

25

modern

YEARS

american history and

ANNIVERSARY

european-american relations

MAGAZINE

in the netherlands





25 YEARS



ROOSEVELT
STUDY
CENTER



The Province of Zeeland is small in population but blessed with some high quality institutions.

The Roosevelt Study Center has a special place in my heart because it symbolizes the warm bond of Zeeland with the United States. As a preeminent research institute on modern American history and U.S.-European relations the RSC contributes significantly to international scholarship. Its many conferences, lectures and seminars have placed Zeeland on the academic map. Over the years many scholars from both sides of the Atlantic have found a warm welcome in this gem in Middelburg's Abbey. I am proud of this center of excellence which proves, time and again, that small is beautiful.

Karla Peijs,
Queen's Commissioner in the Province of Zeeland

Since the opening of the Roosevelt Study Center in 1986 and its affiliation with the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) in 1990, the Center has become one of the most prominent institutes for American Studies in the Netherlands. In addition to its focus on modern American history and U.S.-European relations, the Center's research on Dutch-American relations has become its specialty, as was shown by the publication of its 1,200-page landmark volume, Four Centuries of Dutch-American Relations, 1609-2009. No doubt the Dutch-American relationship will continue to flourish and be worth studying in the years ahead. I congratulate the RSC with its 25th anniversary.

Professor Robbert Dijkgraaf,
President, KNAW

The staff is pleased to welcome you to the RSC



From left to right:

Professor Henk Aay (Fulbright-Dow Chair spring 2011), Tijmen Gengler (intern), Dr. Hans Krabbendam (senior researcher and assistant director), Professor Giles Scott-Smith (senior researcher), Professor Cornelis van Minnen (director), Iris Laboyrie (senior communications advisor), Simone Janssen (webmaster), and Leontien Joosse (management assistant).

The year 1982 marked the 200th anniversary of Dutch-American diplomatic relations and the centennial celebration of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's birth. In recognition of the Roosevelt family's roots in Zeeland, a U.S. delegation visited Middelburg that year to present the Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms Awards to some distinguished Dutch citizens. These U.S.-Zeeland contacts developed into a biennial presentation in Middelburg of the Four Freedoms Awards and the establishment of the Roosevelt Study Center. The RSC was opened to the public in 1986.

The 25th anniversary of the RSC is celebrated on September 19, 2011, with a special academic session featuring distinguished speakers from the U.S. and the Netherlands, and on September 20, 2011, with the conference "Obama: Domestic Politics and the Economic Crisis in Historical Context."

This magazine illustrates 25 characteristic aspects of the RSC over the past 25 years.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 12, 1986

I am pleased to send warm greetings to Her Royal Highness Princess Margriet, His Excellency Prime Minister Lubbers, Queens Commissioner Boertien, the honored recipients of the Four Freedoms Awards, and the distinguished guests and friends of the Roosevelt Study Center.

On January 6, 1941, Franklin D. Roosevelt expressed his dream of a world founded upon four essential human freedoms: freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want, and freedom from fear. It is these basic tenets of all peace-loving people which you celebrate today by honoring five distinguished recipients of the Four Freedoms Medals in 1986. I join you in congratulating them.

Theodore and Franklin Roosevelt were two of America's greatest Presidents; they were immensely proud of their Dutch ancestry. The courage, decency, and commitment to freedom that characterize the people of The Netherlands formed an important part of the Roosevelt heritage. Theodore and Franklin Roosevelt directed the destiny of our country during some of the most tumultuous and challenging years of American history. Tyranny was their constant foe. Peace and justice were their constant objectives. They understood America's responsibilities and welcomed the opportunity to use American strength to build a better world. Eleanor Roosevelt carried on this tradition in her memorable career at the United Nations.

The establishment of the Roosevelt Study Center is not only a living tribute to these three great Americans, but it is also a significant part of the bond, that connects the European and American democracies. I wish the Center the greatest success in its important work. God bless you all.

Ronald Reagan



President
Theodore Roosevelt



President
Franklin Roosevelt



First Lady
Eleanor Roosevelt

On the occasion of the opening of the Roosevelt Study Center in September 1986, President Ronald Reagan sent his best wishes from the White House.

03 FOUNDING FATHERS

The three American Founding Fathers of the Roosevelt Study Center in front of the Roosevelt Study Center's entrance in Middelburg's Abbey on September 19, 1986.

