

De Nieuw Nederlans Marcurius

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December 2005

Upcoming Events

October 7, 2005–March 5, 2005.

The New-York Historical Society announces a landmark exhibition: “Slavery in New York.,” the first of two exhibitions, spanning the period from the 1600s to 1827, when slavery was legally abolished in New York State. With the display of treasures from The New-York Historical Society, as well as other great repositories, it focuses on the rediscovery of the collective and personal experiences of Africans and African-Americans in New York City. For more information go to: www.slaveryinnewyork.org.

October 18–December 31, 2005.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art announces the first major exhibition in the United States to focus on Vincent van Gogh’s extraordinary drawings. “Vincent van Gogh: The Drawings”—comprising 113 works selected from public and private collections worldwide, including an exceptional number of loans from the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam—will reveal the range and brilliance of the artist’s draftsmanship as it evolved over the course of his decade-long career. Generally overshadowed by the fame and familiarity of his

paintings, Van Gogh’s more than 1,100 drawings remain comparatively unknown, although they are among his most ingenious and striking creations. Van Gogh engaged drawing and painting in a rich dialogue, which enabled him to fully realize the creative potential of both means of expression. A group of paintings will be exhibited alongside the related drawings.

News

The Atlantic World and the Dutch, 1500-2000. The project “The Atlantic World and the Dutch” focuses on the preservation, accessibility and study of the mutual cultural heritage that was formed during hundreds of years of contact between the Dutch and the inhabitants of Africa and the Americas. Geographically the project is confined to the sphere of influence of the former Dutch West India Company (1621-1791), with an emphasis on the territories where the Dutch presence was more prevalent: Aruba, Brazil, Ghana, Guyana, the Netherlands Antilles, Suriname and the United States. The project is hosted by the KITLV/Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies, but it is being carried out in close cooperation with numerous

organizations in the Netherlands and abroad, among which is the New Netherland Institute. (For information see also www.kitlv.nl/atlantic.html. In February 2004 the project was launched with the start of an identification mission. The aims of this initial stage are to locate principal collections of written sources, to chart other tangible cultural heritage as well as the intangible legacy, and to identify current and planned projects, relevant organizations and individual experts (historians, archaeologists, archivists etc.). This information is being compiled in an online digital research guide which, although still far from complete, is now available on the Internet at: awad.kitlv.nl. The identification mission will be concluded with an international conference in the Netherlands scheduled for November 2006. The groundwork for this meeting will be laid in a series of workshops in the countries mentioned above. The outcome of these workshops and the conclusions of the Atlantic conference will form the basis for the formulation of a project plan for the successive phase. The New Netherland Institute will organize the workshop in the United States.

The First Fellow

Jeroen van den Hurk, the inaugural Quinn fellow, began working with NNP on September 12, 2005. He obtained this position through the Quinn Fellowship program, a partnership between the McNeil Center for Early American Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, and the New Netherland Institute. His dissertation is an examination of the architecture of New Netherland with a view to determining what the original settlers had in mind, and what is commonly thought of as Dutch colonial architecture, a style that seems to have little to do with New Netherland. He is using the Colonial Manuscripts, primarily the building contracts, as a source to determine both similarities and differences between the architecture of New Netherland and that of the Dutch republic.

A native of Haarlem, Jeroen received his degree in architectural history from Utrecht University. He expects to receive his PhD from the University of Delaware next spring, and hopes to find a teaching post for the fall. Once he completes his PhD work he would like to explore the true nature of Dutch colonial architecture.

Jeroen is married to Ann Martin, who is originally from Ireland. She grew up in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware, and works in public relations for the local Girls Scout Council. Jeroen has been coming to the United States since 1988 when he officiated in American football. He liked the university graduate programs here so much that he decided to pursue a doctorate that combines his Dutch nationality with his interest in architecture. Personal interests ("when I get the chance") include mountain biking, golf, oil painting, reading, traveling, and hiking. He can be reached at jeroen@udel.edu. MED

The New Netherland Institute is pleased to announce the receipt of a \$10,000 gift toward the support of

"The Legacy of New Netherland" exhibition. In a recent telephone conversation this individual donor, a New Netherlander herself, shared the following. "This is a memorial gift in memory of all the people who have made history so real to me. The people who taught me to 'see' everyday objects — rugs, chairs, account books, clocks, dishes, silverware, books, cookies, shoes, letters, inventories, tools, etc. — as important to our understanding of who we are today. The people who used these objects originally we will never know and often their names are forgotten, too. However, we can learn from these objects and in turn teach future generations not only the utilitarian function of the items but also the values of the person/s to whom they once belonged. To this end this gift is given anonymously so as not to detract from the work at hand."

