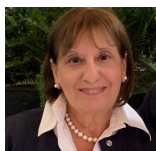




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Dear NAHC Patrons and Friends,

As the new 2022-2023 season begins, we are very pleased to announce that NAHC has a new president, Michael E. Cavanaugh. A NAHC trustee since 2018, Mike is a partner at the Manhattan law firm of Kranjac Tripodi & Partners LLP. He received his JD from Albany Law School of Union University. It was his experience in Albany that sparked Michael's passion for urban archaeology and, in particular, the study of the Dutch roots evident today in both New York and New Jersey. We thank our former president, Tom Visée, for his dedicated and much appreciated years of service and leadership. Tom will remain a NAHC Trustee, but his move back to the Netherlands has made it necessary for him to give up the presidency.

NAHC has several thought-provoking programs planned for this coming season beginning with a talk, "Were 18 Languages Spoken in New Amsterdam?," by the Co-Director of the Endangered Language Alliance, Ross Perlin, on October 11. We will start 2023 with a program about the Little Ice Age. Environmental historian Dagomar Degroot and historical geographer Chelsea Teale will explore how weather, climate, and societal responses to those phenomena impacted life in the Dutch North Atlantic—and might once again. For both programs, please see the announcements below for more details.

Our Mapping Early New York project expands and grows, now reaching into Brooklyn and Long Island, thanks to the continued efforts and dedication of Trustee Toya Dubin and her team. In addition, we have been privileged to be able to add, so far, six episodes of "Dutch American Stories" to our website, where they can be accessed by clicking on Education in the menu bar.

The primarily volunteer "staff" of NAHC works diligently to continue to bring the important history of New Amsterdam and New Netherland to the general public, and we hope that you will continue to support us with your annual contribution. We invite you to view our programs, explore our Mapping Early New York project, and support us in any ways that you can.

We thank you in advance and send our warm wishes,

Esme E. Berg
Executive Director

PS: Are you getting bored at home? We have video recordings of many of our past events available for you to watch for free! Have a look at www.newamsterdamhistorycenter.org/past

FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Dear NAHC Patrons, Sponsors, Faithful Readers, and Everyone Interested In 17th- Century New York,

As the recently elected President of the New Amsterdam History Center, I wish to thank you for your continuing interest in all that the NAHC strives to accomplish.

As we plan our fall, winter, and spring programs, my fellow trustees and I remain faithfully committed to providing you with the highest quality in-person and virtual events, together with timely scholarly articles.

I would also like you to join me in thanking our outgoing President, Tom Visée, for his leadership, enthusiasm, and creativity over the last few years. His leadership greatly enabled NAHC to thrive.

I hope to meet all of you in person soon, and I welcome your suggestions for future topics and programs that help tell the story of New Amsterdam!

Michael E. Cavanaugh



Manhattan Borough Historian Joins NAHC as Special Advisor

Professor Robert Snyder, the Manhattan Borough Historian, has accepted the Program Committee's invitation to become a Special Advisor to the Committee. We could not be more pleased that he has agreed to join us.



Rob taught at Rutgers University–Newark for 20 years, but he's a New Yorker through and through. He went to NYU for undergraduate and graduate school; worked as a writer for New York Newsday and WNET/PBS; and served as a senior research consultant for Ric Burns' eight-episode award-winning series *New York: A Documentary*, which aired on PBS starting in 1999.

A past professor of American Studies and Journalism at Rutgers-Newark, Bob Snyder has also written numerous books on New York City history, including *Crossing Broadway: Washington Heights and the Promise of New York City* (Cornell University Press), *The Voice of the City: Vaudeville and Popular Culture in New York* (Ivan R. Dee Publishers), and *Transit Talk: New York's Bus and Subway Workers Tell Their Stories* (Rutgers University Press). He is the co-author of *Metropolitan Lives: The Ashcan Artists and Their New York* (Norton/Smithsonian) and, most recently, *All the Nations Under Heaven: Immigrants, Migrants, and the Making of New York* (Columbia University Press).

