

the Roosevelt review




The Four Freedoms posters pictured here were designed by Iris de Leeuw and presented at the occasion of the Four Freedoms Awards ceremony held on May 29, 2010 in Middelburg, the Netherlands.

Values and Vision of the Roosevelts

Each year as events unfold at the RSC, it is amazing to realize that the words that Franklin Roosevelt spoke in his 1941 State of the Union address to Congress are still reverberating through the minds and hearts of yet another generation of scholars, students, and the public at large. In 2010, the RSC was again the site of the Four Freedoms Awards ceremony, where the four posters pictured above were on display, as well as the venue for other complementary events such as the Freedomhouse Art conference on "Art as a Tool for Freedom," a concept which certainly underlined the value of Freedom of Speech and Expression. And, in recognition of the three Roosevelt institutions in Middelburg, the city placed a monumental bust of FDR near its Old City Hall.

Other tributes to the values and vision of the Roosevelts (Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt) were evident in the RSC's support of scholarship and research through its Research Grants Program, the annual Theodore Roosevelt American History awards honoring and rewarding Dutch masters students, as well as the Ph.D. Seminars and the two junior researchers at the RSC, who completed and successfully defended their Ph.D. theses. In 2010, three highly regarded American professors were active at the RSC. Professors James D. Bratt and David B. Woolner were Fulbright-Dow

Distinguished Research Fellows, pursuing their respective projects about Dutch-American and Anglo-American interactions with the U.S., and Princeton Emeritus Professor Leon Gordenker, affiliated with the RSC as Visiting Senior Research Professor, published with his co-author Peter Baehr a new book on the United Nations. In addition, high on the list of significant events were the three Conferences on Transatlantic Relations covering very diverse subjects: "Tales of Transit," "Theodore Roosevelt and Europe," and the three-day conference, "The Obama Effect." The diversity of conference participants coming from all over the world mirrored the diversity of these subjects. Also the RSC Transatlantic Relations Lecture series continued to attract a wide audience. At the core of these successful research projects and conferences lies the RSC library with its unique research collections. The RSC has further enhanced its research possibilities by starting a digitization project of Dutch-American newspapers for which the Center has signed a contract with the Zeeland Library in Middelburg, the Royal Library in The Hague, and a number of research institutes and libraries in the U.S.

As the RSC looks forward to its 25th anniversary in 2011, the staff, board and visiting researchers are filled with Rooseveltian energy and idealism to face the challenges of the new year. 

Newsletter of
the Roosevelt
Study Center

2010



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 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 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 or contact the RSC at tel. +31 (0)118-631590, fax +31 (0)118-631593, e-mail: rsc@zeeland.nl. 

Research in and on the U.S. South



RSC Director Cornelis van Minnen at the entrance of the National Humanities Center in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina.

After being awarded a prestigious fellowship by the National Humanities Center in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, RSC Director Cornelis A. van Minnen was granted a sabbatical research leave from January through May 2010 to work on his research project "Dixie and the Southernization of the

United States since the 1970s." The working conditions at the National Humanities Center were excellent: The center is located in close proximity to four university libraries, including Duke University in Durham and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and its own in-house librarians provide invaluable assistance. During the five months Professor van Minnen spent at the National Humanities Center, he was able to make a good start on his new research project. He also had the opportunity to explore the South, gaining firsthand impressions on his trips through the Carolinas and Georgia. 

"On the road" exploring the South: A road sign for Interstate 95 in South Carolina.



Theodore Roosevelt American History Awards




Maarten van Gageldonk with Howard Ehrlich, who until recently was TRA Interim Acting Director, in his role as National Park Guide.

Each year since 1987 the Theodore Roosevelt American History Awards are presented to the best master theses on an American history topic defended at a Dutch university. On April 9 the Theodore Roosevelt American History Award for 2010 was awarded to Maarten van Gageldonk who completed his masters in English language and culture at Radboud University, Nijmegen.

Maarten van Gageldonk received the award for his thesis, "Multimedia, and Miscellanies Mini-Museums: *Aspen Magazine*, 1965-1971. A History and a Contextualization." *Aspen Magazine*, an idiosyncratic magazine that published art works such as films, music, photos and letters in a designer box, represented the cultural developments in the sixties in America and bridged the boundaries between different art forms. The jury praised his thesis as a research model that was exciting from start to finish. The first prize was a trip to America, where the winner visited Theodore Roosevelt's birthplace in New York and his house Sagamore Hill in Oyster Bay, New York, and the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library in Hyde Park, New York. The winner also received a bust of Theodore Roosevelt.

