

# Henry Hudson's 400th Anniversary Newsletter #3

Consulate General of the Netherlands in New York

May 1st, 2008

## Introduction

Preparations for Henry Hudson 400th anniversary celebrations are well underway. Many public and private institutions are contributing on both sides of the Atlantic. However, the festivities should not become a series of individual events. Hopefully, some planned activities will lead to sustainable new links between both sides of the ocean, durable projects of common interest which reach out to groups of people that otherwise would not have the faintest idea what the Dutch legacy in America was yesterday, looks like today and/or might be tomorrow.

Personally therefore I am not as much preoccupied by the happenings of 2009 themselves, (exciting as some of them should be) as with the durable effects they should have thereafter. In other words, I would for instance be more proud of securing the continuity of the New Netherlands Project into the next decade than of a one-day cultural manifestation. Likewise, I hope that the legacy of diversity and tolerance of New Amsterdam will be recognized by the New Yorkers of today.

The best platform of transmitting our common legacy to future gen-

erations and to a broader public is obviously through education. Education can take many forms and I am not so much thinking of adapting school curricula (if this would be possible at all...) but rather transmitting aspects of the post-Hudson legacy to audiences that are normally not focused on these notions. In New York City and New York State there seems enough room for all of that next year, but how about the rest of the US? Who in Florida or Texas would care for, or even notice, this legacy? The challenge here is enormous.

Having said this, there seems, in all modesty, to be a good number of activities under way which could secure some fostering long-term relationships and structural transfer of knowledge. There are new publications in preparation, media attention will be generated, documentaries are planned. The Half Moon 'Voyages of Discovery' contribute to this end, as well as the foreseen seminars and conferences, while some of the exhibitions have strong educational components. By the way, I hope to be able to devote more attention to all the planned exhibitions in a next issue of this newsletter.



So we hope and expect that 2009 will not be incidental but lead to other, more durable effects as well as new relations at different levels. Some of the planned activities with a strong educational component are listed below.

*Gajus Scheltema, Consul General of the Netherlands in New York*

## Overview educational activities

### Documentaries

Over the past decades several documentaries have been produced on the history of New Amsterdam, both in the US and in the Netherlands. In 2009 we can expect several new ones, including a Dutch miniseries on the Dutch legacy in New York. Channel 13 is preparing a documentary on Dutch New York. It will be accessible for teachers and students through the internet and will have a strong educational approach. Furthermore, a Dutch filmmaker, Peter Tetteroo, is preparing a film reconstructing the historic voyage of the Half Moon based on the journal of Robert Juet. Another documentary, currently being pro-



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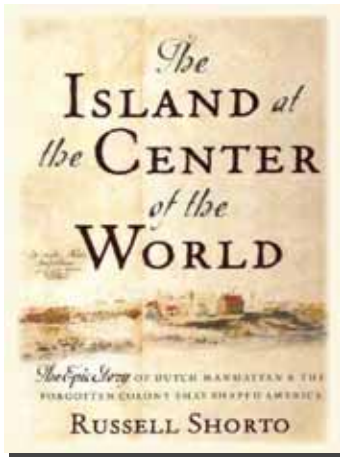
Calendar of events

Relevant Links

duced, is focusing on the New Netherlands Project: 'Illuminating New York's Dutch past'.

## Publications

Three major publications are well underway. The Roosevelt Study Center in Middelburg, the Netherlands, has embarked upon an impressive production with a hundred co-authors focusing on the Dutch-American heritage, called "*Dutch-American Relations 1609-2009*". This book promises to become



a handbook and standard reference work on Dutch-American Relations. Another major publication, called '*Reflections on Dutch America*' assembles essays by some of the most prominent historians and academics on the New Netherlands period. This 'Liber Amicorum' will also appear in the context of the Henry Hudson celebrations and accompany a travelling exhibition set up by the New Netherlands Institute in Albany. '*New York at 400*' will be published in 2009 by Fordham University Press and the Hudson River Museum in Yonkers, NY (Westchester County), which will be mounting an exhibition on this topic. Finally, the city of Amsterdam will be sponsoring the publication of a comic book on New York and a team of writers is working on a 'Travel Guide to Dutch New York'.



## Exhibitions

Planned exhibitions will be a main topic in a next issue of this newsletter. However, at this stage it is important to note that many of the exhibitions – if not all – will have strong educational components, be it through related publications, visits by schools, or through lectures at the exhibition. For instance, the Museum of the City of New York will, as part of its exhibition on "Amsterdam/ New Amsterdam" present special programs for school-children, focusing on second, fourth, and seventh-eighth grade curricula. They will also offer an ambitious menu of public programs, ranging from symposia and lectures, to walking tours to sites relevant to the Dutch experience in New York.

