

the Roosevelt review

*From the RSC summer 2001 photo exhibit
Picturing Faith:
"Table Blessing," 1941,
Carroll County,
Georgia. As war raged
in Europe and Asia,
the photographers
commissioned by the
U.S. government were
asked to provide
pictures such as this by
Jack Delano which,
rather than a
documentation of
poverty, portrays an
essential aspect of
democratic society and
one of FDR's Four
Freedoms – the
freedom of worship.*




Fifteen Years of Dedicated Study

Spring 2001 at the RSC started with the presentation of the annual Theodore Roosevelt American History Awards, with the Fifth Middelburg Conference and a gathering of the directors of the American Studies Network in Europe, and with hosting the Netherlands American Studies Association annual meeting. In this way the RSC continued to fulfill its role as a leading European venue that fosters discussion about and understanding of America – of its development as a nation and its place in our shared history. Many of these events have gained the status of "tradition." Some, such as new alliances with the University of Ghent and the Netherlands Institute for War Documentation, testify to the RSC's constant search for renewal. Yet suddenly, on September 11th, our scholarly seriousness of purpose was catapulted into another dimension of sobriety and responsibility.

When the Roosevelt Study Center opened fifteen years ago, its mandate was to encourage the study of twentieth-century American history among Europeans. Its founding was inspired by long-standing

Dutch-American bilateral relations and the role of three famous Americans of Dutch ancestry from Zeeland's Roosevelt family – Theodore, Franklin, and Eleanor. In the last few months, since the attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and near Pittsburgh, we have found ourselves confronted with "modern history" in a new, more direct way. Questions that the RSC has always considered important have taken on a new urgency: How do political policies and cultural norms interact? How can we learn from the past? We are reminded of Eleanor's work for the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Of Franklin D. Roosevelt's Four Freedoms: freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want, and freedom from fear.

As the shock and pain of the current world crisis continues, many people are rediscovering FDR's inspiring words. Since the opening of the RSC in 1986, FDR's freedom from fear has never been more relevant. For us at the RSC, it is a time to rededicate ourselves to our mission: To foster understanding through education. 

*Newsletter of
the Roosevelt
Study Center*

2001



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in the year 2001 have been made possible by
financial and in-kind contributions.*

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“History, taught for a directly and immediately useful purpose to pupils and teachers of pupils, is one of the necessary features of a sound education in democratic citizenship.”

Theodore Roosevelt, Presidential Address, American Historical Association, Boston, Massachusetts, 1912.

The Theodore Roosevelt American History Awards

Theodore Roosevelt not only served as the twenty-sixth president of the United States. As a prolific writer of history books, he was also elected in 1912 as president of the American Historical Association. Therefore, it is fitting that the annual American history awards presented by the RSC should be named in his honor.

Started in 1987, the Theodore Roosevelt American History Awards (TRAHA) aim 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 in Oyster Bay, New York and each year recognizes the three best Masters theses on an American history topic written by Dutch graduate students.

Since its inception, including this year's entries, a total of 127 M.A. theses have been submitted by a number of Dutch universities. This time the American Studies Departments of the universities of Leiden, Amsterdam, Utrecht, Nijmegen, and Groningen nominated a total of eight M.A. theses as being the best of the past academic year. The jury of three historians were Berteke Waaldijk (University of Utrecht), Tity de Vries (University of Groningen), and Marietje Bohmer, first prize winner of the TRAHA in 2000.

The awards ceremony at the RSC on April 9, 2001 was attended by Theodore Roosevelt Association Director John A. Gable. It began with the nominees giving oral presentations about their theses and their most important conclusions. The topics covered political, social and cultural history. This was followed by the jury's report in which all eight theses were reviewed. The jury expressed its surprise that, compared with previous years, there was a lack of attention to gender issues in most theses as well as less attention spent to subjects involving popular culture. On the other hand, the jury observed, interest in race and ethnicity seems to remain very strong among Dutch students. The report concluded that it had been a joy to read all eight theses as the authors had provided interesting and in many ways challenging arguments.



