

# the Roosevelt review




This year Henry Hudson's remarkable discovery of Manhattan in 1609 was commemorated on both sides of the Atlantic. At the Roosevelt Study Center a comprehensive 1200-page book, *Four Centuries of Dutch-American Relations*, was realized. Left, the American edition and right, the edition as published in the Netherlands.

## Four Centuries of Bilateral Exchanges

When Henry Hudson sailed his *Halve Maen* northwards up the river which would later be named for him, he could not have predicted that the Netherlands and the United States would be celebrating their very special bond four hundred years later. Not only did the Netherlands give the young United States moral and financial support during the Revolutionary War, two centuries later the United States was instrumental in liberating the Netherlands during World War II. The Netherlands also gave the U.S. three presidents, Martin van Buren, Theodore Roosevelt and Franklin Roosevelt, and an immensely influential first lady, Eleanor. All this and much more is covered in the newly published book *Four Centuries of Dutch-American Relations*, written by 94 scholars and edited and coordinated by three RSC staff members. The book was an ambitious undertaking and the festivities surrounding its release equally so. First came the official presentation of the book to Her Royal Highness Princess Margriet of the Netherlands in Middelburg, and then to U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in New York. This was followed by book presentations at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and the Library of Congress, both in Washington DC, at the FDR Presidential Library in Hyde Park, N.Y., at Hope College, Michigan and at Columbia University in New York. The celebrations culminated with a two-day conference in Amsterdam with the book's title as its theme.

In fact, the RSC itself embodies the spirit of cooperation, the shared interests, mutual respect and exchange of ideas between the Dutch and American people and governments. This year the RSC was happy to welcome to its staff Senior Visiting Research Professor Leon Gordenker of Princeton University, as well as two Fulbright-Dow Distinguished Research Chairs, Professor Gale Mattox of the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland and Professor Emeritus Dan Carter of the University of South Carolina. The RSC was also proud of the appointment of its own senior staff member Giles Scott-Smith to a professorship at Leiden University in the Ernst H. van der Beugel Chair for Diplomatic History of Atlantic Cooperation.

While the task of the RSC as a historical institute is to examine the past, the RSC also looks forward as it seeks to nurture a new generation of historians through the Theodore Roosevelt American History Awards, the RSC Grants program and the International Ph.D. Seminar. By encouraging young scholars and helping them to realize creative research and by stimulating their participation in academic conferences, the RSC is fulfilling one of its core goals. As Scott Michael Roosevelt said, quoting his great-grandfather FDR's first inaugural address, "Happiness lies not in the mere possession of money; it lies in the joy of achievement and the thrill of creative effort." 

Newsletter of  
the Roosevelt  
Study Center

2009



# A Word About the Roosevelt Study Center

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*The RSC is housed in Middelburg's medieval Abbey in the Province of Zeeland, the Netherlands.*

The Roosevelt Study Center (RSC) is a research institute and conference center for modern American history and European-American relations. It is named after three famous Americans: President Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919), President Franklin D. Roosevelt (1882-1945), and Eleanor Roosevelt (1884-1962), who trace their roots to the Dutch Province of Zeeland from where their common ancestor left for the New World in the mid-seventeenth century.


The RSC is affiliated with the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences and is a founding member of the American Studies Network, a cooperation of some twenty American Studies centers in Europe. In developing its activities and building its collections, the RSC is supported by the Provincial Government of Zeeland, the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute at Hyde Park, New York, the Theodore Roosevelt Association in Oyster Bay, New York, and an Advisory Board of prominent European scholars.



*The RSC Advisory Board met on April 20, 2009. From left to right: Doeko Bosscher, Serge Ricard, Manfred Berg and Anthony J. Badger.*

The RSC offers European students and advanced scholars of American history:


- a research library with collections of historical documents and books on modern U.S. history not available anywhere else in Europe;
- a grants-in-aid program for European researchers;
- an annual prize for the best Dutch M.A. theses on American history topics;
- a program of international conferences and seminars on American history, U.S.-European relations, and the contemporary meaning of Franklin Roosevelt's Four Freedoms;
- conference rooms with audio-visual facilities;
- a publication series;
- an annual newsletter.

The RSC library may be used year round for research, but by appointment only. Please contact the secretariat in advance of your visit. Office and library hours: 9.30 to 12.30 and 13.30 to 16.30. Visiting address: Abdij 8, Middelburg. For information on the RSC holdings and activities, please visit our website: [www.roosevelt.nl](http://www.roosevelt.nl) or contact the RSC at tel. +31 (0)118-631590, fax +31 (0)118-631593, e-mail: [rsc@zeeland.nl](mailto:rsc@zeeland.nl). 

