

# De Nieuw Nederlandse Mercurius

VOL. II, NO. 1

"De Nieuw Nederlandse Mercurius"

February 1986

## NEWS FROM THE NEW NETHERLAND PROJECT

The New Netherland Project has received many expressions of concern regarding its financial situation, and we are pleased to be able to report good news for a change. The last week of January we received word that the H. W. Wilson Foundation will be donating \$10,000 for the support of the Project. This makes Wilson the largest single donor, with a total of almost \$50,000 over the twelve year history of the Project. Without this timely grant, the Project was faced with lack of funds as of April 1; but this will buy much-needed time to complete fundraising for the current grant period. We have also learned that the Project's fiscal agent, Regents' Research, will no longer charge the Project for handling its finances and will return a large sum in indirect costs; it is unclear how much of this money will be given back to help support the Project. Friends of the Project are still working toward some kind of State funding for the near future, but at least until late summer the New Netherland Project is secure.

\* \* \*

The "Curacao Papers" have been translated and edited and are awaiting publication. In case there are those who are not familiar with these documents, they represent Petrus Stuyvesant's papers pertaining to West India Company interests in the Caribbean and they contain much new information on the trade ties between New Netherland and other WIC holdings in Africa and the Caribbean. The next volume of papers to be published is the Ft. Orange Records; Dr. Gehring will be revising Van Laer's translation & adding new footnotes and index. We are trying for publication of the Ft. Orange Records in 1986 during Albany's tricentennial year.

\* \* \*

Those interested in New York State's earliest colonial history now have an opportunity to help assure that its Dutch heritage is uncovered and explored by joining the newly-formed FRIENDS OF THE NEW NETHERLAND PROJECT. The two-fold purpose of the Friends will be "to heighten public awareness of the Project and to assist with fund raising." The five-member board of trustees includes Howard G. Hageman (former president of New Brunswick Theological Seminary), James Van Hoven of Delmar (pastor of First Church in Albany), Peter J. Paulson of Albany (former director of the State Library) and Marilyn Douglas of Albany. Membership fee is \$25.00 and all contributions are tax deductible. To join contact Nancy Zeller at (518) 474-6067 or write to Friends of the New Netherland Project, P.O. Box 2536 Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12220-0536.

\* \* \* \* \*

### "COLONIAL DUTCH SYMPOSIUM" DELAYED

The publication of the papers from New York University's 1985 "Colonial Dutch Symposium" has been delayed. You can still reserve a copy by writing to: Willem F. Nooter, Dept. of History, NYU, 19 University Pl., R. 400, NY 10003

# de Nieuw Nederlandsche Mercurius

VOL. II, NO. 2

"De Nieuw Nederlandsche Mercurius"

SEPTEMBER 1986

## PUBLICATIONS FROM THE ALBANY INSTITUTE

In the spring of 1982 the Amsterdam exhibition "The Birth of New York" was introduced by a two-day symposium entitled "New Netherland Studies: An Inventory of Current Research and Approaches." The symposium, focusing on the material culture of New Netherland, brought together for the first time American and Dutch scholars: archeologists, architectural historians and archival researchers, all of them specialists in one or more aspects of New Netherland history.

The twelve papers were published in a special double issue of the KNOB Bulletin (Koninklijke Nederlandse Oudheidkundige Bond - Royal Dutch Antiquarian Society), a magazine with a high standard of scholarship in the field of Dutch anthropology and architectural history.

The publication contains 133 pages of text, illustrated with over 100 black and white drawings and photographs. Titles and captions are in both English and Dutch; and every article has an extensive summary in the other language, so all the important information is available to readers in both countries. The price from Albany Institute is \$15.51 which includes tax and postage.

\* \* \*

A catalogue for Albany Institute's major exhibition "Remembrance of Patria" will be published this fall. It will be the largest and most comprehensive publication on the Dutch material culture of Colonial America with full descriptive documentation of all the objects exhibited, over 100 of which will be published for the first time. The large-format, clothbound book with approximately 300 pages, 320 illustrations, and 16 pages in full color will be produced by the Publishing Center for Cultural Resources. The price will be \$39.95 and New York residents should include 7% sales tax.

