

# *the* Roosevelt *review*

*Eleanor Roosevelt (right) with Dutch-American best-selling author Hendrik Willem van Loon.*

*Van Loon made a name in America's cultural life in the 1920s-40s as a popular historian, journalist, illustrator, and radio commentator. He was a close friend of the Roosevelts and was frequently invited to the White House and to their estate at Hyde Park, New York. This picture was probably taken in 1936 when Van Loon actively supported FDR's re-election campaign. Van Loon's fascinating biography has just been published by RSC Director Cornelis A. van Minnen (see page 7).*



## The Dutch-American Connection

From colonial times to the present, the destiny of the United States has been intertwined with that of the Netherlands. In 1782 the Netherlands officially recognized the newly founded nation and signed a Treaty of Amity and Commerce. When the Roosevelt Study Center was launched during the bicentennial celebration of Dutch-American diplomatic relations, this connection achieved another new, exciting dimension on an academic level. Each year the RSC honors this academic connection by its recognition of outstanding research projects and theses through the annual Theodore Roosevelt American History Awards to Dutch university students and the RSC research grants for European students. Also on this year's program was a special gathering of Ph.D. students, held prior to the biennial meeting of European Historians. Conferences on "Slavery within the Atlantic World" and "Poverty and Progress in the U.S. South," as well as the Netherlands American Studies Association conference, and the establishment of a Fulbright-Dow Distinguished Research Chair, rounded off a busy schedule of RSC events that reflect an

enduring "Dutch-American connection." How appropriate as well that the RSC would provide the inspiration for the re-discovery of an exuberant Dutch-American who embodied the dynamic relations between Holland and America. Hendrik Willem van Loon was a popular historian, journalist, illustrator, and radio commentator and a close friend of both FDR and Eleanor. He spent his life traveling back and forth across the Atlantic, enriching both his adopted country and the land of his birth. RSC Director Cornelis A. van Minnen has recently culminated his study of Van Loon with the publication, both in English and Dutch, of what reviewers have called "Van Loon's definitive biography." Finally, another achievement this year was the assessment of the RSC and its activities by an international committee of peers. They concluded that the RSC has made its mark on Europe as an important international research institute and conference center for the study of U.S. history and American studies. The committee assessed the RSC's performance as "good to very good" and made valuable recommendations for the years ahead. 

*Newsletter of  
the Roosevelt  
Study Center*

2005



# A Word About the Roosevelt Study Center



On 29 April 2005 the RSC Advisory Board had its annual meeting at the RSC. From left to right: Cornelis A. van Minnen (RSC director), David B. Woolner (executive director of the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute in Hyde Park, New York), Anthony J. Badger (Cambridge University, U.K.), Serge Ricard (Sorbonne Nouvelle, France), Detlef Junker (University of Heidelberg, Germany), Doeko Bosscher (University of Groningen, the Netherlands).


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

The RSC is affiliated with the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences and 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.

- an annual prize for the best Dutch M.A. theses on American history topics;
- a program of international conferences and seminars on American history, U.S.-European relations, and the contemporary meaning of Franklin Roosevelt's Four Freedoms;
- conference rooms with audio-visual facilities;
- a publication series;
- an annual newsletter.

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

## Important notice

The RSC is usually located in the medieval Abbey of Middelburg, but because of renovations it is temporarily housed at Nieuwe Burg 42, nearby the Abbey. The return to the Abbey is expected to be prior to July 1, 2006. This will lead to a reduction of library hours in the months preceding and immediately following the move. For an updated schedule as well as for information on the RSC holdings and activities, please visit our website: [www.roosevelt.nl](http://www.roosevelt.nl) or contact the RSC at tel. +31 (0)118-631590, fax +31 (0)118-631593, email: [rsc@zeeland.nl](mailto:rsc@zeeland.nl). 

