

De Nieuw Nederlansche Mercurius



Vol. 27, No. 2

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June 2011

Events of interest

September 16–17, 2011. The New Netherland Seminar will take place this year in New Castle, Delaware. The focus will be on various historical aspects of the South River region of the Dutch colony. Following is a list of the speakers who will participate in the one and a half day event:

Mark L. Thompson, Assistant Professor of American Studies at the U of Gronigen, “The Limits of New Netherland: The Dutch in the Seventeenth-Century Delaware Valley”;

Frans R. E. Blom, Assistant Professor in the Dutch Language and Culture Dept. at the U of Amsterdam, “Selling the South River. The Cultural Industry of Amsterdam’s Emigration Propaganda”;

Henk Looijesteijn, Postdoctoral researcher at the International Institute of Social History, “Settling the South River. Amsterdam’s settling policy, egalitarian democracy and liberty of conscience, 1657–1664”;

David A. Furlow, Partner, Thompson & Knight LLP of

Houston, TX and Craig Lukezic, Delaware archaeologist, “The Archaeological Footprint of the Mid-Seventeenth Century Dutch and Swedes in the Delaware River Valley”;

Len Tantillo, fine artist of historical and marine paintings, “The Rise and Fall of Fort Casimir, an Architectural and Artistic Interpretation”;

Evan Haefeli, associate professor of history at Columbia University, “Religious tolerance from New Amstel to Pennsylvania: Connections and Contrasts”;

Christian J. Koot, assistant professor of history at Towson University, “Spanning the Peninsula: Augustine Herrman, the South River, and Anglo–Dutch overland trade in the Northern Chesapeake”;

Samuel W. Heed, Esq., senior historian & director of education, Kalmar Nyckel Foundation, “Peter Minuit and New Sweden’s Rocky Relationship with New Netherland.”

The site of the Seminar will be the Buena Vista Conference Center, 661 So. duPont Hwy, New Castle, DE 19720. Tel.: 302–323–4430. Website: 1.usa.gov/jsUHHD

Monitor our website this summer for additional program information.

Publications

De man van Manhattan by Daniëlle Hermans. For us this book is not your ordinary thriller or murder mystery. It involves a translator of 17th-c Dutch records of New Netherland, who meets an unfortunate end for what he uncovers. I hope this inspires you to learn to read Dutch, if you still don’t. Ms Hermans wrote me the following note on the title page: “Liever Charlie, Het spijt mij heel erg dat ik jou om het leven heb moeten brengen. Veel liefs, Daniële Hermans.” I can only hope that it’s not prophetic. The book is published by A. W. Bruna. B. V., Utrecht. Go to: www.awbruna.nl for ordering.

If you are still uncertain about explaining the meaning of Manhattan, there is now a definitive translation of the place name. Although the island was very hilly and still is in places, Manhattan doesn’t mean “Hilly Island.” The true meaning is revealed in “The Origin and Meaning of the Name ‘Manhattan’” by Ives Goddard in the 2010 Fall issue of *New York History*.

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The February 2011 issue of *Kunsttijdschrift Vlaanderen* is entitled *Nederlandstalige in het buitenland*. It contains articles about Dutch language collections from Russia to South Africa, from Indonesia to New York (featuring Janny Venema and yours truly). Tables of contents of issues can be accessed through the website: bit.ly/j8lv4g

Three Centuries on the Hudson River by William Staats is a book about Hoogebergh, a 1696 family homestead in upstate New York, and the eleven generations of the Staats family who have lived there. The field-stone house was built on land deeded by Kiliaen van Rensselaer to Joachim Staats whose father, Abraham Staats (born 1617, died 1694), came to America from the Netherlands in 1642. It's located on the east bank of the Hudson River about five miles south of Albany, New York and has a commanding five-mile view of the river.

The book tells both the history of this Dutch–American house and of the Staats family. It starts off with a foreword written by Shirley Dunn, a Rensselaer County historian, and then describes the early history of the house, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The book is a worthwhile read for those interested in the history of an iconic Dutch–American house in the upper Hudson Valley, including amusing family anecdotes. For more information and to purchase, go to: bit.ly/kUtjfb.