Standing in front of Theodore Roosevelt's ebullient portrait in the RSC exhibition hall are left to right: TRA Director John A. Gable, prize winners Gonny Pasaribu, Ilse Dirckx, and Vincent van der Zee, and chair of the jury Berteke Waaldijk.

First prize was won by Ilse Dirckx (Groningen) for her thesis “Bilingual Education: Apple Pie or Pizza? The Battle Between Cultural Uniformists and Cultural Pluralists.” Gonny Pasaribu (Utrecht) received the second prize for her thesis “Rhythm, Rhyme, and Resistance: Hip-Hop Culture and Rap Music in Contemporary Black America.” The third prize was given to Vincent van der Zee (Nijmegen) for his thesis “The Killer Medicine: The Marijuana Prohibition's Impact on the Medical Marijuana Issue.”

Each nominee was given a diploma and a copy of *The Man in the Arena*, a collection of Theodore Roosevelt's speeches. In addition, TRA Director John Gable presented each of the three prize winners with a Theodore Roosevelt inauguration medal, and the winners of the second and third prizes received a cash prize of DFL 500 and DFL 250, respectively. First prize winner Ilse Dirckx won a trip to New York where in May she visited several “Roosevelt sites”: Theodore Roosevelt's birthplace and the American Museum of Natural History in New York City, TR's house “Sagamore Hill” and other TR sites in the Oyster Bay, Long Island area. She also visited the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library and Museum, FDR's house Top Cottage, and Eleanor Roosevelt's cottage “Val-Kill” in Hyde Park, New York.

About her “most enjoyable trip” Ilse Dirckx reported that it had “definitely reinvigorated [her] interest in American history in general, but it had also sparked [her] interest in the Roosevelt family and the Roosevelt heritage in the United States specifically.”



TRA Director John A. Gable showing the TR Inaugural Medal.

A Word About the Roosevelt Study Center



A meeting of five directors from humanities and social sciences research institutes that, like the RSC, are also affiliated with the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences was hosted by the RSC director on May 30, 2001. Left to right: Derk Bosker (Fryske Akademie), Gaspard de Jong (NIWI), Wouter Hugenholtz (NIAS), Hans Bennis (Meertens Instituut), Hans Blom (NIOD), and RSC Director Cornelis van Minnen.

The Roosevelt Study Center 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 Delano 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 Roosevelt Study Center is affiliated with the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences and a founding member of the American Studies Network, a cooperation of the twenty foremost American Studies Centers in Europe. Currently, RSC Director Cornelis A. van Minnen serves as president of this pan-European organization. In developing its activities and building its collections the RSC is supported by the Provincial Government of Zeeland, the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute at

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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 U.S. modern 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 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;
- 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: 9.00 to 12.30 and 13.30 to 17.00. The RSC exhibition hall is open April through October, Monday through Friday, from 11.00 to 12.30 and 13.30 to 16.30.

For information on the RSC holdings and its activities, please visit our homepage on the Internet: www.roosevelt.nl or 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: rsc@zeeland.nl. 

On April 20-21, 2001 fourteen directors of Europe's foremost American Studies Centers, all members of the American Studies Network in Europe, were hosted at the RSC for their annual meeting by RSC Director Cornelis van Minnen (far left), who currently serves as president of the Network.



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

Nation on the Move: Mobility in U.S. History

Since 1993 the RSC has hosted a series of conferences of European historians of the United States aimed at providing these scholars with an opportunity to meet their European and American colleagues. Known as the Middelburg Conferences, they are held in odd-numbered years, and have resulted in a number of publications comprised of a selection of the papers delivered at these meetings. Edited by conference organizers David K. Adams of Keele University and RSC Director Cornelis A. van Minnen, the following volumes based on the Middelburg Conferences have been published: *Reflections on American Exceptionalism* (Keele, 1994), *Aspects of War in American History* (Keele, 1997), and *Religious and Secular Reform in America* (Edinburgh and New York, 1999). In addition, in cooperation with co-organizer and co-editor Sylvia L. Hilton of Madrid's Complutense University, Cornelis van Minnen published the volume *Federalism, Citizenship, and Collective Identities in U.S. History* (Amsterdam, 2000).

