

# the Roosevelt review

*This pastel drawing by Leendert van der Pool portrays the tension of the immigrants, waiting nervously in the Ellis Island reception hall, with the expectations of the "good life" on the outside, symbolized by the sight of the Statue of Liberty seen through the window.*



## Ellis Island Revisited

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 to celebrate its twentieth anniversary; an American history course was given for the second time by the RSC staff for the Zeeuwse Volksuniversiteit; and the Third European Historians Conference, this time with the theme "Secular and Religious Reform Movements in American History," was hosted by the RSC. In addition, to honor Professor David Adams of Keele University, who recently retired, a special conference, entitled "The United States in Depression and War, 1933-1945," was organized by his British colleagues and held at the RSC. One of the highlights of every RSC season is a

specialty prepared and researched exhibition. This year's event, "Exodus to the New World," featured photographs and memorabilia on loan from the Ellis Island Immigration Museum and other American and Dutch sources, as well as drawings by the Dutch-American artist Leendert van der Pool (see above and pages 6-7). Juxtaposing historical photographs and artifacts with the artist's renderings of Ellis Island deepened the viewers' appreciation of the immigrant's experience. And, as in previous years, the RSC Research Grants Program continued to attract students of American history from all over Europe; and the RSC staff members themselves continued to be involved in important research projects. 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 European scholars of American history. In the following pages each of these activities is briefly described. 

*Newsletter of  
the Roosevelt  
Study Center*

1997



*The 1997 activities of the Roosevelt Study Center in Middelburg, the Netherlands have been made possible by many financial and in-kind contributions. The RSC gratefully acknowledges the generosity of the following contributors:*

*Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences  
Province of Zeeland  
Zeeland Library  
Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute  
Theodore Roosevelt Association  
United States Information Service in The Hague  
Dow Benelux N.V.  
Arthur D. Little International, Inc.  
Deloitte & Touche Registeraccountants  
Esso Nederland B.V.  
Fluor Daniel B.V.*

*GE Plastics Europe  
Heineken N.V.  
Indigo International Services Group B.V.  
Netherlands Ministry for Economic Affairs  
Philip Morris Holland N.V.  
Rabobank Nederland  
Unilever N.V.  
David Bruce Centre for American Studies  
at Keele University  
Erasmus University Rotterdam  
University of Leiden*

*The Roosevelt Stichting, which organizes and raises funds for the biennial Four Freedoms Awards ceremony in Middelburg, gratefully acknowledges financial support in 1996 and 1997 from the following donors:*

*Province of Zeeland  
Stichting VSB FONDS  
Koninklijke Van Ommeren N.V.  
ABN AMRO Bank N.V.  
AKZO NOBEL N.V.  
R. Mees en Zoonen Assurantiën B.V.  
Fluor Daniel B.V.  
Compaq Computer B.V.  
Ottokumpu Steel Processing B.V.  
Texaco Nederland B.V.  
ING Bank  
Total Raffinaderij Nederland N.V.  
Citibank, N.A.  
Altobel B.V.*

*ABB Lummus Global B.V.  
Algemeen Burgerlijk Pensioenfonds  
Sara Lee/DE N.V.  
Hotel Zuiderduin  
Rabobank Nederland  
Hoechst Holland N.V.  
Stichting Exploitatie Nederlandse Staatsloterij  
Baan Company N.V.  
Automatic Holland Group B.V.  
Heineken N.V.  
Rollins Hudig Hall  
Aegon N.V.  
KBW Effectenbank N.V.  
Nationale Investeringsbank N.V.*

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

# The Theodore Roosevelt American History Awards

On March 14, 1997 Ms. Morgan Kulla, the cultural attaché of the U.S. embassy in The Hague, presented the 1997 Theodore Roosevelt American History Awards to this year's prize winners. This prestigious award, presented annually, recognizes the three best Masters theses on an American history topic written by Dutch graduate students. Twelve M.A. theses had been selected and submitted by the American Studies Departments of the Universities of Groningen, Nijmegen, Utrecht, Amsterdam, and Leiden as being the best of the past academic year. A jury consisting of Marja Roholl (Erasmus University Rotterdam), Eduard van de Bilt (Universities of Amsterdam and Leiden), and Jaap Verheul (University of Utrecht) read and assessed the theses, most of which covered post-World War II topics.

Prior to the awards ceremony, each of the twelve authors gave a stimulating oral synopsis of his or her thesis, which was followed by the presentation of the jury report by Jaap Verheul. In its report the jury praised both the quality and the diversity of this year's nominated theses. Most, the jury felt, transcended the borders of "traditional" political history and delved into disciplines such as the history of law, art, journalism and mass media, economics, and film.

