

# De Nieuw Niderlansse Mercurius

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“De Nieuw Niderlansse Mercurius”

June 2017

## Events of Interest

**June 9 and 10, 2017.** “The Dutch in Connecticut: Exploring New Netherland’s Fresh River.” Last summer NNI took New Netherland to Rochester, New York. This summer we are visiting Hartford, Connecticut. This summer’s program will include a reception (cash bar) at the “Black Bear Saloon” on Friday night with a keynote address by Russell Shorto, author of *The Island at the Center of the World*. Saturday’s program at the Old State House in Hartford will feature talks from historical painter Len Tantillo, New Netherland Research Center Director Charles Gehring, New Netherland Research Center Associate Director Janny Venema, Connecticut State Historian Walter Woodward, archaeologist Lucianne Lavin, and the New Netherland Institute’s Associate for Educational Materials Jessica Maul. For registration and more information go to our website.

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**Until June 18, 2017.** “Wampum World: An Art Installation” by Renée Ridgway is on display at the Albany Institute of History and Art. This multimedia exhibition is an artist’s interpretation of the changing meaning of wampum from culture to culture and time period to time period. It combines video installations and the artist’s watercolors and collage works with objects that the artist has selected from the museum’s collection of Dutch colonial materials. For more

information go to:  
[www.albanyinstitute.org](http://www.albanyinstitute.org).

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**Through September 17.** “An Inner World,” is an exhibition at the Clark Art Institute in Williamstown, MA supported as part of the Dutch Culture USA program by the Consulate General of the Netherlands in New York. Genre painting—scenes depicting everyday life—flourished in the Dutch Republic in the seventeenth century. The style of *fijnschilderijen* (or fine painting: highly detailed, naturalistic paintings rendered with an extraordinary precision of brushstrokes) became particularly popular in the university city of Leiden as a result of the artistic innovations developed by the painter Gerrit Dou (1613–1675). Dou’s small-scale, finely executed genre scenes, which often feature a single figure leaning out over a stone window ledge, display a splendid degree of illusion in the depiction of space, light, and material surfaces. The exquisite character of these works, taken together with their possible symbolic or moralizing meaning, encourages close study by viewers.

Artists working in and around Leiden in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries responded to Dou’s themes and painting style in significant ways, whether by taking up the motif of a figure peering out of a stone archway or ledge, depicting the intellectual meditations of a scholar,

or capturing the effects of light on different surface textures. This exhibition explores the work of Dou and his contemporaries through the focused theme of the inner world—considering tradition and innovation in the representation of figures in interior spaces, individuals in moments of contemplation or quiet exchange, and the enduring taste among collectors for *fijnschilderijen*. For more information go to:  
[clarkart.edu](http://clarkart.edu)

## Save the Date

The year 2017 marks the 100th anniversary of women’s suffrage in New York State. The New Netherland Institute will use this centenary and our Annual Conference to highlight the role of women in the development of New Netherland and early New York. The conference will convene in Albany, New York at the New York State Museum on the 22nd and 23rd of September 2017. The program will open on Friday morning with a talk by NYU professor Susanah Romney titled “Housewives and Businesswomen: Changing How We Think about Dutch Women in the Atlantic World.” Other confirmed participants and their talks are Ruth Piwonka, “Trading Ladies: What did they have in common?”; Artyom Anikin, “The Short History of Witch Trials in Colonial New York”; Peter G. Rose, “Ms. Cookbooks as Documents of Social and Family History”; Dirk Mouw, “Women and

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the Dutch Reformed Church in North America: What We Can Learn from Congregational Records”; Lana Holden, “Catalina Trico”; Bill Greer, “Who Wears the Trousers?”; David Voorhees, “Women in Leisler’s Rebellion”; Julie van den Hout,” Mary Doughty van der Donck: This Preacher’s Daughter was no Shrinking Violet”; Kate Lynch, ““She Removed to the Dutch Against the Advice of Her Friends’: Lady Deborah Moody and New Netherland’s Dissident Women”; Karen Hess, “Ariaantje Coeymans.” If you would like to be notified when registration becomes available, see our homepage under News & Events.

