

The ROOSEVELT HERALD



The staff welcomes you to the RSC.

2013 has been an exciting year for the RSC LOOKING BACK, LOOKING AHEAD

In 2013 we were able to welcome new members of the Board of Trustees and of the International Advisory Board as well as a new Fulbright scholar for the fall semester. We further continued our cooperation with Middelburg's University College Roosevelt and the partners of LeidenGlobal. We welcomed student group visits from Zeeland high schools and Dutch and Belgian universities and offered lectures, PhD seminars and several first-rate international conferences, not only at the RSC but also in Leiden, Ghent, Oslo and The Hague. A new book was published on *The U.S. South and Europe* and a new Champagne Charlie CD with a tribute to Woody Guthrie was released. We added new collections to our holdings and, of course, also in 2013 the Theodore Roosevelt American History Award was presented to an outstanding master thesis. You can read about this and much more in this issue of *The Roosevelt Herald*. Our activities in 2014 will include American student visits, an international PhD seminar, and a 70th anniversary conference on Bretton Woods. Join us for these activities and visit our webpage for regular updates.

New Members

RSC BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD

In 2013 new members were appointed to the Board of Trustees and the International Advisory Board. Current members of the Board of Trustees are: George R.J. van Heukelom (president), Kees J. Storm (treasurer and secretary), Buford Alexander, Arendo Joustra, and Renée Jones-Bos. The current members of the International Advisory Board are: Professor Adam Fairclough (Leiden), Dr. Andrew Preston (Cambridge), Professor Manfred Berg (Heidelberg), and Professor James Cohen (Paris).

For more information about the RSC board members visit the website: www.roosevelt.nl/about_rsc

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INTERVIEW WITH PROFESSOR LARRY GRIFFIN



Professor Larry J. Griffin at the RSC.

Dr. Larry J. Griffin is CLASS Research Professor and Director of American Studies at Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, Georgia. He is also the 2013 Fulbright Distinguished Research Chair at the RSC.

What are your current research interests?

My current research focuses on American national identity in comparative perspective. I compare former British colonies, the United States, Canada, Australia and South Africa, to European nations. One of the central questions within this research is who are “we” and who do “we” permit to become part of “us.” Additionally, it is interesting to study the moral issues behind these questions. For example: who decides on these issues and why do we allow them to? What do we do with this? I try to find answers to these public policy and public morality questions of inclusiveness on the basis of descriptive criteria such as religion, ancestry and speaking the language of a certain country.

How does this relate to previous research?

I am very much interested in studying notions of equality, inclusion and acceptance. In the past I have done this in various fields such as class, gender and ethnicity. Therefore, the field of inclusion/exclusion in relation to identity is certainly familiar territory for me. A concrete example of the importance of understanding these notions of inclusion/exclusion, is the position of U.S. president Barack Obama. There is a large group of Americans that still believe he is Muslim, or see him as an African-American rather than an American. This is also visible in the increasing partisanship between the Democrats and the Republicans. In recent U.S. history, there was no president that faced more opposition in being able to efficiently govern the country than Obama. I believe this is at least partly due to his perceived identity.

Why did you specifically choose to come to the Netherlands?

A couple of years ago I attributed to a conference at the Roosevelt Study Center in Middelburg. There I met some interesting people

with whom I kept in touch with over the years. Moreover, I noticed that there is a deep commitment to studying American Studies here in the Netherlands. During my time here, I am also planning to travel to Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg for my research project but I’m glad the RSC serves as my European base.

UCR - RSC SUMMER ACADEMIC INTERNSHIP

In June 2013, two students of University College Roosevelt, Monique Kil and Jennifer Pistor, joined the RSC staff to take part in the first UCR – RSC Summer Academic Internship Program. The interns have been engaged in an indepth study of Eleanor Roosevelt’s 1950s radio programs. The topics that Eleanor Roosevelt discussed with her guests range from women’s life conditions to civil rights, from literature to education, from housekeeping to nuclear physics and foreign policy.

After a preliminary selection of the casestudies, the students’ research work has culminated in the transcription of two complete episodes, in the writing of a final paper, and in the presentation of the research results in two different RSC academic events. Under the guidance of UCR Professor Anya Luscombe and the advice of the RSC staff, Monique and Jennifer have placed these sources into the more general framework of 1950s America and tried to shed new light on the way in which these programs depicted both the image of women and the role of the United Nations at that time.

LEIDENGLOBAL



Logo LeidenGlobal with the partners.

