

De Nieuw Nederlansche Mercurius

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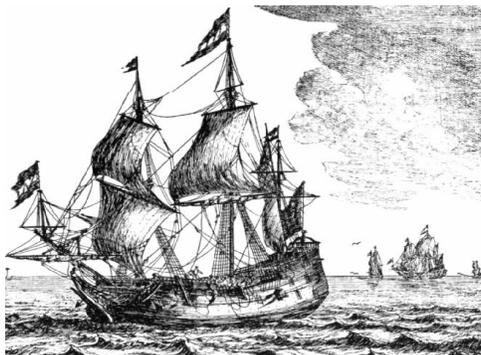
Upcoming Events

June 9–11, 2005. The 26th Conference on New York State History will be held at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse, NY. For program details: www.nyhistory.com. Conference contact is Field Horne at: field@spa.net.

Until June 19, 2005. “Time and Transformation in 17th-century Dutch Art” at the Frances Lehman Loeb art Center, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY. For more information: go to: <http://fllac.vassar.edu>.

August 12–14. “The Dutch House in America 1624–1830.” A three-day program at Eastfield Village, Nassau, Rensselaer County. Twelve lectures will be presented on all aspects of New World Dutch culture. When the talks get boring you can take a walk through the most exciting open-air museum in the Hudson Valley. It is expected to attract a large crowd. The fee for the three-day event is \$425. See www.nnp.org/conferences for additional details.

September 17, 2005. The 28th Rensselaerswijck Seminar will be held in the Museum Theater of the Cultural Education Center in Albany. This year’s theme will be “The Dutch in the Caribbean.” The one-day conference will feature five speakers, exploring Dutch



West Indian vessel *Dubbelen Arent*

presence in the Caribbean (both above and below water) during the 17th and 18th centuries. For program details consult our website at: www.nnp.org.

Publications

Hot off the Press!
Shawangunk Place-names by Marc B. Fried. Subtitled: *Indian, Dutch and English Geographical Names of the Shawangunk Mountain Re-*

gion: Their Origin, Interpretation and Historical Evolution, the Preface opens: “Place-names are the crossroads where history, geography, and linguistics intersect. Each one of these lines of human inquiry arrives at the meeting place bringing stories of its journey.” This attractive book will make an ideal gift for the local historian and serve as a model for place-name studies in other regions of New Netherland. The book was published by the author via Green Press Initiative. ISBN 0-9663351-2-0. Inquiries are to be directed to Mr. Fried, 766 Sand Hill Rd., Gardiner, NY 12525; tel: 845- 895-3756.

Reunions

Plans are underway for the first **Van Rensselaer** Family reunion: “Celebrating 375 years of our history and family in America, a four-day reunion is being planned to take place August 17 through 21, 2006 in Rensselaerville, New York. The center of activities will be at the splendid Eldridge/Huyck summer houses on 100 graciously manicured acres currently known as the Rensselaerville Institute and Conference Center. All sorts of activities from swimming, horseback riding and lessons, golf outings,

hiking the foothills of the Catskills and the magnificent Huyck Preserve are available. Sumptuous dining and hearty libations in between lectures/informal talks by Van



Trademark of Rensselaerswijck

Rensselaer scholars and side trips to the “last Patroon’s” monument at the Albany Rural Cemetery and antiquing at the 23 fabled shops in Hudson are only the beginning. Children, pets and VR family together once again on the lands that were ours for as far as the eye can see. Come celebrate America’s most illustrious historical family—ours.”

For further information contact David Enright IV and Philip Van Rensselaer at 212-759-1035 or by email at DEIV@enright.com—mark your calendars! Accommodations are limited. Please provide your address(s), telephone and email for prompt reply. [This event will be partly underwritten by a generous gift of the W.P. Carey Foundation.]

FNN News

The 2005 Alice P. Kenney Award will be presented to Professor Donna R. Barnes on June 18, at 1:30 pm, at Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY, outdoors if weather will permit, or in the Jade Room. The event is free and open

to the public. This award was established in honor of Alice P. Kenney, a distinguished scholar of the early period of American history and of the Dutch contribution to American society.