### News

Over the past two decades, Rose-Marie and Eijk van Otterloo have assembled one of the most magnificent private collections of 17th-century Dutch art in the world, comprising superb examples of nearly all the major categories of subject matter explored by artists of the time: portraits, landscapes, church interiors, still lifes, genre scenes, and more. All of the works in the van Otterloo collection are distinguished by their remarkable quality, enviable condition, and dazzling display of pictorial craft. The Van Otterloos continue to pursue their learned passion—which extends to 17th-century Dutch furniture and decorative arts as well—as they expand their collection of masterworks and generously make their rare and cherished paintings accessible through loans to museums and exhibitions.

The Yale University Art Gallery has put on view an extraordinary group of 30 paintings borrowed from the Van Otterloo collection, featuring works by Frans Hals, Gerrit Dou, Jacob van Ruisdael, Jan van de Cappelle, Pieter Saenredam, Jan Steen, Willem Claesz Heda, Jan Porcellis, and others. This imposing group brilliantly demonstrates the

Dutch masters’ interest in naturalistic representation and their formidable and distinctive pictorial skills.

For more information and thumbnails of the collection, go to: [artgallery.yale.edu/selections-van-otterloo-collection](http://artgallery.yale.edu/selections-van-otterloo-collection)  
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For those of you in The Netherlands or planning to visit there this summer, one of our members wanted you to know that Kiliaen van Rensselaer’s house in Hasselt near Zwolle, the town where he was born, is open to the public *on request* for visiting. Go to this site and scroll down toward the bottom for an address and photo of the estate:

<http://tiphasselt.nl/bezienswaardigheden/>

### Publications

When in 2015 the Association for the Advancement of Dutch American Studies [AADAS] and the New Netherland Institute decided to organize a joint conference, “The Dutch in America Across the Centuries: Connections and Comparisons,” the motivation was to build connections between two major institutions for research on the history of the Dutch in America: the NNRC/NNI, which focuses mostly on colonial New Netherland and its legacy in the Northeastern United States, beginning in 1609, and the AADAS, which specializes more in the Dutch immigration wave to the Midwest and its impact, beginning in 1847. Due to this geographical divide, scholars of the Midwest are not very familiar with the history of New Netherland and, vice versa, scholars of New Netherland are not very knowledgeable about the history of the Dutch in the Midwest and beyond.

Twelve papers presented at this conference comprise *Sharing Pasts: Dutch Americans through Four Centuries*. They illuminate this geographical divide: while some

chapters deal with connections and comparisons between the two groups, most are focused on either the Northeast or the Midwest and beyond. Happily, in scrutinizing these papers, New Netherland researchers will see possibilities for comparing and linking to this later period while the scholars of the Midwestern Dutch will recognize opportunities to make connections to the Dutch colonial period.

Insights into various Dutch American topics on both sides of the divide are presented in *Sharing Pasts*: immigration; wilderness and cultural persistence; Dutch American culture moving west; the Dutch and Indians under English colonial rule; American influence on Dutch communities and churches; and the rekindling of affection for the Netherlands in America. If researchers are looking for topics on the Dutch in America, they will find them here.

Henk Aay, Janny Venema, Dennis Voskuil (eds), *Sharing Pasts: Dutch Americans through Four Centuries* (Holland MI: Van Raalte Press, 2017). 284 pp.; \$25.00. The book can be ordered through the NNI.

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*Revolution Song: A Story of American Freedom* by Russell Shorto, author of the acclaimed *Island at the Center of the World*. With America’s founding principles being debated today as never before, Russell Shorto looks back to the era in which those principles were forged. Drawing on new sources, he weaves the lives of six people into a seamless narrative that casts fresh light on the range of experience in colonial America on the cusp of revolution. While some of the protagonists—a Native American warrior, a British aristocrat, George Washington—play major roles on the field of battle, others—a woman, a slave, and a laborer—struggle no less valiantly to realize freedom for themselves.