"Middelburg 5"


This year, on April 18-20, 2001, some forty historians from fourteen European countries and the United States gathered at the RSC for the Fifth Middelburg Conference. The conference theme was "Nation on the Move: Mobility in U.S. History." Over a period of three days the conference featured eighteen papers examining the subject from the colonial era to the present.

The first two papers, presented by Nancy Koppelman (U.S.A.) and Ole Moen (Norway), offered a bird's eye view on the conference theme. The first session, entitled "Explorations and Mobility in Colonial Times and the Early Republic," featured a paper co-authored by



From left to right: conference participants Ole Moen, Nancy Koppelman, co-organizer Sylvia L. Hilton, and Serge Ricard at the welcoming reception in the RSC exhibition hall.

Matjaz Klemencic (Slovenia) and Ivan Cizmic (Croatia), and papers by James Baird (U.S.A.) and Zbigniew Mazur (Poland). In session two, "Mobility and Travels in Antebellum America," papers by French historian Jean-Marc Serme and British historians Joseph Smith, Louis Billington, David Brown, and Robert M. Lewis were presented. "Expansionism, Relocation Policy, Mobility and Restrictions to Mobility in the Nineteenth Century" were themes addressed in session three by historians Serge Ricard (France), Christer Lindberg (Sweden), Howell John Harris and Melvyn Stokes (both U.K.). Giovanni Fabbi (Italy) discussed early twentieth-century migration and mobility in South Carolina, and Ninon Vinsonneau (France) discussed the Federal Writers' Project 48 Guidebooks to the United States in session four. The last session dealt with "Hollywood Road Movies" and that theme was addressed by paper presenters Klaus Vowe (Germany) and Jaap Kooijman (The Netherlands). As with previous conferences, the organizers Sylvia Hilton and Cornelis van Minnen will be editing and publishing a selection of the above-mentioned papers presented at "Middelburg 5."

Sponsored by grants from the RSC, the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute, the Public Affairs Office of the U.S. Embassy in The Hague, and the David Bruce Centre at Keele University (U.K.), this conference, like its predecessors, was a good mix of high quality historical scholarship and collegiality. The next European Historians Conference is planned to be held in April 2003 and a call for papers will be published in due course in various appropriate professional journals and newsletters. 



Oklahoma Land Rush by John Stewart Curry depicting people racing in wagons and on horseback to stake claims on land plots.

Religion has always played a crucial role in the American experience. This year's NASA conference focused on this issue in words and pictures.

NASA Conference on “Religion in America”



At the entrance of the RSC (left to right): Hans Krabbendam (RSC assistant director and conference co-organizer), keynote speakers Walter Conser, Emory Elliott, and Edward Linenthal, and conference co-organizer Derek Rubin.

As has been traditional for the last decade, the Netherlands American Studies Association (NASA) held its annual meeting at the RSC from June 6-8, 2001. This year, the theme of the conference “Religion in America” was chosen in order to assist European scholars of American Studies in assessing the role of religion as a crucial aspect of American history and culture. With some seventy persons from several European countries (the Netherlands, United Kingdom, Spain, Sweden, Austria, Czech Republic, and Germany) and the United States participating, American scholars and their European colleagues offered their perspectives on the question of whether religion in America can still be considered as a (Judeo-Christian) center with a (serious or lunatic) fringe.

The keynote lectures of Professors Walter Conser, Edward Linenthal, and Emory Elliott provided a good introduction to this subject.