The proceedings of Albany Institute's symposium of August 2-3, 1986, on "Dutch Arts and Culture in Colonial America, 1609-1776" are expected to be published early in 1987. Symposium notes are now available from Nancy Kelley at the Albany Institute.

\* \* \*

Charlotte Wilcoxon reports that her new book entitled "Dutch Ceramics and Dutch Trade in America in the 17th Century" is in the hands of the publisher and should be available by the end of 1986 or early in 1987. Contact Mrs. Wilcoxon at the Albany Institute.

\* \* \*

All of the above publications can be ordered from the Publications Department, Albany Institute of History and Art, 125 Washington Ave., Albany, NY 12210 (phone: 518-463-4478).

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Now available from Cornell University Press is Oliver Rink's HOLLAND ON THE HUDSON, winner of the New York State Historical Association's 1984 manuscript prize. Rink's book, subtitled "An Economic and Social History of the Dutch in New York," traces the history of New Netherland from its discovery in 1609 to its surrender to the English in 1664, focusing on the colony's commercial success rather than on its problems of governance. Rink has made extensive use of notarial archives in Amsterdam in addition to recently developed research material from the New Netherland Project, and he includes data on the demographic make-up of the colonial population and on the trade network of the Amsterdam merchants. This book is imminently suited for introductory courses in New Netherland history. For more information write: Promotion Department, Cornell University Press, P.O. Box 250, Ithaca, NY 14851.

\* \* \*

The Staten Island Historical Society has available historical pamphlets concerning their recent restoration of its 1695 Voorlezer's house. For \$1.00 each you can order: "The Story of the Voorlezer's House," "The Voorlezer" (reprint from the 1946 Staten Island Historian), and "The Voorlezer's House: An Illustrated Guide". Write to: Staten Island Historical Society, Inc., Richmondtown, S.I., NY 10306.

\* \* \*

The New Netherland Project has announced for publication by the end of 1986 the translations of Vol. 17 of the New Netherland Documents, "The Curacao Papers 1640-1665." Thanks to the dual role played by Petrus Stuyvesant in both New Netherland and Curacao in the years 1642 to 1664, this publication, so to say, "kills two birds with one stone." Not only do the documents tell us about the West India Company's way of managing its properties on Curacao, they also help us to understand the scope and nature of the business relations in those days between the colony in the Caribbean and New Netherland, relations that were not severed after the conquering of New Netherland by the British, but continued to prove their importance especially during the American Revolutionary War. Here is much information on Dutch trade in sugar, salt, and slaves and on relations with other colonial powers. The book will be the first in this series to include the full text in Dutch transcription along with the English translation, making for a volume of almost 600 pages. The pre-publication price is \$40.00 plus \$2.00 shipping for the first book and \$1.00 for each additional book, plus 7% tax for New York residents. Send your orders to Heart of the Lakes Publishing, Interlaken, NY 14847.

The 400th anniversary of one of the world's most historic gold coins is being celebrated this year with the issuance of the 1986 Dutch ducat. The coin, bearing the familiar figure of a standing knight in full armor, holding a sword in one hand and a sheaf of arrows in the other, has been issued continuously since 1586. To give this year's coin a direct link to the past, the quadricentennial ducat bears the image of the original knight that appeared on the first 1586 coin. The reverse of the coin bears the design of a handsomely scrolled tablet with a Latin legend inside, which translates to: "Gold coin of the Kingdom of the Netherlands according to the law of the Empire." The obverse inscription, which encircles the knight, translates to: "Union makes small things grow," referring to the union of the seven provinces of Holland. The coin sells for \$87.50, which includes insured shipping and handling. It may be ordered from the Dutch Mint, P.O. Box 1057, Clifton, NJ 07014 (we have checked this organization with the publisher of a leading coin collector's magazine, and they are quite reputable). New Jersey residents add 6% sales tax. Orders must be received by September 30 or they will not be filled. Allow four to six weeks for delivery.