About his trip, first prize winner Maarten van Gageldonk wrote, "All in all, this trip has meant the world to me, first of all because it has shown appreciation for my writing, which is the best encouragement a Ph.D. candidate can get; but it was also a delightful way to explore parts of American history I had not been too familiar with before, and to see more of New York State. I want to thank the Roosevelt Study Center, the Theodore Roosevelt Association, and the Roosevelt Institute for their generosity in making this trip possible. And I would like to particularly express my thanks to Rob Dahlziel, Howard Ehrlich, Mary McFarland and Elizabeth Roosevelt for being such wonderful hosts. I look forward to being part of next year's jury for the competition and hope that the winner will have a similarly engrossing experience."

The second prize of the Theodore Roosevelt American History Award went to Martijn Koens from Leiden University for his thesis "The Minority's Right: Shaw v. Reno and the Paradox of Black Representation." The third prize was awarded to the thesis of Suzanne Stienen (Radboud University Nijmegen), "Containing Communism in Asia: U.S. Rapprochement with the PRC and the War in Vietnam." Both second and third prize winners received a cash prize, a certificate and a replica of the medal commemorating the inauguration of Theodore Roosevelt in 1905.

This year eight theses were submitted for the Theodore Roosevelt American History Awards. The jury members were Jaap Kooijman (University of Amsterdam), Albertine Bloemendal (winner TRAHA 2009) and Professor Adam Fairclough (Leiden University). 



Aspen Magazine, Vol. 1, No.3 came in a box which parodies FAB wash detergent box of the 1960s.




Selected contents of Vol.1, No.3.

Theodore Roosevelt and Europe Conference

Organized by the RSC's junior researcher John M. Thompson, who recently received his doctorate from the University of Cambridge for his dissertation on TR, and co-sponsored by the RSC and the Sorbonne Nouvelle in Paris, the RSC hosted a conference on September 10 exploring TR's view of the U.S.- European relationship. TR's tour of Europe in 1910 was a spectacular event and the centennial of this Rooseveltian trip offered an excellent opportunity to examine this neglected aspect of TR's foreign policy. To this end, nine scholars from seven countries offered their perspectives on this fascinating subject.

Essay topics included Roosevelt's cultural ties to Europe, the war with Spain in 1898, his ideas about Britain, France and Germany, immigration, domestic politics and World War One. The publication of the book (scheduled for 2011) resulting from this conference will not only fill an important gap in the historiography but will also shed light on the origins of contemporary U.S.-European relations.

As one of the conference participants observed, "The RSC is an impressive resource and the TR conference was academically rewarding and the style of its arrangements was unique." 



TR scholars from the U.S., Canada, the U.K., Ireland, France, Turkey, and the Netherlands under TR's portrait in the RSC library.

The Four Freedoms Awards




Her Majesty the Queen (center) with the 2010 Four Freedoms Awards laureates and the Prince of Orange (fourth from left).

The Four Freedoms Awards are bestowed annually by the Roosevelt Institute in Hyde Park, New York upon people who advanced the principles of freedom of speech, of religion, and of freedom from want and from fear. Since 1982 the awards have been presented in the even-numbered years to distinguished international figures in Middelburg, capital city of the Province of Zeeland. In odd-numbered years the medals are awarded to American citizens in Hyde Park, New York, the former residence of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt.

On May 29, 2010 the Nieuwe Kerk in Middelburg's Abbey served once again as the site for the presentation of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms Awards. This year's biennial ceremony was attended by Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness the Prince of Orange as well as hundreds of guests from around the world.


The International Four Freedoms Award 2010 was granted to the European Court of Human Rights. Prime Minister of the Netherlands Jan-Peter Balkenende and Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr. presented the award to Jean-Paul Costa, the President of the Court. The Freedom of Speech and Expression Medal was awarded to the Russian weekly *Novaya Gazeta* for its resolute commitment to freedom of the press. The medal was received by its editor-in-chief, Dmitry Muratov.

The Freedom of Worship Medal was presented to human rights activist and UN-rapporteur for freedom of religion, Dr. Asma Jahangir from Pakistan. The Freedom from Want Medal recipient was the Canadian Maurice Strong, in recognition of his role as a foremost spokesman regarding global environmental concerns and the principle of sustainability. The Freedom from Fear Medal was received by Gareth Evans, former Foreign Minister of Australia, for his crucial role in preparing the UN negotiations of nuclear non-proliferation agreements. 