Welcome, Rob, and thank you for agreeing to be the Program Committee's sounding board!

A WIN FOR WOMEN At the New Netherland Institute Annual Conference

By the time this newsletter reaches you, the New Netherland Institute Annual Conference will have taken place. Held at the New-York Historical Society on October 1, this year's conference focused on "Alida Livingston's World: Women in New Netherland and Early New York." It featured two panel conversations and a keynote address inspired by the on-going translation of the papers of Alida Schuyler Livingston (1656-1727). Alida was an elite Dutch woman who exerted substantial influence over colonial politics, economics, and diplomacy, and her correspondence with her husband Robert Livingston (1654-1728) represents one of the most significant collections of women's writing in 17th-century North America. Some of this correspondence was translated by Dr. Jos van der Linde in the 1990s, but much of it was not.

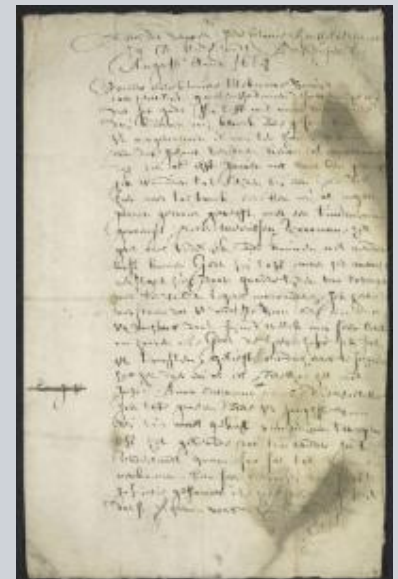
Thus, the stunning announcement at the Conference of a \$50,000 grant from the Society of Daughters of Holland Dames to Jos van der Linde to complete the translation of Alida and Robert's letters came as a most welcome surprise to scholars of New Netherland everywhere. This was especially so, as the Holland Dames Grant carefully stipulates that the final product is to be published in book form following the impeccable scholarly format of all the volumes in the New Netherland Institute's storied translations. We can expect the book to be in eager hands everywhere in three short years.

Meet Lisbeth Vrooman, Speaking from 17th-Century Albany

Ina Lee Selden

It is late August and early September of 1664 in New Amsterdam, and Lisbeth Vrooman, housewife and mother of three, is writing letters to a friend in Leiden. It is the time of the English takeover of New Netherland. She recounts her growing insecurities about the new rulers. She is gripped by fear as Native tribes fight one another very close to her home. By September her fear has turned to panic. The English have arrived in Fort Orange (Albany), and she is uncertain about the future and safety of her family. It has become difficult for her carpenter husband to find work. Thus, she has applied for a job back in the Dutch Republic. She offers condolences to Geertruij for the loss of her eldest son and one of her daughters. And she sends "four kisses" to her friend's youngest son.

Lisbeth Vrooman's correspondence is part of a trove of commercial and private Dutch letters discovered in England in 1980 that was seized as war booty by the English in the 17th century and held in the British National Archives in Kew, London, ever since. It takes a paleographer to decipher the handwriting. It takes a detective to parse the paragraph-long sentences and the spelling, which varies wildly depending on the region, class, and education of the writer.



To explain the context, five sea-battles were fought between the Dutch and the English in the North Sea and elsewhere in the world's oceans during the 17th and 18th centuries. The British National Archives in Kew houses the High Court Admiralty archives. These contain papers relating to the jurisdiction of the courts, as well as ships' books and papers, ships' logs, and documents related to *prizes*. (The term *prize* refers to a ship or a ship's cargo captured in naval warfare.) In 1980 a Dutch researcher stumbled upon archival material at Kew containing papers from Dutch prizes captured between 1652 and 1832. The papers consist of 1,100 boxes containing about 38,000 letters. Of these 16,000 are private letters.

