

# De Nieuw Nederlansche Mercurius

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"De Nieuw Nederlansche Mercurius"

May 1998

## Upcoming Events

**June 20, 1998.** The Alice P. Kenney award ceremony will take place at the Senate House in the historic town of Kingston. The recipient of this year's award will be David W. Voorhees, editor of *De Halve Maen* and director of the Jacob Leisler Papers at NYU. The



program will begin at 2:00 pm with a performance of the Dutch musical group *Kat yn 't Seil*, followed by refreshments. The award itself will be presented at 3:15.

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**Throughout June 1998**, the Albany Urban Cultural Park located at Quackenbush Square at Clinton Avenue and Broadway will be displaying historic summaries and artifacts recovered from the archeological excavations at the site of the proposed Broadway Office Complex (see *Totidem Verbis*). The center is open to the

public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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**Until August 9, 1998.** A Collector's Cabinet – *kunstkamers*. National Gallery of Art, West Building, Dutch Cabinet Galleries, Washington, D.C. Contact: [202] 737-4215.

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**June 5 – July 19, 1998.** Old Songs, Inc. will proudly sponsor a six-week tour of *Kat yn 't Seil*, a four-member musical ensemble from Friesland, the Netherlands. The group performs an intriguing, entertaining, and educational mixture of folk, traditional, and contemporary songs, sea shanties, and instrumental dance melodies. *Kat yn 't Seil* will perform at various locations in the Capital region including the Kenney Award event at the Senate House Museum in Kingston on June 20th. Contact Andy Spence at 518-765-2815; email: <oldsongs@crisny.org>

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**July 8, 1998.** Another chance to see *Kat yn 't Seil*. The group will perform at the Guilderland Public Library at 7:00 pm. The event is free and open to the public. Re-

freshments will be served. "Join us for a fresh and insightful look into our Dutch heritage."

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**June 26, 1998.** A special in-depth workshop on the Dutch Roots of the Pinksterfest will take place from 2-4 pm at the Old Songs Festival in Altamont, NY. The workshop is open to the public (\$10.00 ticket). *Kat yn 't Seil* will perform in the festival's Friday evening concert and at the workshops on Saturday and Sunday on Dutch dances, sea shanties, and women folk of fishermen. Contact: Andy Spence at [518] 765-2815.

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**September 19, 1998.** The New Netherland Project announces its xxi Rensselaerswijck Seminar. This year's theme will be "Tolerance and Cultural Diversity in New Netherland." The program begins at 9:00 in the Museum Theater at the Cultural Education Center in Albany. The morning session will feature the following talks: "Between Repression and Approval: Connivance and Tolerance in the Dutch Republic," by drs. Jaap Jacobs, Leiden University; "Metal Makers, Scoundrels, and Brothers: Dutch Constructions of Native

American Construction of the Dutch, 1608–1664” by Dr. Daniel Richter, Dickinson College; “On her Woman’s Troth’: Tolerance, Time-honored Customs and the Women of New Netherland,” by drs. Adriana van Zwieten, Temple University. After lunch and the presentation of the 1998 Hendricks Manuscript Award, the afternoon session will feature “By Reason of their Color: Africans in New Netherland, 1626–1664,” by Dr. Willie Page, Brooklyn College; and “‘Abominable Religion’ and Dutch (In)tolerance: the Jews and Petrus Stuyvesant,” by Dr. James Williams, Middle Tennessee State University.

### News

Dr. James H. Williams, Assistant Professor of History at Middle Tennessee State University, and speaker at our next Rensselaerswijck Seminar, is one of the thirteen recipients of the NYS State Archives Grant on a variety of research topics. Williams’ research is “Identity as Power: The cultural Struggle for the Early Mid-Atlantic Colonies.”

### Websites

After wandering among the bits and bytes of cyberspace for months, the NNP has found a new home at: <[www.nnp.org](http://www.nnp.org)>. We are grateful to **Westnet, Inc.** of Rye, NY, for its generosity in hosting the site for us. If you live in Westchester, may want to consider using Westnet as your internet service provider. Tel: [914] 967-7816.