FDR Bust Placed in Middelburg

On March 19, 2010 U.S. Ambassador to the Netherlands Fay Hartog Levin unveiled a bust of President Franklin D. Roosevelt placed near Middelburg's Old City Hall. The FDR bust is a present of the city of Middelburg to the three Roosevelt organizations located in the city: the Roosevelt Stichting, the Roosevelt Study Center and Roosevelt Academy.

Engraved in the bust's pedestal are FDR's Four Freedoms: freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want, and freedom from fear. President Roosevelt, who served four terms from 1933-1945, formulated these Four Freedoms in his 1941 State of the Union address to Congress, outlining his vision of a postwar free world. 

Freedomhouse Art

In the weeks preceding the Four Freedoms Awards ceremony a number of "freedom" activities took place in the Province of Zeeland. One of these was the international conference, "Art as a Tool for Freedom," which was held on May 20 at the Roosevelt Study Center. At this meeting American, British and Dutch artists and scholars offered practical examples of how art as the voice of the average, creative citizen has tackled human rights violations in neighborhoods all around the world. 




Four Freedoms artists in the Middelburg Abbey garden.

Fulbright-Dow Distinguished Research Chair

Professor James D. Bratt was the Fulbright-Dow Distinguished Research Fellow at the Roosevelt Study Center for the period February through May 2010. During his time at the RSC he has worked on a biography of Abraham Kuyper, the Dutch theologian and statesman in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

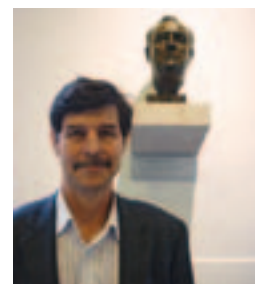
Professor Bratt found that there is an ear in the U.S. for Kuyper's political ideas. By writing this English language biography of Kuyper he hopes to explain to an American audience how Kuyper's ideas were conceived so that Americans can judge for themselves whether some of these ideas could be relevant to modern day America. James D. Bratt is affiliated with Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, the heart of the Dutch immigrant community, where he teaches U.S. intellectual and religious history.

Professor David B. Woolner was the Fulbright-Dow Distinguished Research Fellow at the Roosevelt Study Center for the period August through November 2010.

He has been working on the completing a book entitled "Cordell Hull, Anthony Eden and the Search for Anglo-American Cooperation, 1933-1938." The book argues that both Eden and Hull believed in the need to establish a "special relationship" between the U.K. and the U.S. but that despite these sentiments their efforts failed. Dr. Woolner, who is associate professor of history at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, New York, and a Senior Fellow and Resident Hyde Park Historian at the Roosevelt Institute in Hyde Park, New York, also gave lectures at conferences in Durham, Oxford and Cambridge in the U.K. and in Heidelberg, Germany. 



Professor James D. Bratt,
Fulbright-Dow Scholar,
spring 2010.




Professor David B. Woolner,
Fulbright-Dow Scholar,
fall 2010.

New Acquisitions

The RSC added its first digital publication to its resources. The *Sheboygan Nieuwsbode* was digitized as a pilot in the D-DAPPER project, which stands for Digital Dutch-American Press and PERiodicals. This Dutch language newspaper served Dutch immigrants in the Midwest from 1849-1860.

Six more newspapers from different regions and periods are lined up for digitization.

The purpose of the project is to offer scholars a representative selection of resources, which will stimulate Dutch-American studies by allowing new research questions. The RSC cooperates with a number of institutions in the Zeeland region, the Royal Library in The Hague and with American depositories and institutes. 

De Sheboygan Nieuwsbode was digitized as a pilot in the D-DAPPER project.



The RSC Research Grants Program


Thanks to a generous contribution from the 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 2010 eight Research Grants were awarded to researchers from five European countries. A list of names of researchers and the topic of their research can be found on the RSC website.

Special mention is warranted of a cooperation agreement between the RSC and Plymouth University which sent six of its students to do research in the RSC library in 2010.



The RSC library
during the Obama
conference.


European students seeking a masters or doctorate in American history as well as advanced scholars are invited to apply for the 2011 Research Grants. Application forms and relevant information on the RSC archival collections can be downloaded from the RSC website: www.roosevelt.nl. 

RSC Lecture Series on Transatlantic Relations

Mr. Arthur Docters van Leeuwen (left) receiving a copy of the volume Four Centuries of Dutch-American Relations, 1609-2009 from RSC Senior Researcher Giles Scott-Smith.