First prize was won by Seline Borking (Leiden) for her thesis, "Shopping Malls. An Art Historical Analysis."


Nanna Verhoeff (Utrecht) received the second prize for her thesis, "Early Westerns: How to Trace a Family."

The third prize was given to Marijn Smeets (Utrecht) for her thesis, "The Business of Being a Woman. Ida M. Tarbell and the American Women Issue."


All nominees were given a diploma and a copy of *The Man in the Arena*, a collection of speeches and essays by Theodore Roosevelt. In addition, each of the three prize winners received a Theodore Roosevelt Medal, and the second and third prize winners received dfl 500 and dfl 250, respectively. The first prize winner won a trip to the United States where she visited several "Roosevelt sites" in New York State: Theodore Roosevelt's birthplace in New York City and his house "Sagamore



*Standing in front of Theodore Roosevelt's portrait in the RSC exhibition hall are (left to right) Nanna Verhoeff, U.S. cultural attaché Morgan Kulla, Seline Borking, and Marijn Smeets.*

Hill" and other TR sites in Oyster Bay, Long Island, as well as the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library and Museum and Eleanor Roosevelt's house Val-Kill in Hyde Park, New York. 

## American History Course by RSC Staff

Building upon the success of the preceding year, the RSC staff again in 1997 participated in the adult education programs of the Zeeuwse Volksuniversiteit. In the months of January through March a series of evening lectures on American history and Dutch-American relations was offered to the public. Twenty-six persons from the region registered for this course, which started with an overview of American history. This was followed by lectures on Dutch-American diplomatic relations, including comments of U.S. cultural attaché Morgan Kulla; U.S. immigration; Roosevelt and the New Deal; the Kennedy and Johnson administrations; and race relations in U.S. history. The lectures were enhanced with illustrations and other materials from the RSC audio-visual collections. 

# A Word About the Roosevelt Study Center

## RSC Board of Trustees

Nel J. Ginjaar-Maas  
*President*  
Huibert P. van Heel  
Rein Jan Hoekstra  
G. Willemien van Montfrans-Hartman  
Jacobus N.M. Richelle  
Arno A. Vermeulen

Lawrence H. Budner  
William J. vanden Heuvel  
*Ex Officio Members*

## RSC Executive Committee

Gert L.C.M. de Kok  
*President*  
Lucky Nederhoed-Zijlstra  
*Secretary*  
Cathrien Koster  
*Treasurer*

Thijs Haks  
Truus Huisman  
Lein N. Labryère  
Giebe van der Scheer

Cornelis A. van Minnen  
*Executive Director*

**Roosevelt Stichting**  
Willem T. van Gelder  
*President*

William J. vanden Heuvel  
*Vice President*  
Peter T. van de Steenoven  
*Treasurer*  
Siert Knigge  
*Member*

Hans Bergmans  
Cornelis Boertien  
Joris Demmink  
Arthur W.H. Docters van Leeuwen  
Alexander P. van Heeren  
Alexander C. Helfrich  
Pieter van der Veen  
H. Johannes Witteveen  
*Advisory Board*

Arend C. de Ru  
*Executive Director*  
Cissy Fokker-Ort  
*External Relations*

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 Provincial Government of Zeeland, the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute, the Theodore Roosevelt Association, the Roosevelt Stichting, as well as 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 advanced scholars of American history:

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



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

- 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. Office and library hours: 9.00 to 12.30 and 13.30 to 17.00. The RSC exhibition hall is open April through October, Monday to Friday, from 11.00 to 12.30 and 13.30 to 16.30.

For information on the RSC holdings and its activities, please contact the Roosevelt Study Center, Abdij 9, P.O. Box 6001, 4330 LA Middelburg, the Netherlands, tel. (31) (0)118-631590, fax (31) (0)118-631593, e-mail [secr@rsc.knaw.nl](mailto:secr@rsc.knaw.nl), homepage <http://www.knaw.nl/rscuk00.htm>.

*The RSC offers financial assistance to European students of American history wishing to utilize its research facilities.*

## 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. There they 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 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 1997 the following persons received a RSC Research Grant for their projects:

- Jochem van Abel (Erasmus University Rotterdam, the Netherlands), "The Civil Rights Movement and Affirmative Action, 1964-1975" (M.A.);
- Hartwig Isernhagen (University of Basel, Switzerland), "Indians in the Federal Writers' Project" (essay in book project);
- Arti Roodnat (University of Leiden, the Netherlands), "Lyndon B. Johnson and the Race Riots of the 1960s" (M.A.);

To strengthen the network among European scholars of American history, the RSC hosted the Third Middelburg Conference.

