

De Nieuw Nederlansche Mercurius



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Events of interest

April 14, 2012. Celebrate Delaware’s rich heritage at “New Sweden Centre’s Colonist Day.” Fort Christina State Park, 1122 East 7th Street, Wilmington, DE. Free Admission—Live Entertainment—Refreshments Available. 11:00am to 3:00pm, beginning with the Delaware Swedish Colonial Society wreath ceremony at the Monument, featuring cannon salute from the *Båtsmanaskompani* sailing the “Little Key.” For information call 302-429-0464 or email: info@colonialnews sweden.org.

Through April 29, 2012. “Rembrandt’s World: Dutch Drawings from the Clement C. Moore Collection” at the Morgan Library & Museum in NYC. This exhibition features over 90 drawings by many of the preeminent artists of the Netherlands’ Golden Age—among them Rembrandt van Rijn and his followers Ferdinand Bol and Gerbrand van den Eeckhout; Abraham Bloemaert; Aelbert Cuyp; and Jan van Goyen—who were active primarily in their native land (in contrast to their

many compatriots who traveled to Italy and elsewhere) and who brought their extraordinary talents to bear on such quintessentially Dutch subjects as landscapes, marine views, pastoral and genre scenes, nature studies, and portraiture. The works, assembled over the last two decades, are from the private collection of Clement C. Moore and are exhibited together publicly for the first time. For further information go to: www.themorgan.org.

Through June 2, 2012. A new exhibition has opened at the New York State Museum in Albany. This exhibit, entitled “From the Collections,” features objects from many important collections, including the South Street Seaport Museum collection of over two million artifacts that arrived at the NYS Museum in 2006. Among the objects that will be on view is a 1590 token from Amsterdam that was found in the cobbled floor of the warehouse built by Augustine Herrman. The cast of a basket as well as its contents, retrieved from the lot formerly owned by Cornelis van Tienhoven, will also be featured.

June 7–9, 2012. Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan will be hosting the biennial “International Conference on Netherlandic Studies” at its campus. The theme of the conference is “Artistic Responses to Watershed Eras.” You can find more information about the conference as well as links to lodging and registration at <http://bit.ly/FOcMap>.

June 14–16, 2012. The annual Conference on New York State History will meet at Niagara University. The keynote speaker will be Alan Taylor of UC–Davis, Pulitzer Prize winning author of *The Civil War of 1812*, *William Cooper’s Town*, and *The Divided Ground: Indians, Settlers, and the Northern Borderland of the American Revolution*, among others.

The “Tripp Lecture” for 2012 will be given by Karim Tiro of Xavier University: *A Sorry Tale: Natives, Settlers, and Salmon in Upstate New York, 1800-1900*.

There will be more than 60 other presentations and exhibits. More information may be found at <http://bit.ly/FQg8gO>.

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NNRC News

On March 6th and 7th, the New Netherland Research Center was honored with a visit by the Honorable Rob de Vos, who arrived in New York last year as the Consul General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. His wife Marion and Arthur Kibbelaar, the Consul for Press and Cultural Affairs, joined Mr. de Vos. During the visit, Charles Gehring and Janny Venema displayed samples of the New Netherland manuscripts they have been translating for over three decades. Charles Orser, Curator of Historical Archaeology at the New York State Museum, led a tour of the New Netherland artifacts held by the Museum. Through the New York Consulate-General, the Kingdom of the Netherlands helped launch the NNRC in 2010 with a three-year matching grant to the New Netherland Institute. During the visit, Drs. Gehring and Venema with representatives of the NYS Office of Cultural Education and NNI reviewed the progress the NNRC has made during its first two years and had a lively discussion with Mr. de Vos and Mr. Kibbelaar about ambitious plans for the NNRC after the initial grant ends. Researchers supported by the NNRC, Firth Fabend, Dennis Maika, Eric Ruijsenaars, and Len Tantillo, joined the group for dinner.

FYI

Among the rare books in the “Department of Special Collections and Archives” of the UAlbany

library is “The Elsevier Collection.” It consists of about 700 volumes from the printing offices of the Elzevier family, which flourished in the Dutch Republic between 1583 and 1702. The Elzevir family operated a publishing house and prospered as booksellers and publishers in the Netherlands. Its founder, Lodewijk Elzevir (1542–1617), lived in Leiden and established the business in 1580. The Library purchased the collection in the 1960s and it now resides in the vault. Brian Keough, the Head of Special Collections, would be happy to arrange tours of the collection. Contact: Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives, Science Library 352, bkeough@albany.edu; tel: 518-437-3931.

