



NEW AMSTERDAM YESTERDAY AND TODAY

New Amsterdam History Center Newsletter – Vol. I, No. 3

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

The New Amsterdam History Center is pleased to offer you the third edition of our newsletter. In this issue you can read about our most recent events, a wonderful docent guided tour of the Thaw Collection at the Morgan Library, and our November lecture, *The Dutch Global Empire*, as well as an informative article by our featured speaker at that lecture, Clark University Professor Wim Klooster.

Among our various projects in recent months, we were pleased to support the development of the Dutch Heritage World Tours app, *How Dutch is New York?*, and its creators, Mariska and Anco Hammerstein. The comprehensive tours featured in the app, will cover Dutch Heritage sites in the greater New York Area with a historical narrative of great interest at each stop. Please read more about this tour below.

Looking forward, we hope you will join us in May for a visit to the Vander-Ende-Onderdonk House in Flushing, Queens where we will be treated to a tour of the house followed by a talk by architect, archeologist and historic preservation specialist Alyssa Loorya, President of Chrysalis Archeology. Please check our website and your inbox for updates.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the New Amsterdam History Center, I would like to thank you all for your continued support of our efforts to link the past and present of what was once New Amsterdam. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Esme Emmanuel Berg
Vice President/Executive Director

NEW AMSTERDAM IN THE DUTCH ATLANTIC
A Dialogue about Trade and Entrepreneurship on the 17th-Century Stage

by Susan Golz, Ph.D

On Monday, November 6, 2017, at the New Netherland Club in New York City, the New Amsterdam History Center sponsored a unique program presented by historians Wim Klooster and Dennis J. Maika . Their presentation related Dutch trade and warfare in the Atlantic Community to the Dutch commercial legacy in both the Atlantic World and New York, in an engaging and stimulating format.

In their dialogue, the two speakers exchanged ideas and perceptions on the operation of state-sponsored commercial monopolies and private entrepreneurships, the practical aspects of arranging trade, cooperation as well as competition between European empires, and the impact of "sustained warfare" in the Atlantic World and New York. Wim Klooster emphasized the events of maritime war and peace in the Atlantic between 1590 and 1674, while Dennis Maika linked these events to the development of entrepreneurship in New Netherland.

For example, in 1621, the founding of the Dutch West India Company coincided with the end of the twelve-year truce with Spain. Klooster emphasized that the WIC was conceived as a war machine, given the power to wage war and determine terms of peace. It was also a commercial company where ordinary people could invest by buying shares. It created a monopoly on the fur trade, prohibiting any persons or company other than itself from trading furs from New Netherland. After about ten years, the WIC realized that it could not do both commerce and war, because warfare required too many ships, leaving too few ships for trade. Thus, in 1640 the WIC ended the fur-trading monopoly.

Maika related the formation of the WIC as a war machine and commercial company to the development of the fur trade monopoly in New Amsterdam. Immediately after Henry Hudson's voyage up the Hudson River, Dutch private entrepreneurs had formed trading companies, but they dissolved with the formation of the WIC. After 1640, when the WIC ended its monopoly, in large part due to the pressures of warfare, opportunities opened for private investors and the merchants of New Amsterdam, who then gained significant increase in power. The change in status was triggered in 1649 when the merchants a petitioned the city government to provide order and stability for trade and commerce. As a result, in 1653, New Amsterdam was established as the second city government in the Dutch Atlantic, after Beverwijck (later Albany), modeled after Amsterdam. The business leaders became political

leaders of the city.

Klooster and Maika continued to describe significant maritime military events between the Dutch, the Spanish, and the Portuguese in the Caribbean, South America, and Africa, and the development of entrepreneurial business in New Netherland until the transfer of power to England and thereafter. They emphasized that the Dutch business leaders continued to be extremely important economic and political forces after the transfer.

Wim Klooster received his Ph.D. in history from the University of Leiden and was a Fellow of KITLV (Royal Institute of Language and Anthropology), Leiden, the Netherlands. He is Professor of History at Clark University in Worcester, MA, and is known throughout Europe and the Americas as the foremost authority on the Dutch in the Atlantic world of the seventeenth century. His most recent book, published in 2016, is *The Dutch Moment: War, Trade, and Settlement in the Seventeenth-Century Atlantic World*.

Dennis J. Maika, Senior Historian and Education Director at the New Netherland Institute, received his Ph.D. in history from New York University and was awarded the Hendricks Manuscript Prize. He is a Fellow of the Holland Society of New York, the New Netherland Institute, and the New York Academy of History. As a historian of colonial New York, he has served as a consultant for local history and education projects and has written numerous articles and papers. He taught history and psychology at the high-school and college levels.