“Anointing.” August 1942, Washington, D.C.

While photographing spiritual churches, Gordon Parks recorded Reverend Gassaway giving the blessing of the Spirit, which includes messages and healing, to a congregant.



The sessions of the conference covered a wide variety of topics such as Jewish humor and Christmas cards, religious landscapes, gender and religion, the position of clergy in literature, the export of popular religious culture, European-American religious exchanges, religion in the American South, and religious autobiographies.

One of the highlights of the conference was the evening lecture by Pearl Abraham, best-selling author of *The Romance Reader* (1995) and *Giving Up America* (1998) before a sold-out crowd in the large auditorium of the Zeeuwse Bibliotheek. During her lecture, she shared her own experiences on finding America in Hasidism and in addition read a selection from her upcoming novel.

The conference was well attended and the involvement of representatives from religious studies departments added a special, new element to the development of American Studies in Europe. A selection of the papers presented at the “Religion in America” conference is scheduled to be published in 2002 in the series “European Contributions to American Studies” of the VU University Press in Amsterdam.

Religion in the 1930s and 1940s: A Photo Exhibit

After the opening sessions of the conference, Mrs. Angier M. Peavy, Public Affairs Officer at the U.S. Embassy in The Hague, opened the RSC summer exhibit entitled *Picturing Faith: Religious America in Government Photography, 1935-1943*.


The exhibit featured a representative selection of forty-five photographs prepared by Professor Colleen McDannell of the University of Utah from the New Deal collections at the Library of Congress. This series of 164,000 black and white negatives was commissioned by the U.S. government through a variety of agencies – the Resettlement Administration (1935-1937); the Farm Security Administration (1937-1942) and the Office of War Information (1942-1944) – to provide a photographic survey of the economic struggle and social dislocation caused by the Great Depression. Under the direction of Roy E. Stryker, nearly thirty photographers compiled a visual portrait of America. While the initial purpose of the photographs was to illustrate how New Deal programs were assisting poor farmers, Roy Stryker also sought to produce a composite picture of American society.

and “Picturing Faith,” A Photo Exhibit

Consequently, Stryker often sent “scripts” to his photographers asking them to photograph various aspects of life in the United States.

Once America entered World War II, the goal changed – the government needed photographs for propaganda purposes at home and abroad. Religious scenes acted as reminders of the values of freedom and the power of faith. Ethnic and racial communities were documented to prove that different groups lived peacefully side by side together in America.

As the shooting scripts included requests for pictures of America’s religious life, “sociologists with cameras” entered the homes and churches of the poor as well as the middle class. They photographed people in prayer, domestic shrines, dinner graces, parishioners going into their churches, revival meetings, and even the gospel trucks of itinerant preachers. The photographers discovered that the poor expressed their religion in very tangible forms and that they connect their own embattled existence with a rich tradition.

These photographs provide a glimpse into the rich and diverse religious life of the 1930s and 1940s and emphasize the positive role of religion in giving comfort and strength in hard times. 



“Baptism.” August 1940, Morehead, Kentucky. Marion Post Wolcott presents a congregation of Primitive Baptists as they demonstrate the bond between their world and the world of the New Testament by baptizing their new members in the river, as John baptized Jesus in the River Jordan.



“Church Interior.” July 1936, Alabama. For photographer Walker Evans tight shots spoke most clearly. Here the objects of the congregation, but not the congregation, are the focus, and the religious spirit of the quiet empty space is stronger than the fullness of preaching and singing. This picture was most likely made when he was working with James Agee on what would become the classic book, *Let Us Now Praise Famous Men*.



“Jewish Goods Store.” August 1942, New York. Marjory Collins took a lighter look at Jewish life in America where she posed a young girl in front of a store window displaying a mixture of household religious goods and popular books, stories in Yiddish, Sabbath and Hanukkah candlesticks, primers for learning Hebrew and prayer shawls.



