its "African origins," especially visible in the dancing and drumming.

James Fenimore Cooper describes a Pinkster festival in his *Satanstoe* and remarks how "the traditions and usages of their original country were so far preserved as to produce a marked difference" from European customs. During these celebrations, "Some were making music, by beating on skins drawn over the ends of hollow logs, while others were dancing to it, in a manner to show that they felt infinite delight. This, in particular, was said to be usage of their African progenitors."

Historian David Cohen notes, "The celebration of Pinkster in Albany lasted a whole week. Booths decorated with honey-suckle May apple were set up on Arbor Hill. Beer, mead, cider, meat, fish, cakes and fruit were sold, and there was also gambling and dancing."

A prominent figure in the Albany celebration was an Angolan slave named King Charles, who reportedly lived to the age of 125. He is described in Absalom Ainswell's poem *Pinkster Ode for the Year 1803* as leading the "Guinea dance" dressed in "his Pinkster clothes" with "his hat of yellow lace."

Although outlawed by Albany authorities in 1811 (apparently because of its raucous nature), Pinkster celebrations continued to the end of the nineteenth century elsewhere. In 1874, Gabriel Furman wrote, "Poor Pinckster [*sic*] has lost its rank among the festivals, and is only kept by the Negroes; with them, especially on the west end of this island [Long Island], it is still much of a holiday." All that remained Dutch were the name, the date of the holiday and the "Pinkster flower," a member of the azalea family that owes its name to its bloom at Pinkster time and which shares its light lavender color with the, *Pinksterbloem*, a flower of a different species in the Netherlands.

But Pinkster was more than a quasi-religious festival turned holiday—it eventually became a bona fide cultural event. In his essay, *Pinkster Carnival: Africanisms in the Hudson River Valley*, SUNY New Paltz Professor of African Studies A. J. Williams-Myers asserts that, as a result of the Pinkster festivals, "For almost two hundred years, some forms of Africanisms were able to survive within the institution of slavery in New York... These were passed on from generation to generation, from Old World African to New World African, so that by the nineteenth century Pinkster Carnival had become an African celebration." Other than the annual re-creation at Philipsburg Manor, however, Williams-Myers notes that the festival as a cultural event has long since faded from practice.