

the Roosevelt review



Eleanor Roosevelt (left), Princess Juliana of the Netherlands (center) and Franklin D. Roosevelt, in the garden of the Roosevelt home at Hyde Park, New York in 1943, a personal friendship that typifies the warmth of Dutch-American relations.

Twenty Years of Challenges and Achievements

The year 2006 marked the RSC's 20th anniversary celebration, coupled with its return to its newly renovated offices and library in the beautiful Middelburg Abbey—an exciting moment for the staff and everyone who has ever visited, contributed to and participated in the RSC's activities. Anniversary speeches delivered by the president of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, Professor Frits van Oostrom, and the president of the European Association for American Studies, Professor Marc Chénétier, clearly underscored the great appreciation for the RSC's commitment to scholarship and its place in Europe which has increased considerably with the passage of time.

Two new projects reflect the RSC's ongoing pursuit of scholarly challenges. One is the RSC's initiative to develop a comprehensive volume on the strong ties between the Netherlands and America to highlight the 400th anniversary of these relations which will be celebrated in 2009. The book will offer a major contribution to the body of Dutch-American historical literature. Secondly, the

launching of an electronic peer-reviewed academic journal, *European Journal of American Studies* or *EJAS* by the European Association for American Studies (EAAS) deserves mention. As a major supporter of this new venture, RSC staff members Cornelis A. van Minnen, Hans Krabbendam, and Giles Scott-Smith will serve as editors of the section on history, social sciences, and international relations for the first three years (see page 8).

The RSC's commitment to quality is also visible in all its other recurring work, including the Theodore Roosevelt American history awards, the Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms ceremony, the research grants and Fulbright scholar programs, its public lecture series and new book publications. Since its opening to the public in 1986, the RSC has become a leader in the field of contemporary Dutch-American studies, contributing scholarship both to academicians and to the Zeeland community in which it resides. All who have been associated with the RSC look forward with great expectations to the next two decades. 

*Newsletter of
the Roosevelt
Study Center*

2006



A Word About the Roosevelt Study Center

After a two year renovation period, the Roosevelt Study Center has returned to its location in the medieval Abbey of Middelburg in the Province of Zeeland, 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 some twenty 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 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 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.

In 2006 a rotating Fulbright-Dow Distinguished Research Chair of the Roosevelt Study Center, sponsored by Dow Benelux, the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the Fulbright Scholar Program, was established. To apply for this fellowship, prominent U.S. scholars working in the field of U.S. history and American Studies are invited to contact the Council for International Exchange of Scholars in Washington, D.C. (www.cies.org, see Fulbright Distinguished Chairs Program/Netherlands). Each fellowship allows the recipient to work for a four-month period at the RSC on a book project or article(s) for a peer-reviewed academic journal. Candidates are also expected to deliver occasional guest lectures. The RSC is happy to be able to offer two Fulbright-Dow Distinguished Research Chair fellowships each year. Awards in the Fulbright Distinguished Chairs Program are viewed as among the most prestigious appointments in the Fulbright Scholar Program.

The RSC library may be used year round for research 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. Visiting address: Abdij 8, Middelburg. For information on the RSC holdings and activities, please visit our website: www.roosevelt.nl or contact the RSC at tel. +31 (0)118-631590, fax +31 (0)118-631593, email: rsc@zeeland.nl. 

The RSC staff (left to right): Giles Scott-Smith, Kim van der Wijngaart, Cornelis A. van Minnen, Hans Righolt, Leontien Joose, Enne Koops, Rienk Terpstra, Hans Krabbendam, and Boris Heersink.



RSC Board of Trustees

George R.J. van Heukelom
President
Rein Jan Hoekstra
Secretary
Jan G.F. Veldhuis
Treasurer
Herman Balthazar
Otto von der Gablentz

Cornelis A. van Minnen
Executive Director

RSC Advisory Board

Anthony J. Badger
Doeko Bosscher
Detlef Junker
Serge Ricard

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 21, 2006 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. This year nine MA theses were submitted by students from the universities of Amsterdam, Leiden, Utrecht, Nijmegen and Groningen. The criteria for deciding on the prize winners are original subject-matter, critical analysis of primary sources and up-to-date knowledge of the secondary literature, logical and effective argument, contribution to ongoing debates in the field, and fluent writing.