## Secular and Religious Reform Movements in American History

In 1993 the RSC hosted the First Middelburg Conference of European Historians of the United States. The initiative for that meeting was taken by a group of historians – most of them members of the European Association for American Studies – who felt the need for a professionally dedicated conference. The success of this first conference led to the decision to establish a pattern of biennial meetings at the Roosevelt Study Center. In addition, “Middelburg 1” resulted in the launch by Keele University Press of a new book series, “European Papers in American History.” This series was initiated with the 1993 conference volume *Reflections on American Exceptionalism* (Keele, 1994), edited by the conference organizers, David K. Adams of Keele University and RSC Director Cornelis A. van Minnen. The Second Middelburg Conference, held in April 1995, was also well attended. A selection of the papers delivered at that conference was published in the volume *Aspects of War in American History* (Keele, 1997).

### “Middelburg 3”

On April 23-25, 1997 some forty historians from ten European countries, Israel and the United States met at the RSC for the Third Middelburg Conference of European Historians of the United States. The broad theme to be discussed this time was “Secular and Religious Reform Movements in American History.” During the course of three days, a total number of twenty papers were delivered in nine sessions. More than half of the papers dealt with nineteenth century aspects of the conference theme. The other papers covered eighteenth and twentieth century topics.


Mark Häberlein (Germany) spoke about the institutional development and internal conflicts in four colonial churches. In that same session on eighteenth century America, Nathalie Caron (France) delivered a paper on “Thomas Paine: A Religious Reformer in Defense of Deism.” The next session featured papers by Louis Billington (U.K.), Anthony Mann (U.K.), and John Corrigan (U.S.A.) on reform movements in nineteenth century New England. Papers on nineteenth century political reformers like Orestes Brownson and William Lloyd Garrison were presented by Naomi Wulf (France) and Louis Kern (U.S.A.), respectively. Other sessions on nineteenth century reform movements dealt with Millennialism (Grant Underwood,



The conference organizers of “Middelburg 3” with the members of their advisory committee. From left to right: David Adams (Keele, U.K.), Knud Krakau (Berlin), Claude Fohlen (Paris), Tamás Magyarics (Budapest), Valeria Gennaro Lerda (Genova, Italy), Cornelis van Minnen (RSC), and Serge Ricard (Aix-en-Provence, France).

U.S.A.), Sabbatarianism (Alexis McCrossen, U.S.A.), Judaism (Karla Goldman, U.S.A.), B’nai B’rith (Cornelia Wilhelm, Germany), leisure (Robert Lewis, U.K.), and the Women’s Christian Temperance Union in the South (Valeria Gennaro Lerda, Italy). Twentieth century aspects of secular and religious reform movements were covered in papers by Krzysztof Michalek (Poland), Howell John Harris (U.K.), Lucilla Cremoni (Italy), Ron Robin (Israel), Jan Rupp (the Netherlands), Melvyn Stokes (U.K.), and Axel Schäfer (Czech Republic).

The three-day conference was sponsored by the United States Information Service in The Hague, the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute in Hyde Park, New York, the David Bruce Centre for American Studies at Keele University, and, of course, the Roosevelt Study Center. As with the preceding conferences, “Middelburg 3” was a very stimulating gathering. A selection of the papers will be edited by conference organizers David Adams and Cornelis van Minnen and published in the Keele University Press series “European Papers in American History.”

In due course, the theme and dates of “Middelburg 4” (April 1999) will be announced in *The Roosevelt Review*, as well as in the newsletters and homepages on the internet of appropriate professional organizations and journals in Europe and the United States. 

Among the many immigrants to the United States in the 1800s were a stalwart group of Zeelanders. A fascinating exhibit at the RSC, with items on loan from the Ellis Island Immigration Museum, various American and Dutch archives, and the Dutch-American artist Leendert van der Pool, tells their story.