Prof. Barnes completed her doctoral dissertation at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, and teaches a wide range of undergraduate and graduate level education courses at Hofstra University in Hempstead. Since the mid-1980s her research and intellectual interests have focused on 17th-century Dutch art and daily life. She has served as guest curator for four exhibitions of 17th-c Dutch art, in 1988, 1991, 1995 and 2004. In 1997 Professor Barnes was guest curator for an exhibition at the *Historisch Museum* in Amsterdam. In 2002 she was co-curator, with food historian Peter G. Rose, for “Matters of Taste: Food and Drink in Seventeenth-Century Dutch Art and Life,” at the Albany Institute of History and Art.

After the reception, you are invited to join us for a guided tour of an important exhibit, containing over ninety Dutch 17th-c paintings and other works of art. Loans to Vassar College have come from the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, the Philadelphia Museum of Art and other prestigious institutions.

Although the event is free, space is limited. Please make your reservation by June 10 by calling us at 518-486-4815 (leave a message if there is no one available) or register online at: www.nnp.org/kenny2005.html

The FNN is pleased to announce that this year’s **New Netherland Institute Dinner** will be held on Saturday, September 17, 2005 at the Fort Orange Club in Albany. The event will begin at 5:00 pm with a cocktail reception followed by dinner. A reservation form will be mailed to members and placed on our website in August.

Reminders

- If you have not already paid your 2005 membership dues, please do so as soon as possible – single membership \$35; family and organization membership \$60.
- If you’re buying **anything** via AMAZON, first go to: www.nnp.org/fnn/fnnstore/books.html, then AMAZON.COM. All purchases made this way – whether books or hamper – earn FNN a small royalty.

News

We regret to announce that the NYC bimonthly newsletter *De Nieuwe Amsterdammer* has ceased publication with its December 2004 issue. After a 14 year run Eleonore Speckens, Benno Groeneveld, and Hanny Veenendaal decided that the publication had outlived its usefulness and that it was time to do something else. It will be missed.

Jeroen van den Hurk of the University of Delaware Art History Department is the first recipient of the Quinn Foundation Fellowship for the study of New Netherland and the Dutch Colonial Atlantic World (see previous newsletter for announcement). Jeroen will spend

the fall term in Albany at the New Netherland Institute, which co-sponsors this fellowship, joining the McNeil Center in the spring as he researches his dissertation, "Imagining New Netherland: Origins and Survival of Netherlandic Architecture in Old New York, 1614–1776."

The East India Company replica ship *Halve Maen* [Half Moon] arrived in Albany on Friday May 20 for its annual Voyage of Discovery. The ship is anchored near the pump station in the Corning Preserve, where it can be reached via the pedestrian walkway over 787. School tours will take place on weekdays starting May 23 and continue through June 24. Public tours will take place weekends and holidays, 10am to 4pm. Contact the Albany County Convention and Visitors Bureau at: 518-434-0405, to inquire about times or to schedule a group visit.

Vermeer's Studio. Has the long-sought studio of the Dutch master Jan Vermeer (1632–1675) been found at last? Art restorer Daan Hartmann says, yes! Reuters reported that the Vermeer expert said he had worked in the building in Delft, the Netherlands for more than 20 years before he made the connection. Mr. Hartmann said that Anton Pieck, an artist who also worked there, "was delighted by the good lighting, and he said that we must have had predecessors working in the same room." Archival research confirmed that Vermeer rented the studio, which looks out on the famous Old Church of Delft. Mr. Hartmann has

enlisted the help of the mayor in an effort to have the site added to the UNESCO World Heritage list and to turn it into a museum. Growing numbers of tourists have been visiting Delft since the success of the best-selling novel and film "Girl with a Pearl Earring," about Vermeer's inspiration for the painting of the same title.

Courses

A new MA program in the Dutch Golden Age is being offered in London. Offered jointly by University College London, King's College London, and the Courtauld Institute of Art, it is an interdisciplinary program combining art history, history, and the study of Dutch language and literature. Its focus is the history and culture of the Dutch Republic in the 17th century as well, and the southern as well as northern Netherlands. The program will make full use of the extraordinary resources in London's libraries, museums, archives, and institutes for study of these subjects. Prior knowledge of the Dutch language is helpful but not a prerequisite for admission. For further details: www.ucl.ac.uk/history/admissions/maadmiss/dutch.htm.

Websites

"Essential Vermeer" is a website that provides a wide range of resources for studying the life and work of Jan Vermeer (1632–75). New studies are constantly added to the site, as well as news of recent Vermeer-related exhibitions, publications, websites, multi-media events, and developments in Vermeer scholarship. Those who want to be notified of significant

site updates or news about events relating to the artist can subscribe to a free e-mail newsletter (about 10 issues a year). For more information, go to: www.essentialvermeer.20m.com.