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

- a research library with collections of historical documents and books on modern U.S. history not available anywhere else in Europe;
- a grants-in-aid program for European researchers;

## RSC Assessment by Royal Netherlands Academy

Every six years, the RSC, like the other research institutes affiliated with the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, is subject to assessment by a peer group of scholars. In June 2005 an assessment committee of scholars from the Netherlands and the United States visited the RSC, spoke with the director and staff, and, using a wide variety of documents, studied the work and achievements of the RSC in the period mid-1999 to mid-2005. In its report the

committee assessed the quality of the research, the productivity, the relevance of the Center in a national and European context, and the vitality and feasibility of the RSC as ranging from "good to very good." The report ended with a number of recommendations for the future. The committee saw digitalization and the use of ICT as a major priority for the RSC. The assessment and recommendations will serve as a stimulus for the RSC's work in the next several years. 

*"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 prize for the best thesis on a topic of American history by a Dutch MA student, the Theodore Roosevelt American History Award (TRAHA), was presented on April 22 in Middelburg. The prize, which has been awarded since 1987, is sponsored by the Theodore Roosevelt Association of Oyster Bay, New York, in memory of TR's accomplishments as a historian. Seven candidates, from the universities of Amsterdam, Leiden, Nijmegen, and Utrecht, were nominated. The criteria for deciding on the prizewinners are: Original subject matter, good use of sources, a clear argument, and a contribution to ongoing debates in the field.

The jury, consisting of Professor Wil Verhoeven (University of Groningen), Professor Ruud Janssens (University of Amsterdam), and Mr. Stijn Bollinger (TRAHA winner in 2004), were impressed with all seven submissions, but two theses clearly surpassed the others in quality. Marco van Ravenhorst (Utrecht) received second prize for his paper, "The Greatest Tragedy in American History: The American Civil War in Recent Popular Fiction," in which he offered an inter-disciplinary study of the Civil War as seen through four recent novels. Through this study, he demonstrated the value of popular culture in trying to understand historical events. Marco received €250 in prize money and a replica of Theodore Roosevelt's 1905 Inaugural Medal. First prize went to Laura Maessen (Nijmegen) for her thesis, "The Two Faces of the Civil Rights Movement's Struggle, 1957-1965." Laura's study of the civil rights movement is seen through the leadership and organizational qualities of two of its central figures. In doing so, she offered an intriguing and refreshing study of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert Moses of SNCC, providing a new reading of the civil rights movement.



*The jury members and seven nominees for the TRAHA in Middelburg, Zeeland.*

As the first prizewinner, Laura won a trip to New York where she was hosted by the Theodore Roosevelt Association and the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute. Traveling to New York in June, her tour began at Theodore Roosevelt's estate at Sagamore Hill in Oyster Bay, Long Island. There she discovered the former President to be "a man of many faces and contradictions in his political career as well as his personal life." From Long Island, she spent a day exploring the Dutch heritage of New York City itself where she was "made aware of the indelible stamp my ancestors left on New York's liberal and progressive atmosphere." Her last port of call was the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute at Hyde Park, where her visit "brought to life and humanized the faces of the pictures in my history books." Laura returned exhilarated by her informative and picturesque tour: "This trip and all the impressions I gathered will remain with me for the rest of my life." 




*First prizewinner Laura Maessen with John G. Staudt, Associate Director of the Theodore Roosevelt Association, at TR's house Sagamore Hill, Oyster Bay, New York.*

## New RSC Lecture Series in Transatlantic Relations

*Professor Karel van Wolferen, the first speaker in the new RSC Lectures Series.*



On October 5, 2005 the RSC auditorium was packed to capacity for the first in the new RSC Lectures Series in Transatlantic Relations. Professor Karel van Wolferen, Director of the Institute for Comparative Political and Economic Institutions at the University of Amsterdam, spoke on "The Bush Administrations and Europe: The End of the Transatlantic Alliance." His insightful and provocative lecture gave the audience food for thought on the current transatlantic relationship and generated a lively discussion. 