In *Early American History: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, vol 9 No.2 (Spring 2011) issue: “Trading between New Netherland and New England, 1624–1664” by Kim Todt. Despite political disputes between the governments of New Netherland and the English colonies of New England, little interfered with trade and the commercial networks that developed between merchants in New Netherland and New England. Demonstrating a richer and more internationally diversified economic environment than has been previously portrayed, this article examines the sophisticated trading world New England merchants entered when they chose to conduct business with merchants from New Netherland, with its commercial and legal infrastructures that accommodated foreign merchants. As well, New England's nascent economies needed to facilitate commerce and they too encouraged and accommodated trade with the Dutch. For seventeenth-century merchants in New Netherland and New England, inter-colonial trade supplied necessary sustenance, expanded merchant networks, and presented opportunities for profit.

Dutch Language Course

The University of Leuven in Belgium once again is offering an intensive summer course from 29 July to 26 August 2011. This course is intended for those who wish to begin learning Dutch or improve their knowledge of the language. The teaching language is

Dutch. Passive knowledge of English and/or French is an advantage. Prior knowledge will be tested on the first day. The results of the placement test will be communicated to the students on the following day. Deadline for registration: July 15, 2011 or until classes are full. There are no reduced fees for occasional absence, late arrival or early departure. For more detailed information go to: bit.ly/1Wtsz1.

News

On May 25th the Archives of the Dutch West India Company [WIC] have been proclaimed *Memory of the World* [MoW] by UNESCO. With the MoW register, UNESCO calls for the preservation and increasing accessibility of valuable archival holdings, library collections and private individual manuscripts all over the world.

In 2003 the Dutch East India Company [VOC] archives already received this status. Last year (2010) the Dutch *Nationaal Archief* together with its counterparts in Brazil, Ghana, Guyana, Curaçao, Surinam, the United Kingdom, and the USA took the initiative to nominate the WIC as well—and successfully, as it now appears.

Only a small part of the WIC archives has survived the ravages of time. The New York State Archives holds 12,000 pages of these surviving records. Preservation of this material is very important. In the framework of the Mutual Cultural Heritage program, the *Nationaal Archief* together with its partners has established a

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management plan to secure these archives for the future and maximize their accessibility to the public. As a result the WIC archives are being restored, digitized and put online.

This autumn, several events in places related to the WIC will be organized to celebrate the new status of the WIC archives. More information will follow.

Recently the Peter Minuit Plaza and New Amsterdam Plein and Pavilion were inaugurated with a ceremony. Several dignitaries from New York City and the Netherlands officially opened the Plaza and Pavilion on the most southern tip of Manhattan in New York City to the public.

Part of a major project that includes a complete overhaul of the Staten Island Ferry Terminal, the Peter Minuit plaza is a transportation hub and public area located directly in front of the ferry terminal.

The New Amsterdam Plein and Pavilion anchors the north end of the plaza. This \$2.3 million gift from the Kingdom of the Netherlands on the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson's arrival into New York Harbor honors four centuries of Dutch-American friendship and a mutual passion for the values of innovation and creativity, diversity and openness, entrepreneurship and progress.

The Plein and Pavilion was conceived by the Battery Conservancy to create an "outdoor living room for spontaneous and scheduled activities, public markets, seating and shade". The gleaming

white pavilion on the plein was designed by Ben van Berkel of UNStudio, Amsterdam.

The design for New Amsterdam Plein and Pavilion creates a 5,000-square-foot programmed space housing regional organic food by Merchant's Market, as well as the Alliance for Downtown New York's Visitor Information Booth.

In September 2009, during the celebrations of NY400, there was an official opening ceremony of the incompleated Pavilion with Prince Willem-Alexander and Máxima.

NNI News

To encourage Capital Region members and friends to attend the Seminar in New Castle, Delaware, NNI is hiring a bus to take people to Delaware at a reduced rate. The bus will leave from Crossgates Mall on Thursday, September 15th at 11:00 a.m. and return on Saturday, September 17th around 9:00 p.m. The cost which includes a tour of old New Castle will be \$99. Space is limited. Please make your reservation asap by calling Bonnie Urso at 518-486-4815 or email: burso@mail.nysed.gov

For the first time ever the New Netherland Institute trustees have approved a increase in membership dues beginning with the 2012 dues year. The new schedule of fees: is as follows: Burgher level (single) \$50-\$99; Students/Seniors \$35; Family \$75, Organizations \$100. In these hard economic times for us all it is our hope that everyone will adjust to this modest increase to

assure the Institute's continuing success.