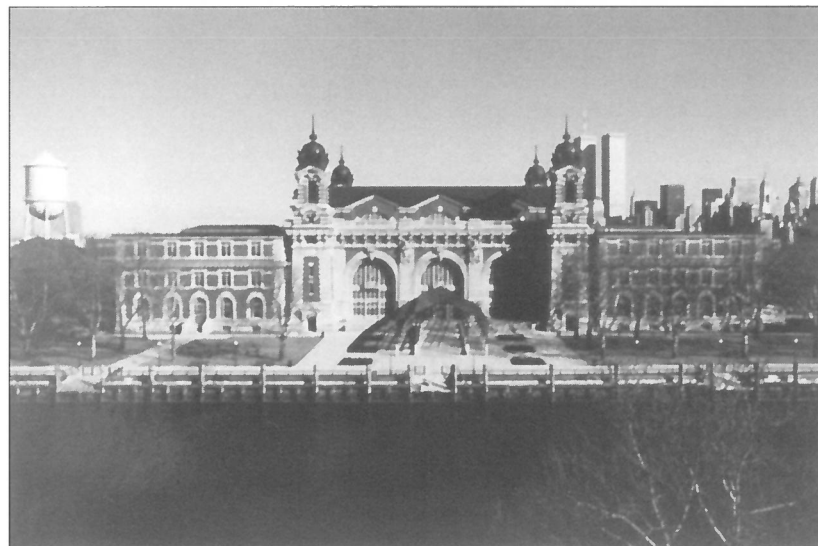
## Exodus to the New World: Ellis Is

In 1887, Zeeland, Michigan prepared to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of its founding in 1847. This photograph of the "arrangements committee" for the celebration includes some of the original pioneers who arrived under the leadership of Rev. Cornelis van der Meulen, Jannes van de Luijster and Jan Steketee.



One hundred and fifty years ago, a group of 450 people from the Province of Zeeland left their homes in the Lowlands to settle at the Michigan frontier in the United States. Since 1847 thousands of inhabitants of Zeeland joined these friends and relatives, together with millions of other immigrants, to start a new life in the United States. The RSC seized the opportunity of the 150th anniversary of the town of Zeeland, Michigan to stage a special exhibit on the immigrant experience, symbolized by the history of Ellis Island, the main gateway to America from 1892-1954.

At the official opening of the exhibit on September 5th a stirring documentary, "Island of Hope, Island of Tears," was shown. Thereafter guests were invited to the exhibition hall to view the historical photos, documents, and other objects on loan from various private and public sources.



The main processing building on Ellis Island was for some immigrants the most beautiful building they had ever seen.

Central to the RSC Ellis Island exhibition were twenty-five drawings by the artist Leendert van der Pool who divides his time between Middelburg in Zeeland and New York City. The large-scale drawings represent the feelings of confusion and expectation of many an immigrant whose first confrontation with America was this little island southwest of Manhattan.



The traditional clothing of this farmer's wife from South Beveland, Zeeland, the Netherlands, caught the interest of one of the Ellis Island inspectors.

After the show in Middelburg, Leendert van der Pool's drawings will be displayed in the U.S., first at the Ellis Island Immigration Museum, and then at Hofstra University on Long Island, and in Michigan. The exhibit at the RSC, which took place during September and October, also included memorabilia on loan from the Ellis Island Immigration Museum, the Zeeland (Michigan) Historical Society, the Holland (Michigan) Museum, the Municipal Archives of Rotterdam and Goes, the Zeeland Archives and Zeeland Library in Middelburg, as well as from private persons in Zeeland, Michigan and the Province of Zeeland in the Netherlands. Photographs, letters, pamphlets, posters, registrations, and kitchenware all served to illustrate both the diversity and the universality of the immigrant experience upon arrival in the New World. On the day following the opening, the RSC hosted a one-day symposium on Zeeland emigration to the United States. This focused on the motives for emigration, travel routes, Zeeland communities in the U.S., and their efforts to keep their Zeeland identity alive. The symposium was attended by more than one hundred persons and the proceedings have been published in Dutch in Zeeland's historical journal, *Nehalennia*. A full-color illustrated bilingual (Dutch-English) catalogue of Mr. van der Pool's works *Ellis Island*, edited by RSC Assistant Director Hans Krabbendam, has also been published. Both volumes are available from the RSC. 