On November 27, 2013, LeidenGlobal was launched

LeidenGlobal was launched to the public at a well-attended festive opening in Leiden's Museum of Ethnology with Harvard's Professor Michael Ignatieff as keynote speaker, dynamic roundtable debates with LeidenGlobal experts, public intellectuals, writers and business people, and good food and background music.

LeidenGlobal is a cooperation of Leiden University, the African Studies Center, the International Institute for Asian Studies, the Royal Institute for Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies, the Netherlands Institute for the Near East, the National Museum of Ethnology, the National Museum of Antiquities, and the Roosevelt Study Center. The partner institutions are in the process of developing a program of research, teaching, and public events and aim to connect with local communities, media, government, business, and NGOs. They want to raise the impact of scholarship across the board, from cultural events and public debate to government policy and education, and they work on themes ranging from ancient trade networks to new religions, and from human rights to temple art.

For more information about LeidenGlobal visit the website:
www.leidenglobal.org.

In the series Transatlantic Lectures the RSC in 2013 featured two lectures



Russel Shorto at the RSC.

On September 11, exactly 12 years after the catastrophic terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York, Dutch author and art historian Wim de Wagt delivered a lecture on the traumatic attack in New York and the discussions about the rebuilding of the World Trade Center. In his view, the activities and strong involvement of architects in their reactions to 9/11, display a stark contrast with the silence of artists on this topic. The lecture by Wim de Wagt was based on his new book *De kunst van het herinneren* (The Art of Remembrance).

On October 17, historian, journalist and writer of "narrative history", Russell Shorto, gave a lecture titled: "An American in Amsterdam: A Historical View of the World's Most Liberal City." This is also the title of his most recent book. Shorto, until recently director of the John Adams Institute in Amsterdam and a regular contributor to the *New York Times Magazine*, is known for his bestseller *The Island at the Center of the World: The Epic Story of Dutch Manhattan and the Forgotten Colony that Shaped America* (2005). In his lecture Shorto shared his views on Amsterdam and its history from an American perspective and explained to the audience that he considers himself an American interpreter of the Dutch legacy in the United States, which at the same time gives him the position to provide the Dutch with a mirror.

Champagne Charlie



America Through The Eyes Of Woody
The Crooked Corner Sessions

A Tribute to Woody Guthrie

On November 20, 2013, in an auditorium that was filled to capacity, the RSC paid a tribute to legendary American singer-songwriter and folk musician Woody Guthrie (1912-1967). Many of Woody Guthrie's songs are about his experiences during the Great Depression of the 1930s and World War II. As a balladeer of the Roosevelt era he influenced many later musicians, from Bob Dylan to Bruce Springsteen.

The tribute to Woody Guthrie started with a lecture entitled "Woody Guthrie: Hard Times and Hard Travelin'" by Will Kaufman, Professor of American Literature and Culture at the University of Central Lancashire, England, and the author of *Woody Guthrie: American Radical* (2011).

The lecture was followed by the presentation of Champagne Charlie's new CD, *America Through the Eyes of Woody: The Crooked Corner Sessions*. This CD marks the 25th anniversary of the talented Zeeland blues and roots band Champagne Charlie and includes such classics as "Dust Bowl Blues," "Hard Travelin'," "Billy The Kid," "Pretty Boy Floyd," and "This Land is Your Land." *America Through the Eyes of Woody* is the third CD on Roosevelt's America Champagne Charlie has produced in cooperation with the RSC. The previous two CD's are *Waitin' on Roosevelt* (2008) and *Hobo Signs & Railroad Lines* (2011). Copies of the CD's can be ordered at www.champagnecharlie.nl.

NEW PUBLICATION RSC

THE U.S. SOUTH AND EUROPE

TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONS
IN THE NINETEENTH AND
TWENTIETH CENTURIES

Edited by Cornelis A. van Minnen and Manfred Berg

In November 2013, a new book, entitled *The U.S. South and Europe: Transatlantic Relations in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries*, and edited by RSC Director Cornelis A. van Minnen and Heidelberg University Professor Manfred Berg, was published by the University Press of Kentucky in its series *New Directions in Southern History*.

This volume offers contributions from leading scholars based in the U.S. and Europe that interpret a number of political, cultural, and religious aspects of the transatlantic relationship from an international perspective and includes such key themes in southern history as race relations, religion, the Civil War, and violence.

International PhD Seminar

Since 2003 the RSC serves as the host institution for a biennial PhD seminar for PhD students from the universities of Cambridge, Paris (Sorbonne Nouvelle), Heidelberg, and Leiden. This successful PhD seminar is based upon a close cooperation between the RSC and the members of its international advisory board who serve as faculty at these universities.