From left to right: Professor Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr., and Ambassador William J. vanden Heuvel.

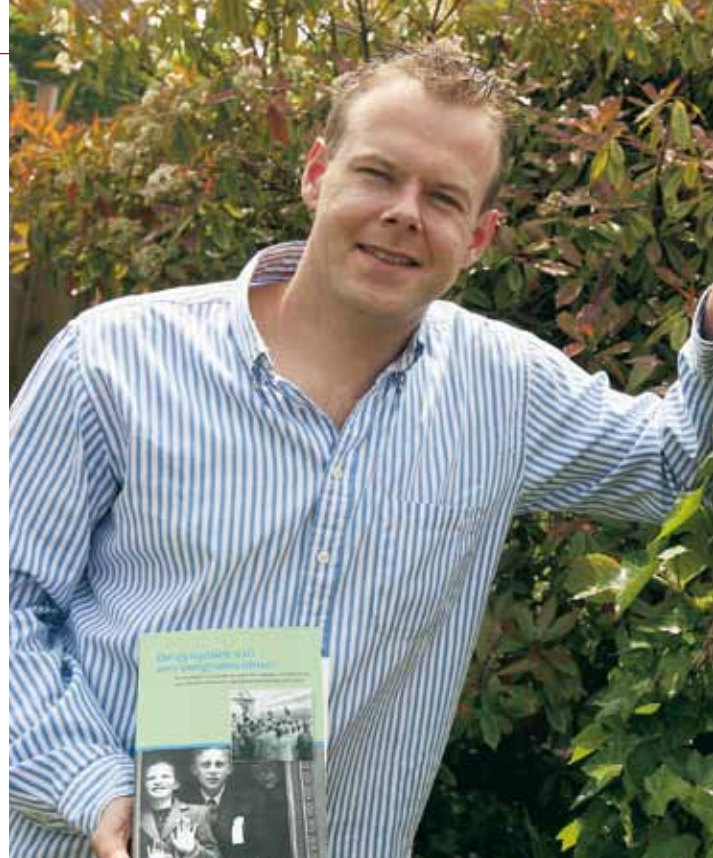


At the inaugural symposium of the Roosevelt Study Center in September 1986 eminent historian and special assistant to President John F. Kennedy Professor Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr. observed, "This is the century that witnessed the emergence of the United States as a world power, and the three Roosevelts played crucial roles in the American journey from the wings to the center of the international stage. The Roosevelt Study Center will be the central European repository for the basic documents essential to the public history of the United States in the 20th century."



Scholarship

Over the last 25 years the RSC staff have edited and published more than 75 books and 175 articles in a great variety of journals. The Center has also facilitated 11 Ph.D. dissertations and more than 200 MA theses. The online *European Journal of American Studies*, *EJAS*, that the RSC edited, reaches out to an international community of scholars. Thanks to these products the Center contributes to a deeper knowledge of the rich history of U.S.-European relations and its meaning for the present day.



Enne Koops, former RSC Ph.D. candidate who received his doctorate in 2010 from Kampen Theological University:
"I used the knowledge, books, and archives at the RSC to its full potential, which enabled me to complete my dissertation on religion and emigration without delay."



Jack Thompson, former RSC junior research scholar who received his Ph.D. in 2010 from Cambridge University:
"During the time I spent affiliated with the RSC, I discovered that it is the best facility in Europe for doing research on Theodore Roosevelt, not to mention almost any other subject in modern American history."

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Board of Trustees and Advisors

The International Advisory Board consists of eminent scholars from universities in the Netherlands and abroad. It reviews past RSC activities and offers advice on the long-term development and direction of the Center. The members are professors Anthony J. Badger (Cambridge University), Doeko Bosscher (University of Groningen), Manfred Berg (University of Heidelberg), and Serge Ricard (University of Paris III, Sorbonne Nouvelle).



Anthony Badger:

"I know of no research library which offers a more friendly and effective place to work than the RSC."



Doeko Bosscher:

"The RSC occupies the center of American Studies in the Netherlands."



Manfred Berg:

"Over the past 25 years the RSC has become a vibrant research center and a hospitable meeting place for European and American scholars interested in the history and culture of the United States."