The exhibit in the New Netherland Research Center, “Uncovering the New Amsterdam Kitchen,” was created using artifacts that are part of the South Street Seaport Museum (SSSM) Collection. Acquired by the New York State Museum, the collection contains around two million artifacts derived from 10 archaeological excavations in New York City. Spanning over 300 years of Manhattan history, it constitutes the largest extant collection of archaeological materials from 17th-century Dutch New Amsterdam and includes artifacts from 18th-century English Colonial and early 19th-century American Republic periods as well. Artifacts from the SSSM collection have been featured in exhibits at the Jamestown–Yorktown Foundation,

the SSSM of New York, and the Museum of the City of New York, and will be used in exhibits at the Onderdonk House and the New York Historical Society in 2012. At the New York State Museum, objects were featured in the exhibit “1609,” and can also be seen in the current exhibit “From the Collections.” Material from the SSSM collection is available to researchers, and can also be viewed in “behind-the-scenes” tours — for New York state learners of all ages — by appointment. Any questions regarding “Uncovering the New Amsterdam Kitchen” can be directed to: Lisa Catalano, 473-2212 and Jan Morrison, 474-5963

Publications

Brothers in Arms, Partners in Trade, Dutch–Indigenous Alliances in the Atlantic World, 1595–1674 by Mark Meuwese, our Hendricks’ award winner in 2005. Recent studies on Dutch encounters with indigenous peoples in the Americas and West Africa have taken a narrow regional approach rather than a comparative Atlantic perspective. This book, based on Dutch archival records and primary and secondary sources in multiple languages, integrates indigenous peoples more fully in the Dutch Atlantic world by examining the development of formal relations between the Dutch and non-Europeans in Brazil, the Gold Coast, West Central Africa, and New Netherland from the first Dutch overseas voyages in the 1590s until the dissolution of the West India Company in 1674. By

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taking an Atlantic perspective this study of Dutch–indigenous alliances shows that the support and cooperation of indigenous peoples was central to Dutch overseas expansion in the Atlantic.

The latest novel set in New Netherland is *Across the Seas* by Monique Graafland. According to the author’s book jacket description: “Did you know New York City and Long Island were once part of a Dutch Colony, known as New Amsterdam and New Netherland? Well, Marij van der Perck is about to find out. Growing up in Amsterdam she is appalled when she finds out her father means to take her away from her grandmother and have her join him in the colonies. When her grandmother dies rather suddenly, there is nothing left for Marij in Amsterdam and heartbroken she boards the ship *de Bonte Koe*. After a difficult journey father and daughter arrive in Breuckelen (Brooklyn). Marij has great difficulty adjusting to her new surroundings, until she is forced to go work for a wealthy English family and finds what she has always wanted, a friend to call her own. And then there’s Juriaen, the Flemish young man she met aboard ship and seems to keep re-appearing in her life.....” For more information and to order go to: bit.ly/wkDkXG.

NNI News

For those of you unable to attend our seminar in New Castle Delaware in September, 2011 or

who would like to re-visit the program, we are pleased to announce that the talks given at the seminar are now available for viewing online at <http://dai.ly/xqNyq2> Each talk has been edited somewhat due to the constraints of the website but we hope that you will find the talks useful, informative, and enjoyable. Ten Eyck Communications, our videographer/photographer worked hard to make this possible.

The New Netherland Institute is the recipient of an annual grant from the Alice P. Kenney Memorial Trust Fund. This grant now enables the Institute to award an annual prize of \$1,000 to an individual or group that 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.

Criteria for Nominations:

Candidates for the award can be nominated by members of the New Netherland Institute, by historical organizations, or by the general public.

Nominations should be in the form of a nominating letter or

statement (1-2 pages long) detailing how the nominator became aware of the nominee, which of the nominee’s activities led to the nomination, how those activities qualify for the award, and what the perceived impact is of the nominee’s activities.

Nominations may also include illustrative materials which demonstrate the nominee’s activities such as maps, brochures, photographs of exhibits.

