

De Nieuw Nederlansche Mercurius



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May 2003

Upcoming Events

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.” Proceedings will begin at 9:00 in the King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center. See our website at www.nnp.org under “Conferences” for the complete program.

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> or visit the website: www.nyhistory.com.

Until July 6. Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University: Brueghel to Rembrandt: Dutch and Flemish Drawings from the Maida and George Abrams Collection. This exhibition presents over 100 works from the private collection of Maida and George Abrams, a couple from Boston, MA, who have assembled their collection during a period of more than forty years. In 1999 the Abramses gave the Fogg Art Museum 110 drawings. Included in the exhibition is a recently rediscovered work by Pieter Brueghel the Elder, as well as drawings by other renowned masters: Rembrandt, Jacob van Ruysdael, Jacques de Gheyn II, Hendrick Goltzius, and Hendrick Avercamp, and by lesser-known draftsmen whose contributions are essential to understanding the art history of the period. The exhibition is accompanied by a fully-illustrated catalogue published by the Harvard University Art Museums and distributed by Yale University Press. For more information go to: www.artmuseums.harvard.edu/fogg

June 17–September 7. J. Paul Getty Museum: Illuminating the Renaissance: The Triumph of Flemish Manuscript Painting in

Europe. An exhibition organized by the J. Paul Getty Museum, The Royal Academy of Arts, London, and the British Library. The exhibition will be on view at the Royal Academy of Arts, London, November 25, 2003 - February 22, 2004. J. Paul Getty Museum, 1200 Getty Center Drive, Suite 1000, Los Angeles, CA 90049-1687. For more information: www.getty.edu

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.” Speakers will be Jaap Jacobs “‘To Favor this New and Growing City of New Amsterdam with a Court of Justice.’ The 1653 Municipal Charter of New Amsterdam”; Leo Hershkowitz “Chance or Choice: New Amsterdam 1654, a Jewish Contact”; Dennis Maika “The Struggle for New Amsterdam’s Charter in an Atlantic Context”; Mark Peterson “Cities on the Margins: Boston and New Amsterdam in 1653”; Joyce Goodfriend “Petrus Stuyvesant and the Failed Calvinization of New Amster-

dam”; and Martha Shattuck “... Back under Obedience to Their High Mightinesses the Lords States General’: From New York to New Orange 1673–1674.”

The seminar will be followed by the annual project dinner. Plans are being made to have the event on a boat trip around Manhattan.

News

New for American teachers: CHAIN (Cultural Heritage and Institutes Network) is a European Union in-service training program for teachers. Groups of teachers from various European countries study a topic on location and publish their results in a on-line magazine. During the academic year 2003/4 six courses are being offered:

- Three times courses entitled “Icons of Identity,” each one at a different location: Belfast (Northern Ireland), Siena (Italy) and Nikosia (Cyprus). These courses show how in each of these locations the various groups or communities use their (cultural) heritage in creating their identity. At the same time the common and uniting aspects of this heritage are being shown.
- One “Traveling course”: “Tracing back Europe.” This group will be traveling from Thessaloniki (Greece) to Istanbul (Turkey) and will study the Aegean region as the cultural interface between Europe and the Middle East.
- Two courses will be offered in The Netherlands: “Regional Cultures and Languages” (Leeuwarden), which will concentrate on Friesland as an example of minority cultures in Europe and “Near to the Sea” (Groningen) about cul-

tural heritage as the reflection of the interaction between sea and land as a European phenomenon. Starting this year the courses will also be open for a limited number of American teachers. The courses on location take one week and the cost is 1250 euros. The travelling course takes 10 days and cost 1450 euros. The costs include the course fee and full accommodation (hotel and meals). The courses are officially certificated as European in-service programs.

More information and details can be found at the chain website:

www.chain.to/seminars

Reunion

October 10–12. The 71st Annual Reunion of the Van Voorhees Family will be held at Kingston, NY. The main focus is on October 11 at the Old Dutch Church. Saturday the newly printed Volume II of the Van Voorhees genealogy will be presented, while a genealogical workshop, walking tours of Kingston, and exhibits are organized as well. In the afternoon there will be a visit to the Hudson River Maritime Museum and a short boat tour to include the Esopus Light house. For more information contact Patricia Zander at: 485-226-6994.

