

De Nieuw Nederlandse Mercurius



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Mar. 2009

Upcoming Events

March 28, 2009. The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum at Hyde Park, NY announces its fifth annual Great Estates Symposium: “400 Years: Life on the Hudson” at the Henry A. Wallace Center from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Sessions will explore significant developments in life on the Hudson River from 1609 to the present. This year’s symposium is one of many events celebrating the 400th anniversary of the pioneering voyages of Henry Hudson and Samuel de Champlain, and the 200th anniversary of Robert Fulton’s steamboat journey up the Hudson River. For more information about Quadricentennial events in the area visit Dutchess County Tourism online. Pre-registration is required. For more information: 845-889-8851 or www.historichydepark.org

Until March 31, 2009. The traveling exhibit “Light on New Netherland,” will be in Hartford at the Connecticut State Library in Memorial Hall. The exhibit, produced by the New Netherland Institute, consists of 14 two-sided panels arranged in 7 units covering

such topics as *Patria*, the Dutch Seaborne Empire, Ships and Sailing, the Atlantic World, the West India Company, New Netherland, New Amsterdam, Beverwijck, Wiltwijck, Schenectady, Long Island, Patroons, New England, New Sweden, Sewant, Agriculture, the fur trade, relations with the Indians, the people of New Netherland, religion, slavery, family life, education, and the Dutch legacy. Each panel contains 2–3 graphics as well, including many by Len Tantillo.

April 4, 2009. The John Adams Institute is pleased to present “Henry Hudson Sets Sail,” a “Town Hall Meeting” at 8:00 pm, featuring Geert Mak and Russell Shorto; located at the Westerkerk, Prinsen- gracht 281 Amsterdam. Exactly 400 years ago on this day, English sea captain Henry Hudson set sail from Amsterdam, on behalf of the Dutch East India Company, to find a short route to Asia. Instead, he found Manhattan, and the future New York. This special event celebrates the 400-year relationship between the Netherlands and the U.S., and especially between Amsterdam and New Amsterdam—that is, New

York. It features talks by Geert Mak and Russell Shorto, the presentation of the book they co-wrote for the event (*1609: The Forgotten History of Hudson, Amsterdam and New York*), as well as a discussion including Frans Timmermans (State Secretary for Foreign Affairs), Marjorie Ames (US Consul-General), Sam Roberts (New York Times reporter), Ruth Oldenziel (American specialist at Eindhoven University) and Beth Fertig (WNYC Radio). Moderator: Twan Huys. In cooperation with Stichting Henry Hudson 400, Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken, Gemeente Amsterdam. For tickets go to: www.john-adams.nl/lectures/order.html. JAI members & patrons €11, Students & 65+ €10, Non-members €18,50.

April 4–September 27, 2009. “Amsterdam/New Amsterdam: The Worlds of Henry Hudson,” presented in collaboration with the New Netherland Institute, Albany, and the National Maritime Museum Amsterdam/Nederlands Scheepvaartmuseum Amsterdam, will employ rare 16th- and 17th-century objects, images, and documents from major American and Dutch collections to bring the transatlantic

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world to life and reveal how Henry Hudson's epic third voyage of exploration planted the seeds of a modern society that took root and flourished in the New World.

Focusing on the economic, cultural, and ideological connections that ultimately linked two global cities, Amsterdam and New York, "Amsterdam/New Amsterdam" will illuminate not only the global significance of Hudson's voyage, but also the creative context out of which the exploration and settlement of New York itself arose, highlighting the Dutch role in creating the very character of New York as a place of opportunity, tolerance, and perpetual transformation.

Until May 3, 2009. The National Gallery of Art in DC continues to host the exhibit entitled "Pride of Place: Dutch Cityscapes of the Golden Age." The booming economy of the Dutch Republic in the "Golden Age" fostered a new genre of painting: the "cityscape." Images of towns and cities expressed the enormous civic pride of the era.

The exhibition consists of 46 paintings representing the work of more than 40 artists, including Jacob van Ruisdael, Jan Steen, Carel Fabritius, Gerrit Berckheyde, and Jan van der Heyden. Of particular interest is Jan van Goyen's 15-foot-long "View of The Hague from the Southeast" (c.1650-51), which he painted for the town hall.

Also included in the exhibition are 22 maps, atlases, and illustrated

books offering an impressive survey of the Dutch cityscape, from wide-angle panoramas depicting the urban skyline with its fortifications, windmills, and church steeples, to renderings of daily life along the canals, in city streets, and town squares. Cities depicted include Amsterdam, Haarlem, Delft, Dordrecht, Middleburg, Hoorn, Utrecht, Nijmegen, and Rhenen. The exhibition was organized by the National Gallery of Art and the Royal Picture Gallery Mauritshuis in The Hague.

