

# De Nieuw Nederlansche Mercurius



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"De Nieuw Nederlansche Mercurius"

March 2003

## Upcoming Events

**March 13, 2003.** The New Netherland Institute/Friends of New Netherland are co-sponsoring the presentation by Roderic Blackburn at the annual meeting of the Friends of the New York State Library on Thursday at 5:00 on the 7th floor of the Cultural Education Center, Empire State Plaza, Madison Avenue, in Albany. Mr. Blackburn will discuss his book *Dutch Colonial Homes in America*. The beautifully illustrated book examines early Dutch houses in the northeastern United States, especially those in the Hudson River Valley and on Long Island. It "explores the homes in their broader social context by focusing on the historical and religious forces of the times." Copies of the book will be available for purchase and autographing. The program is also being co-sponsored by the New York State Library. The lecture and meeting are free and open to the public. For more information, call the New York State Library at 518-473-1189.

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**Until March 16.** "Jan Miense Molenaer: Painter of the Dutch Golden Age" at the Columbus Gallery of the Indianapolis Museum of

Art. Jan Miense Molenaer (ca. 1610–1668) was one of Holland's most innovative and productive painters in the 1600s. He produced a body of work that far surpassed the efforts of nearly all of his contemporaries, including his famous wife, Judith Leyster, the first woman elected into Holland's distinguished Haarlem Painters' Guild.

This critical reassessment of the



Logo representing Roland Roger's committee for the celebration of the chartering of Nieuw Amsterdam in 1653. See proclamation under *Totidem Verbis* and Committee's URL under *Websites*.

Dutch master is drawn from public and private collections in Europe and the U.S.; the exhibition features 39 paintings from 1628 to the 1660s and includes both Molenaer's better-known works and many little-known paintings. The majority of the paintings will be ex-

hibited at the IMA-Columbus Gallery, with a smaller selection of works on view at the Indianapolis Museum of Art.

This exhibition was organized by the North Carolina Museum of Art and made possible by the National Endowment for the Arts. For further information go to: [www.ima-art.org/columbusgallery.html](http://www.ima-art.org/columbusgallery.html)

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**June 2–3, 2003.** The Society for Netherlandic History will convene its second international conference at New York University on the theme: "The Boundaries of the Netherlands: Ambiguities, Exchanges, Transgressions." See our website at [www.nnp.org](http://www.nnp.org) under "Call for Papers" for more specific information relating to the theme of the conference and contact information.

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**June 5–7, 2003.** The Conference on New York State History will be held this year at Bard College in the mid-Hudson Valley. The conference is an annual meeting of academic and public historians, archivists, educators, publishers, genealogists, and general students of history 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. For detailed program information contact: Field Horne or Edward Knoblauch at [conference@nyhistory.net](mailto:conference@nyhistory.net) or website: [www.nyhistory.com](http://www.nyhistory.com).

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**September 20, 2003.** The 26th annual **Rensselaerswijck Seminar** will be held in NYC in the hall of the New York Genealogical Society. As February 2nd was the 350th anniversary of the chartering of Nieuw Amsterdam, this year's theme will be: "Nieuw Amsterdam: A Dutch City in the New World."

## News

Your next layover at Schiphol can now include a visit to an extension of the **Rijksmuseum**. Recently Crown Prince Willem-Alexander opened the gold-painted room which contains ten art objects from the 17th-century "Golden Age," including works of Jan Steen, Pieter de Hooch, Jacob van Ruisdael, and a Rembrandt portrait of his wife Saskia van Uylenburgh. The gilded room also features small temporary exhibits. The museum is open from 7:00am to 8:00pm; admission is free.

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**The Detroit Institute of Arts** has purchased two 17th-century landscapes: "A Moonlit Landscape with a Windmill" by Aert van der Neer, c. 1650; and "Mountainous Landscape with an Entrance to a Mine" by Roelandt Savery, c. 1608.

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The grand opening of the digital Vermeer home in Delft took place on January 17, 2003. Enter the 3D model of the **Johannes Vermeer** home. Walk around in his rooms and click on some 150 different household inventory items. The internet presentation is beamed on the screen with comments by the creator, Kees Kaldenbach (art historian), Allan Kuiper (industrial designer and internet designer), and Henk Zantkuijl (restoration architect, emeritus who was also involved in the restoration of Rembrandt house, Amsterdam). Research facilities and image material have been provided by the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam. Visit the site at: [www.xs4all.nl/~kalden](http://www.xs4all.nl/~kalden).

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**Kenney Award** – The Friends of New Netherland are seeking nominations for the Kenney Award, an annual prize of \$250 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 by research, teaching, writing, speaking, or in other ways. Reasonable travel expenses will be reimbursed. 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 that reach a broad, popular audience in the same way that Alice P. Kenney's activities did. You will find criteria for nominations on the Friends web site at [www.nnp.org/fnn/kenny.html](http://www.nnp.org/fnn/kenny.html). Please send your Kenney Award nomination by April 1,

2003 to the Alice P. Kenney Award Selection Committee, Friends of New Netherland, P.O. Box 2536, Empire State Plaza Station, Albany, NY 12220-0536. The Award will be presented at an event to be held on June 14, 2003.