Call for Papers

The American Association for Netherlandic Studies announces its twelfth Interdisciplinary Conference on Netherlandic studies (ICNS) to be held 3-6 June, 2004 at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, MN, with a pre-conference workshop on the teaching of the Dutch language and Dutch and Flemish literature and culture

on 2-3 June 2004. Proposals for papers relating to all aspects of Dutch and Flemish society, history, and culture are welcome. Especially invited are proposals in the following areas: Medieval Studies, Early Modern Studies, the history of philosophy and science, film studies, gender studies, and urban studies. Proposals should not be longer than 350 words in length and should be submitted by 16 January 2004. Papers must be based on original, unpublished research and presentations should be no longer than 20-25 minutes, allowing for discussion. Selected papers will be published in the series Publications of the American Association of Netherlandic Studies (PAANS). Send proposals to the ICNS Program Committee, Department of German, Scandinavian and Dutch, University of Minnesota, 205 Folwell Hall, Minneapolis, MN 55455.

News from the FNN

Webmaster Howard Funk, Dr. Lies Funk, Hennie Newhouse and Corey Fleming have spent part of the winter working on a database that merges four computers so that information entered on one database, is instantly available on all four. Corey is a New York State computer specialist, “on loan” for the duration of this project. We hope to be able to confirm at our June 14 Trustee meeting that the project is up and working.

A Trustee meeting was held in Albany on March 8, 2003. The two events taking place this year, the June 14 Alice P. Kenney Award and the Rensselaerswijck Seminar and Dinner on September 20, were discussed at some length.

The June 14 Trustee meeting, held in conjunction with a reception for the winner of the Kenney Award, has been scheduled at the Slingerlands House in Feura Bush, New York. This year's winner is Howard L. Funk, our webmaster who has spent untold hours designing our very interesting website and keeping it current. A separate invitation, including directions, is being prepared. Save the date for a visit to this fascinating antique Dutch house! You will find the house at 1983 Indian Fields Road (Rt. 32, 3 miles south of Feura Bush).

As always, a dinner will follow the Seminar. Plans are underway to organize a very different and festive celebration of the 350th birthday of New York City.

Books

On October 7, 2002, ReLiC, the center for Dutch religious History at the VU (Free University, Amsterdam) was opened. Their first publication was entitled *Embodied Belief* by Willem Frijhoff. In the course of 2003 the second volume of Studies in Dutch Religious History will appear. It will be a particularly interesting study of both

religious history and philosophy, or more precisely, Spinozism and the Dutch Reformed Church. The author, Michiel Wielema, who in 1999 obtained his PhD at the Vrije Universiteit, is currently connected as a researcher to the Erasmus University in Rotterdam. His unpublished dissertation now appearing as the second volume in Studies in Dutch Religious History has been translated into English for the occasion, under the title *The March of the Libertines. Spinozists and the Dutch Reformed Church (1660-1750)*. This informative study investigates aspects of the struggle for greater intellectual freedom within the Dutch Reformed Church between 1660 and 1750. Inspired by the new philosophies of the seventeenth century, particularly Cartesianism and Spinozism, both professional theologians and lay believers took the liberty to question important elements of the established explanation of Reformed doctrine and to uphold their own interpretations. Church authorities, however, were unwilling to allow deviations from orthodoxy. They tried to stem the rising tide of free thought and what was regarded as antinomian "libertinism" by means of church discipline as well as po-

litical measures. As a result, many critical believers felt persecuted and turned away from the church, setting up their own networks and organizing clandestine conventicles for religious meditation and discussion. For more news from ReLiC, check their website:

www.let.vu.nl/relic

Websites

For opportunities to learn the Dutch language, check the following sites: www.jbi.ruu.nl (Boswell Institute of the University of Utrecht).

www.amsu.edu (The Amsterdam/Maastricht Summer University).
www.uia.ac.be/centrum/N/cursussen/nederlands/nlszomer.htm (Antwerp University).

If you want to stay State-side: www.esc.umn.edu/SD.htm (Dutch Summer Institute, University of Minnesota).