Through these lives we understand that the Revolution was, indeed, fought over the meaning of individual freedom, a philosophical idea that became a force for violent change. A powerful narrative and a brilliant defense of American values, *Revolution Song* makes the compelling case that the American Revolution is still being fought today and that its ideals are worth defending.

512 pages. Scheduled for release by W.W. Norton & Co. on Nov. 7, 2017.

### NNI News

Ten episodes of our podcast “New Netherland *Praatjes*,” hosted by Russell Shorto are now available on our site with several more planned: Charles Gehring, James Bradley, Len Tantillo, Susanah Romney, Jeroen Dewulf, Janny Venema, Dennis Maika, Heidi Hill, and Paul Huey. The latest episode features Mark Schaming, the new Deputy Commissioner of Cultural Education and Director of the New York State Museum. After listening, please take our survey to let us know what you think. Go to: <http://bit.ly/2mP214T>

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The Alice P. Kenney Memorial Award was presented to Firth Haring Fabend at the NNI Annual Meeting on May 19 at Albany’s University Club. After thanking the committee and the Institute, Firth made a few remarks worthy of your consideration:

“Alice Kenney was a descendant of the earliest Dutch settlers of Albany. *The Gansevoorts of Albany*, her book exploring the history of this family, was one of the first works I read when I was contemplating writing my dissertation at NYU on the Haring family. *The Gansevoorts* validated for me that doing family history, even of my own family, could be a worthy enterprise. As it turned out, it was, in doing for family history in New Netherland and beyond what

scholars of New England families had already done for that colony.

Kenney’s book *Stubborn for Liberty* was commissioned by New York State to commemorate the Bicentennial of the Declaration of Independence in 1976. This work also influenced and inspired me, as it did a great many other historians, who now realized that the Dutch period in American history held rich opportunities for scholarly study. Neglected and ignored forever, the Dutch period and its ongoing legacy have fostered a new appreciation of our beginnings as a nation.”

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At the annual meeting in May of The Society of Daughters of Holland Dames, Descendants of the Ancient and Honorable Families of New Netherland, it was agreed to provide \$50,000 to the New Netherland Institute to support the translation of the 638 pages of Volume 23 of the New York Colonial Manuscripts [NYCM]. Frequently referred to as the Colve Papers, these records document the administration of Anthony Colve, New Netherland’s governor during the colony’s short-lived restoration of 1673–74. The Colve Papers are part of the collection of over 12,000 Dutch-language colonial documents currently housed at the New York State Archives, documents crucial to the study of New Netherland, early America, and the early modern world. To complete the translation, NNI will employ Artyom Anikin, a doctoral candidate in history at the University of Amsterdam who is in the final stages of a dissertation on the Colve administration. Anikin’s language skills and expertise make him ideal for the project. Renamed New Orange under Colve, New Netherland’s great port city had changed considerably from its time as “New Amsterdam,” largely due to intervening changes in the global balance of power. As Anikin has recently argued, New Orange was a flashpoint in the ongoing war with the English, a fragile military

asset, and an opportunity to spread Willem III’s influence around the globe. The completion of the translation of Volume 23 would bring the number of translated volumes in the NYCM to eighteen and will bring us one step closer to the goal of translating all the records in this irreplaceable collection.

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Another group of NNI’s “Emerging Scholars” will present their work at the next annual meeting of the American Historical Association, 4-7 January 2018 in Washington, D.C. Entitled “Women and the Construction of Racial Identity in Global Dutch Communities in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries,” the panel will feature papers presented by Erin Kramer (Ph.D. Cand., University of Wisconsin-Madison), Deborah Hamer (Postdoctoral Fellow, Omohundro Institute for Early American History and Culture) and Nicole Maskiell (Asst. Prof. of History, University of South Carolina). Wim Klooster (Prof. of History, Clark University) will offer commentary on the papers. The session will be chaired by Dennis Maika (Senior Historian and Education Director, NNI)

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Like all non-profits, The New Netherland Institute depends upon the generosity of its members and friends for financial support in order to continue to advance knowledge of the role of the Dutch in the Atlantic world. While annual gifts are always most welcome, there are several other ways to support NNI. For example, consider naming NNI as a beneficiary of your estate. This can be accomplished by a bequest in your will or a directive to your trustee wherein you donate cash or stocks to NNI as either a percentage of the whole or a defined amount. Your attorney can supply the appropriate language. Or you can designate NNI as a primary or secondary beneficiary of an insurance policy or an IRA. Again, a specified

amount or a percentage is appropriate.