Serge Ricard:

"I greatly appreciate how the RSC continues to be a beacon and a rallying point for a great many scholars in Europe."



George R.J. van Heukelom



Rein Jan Hoekstra

The RSC Board of Trustees supervises the RSC



Jan G.F. Veldhuis

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Board of Trustees



Herman Balthazar



Buford Alexander



Kees J. Storm

Members of the Board of Trustees are George R.J. van Heukelom (president), Rein Jan Hoekstra (secretary), Jan G.F. Veldhuis (treasurer), Herman Balthazar, and Kees J. Storm. Buford Alexander attends the meetings as an advisor to the Board of Trustees.

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From *Theodore* to **Barack**

The rich archival collections and thousands of books in the library are the backbone/treasure trove for researching American history in the 20th century. Since the first acquisition of the Theodore Roosevelt Papers, the RSC is continuously adding to its research archives covering all the presidents from Theodore Roosevelt through to Jimmy Carter. Additional holdings include special collections on Civil Rights, Eleanor Roosevelt, the Vietnam War, and the U.S. media. In the past quarter century, the RSC attracted 10,000 research visitors from all over Europe to Middelburg.

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The Fulbright Archive

In 2007 the Fulbright Center in Amsterdam donated its records to the RSC to make them available for researchers interested in the importance of cultural diplomacy for Dutch-American relations. The collection consists of more than 250 boxes and provides an almost complete record of the participants, goals, and ideals of the Fulbright Program over the past 60 years. Begun in 1946, the Fulbright Program continues to facilitate the exchange of thousands of students, teachers, and scholars to and from the United States every year. The brainchild of Senator J. William Fulbright, this unique venture into cultural diplomacy has strengthened international social and cultural relations and has contributed to educational advancement all around the globe.



“It has been a very positive experience working with the RSC. I found it enjoyable to meet up with other researchers specialized in the United States, and the contacts I made there have been valuable for me. The source materials in the library are absolutely unique!”

Former RSC Ph.D. candidate Kim van der Wijngaart, who received her doctorate from Utrecht University on September 16, 2011, for her book *Bondgenootschap onder spanning*.

Theodore Roosevelt American History Awards



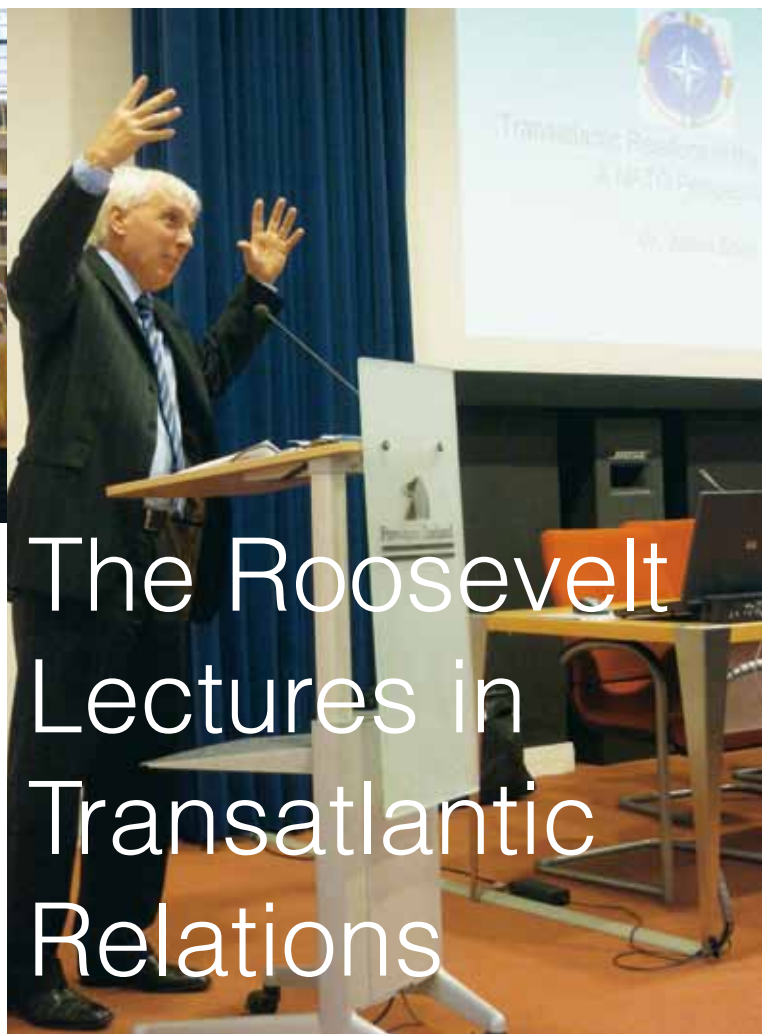
The jury and winners of the 2011 TRAHA (from left to right): Professor Adam Fairclough of Leiden University, Dr. Jaap Kooijman of Amsterdam University, Geert Bullens (winner 2011), Maarten van Gageldonk (winner 2010), and Caspar Mulders (second prize 2011).

