

De Nieuw Nederlansche Mercurius



Vol. 20, No. 2

"De Nieuw Nederlansche Mercurius"

May 2004

Upcoming Events

June 10–12, 2004. The 25th Annual Conference on New York State History will take place at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs. The conference begins with registration (2:00 - 9:00 pm) on Thursday, June 10 at Palamontain Hall. From 3:00 - 6:00 there will be a driving tour of the Saratoga Battle Field for which advanced registration is recommended. Dinner at 7:00. Friday, June 11, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm conference: topics include "Murder Tales," "Common Place Life," "New York City's Black Communities," "Women's History," "Political Culture," "Trans-Cultural Identities," "Community Histories," "Real and Imagined Geographies," "Creating Public Space," "Constructing Memory," "Walking Tours." In the evening Douglas Harper of Duquesne University will present the Wendell Tripp Lecture. Themes on Saturday morning will be "Documentary Strategies," "Topics in Historic Preservation," "Teaching New Netherland: Methods and Success," "Bite-Sized New York: A Radio essay Sampler," and "The Half Moon: Microcosm of European-Native Interaction." Registration both

days at 8:00 at Palamontain Hall. Consult the conference website at www.nyhistory.com. Preferred contact method is by e-mail at: conference@nyhistory.net. Telephone: 518-587-4962. Address: Box 215, Saratoga Springs NY 12866-0215.



Jan van Riebeeck *etatis* 45
Rijksmuseum Amsterdam

September 30, 2004. For those interested in the Dutch in North America in a later period, the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam will organize a symposium entitled "Morsels in the Melting Pot: the Persistence of Isolated Dutch Communities in North America, 1800-2000." Goal of the conference is to determine the role of migration in the forma-

tion of religious identities. An analysis of the small (mostly religious) communities which commonly found themselves in isolation from their co-patriots will provide useful materials for comparison with other groups. For more information: www.relic-vu.nl

October 9, 2004. The 27th-Rensselaerswijck Seminar at Siena College: This year's seminar will be part of Siena's annual conference in medieval studies program, the **Convivium**, a multi-disciplinary, multi-cultural academic center focused on the study of medieval and early modern life. The theme of both Convivium and our seminar will be the Dutch heritage of the Capital District. Speakers will be Paul Huey (NY State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Cohoes): "Some Early Rensselaerswijck Farms: A Documentary and Archaeological Review," Jim Bradley (ArchLink, Charlestown, MA): "Visualizing Arent van Curler: Documentary and Archaeological Investigations at the Flatts," Len Tantillo (Artist): "Picturing Schuyler Flatts. An Artist's Interpretation of Historical and Archaeological Data," Henry Miller (Historic St. Mary's City, St.

Mary's City, MD): "Tobacco, Manors and Furs: The Archaeology and History of Lord Baltimore's Colony of Maryland," and Janny Venema (New Netherland Project): "Farmers and Traders: A Seventeenth-century Dutch Community on the Hudson River."

As usual, the seminar will be followed by the annual project dinner. This year the dinner will also take place at Siena College. Dutch archaeologist Jan Baart will speak about his recent visit to Brazil in conjunction with the 350th anniversary of the loss of the WIC possession to the Portuguese in 1654.

November 11–13, 2004. The Huguenot Historical Society of New Paltz, NY will host a conference called "From Nieuw Nederlandt to New York." For more information go to "Call for Papers" at our website www.nnp.org.

News

Imagine, if the billions of published books around the world were available on the internet. Not so far-fetched. In fact, Kirtas Technologies, Inc. of Victor, NY is making this dream its goal. Kirtas has developed a machine that will digitally process bound volumes (even rare books!) at the rate of 1200 pages an hour. Exciting news, but what does this have to do with the world of New Netherland you may ask? It becomes clear, if you have tried to buy any of the early translations in our series only to discover that they have been out-of-print for many years. The plan has been to digitize them so that they can be re-edited; then, either produce new hardcover editions or make them

available on our website. The problem had been to find the time to scan over 1200 pages to disk. However, several months ago Kirtas offered to scan the first four volumes of translations done by Van Laer as a demonstration of its abilities. Thanks to Kirtas the NNP now has all the text, including front and back matter, on CD-ROM disks in WORD, TIFF, and PDF formats. We still have to re-edit and produce subject indexes, however; Kirtas deserves our gratitude for digitizing the material at no cost to us. For more information about Kirtas go to: www.kirtas-tech.com

The VOC replica ship *Half Moon* is still anchored near the pump station south of the Corning Preserve in Albany. Visitors are welcome to board the ship through the weekend of June 12/13.