# Conference on U.S. History in Europe

*The three directors of Roosevelt Research Centers met in Middelburg (left to right): David Woolner (Roosevelt Institute, Hyde Park, N.Y.), Yuri Rogoulev (Franklin D. Roosevelt Foundation for the Study of the United States at Moscow State University), and RSC Director Cornelis van Minnen.*



From April 27-29 the RSC hosted the Seventh Middelburg Conference of European Historians of the United States. The series of biennial conferences began in 1993 and has become well established since. The conferences underline the prominent position of the RSC as a venue for European and American historians and have resulted in six conference volumes dealing with a broad range of U.S. history subjects. This year's theme was "Teaching and Studying

U.S. History in Europe: Past, Present and Future." The following historians presented reports on the academic study and research in American history in their countries: Michael Heale (United Kingdom), Sylvia L. Hilton (Spain), Doeko Boscher (the Netherlands), Serge Ricard and Claire Delahaye (France), Ferdinando Fasce (Italy), Siegfried Beer (Austria), Philipp Gassert (Germany), Stephen Ickringill (Ireland), Irmina Wawrzyczek (Poland), Yuri Rogoulev (Russia), Jorn Brondal (Denmark), Martin Alm (Sweden), and Ole Moen (Norway).


David Woolner, Executive Director of the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute in Hyde Park, N.Y. and James Grossman, Vice President for Research and Education of The Newberry Library, Chicago, Illinois, served as commentators. Conference organizers Cornelis van Minnen and Sylvia Hilton will serve as editors of the conference volume. 

## Ph.D. Students Seminar



*Participants and organizers of the Ph.D. Seminar at the entrance to the Abbey.*

In 2003 the RSC hosted a seminar for Ph.D. students prior to the European Historians Conference. Its success led the RSC to follow up with a similar seminar which was held on April 26th of this year. Nine Ph.D. students who participated and their topics were: Will Crafton (Cambridge, U.K.): "Reagan, Social Welfare, and the Budgetary Process"; Claire Delahaye (Sorbonne Nouvelle, Paris, France): "Woodrow Wilson, WW I, and Women's Suffrage"; Robert Freedman (Cambridge, U.K.): "Was the New Right 'Ready to Lead'?"; Alex Goodall (Cambridge, U.K.): "Diego Rivera and Anti-Communism in Detroit"; Enne Koops (RSC): "The Emigration of Dutch Calvinists to North America"; Jan Lemnitzer (Heidelberg, Germany): "The United States, the Declaration of Paris, and the 'Guerillas of the Seas'"; James Sparks (Heidelberg, Germany): "Alben W. Barkley: Forgotten Internationalist in Foreign Affairs"; Rienk Terpstra (RSC): "Brothers in Arms: American-Dutch Military Nuclear Cooperation 1949-1969"; Alexander Vazansky (Heidelberg, Germany): "Army in Crisis: Race Relations, Drug Abuse, and Dissent in the US Army in Europe, 1968-1975".

Organized by RSC researcher Giles Scott-Smith, the seminar provided a valuable opportunity for Ph.D. students from different universities to meet and discuss their topics in a relaxed setting. It also allowed them to become acquainted with the research opportunities at the RSC library. The next seminar will be held in 2007, also preceding the European Historians Conference. 

## NASA Conference on Leadership and Democracy

On June 15-17, 2005 the Roosevelt Study Center was the venue for the annual Netherlands American Studies Association (NASA) conference. The goal of this conference was to investigate the development of the American concept of leadership and to explain the growing popularity of this concept abroad. Combining political and cultural aspects of leadership, the theme of this year's NASA conference was "Who's the Boss? Leadership and Democratic Culture in America."

Professor Wil Verhoeven of the University of Groningen and RSC Assistant Director Hans Krabbendam organized the three-day meeting, which was attended by participants from the Netherlands, Germany, Poland, the United Kingdom, Italy, and the United States. Historians, political scientists, literary




# Conference on Slavery Within the Atlantic World

From June 23-24, 2005 the Roosevelt Study Center hosted an international conference on slavery, entitled: "Slavery From Within: Comparative Perspectives and Legacies in the Atlantic World."