# nd and the Zeelanders in America

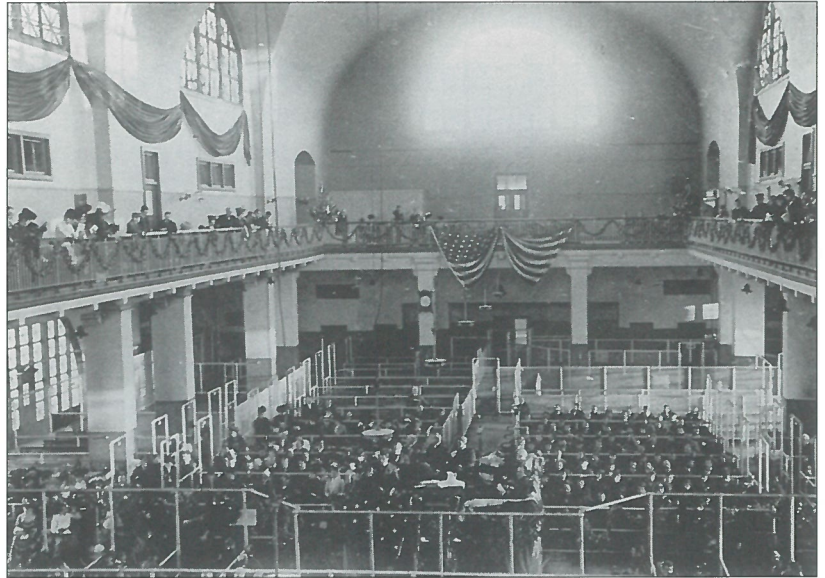


Van der Pool symbolizes the registration procedure at Ellis Island with a typewriter, cash register and files, with the hint of the immigrants' eventual destinations – signs with the names “New York City” and “Newark, New Jersey.” Ellis Island was the point of entry for journeys to many parts of the U.S.



The women's ward at Ellis Island hospital was for some a place to recuperate; for others it meant they would be returned to their land of origin.

The immigrants who had traveled steerage were led into the arrival hall, pictured below, to be registered, after which they underwent a medical examination and, hopefully, were allowed to enter the New World.



The intimidating medical examination is depicted in Van der Poole's drawing through the images of the wheelchair, crutches, scale and beds.

# New Acquisitions at the RSC Library

The microform collections at the RSC form an invaluable primary reference source for scholars of American history. In general they cover the presidencies of Theodore Roosevelt through Richard M. Nixon. In 1997 grants from the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute and the Zeeland Library enabled the RSC to add three important collections to its already unique holdings.

*U.S. Diplomatic Records on the Netherlands and the Marshall Plan*



Secretary of State George C. Marshall

In recognition of the fiftieth anniversary of the Marshall Plan, the RSC has this year acquired from the National Archives in Washington, D.C. important archival materials from the Washington office that coordinated the Marshall Plan for the Netherlands and from the Historical Collection Relating to the Formulation of the European Recovery Program.


Also microfilmed for the RSC library were recently released Department of State records covering the Kennedy and Johnson years (1960-1967). In addition, the personal files of the State Department on the U.S. representatives to the Netherlands (1910-1960) have been acquired. These acquisitions complement the American diplomatic records covering U.S.-Dutch relations during the years 1785-1959, already in the RSC collection.

*The Fiorello H. La Guardia Papers, 1917-1945*  
Reproduced from the New York Public Library's extensive collection of La Guardia Papers, this collection primarily documents La Guardia's years as U.S. congressman from New York and as one of New York City's most effective mayors (1933-1945). This resource will be of great interest to historians of twentieth century U.S. politics and society, shedding light on the Progressive Era, the federal legislature in the 1920s, Prohibition,

the effects of the Depression and the New Deal on American cities, the home front during World War II, and many other topics.

*Papers of the Nixon White House:  
The President's Office Files*

The materials in these files (Documents and News Summaries Annotated by the President), reproduced from the Nixon Presidential Materials Project, cover the years 1969-1974. These files are especially significant because President Nixon took the time to reflect, annotate, and use them as presidential directives. His notations cover virtually all of the issues that confronted his administration, thus giving researchers an intimate view of the daily activities, thoughts, and opinions of Nixon during these crucial years. This new acquisition complements another *Papers of the Nixon White House* collection at the RSC: *The President's Personal Files, 1969-1974*.

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. 

*continued from page 4*

## RSC Research Grants

- Eric Kobes (University of Groningen, the Netherlands), "General George C. Marshall's Mission to China, 1945-1947" (M.A.);
- Inez M. Rongen and Sita Smid (University of Utrecht, the Netherlands), "Four Democratic First Ladies Since Eleanor Roosevelt" (M.A.);
- Oreste Foppiani (University of Pavia, Italy), "Theodore Roosevelt and U.S. Foreign Policy in Central America" (M.A.);
- George D.G. Lewis (University of Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom), "The Effect of Anti-Communism on the Civil Rights Movement in the American South, 1945-1965" (Ph.D.);
- Gary L. Durkin (University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom), "The Allies and the Holocaust" (M.A.);
- Simon van IJssel (Erasmus University Rotterdam, the Netherlands), "U.S.-Dutch Negotiations to Renew the Commercial Treaty in the New Deal Era" (M.A.);
- David N. Eldridge (University of St. Andrews, United Kingdom), "John F.



