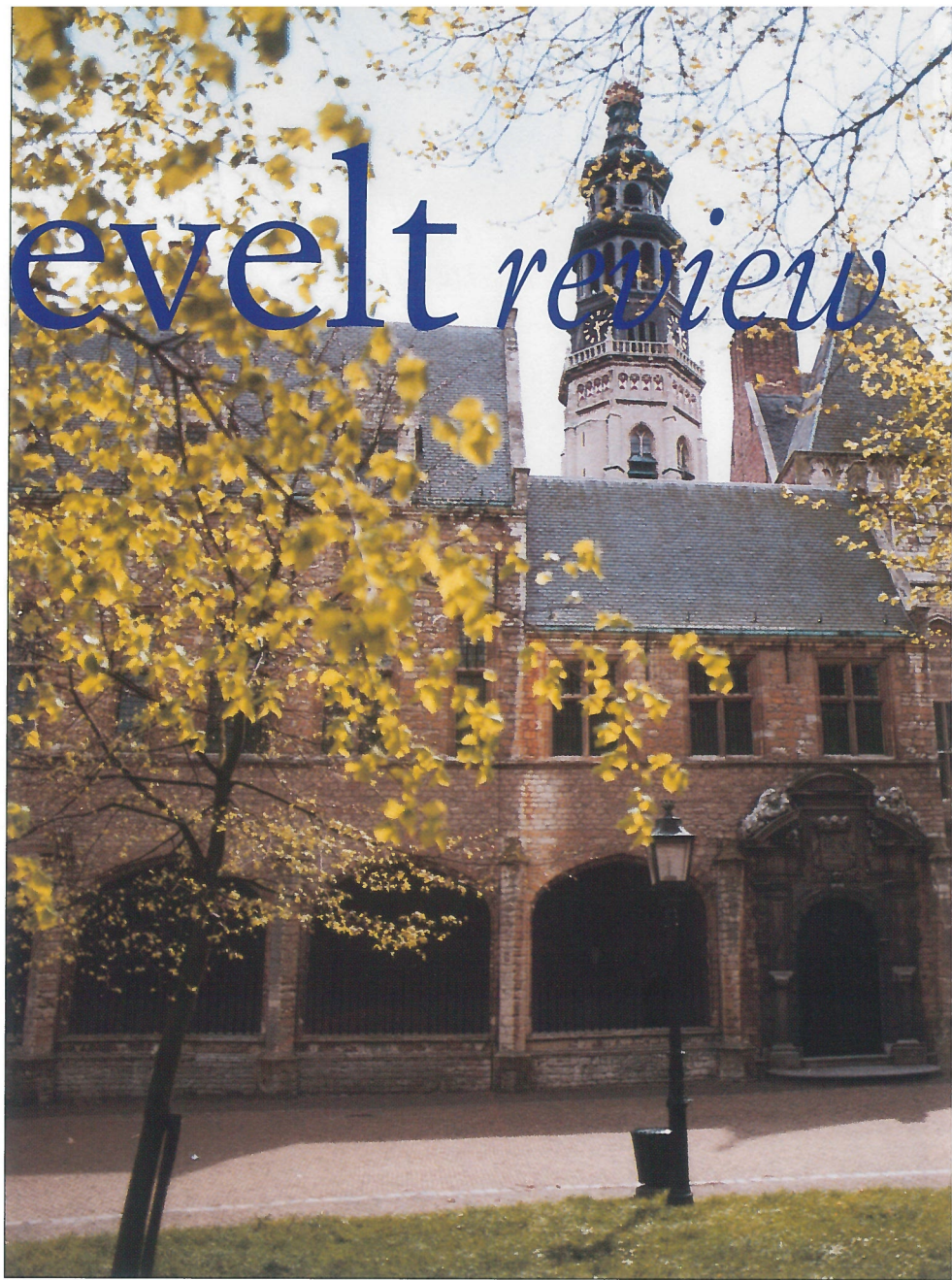


the Roosevelt *review*

The Roosevelt Study Center is located in the medieval Abbey of Middelburg in the Province of Zeeland in the Netherlands.




The First Decade

Ten years ago the Province of Zeeland, the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute and the Theodore Roosevelt Association joined forces to form the Roosevelt Study Center in order to provide European scholars and students of American history with research facilities close to home. This would allow them direct access to source materials relating to the presidencies of Theodore and Franklin Roosevelt, and to other areas of twentieth century American studies. Because of these unique primary sources and its significant scholarly activities, a few years later the RSC was officially recognized by the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences as an affiliate.

The most visible event at the Middelburg Abbey is the Four Freedoms Awards ceremony. These awards have been bestowed upon some of the world's most prominent international citizens like King Juan Carlos of

Spain, Helmut Schmidt, The Dalai Lama, and Armand Hammer.