The jury, consisting of Professor Wil Verhoeven (University of Groningen), Professor Adam Fairclough (University of Leiden), and Ms. Laura Maessen (TRAHA winner in 2005), after careful deliberation, were pleased to present the following awards:

Anna Woltz (Leiden) received the third prize and € 125 in prize money for her thesis, "There are Things Worse Than Death!: Black-White Sexual Relationships in the U.S. South until 1940." Her thesis offered an analysis of how white southerners attempted to control sexual relationships between blacks and whites in a way that was consistent with slavery and, after the emancipation of the slaves, with a system of white supremacy. Second prize and € 250 in prize money went to Suzanne Brinkman (Free University of Amsterdam) for her thesis, "Books are Weapons in the War of Ideas: Propaganda in the Armed Services Edition, 1943-1947." Analyzing the government-sponsored dissemination of books to the Armed Services, her thesis focused on the role of the abridgement of literature as a means of promoting a particular version of America at a particular historical moment. Both these prize winners were also presented with a replica of TR's 1905 Inaugural Medal.



Group photo of authors and jury members in front of the Abbey.

The jury awarded the first prize to Agustin Mackinlay (University of Amsterdam) for his thesis "Charles de Gaulle and the Deconstruction of the Dollar." According to the jury, "this well-written and well-organized dissertation offers a cogent and original analysis of the complex relationship between monetary policy, nationalism, and ideological supremacy."

As first prize winner, Agustin Mackinlay won a trip to New York where, hosted by the Theodore Roosevelt Association and the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute, he visited a number of Roosevelt sites including TR's home at Sagamore Hill, Oyster Bay, Long Island, TR's birthplace and the American Museum of Natural History in Manhattan, and Hyde Park, the residence of FDR and Eleanor. Agustin was impressed with the scholarly side of TR visible in "the overwhelming presence of books" in every room at Sagamore Hill. Agustin then visited the FDR Presidential Library and Museum. Reflecting on his trip, he remarked, "One can read countless essays and books about TR and FDR. But to actually see where and how they lived is to gain a new and invaluable perspective. The elusive but fundamental ideal of good government – symbolized by the name Roosevelt – is at the root of the bond between the United States and the Netherlands. May that ideal be kept alive!"



First prize winner Agustin Mackinlay (left) with John G. Staudt, Associate Director of the Theodore Roosevelt Association.

RSC Lecture Series in Transatlantic Relations

On April 12, 2006, the second lecture in the RSC Transatlantic Lecture series, open to the public, was delivered by historian Bart Jan Spruyt. His subject, "Defending the West: Neo-Conservatism and the Need for New Churchills," offered an interesting interpretation of the roots and development of neo-conservatism in the United States and its possible influence in the present-day Dutch multicultural society. Spruyt's views generated a lively debate with the audience. The series was launched in October 2005 with a lecture by Professor Karel van Wolferen (University of Amsterdam) on "The Bush Administrations and Europe: The End of the Transatlantic Alliance."



Bart Jan Spruyt, in lively debate with students, was the second speaker in the RSC Transatlantic Lectures Series.

The Four Freedoms Awards




Her Majesty the Queen of the Netherlands with the 2006 Four Freedoms Awards laureates, from left to right: Queen's Commissioner in the Province of Zeeland Willem T. van Gelder, Muhammad Yunus, Her Royal Highness Princess Máxima of the Netherlands, Mohamed ElBaradei, Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands, Carlos Fuentes, His Royal Highness the Prince of Orange, Ambassador William J. vanden Heuvel, Brother Alois, Anna Eleanor Roosevelt, and Martin Morland on behalf of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

The 2006 Winners

The Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute presented the prestigious Four Freedoms Awards this year to the following persons:

- Mexican writer Carlos Fuentes received the Freedom of Speech and Expression Medal from William J. vanden Heuvel, Co-Chair of the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute, and Professor Patrick Collard, Head of the Department of Romanic languages at Ghent University;
- The Taizé Community in France, represented by its prior, Brother Alois, was presented the Freedom of Worship Medal by Terry Waite, a former laureate of that Medal, and Simon Jelsma, Co-Founder of OXFAM/NOVIB, Dutch Division Amnesty International, Nationale Postcode Loterij;
- The Freedom from Want Medal was presented to Professor Muhammad Yunus, the founding father of the micro-credit movement, by Her Royal Highness Princess Máxima and Elizabeth Roosevelt Johnston, great-granddaughter of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt;
- The Freedom from Fear Medal was awarded to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, who because of her house arrest by the military junta of Myanmar (formerly Burma), was unable to leave her country. On her behalf the Medal was received by former British ambassador to Burma, Martin Morland, who received the Medal from Anna Eleanor Roosevelt, granddaughter of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt and Co-Chair of the Roosevelt Institute;
- The 2006 Four Freedoms Medal was presented by Ben Bot, Netherlands Minister of Foreign Affairs, to Mohamed ElBaradei, the director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The speeches delivered at the ceremony will soon be published by the RSC as part of its publication series. 