## News from the FNN

The Annual Meeting of the Friends of New Netherland was held on Saturday, January 18, 2003 at the Glen Sanders Mansion, Scotia, NY. President John van Schaick opened the meeting with the sad announcement of the death of FNN treasurer Bill Crotty. In memorializing Bill, the president said that Bill had been a good friend to him personally. The Friends of New Netherland will also miss Bill's good work and friendship, as will all who knew him.

Vice-President Charles Wendell, chair of the Nominating Committee, reported on the trustees' election. All trustees listed are re-elected and will serve from January 18, 2003 to January 2006. Officers: John van Schaick, president; Charles W. Wendell, vice president; and Peter Paulson, treasurer. Trustees: Andrew Brink, Anneke Bull, Arthur Fontijn, Ruth Piwonka, and Theodore Wright.

Office Manager Hennie Newhouse reported that 200 members have renewed their membership, many of whom also sent extra donations. There are 21 new members, from many different places and from abroad. Membership as a Friend is open to all interested persons. The tax-deductible contributions play an important role in furthering the work of the Project

and the Institute. Dues for individual members are \$35 and for families or organizations \$60. For information on joining FNN, see [www.nnp.org/fnn/index.html/](http://www.nnp.org/fnn/index.html/). Elisabeth Funk reported on the newly created e-Discussion Group, which enables current members to pool their collective knowledge to pose and answer questions about all topics broadly related to New Netherland. She encourages FNN members to visit the NNP web site and to avail themselves of this new opportunity to communicate with their fellow FNN members.

After the luncheon, Webmaster Howard Funk introduced Russell Shorto, author of the newly installed Virtual Tour of New Netherland [www.nnp.org/newvtour](http://www.nnp.org/newvtour) on the NNP website.

Mr. Shorto related what led to his interest in New Netherland and demonstrated some of the high points of the Virtual Tour. A lively question and answer period followed his presentation.

Board meeting schedule for 2003 is: March 8, June 14, September 13, and December 13 (all Saturdays). All meetings will begin at 10:30 AM at the Albany Visitors Center, unless the Board is in-

formed otherwise. Members of the Friends are cordially invited to attend these meetings. Members may also request that an item be discussed at a meeting.

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At the meeting Mrs. Carol Parks issued an appeal. Her 1762 Slingerland brick house in Feura Bush, Albany County, is endangered and looking for an appreciative owner. Architectural historian, John R. Stevens presented a strong case in support of Mrs. Parks' appeal, stressing the building's importance as the last of its Dutch type, a two-room urban plan with end entrances, and lots of rich paneling, moldings and casement windows. Stevens urged the Friends to help the owner find a solution for its preservation. Photos and descriptive text can be found on pp. 86-89 in *Dutch Colonial Homes in America* (see previous *Marcurius*). Mrs. Parks can be reached at 518-768-2993.

### Books

Hot off the press! *Correspondence 1654-1658* in the New Netherland Documents Series is the latest translation of the NNP. This publication represents volume 12 in E.B. O'Callaghan's Calendar of

Dutch Historical Manuscripts. Copies can be obtained directly from Syracuse University Press, or ordered through the FNN office at a member's discount.

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Still unclear about the position of the Reformed religion in the United Provinces of the Netherlands? Clarifications may be found in Philip Benedict's *Christ's Churches Purely Reformed, A Social History of Calvinism*. 670 pp. Yale University Press. As Patrick Collinson stated in his Times Literary Supplement review of December 20, 2002: "...Benedict's chapter on the Netherlands will benefit all students of the period."

### Websites

For New York City's plans to celebrate the 350th anniversary of its chartering as Nieuw Amsterdam, go to: [www.nyc350.org](http://www.nyc350.org).

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The website for the Society of Netherlandic History is: <http://homepages.udayton.edu/~carlson/snh.htm>. The SNH was founded "to nourish the study of the regional history of the Low Countries, including their colonial extensions."

## Totidem Verbis

Within the last year two proclamations relating to events in the history of New Netherland have been issued. The first one by the New York State Legislature concerning the initial Dutch settlement on Governors Island is thanks to the persistence and energy of Joep de Koning, chairman of the Batavia Group Ltd.; the other, by the New York City Council concerning the chartering of Nieuw Amsterdam, was a result of the efforts of Roland Rogers, president of the Committee for the 350th Anniversary of New York City. Following are the full texts of both proclamations, minus the names of sponsoring governmental offices.