Equally as notable are the on-going seminars, conferences, and research studies conducted at the RSC and under its auspices. Supported generously by the private sector as well, the RSC library has grown significantly with millions of documents on microform. A new exhibition hall was added some years ago to house the permanent Roosevelt exhibit. Often it is used for special expositions such as last year's photographic exhibit on the 50th anniversary of the United Nations.

Surely ten years ago no one could have foreseen the contribution that the RSC would make to the intellectual exchange of ideas about U.S.-European relations past and present. Join us as we enter our second decade of discovery. 

*Newsletter of
the Roosevelt
Study Center*

1996



*The biennial presentation of the
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4384 LE Vlissingen,
the Netherlands, telephone
31 (0)118 465 032 or
31 (0)118 631 319.
The names of the
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inscribed on the Center's
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Guests at the symposium included (photos, l. to r.): Professors Tony Badger, Heinz Ickstadt, and David Adams; Robert D. Dalziel, President of the Theodore Roosevelt Association, William J. vanden Heuvel, President of the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute, and Curtis Roosevelt, grandson of Franklin and Eleanor; Arno Vermeulen, RSC Board of Trustees, Gert de Kok, President of the RSC Executive Committee, and Nell Ginjaar-Maas, President of the RSC Board of Trustees.



Tenth Anniversary of the Roosevelt Study Center

On September 19, 1996 an international symposium was held to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Roosevelt Study Center. It was ten years ago to the day that the center was first opened to the public. Since that moment a great number of visitors from around the world have used the facilities of the RSC, its resource library and its conference spaces. Many more have visited its permanent and rotating exhibits.

An illustrious group of some 70 academics, diplomats, politicians, business people and friends of the RSC gathered to mark the occasion. Mr. Gert de Kok, President of the RSC, welcomed the distinguished audience and Professor Tony Badger of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge in the U.K. made the first presentation. He reflected on the collegial cooperation among the trendsetting first generation of New Deal and FDR scholars. He suggested that the unintended effects of the New Deal in the postwar era are in need of further exploration, pointing out the rich resources of the RSC for this purpose. Professor Douglas Brinkley, Director of the Eisenhower Center in New Orleans, raised the issue that FDR's role in the creation of the United Nations has long been underestimated. Professor Brinkley's research traces FDR's commitment to a world peace organization back to the early 1920s.

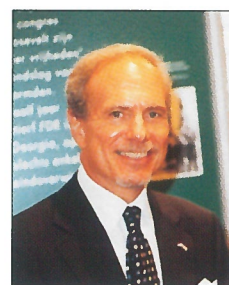
After a tea break, the audience returned to hear Mr. Michiel Westerlaken, Global Director Human Resources Manufacturing, Dow Benelux N.V., give an animated and practical description of the ACE project. This is an on-going research project, jointly organized by the RSC and the Tinbergen Institute at Erasmus University in Rotterdam, which is conducting a comparison study of management styles and policies in the Netherlands and the United States. Through his apt illustrations Mr. Westerlaken demonstrated that in a global market there is a need to find a balance between empowerment and job security. He was followed by the Hon. K. Terry Dornbush, United States

Ambassador to the Netherlands, who described the intimate relationship between the Netherlands and the U.S., emphasizing the common values of the two nations in human rights issues.

Representing the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, with which the RSC is affiliated, Professor Eric Zürcher explained how the RSC fits into the Academy's objective to encourage international scholarly exchanges and how it fulfils this role admirably. Concurring with this high opinion of the RSC was Professor Heinz Ickstadt from the John F. Kennedy Institute in Berlin and President of the European Association for American Studies. He congratulated both the RSC and the community of European Americanists who have utilized the RSC and helped it flourish. According to Professor Ickstadt, many scholars of American studies work in isolation, and meeting places such as the RSC are crucial to their intellectual nourishment and to a stimulating debate.

The concluding address was given by one of the "founding fathers" of the RSC, the Hon. William J. vanden Heuvel, President of the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute, Hyde Park, New York. With a sharp eye he analyzed the campaigns for the U.S. Presidency this year, which he described as a marketing approach to American politics – a trend which he deplors as seeking to sell majorities instead of ideas.

This lively symposium was followed by a reception in the RSC Exhibition Hall, which gave everyone a chance to informally discuss the events of the day. Thereafter, an elegant dinner in a beautifully decorated historic hall of the Abbey was hosted by the Queen's Commissioner in the Province of Zeeland, Mr. Willem T. van Gelder. It was a splendid continuation of the festivities marking the RSC's tenth anniversary and all who were present indicated the enthusiasm with which they look forward to the second decade of the RSC. ☞



Among the speakers were (from the top): Ambassador K. Terry Dornbush, Mr. Michiel Westerlaken, and Professor Eric Zürcher.

A Word About the Roosevelt Study Center

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The Roosevelt Study Center is a research institute and conference center on twentieth century American history and European-American relations. It is named after three famous Americans: President Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919), President Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1882-1945), and Eleanor Roosevelt (1884-1962), whose ancestors are thought to have emigrated from the Province of Zeeland to the New World in the mid-seventeenth century.