At the seminar of April 3-5, 2013, nine invited PhD students presented their work to peers from the other universities, received feedback, and used the occasion to build their international network of contacts. Each participant had submitted in advance a 15-page paper on an aspect of his/her research topic and in a 20-minute presentation contextualized that paper within the PhD project which was followed by a group discussion. Among the participants were the RSC staff and Professors James Cohen (Paris) and Manfred Berg (Heidelberg).



The PhD seminar group of April 2013.



HUMAN RIGHTS

65th Anniversary Universal Declaration of Human Rights

On December 10, 1948, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. As chair of the UN Commission on Human Rights, Eleanor Roosevelt was instrumental in the drafting process of this landmark UN document. To celebrate the 65th anniversary of the UDHR and assess the relevance of human rights in today's world, RSC Director Cornelis van Minnen organized a special meeting with first-rate speakers on December 10, 2013, in The Hague's Sociëteit De Witte. The meeting was co-sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Province of Zeeland.

The event was opened with a warm word of welcome by Professor van Minnen and a short video documentary on Eleanor Roosevelt and the adoption of the UDHR by the UN. Subsequently, Professor Kees Flinterman (Universities of Utrecht and Maastricht and member of the United Nations Human Rights Committee) spoke on "The Significance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Past and Present" and elaborated on the position of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in our society. He concluded by wishing it was December 10 every day, meaning he believed Human Rights should have a more prominent position in everyday life. Professor Beatrice de Graaf (Leiden University-Campus The Hague) examined the topic "Human Rights and Security Policy: A Tense Relationship." She did this on the basis of two theoretical approaches: the Hobbesian approach and the

Human Rights approach. These approaches served as a framework to consider the relationship between liberty and security. Renée Jones-Bos, Secretary General of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, explained "Human Rights as Cornerstone of Dutch Foreign Policy." Jones-Bos took a closer look at this statement and analyzed whether the Dutch government "practices what it preaches." She illustrated this by providing hopeful examples of the inclusion of certain groups worldwide, such as the LGBT community in Senegal. Commentators were Professors Henk Schulte Nordholt, Jan Abbink, and Pralay Kanungo, who represented the Royal Institute for Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies, the African Studies Center, and the International Institute for Asian Studies, respectively, with whom the RSC cooperates in the new organization LeidenGlobal. This was followed by a lively general discussion with the audience. Finally, Professor Barbara Oomen, Dean of Middelburg's University College Roosevelt, presented her new book, *Rights for Others: The Slow Home-Coming of Human Rights in the Netherlands* (Cambridge University Press, 2013). A reception concluded the event which was attended by 120 people, including representatives of human rights groups, Members of Parliament, students and scholars of international relations.



The speakers at the December 10 meeting.

Giles Scott-Smith new Chair of TSA



At its 12th annual conference at Northumbria University in July 2013, RSC's senior researcher Giles Scott-Smith was appointed the new Chair of the Transatlantic Studies Association. The Association has existed since 2002 and is a major meeting point for European and North American scholars of the transatlantic relationship. The 2014 annual conference will be hosted by Ghent University and in 2015 by the Roosevelt Study Center.

NEW IN OUR COLLECTION

Six Dutch-American weeklies that appeared in the U.S. in the Dutch language are now digitally accessible thanks to the RSC's cooperation with the Dutch Royal Library. The 85.000 Dutch-language pages represent a variety of periods, regions and audiences, documenting the lives of Dutch immigrants in the United States.



The RSC acquired the "Prospects of Mankind with Eleanor Roosevelt" DVD collection. The 29 DVDs contain the roundtable TV discussions that the former first lady hosted between 1959 and 1962. The programs focus on many issues covering both domestic and international affairs, ranging from capitalism, democracy, disarmament, foreign policy, and the status of women.

The National Security Files (1953-1961) from the Dwight D. Eisenhower administration provide an excellent overview of the U.S. government's world-view during the Cold War. This collection scrutinizes U.S.-U.S.S.R. relations in every field and provide insight into the external development of the U.S. as a world power as well as the internal development of government agencies such as NASA.

HIGH SCHOOLS BENEFIT FROM RSC

RSC staff have lectured regularly to regional high schools on the topic of the national history exam. This year the national history exams covered U.S. history from Civil War to Civil Rights. RSC staff members Dario Fazzi and Hans Krabbendam traveled to the Ostrea high school in Goes to explain to students how the various parts of the exam fit together and highlighted the civil rights struggle of the Roosevelt era. The exam candidates of the CSW in Middelburg

had a hands-on experience using primary sources at the RSC itself. RSC staff also advised students how to write a history thesis, for instance on the economic costs of building American railroads, and on the effects of Franklin Roosevelt's rhetoric.