Laureate (and Nobel Prizewinner) Muhammad Yunus with Her Royal Highness Princess Máxima of the Netherlands.

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 the 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 13, 2006, the Nieuwe Kerk in Middelburg's Abbey served for the thirteenth time since 1982 as the site for the presentation of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms Awards. Among the hundreds of guests from all over the world were Her Majesty the Queen of the Netherlands, His Royal Highness the Prince of Orange, and Her Royal Highness Princess Máxima of the Netherlands.

NASA Conference on Multiculturalism After 9/11




Keynote speaker Paul Lauter.

Organized by Jaap Verheul and Derek Rubin of Utrecht University, the Roosevelt Study Center hosted the annual Netherlands American Studies Association (NASA) Conference from June 7-9, 2006. The three-day conference explored the topic "Multiculturalism and Integration after 9/11: Transatlantic Dialogue," examining the many developments within the multicultural debate after the catastrophic events of 9/11.

Sociologists, literary and cultural scholars, and historians from the Netherlands, Belgium, Austria, Ireland, France, and the United States concentrated on the benefits and failures of American as compared to European experiences with multiculturalism. In a debate staged at the

Zeeland Library and open to the public, a comparative analysis of Dutch and American multiculturalism was offered. The program also featured analyses of multiculturalism at work in literature; hegemonic constructions of national identity; American identity in history textbooks; assimilation theory; the Americanization of (Eastern European) Georgia; and the perspectives of Muslim minorities.

Keynotes were delivered by Paul Lauter, professor of literature at Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut, Han Entzinger, professor of migration and integration studies at Rotterdam's Erasmus University, and Richard D. Alba, professor of sociology at the State University of New York in Albany. 

20 Years RSC: A Celebration



The interesting and informative academic session was followed by a lively and festive reception (left). Below, the jazz music of the Louisiana Rhythm Boys during the reception added to the celebratory atmosphere.



The speakers at the 20th anniversary program: Chat Blakeman, Deputy Chief of Mission of the American Embassy in The Hague, Richard Horwitz, Fulbright-Dow Distinguished Research Chair, Frits van Oostrom, President of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, and Professor Marc Chénétier, President of the European Association for American Studies, with RSC Director Cornelis A. van Minnen.


On November 15, 2006, the Roosevelt Study Center auditorium was packed with almost a hundred people who gathered to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the RSC, the inauguration of the RSC's newly established Fulbright-Dow Distinguished Research Chair, and its return this autumn to its refurbished home in the medieval Abbey of Middelburg. The guests included the mayor of Middelburg, Koos Schouwenaar, David Roosevelt, grandson of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, and many colleagues from universities in the Netherlands, Belgium and France.

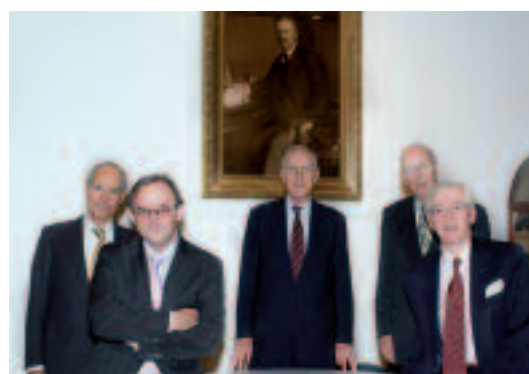


Vice-Chair of Dow Benelux Ed de Graaf with David B. Roosevelt.



Left to right: Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences director for research Theo Mulder with RSC Academic Advisory Board members Serge Ricard (Sorbonne Nouvelle, Paris) and Doeko Bosscher (University of Groningen) in the microform reading room.