Publications

Amy Golahny, *Rembrandt's Reading. The Artist's bookshelf of Ancient Poetry and History* (2003, Amsterdam University Press). Golahny uses two major moments of Rembrandt's career as the focus of her study. After examining the early results of training under Lastman, she features the clues gained by close inspection of the 1656 inventory and its "books of various sizes." For the most part, the works of art elucidated comprise mythological subjects and classical histories, and there is some attention to Lastman's oeuvre as well as works by the workshop and pupils of Rembrandt. 283 pp., 8 color plates, 64 b&w illustrations.

FNN News

Plans have been finalized for the Kenney Award event, which will be held at the First Church of Albany on June 12. Invitations with directions were sent to all members. If you did not receive yours, please call us at 518-486-4815 or email us at : hnewhouse@mail.nysed.gov. This year's Kenney Award winner is artist Len Tantilillo, a native of the Hudson Valley and celebrated painter of numerous maritime oil paintings depicting themes relating to the Dutch period and the Hudson Valley. Len began his career as an architect but soon found his calling as an artist. His work has appeared in national exhibitions, books, periodicals, and television documentaries in the United States, the Netherlands, Australia, and New Zealand. Len will also be featured this fall at the annual Rensselaerswijck Seminar at Siena College on October 9. Several weeks ago Len opened the Tantilillo Gallery on Broadway in downtown Albany, only a few steps from the First Church.

Russell Shorto's book *The Island at the Center of the World* continues to draw critical acclaim, inspiring many of its readers to become members of the FNN. At this writing it has gone into its 5th printing with 47,000 copies now in print. It is a selection of the History Book Club, Book of the Month Club, and Quality Paperback Book Club. On June 9th Shorto and Gehring will appear at the New-York Historical Society for a "conversation," which will be filmed by C-SPAN.

As reported in the last issue, our newest trustee, Greta Wagle has initiated work on a large exhibit, featuring the Dutch heritage of the Capital District. It will be a joint effort of the New Netherland Institute and SUNY Central. The exhibit, which will draw upon display resources from our area, is scheduled for opening in 2006. Although the majority of the artifacts on display will come from the various institutions in the area, we offer our membership the opportunity to display artifacts in their personal collections. If you are interested in participating or have advice and/or comments to make, please contact Greta Wagle at: gwagle@mail.nysed.gov. More information about the exhibit will appear in the next issue.

Although many members have paid their 2004 dues (\$35 for a single member, \$60 for a family or organization) not everyone has. As your dues keep our office going, we will appreciate receiving your check.

Dutch Courses

For opportunities to learn the Dutch language, check the following websites: www.jbi.uu.nl (Boswell Institute of the University of Utrecht). As in previous years, the James Boswell Instituut is organizing a summer course entitled "Aan de mond van al die rivieren." August 10-27. For more information, including registration, email Maaïke Kremer, m.kremer@jbi.uu.nl or look on the website.

The Institute for Dutch as a second Language, Universiteit van Amsterdam and the Amsterdam-Maastricht summer University offer an intensive language course in Amsterdam, August 2-20. Taught at beginners, intermediate and advanced levels, this course will enable participants to express themselves in correct spoken and written Dutch. For more information, see <http://www.amsu.edu>

"Dutch Summer Course" at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium at the Instituut voor Levende Talen (ILT). This intensive course is intended for those

who wish to begin learning Dutch or improve their knowledge of the language. The teaching language is Dutch. The communicative approach is used in all 5 levels. Besides the theoretical courses, many conversational exercises and complementary activities are planned. Skilled teachers use the most up-to-date textbooks supplemented by audio and video recordings. Register on-line via the website of the ILT: www.kuleuven.ac.be/ilt. Deadline for registration is June 24, 2004.

If you want to stay in the USA, see www.folwell.umn.edu/gsd/dutch/html/summer/SDcourse.htm. The Dutch Studies Program at the University of Minnesota will offer its Dutch Summer Institute between June 15 and August 20. Intensive Beginning Dutch course 1 will be taught June 15- July 16, 2004; Intensive Beginning Dutch 2, July 19 - August 20, 2004. In addition to the language courses, weekly cultural events will be offered, such as lectures on Dutch culture, film viewings, field trips, and social gatherings with members of the Dutch community in Minnesota.

Totidem Verbis

Almost 22 years ago I received a call from Annemarie Krzesinski-de Widt who was accompanying her husband on sabbatical leave in Westchester County. They were from Stellenbosch, South Africa. She had just begun a project transcribing estate inventories for the Stellenbosch Museum dating 1679-1806. When she read an article about the NNP in the NRC she thought what she was doing would be of interest to us. Unfortunately, she called the day before I was leaving for Amsterdam. When I returned she was gone. For years I tried unsuccessfully to reestablish contact as I had lost her name and address. Then, last December I received a letter asking whether I was the same person who had just appeared again in an article about the Project in the NRC. She informed me that her project was completed and would send me a CD-Rom of her opus. The title is: *Die boedelinventaris van erlaters in die distrik Stellenbosch 1679-1806*. Orders can be sent to the Stellenbosch Museum Trust, Posbus 855, Stellenbosch 7599, South Africa. Following are excerpts from her introduction and a sample of one of the early inventories dated 1688.