Nominations may also include up to three one-page letters of support from other persons.

Send nominations by April 4, 2012 to: The Alice P. Kenney Award Selection Committee
New Netherland Institute
Box 2536, Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12220–0536

E-mail: nyslfnn@mail.nysed.gov.

Save the dates

May 19, 2012. NNI will hold its Annual Meeting at the New York State Library beginning at 10:00 am followed by a luncheon. Janny Venema, 2011 Hendricks Award winner will be the featured speaker and there will be a grand opening of the New Netherland Research Center showcasing the newly acquired collection of J. A. Schiltkamp, recently deceased Notary of Curaçao.

September 14–15, 2012. the New Netherland Seminar will be held at the Mabee Farm, Rotterdam Junction (near Schenectady), NY. New scholars will present new research on New Netherland.

Dutch language course

Starting on April 3, Flanders House New York will be offering introductory classes in the Dutch language and Flemish culture for adults at The New York Times Building in Manhattan. Over the course of 10 participating classes, you will take your first steps into the Dutch language while becoming acquainted with all the great assets that Flanders has to offer. This series is specifically aimed at beginners. Students will be immersed in the vocabulary, spelling, and grammar while covering subjects such as the geography, history, education, economy, art, architecture, and fashion from Flanders, Belgium.

What? A 10-session introductory course in the Dutch language and Flemish culture. Each session lasts 120 minutes.

When? Every Tuesday of the week starting in April (April 3, 10, 17, 24, May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, June 12), 6pm to 8pm (No class on June 5).

Where? Flanders House, The New York Times Building, 620 Eighth Avenue, 44th Floor (Flanders Room), New York, NY 10018 (between 40 and 41 Streets).

Who? Classes will be conducted by native Dutch speaker Jim de Koning, who has a BA in Education and an MA in English.

Cost? \$200 (\$20 x 10 classes).

Interested? To register contact us at: rsvp3@flandershouse.org

Registration deadline is March 28. For further information on this

course, please do not hesitate to contact us: 212-584-2200 x 2004.

Totidem Verbis

And now for something completely different: Our contributing editor has submitted a review of a book which should be of interest to our readership for both political and historical reasons.

The First Shot Heard around the World by Peter Douglas.

The Awful End of Prince William the Silent: the First Assassination of a Head of State with a Handgun, by Lisa Jardine (Harper Collins, 2006, 176pp, \$21.95; pbk \$12.95).

William I, Prince of Orange (1533-84), often known as William the Silent (Willem de Zwijger), is to the Dutch what George Washington is to Americans. He was Stadtholder of Holland, Zeeland, and Utrecht, founder of the House of Orange-Nassau, and the principal leader in the Dutch revolt against Habsburg Spain that ignited the Eighty Years War. Such is his standing that he is honored in the Dutch national anthem, *Het Wilhelmus*.

In 1584 William was shot to death in his home in Delft by a French assassin, Balthazar Gérard, a Catholic fanatic responding to Philip II of Spain's offer of 25,000 crowns to anyone who would kill the tolerant Protestant prince. Jardine's short book is an account of what led up to that assassination, William's death, and its aftermath. There were immediate and

far-reaching political consequences to the shooting, not the least a serious setback to the Protestant cause in the Netherlands in the struggle for independence from the Habsburgs' Catholic rule.

Of interest to trivia buffs as well as historians, Jardine notes in her book that, as stated in the subtitle, William has the dubious honor of being the first head of state to be killed at close range with a handgun, in this case a wheel-lock pistol, known at the time as a "dag." A substantial part of the book deals with the impact of this novel manner of William's death, and even today's reader, saturated in the world's daily violence, can here feel anew the true shock of how a single event, executed in seconds, can have grave historical implications.

Now, it seemed, anyone with a small concealed weapon can change the course of history, as subsequent events were to prove with three US Presidents alone. This new and lethal threat to the lives and security of monarchs and other notables sent shockwaves throughout the courts of Europe, especially William's Protestant ally Queen Elizabeth I. The possibility of a similar attack on the Queen led to an upsurge in official paranoia, legislation, surveillance, and arrests, a scenario that is all too familiar to us today. Back in the 16th century, Jardine's fast-paced account gives us a snapshot of this dramatic event and deftly puts it in the political, religious, social, and cultural context of the period.