The Roosevelt Study Center is affiliated with the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences. In developing its activities and building its collections the RSC is supported by the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute, the Theodore Roosevelt Association, the Roosevelt Stichting, as well by an advisory board of prominent American and European scholars, top government officials and representatives from the private sector. The Roosevelt Study Center offers European

students and scholars of American history:

- a research library with collections of historical documents and books on U.S. history not available anywhere else in Europe;
- a grants-in-aid program for European researchers;
- an annual prize for Dutch essays on American history;
- a program of exhibitions, international conferences and seminars on American history, U.S.-European relations, and the contemporary meaning of the 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 call or write the secretariat. The RSC Exhibition Hall is open April through November, Monday to Friday, from 10.00 to 12.30 and 13.30 to 16.30. 


The RSC Research Grants Program

Thanks to generous contributions from the private sector and the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute, the RSC is able to offer European students of American history a unique opportunity to study and do research. In the attractive and pleasant ambiance of the RSC library, students will find U.S. historical documents not available anywhere else in Europe. In addition to a per diem of dfl 50, the RSC grant covers travel expenses (rail/ferry) and a lump sum of dfl 100 for photocopies. The research period at the RSC ranges from a minimum of one week to a maximum of four weeks. The maximum grant is dfl 2,000.

In 1996 the following eleven students received a RSC Research Grant for their projects:

- Andrea van Lindenberg (Catholic University of Nijmegen, the Netherlands), "President Johnson and the Civil Rights Movement" (M.A.);
- Heike Wabbels (University of Bonn, Germany), "FDR's Four Freedoms Speech" (paper);
- Maaike Kamps (University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands), "The Significance of the Federal Writer's Project for Black Authors in the 1930s" (M.A.);
- Gavin J.N. Stamp (University of St. Andrews, United Kingdom), "Henry A. Wallace, Harry S. Truman and the 1948

- Presidential Elections" (paper);
- Maddalena Brutti (University of Venice, Italy), "Edward Bok and *The Ladies' Home Journal*" (M.A.);
- Magali Renault (University of Provence, France), "Theodore Roosevelt's Views on the American Woman and Family" (paper);
- David F.L. Lloyd (University of Wales at Swansea, United Kingdom), "American-Soviet Relations Regarding Poland, 1943-1946" (M.A.);
- Vincent Dujardin (Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium), "Minister Paul van Zeeland's Relations with the U.S." (book);
- Bart J. Alberts (University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands), "Dutch-American Relations in Surinam during World War II" (M.A.);
- Ralph Dietl (University of Wuppertal, Germany), "Cooperation of International Organizations for the Preservation of Peace, 1930-1950" (Post-doctoral thesis);
- Hedda van Ooijen (University of Leiden, the Netherlands), "Martin Luther King's Opposition to the Vietnam War, 1964-1968" (M.A.).

European students seeking a masters or doctorate in American history and advanced scholars are invited to apply for the 1997 Research Grants. Application forms and relevant information on the RSC archival collections are available upon request. 

“In the future days, which we seek to make secure, we look forward to a world founded upon four essential human freedoms. The first is freedom of speech and expression.... The second is freedom of every person to worship God in his own way.... The third is freedom from want.... The fourth is freedom from fear.... That is no vision of a distant millennium. It is a definite basis for a kind of world attainable in our own time and generation.”

Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Message to Congress, January 6, 1941

The Four Freedoms Awards

On May 11, 1996 the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute presented the Four Freedoms Awards to five world citizens. Although this was the eighth time the ceremony was held in the inspiring atmosphere of Middelburg’s medieval Abbey, it was the first time the complete ceremony was broadcast live on Dutch national television, certainly a testimony to the growing recognition of the Four Freedom Awards and the stature of the recipients.

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

The 1996 Award Winners

In his introductory remarks Professor Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., Co-Chair of the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute, reminded the audience that in the post-Cold War era, “We face today not the mortal threat of nuclear suicide, but the hydra-headed threat of a slow, subtle, steady, unrelenting chipping away at the fabric of international order from a hundred different motives.... The people we honor today have all stood for the better nature of humanity against the forces of fanaticism, savagery and disintegration.” Also Queen’s Commissioner in the Province of Zeeland Willem T. van Gelder in his welcoming remarks described the laureates as “a shining example to us all. An example which shows that it is worthwhile to work for the freedom of mankind.” And Ambassador William J. vanden Heuvel, President of the Roosevelt Institute, who bestowed the awards, commented on the FDR monument soon to be built in Washington, D.C., “The Four Freedoms are his true Memorial. As we work to sustain, encourage, and give meaning to those freedoms so will we have built the monument that is worthy of him.”