New York City's  
Mayor Fiorello H.  
La Guardia



*The RSC staff is increasing and several members are involved in significant research projects.*

## Research Projects of RSC Staff Members

Currently the RSC has eight staff members. Five of them, three historians and two economists, are working on a Ph.D. thesis. In addition to the materials they have found and are still collecting during research trips to the United States, they are making extensive use of the RSC library.

Historian Jaap Kooijman is writing his dissertation on the national health insurance debate in the United States from the early 1930s up to the end of the 1960s. His research especially focuses on primary sources from the administrations of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and President Lyndon B. Johnson. Emphasis will be given to the so-called “un-American” character of national health insurance and how this definition fits within the theory of American exceptionalism.

In his dissertation on the development of the Republican Southern strategy between 1936 and 1972, Arjen Westerhoff, a historian who joined the RSC staff in 1997, is studying the electoral realignment of the U.S. South from a Democratic into a Republican stronghold. He is examining the way in which both conservative Southern politicians – who wanted to restore their influence in




*The library and research room at the Roosevelt Study Center are intensely utilized by both staff members and other scholars.*

presidential and congressional politics – and the national Republican Party contributed to this process.


An economist affiliated with the RSC and Erasmus University’s Tinbergen Institute, Ferrie Pot is studying the impact of national cultural differences on the human resources management in Dutch and American corporations. His dissertation considers how recent changes in personnel policies implemented by Dutch and American firms can be understood in relation to traditional economic systems and whether or not these personnel policies are converging to a similar model.

The research project of Joris Meijaard, who is also an economist affiliated with the RSC and the Tinbergen Institute, is in a subject area similar to that of Mr. Pot’s. Mr. Meijaard also focuses on cultural differences and similarities between Dutch and American firms. His dissertation explores the research and development strategies at four Dutch and American corporations with plants in the U.S. and the Netherlands, in which he carefully analyzes the group decision-making processes involving some thirty innovation projects.

Historian Erik van den Berg joined the RSC staff in 1997. His Ph.D. thesis deals with the life and times of Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr., who, living in his father’s shadow, participated in U.S. national politics in the 1950s and 60s and tried in vain to keep alive FDR’s political legacy. FDR, Jr.’s attempts to play an important role in American Liberalism as well as his positions in the Kennedy and Johnson administrations will be given special attention in this political biography. 

## Program

- Kennedy’s Use of History and the 1960 Campaign” (M.A.);
- Suzanne C. Labadie (Free University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands), “The Open Sky is the Limit: U.S.-Dutch Negotiations on Landing Rights, 1946-1957” (M.A.);
- Anna Szczegot (University of Warsaw, Poland), “The Aims and Accomplishments of the TVA in Tennessee, 1933-1941” (M.A.);
- Marc Frey (Universities of Bonn and Cologne, Germany), “The United States and the Dissolution of European Empires in Southeast Asia, 1944-1957” (book);
- Nienke Luinstra (University of Leiden, the Netherlands), “The Unofficial Running Mate: The Role of Presidential Candidates’ Wives in the Twentieth Century” (M.A.).

European students seeking a masters or doctorate in American history and advanced scholars are invited to apply for the 1998 Research Grants. Application forms and relevant information on the RSC archival collections are available upon request. 

*The Netherlands American Studies Association celebrated its twentieth anniversary with a three-day conference at the RSC.*

# Through the Cultural Looking Glass: American Studies in Transcultural Perspective

*As part of the celebration of NASA's twentieth anniversary, NASA President Hans Bak (left) and NASA Founding Father Rob Kroes took the first slices of a special anniversary cake offered by the NASA Board to the conference participants.*




Since for almost a decade the Netherlands American Studies Association (NASA) has held its annual conference at the Roosevelt Study Center, it was fitting that NASA would celebrate its twentieth anniversary in Middelburg. On June 4-6, 1997 the RSC hosted a NASA conference which appropriately reflected on the history, the nature and methods, the current debates within, and the future of American Studies. The central theme of the conference was whether and how American Studies reveals cultural self-reflection in Europe and the United States, hence the conference title: "Through the Cultural Looking Glass: American Studies in Transcultural Perspective." The three-day program featured twenty speakers and attracted some sixty-five scholars in American Studies from the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Austria, Poland, Estonia, and, of course, the Netherlands.