“Skull.” August 1941, Lame Deer, Montana. Islam and Asian faiths as well as that of Native Americans were not often documented. This photo by Marion Post Wolcott is one of the few depicting Native American spirituality.

New Acquisitions at the RSC Library

The microform collections at the RSC form an invaluable primary reference resource for scholars of American history. At present they cover many aspects of U.S. modern history beginning with the presidency of Theodore Roosevelt and continuing through that of Richard M. Nixon. Also at the RSC are the U.S. State Department records on U.S.-Dutch diplomatic relations from the 1780s through the 1960s. In 2001 grants from the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute and the Zeeland Library enabled the RSC to acquire the following new collections to its already unique holdings.



John Lewis was elected chairman of SNCC in 1963, which signaled the start of the organization's most active period in the civil rights struggle.


student activists nationwide in response to the burgeoning student sit-in movement in 1960, at its inception SNCC adopted the Gandhian theories of nonviolent direct action, but later shifted to more radical and militaristic methods. This collection includes correspondence, project files, internal reports, and printed materials generated by the SNCC organization as it challenged racial barriers, faced internal crises, and sought a leadership role in the fight for desegregation, voter's rights, and black power.

Black Academy of Arts and Letters Records, 1968-1980

The Black Academy of Arts and Letters (BAAL), founded in Boston in 1969, recognized artistic achievements by African Americans. This newly acquired collection reproduces the organization's complete records. In its brief history, the BAAL held three annual meetings in 1970, 1971, and 1972. At these events, the academy enrolled such honorees as W.E.B. DuBois, Lena Horne, and Paul Robeson. These records include files of the board of directors, administrative records, and annual meeting materials.

Frontline Diplomacy: The U.S. Foreign Affairs Oral History Collection

This CD-ROM contains 893 oral history transcripts of retired American diplomats, and forty-eight "country readers" that provide excerpts from individual histories that depict U.S. relations with particular countries. The emphasis is on the Cold War in Europe seen through the eyes of American diplomats. The detailed accounts of the making and implementing of foreign policy, the contexts, and the personalities involved, give insights and provide information often not found in official documents or in memoirs and histories published elsewhere.

To facilitate research, printed finding aids accompany the microform collections. A complete list of the RSC archival materials and audio-visual collection on modern American history is available on the RSC website on the Internet: www.roosevelt.nl. 

Official Conversations and Meetings of Dean Acheson, 1949-1953

Secretary of state from 1949 to 1953, Dean Acheson exerted an enormous influence on the direction of American foreign policy. This collection makes available the transcripts and/or minutes of Acheson's top-secret conversations and meetings from 1949 to 1953 with notable individuals such as President Truman and General George C. Marshall. The range of issues reflects the major preoccupations of the postwar era: NATO, the Korean crisis, the Cold War, foreign aid, the China question, and the status of Israel, to name just a few.

Civil Rights During the Nixon Administration, 1969-1974, Part 1

During the Nixon presidency, the concept of "equal rights" was broadened from desegregation to include school bussing, affirmative action in hiring women, the elderly, the physically disabled, and an expanding and overlapping list of other groups. Nixon's files on civil rights policy issues reveal the genesis of many legislative and regulatory initiatives still in effect today. This collection includes reports on the continuing controversy over school desegregation, which spread nationwide during the early 1970s; state and local reports on civil disturbances; the campus turmoil associated with the violence at Jackson State and Kent State in 1970; and the report of the Task Force on Women's Rights and Responsibilities. This Civil Rights collection is a valuable addition to the Civil Rights collections of the Truman, Kennedy, and Johnson administrations and the Nixon White House records that the RSC has acquired previously.

Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee Papers, 1959-1972

One of the most important civil rights groups in the late 1950s and early 1960s, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) was also to become one of the most controversial in its later years. Formed by



Dean Acheson was President Truman's secretary of state. His *Official Conversations and Meetings* are a newly acquired collection.

“Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choice are prepared to choose wisely. The real safeguard of democracy, therefore, is education.”

Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Statement on the observance of Education Week, September 27, 1938.

The RSC Research Grants Program



Researchers Debra Anne Standing, Richard Nate and Renata Nowaczewska working at the RSC library.

Thanks to a generous contribution from the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute and from Mr. Curtis Roosevelt, the RSC is able to offer European students of American history a unique opportunity to conduct research in the attractive and pleasant ambiance of the RSC library. The library holdings include numerous U.S. historical documents not available anywhere else in Europe. In addition to a per diem of DFL 60, the RSC grant covers travel expenses and a lump sum of DFL 100 for photocopies. The research period at the RSC covered by a grant ranges from a minimum of one week to a maximum of four weeks. The maximum grant is DFL 2,000.

In 2001 the following persons received an RSC Research Grant for their projects:

- Detlef Junker (Ruprecht-Karls University Heidelberg, Germany) with a group of 21 M.A. students for their seminar “World Economic Crisis, New Deal, World War II: The Presidency of Franklin D. Roosevelt”;
- Annick Cizel (University of Paris 3, Sorbonne Nouvelle), “The Burden of Decolonization: The United States and the Emerging Third World (1945-1960)” (book);
- Niels Harteman (University of Nijmegen, Netherlands), “*The Ladies’ Home Journal and the First World War*” (M.A.);
- Pieter van Langevelde (University of Leiden, Netherlands), “President Richard M. Nixon and the Press” (M.A.);
- Sergey Kutlunin (Ulyanovsk State Teachers’ Training University, Russia), “President Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Russian Artist Nicholas Roerich: Cooperation for the Sake of Culture, 1930-1945” (M.A.);

- Sylwia Sawczuk (Warsaw University, Poland), “President John F. Kennedy and the 1960 Presidential Election” (M.A.);
- Richard Nate (Essen University, Germany), “American Culture in the Context of the New Deal” (book);
- Robert S. Freedman (University of Cambridge, United Kingdom), “African Americans and the Republican Party, 1948-1964” (undergraduate dissertation);
- Debra Anne Standing (University of Cambridge, United Kingdom), “Eleanor Roosevelt and Hillary Clinton: A Comparison of Their Political Lives as First Ladies” (undergraduate dissertation);
- Eleni Rachel Bide (University of Cambridge, United Kingdom), “The Impact of Personal Religious Beliefs on the Political Leadership of Franklin Roosevelt and Stanley Baldwin” (undergraduate dissertation);
- Renata Nowaczewska (Szczecin University, Poland), “American Philanthropical Foundations in the Era of the Great Depression, 1929-1939” (Ph.D.);
- Sandra Scanlon (University of Cambridge United Kingdom), “The Pro-War Movement During the Nixon Administration, 1969-1974” (Ph.D.).

European students seeking a masters or doctorate in American history as well as advanced scholars are invited to apply for the 2002 Research Grants. Application forms and relevant information on the RSC archival collections can be downloaded from the RSC website: www.roosevelt.nl. 

New strategic cooperation with the Netherlands Institute for War Documentation and the University of Ghent, Belgium, provides further opportunities at the RSC.

The Cultural Cold War: A Conference



Four keynote speakers at the Cultural Cold War Conference (left to right): Marc Lazar, Jessica Gienow-Hecht, Anthony Carew, and Scott Lucas.

On October 18 and 19, 2001 the Roosevelt Study Center was the venue for a conference on “Boundaries to Freedom: The Cultural Cold War in Western Europe 1945-1960.” This two-day conference was the first specific result of a strategic cooperation between the RSC and the Netherlands Institute for War Documentation (NIOD), located in Amsterdam. The subject of this conference – the effects of war on society and European-American relations – took advantage of the expertise of both institutes.