SKENECTADA "A Quarterly Review of Schenectady's History." A new quarterly newspaper featuring articles, reviews, events, and news regarding the history of Schenectady County has been released. The 8-page tabloid is distributed free in the county and the first issue features Schenectady's role during the Civil War. Look for it at libraries, stores, museums, restaurants and other locations in Schenectady County where alternative publications are allowed. A PDF version is available for download at www.themesh.com/skenec.html. Contact Don Rittner, Schenectady County Historian and publisher of Skenectada at drittner@aol.com.

Publications

For those of you eager to exercise your ability to read Dutch this winter, there are two recent works involving major 17th-c. figures you might want to consider: Luc Panhuysen's, *De Ware Vrijheid. de levens van Johan en Cornelis de Witt* [Atlas, 2005]; and Ben Knapen's, *De man en zijn staat. Johan van Oldenbarnevelt, 1547-1619* [Bert Bakker Amsterdam, 2005].

Do you live in an old Dutch farmhouse or own a "New World" Dutch barn, or just interested in the survival of Dutch material cultural? Then John Stevens' *Dutch Vernacular Architecture in North America, 1640- 1830* will be of interest to you. This attractively formatted and illustrated book is a comprehensive record of buildings constructed by the Dutch in America. Most of the buildings discussed were measured, drawn, and photographed by the author. The drawings make it possible to visualize regional variations in type and style, as well as the chronological development of Dutch-American buildings. Specifications: xvi+449 pages, 9x12 inches (22.75x30.5 cm); horizontal format; 132 plates of drawings, including plans, elevations, constructional features of house, barns, and mills; details of doors, windows, stairs, fireplaces, moldings, etc; 276 illustrations, mostly photographs; four maps. Published by the Society for the Preservation of Hudson Valley Vernacular Architecture (HVVA), Box 202, West Hurley, NY 12491.

FNN News

The 28th Rensselaerswijck Seminar on “The Dutch in the Caribbean,” held at the Cultural Education Center in Albany on September 17, 2005, drew an audience of about 80. Dr. Mark Meuwese of Winnipeg, Canada, became the 18th recipient of the Hendricks Award for his dissertation, “For the Peace and Well-Being of the Country: Intercultural Mediators and Indian-Dutch Relations in New Netherland and Dutch Brazil, 1600-1664” (University of Notre Dame). To order an audio tape of the conference, please send us a check for \$15 plus \$5 for postage and handling. Following the Seminar, a reception and the New Netherland Dinner were held at the historic Fort Orange Club. About 65 guests attended the dinner.

At the end of every quarter it is Christmas for the FNN, when the royalties arrive that were earned on purchases you made from Amazon via our website! As you turn your attention to your shopping list this season, please remember to access Amazon from our web site. Click on [Book Store](#) on the home page side bar; then use the windows to search Amazon for books and other products. At no extra cost to you, FNN will earn a royalty from Amazon on ALL your purchases. Or select books from the long list below the windows, where a direct purchase will earn even more. Thanks to you, last year Amazon sent nearly \$400 to support the work of the NNP and the NNI. With your help, that amount will be surpassed this holiday season! EPF

Save the Dates

The annual meeting of the FNN will be held on **January 21, 2006** at Crailo Historic Site in Rensselaer, NY. Consult our website for further information.

Conference of the American Association for Netherlandic Studies and the New Netherland Institute to take place **June 8-10, 2006** in Albany, NY. The proposal deadline is December 16, 2005, paper/session proposal form, general information about the Conference, and application to attend the Workshop for Teachers of Dutch is on the NNP web site. If you are interested in submitting a paper or organizing a session, you **MUST** submit your proposal online.

Websites

An extensive site dealing with the Dutch and Swedish settlements in North America can be found at: www.colonialvoyage.com/newnether.html. Maintained by Marco Ramerini in Italy, there are numerous links to related topics, such as the Dutch possessions in other parts of the world, as well as the colonial histories of other nations, notably the Portuguese. The site is liberally scattered with explanatory maps, and is especially noteworthy for offering two large colored maps of Nieuw Amsterdam in 1660 and 1664.

Looking for East India Company shipwrecks? This website lists some 145 VOC *retourschip* wreck sites worldwide—from England to Australia, Iceland to Brazil, the Netherlands to South Africa— with

details of the ships’ name, year and place of construction, where and when the wreck was found, and any internet site for that wreck for additional information. Also there are links to other websites with listings of VOC ships and VOC history websites. www.vocshipwrecks.nl

Fellowships

Quinn-Library Fellowship 2006.