The 1996 Four Freedoms Medal was awarded to His Majesty the King of Spain, for leading



King Juan Carlos of Spain, 1996 Four Freedoms Award laureate (center), with his wife Queen Sofia of Spain (left) and Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands.

his country “into an unprecedented era of freedom, stability, prosperity and hope,” and for presiding over her as she became “the democratic anchor of the Atlantic community.” Upon receiving the Four Freedoms Award from Her Majesty the Queen of the Netherlands, King Juan Carlos remarked: “I am convinced that this prize reflects your intention to personalize and symbolize recognition for the effort made by Spaniards over the past twenty years to achieve and to consolidate a system of coexistence based on freedom, justice and democracy.... I know that a new link will now unite us: that of esteem for freedom – something that is only properly appreciated when it is lost.”

Jean Kennedy Smith, U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Ireland, and Zeeland’s Queen’s

Arthur Schlesinger, Jr. (left) and Hans van Mierlo (right) surround Israeli Ambassador Yossi Gal.



Shimon Peres, Freedom from Fear laureate

The Right Reverend Lord Runcie (center) receives the award from Jack Watson (left) and shakes hands with Ad Havermans.



Ambassadors Jean Kennedy Smith and William J. vanden Heuvel (left) assist Queen's Commissioner Willem T. van Gelder (right) in presenting the award to John Hume (center).



Joris Voorhoeve (left) and Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr. (right) with Jacques de Milliano (center).

Commissioner Willem T. van Gelder presented to John Hume the Freedom of Speech Medal as “a man of courage and integrity whose strength of purpose has brought healing and the possibility of peace to his torn and troubled land... and whose patience and perseverance will cause tolerance and justice to prevail in Northern Ireland.” Founder and leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party and a member of the European Parliament, Mr. Hume accepted “this award not as an award to myself but as a very powerful and encouraging statement, by a highly respected international body, of interest in what is happening in Northern Ireland and in support of the peace process that is under way there at this point of time.” He asked, “If both parts of Ireland can build new relationships in Europe with Greeks, Germans, French, Italians, all with whom we have much greater differences, can we not at least do the same with one another?”

For his efforts to seek reconciliation in times of war and peace, his support for people suffering because of their religious beliefs, and his ecumenical vision, the Right Reverend Lord Runcie was presented the Freedom of Worship Medal by Ad Havermans, Vice President of Pax Christi, and Jack Watson, Chief of the White House Staff of President Jimmy Carter. The former Archbishop of Canterbury recalled that back in 1941 when President Roosevelt delivered his Four Freedoms Speech, “I was completing my school days in the city of Liverpool which was bombed every night. The two voices that kept hope alive were Roosevelt and Churchill. The latter gave us strength to endure, the former articulated the cause for which we were fighting.” He told the audience that we must learn from the Holocaust “the lessons that it teaches so emphatically: irrational attitudes to people unlike ourselves, racism or religious bigotry, can become unstoppable so that even the most advanced and sophisticated societies in science and the arts can sink back into barbarism. Worship is an inescapable part of being human; but if love, not fear, truth, not prejudice, are to rule in our world, there must be freedom.”

The voluntary organization Artsen zonder Grenzen, the Dutch independent section of Médecins sans Frontières, was awarded the

Freedom from Want Medal for the courageous and compassionate work of its medical volunteers. At great personal sacrifice these women and men uphold humanity's conscience and provide emergency aid in often dangerous situations – in Rwanda, in Liberia, in Bosnia, The Sudan and on and on. Jacques de Milliano, the executive director of Artsen zonder Grenzen since its founding in 1984, received the Freedom from Want Medal from Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr. and Joris Voorhoeve, Minister of Defense of the Netherlands. In his acceptance speech Dr. De Milliano interpreted this award as a “warning not to be complacent,” and he emphasized that “Médecins sans Frontières refuses to accept international political indifference. More than ever humanitarianism should be an act of solidarity with the victims and an act of resistance against the actors of brutal human rights violations. In the face of massive destruction, ethnic cleansing and genocide we can neither remain silent nor neutral. We have to defend the victims.”

Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres was awarded the Freedom from Fear Medal for bringing the prospect of peace to the Middle East. Through his determination he has helped mobilize his people for peaceful coexistence with the Palestinians and to disarm the enemies who threaten his country. Since at the last moment affairs of State prevented Shimon Peres from personally receiving the award in Middelburg, the Freedom from Fear Medal was presented to Ambassador of Israel in the Netherlands Yossi Gal by Deputy Prime Minister of the Netherlands Hans van Mierlo and Arthur Schlesinger, Jr. Shimon Peres nevertheless movingly addressed the audience via a videotape. Speaking of the Middle East peace process, he pointed out its urgency. “We are in a race against time.... Never before was the opportunity for peace so attainable, so visible, so reachable, with so little time to grasp it.... There is an inner voice to the Franklin D. Roosevelt Freedom Medal and it is saying: ‘Shimon Peres, don’t be afraid.’ It is telling me that freedom is just and justice shall win the day – so peace shall win this race.”