## Senior Visiting Research Professor



*Princeton University  
Professor of  
Politics Emeritus  
Leon Gordenker*

Professor Leon Gordenker has joined the RSC staff as Senior Visiting Research Professor for the period July 2009-July 2011. During this two-year period he will work on his long-term project, "Analysis of the United Nations and Other International Organizations." His activities will include the revision and second edition of his book, *The UN Secretary-General and Secretariat* (Routledge, 2005); work on a book entitled *De VN met Pensioen?* [The UN Retired?] in collaboration with Professor Peter R. Baehr; and a revision of his contribution to a new edition of *Rethinking International Organizations* (Berghahn, 2003). 

# Theodore Roosevelt American History Awards

Each year since 1987 the Theodore Roosevelt American History Awards are presented to the best theses on American history defended at Dutch universities. On Friday March 20th the first prize, a trip to the United States to visit the birthplaces of Theodore and Franklin D. Roosevelt and the FDR Presidential Library in Hyde Park, New York, was awarded to Albertine Bloemendal, who graduated from Radboud University in Nijmegen. She received the first prize in the Theodore Roosevelt American History Awards for her thesis “Abraham Kuyper’s Road to the White House. How Kuyperian Thought Came to Influence American Welfare Reform.”



*Albertine Bloemendal receiving the TRAHA's first prize from RSC Director Cornelis A. van Minnen.*


This year seven theses were submitted for consideration for the Theodore Roosevelt American History Awards. The jury comprised Jaap Kooijman (University of Amsterdam), Sabrina Otterloo (winner TRAHA 2008) and Professor Adam Fairclough (Leiden University).



*First prize-winner Albertine Bloemendal with Theodore Roosevelt look-alike at Sagamore Hill, TR's family home on Long Island, New York.*

The second prize (€250) went to Thomas Bos (University of Groningen) for his thesis, “The Retreat from Reform. Politics and Policy in the New Deal Era, 1933-1938.” The third prize (€125) was awarded to Roland Bruijn (VU University Amsterdam) for his thesis, “The Impact of John Hersey’s ‘Hiroshima’”. In addition, all three prize winners received a diploma, a Theodore Roosevelt medal and a book of essays written by Theodore Roosevelt.

Upon her return from her trip to the U.S., first prize winner Albertine Bloemendal wrote, “All in all I think I was most touched by the more personal stories about the Roosevelts that unfolded at all the different sites I visited....


I feel really excited to have been able to dive deeper into the lives and history of these fascinating characters, who are all inspiring in their own particular ways. Visiting these places so full of history was a huge blessing and a very enriching experience that I will carry with me the rest of my life.” 

## Professorship at Leiden University for RSC Senior Researcher Dr. Giles Scott-Smith



*Professor Giles Scott-Smith (right) with his wife Christine and some students at the reception after his Leiden University inaugural address.*

Dr. Giles Scott-Smith, senior researcher at the Roosevelt Study Center, has been appointed to the prestigious Ernst H. van der Beugel Chair for Diplomatic History of Atlantic Cooperation at the University of Leiden. Dr. Scott-Smith, who started his term in February 2009, will occupy this chair for the next five years. This special chair at Leiden’s History Department has been created by the Van den Berch van Heemstede Foundation and is named after the late Professor Ernst H. van der Beugel, an economist and diplomat. Among other positions, Professor van der Beugel served as CEO of KLM and State Secretary for European Affairs and also taught Post-World War II Diplomatic History of Atlantic Cooperation at Leiden between 1966 and 1984.

Giles Scott-Smith, was educated at the universities of Ulster, Sussex and Lancaster (UK) and has been affiliated with the RSC since 2002. 

# In Celebration of Four Hundred Years of



*Her Royal Highness Princess Margriet of the Netherlands (right) and FDR's great-grandson Scott Michael Roosevelt were presented with the first copies of the newly published book *Four Centuries of Dutch-American Relations* by RSC Director Cornelis A. van Minnen in Middelburg's Abbey.*

This September the monumental work entitled, *Four Centuries of Dutch-American Relations, 1609-2009*, edited by RSC staff members Hans Krabbendam, Cornelis A. van Minnen, and Giles Scott-Smith, has been published simultaneously by Boom in Amsterdam, and the State University of New York (SUNY) Press, Albany, New York.

The book was conceived three years ago by the RSC senior staff as part of the celebrations commemorating the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson's voyage aboard the Dutch East India Company's ship *De Halve Maen* and his discovery of Manhattan in 1609. Based on the most up-to-date research in the field, with contributions from 94 scholars, this 1200-page illustrated volume is now available on both sides of the Atlantic.