## Conferences

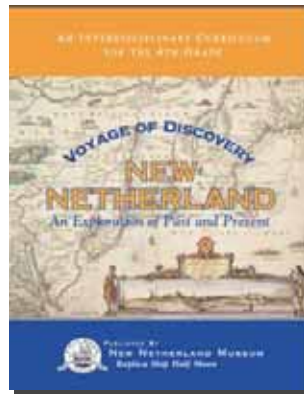
Several conferences, lectures and symposia will be organized during the year, commemorating the Dutch roots of New York and its influence today on both sides of the Atlantic. In particular, the Dutch Government, as well as the city of Amsterdam, envisage conferences focusing on issues of diversity and tolerance, both in New York and in the Netherlands. These conferences will be attended by several important institutes and personalities.

The spectrum of activities and interests is wide: the Frick Collection, for instance, will dedicate a seminar to early collections of Dutch art, whereas the Liberty Science Centre will host a major conference bringing together

## Henry Hudson and education

Ask an average American about the Dutch legacy in the United States, and they probably don't have a clue what you're talking about. The educational outreach of the Dutch history in United States is for instance practically restricted to New York State. The Netherlands and Amsterdam as such are known to Americans, but more as a tourist destination than for our common history. And the name Hudson may be widespread, the link between Henry Hudson and New Amsterdam is not that often identified.

Next years activities will hopefully create new awareness by linking past, present and future. Historical awareness gets a new relevance when discussing issues of tolerance, diversity, migration, identity, trade, market economies, finances or security. All of these can be seen in a historical perspective and are put in today's global setting, where our challenges are often remarkably similar to those in the past.



*This Newsletter is for background information only and not for publication*

Dutch and US expertise on water management. Several exhibitions will also have their own accompanying lectures or symposia.

### The Half Moon ('de Halve Maen')

The current replica of Hudson's ship, the Half Moon, has been a great educational platform for many years. During its 'Voyages of Discovery' the ship sails up and down the Hudson River and sometimes beyond. Children stay aboard for several days and learn, not only about the history but also scientific and other aspects of early sailing. Captain 'Chip' Reynolds has acquired an impressive reputation as a teacher of his sailing classrooms. He has been using dedicated interdisciplinary curricula for 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade classes from all over New York State. His ship is expected to play a major role in 2009, hopefully attracting a lot of media and visitors alike.

Finally, please find adjoining an updated calendar of some of the main events planned for 2009. The calendar remains 'work in progress' however and is therefore only indicative at this stage.



Time	Event
December 08 – December 09 End 08 – early 09	Light on New Netherland, a traveling exhibition Peekskill Project, thirty contemporary artists at Hudson Valley
February '09 – January '10	Hudson River Panorama: 400 Years of Art, exhibition at Albany Institute of History & Art
1st week April – September	New Amsterdam Exhibition, Museum of the City New York
April '09 – March '10	1609: an exhibit about Henry Hudson, the Dutch and Native Peoples, New York State Museum
April 30 – June 7	Tulip Mania: Botanical Garden, the Bronx
May 3 – May 7 July/September	Voyage of discovery 'Half Moon' sails upriver to Albany
May	Dutch design/ fashion Week New York
Summer	Groundbreaking ceremony at Governors Island
August 2 – September 3	Yacht-race Amsterdam – New York
August 2 – September 3	Voyage into the 21st century, Clipper, 'de Stad Amsterdam' with students
1st week September	Dutch Naval visit to New York harbor
1st week September	'Flying Dutchmen Race' in New York harbor
1st week September	35 Flat-bottom ships in New York harbor
1st week September	Water-conference H <sup>2</sup> O9, Liberty Science Center
2nd week September	Exhibition around Margarita Van Varick, New York Historical Society at Bard College
September 21	Waterfront Maps-exhibition Public Library
November 12-13	Seminar on Dutch art, Frick Museum
Mid November*	5 Dutch Days, 5 Boroughs
November	The Peter Stuyvesant Ball
	* around Netherlands – United States heritage day

### Relevant Links

[www.cgny.org](http://www.cgny.org)  
[www.netherlands-embassy.org](http://www.netherlands-embassy.org)  
[www.thenaf.org](http://www.thenaf.org)  
[www.hollandsociety.org](http://www.hollandsociety.org)  
[www.henryhudson400.com](http://www.henryhudson400.com)  
[www.govisland.com](http://www.govisland.com)  
[www.exploreny400.com](http://www.exploreny400.com)  
[www.5dutchdaysnyc.org](http://www.5dutchdaysnyc.org)  
[www.nnp.org](http://www.nnp.org)  
[www.HollandDames.org](http://www.HollandDames.org)  
[www.everythingdutch.org](http://www.everythingdutch.org)  
[www.hudson400.com](http://www.hudson400.com)  
[www.hk-botters.nl/pagina17.html](http://www.hk-botters.nl/pagina17.html)  
[www.wyckoffassociation.org](http://www.wyckoffassociation.org)  
[www.netherlandclub.org](http://www.netherlandclub.org)  
[www.halfmoon.mus.ny.us](http://www.halfmoon.mus.ny.us)

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