**MEMORIALIZING** Governor George E. Pataki to recognize the official place and date of birth of the State of New York as being **Governors Island** in the year 1624.

WHEREAS, At the start of the 12-year armistice (1609-1621) between the Seven United Provinces of the Netherlands (the Dutch Republic) and Spain, Captain Henry Hudson, commissioned by the [Dutch] East India Company and aboard the ship *Halve Maen* (Half Moon), arrived in the *River Mauritius* (Hudson River) as the first official explorer representing the Dutch Republic; Hudson conducted New York's first recorded commercial transaction in 1609 which formed the basis for ongoing private commercial interests in the fur trade for that region; and

WHEREAS, Various private commercial entities from the Republic had competed for a share in the fur trade in the Hudson River re-

## De Nieuw Nederlanse Marcurius • 4

gions since 1610 and, for the purpose of obtaining a fur-trading monopoly, amalgamated into the New Netherland Company on October 11, 1614; and

WHEREAS, The New Netherland Company was the result of the explorations, from 1611 through 1614, of the Amsterdam explorer and private commercial fur trader, Adriaen Block; the first explorer of any country to chart the eastern coast of what is now Marblehead Bay, north of Cape Cod, to the Hudson River, and who named it New Netherland; and

WHEREAS, Upon the end of the armistice and the creation of the [Dutch] West India Company in 1621, the Dutch Republic sought to effectuate a cultural transplantation on the North American continent by way of an eighth province for the purpose of imposing its sovereignty onto the territory, now extending south to the Delaware Bay, through the delegated authority of the West India Company; and

WHEREAS, The West India Company recalled all private commercial parties operating in the New Netherland territory in 1622 and 1623 and invalidated all private commercial interests, thus voiding the law of the ship as only legal recourse in the region; and

WHEREAS, The Dutch Republic officially established its institutional, administrative and cultural infrastructure onto the New Netherland territory by planting its first colony of thirty families on Noten Eylant in 1624 (renamed Governors Island in 1784); these colonists had disembarked on Governors Island in the summer of 1624 from the ship named "New Netherland" under the command of Cornelis Jacobszoon May (as in Cape May in New Jersey); and

WHEREAS, In June, 1625, forty-five more colonists disembarked on Governors Island from three ships named Horse, Cow and Sheep which also delivered 103 horses, steers and cows, in addition to numerous pigs and sheep - thus successfully completing the Republic's first planting of a colony in 1624, and extrapolating the Republic's culture, its 1579 Constitution and legal-political guaranty of tolerance onto the North American continent; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor George E. Pataki to recognize the official place and date of birth of the State of New York as being Governors Island in the year 1624, continuing a heritage from Dutch settlers which will endure even as New York City contemplates possible new uses for the island, such as facilities for The City University of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the New Netherland infrastructure formed the foundation for New York's continuing development and that the cultural imprint of the New Netherland community, upon relinquishing political control to the English in 1674, had a profound and enduring impact on New York's unique cultural heritage; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to George E. Pataki, Governor of the State of New York.

### NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL PROCLAMATION DRAFT

WHEREAS, February 2 is the anniversary date of the establishment in New Amsterdam (now New York City) of the first municipal self-governing legislature ("Charter Day"); and

WHEREAS, The grant which first created the self-governing legislature on that day in the year 1653 is relevant to the development of modern-day American democracy; and

WHEREAS, The self-governing municipal body known as Burghers and Schepens, now the present New York City Council and Office of the Mayor, secured for its citizens basic rights of freedom of conscience, religion, redress of grievances, speech, commerce, and association and established concepts of toleration and justice which have become the foundation of the liberty and diversity that fostered the remarkable growth and progress of this City, State and Country; and

WHEREAS, Such freedoms have been challenged over the centuries and most recently by those who seek to pursue intolerance, tyranny and injustice; and

WHEREAS, The meaning of February 2, 1653, is the expression of the steadfast vitality of all the citizens of New York City in their search to create a community which reaches ever upward; a community where seven million inhabitants from all corners of the world build their hopes and dreams; and

WHEREAS, This Proclamation is our answer to those who seek to destroy, exclude and divide, spread hate and intolerance; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That I, A. Gifford Miller, Speaker of the City Council of New York, in recognition of the importance of February 2, 1653, in our City's history, do hereby proclaim the year 2003 as the 350th anniversary year and February 2, 2003, as the 350th anniversary date of North America's first municipality; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a celebration, endorsed by the City Council and reflecting the importance of February 2, 1653, to all New Yorkers, be held on the specific 350th anniversary date, February 2, 2003; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the City Council endorses the creation of events and festivities in each of the five boroughs during this 350th anniversary year in order to promote the City's message of harmony in difference by recognizing the fundamental freedoms of others; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the City Council endorses the annual celebration of Charter Day in order to promote enduring awareness of the City's patrimony of cultural pluralism and tolerance thus fostering continual unity among its diverse residents.