Established in 1984 in its by-laws as the Roosevelt Study Center for Europe Foundation by the Provincial Government of Zeeland, the next two years were a period of laying the organizational groundwork for the Center. In cooperation with the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute and the Theodore Roosevelt Association, both based in New York, the RSC opened its doors to the public in 1986. Since that time the RSC has served as an outstanding research and conference center in Europe for the study of U.S. history and U.S.-European relations. 



The RSC Board of Trustees in the library standing under a portrait of Theodore Roosevelt (left to right): Otto von der Gablentz, George van Heukelom, Rein Jan Hoekstra, Herman Balthazar, and Jan Veldhuis.

Research Projects RSC Staff



Cover of Erik van den Berg's thesis on FDR, Jr.

Cover of Usha Wilbers' thesis on the Paris Review.



Current Projects


Dutch-American relations is the current focus of research by the RSC staff. Three Ph.D. candidates on the staff are working on a joint RSC/Utrecht University research program covering post-World War II Dutch-American relations: Rienk Terpstra is writing a thesis on "Dutch-American Nuclear Relations, 1949-1969," Kim van der Wijngaart's thesis covers Dutch-American relations in the period 1969-1977, while Hans Righolt is studying bilateral relations in the years 1977-1985. In another joint research project of RSC and Theological University in Kampen, Ph.D. candidate Enne Koops is working on "The Emigration of Calvinistic Dutch to North America, 1946-1963."

In addition, RSC senior staff members have recently completed book-length studies on different aspects of Dutch-American relations: RSC Director Cornelis A. van Minnen's biography of the Dutch-American Hendrik Willem van Loon, *Van Loon: Popular Historian Journalist and FDR Confidant* (2005) and Assistant Director Hans Krabbendam's book on Dutch emigration to the United States from 1840-1940 (see page 7). And finally, Senior Researcher Giles Scott-Smith is in the process of completing a book (scheduled for publication in 2007) on the

U.S. State Department's Foreign Leader Program in Western Europe, 1950-1970, with an emphasis on the Netherlands.

Completed Ph.D. Theses

Erik van den Berg, a former RSC Ph.D. candidate, defended his Ph.D. thesis *Claim on Memory: A Political Biography of Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr. 1914-1988* at the University of Leiden, the Netherlands, on February 1, 2006. The result of an RSC-Leiden University sponsored research project and based on extensive research in many U.S. libraries and archives, this volume offers a fascinating contribution to both American political history and the family history of the Roosevelts.

Usha Wilbers, also a former RSC Ph.D. candidate, defended her Ph.D. thesis *Enterprise in the Service of Art: A Critical History of The Paris Review, 1953-1973* at Nijmegen's Radboud University on April 25, 2006. This is the first ever volume describing and analyzing the history of the influential literary periodical *The Paris Review*. It is also the first completed thesis in a projected series of three in the RSC-Radboud University research program entitled "Magazines and Periodicals as Instruments of Twentieth-Century American Culture." 


The RSC Research Grants Program

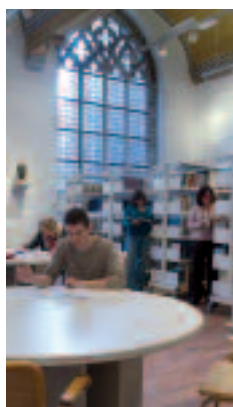
Thanks to a generous contribution from the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute, the RSC is able to offer European students of American history a unique opportunity to conduct research in the RSC library, which holds numerous U.S. historical documents not available anywhere else in Europe.

In 2006 the following persons received an RSC Research Grant for their projects:

- Kristofer Allerfeldt (University of Exeter, U.K.), "America and the Fall of the Roman Empire, 1898-1924" (article);
- Colin Douglas (University of Plymouth, U.K.), "Richard Nixon and J. Edgar Hoover: Manipulation and Deceit" (B.A.);
- Ross Williams (University of Plymouth, U.K.), "Civil Rights under the Truman Administration" (B.A.);
- Vincent Schouten (University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands), "The Succession of Joseph Stalin in 1953: Reports in *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*" (M.A.);
- Gert Boel (Ghent University, Belgium), "American Intervention in Chile, 1961-1973" (M.A.);
- Adam Burns (University of Edinburgh, U.K.), "The Politics of Lynching in the U.S. South During Republican Administrations, 1897-1913" (M.A.);