Following this remarkable find, paleographers, specialists in old handwriting, have labored at Leiden University to decipher these documents in what may be a process that could be likened to the "translation" of key Dutch documents from the 17th century discovered in the New York State Library in Albany in the late 1960s. The Dutch documents include ships' cargo records, bills of sale, and exchanges between Dutch and English officials, and they are of great interest to historians in general. But the personal letters are of compelling interest in particular to art historians, some of whom learn to read the old handwriting in a course designed by NAHC Trustee Wijnie de Groot at Columbia University, where she is Senior Lecturer in the Dutch language.

About a thousand of the letters were sent by persons in the Netherlands to New Netherland family and friends. Paleographers are in demand for this work, as the handwritten script requires special skills. In 2008, Wijnie de Groot created, with the financial support of the Dutch Language Union in The Hague, a unique four-week intensive course in the Dutch language that she teaches every summer on the Columbia campus. At her invitation, Dr. Frans Blom of the University of Amsterdam teaches paleography in one of the four weeks. "The program started with a handful of students, and just blossomed," says Professor De Groot. "Most importantly perhaps, students develop confidence reading what was formerly daunting."



The first students were almost exclusively historians and art historians, as they must grapple with 17th-century handwriting, such as we see in the letter of Lisbeth Vrooman, in order to access documents of importance to their work. But scholars from many other disciplines as diverse as the study of the prison life of women, climate change in the 17th century, the slave trade, native American people, the spiritual life of sailors, the Reformation, and the Counter Reformation now flock to Professor de Groot's summer program.

One art historian, Isabella Lorez-Chavez, a graduate of the program, was recently appointed Associate Curator of European Paintings at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco. Ms. Lorez-Chavez says the documents give form and life to once anonymous people. "The texts, for instance, often refer to objects in the home, listing which items were in private and which in public rooms, thus providing clues to everyday life." Such texts have helped develop her "period eye," a way to appreciate and interpret objects and art as they might have been viewed when first created. As such the texts reveal what French historian Fernand Braudel called a people's ingenuity, opportunism, bravery, and imagination—all qualities essential to survival anywhere, but especially in the harsh, daunting, unfamiliar world of New Netherland.

DUTCH AMERICAN STORIES

The New Amsterdam History Center has entered into a partnership with the National Archives in The Hague, NL, to publish a blog called Dutch American Stories. Twelve of the stories are written by historian Jaap Jacobs and twelve by other experts in the field of Dutch American Studies. So far, six of the 24 have appeared. The first Story is "The Patron Saint of New York," by Jaap Jacobs. We hope you will enjoy it!

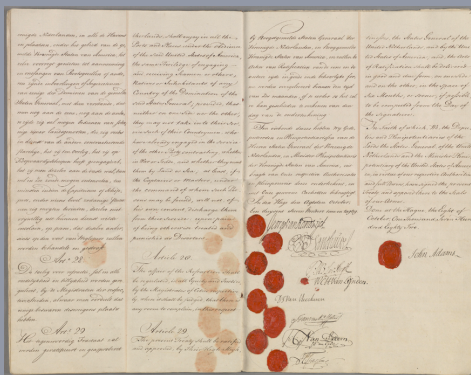
Note: The story below and the next five Dutch American Stories are posted on the NAHC website. Please enjoy them there by clicking on "Education" on the menu bar, <https://newamsterdamhistorycenter.org/edu/dutch-american-stories/>

Dutch American Stories: "The Patron Saint of New York"

Jaap Jacobs

The bonds that connect the American and Dutch peoples have been commemorated in various ways and at various levels. Dutch-American Friendship Day is a well-established annual event at the governmental level. In New York City, the historical memory of Petrus Stuyvesant has recently become controversial, but in the twentieth century his image was iconic.

