

New Amsterdam Yesterday & Today

New Amsterdam History Center
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Dear NAHC Patrons, Donors, Friends, and Faithful Readers,

First of all, I want to thank all of you for your continuing support and interest in all that NAHC strives to accomplish. It is your support that enables NAHC to provide such a diverse and broad array of programs, talks, and newsletters, all of which are especially important as we embark upon a commemoration of the 400th Anniversary of the Dutch founding of New Amsterdam, which ultimately became New York City.

Along those lines, I highly recommend that you visit a special and fascinating installation at the New-York Historical Society, "New York Before New York: The Castello Plan of New Amsterdam," which is on view until July 14, 2024. The installation is curated by Russell Shorto, Director of the New Amsterdam Project, and contains a Virtual Castello Plan, a 3-D model of New Amsterdam, produced by NAHC's Mapping Early New York project.

Additionally, I would like you to join me in welcoming NAHC's two newest Trustees, Cynthia Bogart and Sandra Lazo, as well as our recently added Special Advisor, Jeroen van den Hurk. Please also visit our informative website at

newamsterdamhistorycenter.org for a comprehensive collection of recordings of our virtual public programs and all of our past newsletters.

Once again, on behalf of the entire NAHC Board of Trustees, thank you for your continuing support.

Michael E. Cavanaugh
President, New Amsterdam History Center

What's New at NAHC

NAHC at the New-York Historical Society
on exhibit
The 3-D Model Based on the Castello Plan of New Amsterdam



The New Amsterdam History Center Presents Its 3-D Model,
Explore New Amsterdam
at the New-York Historical Society Installation

“New York Before New York: The Castello Plan of New Amsterdam”
by Esme E. Berg, Executive Director and Sandra Lazo

The creative team behind NAHC’s “Mapping Early New York” project, along with several invited guests and NAHC trustees, were among over 400 people who gathered at the New-York Historical Society (N-YHS) on the evening of March 20, 2024, to celebrate the opening of N-YHS’s current installation “New York Before New

York: The Castello Plan of New Amsterdam.” The installation, mounted to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first Europeans to settle in what is now New York, is centered around the “Castello Plan,” an extremely rare depiction of the town of New Amsterdam as it existed shortly before the Dutch colony of New Netherland was taken over by British forces in 1664. The installation features NAHC’s exciting 3-D virtual model of New Amsterdam, which is a part of the “Mapping Early New York” project.

The original map on which the Castello Plan is based was created by the colony’s official surveyor, Jacques Cortelyou, in about 1660. That original (since lost) was redrawn several years later to be bound into a collection that was sold to an Italian nobleman. After over 200 more years, that later version was rediscovered in the Villa di Castello near Florence – hence the name. That second (and earliest surviving) version is on loan from the Biblioteca Medicea Laurenzina in Florence as the centerpiece of the N-YHS installation, which was curated by Russell Shorto, the director of the New Amsterdam Project, a joint undertaking between N-YHS and the New Netherland Institute (NNI). With more than a dozen other documents and artifacts, including a striking portrait of Pieter Stuyvesant, the installation explores how settlers, Indigenous people, and enslaved Africans experienced the world illustrated in the Castello Plan. ...

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Many thanks to our sponsors for making all of this possible.
The Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation - The Society of the First Families of New York -
Ken Chase - The Society of Daughters of Holland Dames

From Sultans' Garden to the Park Avenue Malls
by Ina L. Selden



Dutch Orange Balloon and Peony-Flowering Tulips

The Statue of Liberty, Central Park, the High Line, and the Park Avenue Malls. What do these New York icons have in common? All four faced an uphill battle before becoming an indelible part of the city. And those battles took vision, persistence, serendipity, philanthropy, and luck.

This year the Park Avenue Malls were tightly planted with Dutch orange Balloon and Peony Dutch hybrid blossoms, chosen tulips to help commemorate the 400th anniversary of the first ship bearing Dutch settlers to New Amsterdam.

Tulips faced a long journey to the Malls. In the 16th century, Ottoman Empire Sultans favored tulips over all other flowers in their lush gardens. The more exotic the variety the better. As with music, dress, and art, the sultans' aristocratic retinue sought to emulate the taste of their sovereigns. The tulip became a status symbol, often referred to as the "Power Flower." The striped varieties were valued above all others. This was an early iteration of Tulip Mania. ...



Learn here about the planting of orange tulips along Manhattan's famed Park Avenue to commemorate the 400th anniversary of New Netherland.

