

De Nieuw Nederlansche Mercurius



Vol. 17, No. 1

“De Nieuw Nederlansche Mercurius”

February 2001

Upcoming Events

March 8–May 27. “Vermeer and the Delft School.” A major international loan exhibition premieres at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Best known for quiet, carefully described images of domestic life as seen in works by Johannes Vermeer, Pieter de Hooch, and others, Delft masters also produced history pictures in an international style, highly refined flower paintings, princely portraits, and superb examples of the decorative arts. Featuring 85 paintings – including 15 Vermeers – by 30 artists, about 35 drawings, and smaller selections of tapestries, gilded silver, and Delftware faience, the exhibition will cast the familiar “Delft School” in a new light – one that emphasizes the roles of the neighboring court at The Hague, and of sophisticated patrons in Delft. The exhibition has been organized by the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, in collaboration with the National Gallery, London. For further information visit the Met’s website at www.metmuseum.org or call 212-535-7710.

Through March 18, 2001. The Rijksmuseum will be holding the exhibition “Maurice, Prince of Or-

ange.” This will be the first exhibition devoted to this important figure in Dutch history. On display



Maurits, Count van Nassau, later Prince van Oranje (1567–1625).
Coll. Doedens

are a great many personal mementoes of Maurice (1567-1625): great battles, suits of armour in gold, superb portraits, exotic animals, maps and sea charts and richly illustrated manuscripts. His importance as a military commander and in the fields of domestic and international politics, court life and overseas expansion will be highlighted. This will be the final exhibit commemorating the 200th anniversary of the Rijksmuseum. For further information visit the museum’s website at www.rijksmuseum.nl.

March 25, 2001. Lucas Ligtenberg, author of *De Nieuwe Wereld van Peter Stuyvesant*, will speak on the subject of “What is Dutch in America and the Hudson Valley?” The talk, which will take place at 2 PM at the Brewster House on 43 Oak Street in Brewster, NY, is sponsored by the Landmarks Preservation Society of Southeast, NY. Light refreshments will be served. For reservations and information contact Dan Armstrong at 845-278-0247.

March 31, 2001. “Early Dutch Cooking in the Hudson Valley” offers the opportunity to prepare and taste authentic recipes at a 1760 inn with food historian and writer Peter G. Rose. The 1760 Elmen-dorph Inn, located on Route 9 in the village of Red Hook (between Hudson and Hyde Park), served as a stagecoach stop during colonial days; participants will assist Peter Rose at the Inn’s open hearth fireplace and beehive oven. Registration is limited. Send checks to Culinary Historians at the Elmen-dorph Inn (CHEI), PO Box 398, Tivoli, NY 12583. For more information call 845-758-0964 or email culinaryhistorians@yahoo.com.

June 7–9, 2001. The Conference on New York State History will be held at historic Wells College on Cayuga Lake. For further information contact Stefan Bielinski at 518-474-6917 or via email at: <sbielins@nysed.gov>. Or visit the website at: <www.nysm.nysed.gov/cnysh>.

June 11–12, 2001. “Power and the City in the Netherlandic World, 1000–2000,” a conference presented by the **Society for Netherlandic History**, will be held at Columbia University. For further information contact Willem Klooster at the University of Southern Maine, Dept. of History, Gorham Maine 04038; email: <klooster@usm.maine.edu>.

October 19-21, 2001. New Netherland at the Millennium. The program for the fall conference has been completed. Although we have all the speakers committed, we only have a few titles of their talks at this time. Therefore, the following will represent an outline of the daily events and sessions. Consult the May *Marcurius* for a complete program or keep an eye on our website.

Friday, October 19. Sessions: “The Historical Memory of New Netherland”; “Telling the Story of New Netherland: Perspectives and Methods”; “The Political Economy of New Netherland”; “New Netherland in the Atlantic World.” Banquet at the Union Club.

Saturday, October 20. “The State of Colonial Dutch Family Research”; “The Peoples of New

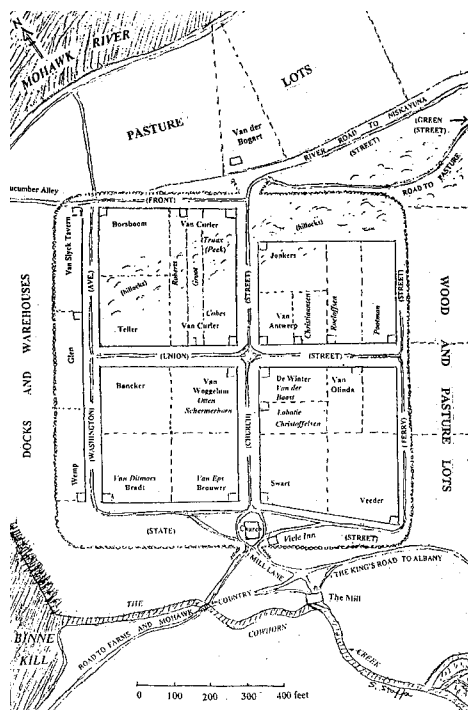
Netherland”; “Foreign Relations: American Indians, New Sweden, and New France.”; “What we still need to know about New Netherland.”