\* \* \*

A collector's print of "Fort Orange 1635" by L.F. Tantillo is available in a limited edition of 950 numbered copies. These reproductions have been made by the process of offset lithography. Specially formulated inks designed to reduce the effects of ultra-violet light were custom mixed to produce the color balance desired by the artist. The entire edition was printed on Andrews/Nelson/Whitehead 100 lb. cover, an acid free paper made of 100% cotton fiber, to archival standards. All film separations and plates have been destroyed and no further art prints will be made at any time. Unframed the price is \$210; framed with either cherry or antique gold, \$340; \$15 of the purchase price will be donated to the New Netherland Project. Order from Roger Leeon, P.O. Box 374, 43 Mall, West Sand Lake, NY 12196.

# # # # #

## EXHIBITS AND CONFERENCES

Plans are already underway for a 3-day conference on the New Sweden Colony to be held at the University of Delaware, March 3-5, 1988. For more information on proposed speakers and topics contact Carol E. Hoffecker, History Department, University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19716; phone (302) 451-2371.

\* \* \*

If you really want to plan ahead, the New Netherland Project is considering sponsoring a conference in 1989, the 300th anniversary of Leisler's Rebellion, to investigate this significant event of pre-Revolutionary American history. We welcome your suggestions as to topics and speakers; and since the rebellion took place after the New Netherland period, we would even welcome a co-sponsor for the conference. Write to Charles Gehring, New Netherland Project, New York State Library, C&C 11D35, Albany, NY 12230.

\* \* \*

Seven museums in the Netherlands are combining their resources to mount a major exhibition on the "Beeldenstorm" - "The Century of the Iconoclasm" beginning in the fall of 1986. To many people the 16th century in the Netherlands is an unknown period between the Middle Ages and the "Golden Age." Now a wealth of art works and documents focus attention on this fascinating period and clearly demonstrates the developments which made the blossoming of the 17th century possible. Each exhibit location will have a catalogue available. For a brochure describing the exhibits write to: Gemeentearchief Amsterdam, Amsteldijk 67, 1074 HZ Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

The 9th Rensselaerswyck Seminar of the New Netherland Project is scheduled for Saturday, September 20, in Albany at the Cultural Education Center. In keeping with Albany's year-long celebration of the tricentennial of its English charter, this year's Rensselaerswyck Seminar will focus on "The Dutch Foundations of Albany" with five papers presenting results of recent research on Albany's Dutch period and its significance in the formation of this important trading center on the upper Hudson. For a brochure and pre-registration form contact the New Netherland Project, New York State Library, C&C 11D35, Albany, NY 12230; phone: (518) 474-6067.

# # # # #

## NEWS

S. Rippel-Erikson, Assistant to the Co-Directors of the Long Island Archaeological Project, requests recently published books for review in the project's Newsletter. Send complimentary copies of books pertaining to Northeast American archeology (both prehistoric and historic), and as a courtesy L.I.A.P. will send you a copy of the newsletter issue in which the review appears.

\* \* \*

The collections of Nassau County's Division of Museum Services and Hofstra University Library have been combined to form the Long Island Studies Institute located on the 9th floor of Hofstra Library. The collection of the Institute includes the combined local history library and archival collections of the two institutions, conferences, exhibits, publications and media presentations. Contact the Institute at (516) 542-4516.

\* \* \*

Crailo State Historic Site, a museum of the Dutch heritage of the Upper Hudson Valley, has extended its visiting hours. The museum will be open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays, and from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sundays.