Two hundred and forty years ago, on 19 April 1782, the Dutch States General decided to recognize John Adams as the envoy of the United States of America. It was the culmination of a contentious political process in which the Dutch Republic's constituent provinces (Friesland being the first) instructed their delegates to vote in favor of accepting Adams's nomination. With Adams in place as America's minister plenipotentiary, the Dutch Republic reciprocated by naming Pieter Johan van Berckel as its first ambassador. Among his entourage were two young Dutch noblemen, Gijsbert Karel van Hogendorp and Carel de Vos van Steenwijk. After Van Berckel's installation, Van Hogendorp and De Vos van Steenwijk toured the east coast of America, and turned their American sojourn into the New World equivalent of the European Grand Tour that formed an essential part of the education of elite young men. They were the first Dutch tourists to explore the newly founded United States of America.



Following the acceptance of his credentials, John Adams informed the States General that he had been instructed to negotiate a treaty of friendship and trade between the United States and the Dutch Republic. The treaty was signed on 8 October 1782. Dutch National Archives, collection 1.01.02, inv. nr. 12597.256A.

https://www.nationaalarchief.nl/onderzoeken/archief/1.01.02/invnr/12597.256A/file/NL-HaNA_1.01.02_12597.256A_17

Dutch-American Friendship Day

Two hundred years later, in 1982, President Ronald Reagan officially proclaimed 19 April Dutch-American Friendship Day. Two centuries of diplomatic relations between the two countries constituted “the United States’ longest unbroken, peaceful relationship with any foreign country.” Every year the American Embassy in The Hague, the Dutch Embassy in Washington, and their respective Consulates in many other cities organize events to commemorate the Dutch-American friendship. These include civic receptions and the distribution of Dutch flowers. Annual events of this nature form part of the memory connecting us to the past, and add to the rich tapestry that represents and makes concrete a transcendent feeling of kinship shared by the Dutch and the American peoples.



Statue of Stuyvesant in New York, photographer unknown.

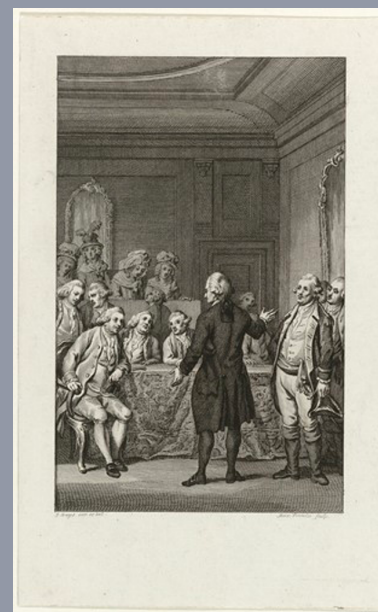
<https://www.nationaalarchief.nl/onderzoeken/fotocollectie/ad7f5b1a-d0b4-102d-bcf8-003048976d84?searchKey=cf8f67681ed816ab372db7787a6027be>

A Friendship Day is but one of many ways that keeps alive the shared history of the two countries. In addition, there are any number of annual events, statues, plaques and the like, all of which form part of Dutch-American historical memory. Commemorations are created intentionally, of course, and are based on specific motives and with particular aims in mind. These things evolve over time and this process is the topic of the present blog, which will focus on the historical memory of Petrus Stuyvesant in New York City, as embodied by a bust, an annual ball, and a statue. Stuyvesant, whose first name is usually anglicized as Peter, was Director General of New Netherland, the Dutch colony of which New Amsterdam, now New York City, was the capital. There is no doubt that he is an important figure in the early history of New York, not least because he was in charge for seventeen years. Over time, however, he came to represent much more. So much more, in fact, that in 1915 he was commemorated through the creation of a bust housed at St. Mark's Church-in-the-Bowery in New York.