Sunday, October 21. Program at the South Street Seaport Museum, including breakfast; walking tour of “old” New Amsterdam. (limited subscription).

Please direct all questions *re* accommodations and other local arrangements to Annette van Rooy, executive secretary of the Holland Society of New York at <hollsoc@aol.com> or tel: 212-758-1675.

News

The Colonial Schenectady Project, Ltd., a 501 (c)(3) private not-for-profit organization invites you to take advantage of an opportunity



The Village of Schenectady, ca. 1664–1680
 Drawn by Dr. Staffa on the basis of the
 1698 Romer Map and earlier deeds.

to assist in the publication of the ground-breaking work of Dr.

Susan J. Staffa, winner of the 1995 Kenny Award. Dr. Staffa’s work traces the evolution of Dutch colonial Schenectady, NY into an American city. The goal is to raise \$15,000 for the production of camera-ready copy by August 1, 2001. Purple Mountain Press has chosen volume one of Dr. Staffa’s Schenectady Genesis: How a Dutch colonial Village became an American city, ca. 1661–1800 for publication this fall. The title of volume one is *The Colonial Crucible, ca. 1661–1774*. Now is your chance to contribute to this worthy publication of 350 pages. Tax deductible donations may be made to the Colonial Schenectady Project, Ltd., Anneke Bull, Treasurer, 1127 Avon Road, Schenectady, NY 12308. For more information please contact Laura Lee Linder, 2115 Route 67, Charlton, NY 12019. Tel: 518-882-6866, or email: <lleelinder@cs.com>.

Congratulations to Evan Haefeli and Adriana E. van Zwieten! Both have recently received PhDs after completing dissertations at their respective institutions. Haefeli at Princeton University for his opus: “The Creation of American Religious Pluralism: Churches, Colonialism, and Conquest in the Mid-Atlantic, 1628–1688”; and Van Zwieten at Temple University for: “‘A Little Land...To Sow Some Seeds’: Real Property, Custom, and Law in the Community of New Amsterdam.” See **Totidem Verbis** for the abstracts of their dissertations.

Publications

Het Verraad van Nieuw Amsterdam is een spannende historische detective van Ashe Stil waarin waterschout Lootsman in de Nieuwe Wereld zijn werk doet. Uitgeverij Conserve 1997; ISBN 90-5429-079-X

Ready for another novel involving an oil painter from the Low Countries? *Headlong* by Michael Frayn is a novel in which a Brueghel painting plays a central role. If you should decide to order this book through Amazon, remember to enter via <www.nnp.org>. Just click on bookstore, then Amazon. When you order a book or ANYTHING ELSE Amazon has to offer, the NNP receives a percentage of the purchase price.

News from the FNN

Our Annual Meeting took place on January 20, 2001, at the Huguenot Society's Deyo Hall in New Paltz, New York. We had a full agenda, beginning with a business meeting during which the President, John van Schaick, thanked the outgoing board members and trustees. Charles Wendell agreed to take over as vice president from Carol Hageman; Anneke Bull, Peter Paulson and Theodore Wright are our new trustees, while Marilyn Douglas, former trustee, also is back in our line-up and has agreed to serve as events chair. A delicious, old-fashioned Dutch lunch was prepared for 56 members who enjoyed *huts-pot met vlees* and *oliekoeken* as dessert. After lunch, Dr. Cynthia Van

Zandt, last year's recipient of the Hendricks Manuscript Award, gave a stimulating talk about the dynamics of relationships between American Indians and Europeans at the time of the 1655 Peach War. Even though it was quite cold on January 20, most of the members accepted the Huguenot Society's invitation for a guided walk around the charming town. We recommend that you put it on your agenda for a late spring or summer outing.

The Events Committee is beginning to organize the **Alice P. Kenney Award** presentation which will take place on June 16 at Ten Broeck Mansion in Albany. The prize consists of \$250 and a silver "Halve Maen" medal. You will receive a separate invitation some time in May. Please save the date and celebrate spring with us at the elegantly furnished historic mansion and gardens.

The FNN has presented the Alice P. Kenney Award since 1994. The following people or groups have received this honor:

- Mary Capobianco and Gale Derosia, Glenmont, NY (1994)
- Dr. Susan Staffa, Schenectady, NY (1995)
- Coen Blaauw, Washington, D.C. (1996)
- Greg Huber, Wyckoff, NJ (1997)
- 1998 David W. Voorhees, New York, NY (1998)
- Shirley Dunn, East Greenbush, NY (1999)
- The Horlepiep Dance Group, Schenectady, NY (2000)

The Awards Committee is now looking for candidates for the 2001 Alice P. Kenney Award. The criteria are as follows:

◦ Nominations (in triplicate) must state how the candidate has made a significant contribution to colonial Dutch studies and/or has encouraged an understanding of the significance of the Dutch colonial experience in North America by research, teaching, writing, speaking, or in other ways. Persons or groups to be considered for this award can be involved in any pursuit of any aspect of Dutch colonial life in North America. Emphasis is on those activities which reach a broad, popular audience in the same way that Alice P. Kenney's activities did.