- Simone Diender (University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands), "The Representation of Cuba in the U.S. Newspapers, 1895-1902" (M.A.);
- Kamil Zwolski (University of Zielona Gora, Poland), "U.S. Policy Toward the European Union According to Leading American Think Tanks" (M.A.);
- Sylwia Kuzma (University of Bialystok, Poland), "Public Activism of American Women in the 1920s" (Ph.D.);
- Andreas Hilger (University of Hamburg, Germany), "Anti-Colonialism and the Cold War: Relations of the USSR with the Third World in South Asia, 1941-1966" (book);
- Kinga Grafa (Pultusk School of Humanities, Poland), "The Influence of Ivy League Universities on U.S. Foreign Policy Toward Europe, 1947-1966" (Ph.D.);
- Tom Davies (University of Leeds, U.K.), "The U.S. Federal Government and the End of the Civil Rights Movement, 1966-1972" (M.A.).

European students and advanced scholars are invited to apply for the 2007 Research Grants. Application forms and relevant information can be downloaded from the RSC website: www.roosevelt.nl. 




The completely new library at the RSC gives scholars additional space to pursue their research.

RSC Research Chair

Just Published



Professor Richard P. Horwitz, the first person to occupy the Fulbright-Dow Distinguished Research Chair, was also part of the special academic program to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the opening of the RSC.

From October 2006 through January 2007 the RSC hosted Professor Richard P. Horwitz, Senior Fellow of the Coastal Institute in Rhode Island and Emeritus Professor of American Studies at the University of Iowa, as holder of the prestigious Fulbright-Dow Distinguished Research Chair. During his stay at the RSC, Professor Horwitz prepared several manuscripts for publication: an article in a scholarly journal, a chapter in a forthcoming anthology, and the beginning of a new book, his sixth. These writings draw lessons from his recent shift in career, from research and teaching for a university to emergency response and remediation planning for the state environmental management agency. His aim is to identify and improve cultural dimensions of response to environmental disasters, ranging from storms, disease outbreaks, or “hazmat” (hazardous material) spills to breaches of “homeland security.” He also gave guest lectures at universities in Utrecht and Nijmegen in the Netherlands, in Dublin, Ireland, and in Ghent, Belgium. 


Morsels in the Melting Pot: The Persistence of Dutch Immigrant Communities in North America, edited by George Harinck and Hans Krabbendam (Amsterdam: VU University Press, 2006).

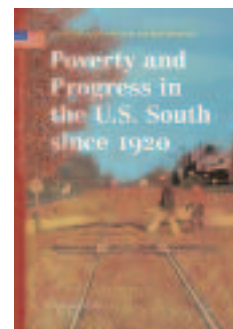
The eighteen essays in this volume describe the various ways in which small groups of Dutch immigrants attempted to maintain their identities in the United States and Canada between 1800 and 2000. Despite their efforts they did not escape the influence of the assimilation process and of modernization.



Vrijheid in het verschiet. Nederlandse emigratie naar Amerika, 1840-1940 (In Search of Freedom: Dutch Emigration to the U.S., 1840-1940) by Hans Krabbendam (Hilversum: Verloren, 2006). About a quarter of a million Dutch immigrants in pursuit of freedom entered the United States in the hundred years between 1840-1940. In this Dutch language monograph the RSC Assistant Director analyzes how especially Protestants successfully built and maintained a subculture in the American Midwest until the forces of modernization eroded local cohesion in the 1960s.



Poverty and Progress in the U.S. South, since 1920, edited by Suzanne W. Jones and Mark Newman (Amsterdam: VU University Press, 2006). Based on the Southern Studies Forum conference held at the RSC in September 2005, the fifteen essays in this volume, written by scholars from both the U.S. and Europe, examine a variety of responses to economic depression and poverty. An assessment is offered of how far the South has progressed both socially and economically in the last century and whether the region’s reincarnation as the Sunbelt has alleviated the burdens of the region’s history. 



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 2006.

The Richard M. Nixon National Security Files, 1969-1974, Western Europe

This collection of 35 reels of microfilm originated in the office of National Security Advisor Henry A. Kissinger. Originating from a great variety of agencies, from the State Department to the CIA, these documents cover the major aspects of European-American relations during the Nixon Administration: French nationalism, German Ostpolitik, the monetary crisis, arms reduction and NATO.

Eleanor Roosevelt Papers, General Correspondence, 1945-1952, Part 3: 1950-1952

The correspondence collected on these 20 reels of microfilm shows the wide scope of Eleanor Roosevelt’s interests, with many important clues concerning her political ideology and tactics.