*Also interested in a collaboration with the RSC?
Please contact us at: rsc@zeeland.nl.*



Students of Zeeland high schools at the RSC with Dr. Hans Krabbendam.

TRAHA WINNER 2013



Lisanne Walma with a bust of Theodore Roosevelt and RSC Director Cornelis van Minnen.

Lisanne Walma won the Theodore Roosevelt Award and a Roosevelt Trip to New York

Every year the RSC presents the Theodore Roosevelt American History Award (TRAHA) for the best Master thesis written by a Dutch graduate student on an American history topic. Sponsored by the New York-based Theodore Roosevelt Association and designed to stimulate the study of United States history and culture at Dutch universities, the award also encourages students to use the unique RSC archival resources.

On April 12, the TRAHA 2013 was awarded to Lisanne Walma, a graduate student of the University of Utrecht's American Studies program, for her thesis "The Good, the Bad, and the Forgotten: U.S. Veterans and the Mall Memorial Movement." She won a trip to a number of Roosevelt sites in New York State. These included 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. Lisanne Walma also received a bust of Theodore Roosevelt. In the report on her New York trip, she wrote, "One of the things I take away from this wonderful trip is the versatility of the Roosevelts and what made a big impression on me was the beautiful scenery both families build their homes in, and the love of the people that told me about their history."

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND CONFERENCES



Organizers and keynote speakers at the Rhetoric Conference.

In autumn 2013 three major conferences were held which involved the RSC as a co-organizer with international partners. In September Giles Scott-Smith organized the "Reframing Diplomacy" conference at the Institute of History in Leiden, which brought together fifty scholars from fourteen nations to discuss the state of diplomatic history and new topics and methods of research in the field. This inaugural event brought together for the first time the members of the New Diplomatic History Network, established in 2012, and it will be followed up with a second conference in 2015. A selection of papers on "private diplomacy" from the conference will appear as a special issue of the journal *New Global Studies*.

In November "Selling America in an Age of Uncertainty: US Public Diplomacy in the 1970s" gathered a select group of scholars together at the Nobel Institute in Oslo for two days to consider the negative image of America in the post-Vietnam, oil crisis-ridden 1970s, and what efforts were made to improve it. The 1970s have been in vogue recently as historians turn to re-interpreting

the events of that decade, but as yet no one has considered the impact they had on America's image abroad. This event was a collaboration between the RSC's Giles Scott-Smith, the University of South Carolina's David Snyder, and the University of Oslo's Hallvard Notaker, who will collectively edit the papers for publication. The Oslo event was preceded by a public event at the Fritt Ord Foundation on "digital diplomacy."

Soon after Oslo, the conference "Weapons of Mass Seduction: Rhetoric and Political Discourse in the United States" was run as a joint operation by the RSC, University College Roosevelt, and the University of Ghent. This involved fifty scholars presenting papers on classical, historical, and theoretical themes, and the conference was spread over four days – the first two held at the RSC in Middelburg, and the second two at Ghent University's conference center, Het Pand. This was a very successful example of cross-border cooperation between the institutions in Zeeland and Flanders, and the intention is to find ways to build on this initiative with further events in the future.



UPCOMING 2014



American Student Visits

January and May

Over the years the RSC has welcomed many students from all over Europe. In 2014, the RSC will host some student groups from the United States. In March, Calvin College students from Holland, Michigan, and in May students from Roosevelt University in Chicago will visit the RSC as part of their European educational program. They will use the RSC research materials.

Bretton Woods Conference

September 17-19

The RSC will hold an international conference to mark the ongoing significance of the Bretton Woods conference of 1944. This event is part of the collaboration with the Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy at SOAS, London, on the "UN at 70" project. The keynote speaker will be Professor Eric Helleiner, author of *The Forgotten Foundations of Bretton Woods*.

International PhD Seminar

September 10-12

To broaden its academic network and accomplish its educational mission, the RSC launches a new program for PhD students in U.S. history, in cooperation with several top-tier universities in Europe, including the London School of Economics, the JFK Institute of the Freie Universität in Berlin, the Institut d'Etudes Politiques in Paris, and the Geneva Graduate Institute.

FACEBOOK



In addition to the website, the RSC is also active on Facebook with its own Facebook page. The page shows our activities, updates and short news items. Also, there are more photos of the activities and the beautiful historic location of the RSC. Do you want to stay in touch? Please take a look and click the "like" button to follow the RSC.

NEWSLETTER

We also have a digital newsletter. If you want to receive our digital newsletter please fill out your e-mailadress on our website in the section "Join our Newsletter."

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