This international conference on New World slavery and its contemporary legacies consisted of two parts. The first day focused on slavery in a variety of regions, the second day on its legacies. Fifteen leading scholars from different parts of the enslaved New World addressed the general state of the art in slavery research in the different linguistic parts of the Americas. They drew comparisons between several areas, and ascertained what slavery did to the enslaved and their descendants and how the enslaved coped with the system in which they lived. The presentations covered slavery in countries such as Angola, Brazil, Cuba, Guyana, Martinique, the Netherlands Antilles, Suriname, the United States. They compared Dutch, French, American, and Spanish slave colonies. The international conference was preceded by a seminar on slavery and its local legacy in the



*Some of the participants at the Slavery Conference. From left to right: James Horton (past president of the Organization of American Historians), Hans Krabbendam, Franklin W. Knight, Frank Dragtstein, Allison Blakely, Linda Heywood, Alex van Stipriaan, Bernard Moitt, and Jane Landers.*

Province of Zeeland. More than 120 participants took part in this very timely conference. The papers are being prepared for publication. 


## Conference on Poverty and Progress in the U.S. South

Considering the increasing influence of the southern states on the U.S. as a whole, the RSC in cooperation with the Southern Studies Forum hosted a conference from September 13-16 on the theme, "Poverty and Progress in

the South." The four-day conference featured more than thirty presentations by scholars from Europe and the United States, covering a broad span of southern history, literature, politics and culture. Panel sessions were held


### on "Who's the Boss? Atlantic Culture in America"

scholars, educators, and sociologists focused on the concept of leadership as a typical American phenomenon and compared it with European examples. The program included analyses of dominant styles in political leadership; the relationship between military and civil leadership; structures in foreign policy leadership; leadership in education and the arts; obstacles to equal race, class and gender distribution in leadership positions.

Keynotes were delivered by Bruce Miroff, professor of political science at the State University of New York in Albany, and Joseph Harrington, professor of English at the University of Kansas and a Fulbright scholar in the Netherlands. The conference volume is scheduled to be published in 2006. 



*Some of the Southern Studies Forum participants (left to right): Richard Gray (U.K.), Dan Carter (U.S.), Wayne Flynt (U.S.), Anneke Leenhouts (Netherlands), Tony Badger (U.K.), and Waldemar Zacharsiewicz (Austria.).*

on southern cultural identity and the southern landscape, literary constructions of southern poverty, William Faulkner, progress and conservatism in politics, poverty and gender, and the New South. Keynote speaker Tony Badger (Cambridge University, U.K.) spoke on "LBJ and Albert Gore, Sr.: Southern New Dealers and the Modern South". The conference organizers are planning to publish a selection of the papers presented at this conference. 

## New Acquisitions at the RSC Library

Thanks to grants from the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute and the Zeeland Library, the RSC was able to expand its microfilm collection with two sizeable purchases during 2005. To supplement its microfilm holdings, the RSC has also acquired access to two valuable online databases that provide exceptional information for researchers studying both the domestic and foreign affairs of the United States.

### *New and Unique Online Resources*

#### ***The New York Times***

This online resource, unique in the Netherlands, provides a searchable database of *The New York Times* from 1851-2001. The collection consists of digital reproductions of every page from every issue, with the ability to search for specific articles using keywords and dates. The simplicity of the system makes it user-friendly and an ideal tool for discovering how major events were presented at their time of occurrence. Selected material can then be printed out, saved to a file, or sent by email.

#### **Declassified Documents Reference System**

On July 4, 1967 the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) became law in the United States. In 1974 the Declassified Documents Reference System (DDRS) was created to gather together the thousands of government documents that were being declassified through the FOIA. Now containing more than 78,000 documents, the DDRS is constantly being updated as government agencies, the National Archives, and Presidential Libraries release new material. The collection includes papers from all

government agencies including the National Security Council, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the CIA. It provides an excellent additional source for all studies covering U.S. domestic and foreign policy since WW II. The RSC is the only institute in the Netherlands and one of the few in Western Europe to possess this resource.