On March 10, 2010 Mr. Arthur Docters van Leeuwen, formerly head of the Authority for Financial Markets, chief of the Netherlands Domestic Security Service, and Attorney General, gave the 8th RSC Transatlantic Lecture, entitled “Financial Crisis: Time for

Transatlantic Regulation?” In his well-attended lecture Mr. Docters van Leeuwen argued that the present time of financial crisis has shown the necessity of a global or even European supervisory apparatus which until now is still lacking. Docters van Leeuwen described in detail the difficult transatlantic negotiations that took place over the past decade to improve the links between the European and American financial regulators. Supervision still needs to repair three gaps: territorial (beyond the transatlantic and East Asian regions), functional (hedge funds), and knowledge (what are the effects of financial arrangements and interventions). In addition, in his view, the United States must supervise its financial institutions more completely – some institutions are still without oversight. And Europe, he thinks, should stimulate centralization. Mr. Docters van Leeuwen finished his presentation by emphasizing to the audience the importance of institutes, such as the RSC, which facilitate and promote transatlantic understanding. 


Two Completed Ph.D. Theses

Enne Koops (middle) with his supervisors Professor George Harinck (left) and Dr. Hans Krabbendam (right).




At the Theologische Universiteit in Kampen, the Netherlands, on June 22, 2010, Enne Koops, Ph.D. candidate at the Roosevelt Study Center, defended his Ph.D. dissertation entitled, “The Dynamics of an Emigration Culture. The Emigration of Calvinists, Reformed and Catholics to North America from a Comparative Perspective (1947-1963).” His thesis defense was followed the next day by a symposium at which a number of immigration scholars discussed the subject of when religious convictions stimulated and when these discouraged departure (see further “Just Published” on page 8).

John M. Thompson, Junior Researcher at the Roosevelt Study Center, defended his Ph.D. dissertation, entitled “The Impact of Public Opinion on Theodore Roosevelt’s Foreign Policy,” on May 3, 2010 at the University of Cambridge, U.K. The thesis examines how President Roosevelt’s perception of public opinion influenced his foreign policy decision-making. It concludes that TR had a complex

relationship with the U.S. public and that he was often frustrated by what he saw as a people who had a tendency to want to conduct foreign policy by combining “the unready hand with the unbridled tongue.” Nevertheless, he had a genuine fondness for his fellow Americans, and sincerely believed in the virtues of his country’s political system. No doubt this belief was due, in part, to the fact that his own skillful conduct of foreign policy contributed to his overwhelming success as a politician. 

Ph.D. Seminars

A group of ten Ph.D. students in American History and American Studies working in the Netherlands met four times in 2010 at the RSC to discuss the progress of their work and gain new insights in selected aspects of American history. The Fulbright-Dow scholars contributed their expertise to these stimulating seminars. Professor James D. Bratt lectured twice on regional approaches to U.S. history, first concentrating on the South and then on New England. At the September meeting the students were instructed by Leiden University’s Professor Wim van den Doel about the standards to which their dissertations will be held. And in the November meeting Professor David Woolner informed the students about the process of turning a dissertation into a book, using his own dissertation on American-British diplomacy in the 1930s as an example. 

Conferences on Transatlantic Relations

Transatlantic Migration Conference

The Red Star Line Museum, the Belgian universities of Leuven, Antwerp and Ghent and the RSC organized an international conference in Antwerp from June 9-12 entitled “Tales of Transit: Narrative Migrant Spaces in Transatlantic Perspective, 1830-1954.” The conference succeeded in assembling speakers who presented recent approaches in migration research and literary and cultural studies, addressing the diverse trajectories before and after the journey, as well as the role of corporations and agencies involved in trans-oceanic travel. The participants from 15 different countries were enriched by learning about the inner experiences of emigrants in changing migration conditions. This understanding helped to bring the variety in the migration experience to new levels and contributed to new concepts in the presentation of this experience to the public in migration museums.

Conference on “The Obama Effect: Transatlantic Perspectives Past and Future”

From October 27 to 29 the conference entitled “The Obama Effect: Transatlantic Perspectives Past and Future,” co-sponsored by the Roosevelt Study Center and the Middelburg Center for Transatlantic Studies (MCTS), was held in the Abbey of Middelburg.

The conference, organized by RSC Senior Researcher Giles Scott-Smith, was a great success, with 55 speakers from 9 different nations and many participants, including students from Middelburg, Groningen, Maastricht, the University of Central Missouri and Mexico City in attendance.