◦ Samples of original materials illustrating the nominee's activities may be included.

◦ Nominations must be postmarked not later than April 6, 2001

If you have not already done so, please mail in your 2001 membership dues.

Websites

For an entertaining website about **Maurits, Prince van Oranje**, visit: <maurits.rijksmuseum.nl>.

For keeping up to date with Dutch-related events in the NYC area and other activities visit the website of the Netherland Club at: <www.nethclub.com>.

Looking for a website devoted to De Ruyter's 1667 raid in the Medway at the end of the second Anglo-Dutch war? This site not only has everything you ever wanted to know about this event but also carries the full text of Kipling's poem "**The Dutch in the Medway**" and features "Since first I saw your face," a song popular in England at the time of the raid:

www.hrofi.demon.co.uk/dutch.html

Totidem Verbis

Once again I'm postponing the final installment of the piece on placenames in order to bring you the dissertation abstracts of the latest PhDs in the field of New Netherlandic studies (See under News). Both works are available through UMI Dissertation Services, 300 North Zeeb Road, PO Box 1346, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106-1346. Tel: 1-800-521-0600; web address: <www.bellhowell.inforlearning.com>.

"A little land . . . to sow some seeds": Real Property, Custom, and Law in the Community of New Amsterdam by **Adriana E. van Zwieten**

The rights inherent to the institution of real property were transplanted across the Atlantic to New Netherland and were fundamental in establishing the community of New Amsterdam (present-day New York City) and shaping its future. Property rights were set down in customs and laws that had ordered the urban and rural landscape of the United Provinces of the Netherlands for generations. They were well known to New Netherland's officials and settlers who shared the common experience of a dynamic urban-centered life in the most developed Western European society of the early seventeenth century. Yet, historians have failed to recognize the rich tradition of individual land ownership as practiced in the Netherlands and applied in its North American colony. The relationship between the Dutch institution of real property and the development of New Amsterdam is important in understanding an essential feature of Dutch colonial life: the possession and management of land.

By examining the colonial records (provincial and municipal land, court, and notarial records) and the colonial and Dutch legal codes (of New Netherland, New Amsterdam, the province of Holland, and the city of Amsterdam), this study reveals how the officials of the West India Company and immigrants to America transplanted an urban model of land possession and management. By granting and protecting praedial rights, local officials brought order to the lives of the colony's inhabitants. By demanding ad-

herence to the rights in the provincial and municipal courts, settlers perpetuated the familiar "Customs of the Fatherland."

Customary practices influenced the use of the urban landscape. The houses that were built on New Amsterdam's lots faced the street or canal where the commercial life of the city was most intense. Dutch law and custom governed the procedures for selling and leasing, for implementing community projects and taxation, for establishing building codes and servitudes (easements), and for bequeathing to the next generation either by will or under the guidance of the Orphan Chamber. Advanced in the commercial centers of the Netherlands, the urban model of real property established a legacy of land possession that would affect New York City's subsequent generations.

The Creation of American Religious Pluralism: Churches, Colonialism, and Conquest in the Mid-Atlantic, 1628-1688 by **Evan Haefeli**

This dissertation describes the origins of the famous religious and ethnic diversity of the middle colonies. It finds a new explanation for the region's embrace of toleration and pluralism within the context of European religious and imperial politics. In this account, religious freedom emerges only gradually out of a process of war, conquest, and absolutist politics rather than a pragmatic or principled response to colonial realities.

As scholars have long assumed that New Netherland's Dutch set the precedent for religious toleration and pluralism in the region, it begins with the first Dutch colonists and works its

way up to through to the Glorious Revolution. On close inspection, the Dutch colony of New Netherland turns out to have been a remarkably orthodox Calvinist settlement. New Amsterdam offered far less religious toleration than its namesake back in Europe. New Sweden also emerges as a notably orthodox offshoot of its mother church. It was James, Duke of York, who imposed religious freedom on the region after he conquered New Netherland.

James's form of toleration was rather peculiar, tolerating all religions while establishing none. Of course, as a Catholic in an overwhelmingly Protestant country, he had no interest in seeing the church of England established in his personal territories. His religious toleration had a political side as well. He created a society united more by loyalty to the crown than to a church.

Toleration caused problems and consternation for the Reformed Protestants who had dominated New Netherland. Ministers lost the power they once had to influence colonial politics. The laity gained a new ability to deviate from the authority of their ministers. In New Netherland the Reformed church had been able to unite Calvinists of various theological persuasions and national origins into a remarkably cohesive society. Under James's regime of tolerance the Reformed church lost the ability to contain the religious and political differences of its members and instead began to divide over them. At the same time, Quakers, Jews and even Catholics achieved a new social and political prominence under the shelter of official toleration. The Glorious Revolution reduced but could not erase the pluralism James had initiated.