

De Nieuw Nederlansche Mercurius



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June 2016

Events of Interest

June 23-26, 2016. The 22nd annual Omohundro Institute Conference will convene in Worcester, MA. Hosted by Worcester Polytechnic Institute and the American Antiquarian Society, the conference’s twin themes will be “Native American Transformations” and “Early America at Work.” A panel of interest to our readers will be: “Transforming the Eastern Woodlands: Native-European Encounters in the Dutch Colony of New Netherland.” The panel will consist of the following speakers: Stephen Staggs, Nicholas Cunigan, and Erin Kramer (all NNI Emerging Scholars). The session will be moderated by Danny Noorlander with comments offered by Mark Meuwese. In a separate panel Dennis Maika will present his own new scholarly work: “The Struggle for New Amsterdam’s Slave Trade: A Contest Between Regional Market Opportunities, West India Company Policy, and Private Entrepreneurship.” For program information and online registration, go to: oieahc.wm.edu/conferences.

June 24-25, 2016. “Digging for our Dutch Roots,” a public program by the New Netherland Institute in Rochester, NY. What were the Dutch doing in America in the 17th century, and why didn’t we learn this vital piece of our history in school? The New Netherland Institute will offer a fact-filled program for teachers, students, genealogists, academics and the general public. All are welcome! Cost for all events (including Friday reception and Saturday brunch) is \$50 (pre-registration only). Friday only: \$25; Saturday only: \$25. Please make check payable to “New Netherland Institute.” Mail reservation or register online at www.newnetherlandinstitute.org.

Until August 14, 2016. “Drawings from the Age of Brueghel, Rubens, and Rembrandt,” at the Harvard Art Museum in Cambridge, MA. This exhibition will present drawings, covering five salient themes in the art history of the Netherlands during the 16th and 17th centuries. Works by the period’s outstanding draftsmen will be on view, including Pieter Brueghel the Elder, Lambert Doomer, Jacques de Gheyn II, Hendrick Goltzius, Jan van Goyen, Maarten van

Heemskerck, Rembrandt van Rijn, Peter Paul Rubens, and Cornelis Vroom. The first section consists of drawings from the 1500s and highlights the stylistic innovations precipitated by contact with Italian Renaissance models. A second group evokes the imagery propagated by a resurgent Catholic church in the southern Netherlands after the division of the Low Countries into an independent and officially Protestant North (the Dutch Republic) and a Catholic South ruled by regents of the Spanish monarchy. A third group shows the range of subjects and techniques explored in the drawings of Rembrandt and the adaptation of his draftsmanship by some of his pupils and close followers. The emergence of landscape as an autonomous artistic genre is the focus of the fourth section, which includes works by 16th-century precursors of the naturalistic landscape and illustrates several of the types of views depicted by Dutch 17th-century masters. Dutch draftsmen of the 17th century also helped turn portraits and scenes from everyday life into autonomous artistic genres of remarkable variety and sophistication. Drawings in the final section range from poignant

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studies taken from life to complete compositions rife with humor and layers of meaning that would have delighted and challenged viewers of the period. For more information go to: www.harvardartmuseums.org.

News

A new collaborative effort is taking shape in the world of Dutch-American studies. A number of repositories and institutions are coming together to share information about their work, to collaborate on projects, and to assist each other in promotion and communication. They are joining together to form the Dutch American Group (DAG). Thus far, 46 organizations have been invited to join DAG. The mission statement is: The Dutch American Group is formed to allow Dutch historical societies, institutes, family associations, Reformed Church Associations, and membership organizations that have an interest in Dutch American history to share their historical records and learn from each other the phenomenal stories about the Dutch in the formation of American society and building blocks of Church and State. We also want to share our historical research about the Low Dutch who originally migrated to New Amsterdam and then to New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and onward to Kentucky. Groups who join must have a way of communicating with their respective organization membership. It is not a group for individuals to join and is loosely structured. If your organization is interested in joining, please contact

Mike Vande Woude, NNI Trustee at nyslfnn@nysed.org and put DAG in the subject line.

Congratulations to Oscar Hefting, our colleague and presenter at the 39th annual New Netherland Conference, for his appointment as managing director of the *Nederlands Vestingmuseum* (Dutch Fortress Museum) in Naarden. The board of this museum has asked Oscar to bring more international attention to the history of Naarden and the historical Dutch defensive system known during the 80 years war as the New Dutch Water Line. The appointment at this museum therefore seems to be an excellent chance to combine the vision of the museum with the mission of the New Holland Foundation, and keep the attention on Dutch overseas heritage as well.