Stimulating high quality keynote lectures were provided by Jamie Shea (Head of Policy Planning, NATO), Scott Lucas (University of Birmingham and the Enduring America website), and Marcel Wissenburg (Radboud University Nijmegen). The Abbey provided the perfect venue for lengthy, in-depth discussions and debates during the conference and at surrounding events.

The sessions covered a broad range of topics from international law, the arts, race, and rhetoric and public speaking to U.S.-European-Russian relations, U.S. domestic politics and foreign policy and national security. Papers ranged from Obama’s interest in poetry to the need for a different approach to counter-terrorism, from possibilities for a new era of gender equality in U.S. politics to differences between presidents Bush and Obama towards the Middle East, and from the usefulness of entropy for explaining U.S. foreign policy to the engagement and outlook of Dutch and American students towards the political issues of the day.



*Dr. Jamie Shea,
Head of Policy
Planning, NATO.*



The animated conversations among conference participants continued outside the RSC on the Abbey square.



To ensure maximum exposure for the conference, the plan is to gather together several papers for publication, some for the *Journal of the Institute of Justice and International Studies* and others for the *European Journal of American Studies*, with other possibilities for a collection of papers to be produced in book form. Given the success of this first collaboration between the RSC and the MCTS, the organizers look forward to working together on future projects. Both institutes would like to thank the Roosevelt Institute (NY), the U.S. Embassy in The Hague and the Province of Zeeland for their generous support, without which this event would not have been possible. ☐

Inside the Abbey in the RSC auditorium, participants listen attentively as Dr. Shea answers questions.

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Information

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De dynamiek van een emigratiecultuur. De emigratie van gereformeerden, hervormden en katholieken naar Noord-Amerika in vergelijkend perspectief (1947-1963) ["The Dynamics of an Emigration Culture. The Emigration of Calvinists, Reformed and Catholics to North America from a Comparative Perspective (1947-1963)"] by Enne Koops (Hilversum: Verloren, 2010).

Between 1947 and 1963 more than 400,000 Dutch emigrants crossed the ocean to settle overseas. A majority of them chose destinations in Canada (36 percent) and the United States (19 percent). Enne Koops' dissertation analyzes which factors of Dutch religious emigration cultures stimulated or discouraged departure. He compares the



Cover of Enne Koops' book.

Calvinist, Reformed and Catholic emigration cultures and opinion-forming and their organizations. He further examines church membership in the receiving countries and the integration process of religious groups in North America.

Moet de VN niet met pensioen? [Should the UN Retire?] by Leon Gordenker and Peter Baehr (Amsterdam: Uitgeverij Spectrum, 2010).

Two veteran observers of international cooperation explore the relevance of the United



Cover of the book by Leon Gordenker and Peter Baehr.

A Spiritual Invasion? Amerikaanse invloeden op het Nederlandse Christendom ["American influences on Dutch Christianity"] edited by George Harinck and Hans Krabbendam (Barneveld: De Vuurbaak, 2010).

In eight chapters, written by various authors and based on a conference held at the RSC



The Reverend Billy Graham on the cover of the book edited by George Harinck and Hans Krabbendam.

Nations system after 65 years of operation. They analyze why it works as it does, explore its shortcomings and set out its benefits. Leon Gordenker is presently Senior Visiting Research Professor at the RSC.

in 2008, the book describes the impact and rejection of American religious practices and ideas on Dutch Protestants. The subjects cover the Reverend Billy Graham's evangelism campaigns, gospel music, new religious movements, modern media, and the evolution-creation debate.

A Look Ahead

Upcoming events at the RSC in 2011

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Theodore Roosevelt American History Awards, 15 april

This is the annual prize for the best M.A. theses on American history topics written by Dutch students in the preceding academic year and selected by a distinguished jury. First prize is a trip to several "Roosevelt sites" in the United States.

Conference on the U.S. South and Europe, April 27-29

The ninth in the series Middelburg Conferences of European Historians of the United States at the RSC aims to explore many aspects of the historical relationship between the U.S. South and Europe, from colonial times to the present era of globalization.

Conference on American Responses the Holocaust, June 15-17

This conference at the RSC is co-organized with the Netherlands American Studies Association, the Belgian Luxembourg American Studies Association, and the Netherlands Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies. Scholars from Europe and the U.S. will explore how the Holocaust has influenced American politics and culture.

25th Anniversary of the RSC, September 19-20

On September 19 the RSC will celebrate its 25th anniversary with an afternoon symposium featuring distinguished speakers from the Netherlands and the United States to be followed on September 20 by a conference on the economic policies of the Obama administration. 