“Stuyvesant Kin Unveil Memorial,” the headline in the New York Tribune ran. “Bust Tribute Faces Altar at Spot Where Stern Warrior Kneled.” Other New York newspapers described the event in a similar vein. The New York Sun stated that: “All the speakers praised the character of the Dutch patriot and most of them declared that his sturdy patriotism had had a large part in the making of political New York, its government and its people.” Chevalier Van Rappard, the envoy representing the Dutch government, extolled Stuyvesant as “the founder of the principles of freedom, of tolerance and of appreciation of other man’s opinions, which at the actual moment still are the base of the American Constitution” and went on to declare him “the patron saint of New York.” General Leonard Wood, accepting the statue on behalf of the American people, insisted that “the spirit of Gov. Stuyvesant is the spirit of America.” The New York Times informed its readers that Stuyvesant’s effigy was a gift from Queen Wilhelmina and the Dutch government as a “token of goodwill.” In his acceptance speech on behalf of the Episcopal Church, New York’s Bishop David Hummell Greer emphasized Stuyvesant’s lasting effect on his community and said of the bust: “We shall always esteem it as a proof of affection between the two countries.”

Staunch seventeenth-century Calvinist that Stuyvesant was, he would have dismissed the patron saint epithet as “popish idolatry.” The anachronistic admiration he received on 5 December 1915 was not founded on nuanced or informed research. The Stuyvesant that was honored was a caricature, quite different from Washington Irving’s satirical image, but equally anachronistic. The lack of detail in the speeches underlines how little was actually known of the man behind the bronze bust. Instead, the speakers lionized an idealized image of boisterous, jingoistic leadership that was in vogue in the United States at the time, embodied by President Theodore Roosevelt’s style of government. While it made sense for a bust to be placed at St Mark’s, where Stuyvesant is buried, the question does arise as to why Stuyvesant was chosen at all. Where exactly did the idea to transform him into the symbol of Dutch-American friendship originate?

That is, of course, a long story, one that harkens back to the publication of Irving’s marvelous depiction of Dutch New York in 1809, in which “Stubborn Stuyvesant” featured prominently. A century later, the idea of presenting a Stuyvesant bust to New York City was conceived by Leonard C. Van Noppen, who at that time was the Queen Wilhelmina Lecturer in Dutch Literature and History at Columbia University. Inspired by the Hudson-Fulton Celebration of 1909, he had noted that there was no statue or bust of Stuyvesant in New York City and took up the cause. In June 1914 Van Noppen and Van Rappard persuaded the Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs to put his weight behind it and things then began to move quickly. Within weeks government funds were made available and Toon Dupuis was selected to be the sculptor. The intended date for the unveiling of the bust was 13 October 1914, incorrectly thought to be Stuyvesant’s birthday. The First World War broke out, however, and plans ground to a halt. Funds for the Queen Wilhelmina Lectureship were now in danger of being taken away, which made Van Noppen all the more eager to push forward. Unfortunately, the unveiling of the bust and the concomitant media attention in December 1915 did not yield the desired financial result for Van Noppen, as the Lectureship was put on ice. It was resuscitated after the war and, like Stuyvesant’s bust, remains an important consequence of Dutch-American cultural relations.



The introduction of Pieter Johan van Berckel as the first Dutch ambassador to the United States of America on 31 October 1783 at a meeting of Senate in Princetown. Engraving by Reinier Vinkeles, after a drawing by Jacobus Buys. Rijksmuseum, RP-P-OB-85.278.

<https://www.rijksmuseum.nl/nl/collectie/RP-P-OB-85.278>



Bust of Stuyvesant, photo by author

Stuyvesant Square

In the 1930s, another Stuyvesant memorial was erected, only a few blocks north of St Mark's. Again, there is a bit of history to this. In 1836, Peter Gerard Stuyvesant, a prominent New Yorker and descendant of Petrus, had transferred a parcel of land to the city, which was eventually turned into a park. The proposed name was Holland Square, but it was ultimately named after the donor of the land instead. By the 1930s the park needed an overhaul. The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation wanted to adorn Stuyvesant Square with a memorial of some sort and brought the matter to the attention of the Netherland-America Foundation which proposed the erection of a statue of Petrus Stuyvesant. In a memo, Harold de Wolf Fuller, the NAF's executive director, asserted that a statue would be highly appropriate, as there was no other such memorial anywhere in the city. While the Parks Department would provide money for the pedestal, the NAF would supply funds for the statue.