The speeches delivered at the Four Freedoms Awards ceremony have just been published as volume 16 in the Roosevelt Study Center Publications series and may be ordered from the RSC.

Before and After

Two other events framed the Four Freedoms Awards ceremony. A few days prior to the ceremony, during an evening session on May 7, the RSC auditorium was filled to the last seat by an audience eager to listen to three guest speakers who provided illuminating background information on the political situations in Spain, Northern Ireland, and the Middle East. Directly after the awards ceremony the laureates met with a number of high school



The 1996 laureates and other dignitaries with Zeeland high school students in the RSC Exhibition Hall.

students from Zeeland who were selected by a contest. The students were offered the opportunity to pose questions to the laureates to which the laureates candidly responded. 

The Theodore Roosevelt American History Awards

On March 15, 1996 Mrs. Nell Ginjaar-Maas, President of the RSC's Board of Trustees, presented the 1996 Theodore Roosevelt American History Awards to the prize winners of this annual award that recognizes the three best Masters theses on an American history topic written by Dutch university students. Ten M.A. theses had been selected and submitted by the American Studies departments of six Dutch universities as being the best of the past academic year. All were read and assessed by the three jury members of the TR American History Awards program: Marja Roholl (Erasmus University Rotterdam), Eduard van de Bilt (Universities of Amsterdam and Leiden), and Jaap Verheul (University of Utrecht).

After each of the authors had given a concise but very insightful oral presentation of their thesis, Ms. Roholl as chair of the jury presented the jury report. This report not only analyzed the ten theses submitted this year, but also discussed the general trend in topics that have been most popular among university students in the last decade.

Third prize was awarded to Marcel de Haas (Leiden) for his thesis, "The Search for Consensus. The Affirmative Action Debate in the United States."

Liny Bruijnzeel (Utrecht) received second prize for her thesis, "So Many Ways to Say Goodbye. The Development of the Modern American Funeral."


Karin Mössenlechner (Leiden) won first prize for her thesis, "Between Science and Politics. Donald F. Hornig, Scientist in the White House, 1963-1968."

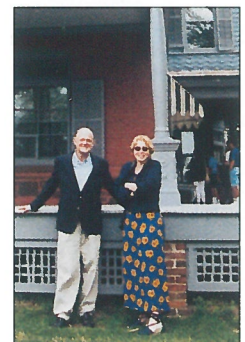
In addition to a Theodore Roosevelt Medal for all three winners, the second and third prize winners received prize money (dfl 500 and 250), respectively. The first prize winner



Standing in front of Theodore Roosevelt's portrait in the RSC Exhibition Hall are RSC Board of Trustees President Mrs. Nell Ginjaar-Maas (third from left) and the 1996 prize winners (left to right) Marcel de Haas, Karin Mössenlechner, and Liny Bruijnzeel.

won a four-day trip to the United States to visit several "Roosevelt sites" in New York State: Theodore Roosevelt's birthplace in New York City and his house Sagamore Hill and other TR sites in Oyster Bay, Long Island, as well as a visit to the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library and Museum and Eleanor Roosevelt's house Val-Kill in Hyde Park, New York. According to Ms. Mössenlechner's report upon her return, this was a "truly unforgettable journey."


The objective of the annual Theodore Roosevelt American History Awards is to promote the study of American history in the Netherlands and the use of the RSC's unique historical collections by Dutch university students in particular. This program is sponsored by the Theodore Roosevelt Association (Oyster Bay, New York), the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute (Hyde Park, New York) and the Roosevelt Stichting (Middelburg). 



First prize winner Karin Mössenlechner with Dr. John A. Gable, Executive Director of the Theodore Roosevelt Association, at TR's house Sagamore Hill, in Oyster Bay, Long Island.

The Year at a Glance

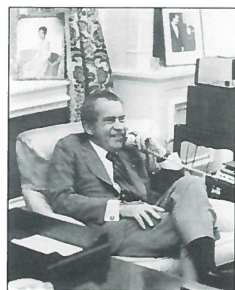
Each year the Roosevelt Study Center seeks to present an exciting schedule of events: one which combines a number of well-respected annual historical meetings with some new and unusual scholarly conferences. In this way the RSC hopes to establish a bond with fellow historians and encourage the study of twentieth century American history. For instance, the Netherlands American Studies Association returned this year to the RSC; the RSC Research Grants Program continued to attract European students of American history; and the RSC staff members themselves were involved in important research projects.

The new events for 1996, hosted and organized by the RSC, included an American history course given by the RSC staff for the Zeeuwse Volksuniversiteit; the ACE Seminar on Dutch-American Business Relations; and a symposium on religious exchanges between the Netherlands and North America. All these programs are enhanced by the resources of the RSC library, which constantly seeks to augment its collections in order to provide an unsurpassed research facility for scholars of American history. In the following pages, these stimulating activities are briefly described. 

The Year at a Glance

New Acquisitions at the RSC Library

The holdings of the RSC library on twentieth century American presidents, now include a primary source collection on Richard M. Nixon.



