Roosevelt review



Eleanor Roosevelt proudly displays the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. "It is a declaration of basic principles of human rights and freedoms...to serve as a common standard of achievement for all peoples of all nations" (from an address to UN delegates, December 9, 1948, Paris, France).

Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Education

Eleanor Roosevelt is often considered the "mother" of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which was proclaimed and adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on December 10, 1948. Article 26 of the Declaration states: "Everyone has the right to education." Through its library and activities the Roosevelt Study Center actively pursues this goal — by organizing conferences and seminars, offering study grants and awards to qualifying scholars of American history, and promoting the study of American history in Europe.

Among the significant events of this past year were the annual Theodore Roosevelt American History Awards to three Dutch university students, RSC research grants to eighteen European students who were given stipends for scholarly research at the RSC library, and the NAF-Roosevelt Grant which allowed a student to do research both at the RSC and at a selected archive in the U.S. In addition, given the fact that 2004 was an election year in the United States, the RSC

sponsored a conference on the presidential race in which the relationship between media and politics, as well as the Americanization of Dutch politics, were discussed. Another conference dealt with the smaller, hidden Dutch communities in North America. The RSC furthermore contributed to scholarship with two new publications on Dutch-American relations and a volume on Frontiers and Boundaries in U.S. History.

In the spring, following a tradition established over twenty years ago in 1982, the Four Freedoms Award 2004 was presented in Middelburg's Abbey to United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan. In his acceptance speech he acknowledged both Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt for their contribution to the UN and their dedication to the propagation of human rights worldwide. With the recent acquisition of three parts of the Eleanor Roosevelt Papers, the RSC is happy to be able to provide new research tools for scholars and to contribute to the study of the Roosevelts and their legacy.

Newsletter of the Roosevelt Study Center

2004



A Word About the Roosevelt Study Center

From March 2004 through Spring 2005, the temporary location of the RSC has been the Nieuwe Burg 42, an office building facing the Middelburg Abbey. The pictures give an impression of the exterior and interior of the building.



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

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

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

- a research library with collections of historical documents and books on modern U.S. history not available anywhere else in
- 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 Franklin Roosevelt's Four Freedoms;
- conference rooms with audio-visual facilities;
- an annual newsletter.



The RSC library may be used year round for research, but by appointment only. Please contact the secretariat in advance of your visit. Office and library hours: 9.30 to 12.30 and 13.30 to 16.30.

Important notice

Renovations of the RSC in 2004 through March 2005 have resulted in the reduction of library hours. During that period the RSC is temporarily located at Nieuwe Burg 42 (4331 AH Middelburg), near the Abbey. Our telephone, fax and email address remain

Renovations are scheduled to be completed in Spring 2005. For an updated schedule of opening hours as well as for information on the RSC holdings and activities, please visit our homepage on the Internet: www.roosevelt.nl or contact the RSC at tel. +31 (0)118-631590, fax +31 (0)118-631593, e-mail: rsc@zeeland.nl.

NAF-Roosevelt Grant

The Netherland-America Foundation (NAF) in New York has enabled the RSC for the third year in a row to offer a Dutch student/researcher in the field of U.S. history and culture a grant of \$3,000 to help cover research expenses. A condition for the grant is that applicants submit a proposal based on research to be conducted in both the RSC library and in archives in the United States. This research grant aims especially to support M.A. and Ph.D. candidates.

In 2004 the NAF-Roosevelt Grant was awarded to Frans van Nijnatten in preparation of his Ph.D. research project "Jimmy Carter and His Pre-Presidential Campaigns, 1962-1976." In the summer of 2004 Mr. Nijnatten did his research at the RSC library and at the Jimmy Carter Library and Georgia State Archives in Atlanta, Georgia. &

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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

The annual Theodore Roosevelt American History Awards (TRAHA) were initiated in 1987, for the purpose of promoting 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.

Theodore Roosevelt not only served as the twenty-sixth president of the United States, but was also a noted historian. As a prolific writer of history books, in 1912 he was honored for his achievements by being selected to be president of the American Historical Association. In this context, it is fitting that these American history awards presented by the RSC should be named in his honor.