Through generous support from the Doris Quinn Foundation, the New Netherland Institute (www.nnp.org) and the New York State Library will make a special Cunningham grant of \$2500 in 2006 for specialized research in Dutch-related documents and printed materials at the New York State Library. Researchers interested in the history of New Netherland and the Dutch Colonial Atlantic world are encouraged to apply for these funds. For application information go to: www.nysl.nysed.gov/library/researchres.htm

Quinn-Archives Fellowship 2006.

With the generous support of the Doris Quinn Foundation, the New Netherland Institute at the New York State Library and the New York State Archives have joined forces to offer a \$2500 fellowship to facilitate research on New Netherland and on the Dutch Colonial Atlantic World. The holder of this fellowship will spend up to a year in Albany, New York, working in the rich collections of the NNI and the NYSA. For application information go to: www.nysarchivestrust.org/apt/hackman/hackman_forms.shtml#Quinn.

Totidem Verbis

Rebuilding New Netherland's First Ship--The Onrust 1614

By Don Rittner, New Netherland Routes, Inc.

Starting in May 2006, the public will be able to view the construction of the first Dutch ship built in 1614 in New York. Known as the *Onrust* (Dutch for "unrest"), this replica will be built using original 17th-century Dutch ship building techniques and is being undertaken under the auspices of the non-profit organization New Netherland Routes, Inc. The project hopes to have the ship completed locally and act as a floating ambassador for promoting the history of the Hudson and Mohawk Valleys and its early colonial New Netherland roots.

A unique feature of the project is its use of the highly efficient ship building techniques developed by the Dutch in the late 16th century. Dutch ship builders were undisputed leaders in this field and their competitive way of shipbuilding produced ships 30% less expensive than any other European country at the time. This technique was recently rediscovered by our ship's architect and designer, Gerald De Weerdts making use of extensive archeological and archival research. Part of the documentary evidence has been derived from records kept at the New York State Archives, under the New Netherland Institute's translation program in Albany, NY. New Netherland Routes works in close cooperation with the New Netherland Project, which has been translating and researching the official 17th-century Dutch records of New Netherland for over 30 years.

The *Onrust* was a Dutch ship built by captain Adriaen Block and the crew of the "Tiger," which had been destroyed by fire in January of 1614 anchored at the tip of Manhattan. The ship was the first

decked vessel to be built entirely in America and can be considered the first industrial activity in the New York area.

The *Onrust* was launched into Upper New York Bay in April 1614 and sailed through the treacherous passage called Hell Gate in the East River, and later became the first American-built vessel to sail in



Long Island Sound (*'tGroot Baai*). Block explored the harbors of Long Island and Connecticut discovering the Housatonic and Thames Rivers, and sailed up the Connecticut (*de Versche Rivier*) River past the site of Hartford. The *Onrust* continued on to Narragansett and Buzzards Bays, and Cape Cod.

In his honor, Block was immortalized with a small island, named Block Island. On the basis of this voyage, the Dutch laid claim to the territory of New Netherland, an area that included Long Island (and all of New York), Connecticut, Delaware, New Jersey, and parts of Pennsylvania.

The last historical account of the *Onrust* describes her 1616 expedition down the coast of New Jersey to explore the New River (Delaware River) under the command of Captain Cornelis Hendricksz. No one knows the final disposition of the ship since it was too small to travel over the ocean. It is believed

to have been abandoned and perhaps is waiting for rediscovery some day by underwater archeologists.

Block was also the first European to venture up the Connecticut River. He managed to get as far as the Enfield Rapids, about 60 miles up the river. He is credited for the 1614 manuscript map of his voyage, the "Block Map," on which many features of the mid-Atlantic region appear for the first time, and on which the term New Netherland is first applied to the region.

The *Onrust* project will be supervised by Gerald de Weerdts, currently president of the New Netherland Routes, Inc. He is also Director of the Maritime Museum in the Netherlands (*Het Behouden Huys*) and former director of the National Institute of Ship Archaeology in Lelystadt. He is an expert in 17th-century Dutch boat building and was the major designer of the *Batavia*, a 300-man vessel of the East India company. Mr. de Weerdts has just completed building a small 17th-century boat, for the Half Moon replica, well known in these parts. This unique shipbuilding project will also involve local talent and will teach young people the techniques of early boat construction and maritime history.

New Netherland Routes, Inc. is currently raising funds to cover the cost of the wood for the initial building stage or skeleton of the ship, amounting to \$10,000. This amount covers the cost of the stem, stern, keel beam, bilge futtocks, floor timbers and a limited number of planks. In addition the organization is looking to raise \$90,000 to cover the costs for the first year of the three-year building process.