In the context of NASA's twentieth anniversary, Robert Rydell (Montana State University) reflected on "NASA's Contributions to American Studies." Dutch scholars of American Studies Jaap Verheul (University of Utrecht), Frits van Holthoorn (University of Groningen), Mel van Elteren (University of Tilburg) and Jan Rupp (University of Amsterdam) presented papers focusing

respectively on "The Origins of American Studies," "The European Perspective on American Studies," "American Studies in Europe: Its Promises and Failures in Internationalizing the Field," and "American Studies and the Fulbright Program," while André Kaenel (University of Nancy, France) spoke about "The U.S. and Us: Nationalism and Internationalism in American Studies Today." European Association for American Studies President Heinz Ickstadt (Free University of Berlin) in his paper considered "The Dilemmas and Possibilities of American Studies" and former President of the American Studies Association Paul Lauter (Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut, U.S.A.) in the concluding presentation lectured on "Reconfiguring Academic Disciplines: The Emergence of American Studies."

The papers presented at this NASA conference will be edited by conference organizers Hans Krabbendam (RSC) and Jaap Verheul (University of Utrecht) and published in the series "European Contributions to American Studies" of the VU University Press in Amsterdam.

In June 1998 the NASA conference topic will be "Beat Culture and Beyond: American Counter-cultures in the 1950s." In coordination with the NASA Conference, the RSC has also scheduled a photo exhibit on the Beat Generation. 

*The RSC served as the venue for the Sixth International Colloquium of the David Bruce Centre for American Studies at Keele University. It attracted well-known New Deal and World War II scholars from Europe and the U.S.*

## The United States in Depression and War, 1933-1945

As a tribute to Professor David K. Adams, who recently retired from his position at Keele University, his former colleagues at Keele in association with the RSC organized a three-day colloquium. This event, held in Middelburg's Abbey June 25-27, 1997, was the Sixth International Colloquium of the David Bruce Centre for American Studies at Keele University. It focused on the historiography of the Roosevelt period and the changing perspectives on that era which have resulted from the end of the Cold War, the current debate on the efficacy of the social welfare legislation, and the prominence of such issues as multiculturalism and feminism. The program featured seventeen papers presented by eminent specialists in the field from the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Italy, Germany, Denmark, and the United States.

Noted Roosevelt scholar William E. Leuchtenburg (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) delivered the keynote address, entitled "In the Shadow of FDR: Bill and Hillary Clinton." His speech included the most up-to-date research gathered from the internet just minutes before Professor Leuchtenburg ascended the podium to speak.


Several aspects of New Deal Social Welfare and Culture were discussed at the conference: Jay Kleinberg (Brunel University) lectured on widow's welfare, Jaap Kooijman (RSC) about FDR and National Health Insurance, Olaf Stieglitz (Hamburg University) gave a presentation on recent historiography and future research on New Deal youth programs, Gareth Davies (University of Lancaster) explained "The Unsuspected Radicalism of the Social Security Act," and Stuart Kidd (University of Reading) lectured on the Farm Security Administration's photographic project. Clara Juncker (Odense University) focused on "The Left and the Ladies" and Martin Halliwell (De Montfort University) spoke about "Reinhold Niebuhr's Blindness to Liberalism."

In a session on the Politics, Government, and Public Policy of Franklin Roosevelt, Anthony Badger (Cambridge University) spoke about Roosevelt's "New Generation" of Southerners; Margaret Walsh (University of Nottingham) focused on public policy and transport; Richard Maidment (Open University) dealt with the Supreme Court and New Deal legislation; and Maurizio Vaudagna (University of Turin) delivered a paper on "The Debate on the Legacy of FDR in Postwar America."



*Professor William E. Leuchtenburg, keynote speaker at the conference, and Professor David K. Adams enjoy themselves at the reception preceding the dinner in Middelburg's Abbey.*

Several foreign policy issues in the Depression and War years were covered by Patricia Clavin (Keele University), Leon Gordenker (Princeton University), Michaela Hönicke (Free University, Berlin), and Cornelia Wilhelm (University of Munich). At the last session, the colloquium co-organizer and successor of David Adams at Keele University's American Studies Department, Robert A. Garson, paid tribute to the accomplishments of David Adams as a scholar of the New Deal and pioneer in the field of American Studies in the United Kingdom.

The papers presented at this most stimulating meeting are envisaged to be published by Keele University Press in its series "European Papers in American History." 