### *Microfilm Acquisitions*

#### **Hendrik Willem van Loon Papers, 1882-1944**

Purchased from Cornell University, this collection consists of a selection of Van Loon's papers on 21 reels of microfilm. The material covers Van Loon's life as an author, illustrator, and journalist, including his correspondence with notable figures such as Franklin Roosevelt, Herbert Hoover, and Fiorello La Guardia. The period 1939-1942 includes Van Loon's involvement in war relief fund-raising and support for refugees from Nazi-occupied Europe.

#### **Records of the U.S. Information Agency, Research Reports, Part I: Race Relations in the United States 1957-1970**

This collection of 20 reels encompasses the efforts of USIA to present race relations and the civil rights struggle in a positive light to the rest of the world. Beginning with the events in Little Rock, Arkansas, the material provides an in-depth look at how the struggle for equal rights through the Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon administrations was analysed and displayed abroad.

A complete list of the RSC archival and audio-visual collections can be found on the RSC's website [www.roosevelt.nl](http://www.roosevelt.nl). 



*Hendrik Willem van Loon broadcasting on the radio to occupied Holland.*

## Fulbright-Dow Distinguished Research Chair

The RSC is proud to announce that beginning in 2006 a prestigious research chair has been established for distinguished scholars in the field of U.S. history and American studies. Appointed scholars will work four months at the RSC on a book project or article for a peer-reviewed academic journal/periodical. Candidates are also expected to give occasional guest lectures at universities and for the general public, and to participate in the conferences and other scholarly activities of the RSC.

In the spring of 2006 the RSC will welcome the prolific writer and historian Douglas Brinkley (Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana) as the first visiting scholar. He will be working

on his new book, *Theodore Roosevelt and the American Conservation Movement*.

The Fulbright-Dow Distinguished Research Chair of the Roosevelt Study Center is sponsored by the Fulbright Scholar Program, Dow Benelux, and the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences. In the next few years the RSC will be able to offer two four-month fellowships per year. Awards in the Fulbright Distinguished Chairs Program are viewed as among the most prestigious appointments in the Fulbright Scholar Program. For further information and applications, visit the website of the Council for International Exchange of Scholars: [www.cies.org](http://www.cies.org) and click on Fulbright Distinguished Chairs Program/Netherlands. 

*"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

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 2005 the following persons received an RSC Research Grant for their projects:

- Ingmar Kooman (Leiden University, the Netherlands), "Life with the Bomb: Public Information during the Truman and Eisenhower administrations, 1945-1961" (M.A.);
- Dean Williams (University of Edinburgh, U.K.), "A History of Political Violence in 1970s America" (Ph.D.);
- Annick Cizel (Sorbonne Nouvelle, Paris, France), "U.S. Development Aid Policies in the Cold War Era, 1949-1989" (book);
- May Chiu (Oxford University, U.K.), "Civil Rights under Truman and Eisenhower" (M.A.);

- Richard Joyce (Oxford University, U.K.), "The Takeover of Peaceful American Civil Rights Organizations by Militant Black Nationalists in the First Half of the 1960s" (M.A.);
- Lucia Ducci (University of Florence, Italy), "International Relations between the United States and Italy during the Giolittian Era" (Ph.D.);
- Halina Parafianowicz (Bialystok University, Poland), "East Central Europe in U.S. Policy in the 1930s" (book);
- Torsten Feys (European University Institute, Florence, Italy), "The Battle for the Emigrants: The Competition between the Various Emigration Ports for the Emigration Trade from the European Mainland to New York, 1815-1914" (Ph.D.);
- Maarten van Egmond (University of Leiden, the Netherlands), "The SCLC and Christian America in the Era of the Civil Rights Movement" (M.A.).

European students seeking a masters or doctorate in American history as well as advanced scholars are invited to apply for the 2006 Research Grants. Application forms and relevant information on the RSC archival collections can be downloaded from the RSC website [www.roosevelt.nl](http://www.roosevelt.nl). 