Congress has permanently enacted the Charitable IRA Rollover! You may contribute funds this way if you are age 70 or older at the time of the gift. You must make a qualified charitable distribution of any amount up to \$100,000 on or before December 31, 2016 to qualify for 2016. You must transfer funds directly from an IRA, to a qualified charity, e.g. The New Netherland Institute.

Jeroen Dewulf of UC Berkeley has announced that the Engel Sluiter project has been awarded a grant of nearly \$10,000 to be applied to the digitization of the collection. See

the March Mercurius for project details.

Publications

The Illustrated Delaware River: The History of a Great American River by Hal Taylor. Filled with 140 finely-crafted original drawings and paintings, this book is designed to guide readers as they explore the rich and diverse heritage of the historic Delaware River Valley. This waterway that defines the common borders of the states of Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and New York has hosted some of the most monumental events in the history of the United States. From its discovery by Henry Hudson over 400 years ago, to its crossing by George Washington during the Revolution, and through its course of over 330 miles, the Delaware River offers us much to learn. This entertaining guide introduces the reader to the events, places, and people that make the Delaware one of America's truly great rivers. Size: 6"x 9" | 140 color & b/w images | 288 pp hardcover binding. \$24.99 at Schifferbooks.com.

Adriaen Block and the Onrust: Setting the Stage for Dutch Colonization of North America by Don Rittner. One of the most important Dutch explorers of the 17th century was Adriaen Block, a mariner and trader who successfully explored much of the Northeast United States and laid the groundwork for the Dutch colonization of much of the area

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that now comprises five northeastern states. He is usually mentioned in a sentence or two about building the first fur trading ship in America called the *Onrust*, after his ship the *Tijger* burned somewhere in New York Bay in the winter of 1613. His real contribution was ordering the building of the first permanent settlement of the Dutch in North America that began as a fur trading fort that eventually became the city of Albany, New York. This book adds knowledge about Block the person and his struggles building the *Onrust*. Order directly from the author at: drittner@aol.com.

Dutch Colonial Fortifications in North America, 1614-1676 by Jaap Jacobs. This report is a quick-scan of colonial fortifications occupied, built or, in a few instances, planned, in the Dutch colony of New Netherland and elsewhere in North America between 1614 and 1676. The first region consists of New Amsterdam and vicinity. The second region encompasses the Delaware River Valley and Bay and includes Swedish-built structures that were subsequently taken over by the Dutch. The third region comprises the forts built in the mid and upper Hudson River Valley, including part of the Mohawk River. A fourth category is included to cover defensive structures that do not belong in the regions outlined above. This valuable survey can be purchased at Amazon for \$14.35.

Save the Date

“From Pavonia to the Garden State: New Jersey’s Dutch Background.” The 39th New Netherland Seminar will be held at the New Brunswick Theological Seminary, New Brunswick, NJ. The seminar and its companion events will take place over three days, beginning on Thursday, the 22nd of September, concluding on Saturday the 24th.

FRIDAY MORNING: will include the following speakers:

Wim Klooster, “New Netherland and the Dutch Moment in Atlantic History.”

Evan Haefeli, “New Jersey in 1658: A Quaker witness to a little-known corner of New Netherland.”

Andrea Mosterman, “The Geography of Slave Life in New Netherland.”

Daniel Richter, “‘Who Needs a House out in Hackensack?’ Native People and Dutch People West of the Hudson.”

FRIDAY AFTERNOON:

Dirk Mouw, “Persistence of Dutch Identity and the Reformed Church.”

Jeroen Dewulf, “*Baas* to ‘Boss’: America’s Dutch-Speaking Black Community from 17-c. New Netherland to 19th-c. NY and NJ.”

Kate Lynch, “There will be a college called Queens in our Province of New Jersey.”

SATURDAY MORNING:

Oscar Hefting and **Jaap Jacobs**, “The Archaeology of the Forts of New Netherland,” based on the research for the recent publication *Dutch Colonial Fortifications in North America 1614-1676*.

Emerging Scholars Session:

Deborah Hamer, Artyom Anikin,

and Joris van den Tol will respond to the question: “Why do I Study New Netherland?” Liz Covart, creator, editor, and host of “Ben Franklin’s World: a Podcast about Early American History,” will lead a discussion of their commitment to the study of the early Dutch colony.” In addition to the two-day conference, there will be a reception Thursday evening and the New Netherland dinner on Friday evening. Relevant tours are being planned. For further information, go to our website.