Written in the early 1950s these letters clearly demonstrate her concerns about the plight of the World War II refugees and displaced persons, the growth and true nature of Communism, the Cold War, as well as her desire to promote peace and the United Nations. In addition, they reflect the depth and range of her friendships and confirm the numerous people who depended on her for advice and support. 

Information

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

ISSN 1386-9094


For free copies and information on the Center's activities, please contact the Roosevelt Study Center, Abdij 8, 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: www.roosevelt.nl



The Halve Maen (Half Moon) sailing in the Hudson River.

European Journal of American Studies


In 2006 the European Association for American Studies (EAAS) launched its new electronic peer-reviewed academic journal: *European Journal of American Studies* or *EJAS* (see <http://ejas.revues.org>). An initiative of current EAAS President Marc Chénétier, the journal hopes to constitute a genuine forum for European Americanists of all generations, national origins and disciplinary affiliations. In April 2006 the *EJAS* editorial committee, representing four countries and various disciplines, met for the first time at the RSC and discussed a number of issues related to realizing this new journal.

The committee decided to create two editorial sections: one focusing on articles in the disciplines literature, culture, the arts, while the other team will deal with submitted articles in the disciplines history, social sciences, and international relations. RSC staff members Cornelis A. van Minnen, Hans Krabbendam, and Giles Scott-Smith will serve as editors of this latter section for the next three years. European Americanists are encouraged to submit scholarly works as the success of this brand-new European journal will very much depend on the quality of the contributions of the articles submitted by scholars. 

400 Years of Dutch-American Relations

In 2006 the RSC launched an exciting new project: A survey of 400 years of relations between the Netherlands and America, relations which began when Henry Hudson, the captain of *De Halve Maen*, set foot on Manhattan island on September 9, 1609. This step marked the first physical contact between the Dutch and the North American continent. Despite the close ties between the Netherlands and the United States and the many articles and books published on all aspects of U.S.-Netherlands interaction, never before has an adequate, comprehensive and up-to-date historical overview of the relationship been assembled. Given the upcoming occasion of the 400th anniversary of this event, the RSC decided to take the initiative to coordinate and edit an English-language book on the subject. Dozens of scholars have been invited to cooperate on this major project, tentatively entitled *Dutch-American Relations, 1609-2009. A Survey*. Six of

these scholars will serve as co-editors, one for each of the six sections of the book. Some eighty essays are expected to help define significant aspects of Dutch-American history.

Through this undertaking the RSC hopes to make an essential contribution to the overall U.S.-Netherlands historical scholarship by producing a much-needed, state-of-the-art synthesis. While aimed at higher and academic education, the book will, hopefully, also spark interest and curiosity among the general public. In addition, as initiator and coordinator of this prestigious book project, the RSC hopes to highlight and enhance its role in the realm of Dutch-American studies and strengthen its cooperation with the many contributing historians at various universities. The RSC aims to have the final product ready for publication and distribution during the 400th anniversary celebrations in 2009. 

A Look Ahead

Upcoming events at the RSC in 2007

Theodore Roosevelt American History Awards, April 13

Selected by a distinguished jury, the RSC presents an annual prize for the best M.A. theses on an American history topic written by Dutch graduate 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.

Ph.D. Seminar, April 23-25

Based on the success of the 2003 and 2005 seminars for American history Ph.D. students from the RSC and the universities of Cambridge, Sorbonne Nouvelle and Heidelberg, the RSC has scheduled another Ph.D. seminar to precede the biennial European historians of the U.S. conference.

Conference on Democracy and Political Repression, April 25-27

The Eighth Middelburg Conference of European Historians of the U.S. will focus on the theme "Democracy and Political Repression in U.S. History." Scholars from Europe and the U.S. are invited to present papers on this theme covering U.S. history from colonial times to the present.

Conference on the Atlantic Community, September 20-21

Organized by the RSC in cooperation with the University of Cergy-Pontoise in France, this is the second conference in a series of two aiming to analyze a variety of aspects of the Atlantic Community in the era of the Cold War. Whereas the 2006 conference at Cergy-Pontoise focused on the 1940s and 1950s, the 2007 conference at the RSC will study the Atlantic Community in the 1960s-1970s.

Editor:

Cornelis A. van Minnen

Photos:

Ruben Oreel
Anda van Riet
Rienk Terpstra