Awareness that the Cold War was primarily a contest of propaganda strategy, rather than of

military might, has led to a re-evaluation of the relations between the period’s cultural activities and political agendas. This awareness has revived a widespread interest in the “manufacturing of consent” and the role of covert action in the promotion of ideas on social and political organization and freedom of expression.

The conference offered a multi-disciplinary evaluation of the lasting significance and consequences of the cultural activities of the Cold War in Western Europe as a battleground for the shaping of democratic societies. It also reassessed the reporting on the Cold War in the 1960s and 1970s and took a fresh look at the complex mix of public and private organizations engaged in this struggle.

The conference consisted of five panels, each starting with a keynote speaker followed by two papers. The keynote speakers were all specialists in the field: Scott Lucas (University of Birmingham, U.K.), Marc Lazar (University of Paris 10, France), Anthony Carew (University of Manchester, U.K.), and Jessica Gienow-Hecht (Harvard University, U.S.A.). Some fifty scholars from the Netherlands, Belgium, United Kingdom, Italy, France, Switzerland, Denmark, Sweden, Germany, Canada, and the United States attended this conference. 

RSC Cooperation with Ghent University

The four members of the new Center for the Study of American History and Culture at Ghent University at the inauguration ceremony (left to right): Professors Gert Buelens, Kristiaan Versluys, Cornelis van Minnen, and Luc François.



In an effort to stimulate Belgian history students to make use of the archival collections at the RSC, initial contacts between the RSC and the modern history department of Ghent University were established in 1998. This led to regular visits to the RSC library by Ghent University students who used the RSC collections as a basis for their M.A. theses. A further step in

this cooperation was taken this fall with the establishment of the Center for the Study of American History and Culture at Ghent University.

The staff of this new Center is formed by Ghent Professors Luc François (history department), Kristiaan Versluys and Gert Buelens (both of the English department), and RSC Director Cornelis van Minnen. Dr. Van Minnen was appointed by the university board as part-time visiting professor of American history. The new Center was inaugurated at a special ceremony on October 9th that featured speeches by Rector of the University Professor André de Leenheer, and Professors Kristiaan Versluys, Cornelis van Minnen, and Herman Balthazar (who also serves as the governor of the Province of East Flanders). The meeting was attended by the Queen’s Commissioner in the Province of Zeeland (Netherlands) and the U.S. ambassador to Belgium. 

A one-day NASA conference explored the relationship between journalists reporting on the U.S. and scholars of American Studies.

Americanists in the Media



Welcome reception for “Americanists in the Media” at the University of Utrecht.

On May 26, 2001 the Netherlands American Studies Association (NASA) held a one-day conference at Utrecht University, centered around the theme “Americanists in the Media.” The conference was organized and hosted by five RSC staff members – Erik van den Berg, Elke van Cassel, Tom Kuipers, Gonny Pasaribu, and Usha Wilbers – and was sponsored by the Public Affairs Office of the American Embassy in The Hague, the Research Institute for History and Culture at Utrecht University’s Faculty of Arts, and the Roosevelt Study Center.

More than fifty participants gathered to listen to lectures by keynote speakers Maarten Huygen (television critic and former U.S. correspondent for the leading Dutch newspaper *NRC Handelsblad*) and Maarten van Rossem (expert on U.S. affairs for a vast array of Dutch media and professor of history at Utrecht University). Both Huygen and Van Rossem agreed that there is a huge difference between writing about the U.S. as a journalist and looking at American culture as a scholar. In addition to the two keynote lectures, there were two panel discussions, one with young Americanists who have recently graduated and are now working for the Dutch media, and one with Dutch journalists and scholars who have extensive experience with discussing American culture and politics in the Dutch media. Participating were journalists from

NRC Handelsblad, from the monthly magazine *Amerika*, from the acclaimed Dutch current affairs program *NOVA* and from the daily television news program *NOS Journaal*. These discussions focused primarily on the lack of differentiation in and the incidental nature of Dutch coverage of U.S. affairs. The conclusion was that there is certainly room for improvement, and that the increase in the number of young American Studies graduates in the ranks of journalism may add a dose of historical and cultural perspective that is sorely needed. The debates and lectures were followed by lively discussions in which the audience enthusiastically participated. ☞



Keynote speaker Professor Maarten van Rossem at the “Americanists in the Media” conference.