NNI News

Dr. William A. Starna received the Alice P. Kenney Award from the New Netherland Institute at its Annual General Meeting on May 21, 2016. Dr. Starna is professor emeritus of anthropology at SUNY-Oneonta. He has held visiting appointments at Queen’s University, Kingston, Ontario, the University at Albany, and Binghamton University, and has served as adjunct curator of ethnology at the New York State Museum. A longtime student of the Iroquoian and Algonquian peoples of eastern North America, in addition to federal-state-Indian relations, Dr. Starna is the recipient of a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, a Senior Fellowship at the Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government, the Donald M. Blinken Fellowship in Academic Administration at SUNY Central Offices, and earned a New York State Library Research Residency. Dr. Starna has worked as a

consultant with the Native American Rights Fund for more than 30 years, and has also been consultant to more than 20 American Indian tribes on treaty rights, land claims, and the federal acknowledgment process. Dr. Starna is the author of numerous scholarly essays and several books, including his most recent work, *From Homeland to New Land: A History of the Mahican Indians, 1600-1830*, which was published in 2013 by the University of Nebraska Press.

Totidem Verbis

The Dutch in the Arctic: Willem Barentsz and the Quest for the Northeast Passage
by Peter A. Douglas
(part two)

The quantity of ice around the strait leading to the Kara Sea and the impenetrable nature of the icepack near Novaya Zemlya made it prudent to avoid the land and keep to the open sea. Sailing far to the north they discovered Bear Island (Bjørnøya), and soon encountered ice. Continuing along the edge of the pack ice the expedition discovered in mid-June a mountainous snow-covered land (Spitsbergen, now Svalbard, Norwegian territory), which they incorrectly believed to be part of Greenland. They spent the remainder of June exploring the western coast of the main island. Ice prevented further progress and they returned to Bear Island in July. From here Barentsz, along with Van Heemskerck, opted to go

eastwards and pass to the north of Novaya Zemlya. But there was a disagreement; Rijp refused and they agreed to part ways, with Rijp planning to head north again to resume the exploration of Spitsbergen.

Barentsz and Van Heemskerck crossed what would come to be called the Barents Sea (named in honor of Barentsz in the 19th century) and reached the Novaya Zemlya archipelago in August 1596. Having rounded the northernmost point they sailed southeastward and were at first convinced by the open water that they had discovered the Northeast Passage. However, the ice floes in the Kara Sea, demonstrating the obvious hazards for wind-powered vessels in such harsh conditions, quickly surrounded them. The ship, well built but hardly sufficient for the abuse it would receive in the extreme north, became trapped, and the ice began to crush it and lift it up. It was clear to the crew that they were unlikely to get free by the onset of winter, so using driftwood and timber from the ship they built themselves a shelter on the northeastern shore of Novaya Zemlya. They called it “Het Behouden Huys,” The Safe House. In 1871 a Norwegian seal hunter named Elling Carlson discovered the remains of this cabin, noting that it was 12 yards long and 7.5 yards wide. Carlson also found a numerous articles used by the crew, including copper cauldrons, a clock, weapons, plates, carpenter’s tools, and a cooking tripod. Subsequent expeditions found more items, which ended up in various

museums, including the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam.

The crew of seventeen was ill equipped for the long enforced stay and suffered greatly from the severe cold and other hardships, including the incessant depredations of polar bears. The following summer, in June 1597, the remaining marooned sailors succeeded in patching up two small boats using wood from their cabin. With the return of open water they set out southwards. They reached the Kola Peninsula in September and were greeted by Russians and also by Jan Rijn, who happened to be there on a trading voyage. By November they were back in Amsterdam. Barentsz, however, was not with them, having died on the journey, and was buried either at sea or on the northern island of Novaya Zemlya.

Barentsz’s adventures have been well documented by eyewitnesses. Jan Huyghen van Linschoten sailed with him on his first two northern voyages and published his record of these. For a detailed narrative of this last epic adventure we can look to a Dutch officer called Gerrit de Veer, who accompanied Barentsz on his final two voyages. De Veer kept a journal throughout the overwintering, which was published in a well-illustrated edition in 1598. It had many editions, and was translated into several languages. The account also detailed the two other Arctic expeditions that Berentsz undertook.

[to be concluded]