The next step was to select a sculptor. In 1936, the Newark Ledger ran an article with the headline: "Mrs. Whitney to Fix Leg for Stuyvesant." Another newspaper quipped: "Stuyvesant's Peg Leg Puzzle to Sculptress." The choice for a statue rather than a bust resulted in the question of whether Stuyvesant had lost his right leg or his left. The Netherland-America Foundation cautiously suggested that it might perhaps be the right leg, pointing to a Stuyvesant statue in the baptistery donated by three Stuyvesant siblings in 1924 to the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. Once the matter was resolved—it was indeed the right leg after all—the project came to fruition. Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney researched Dutch clothing of the seventeenth century and her subsequent design received praise all around. The Stuyvesant statue was first exhibited at the Netherlands pavilion at the 1939 World's Fair in New York. At a luncheon in her honor, Gertrude Whitney called the statue "the embodiment of patriotism and civic pride", which she considered of particular importance at that juncture in time, with war looming. Others praised Stuyvesant's courage and steadfastness. Adriaan Barnouw, the Queen Wilhelmina Professor at Columbia University, declared that Stuyvesant had built the city into one of the finest in the New World: "It was a cosmopolitan town as early as 1664."

Unfortunately, the dedication of the statue in Stuyvesant Square turned out to be a dreary affair. June 4, 1941 was a rainy day in New York. In fact, the rain was so torrential that the speeches had to be moved indoors to St George's Episcopal Church, located on the west side of Stuyvesant Park. Accepting the statue on behalf of the city, Newbold Morris, President of the New York City Council, praised the numerous attributes that New Yorkers had inherited from their Dutch ancestors. Thomas J. Watson, IBM-founder and chair of the board of directors of the Netherland-America Foundation, cited Stuyvesant's success as a leader, for example. The statue was unveiled by Augustus Van Horne Stuyvesant Jr, a descendant of Petrus, and the last person to be buried in the Stuyvesant family vault under St-Mark's thirteen years later. After the burial, the vault was sealed off and became inaccessible. Nevertheless it is said that the old Director General sometimes comes out at night to haunt his old stomping grounds.

A Multi-Layered Past

Thus the historical Stuyvesant became a canvas onto which the ideals of the 1910s and 1930s were projected. Today the name of the Stuyvesant family is no longer regarded as just “proof of affection between the two countries.” Another, darker, dimension has been added. Petrus Stuyvesant was an enslaver, like many others in New Amsterdam, and held approximately 15 to 25 Africans in bondage. The Director General’s part in the Dutch slave trade that laid the foundation for New York’s black community can no longer be overlooked, as it was in 1915 and 1941. As a consequence, the Netherland-America Foundation, instrumental in erecting the statue in Stuyvesant Square, quickly changed the name of its annual fundraiser, the elegant black-tie Peter Stuyvesant Ball, to the rather anodyne “NAF Ball.” Well-intentioned as the change undoubtedly was, the new name does nothing to acknowledge the Dutch role in the history of New York. In that respect, “The New Amsterdam Ball” would have served the NAF better.

It is easier to rename an annual event than it is to remove a material reminder of the past, however. By removing a specific memorial the memory of those who choose to commemorate that particular person or event is also erased. The City is a multi-layered palimpsest on which vestiges of the past have been inscribed by successive generations of New Yorkers who traversed the island of Manhattan and beyond. Would it not be better if it remained so as a reminder to today’s New Yorkers of their predecessors, people who can still receive admiration for their achievements as well as censure for their moral failings? If we, rightly, want to promote a balanced and inclusive sense of history, then erecting a new memorial would be appropriate. It would add to the rich history of New York City to commemorate a young African woman, Mayken van Angola, brought to Manhattan by the Dutch West India Company in 1627, who remained on the island until her death over six decades later. Mayken’s life will be the topic of the next installment of this series of blogs.