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This year the Netherlands celebrates the 350th anniversary of the **The Peace of Munster**, which ended the Eighty Years’ War and is considered the official birth of the nation. The anniversary will be commemorated in many ways throughout the country. For a calendar of events and other information



The announcement of the Peace of Munster before Antwerp’s City Hall on June 5, 1648.  
[Rijksprentenkabinet, Amsterdam]

about this year-long celebration visit <[www.minocw.nl/vrede](http://www.minocw.nl/vrede)>.

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Thanks to some networking by the NNP, an international educational project was recently started between students at schools in Weststellingwerf in Friesland, the Netherlands (Stuyvesant’s birthplace) and Bethlehem Central Middle School in Delmar, NY. The students discuss a wide variety of topics such as, religion in New Netherland, food, law, treatment of people in court, etc. You can follow their communications at the following address:

<[www.gco.nl/tyr](http://www.gco.nl/tyr)>

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The website called “The United States of America and the Netherlands” contains an interesting and useful collection of essays about New Netherland and the enduring

relationship between the two countries. The address is:

<[odur.let.rug.nl/~usa/E/newnetherlands/nlxx.htm](http://odur.let.rug.nl/~usa/E/newnetherlands/nlxx.htm)>

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Searching for a hard-to-find book? Try <[www.bibliofind.com](http://www.bibliofind.com)>. This site serves as a clearing house for used book stores around the country. Recently they were able to locate copies of two out of three out-of-print books I had almost given up on ever finding.

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The replica of Hudson’s ship **de Halve Maen** will be in Kingston, NY from June 24 through Labor Day. Visit the ship’s website at <[www.newnetherland.org](http://www.newnetherland.org)> for further details and related activities.

### Publications

**Members 1659–1809, Old Dutch Church, Kingston.** Published by Heritage/Museum Committee. The book contains 2492 names of church members, including date of acceptance, domine, witnesses, spouse, confession of faith or certificate, comments, and source. The primary source is the recent translation of the Consistory Minutes in Dutch by Dr. Charles T. Gehring. Softcover, 199 pages. \$30.00 includes mailing cost. Mail checks to Old Dutch Church Heritage/Museum Committee, UPO Box 3006, Kingston, NY 12401.

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**Deacons’ Accounts, 1652–1674. Dutch Reformed Church, Beverwijck/Albany, New York,** trans-

lated and edited by Janny Venema. The deacons' account books offer information for historians and genealogists alike as the books contain much information about clothing, food, prices, wages, and genealogy of the early Albany community. 320 pages, name index. Hardcover at \$43.50 can be ordered from Picton Press, P.O. Box 250, Rockport, ME 04856. Tel. [207] 236-6565. Order # 1863. Softcover at \$30 can be obtained from the Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 255 Jefferson Ave. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503.

## News from the FNN

The Friends of New Netherland congratulate the director and staff of the New Netherland Project upon the renewal of the NEH matching grant.

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A reminder that the Kenney award ceremony will take place on June 20 (see under Upcoming Events).

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The events committee needs your help. FNN members who are able to volunteer their services before, during, or after the events, please contact the events chair, Peter Rose, at [914] 763-8898.

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Committees: The task of the Kenney Award Committee has been expanded to include the Hageman Award and renamed the **Awards Committee**. Presently composed of Carol Hageman, chair, and Marilyn Douglas, it will be responsible for publicizing, soliciting, or initiating nominations, and selecting winners.

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The fifth annual **New Netherland Project dinner** is scheduled for September 19. As with past dinners the menu will reflect the theme of the Rensselaerswijck Seminar. Invitations will be mailed in August. This year's sponsor will be Akzo Nobel Inc. Ambassador

Joris Vos has accepted our invitation to attend.

## Te koop

Soon our website will be offering various New Netherland-related items for sale. Following are sev-

## Donors in the various categories of membership in the FNN

January 1, 1997 – January 21, 1998

[Corporate Circle donors appeared in the previous issue; new corporate donors are noted in italics.]

### Sustaining Friend (up to \$100)

Charlotte Adams  
John Austin  
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### Benefactor (\$10,000+)

Doris G. Quinn Foundation

eral ideas for gifts which we have in stock at the NNP. The retail price is followed by the FNN members' discount:

New Netherland Writers Series (each \$5/3)

No. 1. *Reflections on the World: The Writings of Howard G. Hageman*;

No. 2. *Through an Antiquarian's Eye: The Writings of Charlotte Wilcoxon*.