President Harry S. Truman addressing the press in 1950.

The microform collections at the RSC form an invaluable primary reference source for serious scholars of American history. In 1996 grants from the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute, the Zeeland Library, and from the United States Information Service in The Hague enabled the RSC to add four important collections to its already unique holdings.

American Diplomatic Records on The Netherlands

The diplomatic relations between the Netherlands and the United States started in 1782. Since that time, American diplomats posted in the Netherlands and the Netherlands East and West Indies reported to the State Department on political, economic and cultural affairs providing insightful information on the relations between the two countries. The RSC library had previously acquired from the National Archives in Washington, D.C. the diplomatic records on microfilm covering the years 1785-1929. This year the RSC was able to acquire important diplomatic records covering the period 1930-1959.

The Documentary History of the Truman Presidency

Selected from the Harry S. Truman Library in Independence, Missouri, this collection provides scholars with an unprecedented look at President Truman's policies and programs. It consists primarily of documents from the President's Secretary's Files, the White House Central Files, and numerous manuscript collections from officials in the Truman administration and individuals who were associates of Truman during his career. These documents, published in twenty volumes, complement four other Truman collections at the RSC library: *The Harry S. Truman Oral Histories Collection*, *Map Room Messages of*


President Truman, 1945-1946, *President Harry S. Truman's Office Files, 1945-1953*, and *President Truman's Committee on Civil Rights*.

Political Activities of the Johnson White House, 1963-1969

These records are drawn from the White House Central Files and the White House Confidential Files at the Lyndon B. Johnson Library in Austin, Texas. They are a largely untapped resource on the tumultuous political events of the 1960s. Other Johnson collections at the RSC library are: *The Daily Diary of President Johnson, 1963-1969*, *Minutes and Documents of the Cabinet Meetings of President Johnson*, *Oral Histories of the Johnson Administration*, *Civil Rights During the Johnson Administration*, and *Vietnam, the Media, and Public Support for the War*.

Papers of the Nixon White House: President's Personal Files, 1969-1974

After more than a decade of efforts by the former president to block their release, this collection has been reproduced from the Nixon Presidential Materials Project. It contains: the "President's Speech File," including remarks that were never recorded by the press and extemporaneous talks; the "Name/Subject File" with correspondence, memoranda, notes, and clippings involving people and topics important to the president; and the "Memoranda from the President File" which contains Nixon's memos to his White House staff, family, and other associates.

To facilitate research, printed finding aids accompany the microform collections. A complete list of the RSC archival materials and audio-visual collection on twentieth century American history is available upon request. The RSC library is open to the public year round, but by appointment only. 


ACE Seminar on Dutch-American Business Relations

In cooperation with the Tinbergen Institute of Rotterdam's Erasmus University and with support from the private sector, the RSC started a four-year comparative research project in 1994 on Dutch and American business cultures known as "ACE." Two Ph.D. candidates in economics, Mr. Joris Meijaard and Mr. Ferrie Pot, were appointed to work on this research project, the former focusing on Research and Development, the latter on Human Resources Management.

After two years of research, having reached the halfway point in the four-year study, on September 6, 1996 a seminar was held to discuss the preliminary results of ACE in the broader context of cultural differences between the United States and the Netherlands. Attended by some 40 persons, both academics and representatives of the private sector, the seminar took place at Erasmus University's Senate Hall and was chaired by Mr. L. Adrie Geelhoed, Secretary General of the Netherlands Ministry of Economic Affairs, who also serves on the Advisory Board of this research project.



ACE seminar speakers from left to right: Joris Meijaard, Kamal N. Saad, L. Adrie Geelhoed, Fons Trompenaars, and Ferrie Pot.

In addition to the two Ph.D. candidates who presented their research results, the program featured two distinguished guest speakers: Professor Kamal N. Saad, Vice President of Arthur D. Little International, Inc., who is a specialist in strategic management of Research and Development, and Professor Fons Trompenaars who runs a consultancy and training organization for international management. The confrontation between managers and academics gave this seminar a special dynamics and an impetus to continue this ambitious research project. 


Religious Exchanges Between The Netherlands and North America

A one-day symposium on "Sharing the Reformed Tradition: The Dutch-North American Exchange, 1846-1996" was organized by the RSC in cooperation with the Historical Documentation Center for Dutch Protestantism of the Free University in Amsterdam. This symposium, held on November 15, 1996 at the Free University, focused on 150 years of Dutch Protestant influences in the United States and Canada and American religious influences in the Netherlands.

Besides the nine lectures presented in the auditorium, in an adjacent room the public was offered the opportunity to watch documentaries and films propagating Dutch emigration to North America, as well as to




Professor Robert P. Swierenga (Hope College, Holland, Michigan) was the keynote speaker at the RSC/Free University symposium.

visit an exhibit on the cultural relations between the Netherlands and North America. The lectures delivered at this symposium have been published by the VU University Press in Amsterdam. 