Since the inception of the awards, including this year's entries, a total of 149 M.A. theses have been submitted by various Dutch universities. This year the universities of Amsterdam, Utrecht, Leiden, Rotterdam, Nijmegen, and Groningen nominated a total number of nine M.A. theses, covering a wide variety of aspects of U.S. political, social, and cultural history, as being the best of the past academic year. Historians Berteke Waaldijk (University of Utrecht) and Tity de Vries (University of Groningen), as well as last year's first prize winner Annelieke Dirks, served as members of the jury. On April 21, 2004, the awards ceremony took place in Middelburg's Abbey. After a short presentation by each author, the jury in its report reviewed all nine theses.

Third prize was awarded to Rick van Otterlo (University of Utrecht) for his thesis "Why Do I Call Myself a Nigga, You Ask Me? The Controversial Status of American Gangsta Rap in Social, Cultural and Commercial Perspective." Second Prize was won by Stijn Simkens (University of Nijmegen) for his thesis "The American Dialogue: Individuality and Community in American Culture."

First prize was awarded to Stijn Bollinger (University of Utrecht), for his thesis "God Bless America! The Civil Religion of Jerry



From left to right: jury member Tity de Vries, third prize winner Rick van Otterlo, first prize winner Stijn Bollinger, second prize winner Stijn Simkens, and chair of the jury Berteke Waaldijk. The prize winners proudly display the Theodore Roosevelt Inauguration Medal.

Falwell and the Moral Majority." The jury commended the author for his excellent methodological approach, his contribution to the historiography of fundamentalism, the moral majority and the New Right, and his ability to give the reader insight into the strong connections between religion and politics in the United States.

Each of the three winners received a Theodore Roosevelt Inauguration Medal, a certificate, and a copy of *The Man in the Arena*, a collection of Theodore Roosevelt's speeches. In addition, the third and second prize winners received a cash prize of € 125 and 250, respectively. First prize winner Stijn Bollinger won a trip to New York where he was hosted by the Theodore Roosevelt Association and the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute and visited a number of Roosevelt sites, including TR's house "Sagamore Hill," in Oyster Bay, New York, the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library and Museum and Eleanor Roosevelt's house "Val-Kill" in Hyde Park, New York. About his trip Stijn Bollinger reported that he was most impressed by the enthusiasm and historical knowledge of the people he met. The trip, he said, had also made him "more aware of the Dutch contribution to the birth of the United States." &



Stijn Bollinger (right) at the Sagamore Hill Museum in Oyster Bay, New York with Dr. John A. Gable, Executive Director of the Theodore Roosevelt Association.

"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



Four Freedoms Awards laureates and dignitaries (left to right): Queen's Commissioner in the Province of Zeeland Willem T. van Gelder, His Royal Highness Prince Constantijn, Max Kohnstamm, Magguie Barankitse, Nane Annan, Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands, Lennart Meri, Her Royal Highness Princess Laurentien, Ambassador William J. vanden Heuvel, Sari Nusseibeh, and Anna Eleanor Roosevelt.



UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, 2004 Four Freedoms Award laureate.

The Four Freedoms Awards are bestowed annually 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 the awards have been presented in even-numbered years to distinguished international figures in Middelburg, capital city of the Province of Zeeland. In odd-numbered years the medals are awarded to American citizens in Hyde Park, New York, the former residence of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt.

On May 8, during a moving ceremony in Middelburg's Abbey church, attended by Her Majesty the Queen, Prince Constantijn and his wife Princess Laurentien, and some eight hundred dignitaries from many countries, the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute presented the 2004 awards to Kofi Annan, Lennart Meri, Sari Nusseibeh, Magguie Barankitse, and Max Kohnstamm. Citations were read by Roosevelt Institute's Co-Chairs William J. vanden Heuvel and Anna Eleanor Roosevelt, granddaughter of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt.

In his welcoming remarks Queen's Commissioner in the Province of Zeeland Willem T. van Gelder reminded the audience of the special bond between the Dutch Royal family and the Roosevelts. The late Princess Juliana, who passed away earlier this year, was the first Dutch recipient of a Four Freedoms Medal in 1982.