In 1979 the tercentenary of Stellenbosch was celebrated with the publication of the book *Stellenbosch Three Centuries*. In 1976 many historical documents from the Cape Town Archives Repository relating to the history of Stellenbosch were recorded on microfiche. The purpose was to make these documents more readily available to the contributors of that publication. These microfiches were brought to Stellenbosch and are still preserved in the reference library of the Stellenbosch Museum. A number of Stellenbosch estate inventories were transcribed and the information was used for a chapter in the 1979 publication. In time it was felt that the remainder of the

De Nieuw Nederlanse Marcurius • 4

microfiche material could be put to better use. Since very few people are proficient in reading the old handwriting, all the estate inventories relating to Stellenbosch needed to be transcribed if they were to be accessible to all researchers. A grant from the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) made it possible to do so and the transcription of the inventories relating to the district of Stellenbosch between the years 1679 and 1806 commenced. This manuscript contained all the extant inventories in chronological order as well as an alphabetical index of the surnames and the names of farms. This was submitted to the HSRC in 1988. The manuscript comprises approximately 2600 typed A4 pages. It was subsequently decided to edit and recompose this mass of information by means of a computer. The original typing was not clear enough for scanning and the entire manuscript had to be retyped on a computer. The cost of this mammoth task was borne by the Board of Trustees of the Stellenbosch Museum. Finally the computer files were converted into this book. The publication of this work has been financed by the Stellenbosch Museum Trust.

Annemarie Krzesinski, Stellenbosch, July 2002

[Extract from the *boedelinventaris*—numbered 5]

5. Inventarus van de naergelaten goederen van wijlen Simon Groot ten profijte sijner weesen als Grijtje old een jaar en achtiën maanden, en Annetje old ses maanden, aan en opgegeven door desselfs weduwe Geertruijt de Wit, op den 19e Januarij 1688 aan de E. Heemraaden vant Stellenbosch Hendrik Elberts, Gerrijt van der Bijl en Jan Mostert geordonneert door ordere van den E. en Achtbare Heer Commandeur Simon van der Stel tot provisionele voogden over dito boedel.

Huijsgeraden		sewen kopjes	11-10	een halvesleeten pak grauwlakens	
Drije kisten	f 10	een koper strijkijser	16	kleeren	10
Twee kelders	2	een blickentrichter	10-15	een pijen rok	3
een tafelf	1-10	drie booren	12	Bedraecht	f 479
twee bancken	1	Drije bijlen	14-10	transport	479
Bedraecht	f 14-10	een saagh	2	een hoed	2
transport	14-10	een dissel	1	een los sadel sonder toebehooren	3
een koj	6	twee graawen	1-10	Leewend haven	
vijf backen	1-10	Drie picken	1	vijffigh hoenders kleijn en groot	
een balij	10-10	Twee misvorken en een hoijvork	14	het stuk een quaertje	37-10
een emmer	10-10	Een ploegh met sijn toebehooren		een varcken	16
drie oude vaten	11-10	Bedraecht	f 128	een paart en een veulen	70
een hakbord	10-10	transport	128	twaalf trekossen het stuk	
een lantaern	13	een oude wagen met sijn toebehooren	20	tot 40 gls.	4070
Iserwerk, koper en tinwerk		een kar met onbeslagen wielen en sijn toebehooren	15	vier kojien	200
drie potten	19	een houten egh	14	twee kalweren	40
een rooster	12	een snaphaen	16	Vijff hondert vijffigh schaapen	
een treeft	12	een donderbus	9	a 3 gls. het stuk	1650
een tang	13	twee kruidhoorens en een patroontas hoort bij 't geeweer		Het huijs, hock en 't sestigh morgen lands, daarin begreepen de tuijn en wijngaert	600
een koperen pannetie	13	Dartigh mudden Tarw	210	Silwer, gold nogh gereede penningen en sijnde niet bevonden een jongen dienaar sestien jaar sal vrij sijn	400
een teekeetel	13	thien mudden rogh	60		3199-10
twee koekpannen	14	Inboelen als linnen en wollen			479
Bedraecht	f 52-15	Een bed	6		3668-10
transport	52-15	twee kussens	6		
elf tinne leepels	13-10	een combaers	2		
twee porseleijnen schootels	13				
twee tafelborden posteleijn	13-10				
ses theepijringen	11-10				