American History Course by RSC Staff

In an effort to make a direct contribution to the surrounding community in Zeeland, the staff of the Roosevelt Study Center participated for the first time this winter in the adult education programs of the Zeeuwse Volksuniversiteit.

From January 10 to February 21 a series of seven evening lectures on American history and Dutch-American relations was offered to the general public. More than thirty people from the region attended the lecture series which was held at the RSC. After a brief

overview of American history, the audience received a vivid impression of such topics as immigration, race relations, the modern presidency, as well as two centuries of Dutch-American diplomatic and business relations. An extensive use of the RSC audio-visual collections, as well as the participation of guest speaker John Shearburn, the American Consul General in Amsterdam, made this lecture series very attractive to the audience. Considering its success, this course will be offered again in 1997. 

Writing Lives: American Biography and Autobiography



Standing with RSC Director Cornelis van Minnen (far right) are four members of the RSC Advisory Board who attended the 1996 NASA conference: (left to right) Professors Rob Kroes (Amsterdam), Douglas Brinkley (New Orleans), Alfons Lammers (Leiden), and Maurizio Vaudagna (Turin).

For the eighth consecutive year, the RSC hosted the annual Netherlands American Studies Association (NASA) conference, a three-day meeting which took place June 5-7, 1996. The topic of the conference: "Writing Lives: American Biography and Autobiography" proved to be very popular, attracting some seventy scholars from various disciplines (history, literature, political science, sociology, anthropology, cinematography) and from many countries including the United States, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Hungary, Switzerland, Germany, the United Kingdom,




One of the speakers at the 1996 NASA conference, Professor Douglas Brinkley (left) is seen here holding a portrait of America's thirty-ninth president Jimmy Carter about whom he is currently writing a biography.

Sweden, Norway, and, of course, the Netherlands.

Thirty papers were presented in parallel and plenary sessions. The speakers covered a wide range of topics, such as "The Cabot Lodges: A Family Portrait" by Alfons Lammers (Leiden), "The Civil Rights Issue in Eleanor Roosevelt's Autobiographies" by Mieke van Thoor (Roosevelt Study Center), "Jimmy Carter: The Post-Presidential Years" by Douglas Brinkley (New Orleans, Louisiana), "A Telling Existence: Writing Gay Biography" by Axel Nissen (Oslo, Norway), "Making Biography Out of Mencken" by Fred Hobson (Chapel Hill, North Carolina), "Writing Bogart's Biography" by Jeffrey Meyers (Kensington, California), "Biography, Cinema, and Popular Memory" by William Uricchio (Utrecht), and "True-Story Novels as Autobiography: The Genesis and Genius of Jack Kerouac's *Doctor Sax*" by Ann Charters (Storrs, Connecticut).

As in the past, the papers presented at this NASA conference will be published in the series "European Contributions to American Studies" of the VU University Press in Amsterdam. In 1997 the Netherlands American Studies Association will celebrate its twentieth anniversary with the conference theme "Through the Cultural Looking Glass: American Studies in Transcultural Perspective."

During the NASA conference on American biography and autobiography the RSC featured a photo exhibit on the thirty-ninth President of the United States, Jimmy Carter, who was a Four Freedoms Award laureate in 1995 (see page 11). 

Striving for the Best: Jimmy Carter's Pre-Presidential, Presidential and Post-Presidential Years

Jimmy Carter as governor of Georgia (1971). His term as governor resulted in a more effective, efficient government.



Pre-Presidential Years, 1924-1976

James Earl Carter, Jr. was born in 1924 in Plains, Georgia. The son of a farmer, he advanced through a successful naval career before returning to Georgia to run the family farm. As his agri-business grew, Carter built a name for himself as a fair, honest, and moderate figure in local government. He served two terms in the Georgia State Senate, and then was elected governor of Georgia in 1970.

When his term as governor expired in 1975, Carter began his campaign for the U.S. presidency. The American public was attracted to a populist candidate that had not been involved in national political problems like the Watergate scandal or the Vietnam War. Carter presented a welcome alternative. He defeated Republican incumbent Gerald Ford in the 1976 campaign, relying on votes from the South and the East, and became the thirty-ninth president of the United States.

Presidential Years, 1977-1980

The Carter presidency was characterized by remarkable foreign relations achievements, tempered by domestic strife. President Carter negotiated the SALT II treaties with the



Jimmy and Rosalyn Carter walking down Pennsylvania Avenue on Inauguration Day (1977).



The famous three-way handshake between Egypt's Anwar Sadat, Jimmy Carter and Israel's Menachem Begin, the apex of the Carter administration (1979).




Jimmy Carter with Deng Xiaoping signing a friendship treaty formally recognizing the People's Republic of China (1979).

Soviet Union, the Panama Canal treaties, and re-established formal diplomatic ties with mainland China. The highlight of his administration was the negotiation of the "Camp David Accords" between Israel and Egypt.