Sponsorship for the book has been provided by

Delta N.V. in Middelburg, The Netherlands; America Foundation in New York, the A.C. Van Raalte Institute of Hope College in Holland, Michigan, and the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs in The Hague.

## Official Presentation

The official presentation of *Four Centuries of Dutch-American Relations, 1609-2009* took place on September 2, in Middelburg's Abbey. RSC Director Cornelis van Minnen had the honor of presenting the first copy of the book to Her Royal Highness Princess Margriet of the Netherlands, who was President Franklin D. Roosevelt's godchild. Speeches were delivered by the Queen's Commissioner in the Province of Zeeland, Karla Peijs, the U.S. Ambassador to the Netherlands, Fay Hartog Levin, FDR's great-grandson Scott M. Roosevelt and Professor Jacques Thomassen of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences. The Netherlands Minister of Foreign Affairs, Maxime Verhagen, delivered a keynote address on Dutch transatlantic policy, and finally, Dutch poet laureate Ramsey Nasr read three sonnets he had written for this special occasion. The Zeeland blues band Champagne Charlie provided the music during and after the book presentation.

## The U.S. Presentations

Nine days later, on September 11, during a dinner upon the occasion of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms Award at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York, Minister Verhagen and RSC Director Van Minnen presented the new book to United States Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, who on that occasion received the 2009 FDR Four Freedoms Award for her lifetime of distinguished service and her unwavering commitment to promoting democratic ideals.

In the following months several more presentations occurred in the U.S., starting on



*The Netherlands Minister of Foreign Affairs Maxime Verhagen delivered the keynote address at the RSC on Dutch transatlantic policy.*



*Dutch poet laureate Ramsey Nasr read three sonnets he had especially written for the occasion of the book presentation at the RSC.*

# of Dutch American Relations 1609-2009




*At the book presentation at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC comments were made by both former U.S. Ambassador to the Netherlands L. Paul Bremer, III (far left) and current Netherlands Ambassador to the U.S. Renée Jones-Bos (left).*

September 18 at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC. As part of the presentation ceremony comments by former U.S. Ambassador to the Netherlands L. Paul Bremer, III and current Netherlands Ambassador to the U.S. Renée Jones-Bos were made. On September 21 the book was presented at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC and on September 25 at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library in Hyde Park, N.Y. On September 28 the book was presented at the Van Raalte Institute of Hope College in Holland, Michigan and in November at Columbia University in New York City and at the Peter Stuyvesant Ball of The Netherland-America Foundation.



*In Hyde Park, New York, at the FDR Presidential Library (left to right), Hans Krabbendam, Cornelis van Minnen, Hudson River Valley Institute Director James M. Johnson, Giles Scott-Smith and David Woolner, Director of the Roosevelt Institute.*

## Conference Four Centuries of Dutch-American Relations

Back in the Netherlands, on October 15-16 a major conference on the book was organized in Amsterdam in cooperation with the Netherlands American Studies Association (NASA), the VU University Amsterdam, the John Adams Institute and Erfgoed Nederland. The conference generated an interesting discussion on the meaning of Dutch-American relations in both the past and the future. 



*The Netherlands Minister for European Affairs and International Cultural Relations Frans Timmermans gave the opening speech at the Conference "Four Centuries of Dutch-American Relations" held in Amsterdam in October.*



*U.S. Ambassador Fay Hartog Levin (left) with RSC Director Cornelis van Minnen outside the Abbey in Middelburg.*



*As part of the book presentation at the RSC, Peter Joosse (left), former anchorman of the Zeeland television station, interviewed the three editors.*

# Fulbright-Dow Distinguished Research Chair



*Professor Gale Mattox, Fulbright-Dow Scholar, spring 2009.*




*Professor Dan T. Carter, Fulbright-Dow Scholar, fall 2009.*

Under the auspices of the Fulbright Scholar Program and co-sponsored by the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences and Dow Benelux, each year the Roosevelt Study Center offers two American scholars a four-month residential fellowship for advanced research in the area of twentieth-century American history or American studies (including political science, sociology, economics, law, and religious studies), preferably with an emphasis on American-European relations.

Professor Gale Mattox, a political scientist at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, was the Fulbright-Dow scholar at the Roosevelt Study Center from March through June 2009. In the four months at the RSC she worked on her book project, "The Strategic Transformation of Europe and the United States: New Security Paradigms." Next to her writing, Professor

Mattox participated as a guest speaker at several conferences and meetings in the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, and Finland.