## Just Published

*Van Loon: Popular Historian, Journalist, and FDR Confidant* by Cornelis A. van Minnen. (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005).


Based on extensive research done in the U.S. and the Netherlands and with a Foreword by Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr., this biography is an exciting and nuanced portrait of one of FDR's closest friends, a man deeply involved in American cultural life in the first half of the twentieth century.

Well-established as a prolific writer, Van Loon also served as a cultural and diplomatic bridge between the U.S. and the Netherlands for decades. During the 1930s and World War II years he helped numerous European refugees and his radio broadcasts to Nazi-occupied



Holland served as a beacon of hope for his former countrymen. A Dutch edition, *Amerika's beroemdste Nederlander. Een biografie van Hendrik Willem van Loon* has also been published this fall (Amsterdam: Boom, 2005).

*Amsterdam-New York: Transatlantic Relations and Urban Identities Since 1653.* Edited by George Harinck and Hans Krabbendam. (Amsterdam: VU University Press, 2005).

On 2 February 1653, Nieuw Amsterdam installed its first court on Manhattan Island. This court was granted by the commercial authorities of "old" Amsterdam and marked the beginning of Nieuw Amsterdam as a separate community. From that date on, a tale of two cities can be told. This collection of essays deals with the political, commercial, religious, and intellectual relationship of the two cities and explores the interaction of merchants and ministers, books and bankers, consuls and canticles, trees and travelers through the high and low tides of this durable urban exchange. 



## 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, [rscc@zeeland.nl](mailto:rscc@zeeland.nl) or visit our website on the Internet: [www.roosevelt.nl](http://www.roosevelt.nl)

# A Look Ahead

## *Upcoming events at the RSC in 2006*

### **RSC Renovation, March 2004-Summer 2006**

The building in which the RSC is located is undergoing extensive renovations but we are now scheduled to move back to our Abbey location by July 1, 2006. Visitors should contact the RSC about opening hours before planning a visit.

### **Theodore Roosevelt American History Awards, April 21**

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 prizewinner.

### **Four Freedoms Awards Ceremony, May 13**

Middelburg's Abbey is the venue for the biennial presentation of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms Awards by the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute to a number of world citizens who are honored for their commitment to FDR's Four Freedoms.

### **NASA Conference on Multiculturalism, June 7-9**

The 2006 conference of the Netherlands American Studies Association (NASA) to be held at the RSC will focus on "American Multiculturalism after 9/11: Transatlantic Perspectives."

# A Look Back: In Memoriam

In 2005 the RSC lost two dear colleagues and friends who had been enthusiastic supporters of the Center for more than twenty years: Dr. John A. Gable (1943-2005), Executive Director of the Theodore Roosevelt Association in Oyster Bay, New York, and Arend C. de Ru (1944-2005), Executive Director of the Roosevelt Stichting in Middelburg. Both men, each in his own way, were totally committed to keeping alive the legacy of Theodore, Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt and they gave the best of their talents, time and energy to that purpose. They also contributed generously to Dutch-American friendship.



*Arend de Ru and his wife Joy seated near the sculptures of FDR and ER at the FDR Library, Hyde Park, New York in 2003.*




*John A. Gable at the TR American History Awards ceremony at the RSC in 2001.*

John Gable was a great scholar whose knowledge of TR and U.S. history in general was impressive and inspirational. He was instrumental in establishing the annual

Theodore Roosevelt American History Awards at the RSC and served as a wonderful host when the first prizewinners of that award visited the TR sites in New York.

Arend de Ru saw and seized the chance in 1982 to involve the Province of Zeeland in the important work of the Roosevelt Institute. In the years that followed, as a most dedicated and skillful organizer, he made the Four Freedoms Awards ceremonies in Middelburg an internationally known and respected event.

Working with John Gable and Arend de Ru has been a great privilege and we are grateful for all they did to make the establishment and the work of the RSC so successful. We will sorely miss their talents, support and warm friendship. 

## Editor:

Cornelis A. van Minnen

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