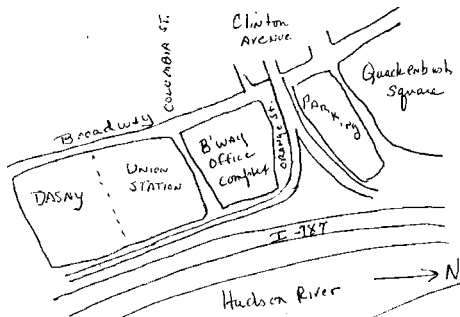
Color reprint of the 1667 Goos map of New Netherland (59x47cm); new members receive this map as a welcoming gift. \$12.50/10.

Note cards featuring a color print of the Visscher map of New Netherland (17.5x13cm) package of ten with envelopes \$12/10.

## Totidem Verbis

The following contribution was submitted by Louise Basa, an area resident interested in local history and an archaeologist. Tel: [518] 377-4389; Fax: [518] 374-2215; email: <LABasa@juno.com>.

Once again Albany will be uncovering its past. Just north of last year's excavation and construction of the Dormitory



DASNY = Dormitory Authority site; Union Station is now Fleet Bank; Broadway Office Complex is location of proposed construction site.

Authority Building, there are plans for the Broadway Office Complex. The proposed building will be located on a two-acre site

housing the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and a separate parking garage. The archaeological remains from this site, near the confluence of the Vossen Kill (named after Andries de Vos) and the Hudson River, should yield much information about Dutch occupation, interaction with native Americans, and land use through the various layers of Albany's history.

The earliest historical layer lies under 9 to 12 feet of fill in portions of this two-acre site. This is a major amount of fill that needs to be removed prior to safely opening select areas for meaningful archaeological fieldwork. Complementary archival and historic research using original source materials is also needed, in addition to post-archaeological excavation analysis and popular publication of the material remains. A well-managed archaeological field excavation combined with historical commentary for public tours during the excavations would be an important event that would bring archaeology and history alive in Albany during the summer of 1998. Such an event and subsequent displays in several existing or new venues could be a quality attraction that could bring economic and other benefits to residents, commuting workers and tourists in the Capital region of the Empire State.

### Albany, New York: Last Chance for Significant Archaeological Finds?

But is New York State again missing the significance of its heritage and the lasting benefits it can bring to a City struggling to revive? In an apparent rush to bring state workers into new quarters in downtown Albany, has enough effort been taken to assess the importance of the City's buried history to its future? The state legislature in April appropriated the funds for the "Albany Plan" and the City of Albany, as "lead agency" in planning the complex, has issued a Draft Environmental Impact Statement [DEIS]. Under State Environmental Law and regulations, archaeological and historic resources are to be given equal consideration in assessing impacts from planned construction.

However, the DEIS concludes that building on this site will not significantly im-

pact these historic archaeological resources. The rationale for this conclusion is that the area for the building complex is small and therefore it is inevitable that these resources will be damaged by construction. The DEIS notes that all archaeological excavation of an unspecified scope will be done as "data-recovery mitigation." This brief summary is the extent of the elaboration that is provided. There is no discussion of the potential to leave some remains in place as permanent displays or other alternatives.

The City of Albany should be complimented for its sensitivity to historic resources. The City identified the archaeological and historic impacts from this proposed office project as issues for consideration in the preparation of the impact statement. However, the City may need to reconsider its conclusion that the impact to these resources is not significant. This conclusion does not appear to be supported by the significance of the historic discoveries reported in the appended archaeological report. Additionally, more excavations should be undertaken as soon as possible to resolve questions of alternatives to the complete destruction implied by the brief statement under "unavoidable adverse impacts" found in the DEIS.

The time for anyone interested in reviewing and commenting on the DEIS is now. The public comment period on the DEIS is open for 30 days and comments are due no later than 5 p.m. on Friday June 19, 1998. The DEIS and its Appendix 5, the archaeological report, are available for public review and comment from the City Department of Planning and Neighborhood Development, Albany City Hall, 4th floor, Eagle Street, Albany, NY 12207, tel: 434-5190; fax: 426-0759. The contact person is Mr. Michael Morelli.

Your comments may save the past for the future. Remember the deadline for public comment is June 19. Don't wait; write now to encourage Albany to professionally excavate large areas of this site down to the earliest levels and insist that construction schedules **not** foreclose this last chance to reveal and publically appreciate Albany's unique heritage.