*The organizers of the conference, from left to right: Robert A. Garson (Keele University), Stuart Kidd (University of Reading), and RSC Director Cornelis A. van Minnen.*

## Information

The Roosevelt Review is the annual newsletter of the Roosevelt Study Center.

ISSN 1386-9094

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)118-631590, fax (31) (0)118-631593, secr@rsc.knaw.nl, <http://www.knaw.nl/rsc/uk00.htm>.



## New Cooperation Agreement


In August 1997 RSC President Gert de Kok (left) and Leiden University's Dean of Faculty of Letters, Professor Bart Westerweel, continuing the cooperation begun in 1993, signed a new agreement of cooperation by establishing a four-year Ph.D. research project funded by both institutions on a matching principle. Through this agreement Erik van den Berg has been awarded a grant as a Ph.D. candidate to work on a political biography of Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr., and will be using the RSC collection extensively in his research.

## Just Published

*Ten More Years! A Celebration of the Roosevelt Study Center's Tenth Anniversary on 19 September 1996* (Middelburg: Roosevelt Study Center Publications, 1997).

Edited and introduced by Cornelis A. van Minnen, this seventeenth volume in the Roosevelt Study Center Publications series contains the speeches delivered by Anthony Badger, Douglas Brinkley, K. Terry Dornbush, Michiel Westerlaken, Erik Zürcher, Heinz Ickstadt, and William J. vanden Heuvel at the RSC's tenth anniversary symposium. The speeches cover a wide variety of subjects ranging from Professor Badger's observations on the collegial cooperation among New Deal and FDR scholars, to Ambassador Dornbush's remarks on Dutch-American relations in the post-World War II era, to Ambassador vanden Heuvel's view on the then-upcoming 1996 U.S. presidential elections. The volume clearly symbolizes the remarkable role the RSC has played for a decade in encouraging the study of American history in Europe.

*Ellis Island. Drawings of Leendert van der Pool* (Goes: De Koperen Tuin, 1997).

This illustrated catalogue of Mr. van der Pool's works was published to accompany the exhibition on Ellis Island and the Zeelanders in America held at the RSC in September and October 1997. Van der Pool's drawings are based on his impressions of the Ellis Island Immigration Museum in New York City. The volume, edited by Hans Krabbendam and available from the RSC, features an introduction on the history of Ellis Island and includes all the drawings in full color which were on display. It is presented in a bilingual (English-Dutch) edition, as the exhibit will be traveling to the United States after leaving the RSC. 

# A Look Ahead

*Upcoming events at the RSC in 1998*

## 1998 Theodore Roosevelt American History Awards, March 27

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.

## Spanish-American War Conference, April 23-24

On the occasion of the centennial anniversary of the Spanish-American War, a group of European scholars working on the cooperative international research project "European Reactions to the Spanish-American War of 1898" will hold a two-day gathering at the RSC to assess the status of their ongoing project. The idea for the project originated at the First Middelburg Conference of European Historians of the U.S. in 1993.

## Four Freedoms Awards Ceremony, May 2

The biennial presentation in Middelburg's Abbey of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms Awards to a number of world citizens who are honored for their commitment to FDR's Four Freedoms.

## Conference on U.S.-Dutch Business Cultures, May 15

In 1994 the RSC, in cooperation with Erasmus University's Tinbergen Institute in Rotterdam, initiated a four-year research project on the differences and similarities in Dutch and American business cultures. The research results of the two Ph.D. candidates working on this project will be presented at this conference, which will also feature prominent speakers from the private sector, government and the academic communities, who will speak on innovation and human resources strategies.

## Conference on the Beat Generation, June 3-5

The theme of the Netherlands American Studies Association 1998 Conference will be "Beat Culture and Beyond: American Countercultures in the 1950s." The conference aims to explore, from a multi-disciplinary angle, the interactions between the dominant culture and countercultures in the U.S., especially that of the Beat Generation. Attention will also be given to the impact of these countercultures in Europe.

## Photo Exhibit on the Beat Generation, June 3-August 28

In coordination with the 1998 NASA Conference on Beat Culture, the RSC has scheduled a photo exhibit on the Beat Generation by California-based photographer and documentary filmmaker Christopher Felver. His work has been widely exhibited in the United States and Europe, including a solo show at the Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris.

*The Roosevelt Review has been sponsored by a grant from Dow Benelux N.V.*



**Editor:**  
Cornelis A. van Minnen

**Photos:**  
Ellis Island Immigration Museum  
George C. Marshall Research Library  
The New York Public Library  
Leendert van der Pool  
Anda van Riet