The RSC annually organizes the Theodore Roosevelt American History Awards to recognize the three best Masters theses in American history written by Dutch graduate students. This award stimulates the study of United States history and culture in the Netherlands and encourages students to use the RSC's archival resources. In its 25 year existence, Dutch universities have nominated a total of 173 theses for the award. The first prize is a trip to the "Roosevelt sites" in New York State: Theodore Roosevelt's birthplace in New York City and his house "Sagamore Hill" in Oyster Bay, Long Island, as well as the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library and Museum and Eleanor Roosevelt's house "Val-Kill" in Hyde Park, New York.



"Winning the prestigious Theodore Roosevelt American History Award 2010 came as a complete surprise to me. My thesis on Aspen Magazine was written from the heart. That this year-long effort was in the end rewarded with a TRAHA was more than I could have imagined. The trip to New York State that came with the prize will also remain in my memory forever, as it was a delightful way to explore the Rooseveltian sites in American history."

Maarten van Gageldonk TRAHA winner 2010



The Roosevelt Lectures in Transatlantic Relations

As part of its purpose to engage with public debates and topical issues, in 2005 the RSC initiated a lecture series devoted to topics of contemporary interest in the transatlantic relationship. Twice a year prominent speakers are invited to deliver a lecture on an issue related to their expertise, and the series has so far ranged from the war in Afghanistan to dealing with the financial crisis and relations with the Russians. In October 2010 Dr. Jamie Shea, NATO's Assistant Secretary General for Emerging Security Challenges (pictured right), delivered the 9th lecture to a packed auditorium in Middelburg's Abbey.

The Abbey: A Meeting Point for Academics

Since the RSC opened to the public in September 1986 with an inaugural symposium featuring, among others, Pulitzer Prize winners Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr. and TR biographer Edmund Morris, numerous conferences, seminars and lectures have been held attracting thousands of scholars from Europe, the United States, and other parts of the world. To organize these events the RSC has regularly teamed up with Dutch universities and partner organizations such as the Atlantic Association, NASA, NATO, NIOD, U.S. Embassy, Zeeuws Archief and Zeeuwse Bibliotheek

"The conference was a very stimulating experience—brilliant papers, excellent food, really good music and splendid company!"

Matthias Reiss, University of Exeter, U.K. participant of the Conference "The U.S. South and Europe," April 2011.



Linking Students and Scholars



The RSC functions as the headquarters of the Netherlands American Studies Association (NASA). Since its founding in 1977 the NASA has fulfilled an important role in bringing students and scholars together through its newsletter, its website, and its regular seminars and conferences.

NASA president Marietta Messmer (University of Groningen) considers the RSC an indispensable pillar for the American Studies community: "With its outstanding level of expertise in U.S. foreign policy and Dutch/European-American relations, the RSC constitutes one of the preeminent European research centers in the field of transatlantic American studies. The RSC plays a central role in the life of the Netherlands American Studies Association as a congenial host of many of NASA's numerous national and international conferences."

"The NASA offers me the opportunity to be part of the academic American Studies community."

Marius Verhage, student Radboud University Nijmegen

"I like visiting the lectures and conferences of the RSC and the NASA. They provide me with a good sense of the latest research in American Studies."