Pictured above: Dennis Maika and Wim Klooster

This program was supported as a part of the Dutch Culture USA Program by the Consulate General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in New York and received funding through a grant from the Netherlands-America Foundation. NAHC would like to thank the New Netherlands Club for their hospitality.

NAHC Visits the Morgan Library

by Wijnie de Groot, Senior Lecturer in Dutch, Columbia University

On December 5, 2017, a group of 24 members and friends of the NAHC, among them Dolph Hogewoning, the Consul General of the Netherlands, was fortunate enough to be given a private after-hours tour of the exhibition *Drawn to Greatness: Master Drawings from the Thaw Collection* at the Morgan Library. To many in the group, it felt like a present from Sinterklaas himself, on the eve of St. Nicholas Day, a holiday of gift-giving which is widely celebrated in the Netherlands and Belgium.

The Thaw collection is one of the world's finest private collections of drawings, ranging from drawings by Rembrandt to Van Gogh to Pollock. The collection, consisting of some 400 drawings, was assembled by Eugene and Clare Thaw, and has been gifted by them to the Morgan, which put 150 of them on show in this unique exhibition.

The tour was conducted by Ilona van Tuinen, who at the time was the Annette and Oscar de la Renta Assistant Curator (Ilona has since been appointed to the highly prestigious position of curator of 16th- and 17th-century Dutch and Flemish drawings at the Rijksmuseum).

The visitors appreciated the opportunity to see the drawings from up close, without hundreds of other visitors crowding around them, but what made the visit unforgettable was Ilona's expertise, knowledge and willingness to answer dozens of questions.

She highlighted specific drawings by Dutch and Flemish artists, and explained their art-historical context, such as a church interior by Pieter Saenredam, a lovely drawing of a windmill and surrounding houses in Amsterdam by Rembrandt, a stunning depiction of Christ's Descent from the Cross by Rubens, and a drawing by Van Gogh of a fishing village in the south of France.

After Ilona's tour, the group had the opportunity to walk around for another 30 minutes

in other galleries filled with 19th- and 20th-century drawings.

The New Amsterdam History Center is grateful to Ilona van Tuinen for her excellent walk-through, and wishes her best of luck in her new position.



War on Trade and Wartime Trade:

Risk and Opportunity in the Seventeenth-Century Dutch Atlantic

by Wim Klooster, Ph.D

Willem Blauvelt was New Amsterdam's foremost privateer. As captain of the frigate *La Garce*, he captured a number of Spanish ships in the Caribbean and brought them into port, creating excitement among New Amsterdam's population and allowing the men who had invested in the expedition to cash in. Still, privateering was never as prominent a pursuit among New Amsterdam's residents as it was elsewhere in the seventeenth-century Atlantic, where preying on enemy ships was at times big business. It was one of several ways in which warfare and trade were linked in the Dutch Atlantic world.

Warfare was a birthmark of the Dutch Republic, which emerged during the revolt against Habsburg, Spain. It was also the cradle of the Dutch Atlantic world, which functioned as a second front (or third, if we include the Indian Ocean) in the war with the Iberians, especially after the end of the Twelve-Year Truce in 1621. Spain was not the only country to fight the Dutch in the seventeenth century. In fact, Portugal bore the brunt of Dutch maritime warfare both during its crown union with Spain (1580-1640) and after the Dutch maliciously seized Portuguese colonies in Africa and Brazil in 1641.

Dutch ships began entering Atlantic waters in the 1590s in part as a consequence of embargoes introduced by the Spanish authorities. In that decade, two successive Spanish kings ordered the arrest of Dutch ships that were conducting trade in Iberian ports, inducing Dutch merchants, who had traditionally collected salt in Portugal and Andalusia, to find alternative sources of salt. An Atlantic search began that led the Dutch to Araya, a peninsula off Venezuela with a rich natural salt lagoon, where they gathered massive amounts of salt until a bloody encounter with Spanish forces led to their departure. But in the interim, returning ships often stopped at the Spanish islands of Cuba and Hispaniola, engaging in a barter trade that may have convinced numerous other Dutch merchants to try their own luck in the Caribbean. In these years, a trend was set that would become a prominent feature of the Dutch Atlantic: that of large-scale trade with other empires.