At home, however, as interest rates skyrocketed, many Americans were doubting the competitiveness of America's failing economy. In addition they blamed the Carter administration for its inability to free Americans held hostage in Iran. These issues led to Carter's losing his 1980 re-election bid to Ronald Reagan.

Post-Presidential Years, 1981-present

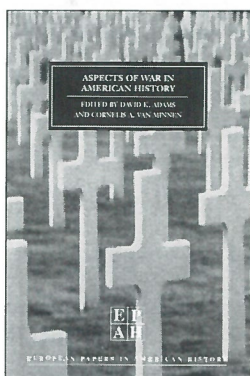
Since leaving the White House, Carter has distinguished himself as an independent arbiter for peace among developing nations around the globe. He is frequently invited to monitor elections and intervene in difficult foreign relations situations. The Carter Center in Atlanta, Georgia has organized these efforts as well as conducted programs to improve world health, agricultural efficiency, and to revitalize urban areas. 

Information

The Roosevelt Review is the annual newsletter of the Roosevelt Study Center. For free copies and information on the Center's activities, please contact the Roosevelt Study Center, Abdij 9, P.O. Box 6001, 4330 LA Middelburg, the Netherlands, tel. 31 (0)118 631 590, fax 31 (0)118 631 593.

Just Published


Aspects of War in American History, edited by David K. Adams and Cornelis A. van Minnen. *European Papers in American History*, vol. 5 (Keele: Keele University Press, 1996). This book aims to reflect the chronological and thematic range of the papers delivered by European and American historians at the conference on "The Phenomenon of War in U.S. History: Foreign and Domestic Implications," held at the RSC in April 1995. The twelve papers in this volume cover aspects of the colonial period, the Civil War, World War I, World War II, and the Vietnam War.



Jacket of
"Aspects of War in
American History"

Social and Secure? Politics and Culture of the Welfare State: A Comparative Inquiry, edited by Hans Bak, Frits van Holthoorn, and Hans Krabbendam. *European Contributions to American Studies*, vol. 37 (Amsterdam: VU University Press, 1996). This volume offers a comparative and multi-disciplinary inquiry into the welfare state settings of the Netherlands, the United States, and Canada. The twenty-five papers were delivered at the Netherlands American Studies Association conference "Living in the Welfare State: Social and Secure?", held at the RSC in June 1995.

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms Awards 1996, edited by Cornelis A. van Minnen (Middelburg: Roosevelt Study Center Publications, 1996). This sixteenth volume in the RSC Publications series contains the speeches delivered by Willem T. van Gelder, Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., William J. vanden Heuvel, King Juan Carlos of Spain, John Hume, Lord Runcie, Jacques de Milliano, and Shimon Peres on the occasion of the Four Freedoms Awards ceremony in Middelburg on May 11, 1996 (see pages 5-7).

Sharing the Reformed Tradition: The Dutch-North American Exchange, 1846-1996, edited by George Harinck and Hans Krabbendam (Amsterdam: VU University Press, 1996). These are the lectures delivered in Amsterdam at the RSC/Free University conference of November 15, 1996 (see page 9). 

A Look Ahead

Upcoming events at the RSC in 1997



The staff of the RSC welcomes you to join us next year at the events listed below.

Seminar on American History, January 15 - March 26

For the second time, in cooperation with the Zeeuwse Volksuniversiteit, the RSC is offering the general public a series of evening lectures on aspects of American history and Dutch-American relations.

1997 Theodore Roosevelt American History Awards, March 14

The annual RSC prizes for the three best M.A. theses on an American history topic written by Dutch university students in the preceding academic year. Replicas of Theodore Roosevelt's 1905 Inaugural Medal and prize money will be awarded to the winners who are selected by a distinguished jury.

The Third Middelburg European Historians Conference, April 23-25

The RSC will host the biennial conference of European historians of the United States for the third time. Building upon the success of the two previous conferences held in April 1993 and April 1995, the conference returns to the RSC with the theme "Secular and Religious Reform Movements in American History."

Conference on American Studies in the United States and Europe, June 4-6

The Netherlands American Studies Association will celebrate its twentieth anniversary with a conference at the RSC entitled "Through the Cultural Looking Glass: American Studies in Transcultural Perspective." The conference seeks to understand whether and how American Studies reveal cultural self-reflection in Europe and the United States. Essential to the theme is the comparison between the origins of American Studies in the United States and the adoption of these methods abroad.

Exhibit on the Ellis Island Immigrant Experience, September 5-October 31

Ellis Island, located just south of Manhattan, served as the gateway to the United States for generations of European immigrants. In addition to photographs of these immigrants, this exhibit will display some twenty-five drawings by the Middelburg- and New York-based Dutch artist Leendert van der Pool who was fascinated by the collection of artifacts and memorabilia of immigrants at the Ellis Island Immigration Museum in New York.

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Jimmy Carter Library
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