Iris Wissenburg, former student Utrecht University



NL USA 400

Since Henry Hudson encountered Manhattan island in 1609, the peoples of the Netherlands and North America have built a multi-layered, lasting relationship. To celebrate the 400th anniversary of this rich history, over a period of three years the RSC pursued a unique research project to produce *Four Centuries of Dutch-American Relations, 1609-2009*. A compendium of essays written by almost one hundred Dutch and American scholars, it is the first book to offer a comprehensive history of this bilateral relationship. Close to 1,200-pages long, this illustrated volume has gathered together the latest perspectives on the political, economic, social, and cultural dimensions to the U.S.-Dutch narrative. From the first exploratory contacts in the early 17th century to the intense and multifaceted exchanges in the early 21st, these ongoing linkages have contributed greatly towards the interdependence of the larger transatlantic world.



Het Royal Highness Princess Margriet of The Netherlands and FDR's great-grandson Scott Michael Roosevelt were presented with the first copies of the newly published book in 2009.

HOTEL

A Warm Welcome for Guests

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For many years Marleen Roozen at the Prinsenjagt Hotel has welcomed scholars from Europe and the U.S. during their attendance at conferences and seminars in the Abbey. "The RSC offers us a measure of security because also outside the high season they regularly reserve rooms or even the entire hotel for a large conference. I find it important that my guests like it here, feel at home and see something of our beautiful surroundings. Once, I even lent out my own bike!"



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The U.S. Ambassador

The U.S. Embassy in The Hague gladly assists the academic and cultural programs organized by the RSC. These activities are indispensable for a critical assessment of American society and a balanced long-term perspective on bilateral relations.

"I congratulate the Roosevelt Study Center on its 25th anniversary. Through the past 25 years we have enjoyed a close and cooperative relationship. We have long admired the kind of work they do in building bridges and increasing mutual understanding between the Netherlands and the United States."

Ambassador Fay Hartog Levin

Master Programs in Zeeland

During the last two years Ed d'Hondt has been instrumental in creating and implementing a new plan for the educational infrastructure of Zeeland to meet the challenge of a declining and aging population in the years ahead. Based on the report *Kerend Tij*, produced at the request of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, Ed d'Hondt has recommended that the Roosevelt Study Center, Roosevelt Academy, and Hogeschool Zeeland pursue a number of Masters programs to provide "excellent academic education and research." In D'Hondt's view, "Employees of companies who decide to settle in Zeeland want good educational opportunities for their children."



"The RSC research area of transatlantic relations offers a bridge between the United States and the Netherlands. This specialization is unique in the Dutch American Studies programs."

"I notice that many people are still unaware of the RSC but those who are familiar with this unique and very attractive research institute highly appreciate its activities and achievements."

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H O B O S I G N S A N D R A I L R O A D L I N E S



On the occasion of the RSC's 25th anniversary the Zeeland-based blues and roots band Champagne Charlie has released a new album, *Hobo Signs & Railroad Lines*. This new CD tells the tough life stories of the hoboes who traveled around the United States in freight trains looking for a temporary job in order to survive hard times.



The hoboes developed their own symbols in order to share important information with each other.





The Bonds between Leiden and Middelburg

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“American History is of vital importance to Leiden University. We hold the Sackler Chair of American History, but we need the RSC for its important collections. Without the RSC there is no vibrant infrastructure for the study of American history in the Netherlands”

Professor Wim van den Doel, Dean, Faculty of Humanities, Leiden University

From the 1980s onwards the RSC has a natural bond with Leiden University. Leiden students use the RSC library for research and participate in the Ph.D. seminars and conferences. The RSC director and assistant director both received their doctorate from this university. Furthermore, the two institutes conducted a successful joint Ph.D. research project on Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr., and currently the RSC has a teaching presence at Leiden in Professor Giles Scott-Smith’s Ernst van der Beugel Chair in the Diplomatic History of Atlantic Cooperation since WW II.

Graduate student Sanne Goossens from Radboud University Nijmegen worked for three months as an intern at the RSC. She reflects: “It has been valuable for my academic as well as my future professional career. I have been able to apply my skills from my American Studies education. I had a wonderful time. Additionally, it was enriching to get to know a number of authorities in the field of American Studies in person. They have fine-tuned my perceptions of my area of studies.”

Her Middelburg experience stimulated her to move even deeper into American politics, economics, and transatlantic relations. She managed to acquire an internship at the Dutch Consulate General in New York, where she is working at the Economic Department to assist Dutch companies entering the American market, to promote primary Dutch economic sectors (such as sustainable energy, climate, water management), and support Dutch procurement at the United Nations. The former New York Consul General, Gajus Scheltema, recently published a book on *Exploring Historic Dutch New York*, with contributions from the RSC.