### Totidem Verbis

[Conclusion of James Bradley's "How the Dutch became Orange." ]  
 In April 1572 a band of *Watergeuzen*, or Sea Beggars as they were called, captured the town of Brill in South Holland. Contrary to their normal "hit and run" tactics, they occupied the town and claimed it by raising the Prince of Orange's flag above the city. This event was followed by other cities opening their gates for the *Watergeuzen*, and soon most cities in Holland and Zeeland were in the hands of the rebels. Soon after, an assembly of the States-General was called in Dordrecht where William of Orange was reinstated as stadtholder, or the legitimate representative of the King's authority. It was not yet a declaration of independence, not yet.

Declaring a revolt was not the same as being successful. And while there were initial successes in Holland, the first few years were a military disaster. It was not until 1573 when the town of Alkmaar fended off Alba's siege attempt and a year later when Leiden's siege was lifted by the rebels that the situation began to turn in their favor. By then, William had joined the Calvinist Church leaving his Catholic heritage behind.

Meanwhile, things were not going well back in Orange either. During the 1560s and 70s, Protestant troops from Orange and Catholic forces from the surrounding Comtat Venissan communities alternately destroyed each other's towns and killed their

neighbors. In Orange itself, St. Eutrope Hill was re-fortified.

As the rebellion gained momentum, so did the Catholic opposition, especially in the southern portion of the Netherlands. In January 1579, a group of Catholic nobles formed the Union of Arras, pledging their allegiance to Phillip and the Roman Catholic Church. In turn, the Protestant northern provinces signed the Union of Utrecht agreeing to remain united in a "perpetual" alliance as if they were one. The Union of Utrecht is regarded as the foundation of the Dutch Republic although it would not be recognized formally by Spain for another eighty years. Phillip responded by declaring William an outlaw and heretic in 1580. Consequently, William advised the States-General to elect a new sovereign and suggested Phillip's enemy, the Duke of Anjou. Although this transfer of authority did not take place, it did lead to an Act of Abjuration in July 1581 by which the northern provinces, now assembled in The Hague, formally withdrew their allegiance from Phillip II. Success came at a high price for William. After surviving numerous attempts, he was assassinated in Delft by Balthasar Gérard, a Catholic partisan, in 1584.

William's death left the revolt and the new republic leaderless, but by this time, the House of Orange was so thoroughly associated with Dutch independence that the States-General made William's 17 year-old son, Prince Maurice, a member of the Council of State who would administer the union, and eventually stadholder. A

competent military leader, Prince Maurice continued his father's campaign successfully. By 1596, both France and England were prepared to back the United Provinces against Spain and even acknowledge them as an independent federation.

Throughout the seventeenth century, the House of Orange went on to international renown while the principality of Orange receded back onto a more modest stage. As Wars of Religion graded into the Thirty Years' War (1618 to 1648), Orange was often in conflict with its Catholic neighbors. For this reason, Prince Maurice built a substantial fortified chateau on St. Eutrope hill between 1620 and 1622, widely considered one of the most beautiful and impregnable fortresses in Europe at the time. This survived until 1674 when Louis XIV, in a fit of pique against the Dutch, ordered it demolished. By this time, the House of Orange had little association with the town. In 1689, William III, Prince of Orange became William III, King of England and had little time for the affairs of his namesake house. With William's death in 1702, the principality passed to Francois Louis de Bourbon, Prince of Conti, much to the annoyance of Louis XIV who believed it should be under royal control. Acting on his beliefs, Louis seized the principality the following year, expelling all the remaining Protestants. It was not until the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713, that Great Britain finally relinquished its claim to Orange and it officially became a part of France. [concluded]