Information

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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, rsc@zeeland.nl or visit our website on the Internet: www.roosevelt.nl

A Look Ahead

Upcoming events at the RSC in 2002



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

Theodore Roosevelt American History Awards, April 12

Selected by a distinguished jury, the RSC presents an annual prize 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, as well as a trip to "Roosevelt sites" in the U.S. for the first prize winner.

Conference on American Magazines, April 18-19

A two-day conference, "Modeling American Culture: American Magazines in the Twentieth Century," has been scheduled in April and will be organized by three RSC staff members who are themselves writing Ph.D. theses on three American

magazines and periodicals. The aim of this meeting is to encourage a transatlantic dialogue on the differences and similarities between the European and American approach to magazine studies, as well as to stimulate reflections on the distinctiveness of these American media in the twentieth century.

Four Freedoms Awards Ceremony, June 8

Middelburg's Abbey is the venue for the biennial presentation 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 First Nations in North America, May 29-31

The 2002 conference of the Netherlands American Studies Association will be co-organized with the Association for Canadian Studies in the Netherlands and its theme will be "First Nations in North America: Politics and Representation." This three-day multi-disciplinary conference at the RSC will explore the variety of ways Native Americans have come to understand and express their tribal identities and the ongoing evolution of traditional culture in relation to contemporary society.

Exhibit on Native Americans, June 17-September 27

The RSC features a photo exhibit on Native Americans from the holdings of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in New York City.

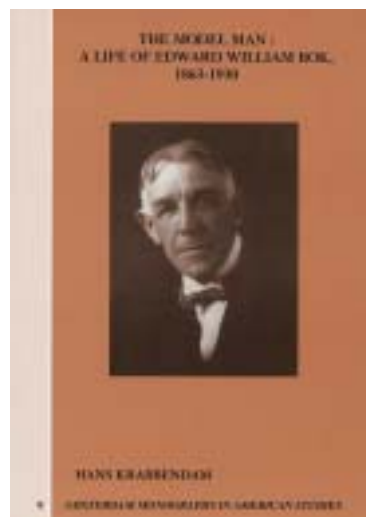
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Editor:
Cornelis A. van Minnen

Photos:
David C. Acheson
Hans de Graaf
Tom Kuipers
Library of Congress
Gonny Pasaribu
Anda van Riet
Roosevelt Institute
U.S. Department
of the Interior

Just Published



The Model Man: A Life of Edward William Bok, 1863-1930 (Amsterdam/Atlanta: Rodopi, 2001).

Assistant Director of the Roosevelt Study Center Hans Krabbendam recently published his doctoral dissertation on Edward William Bok. Well known in publishing circles, Bok

was the famous Dutch-American editor of the *Ladies' Home Journal*, the most prestigious women's magazine of its day. This first comprehensive coverage of Edward Bok's life places him in the context of his ethnic background and portrays him as the spokesman for and the mold of the American middle class between 1890 and 1930.

The American Metropolis: Image and Impact. European Contributions to American Studies 45 (Amsterdam: VU University Press, 2001). Edited by Hans Krabbendam, Marja Roholl, and Tity de Vries, the contributions in this volume map the main elements of the American urban experience from the late nineteenth to the end of the twentieth centuries, offering a multi-disciplinary profile of their development, representation, and transatlantic impact. Sometimes the approach is traditional, fitting into the paradigms of urban corruption or dynamic modernity; but more often, the authors apply new approaches, focusing on gender, race, class, representation or the construction of social identities. Together the essays in this volume reflect the latest scholarship in the broad field of urban studies.