From Middelburg to New York

CONSULAAT-GENERAAL
DER
NEDERLANDEN

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A Strong Network



VU University Amsterdam



Amsterdam University



Utrecht University



Groningen University



Leiden University



Roosevelt Study Center



Roosevelt Academy



Radboud University



Cambridge University



Plymouth University



Sorbonne Nouvelle Paris



Ghent University



Heidelberg University

Sharing Knowledge

As an essential part of their work, Dr. Hans Krabbendam, Professor Cornelis van Minnen, and Professor Giles Scott-Smith reach out to students in Middelburg, Ghent, and Leiden to offer a variety of courses in U.S. History and International Relations. These links are often strengthened by students coming to the RSC library to conduct their own research.

The RSC runs both national and international Ph.D. seminars. A group of 10 Ph.D. students in American History and American Studies working in the Netherlands meets quarterly at the RSC to discuss the progress of their work and share new insights with visiting scholars. Alongside this, every two years the RSC organizes an international seminar which mixes this group with students from Cambridge, Paris, and Heidelberg.



Middelburg high school students from CS Walcheren visit the RSC in June 2011 for a seminar on emigration to the United States, which the RSC organized together with the Zeeuws Archief.

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An *Inspiring* Environment

One of the principle roles of the RSC over the past 25 years has been to stimulate and facilitate the study of U.S. history and Dutch-American relations within the Netherlands. This has been done at all levels, from running projects at local secondary schools to creating Chairs at national universities. As part of this process, in 2006 the Fulbright-Dow Distinguished Research Chair was established at the RSC to provide visiting U.S. scholars with the opportunity to spend up to four months at the Center to complete a specific research project. The Chair came about thanks to generous support from Dow Benelux B.V., the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the Fulbright Scholars Program. The position is awarded to two U.S. scholars per year on a competitive basis.

Professor David Woolner held the Fulbright-Dow Chair at the RSC during the fall of 2010. He is Senior Fellow and Resident Hyde Park Historian at the Roosevelt Institute, New York, and Associate Professor of History at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, New York.

"The RSC has three essential characteristics. Firstly, its unique role as a research institute in U.S. history, with its library, archive, and ideal working environment for a visiting scholar. Secondly, its location in Zeeland is perfect for its proximity to major universities across the Benelux, Britain, France and Germany. Thirdly, it plays a vital role as a center of activities and meeting point within European and transatlantic academic networks. There are few institutions in the world that can deliver all three. For me personally my time at the RSC was extremely productive, and I benefitted greatly from the rich resources, the opportunity to fulfill various projects, and the dedication to scholarship of the RSC staff. I look forward to maintaining my relations with the Center in the future."

24 RSC
Fulbright-Dow
Professors
2006-2011



Richard Horwitz



Hamilton Cravens



Gail Levin



Bruce Kuklick



Gerard Magliocca



Gale Mattox



Dan Carter



James Bratt



David Woolner



Henk Aay



Corwin Smidt

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The Roosevelt Legacy in Zeeland



Franklin Roosevelt's wife Eleanor Roosevelt was called First Lady of the World. She was instrumental in guiding the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to be adopted by the United Nations in 1948.

Human rights and international scholarship go hand in hand in Middelburg. The impressive list of world citizens who came to Middelburg's Abbey to receive a Roosevelt Four Freedoms Award, the numerous scholars who came to participate in an RSC conference or research project, and the hundreds of students who graduated from Roosevelt Academy in the last decade—all have contributed to putting Middelburg on the map as "Roosevelt City." The RSC works together with the Roosevelt Stichting to support the organization of the Four Freedoms Awards and with Roosevelt Academy in support of its educational programs. Together these three organizations contribute to keeping alive the Roosevelt legacy.



When Nelson Mandela received the Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms Medal and visited the Roosevelt Study Center on June 8, 2002, he autographed a Dutch copy of his autobiography.



Colophon

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Editorial Committee: Simone Janssen, Leontien Joosse, Hans Krabbendam, Iris Laboyrie, Cornelis van Minnen, and Giles Scott-Smith.

This magazine has been produced in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Roosevelt Study Center in Middelburg on September 19-20, 2011.



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