Wear a shirt and wear a piece of history by visiting: www.beforebrooklyn.com for apparel featuring the original Dutch names of the boroughs and neighborhoods of New York City.

Totidem Verbis

The topic for this issue of the newsletter is rather special as it features the story of Verloren, a Dutch publisher, which should be of particular interest to our readership. Not only does Verloren carry many books of interest to researchers of the 17th century but it has recently seen fit to publish *Beverwijk: a Dutch Village on the American Frontier* by Janny Venema. Following is a short description of Verloren provided by the publisher.

History is made by Verloren!
In 1979 a young history student came in contact with a manuscript for which, according to his teacher, it would be hard to find a publisher. It was a dual-language publica-

tion of an eleventh-century Latin chronicle. The student Thijs Verloren van Themaat, accepted the challenge, and, using the experience he had from working for a publisher and in a composing

room, got to work. Thus *Gebeurtenissen van deze tijd* (Events of our Time) by Alpertus van Metz became the first book of Verloren Publishers.

Meanwhile, it is now almost 25 years and about 700 publications later. Verloren Publishers has specialized in scholarly studies in the field of Medieval and Dutch history and historical literature. The publication list consists of many dissertations, conference proceedings, handbooks and reference books by and for historians, but also books that meet many people's desires to learn more about one's own town or region. A recent, very successful example is the three-volume publication of *Geschiedenis van Holland* (History of Holland). Also the series *Verloren Verleden: Gedenkwaardige momenten en gebeurtenissen uit de vaderlandse geschiedenis* (Lost Pasts: Memorable Moments and Events from the History of the Fatherland), already consisting of twenty volumes, is oriented toward the general audience. Much attention is paid to the typography of the publications, so that the books are not only attractive, but also pleasant to read. Books published in the past ten years are almost all illustrated. Because of the importance of the contents of the publications, remainders are not sold to second hand bookstores. The very first publication of 1980 is sold out, but many old titles are still available.

Verloren's list contains books about all aspects of Dutch history and reflects the last decennia's historiographical trends. There are books about classical topics, such as the royal house, political order,

wars and rebellions, the Golden Age, nobility and the upper class, colonial history, and history of ecclesiastical and secular institutions, but also books about social-economic topics. Other books deal with unions and political parties, the development of the countryside, life of "ordinary" men and women, *verzuiling* (polarization),



The new home of Verloren Publishers on Torenlaan in Hilversum, the Netherlands.

poor relief, town planning, art and culture, education and science; and there are studies about law, manuscripts and old editions, emancipation, gender, belief, rituals, mentalities and ideas, books about the science of history itself, etc. etc.

Also, many editions of Latin chronicles, such as the one of Willem Procurator, are being published, or the lives of five abbots of the monastery Mariëngaarde in Friesland, and the famous chronicle of Emo and Menko about the monastery at Wittewierum, as well as chronicles of such Middle Netherlandic hits as the Van Hulthem and the Comburgse manuscripts, and literary texts of the Renaissance, such as Tesselschade Roemers' poems. The publications in the series Ego-documents enable the reader of the

twenty-first century to identify with people who lived long ago, such as the seventeenth-century schoolmaster David Beck, the eighteenth-century patriot Pieter Vreede, or the early nineteenth-century Irishwoman Elisabeth Richards, who witnessed the Wexford Rebellion, and who moved with her husband to the Netherlands.

Most books by Verloren are written in Dutch, but as universities demand internationalization, more publications about Dutch history and literature appear in English as well. Some recent examples are J.N.M.F. à Campo, *Engines of Empire: Steamshipping and State Formation in Colonial Indonesia*, and Janny Venema, *Beverwijk: A Dutch Village on the American Frontier, 1652–1664* (publication in cooperation with SUNY Press).

Verloren's website: www.verloren.nl provides a short description of the contents of all titles, and sometimes also citations from reviews. Every month an electronic newsletter appears in which new publications are presented. Subscription to this newsletter is free of charge.

Since January, 2003 an 1896 Reformed Church situated on the Torenlaan in Hilversum is the home for Verloren Publishers. A stylish environment for a historical publisher!