The 2004 Four Freedoms Award was given to United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan, "whose uncommon character, integrity, courage and experience have given his high office unprecedented stature as the peoples of the world look to him as the moral expression of their hopes." Unable to be in attendance as a result of pressing political events, his wife Nane Annan accepted the medal on his behalf from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Ruud F.M. Lubbers and Anna Eleanor Roosevelt.

The medal for Freedom of Speech and Expression was presented by Hans van den Broek, former Member of the European Commission and former Netherlands Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Arthur Schlesinger Jr., Chair Emeritus of the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute, to Lennart Meri, former President of Estonia.

For "his commitment to truth, peace, non-violence and respect for human rights," the Freedom of Worship award was presented to Dr. Sari Nusseibeh by Job J. Cohen, Mayor of Amsterdam, and the Rev. F. Forrester Church, Minister of The Unitarian Church of All Souls, New York City.

Conferences at the RSC

Covering the U.S. Presidential Elections with a Dutch Twist

"The Dutch Media and the American Presidential Elections" was this year's theme for a one-day RSC symposium, held on May 22 at Utrecht University. The conference, organized by RSC Ph.D. candidate Gonny Pasaribu, was an initiative of the Utrecht American Studies Alumni Association and was financially supported by the RSC, the United States Embassy in The Hague, and the Netherlands American Studies Association (NASA). The program featured several highprofile speakers from a wide range of fields, including Tim Overdiek, Maarten van Rossem, Ruth Oldenziel, Willem Post, Jeroen Beekman, Boris van der Ham, and Jaap Kooijman.

Tim Overdiek, U.S. correspondent for Dutch Public Radio (NOS), delivered the keynote opening speech "Longing for Bubba" in which he described with much wit and personal anecdotes how Dutch correspondents struggle to explain "America" to the public back home.

Topics included the (alleged) Americanization of Dutch politics and political campaigns; the image and representation of presidential candidates; and the relationship between the media and politics. The forum discussion, which featured journalists from leading Dutch newspapers and current-affairs programs, specifically focused on the Dutch media



lunch break were also valuable at the symposium.

coverage of the American presidential elections since 1992. The symposium attracted a large audience of almost 140 persons who, surprisingly, were drawn from many disciplines and not exclusively limited to those involved in Dutch American Studies. The symposium's broad appeal would certainly support the continuation of what now has become a bi-annual RSC series on American culture, politics, and the role of the (Dutch) media. 🖟



Tim Overdiek, U.S. correspondent for Dutch Public Radio (NOS), and keynote speaker.

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"In recognition of the courage that saved so many "the Freedom from Want medal was awarded to Magguie Barankitse. Actress Gerda Havertong and Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr. presented the medal to this Burundi citizen and founder of numerous villages of hope and sanctuary including Maison Shalom.

Max Kohnstamm, one of the founding fathers of a united Europe, was honored for his "pragmatic idealism, intellectual force, and creative patience" with the presentation of the Freedom from Fear award. He received the medal from his godchild, His Royal Highness Prince Constantijn of the Netherlands.

The speeches delivered at this twelfth Four Freedoms Awards ceremony in Middelburg's Abbey have just been published as volume 21 in the series Roosevelt Study Center Publications, which can be ordered from the RSC. &

Conference on "Morsels in the Melting Pot"

On September 29-30, 2004, the RSC, in cooperation with the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam, organized the conference "Morsels in the Melting Pot: The Persistence of Isolated Dutch Communities in North America, 1800-2000." The conference located and analyzed the relatively hidden Dutch communities in North America. Papers on small religious and utopian communities helped to construct a variety of scenarios for assimilation of Dutch immigrants. The results were compared to the experiences of other ethnic groups, among whom the Amish. A broadly selected group of speakers comprised of historians and social scientists from both sides of the Atlantic guaranteed specialist knowledge and an academic perspective. The papers will be published in 2005 by the VU University Press in Amsterdam.

"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 with RSC Assistant Director Hans Krabbendam (second from right) in the RSC library. Thanks to generous contributions 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 do 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 € 30, the RSC grant covers travel expenses and a lump sum of € 45 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 € 950.