From September through December 2009 Dan T. Carter, Professor Emeritus of the University of South Carolina at Columbia, filled the Fulbright-Dow Distinguished Research Chair. Professor Carter is an eminent historian of the U.S. South who served as President of the Southern Historical Association and on the Executive Board of the Organization of American Historians. His books have won several distinguished awards. At the Roosevelt Study Center, Professor Carter worked on his book project "From Secret Terrorist to Best-Selling Novelist: A Biography of Asa ("Forrest") Carter." Professor Carter gave guest lectures at the universities of Ghent, Leiden and Cambridge and participated in one of the Ph.D. seminars at the RSC. 

## RSC Lecture Series on Transatlantic Relations




*Professor Gale Mattox at the RSC discussing her views on Obama, NATO and Afghanistan with the audience.*

On April 15, 2009, approximately one hundred days after President Barack Obama's inauguration, Professor Gale A. Mattox of the U.S. Naval Academy gave a well-attended lecture on the topic, "Obama, NATO and Afghanistan."

After his inauguration in January 2009, the new president quickly addressed the numerous challenges that remained unresolved. He announced the complete withdrawal from Iraq by 2011, the closure of the prison in Guantanamo Bay, a new approach towards global warming and a new commitment to multilateralism.

Among Obama's priorities Mattox discussed the problem of the financial crisis at the G20 meeting in London, NATO enlargement, regional security, the relations to Russia, the cooperation with the European Union and, of course, the operation in Afghanistan.

To Professor Mattox it seems clear that in order to achieve a solution in Afghanistan the U.S. needed to reach out to regional powers such as Pakistan and Iran. One hundred days after the inauguration of President Obama, whose campaign was based on change, one thing had not changed: The common hope for change. 


# Zeeland Rediscovered America

In 1609 Henry Hudson sailed from Amsterdam in search of a northern passage to the Orient. Five months later he reached the coast of Manhattan. Soon after the first Dutch settlers arrived and a few years later they founded New Amsterdam, nowadays the world's most well-known metropolis, New York. This relationship between the Netherlands and America has left its traces on both sides of the Atlantic.

Most of the activities organized in this commemorative year took place in New York and Amsterdam. But Zeeland also has its own special relationship with the United States. The Province of Zeeland is after all the birthplace of the ancestors of presidents Theodore and Franklin and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt. The main goal of the "Zeeland Rediscovered America" project, which was coordinated by the RSC, was therefore to inform the people of Zeeland about the long-standing relationship between the Netherlands and the United States. To this end, between May and December 2009 several activities were arranged by a number of organizations in Zeeland. Among these activities were a



*The booklet published by the Roosevelt Study Center with "Walking Tours in Vlissingen, Middelburg and Veere passing American Points of Interest" is available at the website: [www.roosevelt.nl](http://www.roosevelt.nl).*

series of lectures in October, a booklet with walking tours which can be found on the RSC website, three exhibits at the Maritime Museum in Vlissingen, and "American Day" on July 11 in Vlissingen, sponsored by the Museum, the regional newspaper *PZC* and the RSC. 


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## Fourth International Ph.D. Seminar

On April 21-23, 2009 the RSC hosted its Fourth International Ph.D. Seminar. The objective of this series of biennial seminars for Ph.D. students in American history from the universities of Cambridge, Sorbonne Nouvelle, Heidelberg and from several universities in the Netherlands, is to offer students the opportunity to present their research project to their peers from other universities in a welcoming and stimulating environment. This year twelve students, the RSC senior staff, RSC Fulbright Professor Gale Mattox and Professor Emeritus Serge Ricard of the Sorbonne Nouvelle participated in the seminar.

Each speaker was allowed one hour for a presentation and discussion of his or her topic. Questions were raised on methodology, source materials and practical problems such as oral interviews and research grants. The Ph.D. students enjoyed the genuinely free exchange of ideas and appreciated each other's work and learned from each other's experiences. The projects discussed touched upon a wide variety of disciplines such as philosophy, film history, journalism, medical history, the Civil Rights Movement, environmental and religious history, and various aspects of U.S.-European relations.

For Dutch Ph.D. students in American history and American studies, the RSC organizes similar Ph.D. seminars a few times each year.

The next International Ph.D. Seminar will be offered in the spring of 2011. For information, please contact the RSC. 