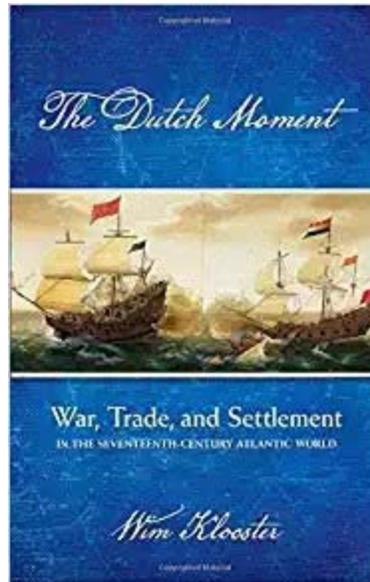
However, the period of intensive maritime warfare between the Spanish and the Dutch after 1621 made it dangerous to launch any commercial expeditions. The

signing of the Treaty of Münster (1648), by which Spain recognized Dutch independence, reversed the fortunes of adventurous merchants interested in exploring colonial Spanish markets. Before 1648, trading was not only risky on the western side of the Atlantic, but perhaps even more so on the European side. When the Twelve-Year Truce with the "rebels from the islands of Holland and Zeeland" expired in 1621, the Spanish Crown decided to use privateering as a weapon against the commercially active - and hence vulnerable - Dutch. The most successful privateers in Spanish service were based at the port of Dunkirk in the Spanish Netherlands, who seized some three thousand Dutch vessels in a 25-year period, most of them engaged in European commerce, although scores of the captured ships were seized en route to or returning from a transatlantic destination. The Dutch, of course, matched this privateering prowess as they targeted Iberian ships plying the Atlantic. Hundreds of ships, especially Portuguese, were seized and their cargoes sold in Dutch ports, reducing the availability of Brazilian sugar and other tropical crops in Portugal and bringing about a contraction in the Portuguese slave trade. Similarly, Piet Heyn's celebrated capture of the Spanish treasure fleet in 1628 filled the coffers of the Dutch state and cost its Spanish enemy dearly.

Notwithstanding this sudden windfall, the West India Company - which initially monopolized Dutch trade in the entire Atlantic basin - failed in its attempt to combine warfare and commerce. The Company could not handle its commercial responsibilities, failing to timely supply exchange commodities, and thereby jeopardizing the lucrative African gold trade and precluding the implementation of large planned commercial expeditions to the Americas. Soon after the Dutch conquest of Brazil began in 1630, the Company therefore abandoned parts of its monopoly, opening the door to private traders, just like its commercial hegemony in New Netherland began to crumble.

Commercially, the West India Company (WIC) was therefore a failure, but many small companies prospered in the wider Atlantic, especially after the peace with Spain had been signed. In due course, however, they were faced with English and French privateers. After its bankruptcy in 1674, the WIC was reestablished in a leaner form, largely concentrating on the transatlantic slave trade, but without a focus on imperial expansion. The Dutch now increasingly refrained from waging war afloat and ashore. At the same time, their new Atlantic world was rooted in a more bellicose past - its three main pillars: formerly Spanish Curaçao, formerly Portuguese Elmina, and erstwhile English Suriname - had each been conquered by Dutch arms. But Dutch

conquest was now a thing of the past.



NAHC EVENTS AND MILESTONES

May 10, 2018

Join the New Amsterdam History Center for a tour of the Vander-Ende - Onderdonk House in Flushing, Queens and a talk by Archaeologist & Historic Preservation Specialist, Alyssa Loorya, President of Chrysalis Archaeology entitled, *Gone But Not Forgotten: The Dutch of Western Long Island*.

June 13, 2018

NAHC will host the launch of the first Dutch Heritage World Tours in Lower Manhattan. Details to follow.

DUTCH HERITAGE WORLD TOURS

The Dutch Heritage World Tours website offers information about Dutch heritage in countries other than the Netherlands itself. One can learn about many things from old forts, farms, mills, homes, churches with cemeteries and warehouses, to the legacy of the influence of the Dutch on culture and language all over the globe. DHWT first focus is on the shared history in the United States, i.e. the City and State of New

York, where a lot of Dutch-American heritage can be found This information is offered primarily in the form of multilingual audio tours that DHWT has developed and published on the free izi.TRAVEL app for smart phones and tablets. The DHWT website will also provide useful links and suggestions for literature on the topic.

You can learn more about it [here](#) or download the izi.travel app on your smart phone.



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Please check out our newly designed website at

www.newamsterdamhistorycenter.org

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