Crailo's archaeological exhibits, including finds from Fort Orange and other early sites, are closely related to the 1986 dig which took place this spring on the Key Corp site in downtown Albany, where remains of a 17th century house and burial ground are being studied. Archaeological fragments at Crailo demonstrate how archaeology can contribute to understanding the lifestyle of the Dutch on the upper Hudson. The Crailo museum displays ceramics, genre paintings, furniture and other objects from the 17th and 18th centuries. In the cellar is a working kitchen where school groups can participate in open hearth cooking demonstrations. A videotape program on the early Dutch is also part of the Crailo exhibit. Visitors are given escorted tours through the museum, which was originally a brick house believed to have been built by Hendrick Van Rensselaer in 1705. The historic site is one of nine administered by the Saratoga-Capital District Region of the New York State Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. For further information contact Rich Goring or Shirley Dunn, Crailo State Historic Site, 9-1/2 Riverside Ave., Rensselaer, NY 12144; phone (518) 463-8738.

# # # # #

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Dr. Richard H. Hulan, 6057-27th St. North, Arlington, VA 22207

Interested in the friendly and other intercourse between the officers and colonists of New Sweden and New Netherland. Particularly concerned with the lasting impact on American material folk culture of the non-British settlers in the Delaware Valley.

HISTORICAL INTERESTS

James F. Pendergast, Research Associate, National Museum of Man, National Museums of Canada, P.O. Box 314, Merrickville, Ontario K0G 1N0, CANADA (613) 269-4730

I am interested in references to 16th. century Dutch activities in the New World north of the Rio Grande. I have the following references:

<u>Stokes</u> , "Iconography" 1916 (2): 63-4	<u>Purchas</u> , Hakluytus Posthumous 1625, (18):277-8
1922 (4): 23	
<u>O'Callaghan</u> "History of New Neth." 1848 (1): 29	<u>Thwaites</u> , Jesuit Relations (28): 109
<u>Fernow</u> "Documents Relating to Hist." 1877: i, iii, 396	<u>Jameson</u> , "Narratives of New Neth." 1909: 261, note 3
	<u>Weslager</u> "Dutch Explorers" 1961: 44

Can anyone lead me to other sources?

Jan Folkerts, Baken 118, 9732 BG Groningen, THE NETHERLANDS

My research project will cover the agriculture in New Netherland in the period 1624 to 1674. The central problem to be solved is how the introduction of European agriculture by Dutch colonists took place. Besides the importation of cattle, crops and agricultural implements from Europe, immaterial aspects of this culture will also be explored. So far as an agricultural system developed that differed from Dutch farming in Europe, this study will investigate whether some elements were borrowed from Indian or New England agriculture. Some choices in the history of Dutch agriculture in North America will be evaluated, i.e. the choice between agriculture and fur trade as two economic opportunities in the colony, the choice between adjustment to and adoption of Indian agricultural methods and the introduction of European agriculture, and the choice between a plantation system and the tillage of grain will be studied. Opinions on the question of whether New Netherland was really a suitable place for agriculture will be analysed on the basis of pamphlets and other writings of this period. Finally I will try to gain an insight into the living conditions of Dutch farmers in North America, not only the remunerativeness of the farm as an economic unit, but also the evaluation of tenancy and ownership as two economic alternatives for the Dutch immigrant.

\* \* \* \* \*

N E W S

On December 30, 1985, New York City Clerk David Dinkins transferred the "New Amsterdam Papers" from his office to the Municipal Archives. A total of 136 bound volumes from the Dutch colonial period through 1834 were transferred from the Municipal Building to the archives in the Manhattan Surrogate's Court building for the safekeeping of Eugene J. Bockman, commissioner of the Dept. of Records and Information Services. These records will be microfilmed and indexed before being made available to researchers; but even with this delay, this is a significant move. For the first time the earliest records of New York City will be made more accessible. Many of these records were translated by E.B. O'Callaghan in the 19th. century and edited and published by Berthold Fernow as The Records of New Amsterdam beginning in 1897, 7 volumes. The physical preservation of the records has also been enhanced by their transfer to a more suitable environment. We applaud these developments and hope other holders of original manuscripts consider similar steps.

\* \* \* \* \*

THIS NEWSLETTER WOULD BE LONGER IF MORE OF YOU WOULD SEND IN ITEMS TO BE PUBLISHED!  
New Netherland Project, NY State Library, CEC 11D35, Albany, NY 12230.