In 2004 the following persons received an RSC Research Grant for their projects:

- Anne Weger (University of Bonn, Germany), "Theodore Roosevelt's Ideology of Race" (M.A.);
- Daniel Matlin (University of Cambridge, U.K.), "Amiri Baraka (Leroi Jones), The Black Arts Movement, and the Racial Politics of Masculinity" (M.A.);
- Claudia Kedar (Haifa University, Israel),
 "The IMF, 1944-1960, and Its Contribution to Strengthening the U.S. as a Hegemonic Power" (M.A.);
- Power" (M.A.);

 Maud Quessard-Salvaing (Sorbonne Nouvelle, Paris, France), "USIA and the Cultural Cold War in Europe, 1953-1990" (M.A.);
- Jorrit van den Berk (Leiden University, the Netherlands), "The Eisenhower Administration and Caribbean Dictators" (M.A.);
- Bjoern Setzer (University of Freiburg, Germany), "Franklin D. Roosevelt's View of Germany Before 1933" (M.A.);
- Carla Matze and Anja Sio (Open University,

the Netherlands), "Eleanor Roosevelt, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Its Influence in the UN Civil and Political Rights Treaty and the UN Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Treaty" (M.A.);

 Halina Bieluk (University of Bialystok, Poland), "John F. Kennedy and Civil Rights" (Ph.D.);

 Oreste Foppiani (Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva, Switzerland),
 "The U.S. Political and Military Establishment and the Repubblica Sociale Italiana, 1943-1945" (Ph.D.);

 David J. Snyder (U.S. NAF/Fulbright Grantee, University of Groningen, the Netherlands), "Between Superpower and the Sea: The Netherlands and American Power, 1940-1958" (Ph.D.);

 Piebe Teeboom (University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands), "America: The Middle Way? The 1936 Presidential Inquiry Commission on Cooperative Enterprise in Europe" (Ph.D.);

 Stefano Luconi (University of Florence, Italy), "Mayor Fiorello H. La Guardia and Anti-Semitism" (book);

 Lucas Richert (University of Edinburgh, U.K.), "Conservative Coalition-Building During the 1980 Republican Nomination" (M.Sc.);

- Koen Dedobbeleer (University of Ghent, Belgium), "Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft and the 1912 Elections" (M.A.);
- Christophe Kerckhaert (University of Ghent, Belgium), "American Anti-Colonialism During the Interwar Years" (M.A.);
- Charlotte Van Caeneghem (University of Ghent, Belgium), "Eleanor Roosevelt and Women, African Americans and Youngsters During the Depression of the 1930s" (M.A.);
- Helen Laville (University of Birmingham, U.K.), "Internationalizing Women's Rights: The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, 1945-1955" (article).

European students seeking a masters or doctorate in American history as well as advanced scholars are invited to apply for the 2005 Research Grants. Application forms and relevant information on the RSC archival collections can be downloaded from the RSC website: www.roosevelt.nl.

New Acquisitions at the RSC Library

The microform collections at the RSC form an invaluable primary reference source for scholars of American history. At present they cover many aspects of U.S. twentieth-century history beginning with the presidency of Theodore Roosevelt and continuing through that of Gerald R. Ford. Also housed at the RSC are the U.S. State Department records on U.S.-Dutch diplomatic relations from the 1780s through the 1960s. In 2004 grants from the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute and the Zeeland Library enabled the RSC to add the following new collections to its already unique holdings.

The Papers of Eleanor Roosevelt, 1945-1962

The RSC acquired three parts of the Eleanor Roosevelt Papers. From the FDR Library, nineteen reels contain her personal correspondence after her White House years, 1945-1952. Two other microfilm collections document her involvement in the United Nations. These documents follow the appointment of ER to the UN and her experiences in London. Her correspondence files are alphabetically arranged by period, and include minutes, drafts, memos, and correspondence of various UN committees and newspaper articles.

A separate collection contains her correspondence and publications regarding her work in the UN Human Rights Commission. These holdings document ER's efforts to collect information and her negotiations on a variety of human rights issues, such as refugees, the status of women, structure and responsibilities of the UN and drafts of the International Bill of Rights.



In the stacks of the RSC library.