The National Gallery of Art is located at 4th and Constitution Avenue NW, Washington DC 20565. Call 202-737-4215 for more information.

June 4-6, 2009. [The 30th Conference on New York State History](#) will be held at SUNY Plattsburgh. The Conference is an annual meeting of academic and public historians, librarians and archivists, educators, publishers and other interested individuals who come together to discuss topics and issues related to the people of New York State in historical perspective and to share information and ideas regarding historical research, programming, and the networking of resources and services. More than fifty individuals present formal programs in concurrent presentation sessions, workshops, and the keynote address. Special consideration is accorded first-time presenters, graduate students, and local government historians. The conference is self-sustaining and is organized by a committee of

historians from a variety of institutions across the state. For more information go to: conference@nyhistory.net

News

Flanders House opened on 25 February on the 44th floor of the New York Times building on West 40th street and Eighth Avenue. Flanders House is a non-profit organisation that consolidates all of the teams and services that work for Flanders in the US. The people that work for Flanders Investment and Trade (FIT), Tourism Flanders-Brussels (TV) and Flanders International (IV) will all work from the same location so that they can create a more consistent image of Flanders in the US. Its intention is to establish a single point of contact for Flanders in America. For an article about Flanders House and an interview with Philip Fontaine, its new director, go to the Feb. 18, 2009 issue of *Flanders Today* at: www.flanderstoday.eu.

Save the Dates

The 32nd Rensselaerswijck Seminar, October 1 through October 3, 2009 will focus on the "Settlers of Rensselaerswijck, 1629-1687." Thursday evening will feature a reception and lecture by a noted historian/author. The programs on Friday and Saturday will focus on the history of Rensselaerswijck and genealogical resources for tracing one's Dutch ancestors both here and in the Netherlands. There will be an opportunity to tour the replica ship *Halve Maen*, visit Albany's First

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Dutch Reformed Church, and other Dutch-connected sites in the area. We hope many family associations will consider having their reunions at this time. We have booked a block of rooms at the Hampton Inn and Suites in downtown Albany for this event. If you would like more information or have questions or comments, please contact Marilyn Douglas at 518-408-1212 or email at mdouglas@mail.nysed.gov

Publications

Anyone exploring the history of New Netherland sooner or later encounters the Dutch relationship with the Mohawks and the League of the Iroquois. Although much has been written about the League and its origin, there has never been a thorough examination of the sources and an analysis of what we know and don't know until now. Highly recommended is William A. Starna's "Retrospecting the Origins of the League of the Iroquois" in *Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society*. Vol. 152, No. 3, September 2008 279-321.

Just in time for your Spring reading list is Bill Greer's novel *The Mevrouw Who Saved Manhattan: A Novel of New Amsterdam*. The president of the NNI, Charles Wendell, endorses the novel with the comment: "A very authentic ring...like etchings by Van Ostade and Steen." Once you have seen the colorful cover image taken from Pieter Bruegel's "The Peasant Dance," you won't be able to resist buying this paperback. Available at

a discount (\$10.95) through our web site. For more about the book visit: www.billsbrownstone.com.

Forthcoming is a publication funded and produced by the NNI for the 2009 commemoration: *Explorers, Fortunes, and Love Letters: A Window on New Netherland*, published by Mount Ida Press, contains 12 essays based on original research by New Netherland authors, including Russell Shorto, Joyce Goodfriend, Jaap Jacobs, Janny Venema, among others, edited and introduced by Martha D. Shattuck of the NNP staff.

NNI News

The **Howard G. Hageman Citation** was established to honor Dr. Howard G. Hageman, a founder of the Friends of the New Netherland Project, later Friends of New Netherland and now the New Netherland Institute, and its first President from 1986 until his death in 1992. The **Citation** is given occasionally by the Board of Trustees of the New Netherland Institute to an individual who has, over time, provided particularly noteworthy support and encouragement to the New Netherland Project and to the work of the New Netherland Institute. The Award consists of a framed citation.

On this occasion, the Board of Trustees of the New Netherland Institute is pleased to present this citation to **John and Sally van Schaick** in grateful recognition of many years of extraordinary support to NNP and the Institute.

Since joining the Board of Trustees twenty years ago, John has served as its Treasurer, Vice President, and President and continues to remain an active participant in all our endeavors. Sally has served as recording secretary on occasion and has been a loyal friend and supporter of NNP and NNI. Both John and Sally are invaluable assets to the Institute.

The New Netherland Institute is the recipient of an annual grant from the Alice P. Kenney Memorial Trust Fund. This grant enables the Institute to award an annual prize of \$500 to an individual or group which has made a significant contribution to colonial Dutch studies and/or has encouraged understanding of the significance of the Dutch colonial experience in North America.