NNRC News

On May 26th Allison van Laer and her father Charles van Laer, the grandson of A.J.F van Laer, paid a visit to the NNRC. With them they brought two boxes of books which belonged to the Dutch translator and for some years were in Allison's possession.. Charles also brought a box of personal papers and photographs for us to examine. He indicated that he needed to sort through the personal effects before parting with them; however, he did invite us to his house to look through additional books also originally belonging to his grandfather. The books will eventually be integrated in the NNRC collection while any personal papers etc will be added to the Library's "Van Laer Papers."

On a similar note: The family of the late Jacob A. Schiltkamp has donated his research library to the NNRC. As you may remember, he was co-editor of the *Curaçao Papers*. His publications on the function of the notaris in the Dutch Caribbean and related laws and ordinances produced a significant research library, including 17th-c books and atlases. The family has hired a firm that will compile an inventory of the library's contents before shipment from the family home in Amsterdam.

Totidem Verbis

New Netherland Highway Designation

By George Damiano

To enhance public awareness of New Netherland as an entity in the Middle Atlantic region of the U.S. (i.e. Delaware, New Jersey and New York), Congress should be petitioned to designate “U.S. Post Road – Route 9” as the “New Netherland Highway.” (Note: U.S. “9” also has a permanently designated alternate route on the West Shore of the Hudson—known as “U.S. 9W” extending from Fort Lee, NJ to Albany, NY). Such an initiative (the New Netherland Highway) could serve to focus attention on the Dutch roots of this key region that nurtured the “American Experience” in pluralism for over four hundred years.

In its over 500 miles’ length, “U.S. Route 9” traverses the heartland of New Netherland. It was formally designated as such by the States General of the Netherlands (the United Provinces’ government) meeting in The Hague on October 11, 1614.

US 9

Therefore, it is inappropriate that Route U.S. 9, as it begins its journey northward from Laurel (Sussex County) Delaware at the 38° 33’ North Latitude, be designated the “New Netherland Highway.” Route U.S. 9 from Laurel, Delaware heads northeastward across Sussex County through some of the finest farmland in America. Because of its proximity

to Philadelphia, PA, Sussex County, Delaware is known as the vegetable garden for that metropolis.

Continuing some 30 miles from Laurel, travelers arrive at one of the great maritime centers on the east coast: Lewes and Cape Henlopen. Here is located the Zwaanendael Museum and the Lewes Historical Society complex, both exploring the Dutch experience in this part of New Netherland. From Lewes, Delaware, U.S. Route 9 goes “overseas” which means a nearly 15 miles boat trip across Delaware Bay to Cape May, NJ. This ferry service is operated jointly by the states of Delaware and New Jersey, and carries both passengers and vehicles. Arriving in Cape May, one again is enveloped by America’s maritime experience. This area was and still is a high fashion resort for both Philadelphia and New York City.

Traveling north again on a land segment of U.S. Route 9, one passes a series of resorts catering to Philadelphia, PA and New York City “day-trippers” and extended vacationers. Included in this segment, is the premier gambling resort on the East coast; Atlantic City, NJ. Northward, along the Jersey Shore, U.S. Route 9 becomes the Main Street for communities growing in size as one approaches New York City. Bay Head, New Jersey, initially the southern limit of New Netherland, is now the beginning of the railroad commuter zone into Manhattan’s Penn Station.

As one continues northward on Route U.S. 9; Monmouth County, New Jersey becomes the focus of attention. This area including

neighboring Middlesex County was, beginning in the 17th Century, and still is today in the 21st Century, strongly Dutch influenced. This is the Raritan Valley region where the Dutch Reformed Church’s significant presence is best illustrated by the existence of two of the oldest academic institutions of higher learning in America; namely: Rutgers College, now the State University of New Jersey, and the New Brunswick Theological Seminary.

Pushing onward Route U.S. 9 crosses the Raritan River. At this point of the journey the most important Industrial/Commercial/Maritime shipping zone on the U.S. East Coast comes into view. This is the Port of New York and New Jersey; the “Port of Rotterdam” on the western Atlantic shore. Here begins the “North” or Hudson’s River watershed with its numerous tidal tributaries and embayments. In some respects, it resembles the frenetic pace and landscape (geographically and geologically) of the so-called “Low Countries” of northwestern Europe where the Rhine, Maas and the Scheldt collectively reach the North Sea.

Route U.S. 9 continues northward through northern New Jersey reaching into Bergen County. Like the Raritan Valley, Bergen County, New Jersey also has a strong Dutch presence dating to the 17th Century. It is in Bergen County that Route U.S. 9W begins its separate path, branching off of Route U.S. 9.

[to be continued]