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Spring Lecture at the New York Botanical Garden
by Vanessa Sellers



Crispijn de Passe, Hortus Floridus, Utrecht, 1615 – Colorized - NYBG Collections

Co-presented by the New Amsterdam History Center and NYBG-
Humanities Institute

On April 25, a special lecture program entitled "Peaches, Pears, and Purslane – Recreating Dutch Gardens in 17th Century New Amsterdam," brought a large group of historians, plant researchers, and a generally interested public together at the New York Botanical Garden's LuEsther T. Mertz Library for a remarkable morning presentation. The main speakers were Toya Dubin, Director of the New Amsterdam History Center's [Mapping Early New York Project](#), and Eric Sanderson, the inaugural Vice President for Botanical Science and Director of the Center for Conservation & Restoration Ecology at NYBG and author of *Mannahatta: A Natural History of New York City* (2009), with Rhonda Evans, Director of the Mertz Library, as main host of the morning. ...

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The Settlement of Schenectady c. 1680
a new painting by artist Len Tantillo



The Settlement of Schenectady, c. 1680

Many people interested in the history of New Amsterdam and New Netherland are familiar with fine artist Len Tantillo's extensive body of work. His meticulously researched and beautifully rendered paintings give us a vision of how that world probably looked and bring its history to life in a way that words alone cannot. The New Amsterdam History Center is fortunate that some of his images appear on our website. For example, click the "Videos" tab on the homepage and learn more in our 2015 video "[New Netherland through History and Art](#)". And now, NAHC is pleased to claim a small connection to Tantillo's latest work, *The Settlement of Schenectady, c. 1680*, which was unveiled by the Schenectady County Historical Society (SCHS) at a festive gala held in his honor on April 9. The connection is that the piece was commissioned by NAHC Trustee Sandra Lazo and her husband, Donald H. Layton,

who have donated it to the SCHS. Sandy is a proud eighth-great-granddaughter of Jacques Cornelissen Van Slyck, who was one of the original founders of Schenectady in 1661. ...

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Events at a Glance

Shipwreck and Salvation - The Wreck of *The Prince Maurice* 1657
by Toya Dubin



Ships in Distress off a Rocky Coast by Ludolf Backhuysen, 1667

The New Amsterdam History Center presents
Shipwreck and Salvation - The Wreck of *The Prince Maurice* 1657

May 16 - Southampton
May 17 - Port Washington
May 18 - Mattituck, Shelter Island

On the night of March 8th, 1657, as a Nor'easter raged, a Dutch ship, *The Prince Maurice*, slammed into the coast of Fire Island. Aboard were 129 souls – passengers, crew and Dutch West India Company soldiers. Ashore were Indigenous

people on their coastal night watch, listening to the ship crash against the shoal. Until now the story of this dramatic Long Island shipwreck and rescue has been known only to a handful of historians. But the rescue on an ice-laden beach has been part of Indigenous history for 400 years.

Now, thanks to a generous grant from the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation, the [New Amsterdam History Center](#)'s groundbreaking [Mapping Early New York](#) has merged these written and oral histories of Long Island. Combining old-fashioned research and technology including AI, a new window on history has opened wide for children, their parents, historians, map nerds, and computer gamers.

Kathryn Curran, Executive Director of the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation noted: "We are delighted to support projects that push the boundaries of history, culture, and the digital world. The New Amsterdam History Center's integration of 3D models, original documents, Encyclopedia, and maps is an entirely new way to experience the past."

"This project follows in the footsteps of our recent 3D Model created for the New-York Historical Society's installation *New York Before New York: The Castello Plan* on view March 15 – July 14, 2024", explained Esme E. Berg, Executive Director. "We are delighted to bring it to Long Island on May 16, 17 and 18, when members of NAHC's research team will be in Southampton, Port Washington and Shelter Island to offer lively, richly illustrated presentations including interactive maps and 3-D models."

Presenters

Toya Dubin, Mapping Early NY Project Director

Drew Shuptar-Rayvis, Algonkian Historical Consultant

[Shelter Island Historical Society](#): Thursday, May 16, 1:00 - 2:30PM

[Port Washington Public Library](#): Friday, May 17, 7:00 - 8:30PM

[Southampton History Museum](#): Saturday, May 18, 11:00AM - 12:30PM

Admission is free of charge; **space is limited**. Reservations are required.

Major Funding for this project provided by:

Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation, the Society of Daughters of Holland Dames, the First Families of New York, Ken Chase, The Consul General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands-Dutch Culture Future400, and the supporters of the New Amsterdam History Center.



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In Case You Missed...

[News from New Netherland - The First Families](#)
[News from New Netherland - The Animal Fleet to New Netherland](#)
[Over 40,000 Undelivered Dutch Letters Rediscovered](#)

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