The New Netherland Institute needs YOU!

While Gehring and Venema continue to translate the remaining 5000 pages of the *Dutch Colonial Manuscripts*, there are many short-term projects for which we need willing volunteers to help expand the translated history of New Netherland. The projects include:

- New Netherland Papers 1630-1660 (Bontemantel) – 1 reel of microfilm available at both the New York State Library and the New York Public Library. The translations need to be edited for publication.
- A Guide to Dutch Manuscripts relating to New Netherland – copies available at New Netherland Institute. The Guide needs to be searched for references to families whose descendants have active organizations and could be contacted to support the translation of the family materials.
- West India Company Records (from the National Archives (The Hague) – 48 reels of microfilm available at New Netherland Institute. These records need to be searched for documents relating to New Netherland, e.g. the van Twiller letter recently found by Jaap Jacobs among the records pertaining to Brazil.
- Senior Scholar – We would like short articles (ca. 20–25 pp.) to publish in our series *Annals of New Netherland*. The article would be available as a booklet and on our web site. Topics on any aspect of New Netherland history would be welcomed.
- Web-based database of information on New Netherland – to review the database for consistency in subject headings; to add bibliographic information into the database for a back-log of articles and other published and unpublished resources. If you are interested in working on any of these short-term projects or would like to know more about any of them, please contact Marilyn Douglas NNI Associate at 518-408-1212 or by email: mdouglas@mail.nysed.gov.

Totidem Verbis

DUTCH FARMSTEAD SURVEY, 2005–2008

While New Netherland failed to outlast the 1660s as a political entity, its culture survives. Some of the most tangible evidence of that enduring influence can be seen in building styles, particularly farm buildings. These are vestiges from our region's shared cultural heritage, from the time when we were all part of the Dutch colony of New Netherland, forming a visual bond linking the valleys of the Hudson, Mohawk, and Schoharie with western Long Island and New Jersey.

Now a comprehensive three-year survey of the surviving Dutch-influenced farms and farm buildings in the entire region has been initiated by a group comprising the Dutch Barn Preservation Society, Hudson Valley Vernacular Architecture, and the Institute for Historic Farm Research (Stichting Historisch Boerderij-Onderzoek) in Arnhem, the Netherlands.

The primary goal of the survey is to inspire the preservation of the buildings and farms to be recorded. The hope is to identify the historic buildings worth saving, and to encourage owners and communities to ensure their survival. There have been previous surveys, but they were local and hard to find, and many were unpublished. The most highly regarded regional studies are many decades old, and list only the most notable properties. These will form the starting point for the new survey. The supporting organizations anticipate that the publication of this survey will generate additional interest in further research and future publications.

The survey's culmination coincides with the 400th anniversary in 2009 of Henry Hudson's voyage that led to the establishment of New Netherland. This is a good opportunity to engage the interest of property owners, scholars, and government officials in our vernacular architecture, and to make information about preservation efforts available to a wider audience.

The survey will consist of three levels of documentation:

Level 1. Beginning in 2005, this is the most basic—a quick survey using a standard form to be performed by workers with minimal training. This will set up a study framework and help identify properties for more intensive study.

Level 2. This will add a brief history to the property, a written description of all buildings, and sketches of Dutch details.

Level 3. This will be an in-depth look at the property, and will include a comprehensive history, site plan, building plans, sections, measured drawings, and photographs.

The project is clearly a vast one, and the hope is to form partnerships with local and regional historic and educational institutions, museums, societies, and historians. All county, town, and local historic societies in the target area are invited to participate in the survey.

The results will be published in several forms. Throughout the course of the survey, updates and interesting discoveries will appear in the DBPS and HVVA newsletters. Survey results will be made available to all partners and participating historic societies. The immediate intent is to produce several publications at various levels of detail to be available before 2009 to help raise awareness of the approaching anniversary celebration, and then to be sold at the anniversary events and participating historic sites. The long-term goal is for the survey, data, photographs, plans, and drawings to be available to the public, much, it is hoped, on line.

For further information about the survey and the participating organizations, visit these websites:

<http://www.threerivershms.com/dbps.htm> | www.threerivershms.com | www.openluchtmuseum.nl
www.onderzoekinformatie.nl/en/oi/nod/organisatie/ORG1236233 | www.dutchbarns.org