Dutch-American Diplomatic Relations, 1784-1973

This comprehensive collection of American diplomatic correspondence between the U.S. State Department and its diplomats in the Netherlands (including the Netherlands West and East Indies) provide insightful information on the political, economic, military and cultural relations between both countries over the past two centuries. The recently acquired materials cover the late 1960s and early 1970s.

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: www.roosevelt.nl.

Just Published

The Dutch in Urban America (Holland, Michigan: Joint Archives, 2004). Edited by Robert P. Swierenga, Don Sinnema, and RSC Assistant Director Hans Krabbendam, this volume of ten essays adds a welcome chapter to Dutch immigration history by presenting recent research and providing an overview of the Dutch experience in urban America, an aspect that has received little attention thus far from immigration scholars. The city colonies were a crucial part of the Dutch immigrant network and the essays in this volume cover the Dutch in Chicagoland and Detroit, their commercial, educational,

and religious experiences, activities of Dutch consuls in American cities, and connections between urban and rural Dutch immigrants.

Frontiers and Boundaries in U.S. History (Amsterdam: VU University Press, 2004). Originating at the Sixth Middelburg Conference of European Historians of the U.S. held at the RSC in April 2003, the sixteen essays in this volume (edited and introduced by RSC Director Cornelis A. van Minnen and Sylvia L. Hilton of Complutense University in Madrid) explore the theme of the frontier in American history. The "frontier" is described not only as it relates to issues of political

Information

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For free copies and information on the Center's activities, please contact the Roosevelt Study Center, 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 2005



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

RSC Renovation, March 2004-Spring 2005

The building in which the RSC is located is undergoing extensive renovations but we hope to move back to our Abbey location by March or April 2005. Visitors should contact the RSC about opening hours before planning a visit.

Theodore Roosevelt American History Awards, April 22

Selected by a distinguished jury, an annual prize for the best M.A. theses on an American history topic written by Dutch graduate students in the preceding academic year is presented by the RSC. 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 U.S. History in Europe, April 27-29

The Seventh Middelburg Conference for European Historians of the U.S. will focus on "Teaching and Studying U.S. History in Europe: Past, Present, and Future" and will feature country by country reports on academic study and research in American history at European universities and the impact of the European Credit Transfer System on the curricula.

NASA Conference on Leadership, June 15-17

The 2005 conference of the Netherlands American Studies Association (NASA) to be held at the RSC will examine the role of leadership in American culture and aims at examining comparative approaches to the concept of leadership in Europe and America.

Conference on Slavery, June 22-24

Co-organized with the Zeeland Archives, the Erasmus University of Rotterdam and the National Institute for the Study of Dutch Slavery and its Legacy, this conference will compare Dutch involvement in slavery with experiences in Anglo, French and Spanish territories. The papers will analyze slavery from below and from within.

Conference on the U.S. South, September 13-16

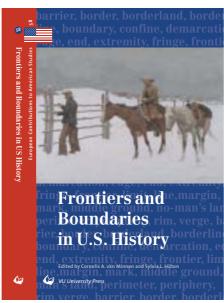
Considering the increasing influence of the southern states on the U.S. as a whole, the RSC in cooperation with the Southern Studies Forum (a group of European and U.S. scholars of the South) will host a conference on "Poverty and Progress in the South," featuring presentations which cover a broad span of southern history and culture.

Cornelis A. van Minnen

Photos:

Editor:

Amon Carter Museum Anda van Riet Franklin D. Roosevelt Library United Nations Wilma Wijers



The cover of the new book on frontiers and boundaries features the painting, The Fall of the Cowboy (oil on canvas, 1895), by Frederic S. Remington.

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jurisdiction, territorial expansion, and cultural interaction, but also as a concept which is applicable to many different types of historically significant boundaries that have been used to differentiate and separate, that have been renegotiated, or might be historiographically redefined. The essays examine many kinds of frontiers and boundaries, from colonial times to the present.

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms Awards 2004 (Middelburg: Roosevelt Study Center, 2004).

This twenty-first volume in the RSC Publications series, edited by Cornelis A. van Minnen, contains the speeches delivered at the Four Freedoms Awards ceremony on May 8, 2004 by the representatives of the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute and the distinguished laureates (see this issue of The Roosevelt Review, pages 4 and 5). &