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## The RSC Research Grants Program

Thanks to a generous contribution from the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute, the RSC is able to offer European students of American history a unique opportunity to do research in the attractive and pleasant ambiance of the RSC library, which holds numerous U.S. historical documents not available anywhere else in Europe. In 2009 nine Research Grants were awarded to researchers from four European countries. A list of names of researchers and the topic of their research can be found on the RSC website: [www.roosevelt.nl](http://www.roosevelt.nl).

European students seeking a masters or doctorate in American history as well as advanced scholars are invited to apply for the 2010 Research Grants. Application forms and relevant information on the RSC archival collections can be downloaded from the RSC website: [www.roosevelt.nl](http://www.roosevelt.nl). 

# Also Published in 2009

## Information

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For free copies and information on the Center's activities, please contact the Roosevelt Study Center, Abdij 8, P.O. Box 6001, 4330 LA Middelburg, the Netherlands, tel. +31 (0)118-631590, fax +31 (0)118-631593, rsc@zeeland.nl or visit our website on the Internet: www.roosevelt.nl



*Political Repression in U.S. History*, edited by Cornelis A. van Minnen and Sylvia L. Hilton (Amsterdam: VU University Press, 2009).

The essays in this volume, originally presented at the Eighth Middelburg Conference of

European Historians of the United States in April 2007, amass considerable historical evidence illustrating various forms of political repression from the late eighteenth century to the present and its relationship with democracy in the United States. The authors examine the justifications and multiple means of political repression and identify individuals and social groups that have been victims of repressive attitudes and policies because of their political ideology or opinions or because they represented diverse racial, ethnic and religious minorities. This volume makes an important contribution to the discussion concerning the paradox of the historical and ongoing existence of political repression in the United States, within a democracy which theoretically guarantees individual rights and freedoms based on equality under the law.

*The Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms Awards 2008* (Middelburg: Roosevelt Study Center, 2009). This is the twenty-third volume in the RSC Publications series, edited by Cornelis A. van Minnen. It contains the speeches delivered at the Four Freedoms Awards ceremony on May 24, 2008 by the representatives of the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute and that year's

distinguished laureates Richard von Weizsäcker, Lakhdar Brahimi, Karen Armstrong, Jan Egeland, and Willemijn Verloof of War Child Netherlands.



*Freedom on the Horizon: Dutch Immigration to America 1840-1940*, Hans Krabbendam (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2009).

About a quarter of a million Dutch emigrants in search of freedom left the Netherlands for the

United States between 1840 and 1940. RSC Assistant Director Hans Krabbendam analyzes how this relatively modest group succeeded in building an enduring subculture in the American Midwest. Protestant immigrants in particular secured the survival of their group thanks to careful preparation in the Netherlands, timely concentration in new areas opening up for settlement, temporary submission of personal ambitions to community goals, and ongoing open communication both with the land of origin and among themselves. In this way, they created the means to buy time and sustain the formation of a new Dutch-American identity that they could pass on to succeeding generations. The climax of this subculture is to be found in the first decades of the twentieth century. After the latest wave of immigration between 1948 and 1960 had faded away, pressure to modernize loosened the internal cohesion, but its remnants remain visible today. [R]

## A Look Ahead

*Upcoming events at the RSC in 2010*

### Theodore Roosevelt American History Awards, April 9

Selected by a distinguished jury, the RSC presents an annual prize for the best M.A. theses on American history topics written by Dutch graduate students in the preceding academic year. Replicas of Theodore Roosevelt's 1905 Inaugural Medal are awarded to all the winners, with a trip to "Roosevelt sites" in the U.S. for the first prize winner.

### Four Freedoms Awards, May 29

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms Awards will be presented by the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute in Middelburg's Abbey to world citizens who are honored for their commitment to FDR's Four Freedoms.

### International Conference on Tales of Transit, June 10-13

In cooperation with the universities of Ghent, Antwerp and Leuven, and the Red Star Line Museum in Antwerp, Belgium, the RSC is co-organizing a conference "Tales of Transit: Narrative Migrant Spaces in Transatlantic Perspective." The conference will bring together insights and methodologies from migration and maritime history, translation and literary studies, and confront these with the rich but largely under-explored archive of transatlantic migrant narratives.

### Conference on President Obama and the Transatlantic Relationship, October 27-30

In cooperation with the Middelburg Center for Transatlantic Studies and the Roosevelt Academy, the RSC is co-organizing a conference which will explore both the past and future of the transatlantic relationship using the election of President Obama as a potential turning point in North American-European relations. [R]

## Editor:

Cornelis A. van Minnen

## Photos:

Howard Ehrlich  
David Godshalk  
Carolina Groen  
Hans Krabbendam  
Anda van Riet  
Gonny Pasaribu