The 2008 Kenney Award goes to **Professor C. Carl Pegels**, Professor Emeritus at the University of Buffalo. Professor Pegels has given generously of his time to create the Dutch-American section of the New Netherland Institute's web site. This section of the site is a major attraction to many users, looking for the Dutch backgrounds of such celebrities as Humphrey Bogart and Bruce Springsteen. When users come to the site as a result of an Internet search they enter with the opportunity to view other aspects of the site as well thereby increasing an awareness of the Institute's work and projects.

Totidem Verbis

Although Hudson's voyage of exploration for the VOC was significant, especially for us in New York, it can't compare in scope and endurance to the adventures of Olivier van Noort. The following was written by our contributing editor Peter Douglas.

The First Dutch Circumnavigator

Most of us have heard of Ferdinand Magellan and Francis Drake, the first explorers to sail around the world, one Portuguese, the other English, but what about Olivier van Noort? Well, he was the first Dutchman to do this, between 1598 and 1601. Van Noort was born in Utrecht in 1568 and died in 1627 in Schoonhoven, South Holland, where he lies buried. In 1598 he was given command of an expedition of four ships for the purpose of voyaging to the South Sea (Pacific Ocean) to trade and to harry Spain's possessions and shipping.

Spanish treasure shipments in the Pacific were rarely attacked. The English and the French preferred to get to Asia via the Indian Ocean where there were more ports to stop for supplies and repairs. The result was that the Spanish were only challenged there by the rare ship commander who was daring and resourceful enough to make the long and dangerous voyage to the Pacific. At first it was only the English who did this, and privateers Drake and Thomas Cavendish attacked the Spanish in the Pacific during their circumnavigations in the 1570s and 1580s. But by the end of the 16th century a serious threat to the security of Spanish shipping came from the Dutch. The Netherlands were part of a large Spanish empire in Europe, but Spain's efforts to extract more taxes from the Dutch and to force them to return to the Catholic Church caused increasing unrest in the Netherlands, and by the early 1570s the Dutch were in full revolt.

In the late 1590s the Dutch began raiding in the Pacific in the hope that attacking the

Spanish colonies and ships would force Spain to grant them independence, though early raids were less than successful. Nevertheless, the Dutch had one advantage in their struggle with Spain. The latter was substantially a land power that was obliged to operate at sea to hold on to its overseas possessions, whereas for the Dutch the sea was their natural element. They had a large number of well-built ships manned by well-trained, disciplined crews. These were commanded by talented captains who were usually more competent than their Spanish counterparts.

These privateers were, perhaps, the spiritual inheritors at least of the "sea beggars" (*watergeuzen*), the irregular force of rebels, corsairs, and patriots who preyed on vessels and coastal towns in support of the Dutch revolt against Spain, some of whom were to become Dutch naval heroes. They are most famous for the capture of Brielle in April 1572, a turning point that provided a resurgence for the uprising.

Van Noort set sail from Rotterdam on such a mission in 1598 aboard the *Mauritius*, his 275-ton flagship named for the stadholder, Maurits van Nassau, accompanied by three other ships, *Eendracht*, *Hendrik Frederik*, and *Hoop*. It was to be a voyage filled with adventure and hardship that would mean the loss of three of his ships and most of their crews through storms, disease, clashes with indigenous peoples, and engagements with enemy ships.

By early 1600, after a terrible passage through the Strait of Magellan, he entered the Pacific and proceeded northwards along the coast of Chile and Peru in search

of opportunities for pillage. However, the Spanish had received warning of his presence in their waters and van Noort, not wishing to risk encountering a major Spanish naval force, set a westerly course. In due course he made it to the Philippines, a Spanish possession at the time, and entered the archipelago in October 1600. He lay off Manila, plundering inbound trading vessels. One of the ships he fought was Antonio de Morga's galleon *San Diego*, which he engaged and sank in that December after a six-hour battle. (In 1992 French treasure hunters found the wreck of the *San Diego* and recovered more than 34,000 artifacts.) In this way van Noort set off the broad pelagic struggle between the Dutch and the Spanish for control of the islands of Southeast Asia.

Van Noort eventually returned to Rotterdam by way of the Cape of Good Hope, arriving on August 26, 1601, and quickly published a well-received account of his voyage. It was a financial disaster for the commander and for those who outfitted his fleet; only one of his four ships, *Mauritius*, returned home, and with a much depleted crew. But despite this the explorer was greeted as a hero, first for his accomplishment in being the first Dutchman to circumnavigate the globe, and secondly for having, in the process, taken the war against Spain to the Pacific coast of South America and to Manila Bay, capturing and sinking Spanish ships and disrupting that country's trade. In this way he provided inspiration for his countrymen and for other such expeditions that ultimately helped in the formation of the Dutch East India Company the following year.