About the author

Jaap Jacobs (PhD Leiden, 1999) is affiliated with the University of St Andrews. He is a historian of early American history, specifically on Dutch New York. He has taught at several universities in the Netherlands, the United States and the United Kingdom.

About the blog series

This blog is the first of a monthly series with stories from the rich history shared by the American and the Dutch people. Authors from both countries will present various stories of their own choosing, from a wide variety of perspectives, in order to provide the full range of triumphs and heartbreaks, delights and disappointments that draw from hundreds of years of shared history. Not all stories will be ‘feel-good history’. While the relations between the Dutch and the Americans have for the most part been stable and peaceful, the shared history contains some darker moments as well. Acknowledging that errors have been made in the past does not take away from the friendship but, rather, deepens it.

Further reading

Wayne Te Brake, “*The Dutch Republic and the Creation of the United States*,” in Hans Krabbendam, Cornelis A. van Minnen, Giles Scott-Smith, eds., *Four Centuries of Dutch-American Relations* (Amsterdam: Boom, 2009), 204-215.

Steenwijk, Carel de Vos van, *Een Grand Tour naar de Nieuwe Republiek. Journal van een reis door Amerika, 1783-1784*, ed. Wayne Te Brake (Hilversum: Verloren, 1999).

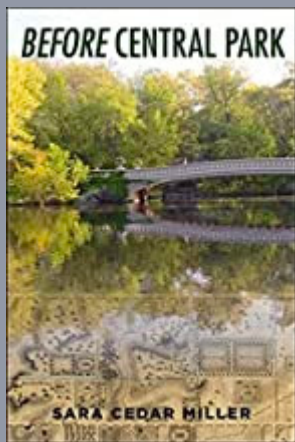
Schulte Nordholt, Jan Willem, *The Dutch Republic and American Independence* (Chapel Hill & London: The University of North Carolina Press, 1982).

Kathleen Eagen Johnson, *The Hudson-Fulton Celebration: New York’s River Festival of 1909 and the Making of a Metropolis* (New York: Fordham University Press, 2009).

Sources

<https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/archives/speech/proclamation-4928-dutch-american-friendship-day-1982>
Dutch National Archives, collection 2.05.03, Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken, A-dossiers, inv. nr. 1.
Archives of American Art, Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney Papers 1851-1975, box 14, folders 25-27, box 31, folder 45 (<https://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/gertrude-vanderbilt-whitney-papers-7107>).

BOOK TALK



A new book is recommended to NAHC followers: Sara Cedar Miller, in her comprehensive new work, *Before Central Park*, devotes Chapter 1 to New Amsterdam. She recounts how, in 1637, Isaac de Forest and his brother-in-law Dr. Johannes de la Montagne, with permission from the Dutch West India Company, moved from tiny New Amsterdam to plant tobacco on a 200-acre bouwerie, located at what is today the northern end of Central Park. The first chapter in Sara Cedar Miller’s *Before Central Park* tells the fascinating story of this family and how, despite inhospitable terrain and climate for the cultivation of tobacco, they succeeded in their dream--and fledged the settlement of Harlem. You will love the whole book, especially for its photography, also by Sara!

Order online, or through Columbia University Press.

NAHC UPCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE! GET YOUR TICKETS

Two Programs Planned for Your Viewing Pleasure!



Coming soon

Tuesday, October 11, 2022

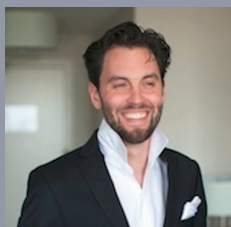
6 to 7:30 PM

Ross Perlin

Co-Director, Endangered Language Alliance

in conversation with

Peter-Christian Aigner



Director of the Gotham Center for New York City History

WERE 18 LANGUAGES SPOKEN IN NEW AMSTERDAM?

It is often said that 18 languages were spoken in New Amsterdam. In researching his forthcoming linguistic history of New York, linguist Ross Perlin has discovered that there may have been many more than 18! He suggests a higher count that includes formerly overlooked languages spoken by the Indigenous population and the free and enslaved people brought here from Asia and Africa. He explores how the new port, New Amsterdam, was Native American, African, and European from the beginning, with the template for the city's extraordinary multilingualism thus set at the very start of Dutch rule.

Q & A will follow

This is an online program.

Ross Perlin (PhD, University of Bern) is Co-Director of the Endangered Language Alliance, managing research projects on mapmaking, documentation, policy, and public programming for urban linguistic diversity. He is a linguist, writer, and translator focused on exploring and supporting linguistic diversity. He has also written on language, culture, and politics for *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *Harper's*, and elsewhere. He teaches linguistics at Columbia University. In 2021-22 he was a Robert D.L. Gardiner Foundation writing fellow at CUNY's Gotham Center.

Peter-Christian Aigner is an historian of twentieth-century America (PhD, The Graduate Center, CUNY). He is the author of a work on Daniel Patrick Moynihan and is currently working on a second book, re-conceptualizing local and national history from a modern global perspective. Dr. Aigner has published essays in *The Nation*, *The Atlantic*, and *The New Republic*. As head of the Gotham Center, he leads all programming. At his initiative, the organization has introduced a variety of new programs, including the establishment of its first research grant.

And in January, a program on the Little Ice Age!

THE LITTLE ICE AGE IN THE DUTCH NORTH ATLANTIC



"The Return of the Hunters" is a 1565 oil-on-wood painting by Pieter Breugel the Elder (c.1525-1569).

Tuesday, January 24, 2023
6 – 7:30 PM

Featuring

Chelsea Teale
Cal Poly Humboldt

Dagomar Degroot
Georgetown University

Moderated by
Robert Snyder
Manhattan Borough Historian



Chelsea L. Teale



Dagomar Degroot

The Dutch Republic experienced its so-called Golden Age from the 16th Century through the 18th Century, during an extended period of variable climate that often included colder temperatures and severe weather events. Although the Dutch Republic itself thrived during this "Little Ice Age," the Amsterdam-based Dutch West India Company struggled to establish and maintain its New World colony of New Netherland between 1624 and 1664.

Join environmental historian Dagomar Degroot and historical geographer Chelsea Teale as they explore how weather, climate, and societal responses to those phenomena impacted life in the North Atlantic from Europe to eastern North America.

Dr. Dagomar Degroot is an associate professor of environmental history at Georgetown University. His first book, *The Frigid Golden Age*, was published by Cambridge University Press in 2018 and named by the *Financial Times* as one of the ten best history books of that year. His next book, *Ripples in the Cosmic Ocean*, is under contract with Harvard University Press and Viking. He publishes equally in historical and scientific journals, including *Nature* and the *American Historical Review*, and writes for a popular audience in, for example, the *Washington Post*, *Aeon Magazine*, and *The Conversation*. He maintains popular online resources on the history of climate change, including the podcast *Climate History*. He has shared the unique perspectives of the past with policymakers, corporate leaders, and journalists in many countries, from Wuhan to Washington, DC.

Dr. Chelsea Teale is a lecturer in the Department of Geography, Environment, and Spatial Analysis at Cal Poly Humboldt. Her research has emphasized the integration of proxy records (primarily plant fossils and tree rings) with written sources to reconstruct past environments, and she has published and presented work for both history and science audiences (such as *Agricultural History Review* and the Canadian and American Quaternary Associations). Her current project is a climate history of New Netherland, which will be the first chapter in a book tentatively entitled *Environmental Encounters in Dutch New York*. The book builds on her dissertation—focused on land use in the Dutch-settled northeast—by including the elements of climate, weather, flora, fauna, and other natural resources.

THIS WILL BE AN ONLINE PROGRAM

Both programs are offered free of charge.

Your voluntary contribution will help support NAHC projects and programs such as this one.

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